

Chip's
Chatter



Chip's Chatter
December 2024 Newsletter

A few days ago, we were rehearsing for the community Christmas Carol Sing-Along. One of the songs we will be singing in the secular portion of the event is the sentimental tune "I'll Be Home for Christmas." The tune brought back many memories of years I was unable to be home for Christmas. I got me to think about how fortunate we are in America for so many of us to be home for Christmas. But what about those that can't.

It is easy to take note that first responders; firefighters, police, medical emergency services, cannot be home with their families. And so, I began to think of the many other people who cannot be home. I think of doctors and nurses working in hospitals. But what about all the staff that is required to keep the hospital going in one 24-hour period.

I think about the men and women of our armed forces stationed not only here in America, but worldwide. They sometimes serve in isolated places far away. During my tenure in the USAF, we had two armed fighters "on alert" scattered around the borders of the US. These fighters were required to be airborne to meet the threat 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days per year. Pilots and ground crew slept in the hanger where the aircraft were kept. These fighters were near the end of the runway and we used high-speed taxiways to quickly get to the runway. I spent many, many Christmases "on alert."

At another level, I think of all those people who work in the service industry. Hotel operators which include housekeeping and custodial staff. What about the van drivers that go to the airport to pick-up arriving guests? Same goes for taxi/uber/lyft drivers. What about those people that keep truck stops open so long-distance truckers have a place to rest?

Let's not forget about the people in the travel industry. The airline I worked for had over 3,000 flights per day. Imagine the number of hotel rooms we needed on a daily basis. Multiply that by all the other airline companies and the number of working flight crew is staggering. This doesn't include the ground staff; mechanics, gate agents, and ticket agents. All were needed on Christmas. Of the 15 years I worked for this company, I was working on Christmas all but about 5 of them.

There is one trip I took that will forever remain in my mind. It was a four-day trip with Christmas Eve occurring on the second day. Our last flight for the day on Christmas Eve was from Philadelphia to Indianapolis. We had originated this flight in Charlotte, NC and it was considered a “through flight” enabling passengers to remain on board while we were in Philadelphia. It was late evening. Most passengers traveling on to Indianapolis got off the airplane to try and find some food in the terminal. One passenger remained behind requiring flight crew members to remain on board. The lights were dimmed and I walked back to visit with the passenger, a woman who appeared to be nearing retirement. There, on the seat next to her was an infant baby sound asleep. Sleeping on its back, arms open on either side and head turning one direction. I said to the woman “There is nothing more beautiful than a sleeping child.” Without taking her eyes off the child she said “Yes and tonight I am delivering this child to its new adoptive family in Indianapolis.”

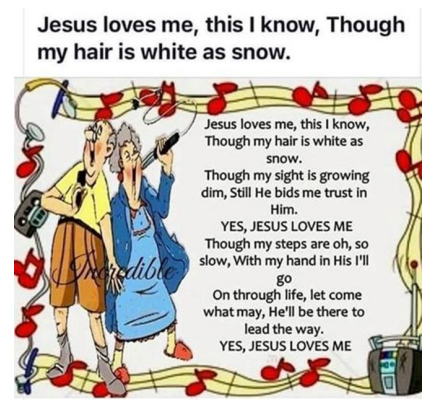
At that moment, all those years of having to work on Christmas became well worth it. I realized each and everyone of us who has to work on Christmas are actually performing what I would call a “sacrifice of service.” All those missed holidays due to work seemed to fade with the thought of a new child coming into a loving home.

For those of us who had to work on Christmas, it can be quite difficult to be separated from your family. The families left behind also feel the sadness of separation. It takes a “sacrifice of service” from them also. But what about those people who have no home to go home to? I think about the homeless. But I also think of the people who live in war torn areas of the globe whose homes have been destroyed due to armed conflict. What about those that can’t celebrate for fear if their Christianity were discovered they would be in fear for their lives?

All of this had made me realize, once again, what a great place America is to live. We so easily take for granted all the people who have to give up their Christmases as a “service of sacrifice” in order for us to have a peaceful and meaningful Christmas. Sadly, there are those that consider the holidays to be a big inconvenience. Shops are closed. Their normal day to day world is put on hold while others celebrate the birth of Christ.

As we enter this Holiday Season, let us fully enjoy and understand the true meaning of Christmas. At the same time, let’s think and honor all those who make our celebration possible through their “sacrifice of service.”

Chip





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CAROL
COMMUNITY SING-A-LONG
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8,
3:00 PM
CIDER, COFFEE AND COOKIES
TO FOLLOW
501 MINNESOTA AVE
BEMIDJI, MN
FREE WILL OFFERING

To all the members of
the congregation:

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

The topic is:

**“Sojourners and Exiles:
The Message of First Peter”**

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 10/31/2024

Monthly requirement to meet our budget 11837.59

Total Income	5996.04
Total Expenses	11837.59
Net Income	-5841.55

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

2024

Nov 3	30
Nov 10	28
Nov 17	21
Nov 24	51



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

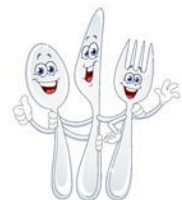
Don't have dates
Nancy Weber 6
Carla Erickson

Head Usher: Gloria Phelps

Date	Liturgist	Greeter
Dec 1	Dianne Roholt	Brenda Miller
Dec 8	Ruth Andersen	Kenny Paulson
		3:00 Gini Sande
Dec 15	Linda Wagner	Barb McGregor
Dec 22	Mary Hayes	Gini Sande
Dec 29	Libby Underhill	Carla Erickson
Communion Set Up	Nancy Weber	
Communion Servers	Libby Underhill and Cheryl Hiltz	
Kitchen: Libby Underhill with Mary and Duane Hayes as helpers		



**Sparkling Waters
Supper Club**



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, December 19 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.

