

Chip's Chatter



I ran across this article while searching the internet. It is a perfect article to start us on the New Year. It stresses the importance of our coffee fellowship and other activities of the church. We need your support to not only participate but also to volunteer to help. If you are able to help, especially in the kitchen, please contact Shirlee at the church office.

**"Pastor: 3 benefits of fellowship
Rev. J. Patrick Street**

Pastor's Column

Fellowship is the relationship that we have with one another as Christians. It is based on the relationship we have with Jesus Christ. When you and I became Christians three relationships changed: Jesus became our Savior; God became our Father; and the church became our family. In other words, believers are now my brothers and sisters in Christ and accepted into the family of God. I would like to share with you three benefits of fellowship.

Let's start with Acts 2, Peter has just finished preaching and here is what happens: "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in

prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (vs. 41-47).

Benefit 1

Fellowship builds friendships. The early church really was a close knit group. They were all together and had everything in common. I believe that the reason that the early church had such good relationships was because of their commitment to Jesus and to each other.

Jesus said this about friendship: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

If you want to build good friendships in the church then you need to get involved with things in the church. You cannot expect good relationships to be built if you are not "fellowshipping" with other Christians. Fellowship builds friendships, but it takes time, energy, and effort.

Benefit 2

Fellowship builds unity. The church is called to be united. Unity is having everything in common and being of the same mind. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4 saying, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (vs. 3). If the Lord is that interested in the unity of the church, then we should be interested in it as well. We are called to "keep" or "maintain" the unity of the church.

"Make every effort" means "zealous," it suggests that we allow nothing to hinder us from striving to secure the unity of the church. It speaks of a holy zeal that demands constant attention. "Keep" means "to guard." Notice that it does not say "create." We cannot manufacture unity within the church. We cannot fake unity. We can only protect, or guard the unity we already have. Paul calls it "the unity of the Spirit." This phrase reminds us that "the unity, the agreement, the common

ground" within the church is not the product of our efforts to make unity. This agreement, this common ground, is that which is produced within us by the Spirit of God. Fellowship builds unity, it did in the early church and it does now.

Benefit 3

Fellowship builds God's kingdom. Notice the last phrase of our text from Acts chapter two: "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Our fellowship, the relationship we have with one another and with Jesus is a witness to the world. The early church was committed to Jesus and to one another and the world saw it. When Christians regularly meet together to worship God and fellowship with one another, we are a witness to the world. Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). We are to love God and love people.

Acts 2:42 tells us, "They were ... devoted to the fellowship." The early Christians were devoted to the fellowship. And what happened then? The most significant outgrowth of their devotion to the fellowship was a sense of mission and the joy of seeing people come to Jesus. When we're all devoted to the fellowship, we have a firmer

foundation for what God wants to do not just in us, but through us.

Rev. J. Patrick Street is Lead Pastor at Redeemer Church, Marion. Contact him at coachpatstreet@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter: @CoachPatStreet”

Chip's comment:

From this article and what I've been thinking about for months now, it has become imperative we return to coffee fellowship on every Sunday, not just twice a month. In so doing, we need you to support, to participate, AND to volunteer to help. If you are able to help, please contact Shirlee at the church office, 218-444-5016

2024 Kitchen Service Lists

Service Chair

*January		February		March	
Brenda Miller		Libby Underhill		Brenda Miller	
Palmer Berg		Donna Enfield		Betty Hanson-Lehman	
Donna Dickinson		Carla Erickson		Shirlee Harold	
Nancy Weber		Ray Hamblin		Cheryl Hiltz	
*April		May		June	
Libby Underhill		Terri Murray		Brenda Miller	
218-209-1248		218-760-8343		218-766-3053	
Jenny Miller		Linnea Mostad		Morris Damp	
Mary Lou Miller		Jan Kuleta		Judy Damp	
Brenda Strowbridge		Bob Naylor		Ken Paulson	
*July		August		September	
Libby Underhill		Terri Murray		Libby Underhill	
218-209-1248		218-760-8343		218-209-1248	
Gloria Phelps		Barb McGregor		Carol Waughtal	
Dianne Roholt		Jared Syrstad		Ruth Anderson	
Gini Sande		Kate Syrstad		Jan Burger	
*October		November		December	
Terri Murray		Brenda Miller		Libby Underhill	
218-760-8343		218-766-3053		218-209-1248	
Kathy Burger		Bob Wagner		Mary Hayes	
Trish Brager		Linda Wagner		Duane Hayes	
Bev Novak		Terri Murray		Libby Underhill	

*Table Fellowship on the 1st Sunday

The Kitchen Fellowship Committee has resumed the monthly service lists to enlist help with Coffee Fellowship and Table Fellowship. During your month, you may receive a call to provide treats and/or help in the kitchen. Please be of service when called. Thank you on behalf of the Kitchen Fellowship Committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 11/30/2023**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$ 6,997.94
Total Expenses	\$13,434.06
Net Income	\$ -6,436.12

Thank you for supporting our church**Sunday Worship Attendance****2023**

Nov 19	24
Nov 26	22
Dec 3	32
Dec 10	29



5th	Milo Mostad	No Date-Kate Syrstad
8th	Jan Kuleta	
15th	Kathy Burger	
18th	Wanda Burke	
25th	Brenda Miller	

Head Usher: Gloria Phelps

Date	Liturgist	Greeter
Jan 7	Mary Hayes	Beverly Novak
Jan 14	Libby Underhill	Linnea Mostad
Jan 21	Donna Enfield	Ken Paulson
Jan 28	Ruth Andersen	Gini Sande

Communion: Set-up Nancy Weber**Serve** Linnea Mostad and Nancy Weber**Kitchen:** Brenda Miller with helpers Palmer Berg, Donna Dickinson

The **Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 28th directly following the service. Please plan on attending to review the last years state of the church and to vote on the budget for the year 2024.

