

## January



### öThe Reality of New Yearø Resolutionsö

#### Chip's Chatter

A continued Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!

The New Year always brings on a certain group of emotions. We wonder what the New Year will bring. We have hopes and expectations and have an eagerness about getting started in another new chapter of our lives. We also make New Yearø resolutions such as losing weight, spending quality time with our children and grandchildren. We resolve to maybe slow down a bit and enjoy lifeø journey.

Hereø an interesting statistic. Did you know only 8% of New Yearø resolutions actually succeed? Did you know 80% of New Yearø resolutions are said to fail by February! This is not at all surprising to me given my own life experiences and Iøll bet yours too. The statistic leads me to ask the question öWhy?ö

I notice that almost all New Yearø resolutions begin in my head as I think about it. I base them on what I see, hear, and touch. Then, I make some sort of öpromiseö to change my behavior or actions to achieve my objective. But, I wonder if this isnø a head-heart issue. It is true sight, sound, touch, and smell all impact us and can profoundly move us. But, it is the conviction of the heart that seems to really move mountains. This yearø Advent season was about preparing our hearts to receive the Messiah. It was also intended to reach our hearts and show us the need for a Savior.

It is in our hearts, we hear öthe still, small voice of the Lordö calling us. Maybe this year, we should listen more intently with the ear of our heart and let God direct us to the changes we need to make. I need to adjust my thinking in many circumstances. It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit working in my life that guides me in the correct direction even though it may not be popular or what others need to hear. It is the conviction of the heart, emboldened by the Holy Spirit that leads to change.

One change I most certainly need to make is to spend more time in prayer. Prior to becoming your pastor, I would twice daily enter a time of prayer and devotion using a prayer book from friends in western North Dakota. Now, it is sporadic at best. I donø beat myself up over it as I am constantly in the Word studying and preparing for Sunday. Nevertheless, there are times when I sense a certain yearning to be alone with God. God is reminding me of the importance of staying in continuous contact with Him. I know from past experience, if I allow the Holy Spirit to be part of my daily thoughts, the conviction in my heart will lead to the desired change I seek. It may take time, but it will eventually happen. Isnø that the best possible result of a öNew Yearø Resolution?ö

So, what are your New Year's resolutions? How will you try to achieve them? Through your head, or through your heart? If all you do is to draw closer the Creator and His Son, Jesus Christ, you will have achieved the first solid step in achieving all your hopes and dreams. Keep working on drawing closer to Him. But, for many of us, things may not be working as we had hoped. In that case, maintain your relationship with Him and offer up your concern to God. You are on solid scriptural standing when you do this. You see, King David did the same thing when things weren't going to well for him. One senior pastor I recently met refers to this action as "rolling it up to the Lord." I imagine an old fashioned roll up window shade. As long as the shade is down, I cannot see the beauty outside. But, if I "roll it up", the issue still remains but it has ceased blocking my view.

This year, make your resolution to draw closer to God. Spend time in worship. Spend time in the Word. Spend time with fellow believers. Spend time serving others. Spend time helping the needy. Spend time extending hospitality to others, especially the marginalized. Spend time preparing your heart for His Second coming. In so doing, you will "make straight the pathway to your heart." Then, you will clearly hear the New Year's Resolution God wants you to make.

Happy New Year!!

Chip

### TUBS OF LOVE

On December 19th, Cheryl Hiltz and Libby Underhill took the four Tubs of Love to Churches United for distribution. Once again, the congregation, Mary Martha Circle, and Boy Scout Troop #25 were amazing in their generosity! As the photo illustrates, the tubs were overflowing with gifts. Thank you, thank you, thank you for such kindness and spirit of giving. Thanks to you, four needy families will now have a wonderful Christmas.





