

December



Chip's Chatter

What Arrival Are You Waiting For?

As I write this article, the stores are beginning to be buzzing with holiday preparation and merchandizing. It seems to start earlier each year which is somewhat understandable IF your focus is on gift giving, holiday celebrations and parties, the arrival of friends and family, and the marking of the end of yet another year. In other words, we tend to focus on the busyness of the season.

The word Advent is derived from the Latin word which means coming. I like to think more along the line of arrival since we look for the arrival of the holiday shopping season, the arrival of family and friends etc. Advent is the start (the arrival) of the new church calendar and occurs following our journey through various books of the Bible. This past year, we spent a great deal of time in the Gospel of Luke. This year, we will do the same with the Gospel of Matthew.

But I believe Advent is far more important than just marking the beginning of a new church year. There is so much meaning in the symbolism and depth of what we are eagerly awaiting. For most of us, we are eager for the arrival of Advent to once again share with our ancestors the longing

for the arrival of Messiah. The lights and sounds of the season heighten the longing through familiar stories from Scripture. We are reminded of the incredible facts around the birth of Jesus. We think of the Angels announcement, that Jesus was born of an unwed mother and probably very poor at that. We think of Joseph and his willingness to take Mary as his wife and raise the baby Jesus. We remember the Star, the shepherds, and the Wise Men. We also remember the hostile environment created by King Herod. And it goes on and on.

While this is a great place to put our emphasis during the Advent Season, we often overlook a very important part of the story of Jesus. If all we did was to focus on the birth, then we might just shorten the church year to the period between Advent and Easter morning and spend the rest of the year learning all that Jesus taught us. But here is my point: there is another arrival, equal and possibly exceeding in importance of the birth of the Messiah. For you see, God's plan for reconciliation was placed in motion at the birth of Jesus. Scripture tells us God's plan will be fully completed with the second coming of Jesus. That arrival will pale in comparison to the first.

Advent is a season of expectant arrivals. We are excited about the first arrival of the Messiah. Wouldn't it be great if we had that same excitement as we look forward to His Second Coming?

I wonder what merchandizing would look like if it focused on the end times as written in the book of Revelation. First, however, we would need to be fully familiar with the promised return of Jesus and that is a very hard topic to comprehend.

In actuality, Advent is designed to focus on both the Second Coming and the birth of Jesus. The first two Sundays are to be discussions on the Second Coming and then we abruptly transition to the birth. So, I ask, on which arrival do you wish to focus? For me, every time I see the sights and sounds and lights and merriment, I am thinking about the joy of His Second Coming and what a great day that will be.

May your Advent Season be filled with joy as we celebrate the return of Jesus as well as the incredible birth that leads us to salvation.





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|----|--------------------|----|--------------|
| 9 | Morris Damp | 11 | Dixie Wirkus |
| 12 | Velma Ward | 15 | Brenda Reed |
| 18 | Dianne Roholt | 19 | Kathy Bahr |
| 23 | Brenda Strowbridge | 29 | Bob Naylor |



Communion Set Up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean-up: Gini Sande, Vera Weis, Brenda Miller, Libby Underhill

Tubs of Love

First Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Churches United, will again sponsor the "Tubs of Love" mission. This mission ensures that local families in need will have presents for Christmas.



Beginning December 1st, the small giving tree in the narthex will be decorated with ornaments. Each ornament will be labeled with a specific gift item. The congregation is encouraged to select an ornament, purchase and wrap the gift item, and bring it to the church by Sunday, December 22nd.

OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL



Mary-Martha Circle is inviting you and all the members of the circle to a Christmas Meeting on Wednesday, December 18 at 1:30pm at the Raphaels Bakery just 2 blocks south of the church.

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending Oct. 31, 2019

Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00

Total Income	\$7,869.38
Total Expenses	\$7,412.38
Net Income	457.00

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance Report

Oct 27.....47

Nov 3.....39

Nov 10.....23

Nov 17.....40

December Service Chair: 1st-Joan Forbes; 8th-Dianne; 15th-Libby; 22nd-Vera; 29th-Joan

Barb McGregor	751-1781	Jenny Miller	444-9647	Gini Sande	157-1260
Helen Spaulding	751-1234	Brenda Strowbridge	444-7609		
Libby Underhill	444-9774	Vera Weis	751-2595		

Head Usher—Gloria Phelps

	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgists:</u>
December 1-Hanging of the Greens	Terri Murray	Libby Underhill
December 8	Barb McGregor	Carol Severn
December 15	Kathy Burger	Mary Hayes
December 22	Gini Sande	Joe Forbes
December 24	Donna Dickinson	Ruth Andersen
December 29	Donna Dickinson	Mark Robinson

 **Our church choir is back singing.**

If you love to sing, come and join us. We rehearse at 9am on Sundays before church.

