

# First Church News

Volume 12 issue 12

December, 2023

## Chip's Chatter



As I sit at my desk, I am planning to leave for the Thanksgiving weekend. I am also sitting thinking about a good subject for the December article. The first word that comes to mind is "Thanksgiving." This is not surprising given the approaching holiday. However, I wonder if there isn't a deeper meaning to this word rattling around in my head.

In our country, we dedicate one day per year for a time of thanksgiving. We learned very early in our education this day took place in the early American colonies to celebrate the fall harvest. As was done then and as we do today, the Thanksgiving meal is quite large and filling. But, within a few days, that sense of Thanksgiving passes and we start preparing for Advent. What I am referring to is our need for a constant sense of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for what God has done for us by sending Jesus to us. We need to humbly recognize our own total unworthiness and realize it is through the Grace of God we become worthy by believing in Jesus. We should learn to push aside the feast aspect of the American holiday and develop a constant sense of thanksgiving for Christ's redeeming work on the cross.

We live in a time between the advents: The Advent of the First Coming and the Advent of the Second Coming. We live in an "in between time." In the meantime, we wait for Christ's return and the events of the Second

Coming. But life can get pretty mean in the "meantime." Just look around at the amount of evil existing in our world today. Sadly, sometimes we experience "mean times" in our own lives. I am convinced we will never achieve true peace without Jesus' return. True peace does not mean the absence of war. It means true peace comes when evil is eradicated. Wars are started and stopped. But only temporarily as another will follow along shortly. Why? Because wars are the result of evil, not geo-political reasons.

Today, most Biblical scholars agree we are nearing the Second Coming. Generations have thought that way for many years, but there is one piece of prophecy that was fulfilled with the forming of the nation of Israel in 1948. The Bible says the generation that sees this happen will also see the Second Coming. In the Bible, a generation can be 40 years, 60 years, or even 100 years. I am thankful and excited about the prospect of this second Advent.

This Advent, I wish to focus on all the reasons I am thankful for Jesus' saving work on the cross. I am thankful God has a plan for our salvation and, while I am eager to remember the first Advent, I look with hope and preparedness for the Second Advent.

Chip

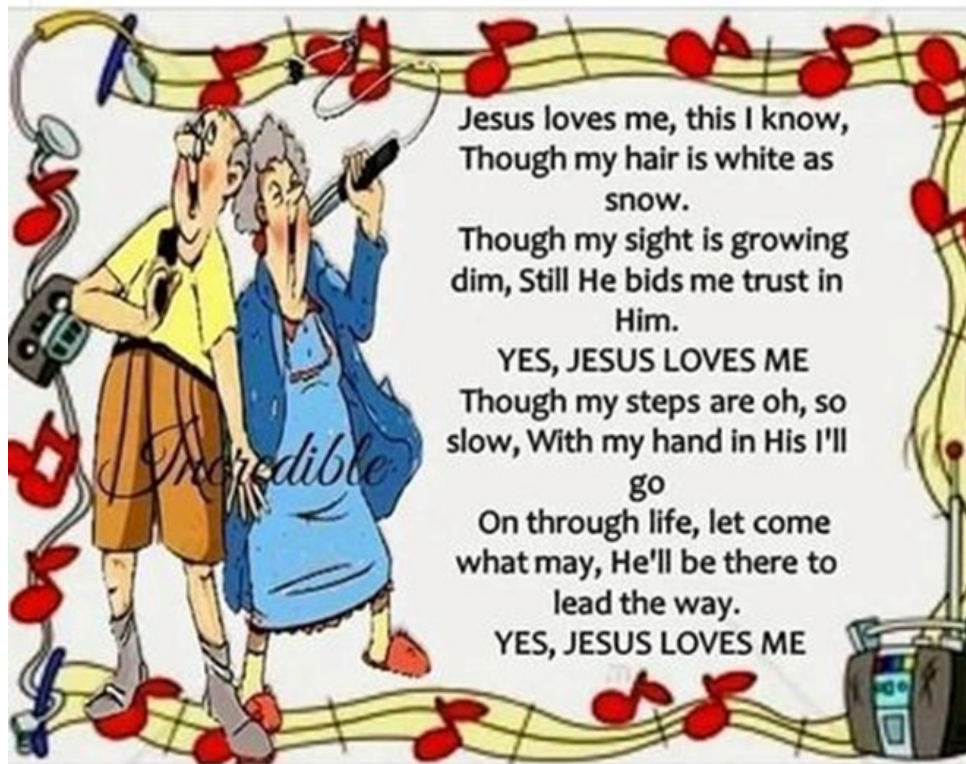
## Tubs of Love



First Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Churches United, will again sponsor the “Tubs of Love” mission. This mission ensures that local families in need will have presents for Christmas.

