

First Church News

Volume 12 issue 5

May 2023

Chip's Chatter



"Out of Chaos, Peace"

It is hard for me to believe we are already in the midst of the Easter Season. The season begins with Easter and ends with Pentecost. Pentecost, this year, is on May 28. Translated this means we have a great deal of time to reflect on the events of both Lent and Easter and to bring the joy of the Risen Lord forefront in our thoughts.

I would like to draw back and reflect a little more on the evening of the Day of Resurrection; Easter Evening. You will recall the disciples were gathered in what is believed to be "The Upper Room." More than likely the room where the Last supper was celebrated. Scripture tells us the disciples were gathered, in a locked room, for fear of the Jews. But I wonder if that is all they were feeling.

If I were to imagine myself in their predicament, I think I would not only be afraid, but also experiencing a great deal of anxiety, confusion, and wondering what had just happened. In other words, chaos. They had entered Jerusalem a few days earlier full of joy and excitement over the arrival of the Messiah. Then, suddenly, they see Jesus arrested and crucified. Why hadn't the Messiah risen to power and taken control just as they believed the coming Messiah would do. Now, relatively "fresh" from the crucifixion they learn from Mary Magdalene Jesus' tomb is empty and Mary had spoken with Jesus! What an emotional roller coaster they must have been on. Chaos.

Here's the amazing thing; Jesus enters the room, locked doors couldn't keep him out.

Then, with four short words, Jesus completely and instantly turns their feelings around. Jesus says, "**Peace be with you!**" They now rejoice at seeing the Risen Jesus. Out of chaos, peace.

This is not the first time Jesus presence and few words have calmed a frightening situation. Recall the story of Jesus on the Sea of Galilee and a storm comes up. The boat is nearly swamped. Jesus awakens from sleep, enters into the situation, and immediately rebukes the storm and suddenly things get better. The three synoptic Gospels all record this even, but only Mark records Jesus few words: "**Quiet! Be still!**" (Mark 4:39) Out of chaos, peace.

Sometimes we confuse anxiety and fear. Fear is a response to an immediate threat. Anxiety is anticipation of a threat. Anxiety disorders often go hand in hand with depression. If anxiety is temporary, it is not likely to lead to depression. All anxiety is not bad. It can be a great source for us to make contingency plans, to work hard on a project, and to be prepared for the "what ifs" of life. But anxiety and fear that lead to a degradation of the quality of life should be addressed perhaps requiring the help of a health care provider.

Life is not easy nor is it for the faint hearted. We all experience storms in life and we all face situations that bring fear, anxiety, confusion, depression, and we also wonder "what has just happened to me (and my family)?"

We all need an "Upper Room." This is a place where we can be alone with God and seek his presence and guidance. That "Upper Room"

may be a designated place in your home, the church sanctuary, even on a bench overlooking God's creation. A place where we can sit quietly with the Father. While your bed at night may seem to be a good place, it is here the noises of life and the noises of the day are loudest and distracting and can easily draw your focus from God back to what concerns you. Chaos.

We live in a world today that is becoming more and more dangerous and is full of anxiety. I served our nation during the height of the Cold War. It was a time full of anxiety and worry, but there was a sort of predictability to it. Today, we have the war between Russia and Ukraine, we have China preparing to take over, militarily, Taiwan. At home, our military no longer has the stockpile of equipment needed for our defense. Our energy reserves for the military are depleted. It has been calculated the average American family pays \$ 10,000 more per year for day to day living than it did 2 years ago. I worry about the impact of this increase on all the retired people living on fixed incomes. Crime and violence are everywhere and many cities are no longer safe. I could go on, but I think you get the point. We need an "Upper Room" experience.

As I write this article, I am in my "Upper Room." This is a place safe and secure and withdrawn from the noise of the world and from most of the things that concern me. It is here I can honestly seek God through worship, prayer, and Christian friendships. It is here that I am mostly likely to hear those words, "**Quiet! Be Still!**" and watch the storms of life subside to survivable level followed by the assurance "**Peace be with you.**" Out of chaos, peace.