We need you and welcome you!!



SUPPER CLUB
 5:30 on December 20 at
 Tutu Bena.



***Supper Club will be meeting Friday,
 December 20 at Tutu Bena and reservations are already made.***

Please sign up at the church office: by email presbji@paulbunyan.net—or—by phone; 444-5016 or the sign up sheet on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall.

This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.
All are welcome!



Fourth Sunday Benevolence for December

<http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.html>

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

How your gift is used:



**50% | PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE LEADERS
(RACIAL ETHNIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT)**

Providing assistance for students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges to pursue their professional and leadership goals.



**50% | GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR ALL
(ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF PENSIONS)**

Offering financial assistance for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering.



Our session at work for you

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
November 19, 2019**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on November 19, 2019 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was opened prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Gloria Phelps, Palmer Berg, Linnea Mostad ,Cheryl Hiltz, Donna Dickinson (arrived 3:05),

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Libby Underhill

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA **Approved** with addition of Other Business items.

MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the October session meeting were **approved** with typos noted.

CORRESPONDENCE Email from Brittany Miller of Community Outreach Health Screening requested use of church facility for one day in April at no cost to us. **MSP** for Chip to pursue this. Documents received from Presbytery were passed along to committees: 2020 Apportionment and Presbytery Salary Standards

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report November 19, 2019

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: Loren Kimmes 8-3-1929 - 10-30-2019 Service at First Presbyterian Church 2:00 Thursday, November 7. Interment at Greenwood Cemetery. Chip Holt, CRE, officiating.

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: Nov. 3 -36 served Serving: Betty Hanson-Lehman, Donna Dickinson, Barb McGregor, Dixie Wirkus, Bill Beck

Membership as of November 19, 2019 75

Sunday Worship Attendance Oct. 20 – 40; Oct. 27 - 47; Nov 3 - 39; Nov. 10 – 23; Nov. 17 - 48

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was distributed and reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg Peter Norquist will serve as a committee member.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz^{2nd} **Vote on Recommendation to Session:** Change the reporting year for the Endowment Fund to January to December. **Approved. Note:** A second vote was required according to the Endowment Fund Policy.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Adult Ed Bible study is going well.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill Name tag use on Sundays is encouraged. Libby is assisting Shirlee with maintaining our website. T shirts printed with the church name and logo are being looked into. Outreach is considering starting up the Shepherding program again after the first of the year.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps A Hanging of the Greens service will be held. Poinsettias have been ordered. The inclusion of traditional Christmas carols during Advent services is being planned by Chip.

Computer Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Committee work is on hold until after January 1 due to the busy season.

Nominating Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz - The terms of elders Cheryl Hiltz and Donna Dickinson will be up at the end of 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS

Request to Session was made to add Donna Dickinson to the list of Sunday Collection Counters to begin January 2020. **Approved**

Request from Noemi Aylesworth to use church facilities for a community Santa Photo day on December 5 from noon to 6 PM. **Approved.**

Request from Margaret Hinz for PEO, an educational support group, to use church facilities for once a month meetings from 6:30-7:30 pm. Consensus was for Chip to pursue this request.

Request from Cheryl Hiltz for authorization to use the church credit card for the Consecration Sunday dinner. **Approved.**

It was reiterated that Cheryl Hiltz is the session appointed contact person for the Kitchen Committee, not an active member of the committee.

A current list of active and affiliate members as well as Other Participants/Friends was reviewed and will become the official member list. It will be maintained by the clerk of session and administrative assistant who will work together to do so. Subsequent updates will be reviewed by session before replacing this dated list.

Reviewing the church roll will be done every other year, with 2020 being the next year for it.

Written committee reports for inclusion in Session Packets for meetings was encouraged.

Next Meeting: December 17 at 2:00 pm. in church conference room. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Chip at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays

10:00 Worship
Service

11:00 Fellowship

December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Hanging of The Greens Chip Holt Preaching	2	3	4	5 2-6 Photos with Santa	6	7	
8 Chip Holt Preaching	9 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	10	11 12:00 End of this session  6:30 Calvary	12  6:30 End of this session	13	14	
15 Chip Holt Preaching Bell Choir Performing	16 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	17 **2pm- Session Meeting	18 1:30-Mary- Martha Circle Mtg @ Raphaels 6:30 Calvary	19	20  5:30 Supper Club @Tutu Benna	21	
22 Chip Holt Preaching	23 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts MEALS	 Christmas Eve Service @ 4pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 ON	27 WHEELS	28	
29 Tony Peffer Preaching	30 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00-Scouts  NEW YEARS EVE						