4 Marge Shofner  
 5 Milo Mostad  
 17 Tia Langhout  
 23 Brenda Miller

3 Arlene Lee  
 8 Jan Kuleta  
 18 Wanda Burke

<b>January Service Chair: Libby Underhill</b>		<b>444-9774</b>	
<b>Palmer Berg</b>	<b>444-2844/760-3845</b>	<b>Cheryl Hiltz</b>	<b>751-1665</b>
<b>Loren Kimmer</b>	<b>751-1971</b>	<b>Jon &amp; Suzy Langhout</b>	<b>766-4043</b>
<b>Brenda Miller</b>	<b>766-3053</b>	<b>Linnea Mostad</b>	<b>751-8327</b>

**Communion in December**

**Set-up:** Bob and Nancy Weber

**Serving/helping with clean up:** Duane/Mary Hayes, Gloria Phelps, Cheryl Hiltz, LeRoy Hill

**Communion in January**

**Set-Up:** Joan Forbes and Vera Weis

**Serving/helping with clean up:** Brenda Miller, Gini Sande, Linnea Mostad, Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

**Head Usher: Duane Hayes**

<u>Ushers:</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgists:</u>
January 6		Betty Hanson-Lehman
January 13		
January 20		
January 27	Gini Sande	



**Supper Club will be cancelled for the month  
 of  
 January**

**Volunteers**

We are in need of your help. We are asking you to help fill the spots for greeters, liturgists, and ushers. You don't need to worry if you have not done it before as we will give good instructions. The sign up sheets are down in the fellowship hall on the desk and pens are there so you don't even need to hunt for one.

Please help out your church and volunteer!

**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 31, 2018**

Total Income	\$16,109.65
Total Expenses	7,506.18
Net Income	8,603.47
Memorial Fund	\$13,486.85
Endowment Fund	\$70,721.42
Communion Served—48	



The First Presbyterian Church CHOIR will continue to rehearse before church at 9:00am.

If you wish to become a member of the choir, please contact Gloria Phelps at 218-308-1113.



## **Benevolence for January**

### **SOS - Servants of Shelter**

Night will come an hour sooner this weekend and with the dark comes the cold.

Servants of Shelter is a mobile organization that carries 20 beds and bedding to each church location throughout a 21-week winter season. The program is designed as an emergency rotating shelter.

People finding themselves in an emergency state can obtain a Servants of Shelter Voucher from Churches United, Village of Hope or Bi-CAP. A voucher is good for 30 days and, once obtained, will tell a guest what church is hosting that week. An evening meal is provided at the church and people are given a lunch for the next day. Rides are also available to the Beltrami County Community Services Center.

Church doors typically open at 4 p.m. and clients leave at 8 a.m. Volunteers at the church serve meals and work in shifts. Szurpicki said anyone interested in joining the rotating volunteer list can contact Churches United at (218) 444-1380.

"We're always looking for volunteers at SOS," Szurpicki said.

Szurpicki moved to Bemidji in 2008 and has seen the number of participating churches decline. There were nine churches signed on last year, some hosting two weeks. After a public ask for help, two more churches joined.

"I don't have a great explanation as to why churches and the interest has begun to drop off, but that seems to be the trend, which is unfortunate," Szurpicki said. "Volunteers serving at their own churches as well as other churches have created a real community bond among the churches and crossing nondenominational lines, which is so good for our community."

If each church takes one shift this year, there will be 14 weeks of winter with no aid for some homeless people seeking shelter.

First Lutheran will host Servants of Shelter two different weeks this year, **January 13-20, 2019 and March 3-10, 2019.**

SOS will open for the winter on 12/31/2018

**First Presbyterian Church  
Bemidji, MN  
December 18, 2018**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on December 18, 2018 at 9:12 am. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.  
**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Duane Hayes, Cheryl Hiltz, Bob Weber, Donna

Dickinson, Bill Beck

**ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Leroy Hill,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

**QUORUM DECLARED**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MEETING MINUTES** The minutes from the November session meeting were accepted.

**CORRESPONDENCE** A letter of concern regarding handling of checks was received from 4 members. MSP for Treasurer Duane to meet with money counters at a date to be arranged to address this concern.