If you do not have or have never found your own "Upper Room", come visit with me and, together, we might find such a place for you. I can guarantee you will be glad you did, especially in the coming days. Jesus calms the seas of life. It has been said by some, "I would rather have Jesus in my boat in the middle of the storm than standing on the

shore without Him." The Easter Season is a period of time to celebrate and reflect what Jesus has done for each of us and to look forward to His Second Coming."

One final thought. In our feeling-sensitive world, it is worth noting Jesus acknowledges the disciples (and our) fear without endorsing it. Instead of making fear the focus, Jesus calls them to faith. When we obey Jesus counsel to believe in God and Jesus, our worries lose their power. This is the kind of faith we find in our Upper Room and is the kind of faith that triumphs over fear and anxiety. Out of chaos, faith!

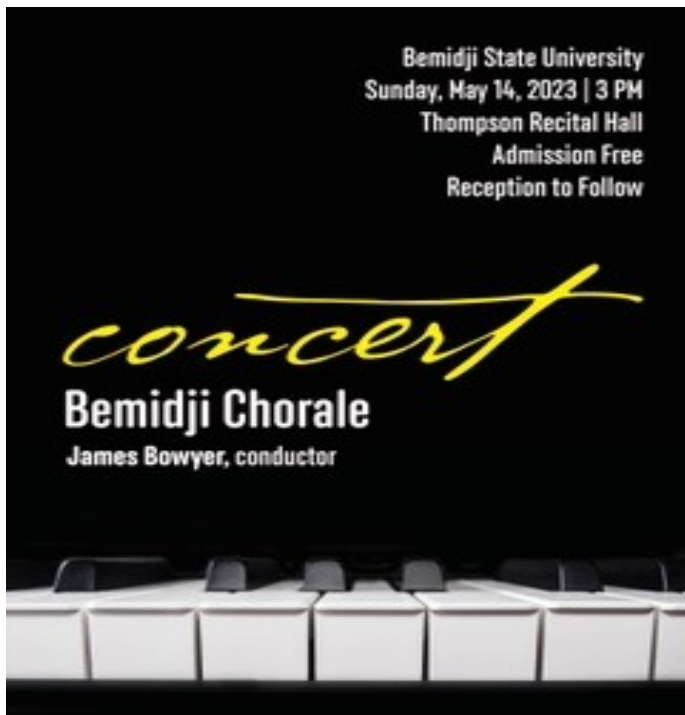
The Easter Season brings it all home!

Chip



Come Holy Spirit

Around our Community



Mary-Martha Circle will be getting together for their monthly meeting on Wed. May 17 at 1:30 at Raphael's Bakery. All women of the church are invited to attend for the coffee and goodies.

If nothing else, just for the goodies. Yum

Bethel Lutheran Church

Is having a FISH FRY, on Sunday, May 7th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. It is \$14 per person and if you want an extra fillet it is an additional \$6.

Children under 12-\$8

They will serve-Fillet of Walleye, potatoes, Beans, Cole Slaw, Dessert and Drink.

5232 Irvine Ave NW
Bemidji, MN

SEEKERS ARE MEETING

Seekers began on February 22nd and will run for 12 sessions, so, that means the last seekers will be on May 10. They will meet in the conference room at 12:00pm. The title of this session is "Who is the Holy Spirit". Come and join the lively discussions and learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Coffee Fellowship Update

Beginning in May, coffee fellowship will follow the church service on the first and third Sundays.

Table Fellowship (potluck) will move to a quarterly schedule. The next two Table Fellowships will be:

Sunday, July 2nd (picnic theme)
Sunday, October 1st (harvest theme)



FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 2/28/2023**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$ 6,288.09
Total Expenses	\$ 11,237.81
Net Income	\$ (4,949.72)

Thank you for supporting our church**Sunday Worship Attendance****2023**

April 2	31
April 6	13
April 9	49
April 16	
April 23	
April 30	



4 Juanita Bahr
19 Grace Privratsky

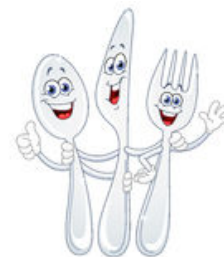


May Head Usher: Gloria Phelps
Liturgist

Greeter

May 7 Mary Hayes
May 14 Shirlee Harold
May 21 Libby Underhill
May 28 Ruth Andersen

Barb McGregor
Brenda Miller
Brenda Strowbridge
Gini Sande

Kitchen: Terri Murray, Helpers: Linnea Mostad, Jan Kuleta, Bob Naylor, Bev Novak**Communion: Kathy Burger & Jan Burger****Decorating: Dianne Roholt****Supper Club****5:30, at****Tutto Bene****300 Beltrami Ave NW*****Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30pm***

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!

