

First Church News

Volume 11 issue 7

July, 2022

Chip's
Chatter

JULY



“For such a time as this. For such a time as this.

*We’ve been summoned here by God
For such a time as this.”*

These words are from a song made popular by the Maranatha! Praise Band and Chorus in the mid 1990s. Each Sunday, we pray for those who are unable to attend worship for whatever reason. For those who are present, did you ever think that you were “summoned by God” to be here? Now that’s a heavy thought! God moves our hearts to attend worship not only because he needs to hear from us, but he knows we need to “hear” from him through worship.

The song is based on the Old Testament book of Esther. Esther was Jewish and at a young age orphaned. She was very beautiful. Esther was raised by a adoptive father, Mordecai who worked in the palace of the King of Persia, King Xerxes. One day, Esther was also taken into this same court and became one of several wives to the king. Sometime later, King Xerxes gave a man named Haman the Agagite, a non-Jew, a great honor and commanded the officials to kneel in Haman’s presence and pay homage to him. Mordecai refused to do so. Haman, angered by Mordecai, went to the king and asked the king to grant an edict to kill all Jews. The king granted the request. Eventually, the word got to Mordecai who then went to Esther, now in the king’s court. Mordecai declared that Esther had been placed in her present position to cause the king to change the edict so that the Jews would live. Mordecai uses the phrase, “for such a time as this” to

convince Esther she had a role to play in God’s plan. Esther then approached the king under a possible penalty of death for to do so was to break the rules of the king. Esther came before King Xerxes and he relented thereby allowing the Jews to live. Esther took a great risk; laying her own life on the line.

I recently received a cute cartoon that stated: “It was a lot more fun to be 20 in the 70s than to be 70 in the 20s!” That got me thinking about years gone by and I wondered if they were, indeed better, or simply just different. Circumstances may change, problems may change, but there will always be circumstances and problems that may bring us angst. It also seems to me in the middle of this angst of the past, we saw people returning to their faith. And that may be the big difference we see today. People are leaving the church and abandoning solid scriptural teaching. The culture of today makes it very difficult to pursue our faith with scriptural integrity.

But, if we think our time is difficult, we need only look at the Old Testament. There were just as many problems and issues the people of those days faced. The prophet Ezekiel and Ezra (who wrote 1 & 2 Chronicles) lived in a time of international upheaval. The Jews had been exiled to Babylon, Jerusalem destroyed, and the people were oppressed. Ezekiel, for the first 7 years of his ministry he relayed to his fellow Jews heart rending, hope-crushing word of divine judg

ment. Consider these two quotes from the Old Testament that as applicable today as they were when first written. These verses are the Lord speaking through the prophets:

Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NIV)

³⁰ “I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. ³¹ So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

In my humble opinion, we are in desperate need of a spiritual revival to get us back on spiritual track. We need more Esthers in the world and more people humbling themselves, praying, and turning from the non-scriptural ways. It has been said regarding history, every great nation that turned from its god has failed. And, no nation has turned from its God faster than the United States. Think about that if you will.

There have always been spiritual revivals to bring people back to God. The Great Awakening Spiritual Revival began in 1734 followed by many revivals in the 1800s. We’ve also had revivals in the 1900s with the Post World War II revival occurring from 1947 to 1948. The most recent revivals occurred in the mid 1990s with the Toronto Blessing, the Modesto Blessing, and the Promise Keepers Revival. I was blessed to be part of the Promise Keepers Revival and experienced it firsthand. The Promise Keepers Revival had the purpose of gathering men to pray for our nation, our leaders, and to “Stand in

the Gap” asking God to heal our land. This means, the last spiritual revival occurred over 30 years ago.

God is indeed summoning us. He is placing a yearning in our hearts. He is opening doors in ways we could never have imagined. He has done this even in spite of the pandemic. Creative people have found creative ways to spread the gospel. Now, it is time to gather once again, answering God’s summons.

We may never have such a role to play in the work of the kingdom like Esther. But, we can be quite confident, we have been given unique gifts to advance the kingdom. We too, are living at a time when “for such a time as this” is making itself known to us daily. Just watch the news.

Consider this: With a simple summons to attend worship in person, we may be placed so as to touch the life a stranger who walks through our doors. Or, we are being placed to bring friendship and encouragement to someone who definitely needs to hear a kind word or receive a pat on the back. Also consider this, there may come a time when we must take a stand. We must “stand in the gap.” While we may not face a possible death sentence for our stand as Esther did, we can possibly face criticism and loss of relationships.

