

# First Church News

Volume 1 issue 2

February, 2024

## Chip's Chatter

FEBRUARY

I recently caught a portion of a T.V. Evangelist presentation. It was from Turning Point Ministries with Dr. David Jeremiah. Dr. Jeremiah is the pastor at a large church, Shadow Mountain Community Church, near San Diego, CA. I have listened to him for many years. Sadly, I was only able to listen to just a few minutes that day. In those minutes, he got me thinking about the past. Dr. Jeremiah commented that when you read Hebrew, you read it from right to left. The symbolism is that it appears we are going backward. Perhaps looking back into our lives.

I think it is important to look back at our lives and recall both the successes as well as the "other." I believe it is important for us to occasionally do this for a couple of reasons. First, we get to see where our life journey has taken us. I remember some tremendously successful moments that reminded me hard work and never giving up helps us achieve our dreams. I remember the people I have met and remember some wonderful experiences with them. But there is an important caution here. As Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB, writes: "If you cling to the past, the doors to the future remain closed." The operative word here is "cling." Holding on with a tight grip.

Another reason to look back is to see what happened during times of stress and struggle. Where did it take us? What did we learn? How were we changed? Many times, the duration of the stress and struggle was significant. It became our personal "desert"

experience. It is here we find God does his best work with us while we are in the wilderness. This fact, alone, should give us hope whenever things seem bleak and hopeless.

But looking back must not be just about remembering events, good and "other." We need to thoroughly examine the good and well as the "other". If we look hard enough, we can find God is present at all times; good and "other". If you hadn't guessed it by now, this is the whole purpose of this exercise of looking back. You will find He has been guiding and leading us all along. In fact, He is leading us to even greater possibilities.

William Barclay writes: "Someone has said that many people regard religion as belonging 'to the ambulance corps and not to the firing-line of life.' Religion to them is a crisis affair. It is only when we get life into a mess, or when life deals them some knock-out blow that they begin to remember God. We must all go to Jesus for he alone can give us the things we need for life; but if going and these gifts do not produce in us an answering love and gratitude there is something tragically wrong. God is not someone to be used in the day of misfortune; he is someone to be loved and remembered every day of our lives."

One of the best ways to help us review our lives from time to time is through a personal journal. There are no rules on how to journal. Just simply write what you sense, feel, and are experiencing. The late Dr. Charles Stanly highly encouraged us to record these events

so that we may look back from time to time and see how often God was in the presence of the events of our lives.

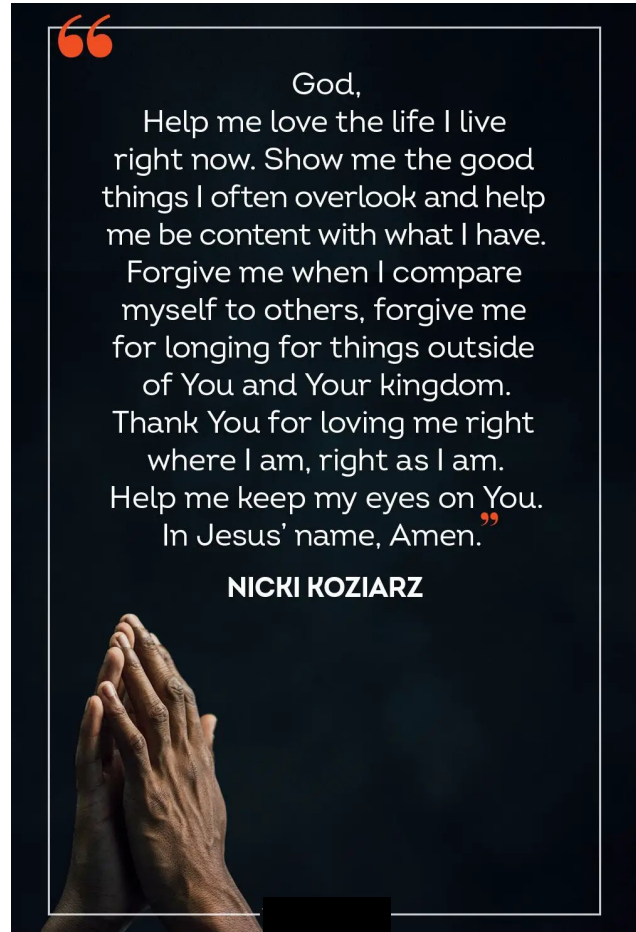
The practice of the spiritual life takes discipline. In our looking back we are able to review our spiritual life as well as the events along life's journey. That discipline will bring us joy where there was sorrow. Hope when we feel hopeless. It brings us into a close loving relationship with our faith and with others. We learn to serve others just as Christ came to serve and not be served. In other words, this discipline puts things in order for our lives. Rather than complain or cry about the past, we can look at those as opportunities and patience to bear life's burdens as ways to bring glory to God. As you look back think of how many times you prayed a prayer of thanks. You may also remember prayers of lament. It has been said that for every prayer of thanksgiving, there are ten thousand prayers of lament.