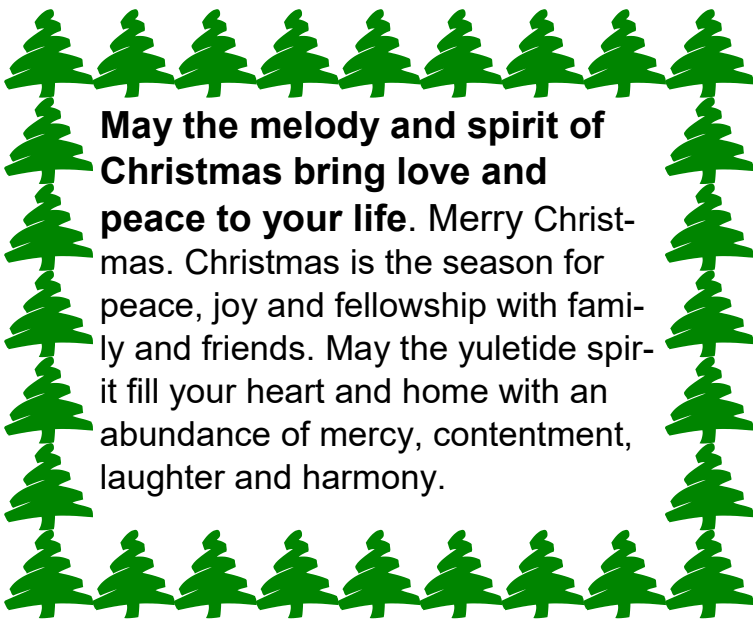
Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

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.



May the melody and spirit of Christmas bring love and peace to your life. Merry Christmas. Christmas is the season for peace, joy and fellowship with family and friends. May the yuletide spirit fill your heart and home with an abundance of mercy, contentment, laughter and harmony.



Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church

Bemidji, MN

October 15, 2024 **APPROVED AS CORRECTED: 11-19-24**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on October 15, 2024, 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, Bev Novak, and Libby Underhill.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Note from Marlene Zech

Thank you note from Headwaters Music and Arts for the use of our parking lot

Thank you note from the Harold family

Document from Presbytery regarding rules and regulations the church must follow during the election season

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report – October 15, 2024

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: October 6, 2024: 22 served

Membership as of October 15, 2024: 63

Sunday Worship Attendance:

September 22nd:27 September 29th:26 October 6th: 22 October 13th: 31

SCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel: Chairperson: Bev Novak; Chip will attend a Moderator Training Conference in Louisville November 14-16th.

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson: Terri Murray; quote from ChemDry to clean the carpets; Mary Martha Circle will donate towards this cost.

Finance Report & Stewardship: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; Financial reports for September were reviewed.

Adult & Christian Education: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; Seekers is averaging 5-6 people/session

Outreach: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf on September 27th and will serve again on October 25th.

Worship & Music: Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; Bell Choir began on October 14th.

unday Worship Attendance:

OTHER BUSINESS

The grant for purchasing an AED from the Beltrami Electric Round-Up program was declined. Based on suggestions from the Round-Up program, a revised grant will be submitted later.

Libby contacted Paul Bunyan Communications regarding taking over the church website as webmaster. The website would need to be on their server which would mean essentially a redesign. Libby will continue to seek other options.

NEW BUSINESS

None

next Meeting: **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

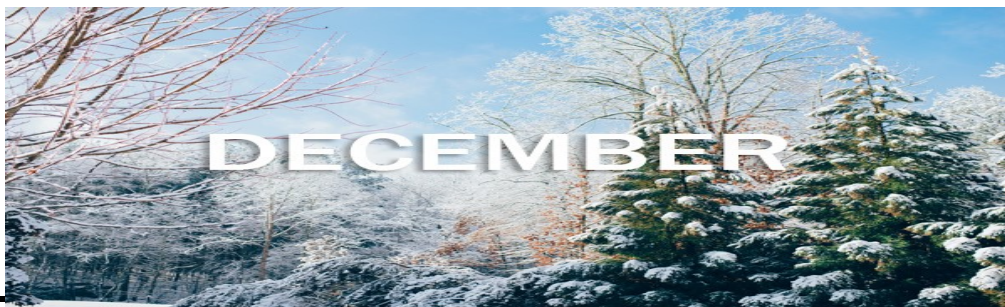
MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill

Clerk of Session

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



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Pastor Chip Communion Fellowship	2 Scouts 7pm	3 School	4 12 Seekers 7:30 Scouts Meeting	5	6	7
8 Pastor Chip Christmas Carol Sing Along	9 Scouts	10 School	11 12 Seekers 6	12	13	14 Terri
15 Pastor Chip Baptism Max Baker	16 Scouts 7pm	17 Session 1:00pm School	18	19 5:30 Supper Club Sparkling Wa- ters	20	21
22 Pastor Chip Fellowship	23 Scouts 7pm	24 Christmas Eve Service 3::00pm Pastor Chip	25 	26	27	28
29 Guest Pastor Randy McGuire	30 Scouts	31 				
						



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