**CLERK'S REPORT** was accepted.

**First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report November 20, 2018**

**Weddings:** Trevor Smith and Alyssa Allen, October 6, Officiate Pastor Chris Hess, Calvary Chapel.

**Baptisms:** none

**Deaths:** none

**New Members:** none

**Return to Active Membership:** none

**Request Transfer of Membership:** none

**Removed from Membership Roll:** none

**Communion:** November 4 39 served Serving: Barb McGregor, Dixie Wirkus, Betty Hanson-Lehman, Donna Dickinson, Bill Beck

**Membership as of November 20, 2018: ---109**

**FINANCIAL REPORT** The financial report was distributed. A review of 2018 shows us staying within the budget by offsetting ups and downs/budget busters with cost cutting, use of endowment interest, and some budget items that were not used.

Details of bookkeeping procedures were discussed. MSP that the \$1000 received as BSU grant and all expenses will be recorded under the category of "Worship".

A reminder was made that we are now operating with a reality-based budget based on actual income. Note was made of the great value of the Endowment (interest) Checking Account in keeping our church vital and working toward our mission.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration/Worship/CENurture**

The Memorial Fund Policy draft updated 12-18-18 was distributed. Minor corrections were made and recorded. MSP Accept the Memorial Fund Policy as corrected and post it to the Manual of Operations. See below.

Recommendation to session to update the Wedding Fee Schedule for NonMembers was approved. See below.

Recommendation to increase Administrative Assistant's wage to \$15 per hour was approved.

Recommendation to increase Custodian's wage 50 cents per hour was approved. Both wage increases will begin January 1, 2019.

Minutes of the special meeting of the Financial Subcommittee were distributed and discussed. An amendment to the minutes based on this discussion will be added and the final document proposal will be presented for approval at the next Session meeting.

**Outreach** No report

**OTHER BUSINESS** First Presbyterian will host Net of the North on the third Thursday in March.

Explanation of the classes of elders was made.

Homebound communion will begin again.

MSP to send out letters regarding membership.

**Next Meeting:** January 15, 9:00 am at church with Pastor Chip Holt moderating.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Chip at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

**CHURCH RENTAL**  
**Wedding Fee Schedule**  
**Non-Member**

Service	Non-members	Initials of party
Minister's Fee: Includes three counseling sessions, rehearsal, and wedding ceremony (does not meet state requirements for pre-marital counseling and testing)	\$250	
Organist Fee	\$125	
Rehearsal	\$50	
First Song, if Accompanying a Soloist	\$15	
Each additional song	\$10	
(Our organist must approve anyone else who is to use the organ)		
Rental of Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall & Fireplace Room (for changing/dressing), Custodian Fee	\$850	
Reception fee for use of the kitchen and having Church Women present	\$150/100plates \$1.00/plate above 100	
Bulletins, Including preparation (per 100) Black & White or color	\$25	
Candles	\$10	
Sound Technician	\$35	
<b>Total for Wedding</b> , ½ due at contracting, remainder due not later than 4 weeks prior to scheduled event		
<b>Total for Wedding and reception</b> , ½ due at contracting, remainder due not later than 4 weeks prior to scheduled event		
<b>Non-refundable retainer</b> (1/2 of total)**		

**\*\*The non-refundable retainer is ½ of your total wedding services fee. Up until 4 weeks prior to the scheduled event all monies paid are refundable. 4 weeks prior to your scheduled event, and later, only money paid in excess of the retainer shall be refunded to the contracting individual(s).**

Party \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**First Presbyterian Church Bemidji, Minnesota**  
**Memorial Fund Policy**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Memorial Fund is to provide individuals the opportunity to honor loved ones through re-

stricted or unrestricted contributions that support the ministries at First Presbyterian Church. This policy establishes how memorial monies are received, recorded and expended.

### **Overview**

The Memorial Fund of the First Presbyterian Church of Bemidji is administered by the Memorial Fund Committee under the oversight of the Session. The Memorial Fund Committee shall consist of the church treasurer who serves as committee chairperson, one session member, and up to two members at large. The members at large are nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for three year terms.