In the work place, we often experience an "annual review" with our boss. We should look at our time of looking back as an individual "annual review" with God. Allow Him to point out the "good" and the "other." Confess the "other" if needed, and move forward, knowing you walk continually in His Grace.

The amazing thing that happens after such a "review" is you re-discover your enthusiasm for the faith. Your enthusiasm for your friends and church is uplifted and they are uplifted by you. Enthusiasm is contagious. Enthusiasm is what drives our "servant heart" to reach out to the community and welcome others. Rather than worrying about spreading COVID or some other disease, let's

spread enthusiasm in massive doses.

Chip



Seekers is starting again Wednesday, February 7th. It will still be in the conference room beginning at 12:00.

The subject for this class will be the **Book of Acts** and runs for 10 weeks.

See you there!!

Our church volunteers once again did outstanding work at the Food Shelf January 26th. The need continues to rise. Here are the statistics for the year 2023:

Total Households served	11,913
Total Individuals served	37,519
Total Pounds of Food Distributed	755,338
First Time Customers	2,497

It is our duty and privilege to contribute our time, energy, and funds to this worth endeavor. The Food Shelf thanks you and so do I. Linnea Mostad



**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 12/31/2023****Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$13,627.38
Total Expenses	\$13,790.90
Net Income	\$ -163.52

**Thank you** for supporting our church**Sunday Worship Attendance**

Dec 24th	37
Dec 31st	24
Jan 7th	22
Jan 14th	12
Jan 21st	27



3rd	Terri Murray
6th	Palmer Berg
6th	Duane Hayes
14th	Donna Dickinson

**Head Usher: Cheryl Hiltz**

Date	Liturgist	Greeter
Feb 4	Betty Hanson-Lehman	Brenda Miller
Feb 11	Mary Hayes	Palmer Berg
Feb 18	Ruth Andersen	Barb McGregor
Feb 25	Donna Enfield	Carla Erickson

**Communion: Set-up** Nancy Weber**Serve** Libby Underhill and Shirlee Harold**Kitchen:** Libby Underhill with helpers Donna Enfield, Carla Erickson and Ray Hamblin**Jan and Feb there will be no Supper Club. It will resume again in March**

Please call Dianne Roholt directly at 218-444-2859 for your  
reservations!

This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.

**All are welcome!**



**Evergreen**  
Youth & Family Services  
*Strengthening Youth. Preserving Families.*



## Our Mission

Evergreen Youth & Family Services is a community-based organization committed to strengthening youth, preserving families and building relationships with an emphasis on those living in Northern Minnesota.

## Our Values

Evergreen believes that communities are strongest when every individual is treated with dignity and respect and has support to achieve his/her full human potential. Evergreen chooses to remain client-centered with an emphasis on being responsive to each individual and families' needs while maintaining a high level of professionalism, compassion and empathy. We operate from a position of hope, faith and support. Our services and perspective are often grassroots in nature and it is because of our strong relationships and resources that Evergreen Youth & Family Services remains a catalyst in the region for proactive services, education and advocacy.

