



## Chip's Chatter

As I write this article, it is cold, windy and rainy outside. A true confirmation Spring is on the way as the needed rain brings life back to the trees, gardens, lawns, and lakes. It can also be a time of reflecting on the past cold winter!

As your moderator, I wish to discuss some wonderful things your session has been doing since February when the newly elected session was installed!

First, our finances are on budget and we have not had to draw from the Money Market fund to make ends meet. Secondly, the Building and Grounds committee is hard at work creating a work list and developing priorities for needed repairs. They will eventually provide a multiyear plan to keep our church in good repair. The Christian Education team encouraged the start of a "Bag Lunch" Bible study. We are meeting on Mondays from noon until 1:00 p.m. We are experiencing great attendance and have some excellent conversations. Outreach continues to support local organizations. Our church is hosting one of the Wednesday summer church musicians concerts. Our own Steve Saari will perform along with Phil Hermann. They will play on both the piano and organ. We can anticipate 120 people on June 12,

2019 with lunch to follow. Volunteers are needed. Finally, the Worship Committee has kicked into high gear and is providing great support for our worship service. They are especially helpful to me as I can bounce ideas with them and hear feedback from the many long term members that serve on this committee.

Every church sanctuary contains some symbols of the faith. Our church is no different. Most of our symbols are shared with other denominations. But there is one that is different for Presbyterians. The difference is centered on this question: "Is it an altar, or is it a communion table?"

Dating from Old Testament temple times, an altar was a place of sacrifice and worship. The idea was carried over into the early Christian church. Martin Luther, as he began the Reformation, retained the altar but did away with the sacrifice aspect. The altar reminds us of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. The Reformers, (Calvin, Knox) however, decided to focus on the "Last Supper" Jesus shared with his disciples. In the biblical account, we hear Jesus' words "at table" commanding us to remember Him when we break bread and drink wine. We restate Jesus' words during the "Last Supper" as part of our Sacrament of Communion. These words are called the "Words of Institution". Jesus reminds us to "do this in remembrance of Me". I

love the Reformers (Calvin, Knox) approach to this idea. Whenever we participate in Communion, I am not only remembering the sacrifice but I am also reminded of the nourishment I receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Whenever we come to the table, we are uniting with Christ and our neighbors in a very special way. Communion, as a sacrament, is a means of God's Grace that unites us with the living Christ.

The answer to the question "Is it an altar, or is it a communion table" for Presbyterians is a resounding "It is a Communion Table!" The table needs to be an ever present reminder of this. Like our home family dinner table, it needs to be among and near the people and not placed in an elevated position where it can be mistaken for an altar. In past years, our Communion Table was lifted down to the main level of the sanctuary on Communion Sundays. It was then returned to its present location. Our Communion Table has a rich history dating back to when the brick sanctuary was built.

I am very excited about the recent work and inspiration of the Worship Committee. We have looked at other Presbyterian Churches and discovered the communion table in their churches are located on the main floor of the sanctuary and out towards the worshipers. The Worship Committee unanimously recommended to the session we make this change in our sanctuary to match other Presbyterian churches. The Session agreed, after a lengthy discussion, and voted to approve the relocation. We will need to remove the front knee wall and the first row of pews to create more room around the Communion Table. It also creates more space for the Bell Choir and gives us the opportunity to have guest musicians participate in church activities.

The Worship committee also recommended to the Session we make better accommodations for wheel chair bound worshipers. Currently, our

wheel chair bound worshipers have no other choice than to sit at the very back of the sanctuary where eye sight and hearing may be difficult. It segregates them from the community of other worshipers. We will take the first row pews, which are shorter in length, and replace a couple of the longer pews midway back in the sanctuary thereby creating a space in the middle portion of the sanctuary for wheel chairs. Both wheel chairs and walkers will have a much easier time finding seating through use of the middle isle. The Session agreed and voted to approve creating a space for wheel chairs.

The Communion Table relocation project will take place in June. When it is relocated closer to you I hope you have a chance to notice the engraving on the front. It has these letters/symbols engraved: A IHS Ω. IHS are the first three letters of "Jesus" from the Greek alphabet. The A and Ω are the Greek letters Alpha and Omega. They stand for the "first and the last" or the "beginning and the end". Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega; the beginning and the end.

