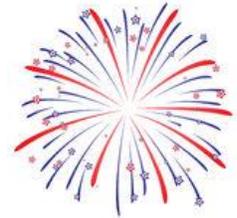


First Church News

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 7

JULY, 2019



Chip's Chatter

“Can I Worship God on the Lake”

Summer means much for many people. It is a time of re-unions, summer picnics, travel, and hosting of friends in our homes. Children are enjoying their summer vacation. The daylight lengthens our outdoor time which includes not only fun activities, but also time to complete chores around our houses. The schedule can get very hectic and fatigue can set in with little warning or notice. It is at this point many of us elect to not attend worship. We may, in fact, substitute other activities in lieu of attending church.

I sometimes hear “I will be worshipping God on/at the lake, golf course, etc. (You can fill in the blank) This statement is usually followed by “I enjoy God’s creation and surroundings.” My reply is always this: Just make sure you are worshipping the Creator and NOT the creation.

I recently read a devotional which used the above title. The article posed this question: Must I go to church to be a Christian. The response from the late Billy Graham is perfect! “Being in church no more makes you a Christian than being in a garage makes you a car.” The devotional goes on to say attending church serves a three-fold purpose to help us grow in our faith.

01. To worship with other believers.0

02. Church is a place of Christian fellowship, and lone ranger Christians don’t do well in the journey of faith.0

03. Church is a place where we can use our gifts in service and ministry.0

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of worshipping with other believers. I have been associated with support groups for many years both as a participant and as a leader/facilitator. Participants in these groups are not required to speak or offer thoughts on their own lives. But an amazing thing happens, just the mere presence of others working together for a common purpose dramatically impacts the success of the support group. We often will say, “You need not comment, but your presence is meaningful to all of us.” So it is with worship. Your presence adds not only to your individual faith journey, but it adds to those seated around you.

The Reformers all knew the importance of worship. Martin Luther says: “Worship is for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor, not for our advantage or pleasure.” John Calvin states: “Men will never worship God with a sincere heart, or be aroused to fear and obey Him with sufficient zeal, until they properly understand how much they are indebted to His mercy.” Calvin goes on to say: “For what idolatry

if not this: to worship the gifts in place of the Giver himself?ö Sounds a lot like worshipping the creation instead of the Creator doesn't it?

Worship matters. It matters to God. It matters to you. However, sometimes we come to worship with an internal attitude not aligned with worship. We sing hymns, but never hear the words. We hear Scripture read, but doze off during the reading. We close our eyes during the message and start planning the rest of our day. We are not worshipping God. Your presence, mind, body, and spirit matter to God and it should matter to you.

Worship involves the surrender of our lives. Worship is putting our focus on Him. Worship is not based on my personal preferences or priorities. Worship involves getting out of the way. We need to let go of our worries, our opinions, and ourselves so as to worship with appropriate honor. Sometimes we get in the way of our own experience of genuine worship. Worship involves personal sacrifice. We sacrifice our own feelings and fears so we can give Him the focus He deserves. We must worship in the face of pain and loss. King David did. Worship is celebrating who God is and What He has done.

It is this last statement that touches me most deeply. When I look at the Cross, whether Protestant or Catholic, I am immediately drawn into its meaning and what God did and continues to do for us. It is that gratitude that drives me closer to Him and to seek Him even more. My response is always one of worship. I have a hard time when people imply they get the same response when they are knocking around the golf ball or making another cast for that Muskie.

R. C. Sproul, one of the great theologians

and teachers of Reformed Theology states in clearly and succinctly: öGod is serious about how we worship Him, and we must be serious about it too.ö

I believe it is perfectly fine to miss an occasional worship service. But my hope is you will not make a habit out of it. Even while traveling, one can always find a place of worship to connect with other believers and to continue your faith journey. You might even make new friends! You might get ideas on how you can serve our church when you return. You might see something that would work well at First Presbyterian in Bemidji.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. In the meantime, after services on Sunday, you will find me sailing as I seek the perfect wind!

Note: Credit is given to Devotion Archive and an article on worship by Philip Wagner Feb 2017,



The Bemidji Area Church Musicians Concert held here, June 12th, was a huge success. The concert featured our own Steve Saare and Philip Hermann as vocalist and organist. There was an attendance at the concert of 125.

A luncheon was served after the concert and approximately 113 people were served.

Joan Forbes, the chairperson for the KFC did a magnificent job and received many compliments on the food and the service.



27 Linnea Mostad
28 H.B. Roholt
30 Jon Langhout



Communion in June:

Set-up: Bob & Nancy Weber

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

Communion in July: Set Up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

Dixie Wirkus, LeRoy Hill, Brenda Miller, Linnea Mostad, Bill Beck

Head Usher: Joe Forbes

Ushers:

Greeter

Liturgists:

July 7	Gloria Phelps	Linnea Mostad	Bob Weber
July 14	Joan Forbes	Donna Enfield & Ray Hamblin	Ruth Andersen
July 21	Gloria Phelps	Gloria Aylesworth	Carol Severn
July 28	Joan Forbes	Gloria Aylesworth	Dianne Roholt

The Sacrament of Baptism was performed by Pastor Chip Holt on Fiona and Laney Sundem, great grand children of Gloria Phelps.



FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending May 31, 2019		Sunday Worship Attendance Report	
Total Income	\$ 5,724.96	May 26	- 37
Total Expenses	\$ 9,291.54	June 2	- 39
Net Income	\$ (3,566.58)	June 9	- 54
Memorial Fund	\$12,634.33	June 16	- 54
Endowment Fund	\$79,721.53	June 23	- 59

Service Chair: **Libby Underhill 218-444-9794**

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



WE NEED YOU!!