Beginning December 3rd, the small giving tree in the narthex will be decorated with ornaments. Each ornament will be labeled with a specific gift item. The congregation is encouraged to select an ornament, purchase and wrap the gift item, and bring it to the church by **Sunday, December 17th**.

**Jesus loves me, this I know, Though  
my hair is white as snow.**





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS CAROL  
COMMUNITY SING-A-LONG  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10,  
3:00 PM  
CIDER, COFFEE AND COOKIES  
TO FOLLOW  
501 MINNESOTA AVE  
FREE WILL OFFERING

To all the members of  
the congregation:

Seekers (Bible Study) has restart-  
ed, Wednesdays, at 12:00pm

The topic is:

**"No Other Gospel's, Pauls Letter  
to the Galatians**

If there is any one in the congrega-  
tion that wishes to bring flowers for  
the Sanctuary please let the office  
know or talk to Gloria Phelps. We  
want to keep fresh flowers in the  
Sanctuary as often as we can.

We are small  
but we are faithful



**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 10/31/2023****Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	6748.90
Total Expenses	7191.32
Net Income	-442.42

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

Oct 29	27
Nov 5	25
Nov 12	27
Nov 19	24



Dec 9	Morris Damp
Dec 11	Dixie Wirkus
Dec 12	Velma Ward
Dec 19	Diane Roholt
Dec 23	Brenda Strowbridge
Dec 29	Bob Naylor

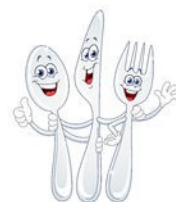
Don't have dates  
Nancy Weber  
Carla Erickson

**Head Usher: Gloria Phelps**

Date	Liturgist	Greeter
Dec 3	Linda Wagner	Beverly Novak
Dec 10	Betty Hanson-Lehman	Barbara McGregor
Dec 17	Dianne Roholt	Carla Erickson
Dec 24	Libby Underhill	Gini Sande
Dec 31	Mary Hayes	Linnea Mostad
Communion Set Up	Nancy Weber	
Communion Servers	Palmer Berg and Ken Paulson	
Kitchen: Libby Underhill with Mary and Duane Hayes as helpers		



## Sparkling Waters Supper Club



***Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, December 21 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!**



## Christmas Joy Offering

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.

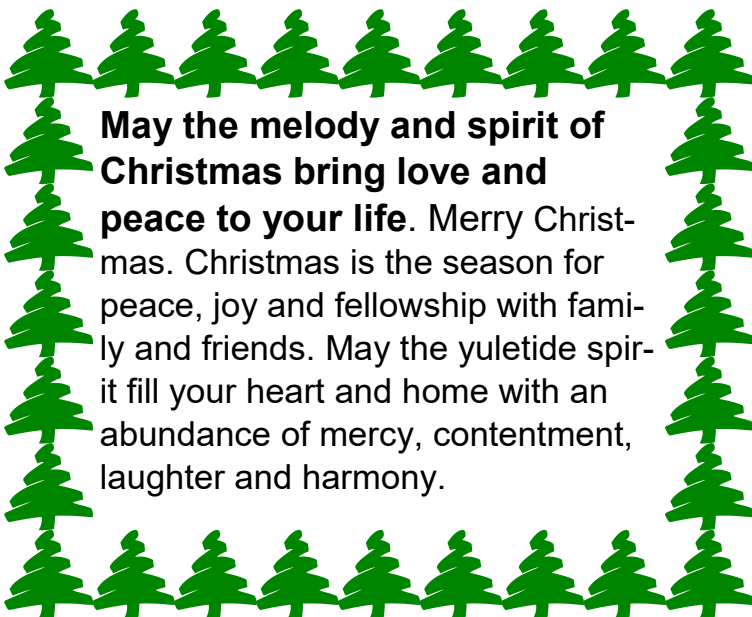
Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

**50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.**

Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them-we are with them.