I am not sure many of you have noticed the Baptismal font is now visible during worship. This is no accident. During the service of the Lord's Supper, we are reminded of our own Baptism: The beginning. With the relocation of the Communion Table, we are reminded of Jesus presence among all peoples and the events that transpired following the "Last Supper": The end. So, when you look to the front of our church, you will now see the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega. Our beautifully re-polished Cross will remain in its current, elevated position and will remind us of why we are here.





- 10 Barb McGregor**
- 17 Mary Lou Miller**



Service Chair: Vera Weis

|                     |          |                    |          |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Jon & Suzy Langhout | 766-4043 | Arlene Lee         | 586-2857 |
| Barb McGregor       | 751-1781 | Jenny Miller       | 444-9647 |
| Gini Sande          | 751-1260 | Brenda Strowbridge | 444-7609 |

**Communion in June**

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

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

**No communion in May:**

**Head Usher: Duane Hayes**

|                | <u>Ushers:</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>Liturgists:</u> |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>June 2</b>  | Mary Hayes     |                |                    |
| <b>June 9</b>  | Mary Hayes     |                |                    |
| <b>June 16</b> | Mary Hayes     |                |                    |
| <b>June 23</b> | Mary Hayes     | Dianne Roholt  |                    |
| <b>June 30</b> | Mary Hayes     |                |                    |



**ōMake the Changeö Benevolence**

For the months of April, May, and June, the change that is collected will go towards the Northwoods Pregnancy Care Center of Bemidji.

Northwoods Pregnancy Care Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women, men, and families facing not only unexpected and challenging pregnancies, but also everyday parenting challenges.

<http://www.bemidjipregnancyoptions.com/>

A baby bottle for your loose change will be located on the small table in the narthex. If this bottle becomes filled, we have additional bottles available. Let's see how many baby bottles we can fill!

**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending April 30, 2019**

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Total Income   | \$14,664.44 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 7,581.27 |
| Net Income     | \$ 7,083.17 |
| Memorial Fund  | \$12,627.53 |
| Endowment Fund | \$79,450.37 |

**Sunday Worship  
Attendance Report**

|        |   |    |
|--------|---|----|
| May 5  | - | 45 |
| May 12 | - | 53 |
| May 19 | - | 37 |
| May 26 | - |    |

We had our 2nd **Bible Study** on May 20 with rave reviews again. They will continue on MONDAYS. Of course there will be no Bible Study on Memorial Day, Monday May 27 as the offices are closed. Beginning again on Monday June 3. The topic is “Introduction to Reformed Theology.” What do we as Presbyterians believe? Do come, bring your bag lunch or not, and enjoy new and exciting adult education. We will meet:

June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24 final one

Then we’ll break for the summer. All are welcome. See you there!!



**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 every-one 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 IN DANGER OF ENDING..**



Someone needs to step up to be in charge of Supper Club as the current person in charge has resigned. Please call the church office if you wish to volunteer. 444-5016



*Supper Club will be meeting the month of June ??*

Please sign up at the church office: by email or the sign up sheet on Sundays: pres-bji@paulbunyan.net-or-by phone; 444-5016.

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

**All are welcome!**



Adult Baptism:

Raymond Louis Hamblin.

Also: Raymond Louis Hamblin and Donna Estella Enfield were received into membership of this congregation.

**\*\*A Graveside Service will be held on Saturday, June 15th, 2:00pm at Greenwood Cemetery for Vicky MacKinnon.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Bemidji, MN  
May 21, 2019**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on May 21, 2019 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Gloria Phelps, Cheryl Hiltz, Palmer Berg,  
Linnea Mostad

**ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Donna Dickinson, Libby Underhill

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

**QUORUM DECLARED**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** Approved as amended with items of other business  
**MEETING MINUTES** The minutes from the April session meeting were **approved**.

**CORRESPONDENCE** An email from the Hakuna Matata Children's Choir from Kenya was received by Chip. They offer to sing at area churches when they are in Bemidji in September and October. MSP for Chip to contact them for further information.  
Chip received a letter from a church member explaining their choice regarding church contributions. It was given to the Finance/Stewardship Committee.

**CLERK'S REPORT** was reviewed.

**First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report May 21, 2019**

**Weddings:** none

**Baptisms:** Ray Hamblin

**Deaths:** Ione Louise (Vogt) Norby, April 2, 1924 - October 14, 2018. Memorial service held on Saturday October 27, 2018 at 2:00 pm at Olson Schwartz Funeral Home, Rev. John Yingling officiating. Inurnment at Sell Lake Cemetery. Member.