Evergreen has an extensive intake survey to determine program placement in these programs. These programs are a part of a comprehensive approach to providing services and success to our youth.

Drop-In Center

Housing

Independent Living Skills

Mental Health & Counseling

Rock Sober

Street Outreach

Crime Victim Services

Safe Harbor

Youth-At-Work

Youth Shelter

Crisis Intervention

Short Term Shelter Program

35-Day Evaluation Program

Youth & Family Coaching



# Your session at work

## First Presbyterian Church

**APPROVED: 1-16-24**

**Bemidji, MN**

**December 19, 2023**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on December 19, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

### ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A

**QUORUM:** Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, Bev Novak, Gloria Phelps, and Libby Underhill.

### QUORUM DECLARED

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - MSP to approve

**MEETING MINUTES** - MSP to approve the minutes from the November Session meeting.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you note from Boy Scout Troop #25 for the church's recent donation and support.  
Note from Marlene Zech

### CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - December 19, 2023

**Weddings:** None

**Baptisms:** None

**Deaths:** None

**New Members:** None

**Return to Active Membership:** None

**Request Transfer of Membership:** None

**Removed from Membership Roll:** None

**Communion:** December 3, 2023: 32 served

**Membership** as of December 19, 2023: 64

### Sunday Worship Attendance:

November 26th: 22	December 3rd: 32	December 10th: 29	December 17th: 24
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**FINANCIAL REPORT** - Finances from Novem-

ber were reviewed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administration/Personnel:** Chairperson: Bev Novak; no report

**Buildings & Grounds:** Chairperson: Terri Murray; seeking an on-call handy man.

**Finance & Stewardship:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; working on 2024 budget.

**Adult & Christian Education:** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; last session of Seekers will be December 20<sup>th</sup>. Next session will start in late January, early February.

**Outreach:** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians will serve at the Bemidji Food Shelf on December 22nd; overflowing Tubs of Love were delivered to Churches United. Discussion regarding the recent Community Christmas Carol Sing-along was held.

**Worship & Music:** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; Christmas Eve service will be at 3pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>; there will be no regular church service that day.

### OTHER BUSINESS

**Computer Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report.

**Nominating Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; two elders are scheduled to go off Session. The committee will be meeting soon to seek nominations for these two openings.

**Kitchen Fellowship Committee:** Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; Kitchen Service Lists for 2024 have been established. Table Fellowship will be held quarterly on the first Sunday. The Table Fellowship schedule is as follows: January 7<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, and October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### NEW BUSINESS

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024, immediately after the worship service. **MSP** to approve.

Chip shared ideas regarding the possibility of reorganizing the Session to “work smarter and not harder”.

Chip shared his insights on the State of the Church.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

**MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill  
Clerk

**THERE IS**  
always, always, always,  
**SOMETHING TO BE**  
**GRATEFUL FOR.**

— Rhonda Byrne

**Coffee fellowship is returning to  
every Sunday beginning immediately.  
Please come and enjoy the continued  
fellowship with coffee  
and a treat**



**Sundays**  
**10:00 am**  
**Worship**  
**11:00am**  
**Fellowship**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Pastor Chip Communion Fellowship	5  7pm Scouts	6	7 Seekers 12pm  6pm Calvary	8	9	10
11 Pastor Chip Fellowship	12  7pm Scouts	13	14 Seekers 2pm  <b>Ash Wed, 4pm Service</b>	15  NO SUPPER CLUB	16	17
18 Pastor Chip Fellowship	19  7pm Scouts	20  1pm Session	21 Seekers 2pm Lent srv 1pm  6pm Calvary	22	23	24
25 Pulpit Supply Fellowship	26  7pm Scouts	27	28 Seekers 2pm Lent srv 1pm  6pm Calvary	29		



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