So what happens when we don’t answer God’s summons to us? First and foremost, kingdom work never gets done. Our spiritual growth ceases. Instead of drawing closer to God, we grow apart from God. We get lazy in our faith. And when we grow apart from God, the forces of this world take control and they lead us to an unacceptable outcome. The prophet’s words come back directly to us.

Let’s all make an effort to acknowledge the summons of God and to answer his calling.

How does your story end?

A peek into your congregation.

Jan Kuleta

I was born January 8, 1926 in Babylon, Long Island, NY. I was baptized Janice Marie Peckham in the 1st Presbyterian Church (circa 1870) and received into the Presbytery. I was confirmed in the beautiful old church, the third church 1838 which is now a fellowship hall.

I grew up in Babylon and graduated in 1943. Swimming, fishing, clamming and crabbing were all part of my early life. Mom grew flowers. She taught me sewing. Dad was a draftsman, and worked for the railroad. He was a great marathon runner. My education was in New York City with a Lab Tech degree.

I moved into New York City and worked as a Lab Tech for Doctors. I was involved in amateur theater for a few years and it was fun.

I volunteered in USO during WWII. We gals were told that we were not

allowed to date the soldiers. Ha...we all did. Met my future husband in the USO prior to his being shipped to Europe.

We married in 1948 and moved to Chicago where he was a student at Loyola University. He worked for GE. Both our children were born in Chicago. He was transferred to Minneapolis. We loved camping, canoeing, back packing and added cross country skiing in Minnesota.

We were then transferred to PA, then NY. Mark stayed in MN. He was a social worker and is now a lay pastor. Judy retired as a college teacher in WA.

After Joe died in 2005, I moved to Bemidji. My son and family were a big help.

I feel blessed to have met and made so many fine and good friends and people in Bemidji.



New Address for Joan Forbes:

D & D Caring Hearts

1426 Pamela Ct NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

She can have visitors at any time, within reason of course, and has no restrictions.

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 5-31-2022

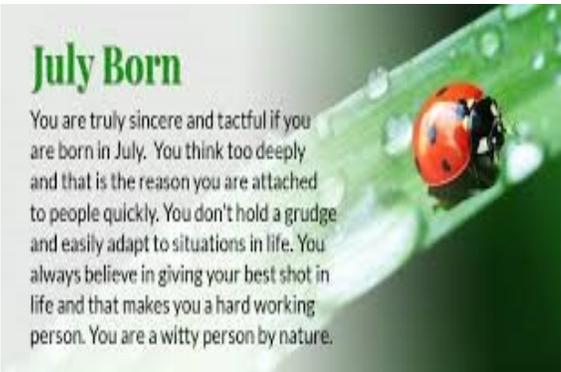
Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00

Total Income	\$ 6,808.04
Total Expenses	\$ 14,854.59
Net Income	\$ -8,046.55

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

May 29	23
June 5	26
June 12	31
June 19	29
June 26	30



- July 6 Jan Burger
- July 15 Doug Cronemiller
- July 27 Linnea Mostad
- July 30 Jon Langhout



If we have left off your birthday, please let the office know, 444-5016

Head Usher: Brenda Miller

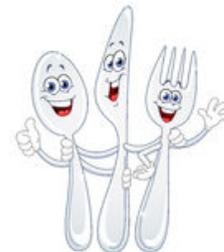
	Liturgist	Greeter
July 3	Betty Hanson-Lehman	Gini Sande
July 10	Libby Underhill	Shirlee Harold
July 17	Bill Beck	Barb McGregor
July 24	Ruth Andersen	Linnea Mostad
July 31	Dianne Roholt	Brenda Miller

Serving Communion	Jenny Miller and Brenda Strowbridge
Setting up Communion	Gloria Phelps



Supper Club

**Green Mill
At
5:30**



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, July 21

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

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

All are welcome!



Bemidji Northwoods Caregivers
 All services provided by Northwoods Caregivers are covered by the [Homecare Bill of Rights](#)

Connecting, Enriching, and Empowering the Lives of Northwoods Individuals and Families is the mission of Northwoods Caregivers. This mission defines all of the services we provide to our clients and their families. Northwoods Caregivers are made up of people from all walks of life working closely with clients and their families providing crucial services such as respite care, transportation and shopping assistance, to name only a few.