The First Presbyterian Church Choir has resumed. Our rehearsals will be at 9:00am before Church.

If you wish to become a member of the choir, and we could use each and everyone of you, please contact Gloria Phelps at 218-308-1113 or the church office at 444-5016. We have a good time and even a few giggles.



SUPPER CLUB
Rutgers Birchmont Lodge
7598 Bemidji Rd NE



Supper Club will be meeting Friday, July 19th at 5:30 at Rutgers.

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!

Bemidji Northwoods Caregiver

July Benevolence

ELEVEN SECONDS

Missy Thomas, Northwoods Caregivers

I read a short story once about a husband who consistently left an **empty ice cube tray** in the freezer. Drove the wife nuts... I can relate. My husband is a college graduate, employed as a software engineer and double-duties as the company's IT guy. He is the most honest person I know, his sense of humor won me over immediately and he is a goofy, loving Dad. It seems he is also completely incapable of putting his dirty socks ANYWHERE but on the living room floor. It is mystifying. We've been married 15 years and I'd like a chance at another 15, (so...back to the ice story.) One day, the wife timed how long it took to fill up the tray and stick it in the freezer. She approached her husband and said, "I know you promised to love me forever, but could you just love me for 11 seconds?"

We have so many seniors in our community with an "empty ice cube tray."



They may not be able to drive anymore and need a ride to their medical appointments. Maybe they use a walker and have difficulty carrying groceries. Maybe their 1 trip to church each week is the only chance they have to enjoy the company of others and get their "ice cube trays" filled.



It may take more than 11 seconds to bring one of our beloved elders to their doctor for them on our way home from on our way to church. But these passion will make an impact on our here in their own homes. Consider woods Caregivers and make a difference your kindness ...for far more than



appointment, or do some shopping work or swing by and pick them up simple, yet deliberate, acts of community and the seniors living becoming a volunteer with North-ence to those who will remember 11 seconds.

*Northwoods Caregivers provides Local Transportation and Grocery Shopping Assistance and also offers other services such as Respite Care, Homemaking, and Caregiver Coaching & Support.

www.northwoodscaregivers.org

218-333-8264



Our session at work for you

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
June 18, 2019**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on June 18, 2019 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Gloria Phelps, Palmer Berg, Linnea Mostad, Libby Underhill

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:, Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Approved as amended with 5 items of other business

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

CORRESPONDENCE None

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report June 18, 2019

Weddings: none

Baptisms: Fiona Temperance Sundem, Laney Sterling Sundem

Deaths: Irene Estelle Keil May 28, 1922-June 14, 2019 A celebration of her life to be held at Cease Funeral Home in Bemidji on June 21, 2019

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: June 2 - 42 served Serving: Cheryl Hiltz, Palmer Berg, Duane & Mary Hayes, Mary Lou Miller

Membership as of June 18, 2019 76

Sunday Worship Attendance

May 26 - 37, June 2 - 39, June 9 - 54, June 16 - 54

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was distributed and reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson. **MSP** to grant Administrative Assistant Shirlee requested vacation days for July 1-3. She will be in to do the July 7 bulletin. **MSP** to grant Custodian Ron's request to work four days per week instead of five. He will be asked to still do 20 hours per week if at all possible. Chip now has certification from Beltrami County to perform marriages.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg Investigation of roof leaks continues. The stained glass windows have been inspected and deemed to be in good shape. A minor opening in one will be fixed with silicone. The committee's prioritized list of recommended projects and repairs is not yet finished. It was requested by Chip that it be presented at the July session meeting.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz A May shortfall of \$3600 did not require transfer of funds. Committee chairs are asked to keep track of their budgets. The small metal shed that was purchased needs to be sold. This was referred to Buildings and Grounds.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Committee members are still being sought. Bible Study class continues to be positively received. Finding ways to engage more participants is ongoing.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps Committee member Judy Damp is now contacting folks to be head ushers and greeters. Positive feedback has been received regarding pew changes. **Recommendation to Session:** Approve purchasing a communion set to be placed on the communion table on the Sundays there is no communion. **MSP** to approve the purchase of a pitcher with stand, chalice and plate using Memorial Fund monies with the cost not to exceed \$170.

OTHER BUSINESS

MSP to approve rehearsal at FPC by the First City Singers July 22 & 29 from 1-2 pm.

MSP to approve the Headwaters School of Music request to use our shared parking lot for a blues concert on July 14 at 3 pm.

Any notes left in the office for Shirlee should be signed.

A congregation member's verbal complaint of damage of a personal item and request for the church to pay for the cost of restoring it to good condition can be addressed if it is presented to Session in writing. Chip will phone the member regarding this.

Chip reminded Session that according to Presbyterian polity, recommendations for action come to Session through committees who have discussed those items and deemed them worthy of referral for session action.

Next Meeting: July 16 at 2:00 pm. in church conference room. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Chip at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays
 10:00 Worship
 Service
 11:00 Fellowship

July 2019



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

The church is on summer hours. The office will be closed on Fridays.						
	1 Funeral for Buddy Langhout 11:00 with Lunch follow- ing.	2	3		5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 Chip Holt Preaching	8	9	10	11	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 Chip Holt Preaching	15	16 **2pm-Session Meeting	17	18	19 OFFICE CLOSED <hr/> 5:30 Supper Club @ Ruttgers	20
21 Chip Holt Preaching	22 Meals ← Rehearsal First City Singers 1-2 pm →	23 on	24 Wheels	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 Tony Peffer Preaching	29 Rehearsal First City Singers 1-2 pm	30	31			