

# First Church News

Volume 9 issue 3

March 2020

## March



### Chip's Chatter

Adventure. Now there is an interesting word that conjures up all sort of images. I remember the old comic book series called the %Adventures of Superman+, or the TV show %The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet+. More recently, we have the adventures of Indiana Jones and all the spin-off stories that have come from that Hollywood character. In nearly all cases, the %hero+ faced some kind of difficulty, overcame obstacles, and eventually solved the problem or got the prize or demonstrated how good can overcome evil.

But that is Hollywood or someone's fictional writing. I believe life can be an adventure with good outcomes too. Each one of us can relate to some adventure in our lives. Going to school for the first time was an adventure. Graduating from school marked the beginning of another. Getting married is another. Parenting is another. And the list goes on. Even though some create certain levels of %challenge+, they tend to look differently when viewed through the %adventure+spectrum.

The summer between my Junior and Senior years of high school are a good example. My family moved from Grand Forks where my family had roots dating back to the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many people, even today, ask me if it was hard to make the move at such a special time in my educational career. My answer was and remains today; no. My mom, dad and I looked at the move to Minneapolis as a great family adventure. There was a certain excitement in finding a new home, meeting new

friends, one of whom I am remain in contact, watching my dad return to his chosen profession and seeing his passion for his career return. Mom continued her love of teaching. No, it wasn't hard ÷ it was an adventure.

Sometimes we are faced with hard changes we didn't anticipate. Sometimes they look quite challenging or even fearful from the start. The loss of a job. The divorce of a spouse. The death of a loved one. These all confront us with change we were not prepared for. Many of us spend a great deal of time getting our %bearings in life+back again following these events. But I have seen many people, myself included, return to happy productive lives following this time of difficulty. I have learned to look at these changes as yet another %adventure+. I have learned that during these times, we have the adventure of learning about ourselves and our character. We discover how to live alone without being lonely. Sometimes it takes help to draw out both the good and %other+of ourselves. But the greatest adventure comes when we finally call out to Jesus in our anguish and allow Him to enter our lives and walk with us. But hang on to your hat! You are about to begin the greatest adventure of all: Walking with Jesus through every facet and corner of your life. Jesus, our closest friend, remains with us during the %good+times as well as the %other+times.

The Presbytery has asked all the pastors in our group to read a book by Tod Bolsinger

entitled "Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory". We will be reviewing it at the next Presbytery meeting in May. The author has a PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary. The author takes the experience of Lewis and Clark and their journey to find the Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean to illustrate changing leadership in today's culture. You will recall Lewis and Clark were tasked by Thomas Jefferson to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean thereby increasing trade and commerce via the waterway. Well, they got as far as the origination point of the Missouri River in Montana. There was a large hill/mountain ahead of them and they believed just over the hill was the Columbia River and the route to the Pacific. They climbed the hill only to see the vast Rocky Mountains in front of them. They had gone off the map, so to speak, and were facing entirely new challenges. Their spirit of adventure and teamwork kept them going.

What made Lewis and Clark so successful was the spirit of adventure, their adaptability to new situations, and their incredible trust in each other. The trust extended to all members of the team and not just to Lewis and Clark. They kept all they had learned in their hearts and developed a new way to experience their adventure. They abandoned their canoes, developed relationships with the Native Americans, obtained horses, and continued through the Rocky Mountains. Once on the other side, they once again found water. They built new dugout canoes and finally reached the Pacific Ocean.

We need to remind ourselves that our church is in the process of beginning a new adventure. Today, we are living in a post-Christendom era and leaving our faith based national history behind. Things have changed so dramatically, that what worked in the past no longer works in churches today. The

model of church and its mission are facing the challenge of the Rocky Mountains. People have tried to "tweak" the old model by adding praise/rock and roll bands to worship, or adding screens and power point presentations to worship. It is still the same old model, just tweaked to try to fit into a post-Christendom culture. We, like Lewis and Clark, are "off the map".

The first step is to realize we are, indeed, leaving the map. The second thing is to trust completely in each other and our true leader, Jesus Christ. We must take our previous skill, set and apply them to a new situation. We need not necessarily abandon them. You see, after crossing the Rockies, Lewis and Clark returned to canoes, but they were different from the ones used east of the Rockies. Nothing in life ever goes to waste, especially our lessons learned in both the good times and the "other times".

Are you ready for the next "adventure" at First Presbyterian? I have no idea what that might be, but I do know this: Any challenges or ideas, when met with enthusiasm and a spirit of adventure will succeed!