Do you have a neighbor or loved one that may be ill or could just use some extra help around the house? Rather than sending flowers, consider giving them a “Gift of Service!” Your thoughtfulness and generosity could enable their independence and help them remain in their own home.

Services available to give as gifts:

1 hour of Respite Care (\$21.68):
 Services are provided by one of our qualified and compassionate Respite Providers who are

at minimum, Certified Nursing Assistants. This gives the Primary Caregiver a chance to take a much-needed break away from the stresses a caregiving role can bring on.

1 hour of Shopping Assistance (\$18.44):
 Shopping Assistance services are provided by one of our experienced and kindhearted Caregivers. They are available to provide the client with transportation to the grocery store or can simply pick up the items and deliver them to the home.

1 hour of Homemaking (\$18.44):
 Services are provided by our skilled and caring Homemakers to those in need of assistance with daily household duties (laundry, cleaning, cooking, etc).

<http://www.northwoodscaregivers.org/>



Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church
PROVED: 6-21-22

AP-

FINANCIAL REPORT - Finances from April were reviewed.

Bemidji, MN
May 17, 2022

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the conference room on May 17, 2022, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, and Gloria Phelps.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- A thank-you card from Betty Hanson-Lehman regarding her birthday celebration
- A thank-you card from the Bemidji Food Shelf regarding our recent donation

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - May 17, 2022

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: 1 (Bob Weber)

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: None

Communion: May 1, 2022: 36 served

Membership as of May 17, 2022: 71

Sunday Worship Attendance:

April 17th: 43	April 24th: 21	May 1st: 38	May 8th: 34	May 15th: 28
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson; no report

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Peter Nordquist; Terri has been assigned to act as chair for this committee in Peter's absence. **MSP** to approve. Terri reported that she has replaced the weather stripping on the front door and made the custodial sink more user-friendly.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; reported that the last Seekers' class until next fall is May 18th.

Nominating: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; No report

Outreach Chairperson: Terri Murray; reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4th Friday in April. Discussion continued regarding our serving Meals on Wheels. Our next time to serve is June 13-17th. Since Terri is now chair of the Building/Grounds Committee, this committee is unassigned. **MSP** to approve

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; The committee recommends that the Session allow members and affiliate members to prepare and serve communion. This will increase the number of volunteers available to serve. **MSP** to approve.

OTHER BUSINESS

Computer Committee: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; Help is needed in the

office to learn the programs for creating the bulletin and newsletter so that Shirlee may have vacation time.

Kitchen Fellowship Committee: Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; No report

Nominating Committee: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; No report

Discussion was held regarding the continued absence of one elder. A motion was made to continue with five active elders as necessary. **MSP** to approve

Chip updated the Session on the recent court appearance for the swindler. No progress was made.

Terri continues to pursue setting up volunteers for the Loop the Lake Festival on June 18th.

Next Meeting: June 21st at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session



Christian One Liners

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

PEACE STARTS WITH A SMILE.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them—He'll clean them.

If God is your Co-pilot-Swap seats!

Don't give God instructions—just report for duty!!

As I get older I realize I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.

As I get older I realize the biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

As I get older I realize when I was a child I thought naptime was punishment, Now it's like a mini-vacation.

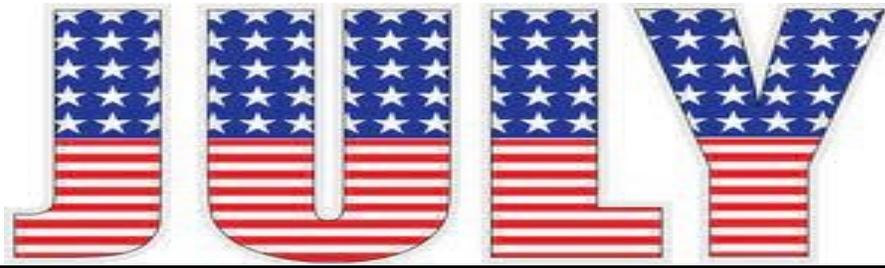
Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the fryer for 10 minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us!

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
New Summer Office Hours Monday and Friday-Office Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday—10:00am to 2:00pm					1	2
3 Pastor Chip		5	6	7	8	9
10 Pastor Chip	11 7pm Scouts	12	13	14	15	16
17 Pastor Chip	18 7pm Scouts	19 1:00 pm Session Mtg.	20	21 5:30pm Supper Club At Green Mill	22	23
24 Lori Kangas-Olson	25 7pm Scouts	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pastor Duane Geisler						



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