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!

Benevolence for the month of January 2024

Bemidji Village of Hope

We are an Emergency Shelter for families that experience Homelessness

Homelessness doesn't take a break,
so neither do we.

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

A single Dad came into the office overwhelmed. "I don't think I can do this anymore. Everything is so hard." We shared a cup of coffee and called the Housing Navigator who scheduled an appointment to see him the next day. His two teen age daughters were upset and the case manager spend an hour with them, and we called Evergreen for some family counseling. "I'm so glad I don't have to do this alone". He left with a feeling of accomplishment and ready to keep going

A young woman walked down the hall of the shelter, eyes down cast and shoulders slumped. She just got all six of her girls on the bus for school, her youngest going for the first time. She herself had been homeless since she was 14. She was ready to find a job, but said "I have no skills". We talked about what it takes to keep six girls healthy, happy and on time for school! Who budgets? "I do" Who cooks and Cleans? "I do" We talked about all the amazing skills she has, she started applying for jobs and found one she loves. Shortly after, she got her FIRST HOUSE. Life changing!

A young girl had been in and out of treatment. She had a 3-year-old with her, but her oldest daughter was not living with her. She was very reluctant to attend our Rent Wise Life Skills class but after three weeks she decided to come. She was so engaged, and afterwards said "That is exactly how I've been thinking and now I know what I can do to change that around. You guys treat me like I matter.

When families come to Village of Hope, they are at the lowest spot in their lives. They are exhausted and frustrated. They don't trust themselves or others. By working together, and building relationships, we start to rebuild their confidence and hope. We are so much more alike than different and pointing that out makes all the difference to a heartbroken family.

Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church

12-19-23

Bemidji, MN

November 21, 2023

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on November 21, 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 October Session meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you note from Hope House for the use of the Fellowship Hall for their annual Thanksgiving dinner. 70-75 people were served.

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - November 21, 2023

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: None

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: 1

Communion: November 5, 2023: 25 served

Membership as of November 21, 2023: 64

Sunday Worship Attendance:

Oct. 22nd: 23	Oct. 29th: 27	Nov 5th: 25	Nov 12th: 27	Nov 19th: 24
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APPROVED:

FINANCIAL REPORT - Finances from October were reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson:

Bev Novak; Darlinda Coe has been hired as our organist. In addition, she will direct the Bell Choir.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Terri Murray; Refrigerator has been fixed; will look into water drainage on basement wall; entryway will be painted a light green; during December meeting Session will walk the building to examine areas of concern.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson:

Cheryl Hiltz; Pledge Sunday is November 26th.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; Seekers continues to go well.

Outreach Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf on November 15th; Tubs of Love will run December 3-17; the Community Christmas Sing Along will be advertised in the paper, on the radio and tv.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria

Phelps; Christmas Eve service will be at 3pm on the 24th; there will be no regular church service that day; Gloria is working on ushers and communion servers for 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS

Computer Committee: Chairperson:

Cheryl Hiltz; NFLX has repaired the outdoor marque.

Kitchen Fellowship Committee:

Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; discussion regarding the upcoming Community Christmas Sing Along and refreshments afterwards.

NEW BUSINESS

Chip shared lessons from Lawrence

Lee regarding attending worship insights.

A PowerPoint presentation regarding establishing a protection plan for the church will be presented next month.

Highlights of the recent Committee Meeting on Ministry were presented.

Terri will order an outdoor banner advertising the Community Christmas Sing Along to be posted on the fencing.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 19th, 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 of Session

We are very happy to say that the First Annual Community Christmas Sing-a-Long was a great success.

The sound in the sanctuary was fantastic. As an attender sitting in the middle, it was a sound that resonated through the whole church. Since it was so well received, we would like to continue each year.

- The feedback was wonderful.

It was wonderful, are you going to do it again next year.

I enjoyed it so much

The sound-fabulous

Your church is beautiful

- The number that went down for coffee and cider more than we expected.
- Our attendance was between 80 and 100 and we expect more each year, as the word gets out.



Table Fellowship (Potluck)

Our next table fellowship is **Sunday, January 7, 2024**, after the worship service. Please bring a dish of your choice for the potluck.

Mark your calendars for the remaining Table fellowship dates:



April 7, 2024

July 7, 2024

October 6, 2024

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 6 pm Calvary Chapel	4	5 6:00 Scouts Lock In	6
7 Pastor Chip Communion Fellowship	8 7pm Scouts	9	10 6 pm Calvary Chapel	11	12	13
14 Pastor Chip	15 7pm Scouts	16 1pm-Session Meeting	17 6 pm Calvary Chapel	18 NO SUPPER CLUB	19	20
21 Randy McGuire Fellowshi[p	22 7pm Scouts	23	24 6 pm Calvary Chapel	25	26	27
28 Pastor Chip Congregational Meeting	29 7pm Scouts	30	31 6 pm Calvary Chapel			



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