

First Church News

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 7

JULY 2018

July 4th

Why It Is Important by Bob Weber

Today many Americans do not know the accurate reason that we celebrate the 4th of July and why it is so important to those of us that are Presbyterians. Two hundred and forty two years ago, representatives of the original 13 states, met at the Pennsylvania State House, better known as Independence Hall in Philadelphia, on July 4, 1776 to adopt **The United States Declaration of Independence**. The Declaration announced that the thirteen American colonies then at war with the Kingdom of Great Britain would regard themselves as thirteen independent sovereign states no longer under British rule. On July 4th 1776, 34 representatives of nine of the 13 states, signed The United States Declaration of Independence. Of those first 34 signees, 12 of them were Presbyterians. Within a week the other 4 states voted to have their representatives sign the Declaration of Independence so when the representatives met again on August 2, 1776 all 56 representatives of the 13 states signed the final draft.

Contrary to common belief, a year later, the Constitutional Convention which was convened from May 25 to September 17, 1787 signed the US Constitution on September 17, 1787. Those individuals interested in obtaining a copy of the Constitution of the United State or even interested in taking an online course on the Constitution to obtain an accurate interpretation are encouraged to contact Hillsdale College (<https://online.hillsdale.edu/course.con101/schedule>). In a recent survey dealing with the interpretation of the Constitution, only 2% of the citizens of the United States accurately understood the meaning of the Constitution. Maybe if the Constitution was studied in our schools like it was at one time, we would have fewer problems in our country.

To me personally, The United States Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are very important documents that should not be changed and should be strictly interpreted by our courts and government as our founding fathers intended and not be interpreted like many of our progressives would like to change them.

**God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above;**

**From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.**

from the pastor's desk



Some years ago I had the pleasure of meeting an amazing man. I met him after he had long since retired. I also heard him tell of some significant events in his life.

He went to college as an accomplished athlete, specializing in gymnastics and the parallel bars. One day, he fell badly on the parallel bars with the net result of his injuries making him a quadriplegic for the rest of his life. He spent many months in the hospital trying to recover with very limited success.

When he realized his body could no longer do the things he wished, he told those around him that he had just hurt his body, but not his mind. He went on to fulfill his college education specializing in mathematics and statistics in particular. He ended up with a PHD and able to teach. He was highly respected and he was frequently called as the actuarial specialist in many court cases. He married and he and his wife adopted two children.

What makes this man so special is that he continued to enjoy life. He traveled as best he could. He even went on safari in Africa a couple of times and had several trophies in his basement. I watched him shoot a rifle once and as he looked very awkward, his accuracy was spot on.

He wrote a short book on his life experiences and he relates a couple of comments that are appropriate for all of us. When he left the hospital after his initial injury as a young man, he placed this note on his bed for the next patient. It read: "Don't let anything discourage you because once defeat is admitted, it becomes inevitable." This gentleman never let his quadriplegia defeat him.

In the closing chapters of his book, this man also wrote: "Quadriplegia hasn't ruined my life, just changed it". Yes, sometimes life events intervene and we may not reach our goal. But we must remember God is still in control and will use us, and our circumstances, to advance the kingdom. But, we must be willing to let Him be in charge of our lives. I experienced 8 deaths in 4 ½ years that included my parents, a brother, a nephew, aunts and uncles, and finally a fiancé. It was those events that started the journey which ultimately brought me to First Presbyterian Church.

As I think back about this individual, I hear his words about admitting defeat. How many of us during our lives have felt there was something so large that we could not overcome it. His words are encouraging for carrying on. Winston Churchill once gave a short speech after WWII in which he said, "Never give up, never give up". I think this special individual would have had a lot in common with Sir Winston Churchill. The next time we are faced with a major and difficult challenge, how about thinking about the hazards of admitting defeat.

What I find interesting is both of these quotes can apply to us individually and to any group or organization. You will never know the final outcome if we let discouragement defeat us and stop our journey to meet God's plan for us.



Prayer Chain

We are available to all members who need a spiritual lift for themselves or for a loved one who is ill or just needs the prayers of his or her friends. Call the church office at 444-5016 or Libby Underhill at 444-9774.

From the Church Office



15 Doug Cronemiller 27 H.B. Roholt
 27 Linnea Mostad 30 Jon Langhout



July Service Chair: Joan Forbes

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Joyce Ackerman | 218-407-0867 | Gloria Aylesworth | 751-7841 |
| Cheryl Hiltz | 751-1667 | Brenda Reed | 751-2630 |
| Helen Spaulding | 751-1234 | Libby Underhill | 444-9774 |

Communion in June:

Set-up: Bob and Nancy Weber

Serving/helping with clean up: Duane Hayes, Mary Hayes, Bob Weber, Mary Lou Miller, Cheryl Hiltz

Communion in July:

Set-up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean up: Dixie Wirkus, LeRoy Hill, Brenda Biller, Linnea Mostad, Bill Beck

Head Usher: Bill Beck

| | Ushers: | Greeter | Liturgists: |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| July 1 | | | Bob Weber |
| July 8 | | | Bob Weber |
| July 15 | | Gini Sande | Dianne Roholt |
| July 22 | Dixie Wirkus | Donna Dickinson | Betty Hanson-Lehman |
| July 29 | | Dixie Wirkus | Carol Severn |



Supper Club
Ruttgers Birchmont Lodge
5:30
July 20th



Supper Club will be meeting Friday July 20, at 5:30. Please sign up at the church office: by email; presbji@paulbunyan.net –or– by phone; 444-5016, on or before Wednesday, July 13.