**New Members:** Ray Hamblin, Donna Enfield

**Return to Active Membership:** none

**Request Transfer of Membership:** none

**Removed from Membership Roll:** none

**Communion:** None

**Membership as of April 16, 2019 77**

**Sunday Worship Attendance**

April 21 - 51      April 28 - 42      May 5 - 45      May 12 - 53      May 19 - 37

**FINANCIAL REPORT** The financial report was distributed and reviewed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson Chip's contract requires annual review and update. Rev Doug Workman from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) will work with Chip to update and make any necessary changes. It will be referred to this committee for roof

leaks. The condition of stained glass windows and their wood frames is being investigated for possible future action. A spread sheet containing items that need correcting has been created. The committee will prioritize the list. The committee is considering developing a long range plan to address the needs of the building. Boy Scouts will paint the metal exterior railings.

**Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Balance sheet reports that show Endowment Funds as ~~restricted~~ and ~~unrestricted~~ are considered confusing since only Money Market Endowment Funds comprised of interest from investments are unrestricted. Cheryl will continue to work to clarify the confusing nature of Endowment Fund report listings of ~~restricted~~ and ~~unrestricted~~ portions. Headwaters Arts Center will be invoiced for their portion of plowing expense incurred.

**Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Bible Study class has been moved to Mondays.

**Outreach** Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report review and recommendation when it becomes available. Final approval comes from the COM.

**Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Palmer Berg The committee is looking into estimates for fixing possible future action. A spread sheet containing items that need correcting has been created. The committee will prioritize the list. The committee is considering developing a long range plan to address the needs of the building. Boy Scouts will paint the metal exterior railings.

**Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Bible Study class has been moved to Mondays.

**Outreach** Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report

**Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps **Recommendation to Session:** Move the communion table from its present location to the main floor of the sanctuary and remove the present 2 wooden ~~railings~~ and the first row of pews in the sanctuary to allow more space for communion table use, the handbell choir and other special music. **MSP** to approve. **Recommendation to Session:** Change the length of several pews to provide for wheelchair access in the middle aisle of the sanctuary, location to be determined. **MSP** to approve. Pews that are removed and the railings will be stored. **MSP** to authorize the Worship Committee to dispose of candles that are old, previously used, or no long used. **MSP** to pay \$61.20 for Father's Day gifts from the Memorial Fund.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

A draft contact list of officers and committee members has been distributed for an accuracy check.

An Emergency Response list of phone numbers will be posted in several places.

Chip is working on getting certification to perform marriages.

The church will be used for a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Brenda Miller's father on August 3.

MSP to allow the baptism of two grandchildren of Gloria Phelps on June 9.

**Next Meeting:** June 18 at 2:00 pm. in church conference room. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Chip at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays  
 10:00 Worship  
 Service  
 11:00 Fellowship

# June 2019



SUN                      MON                      TUE                      WED                      THU                      FRI                      SAT

The church is on summer hours. The office will be closed on Fridays.

|  |  |                                |  |    |                                  |    |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|----|----------------------------------|----|
|  |  |                                |  |    |                                  | 1  |
| 2<br>Chip Holt<br>Preaching<br>Communion | 3<br>12pm-1pm<br><u>Bible Study</u><br><br>6pm-Scouts  | 4                              | 5<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel                            | 6  | 7                                | 8  |
| 9<br>Chip Holt<br>Preaching              | 10<br>12pm-1pm<br><u>Bible Study</u>                   | 11                             | 12<br>Music Concert<br>12:00<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel | 13 | 14                               | 15 |
| 16<br>Chip Holt<br>Preaching             | 17<br>12pm-1pm<br><u>Bible Study</u>                   | 18<br>**2pm-Session<br>Meeting | 19<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel                           | 20 | 21<br>5:30<br>Supper<br>Club ??? | 22 |
| 23<br>Tony Peffer<br>Preaching           | 24<br>12pm-1pm<br><u>Bible Study</u><br><br>6pm-Scouts | 25                             | 26<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel                           | 27 | 28                               | 29 |
| 30 Chip Holt<br>Preaching                |  |                                |  |    |                                  |    |