The Outreach Committee would like to restart the **Shepherding program**. This program is designed to provide ongoing 1:1 contact with our members who are unable to attend church on a regular basis. The purpose of the Shepherding Ministry is to improve the level of care of our congregation by the utilization of laypersons as caring shepherds. The desired result of the program is that all members of the congregation will feel they are vital parts of our church.

If you are interested in being a part of the Shepherding program, please or if you have any questions, please contact Libby Underhill.

## “Make the Change” Benevolence 2020



For the months of February, March, and April, the change that is collected will go towards Village of Hope in Bemidji. The mission of Village of Hope is to promote self worth and independence through the provision of temporary shelter and supportive services for families experiencing homelessness. Village of Hope is more than a place for a family to lay their heads or grab a meal.

It is a place to plan for the future.

Help build the future for local family who is experiencing homelessness by donating your spare change for the next three months to the fish bowl in the narthex. The extra coins you might find lying around under couch cushions, in coat pockets, and in desk drawers ó can be used to make big changes in our community.

<https://www.villageofhopebemidji.org/index.html>

### Seekers are Back

Seekers is returning with a new video series entitled %A Time for Confidence.+ Once again, we will be meeting Wednesdays at noon with a repeat on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

### **A Time for Confidence**

As members of a society that is quickly abandoning its Christian past, followers of Christ often feel disoriented or even frightened. When human leaders and political advocates fail us, doubts arise and the road to compromise beckons. In this series, Dr. Stephen J. Nichols points to the almighty God as the source and ground of our confidence. Though the whole world may shake around us, His kingdom is unshakable. This is a time for confidence. **See the schedule on the flyers.**



### **SUPPER CLUB @ 5:30**

Bar 209

217 Minnesota Ave NW

Bemidji, MN 56601



***Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30.***

Please sign up at the church office: by email [presbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto: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!**

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 1-31-20</b>	
<b>Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00</b>	
Total Income	\$ 6,967.26
Total Expenses	\$17,919.74
Net Income	(\$10,952.48)
<b>Thank you</b> for supporting our church	

<b>Sunday Worship Attendance Report</b>	
Jan.26	43
Feb 2	35
Feb 9	31
Feb 16	30
Feb 23	37

**Head Usher—Donna Dickinson**

	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgists:</u>
March 1	Linnea Mostad	Mark Robinson
March 8	Barb McGregor	Libby Underhill
March 15	Gini Sande	Dianne Roholt
March 22	Donna Dickinson	Bill Beck
March 29	Brenda Strowbridge	Mary Hayes

**March: Communion Set Up: Barb McGregor, Joe Forbes**

**Serving/helping with clean-up:** Dixie Wirkus, Brenda Miller, Linnea Mostad, Betty Hanson-Lehman, Gini Sande

**March Service Chair: Dianne Roholt**

Gloria Aylesworth	751-7841	Richard & Mary Lou Miller	333-1323
Betty Hanson-Lehman	751-2133	Dixie Wirkus	553-0796
Jan Kuleta	751-1732		

# March Birthdays



- 1 Bill Beck
- 7 Joe Forbes
- 10 Jenny Miller
- 19 Chip Holt



# Bemidji Community Food Shelf

## March Benevolence

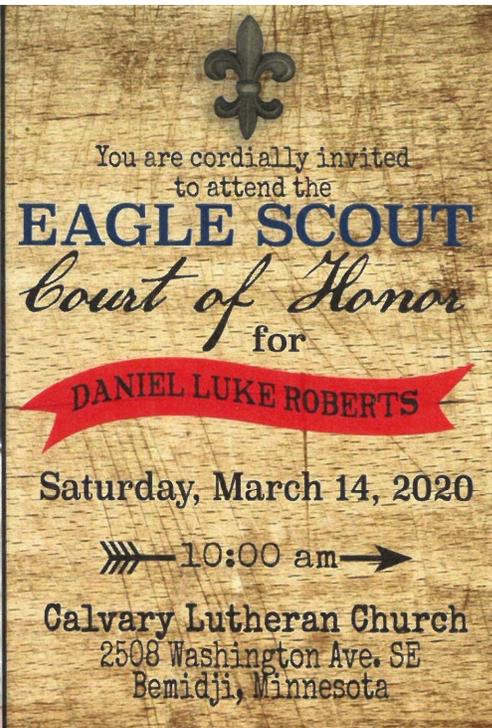
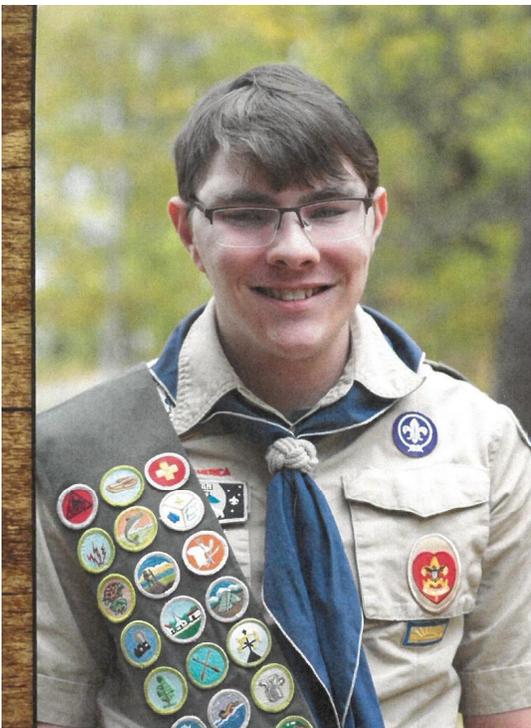