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

All are welcome!

From the Church Office

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending May 30, 2018

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | 8,436.21 |
| Total Expenses | 6,787.49 |
| Net Income | 1,648.72 |
| Memorial Fund | \$13,458.50 |
| Endowment Fund | \$66,029.66 |
| Communion Served—54 | |

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

If you have items for the **Newsletter**, Please call or email the office by **Tuesday, July 24th for the August Newsletter.**



Bulletin items need to be into the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday you wish it to appear. Because of the summer hours, this is firm as the bulletin gets printed on Thursday morning.

To avoid confusion, please send information for the bulletin and newsletter to the church office via email at presbjj@paulbunyan.net. If you don't have email, call the office at 444-5016 or stop by the office during office hours, Monday—Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The office will have summer hours beginning the week of June 3rd. Monday through Thursday, 10:00am—2:00pm.

Sunday, June 3rd was a banner day for First Presbyterian Church. Our "Sky Pilot" Pastor Chip Holt was commissioned to be our new lay Pastor. His correct title will be Pastor Henry "Chip" Holt, CRE. We are excited for what the future holds for First Presbyterian Church.



Pastoral Care

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, please give the church a call and let us know. Because of the privacy laws now in place, pastors can no longer have access to files. We'll be glad to visit you. If you've been ill at home and would like to talk with a pastor, let us know that also. Pastor Chip is available for home visits. If you would like communion brought to you, let us know. If you'd like to talk over some personal issues or seek pastoral help, let us know. We invite you to communicate your needs to us and we'll do what we can to help. Call the office at 444-5016.

Pastor Chip's hours will be:

Monday—Thursday, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Other times by appointment

To reach Chip after hours, call 444-5016 and press 1 when prompted. It will call his cell

Friends and Neighbors Day by Presbytery July 14, 2018

Join us on Saturday, July 14, 2018 for the annual Friends and Neighbors Day, our celebration of Clearwater Forest and the communities of supporters that make it great.

On this day, we open the doors to showcase our beautiful, historic buildings, our exciting programming, and God's amazing wilderness. Come and experience the energy, beauty, joy, and play that Clearwater Forest offers! We will begin the day with our annual Lake 2 Lake bike ride, raising dollars for our scholarship fund. Then throughout the day there will be tours of the grounds and buildings, games and activities on the main lawn and community tables, where you can learn more about our programs and partnerships. If you are feeling adventurous you may try some of the many activities we offer on land and water, including sailing, paddle boarding, our high ropes course, and the bouldering wall. A picnic lunch, a celebration program, and campfire singing will round out the day.

Registration and more information are available at www.clearwaterforest.org or by calling 218-678-2325. This event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is strongly encouraged to aid our planning.

First Presbyterian Church Bemidji, MN June 12, 2018

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on June 12, 2018 at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Duane Hayes, Bill Beck, Donna Dickinson, Bob Weber, Leroy Hill, Cheryl Hiltz

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

CORRESPONDENCE Letter of transfer for Carol Richards was sent.

CLERK'S REPORT was **accepted**.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report June 12, 2018

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: none

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: Carol Richards to Camas United Methodist, Camas Washington

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: June 3 Served: 54 Set Up Communion: Bob & Nancy Weber Servers: Bob Weber, Cheryl Hiltz, Duane and Mary Hayes

Membership as of June 12, 2018: 109

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was **accepted** as printed. Investment returns have been 10% for the last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Worship

Hire a custodian through Always There Staffing pending a reference check. **Approved.** The custodian's job description in the MOO will be updated to include a list of cleaning priorities.

Purchase a \$226 utility shed. **Approved.**

Purchase five security cameras. **Approved.**

Hire Terry Hill to strip, seal coat and fill pot holes in parking lot for \$900. Financial support will be sought from Headwaters Music. **Approved.**

Request from Sanford and funeral homes to hold Remembrance Service. **Approved.**

First Presbyterian will be included in the 2019 Summer Recital series. **Approved.**

Chip will be interviewed on the Rock and Roll Christian Radio station Q107. **Approved.**

Outreach . First Presbyterian will serve Meals on Wheels the week of July 2. Community Food Shelf was served on May 22.

CE Supper Club will be the 4th Friday of June at the Eagles.

OTHER BUISNESS

Administration Committee will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. For summer, Session will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

The air conditioning system will be checked. Duane will get a quote for repairs.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 17, 7:00 pm at church with Pastor Chip Holt moderating. The meeting was closed with prayer at 2:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays
 10:00 Worship Service
 11:00 Fellowship

July 2018



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|----|
| 1 Chip Holt Preaching w/Communion | 2 Meals on Wheels | 3 Meals on Wheels | 4  | 5 Meals on Wheels | 6 Meals on Wheels | 7 |
| 8 Chip Holt preaching | 9 | 10 | 11 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Chip Holt preaching | 16 | 17 7pm Session Meeting | 18 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel | 19 | 20 5:30-Supper Club-Ruttgers | 21 |
| 22 Tony Peffer preaching | 23 | 24 | 25 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Chip Holt preaching | 30 | 31 | | | | |