May Benevelance

THE PENTECOST OFFERING -- BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

“O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

~ Psalm 71:17



The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday (May 28, 2023), we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and *pointing us to the church of the future*.

Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come; children, youth, and young adults.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

Young Adult Volunteers

Ministries for Youth

Children-at-Risk

Pentecost Offering Financials

Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church **APPROVED**
AS CORRECTED: 4-17-23
Bemidji, MN
March 21, 2023

February 26th: 26	March 5th: 29	March 12th: NO SERVICE	March 19th: 26
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The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on March 21, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, and Bev Novak.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice of beneficiary was received from the Bill Beck estate. An unrestricted donation of \$25,000 is being given to the church.

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN,
 Clerk's Report - March 21, 2023

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: None

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: 0

Communion: March 5, 2023: 29 served

Membership as of March 21, 2023: 66

Sunday Worship Attendance:

FINANCIAL REPORT - Finances from February were reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Bev Novak; no report

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Terri Murray; roof is still leaking – Terri will check with prior repair service

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; Duane Hayes has agreed to serve as a 2nd trustee for the Aldrich Fund; Duane, Cheryl Hiltz, and Bev Novak will be added as authorization personnel to the Raymond James Account; the church's contract with Waste Management ended February 28th – a bill was received for March. Cheryl has sent two certified letters to Waste Management stating the church's contract has ended and no future bills will be paid.

Adult & Christian Education

Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; Seekers has resumed and is enjoying the series, "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

Outreach Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4th Friday in February.

Worship & Music Chairperson:
Gloria Phelps; Lenten Services
continue to be held each
Wednesday at 1:15 in the
chapel. Maundy Thursday ser-
vice will be at 7pm on April 6th
in the sanctuary. Bell Choir has
resumed and will play Easter
Sunday. Joan Meulebroeck is
directing.

By Terri Lea Murray

What's In Your Heart

What's in your heart
Is out of control,
When troubles start
Fear takes hold.
Your heart it aches
Pain drifts in,
Faith seems lost
Fighting once again.

OTHER BUSINESS

Computer Committee: Chairperson:
Cheryl Hiltz; no report
Kitchen Fellowship Committee:
Session Contact Person: Cheryl
Hiltz; There will be no coffee hour
fellowship on April 6th due to the
Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast.

NEW BUSINESS

NFLX will begin the digitization project
for the outdoor marquee as soon
as the ground thaws. A deposit of
60% of the estimated bid is re-
quired before work can begin. **MSP**
The swindler appeared in court on
February 22nd. She is seeking a
lawyer for her case. Her next court
appearance will be October 2nd.
She was told by the judge to make
her payments to the church.
The company hosting the church's
website is offering to upgrade the
site at no cost. The Session
looked at five website examples.
After discussion, an example was
chosen for the church's upgrade.

What's in your heart
Needs strength to survive,
Past and present
Tangled inside.
Your heart it beats
Racing against time,
Youth seems lost
Innocence denied.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 17th, at **2:00** pm.
in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

What's in your heart
Is hard to control,
Faith and innocence
The knowledge of growing old.

Libby Underhill

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 SCOUTS 7PM	2	3 Seekers 12pm Calvary 6:30	4	5  Cinco de Mayo	6 Presbytery Meeting
7 Pastor Chip Communion Fellowship	8 SCOUTS 7PM	9	10 Seekers 12pm CALVARY 6:30	11	12	13
14 Pastor Chip  Happy Mother's Day	15 SCOUTS 7PM	16 SESSION MTG: 1pm	17 Seekers 12pm CALVARY 6:30	18 SUPPER CLUB 5:30 Tutu Bene	19	20
21 Pastor Chip Fellowship	22 SCOUTS 7PM	23 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BILL BECK 10:00am	24 CALVARY 6:30	25	26	27
28 Pulpit Supply	 MEMORIAL Day OFFICE CLOSED	30	31 CALVARY 6:30			



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