As the month of March approaches it brings the March Food Share campaign. Many of our neighbors are experiencing food insecurity. One way we can help is to donate generously during March. We all know that our monetary donations are somewhat matched by the state formula, not 100% matched, but enough to make a significant difference. Another way to help is to “rotate your stock” meaning to go through your cupboards and donate anything

there that you’ve had for a while. Don’t worry about expiration dates. Donate the item and let the Food Shelf figure it out. Another way to help is to clip and save Our Family UPC labels. Every label you clip means 5 cents for the Food Shelf. It all counts up! So in summary, **please keep our Food Shelf in your plan of giving. The Food Shelf thanks you and so do I.**

Linnea

Our Mary Martha Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, March 18th at 1:30 at **Raphaels Bakery**. Come and join us for treats, good conversation and just plain fun.



Daniel is the son of Greg Roberts who is the head of our Scout Troop 25 which meets here at the church.

Daniel is also the scout who raised money for and installed the music instruments at Paul Bunyan Park last summer.

**First Presbyterian Church  
Bemidji, MN  
February 18, 2020**

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

**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Palmer Berg, Linnea Mostad, Cheryl Hiltz, Libby Underhill

**ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Gloria Phelps. Donna Dickinson

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

**QUORUM DECLARED**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA MSP** to approve agenda.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE** None

**CLERK'S REPORT** was reviewed.

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

**Weddings:** none

**Baptisms:** none

**Deaths:** none

**New Members:** none

**Return to Active Membership:** none

**Request Transfer of Membership:** none

**Removed from Membership Roll:** none

**Communion:** Feb. 2 - 35 served Serving: Cheryl Hiltz, Mary Lou Miller, Libby Underhill, Joyce Ackerman, Donna Dickinson

**Membership as of February 18, 2020 74**

**Sunday Worship Attendance** Jan. 26 - 43; Feb. 2 - 35; Feb. 9 - 31; Feb. 16 - 30

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No formal report. Secretary Shirlee will take vacation days March 6 & 7. **MSP** to raise Shirlee's salary to \$16.50/hour retroactive to January 1, 2020.

**Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Palmer Berg A new roof repair quote is being sought.

**Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Two new church keys have been purchased. Two keys remain unassigned. Key #13 remains lost.

**Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Sunday School is now offered when children are present at worship services.

**Outreach** Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report.

**Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps No formal report. Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 26 at 4:00 with soup supper to follow. A substitute organist/pianist list is being developed.

**Computer** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Work is ongoing regarding software needs and computer file backup.

**Kitchen** Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Reminder: Lifeline Screening will be held on April 20 and August 28.

**MSP** to host a Summer Music Recital on June 17.

**MSP** to accept the request by Ken Wold for one of his BSU organ students to use our organ for practice on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 1-2 pm.

**MSP** for Chip to seek a quote from NFLX to hook up speakers in the cry room and fellowship hall.

**Next Meeting:** March 17 at 1:00 pm. in church conference room – note time change. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Chip at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays

10:00 Worship  
Service

11:00 Fellowship

# March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chip Holt Preaching	2 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	3	4 12pm Lent Service 12:30 Seekers 6:30 Calvary	5 6:30-Seekers	6	7
8 Chip Holt Preaching	9 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	10	11 12pm Lent Service 12:30 Seekers 6:30 Calvary	12 6:30-Seekers	13	14
15 Chip Holt Preaching	16 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	17 <b>**1pm- Session Meeting</b>	18 12pm Lent Service Last 12:30 Seekers 6:30-PEO 6:30 Calvary	19 5:30 Supper Club Bar 209 Last 6:30-Seekers	20	21
22 Tony Peffer Preaching	23 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	24	25 12pm Lent Service 6:30 Calvary	26	27	28
29 Chip Holt Preaching	30 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00-Scouts	31				