The fund is held in an interest bearing checking account segregated from all other accounts. The fund consists of both restricted and unrestricted donations.

Memorial Fund transparency is ensured by the official Annual Report to the Congregation published each year in January which contains the Memorial Fund Report. The report is to show the beginning balance for the current year, Memorial Fund donations received along with their designations as restricted or unrestricted, Memorial Funds expended, and the yearend balance. The intended use of restricted gifts must be listed. This reporting ensures Memorial Fund transparency.

### **Memorial Donations**

Memorial fund gifts are usually given in memory of a loved one. Gifts can be restricted or unrestricted. Initial discussion of memorial contributions is normally done with the pastor. Families may also contact the Memorial Fund chairperson. The Memorial Gift Form is presented and discussed then completed by the appropriate family member. The Memorial Fund will not be used as a church member's sole support for the church.

Church members who desire to do so must discuss their memorial giving with the Pastor.

2. Unrestricted gifts are those donations that can be used at the discretion of Session to support the church's ministries. Restricted gifts are those donated for a specific purpose and should be used by Session for that purpose.
3. All memorial contributions must be approved by the Session and duly recorded.
4. Memorial donations are to be recorded as either restricted or unrestricted in the cash receipts journal as -Memorial Donation as well as in the official Memorial Record Book and official session minutes. If the donation is restricted, what they are to be used for is to also recorded. Unrestricted Memorial Fund donations have no expiration date. Restricted donations will require an expiration date and an explanation as to disbursement of the funds after expiration. The instructions for post expiration will be written on the Memorial Gift Donation form.
5. Memorial donations become the property of First Presbyterian Church. The donor may elect to change allocation of a restricted donation. The donor will make appeal to the Session. The Session must be in agreement as the Session sees the longer term impact of such a change.
6. The fund chairperson will mail a thank you letter to the person making a memorial donation as per IRS regulations. A copy of the letter is to be retained for church records.

### **Memorial Fund Record Keeping**

7. A Memorial Fund deposit book with duplicate forms will be kept. Checks and cash memorial received will be recorded on the deposit forms along with the donor's name and check number. If the monies are for restricted memorials, that restriction will also be noted.
8. The deposit is taken to the bank by the Church Treasurer or a designee appointed by Session.
9. The deposit receipt from the bank is to be attached to the deposit form duplicate and given to the data entry person for entry into the church's financial software, then filed.

### **Spending of the Memorial Fund**

10. All Memorial Fund expenditures must be approved by Session.
11. Memorial Fund expenditure requests must be submitted in writing using a Memorial Fund Request form. It must include the reason for using Memorial funds, the item/s to be purchased and documentation of its cost, the name of the person making the request and their signature.
12. Restricted donations that have a large impact on the congregation will require Session approval. The Session has the authority to determine if a Congregational vote is required through the Special Meeting process. If the Session/Congregation do not approve of the restricted expenditure, the donor may re-designate the restricted donation with Session approval.

Appendix B

Financial Policy Approved by Session 12-18-18

Page \_\_\_\_\_

Sundays  
 10:00 Worship  
 Service  
 11:00 Fellowship

# January 2019



SUN                  MON                  TUE                  WED                  THU                  FRI                  SAT

		1 NEW YEARS DAY	2  6:30-Calvary Chapel	3	4	5
6 Chip Holt Preaching	7  5pm-Bell Choir 6pm-Boy Scouts	8 9AM Admin Mtg.	9  6:30-Calvary Chapel	10	11	12
13 Chip Holt Preaching	14  5pm-Bell Choir 6pm-Boy Scouts	15 9AM Session Mtg.	16  6:30-Calvary Chapel	17	18 Supper Club Cancelled for January	19
20- Congregational Meeting  Chip Holt Preaching	21  5pm-Bell Choir 6pm-Boy Scouts	22	23  6:30-Calvary Chapel	24	25	26
27 Tony Peffer Preaching	28  5pm-Bell Choir 6pm-Boy Scouts	29	30  6:30-Calvary Chapel	31		