**50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.**

Thank you for your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering-for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



# Your session at work

**First Presbyterian Church**

**11-21-23**

**Bemidji, MN**

**October 17, 2023**

**APPROVED:**

September 24th: 23	October 1st: 27	October 8th: 28	October 15 <sup>th</sup> : 24
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The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on October 17, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

## **ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A**

**QUORUM:** Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, Bev Novak, Gloria Phelps, and Libby Underhill.

## **QUORUM DECLARED**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - MSP to approve as amended

**MEETING MINUTES** - MSP to approve the minutes from the September Session meeting

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you from Chapter AT, PEO, for the use of the church for meetings  
Harry Aylesworth requested to be removed from the Membership Roll

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - October 17, 2023

**Weddings:** None

**Baptisms:** None

**Deaths:** 0

**New Members:** None

**Return to Active Membership:** None

**Request Transfer of Membership:** None

**Removed from Membership Roll:** 0

**Communion:** October 1, 2023: 22 served

**Membership** as of October 17, 2023: 65

**Sunday Worship Attendance:**

**FINANCIAL REPORT** - Finances from September were reviewed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Administration/Personnel** Chairperson:

Bev Novak; The newly hired organist, Eric Gustafson, will most likely be moving to the Twin Cities soon. Darlinda Coe has been hired as a temporary organist and will take over if and when Eric moves.

### **Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Terri

Murray; an inventory of the shed has been taken; the entryway will be painted; the walk-in safe has been organized and cleaned out; the technology components for the marquee have malfunctioned – it is still under warranty and is being checked out by NFLX

### **Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson:

Cheryl Hiltz; Per Capita will be \$34.00 for 2024

### **Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson:

Linnea Mostad; Seekers continues to go well.

### **Outreach** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad

reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4th Friday in September.

### **Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria

Phelps; The Christmas tree will be set up by the Boy Scouts for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (December 3<sup>rd</sup>) The Bell Choir will resume with Darlinda Coe as Director. It was moved and seconded to pay the Bell Choir Director \$50/practice plus mileage. Motion passed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Computer Committee:** Chairperson:

Cheryl Hiltz; no report

### **Kitchen Fellowship Committee:**

Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Troop #125 wishes to be in the Night We Light parade and requested financial help from the church for candy and parade registration. It was moved and seconded to help the Troop with parade expenses. Motion passed.

Zach Roberts, a member of Troop #125, has requested the church charter a new "Venturing" Troop. This is a co-ed troop for ages 14-20 with the focus on developing leadership skills. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to charter this new troop. Motion passed

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Hope House would like to use the church for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-8pm. It was moved and seconded to allow Hope House to use the church for their dinner. Motion passed.

Shar Paquette has asked about the old soundboard and speakers equipment. She could use it for her job at Voyagers Charter School. It was moved and seconded to donate the old soundboard and speakers equipment to the school. Motion passed.

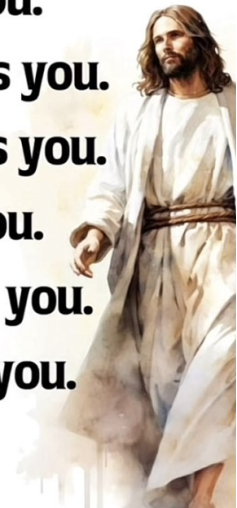
Chip briefly described the concept of "Community Partnerships" and asked the session to keep in mind how this could benefit the church.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 21st**, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

**MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 2:10 pm.



**God knows you.**  
**God chose you.**  
**God loves you.**  
**God restores you.**  
**God sustains you.**  
**God helps you.**  
**God rescues you.**  
**God shields you.**  
**Thank God**





**Sundays**  
**10:00 am**  
**Worship**  
**11:00am**  
**Fellow-**  
**ship**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Pastor Chip Communion Fellowship	4  Scouts 7pm	5	6  12 Seekers  6:30 Calvary	7	8	9
10 Pastor Chip  3pm-Christmas Carol sing along	11 9:30 MSC Mtg  Scouts 7pm	12	13 12 Seekers  6:30 Calvary	14	15	16
17 Pastor Chip Fellowship	18  Scouts 7pm	19  1pm Session Mtg	20 12 Seekers  6:30 Calvary	21 5:30 Supper Club Sparkling Wa- ters	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS Only 3PM Services		26	27 12 Seekers  6:30 Calvary	28	29	30
31 Pulpit Supply  						



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