

Chip's Chat-



Planning assumes control of your environment – preparation involves training, intuition, and instinct. Let's stop writing so many plans that never get followed and let's start preparing our people for the competitive environment that they will battle in every day.

I love fall. It is the time of year that gets us thinking about the oncoming winter weather. We develop a plan for living through the winter and we make preparations. For example, we prepare for winter by bringing in the lawn furniture, disconnecting our garden hoses, replace the screen on our screen doors with glass, maybe clean our fireplaces, and the list goes on.

In my first career, we used to say "failure to plan means you plan to fail."

We plan and prepare something nearly every day or even moment. We plan to go to the grocery store and prepare by making a list of the things we need. We plan to fill our cars with gas and we prepare by taking the car to the gas station and removing the gas cap. We plan our future careers and prepare to enter our chosen field through preparation in education and training.

I think you get the point. But I ask, how do we plan or prepare our faith? Do we need to? How do we prepare for the Lord's Second coming?

Let's start by finding out what the Bible says about planning. The Bible is full of people planning. There are Bible verses about God's

plan. Scripture references about preparation and Biblical reasons to be prepared.

God, himself, is a planner. Look at the creation story in Genesis. Even after the fall, God had a plan for our salvation through Jesus Christ. Look at the detailed instructions he gave to the "Heroes" of the Bible. Do we not believe that God has a plan for our lives?

There are many examples of the Bible heroes having created God-inspired plans. In fact, God is actually in the middle of our planning. The best plans come when we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us.

The scripture references in the Bible are plentiful regarding planning. Here are a few

- Proverbs 16:3 – Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.
- Proverbs 16:9 – The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.
- Proverbs 15:22 – Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers, they succeed.
- Proverbs 19:21 – Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.
- Psalms 20:4 – May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!
- Acts 2:23 – This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
- Luke 9:51 – When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem
- Luke 14:28-30 – For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete

it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

But how do we prepare and work on our faith? I believe the first step is to improve our relationship to the Lord. In a CD by Chuck Swindoll entitled "Intimacy with the Almighty," Swindoll says:

"There are steps we need to take in the process. He says we should strive for Simplicity, Silence, a Solitude which leads to Serenity, to humbly Surrender by saying "I want the Father's will for my life."

Intimacy with God is the closest of all relationships. It is when and where you can be blatantly honest, completely open, able to share your deepest fear or your most frightening thoughts without shame or risk of rejection. It is at the heart of a personal relationship with God. It doesn't just happen; you must work for it.

As we continue in improving our relationship to the Lord, we must also do some preparation. The way in which a person comes to anything demonstrates the spirit in which they come. We learn in Ephesians 6:11-13 we must prepare daily:

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

In addition, we must put on the garments of the mind and heart of the soul. WE put on the garment of expectation, humble penitence, faith, and reverence.

Finally, we need silence to listen to the Holy Spirit. I will close this month's article with a prayer found in a book by Henri Nouwen entitled "A Cry for Mercy." I think this is a wonderful

prayer that illustrates the type of "Intimacy with the Father" we should strive to achieve. May God bless you as you make plans and preparations in your faith journey.

Word Out of Silence

O Lord Jesus, your words to your Father were born out of your silence. Lead me into this silence, so that my words may be spoken in your name and thus be fruitful. It is so hard to be silent, silent with my mouth, but even more, silent with my heart. There is so much talking going on within me. It seems that I am always involved in inner debates with myself, my friends, my enemies, my supporters, my opponents, my colleagues, and my rivals. But this inner debate reveals how far my heart is from you. If I were simply to rest at your feet and realize that I belong to you and you alone, I would easily stop arguing with all the real and imagined people around me. These arguments show my insecurity, my fear, my apprehensions, and my need for being recognized and receiving attention. You, O Lord, will give me all the attention I need if I would simply stop talking and start listening to you. I know that in the silence of my heart you will speak to me and show me your love. Give me, O Lord, that silence. Let me be patient and grow slowly into this silence in which I can be with you. Amen.



Military Christmas Poem *(by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt)*

'Twas The Night Before Christmas,
He Lived All Alone,
In A One Bedroom House
Made Of Plaster And Stone.

I Had Come Down The Chimney
With Presents To Give,
And To See Just Who
In This Home Did Live.

I Looked All About,
A Strange Sight I Did See,
No Tinsel, No Presents,
Not Even A Tree.

No Stocking By Mantle,
Just Boots Filled With Sand,
On The Wall Hung Pictures
Of Far Distant Lands.

With Medals And Badges,
Awards Of All Kinds,
A Sober Thought
Came Through My Mind.

For This House Was Different,
It Was Dark And Dreary,
I Found The Home Of A Soldier,
Once I Could See Clearly.

The Soldier Lay Sleeping,
Silent, Alone,
Curled Up On The Floor
In This One Bedroom Home.

The Face Was So Gentle,
The Room In Such Disorder,
Not How I Pictured
A United States Soldier.

Was This The Hero
Of Whom I'd Just Read?
Curled Up On A Poncho,
The Floor For A Bed?

I Realized The Families
That I Saw This Night,
Owed Their Lives To These Soldiers
Who Were Willing To Fight.

Soon Round The World,
The Children Would Play,

And Grownups Would Celebrate
A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom
Each Month Of The Year,
Because Of The Soldiers,
Like The One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder
How Many Lay Alone,
On A Cold Christmas Eve
In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought
Brought A Tear To My Eye,
I Dropped To My Knees
And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened
And I Heard A Rough Voice,
"Santa Don't Cry,
This Life Is My Choice;

I Fight For Freedom,
I Don't Ask For More,
My Life Is My God,
My Country, My Corps."

The Soldier Rolled Over
And Drifted To Sleep,
I Couldn't Control It,
I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch For Hours,
So Silent And Still
And We Both Shivered
From The Cold Night's Chill.

I Didn't Want To Leave
On That Cold, Dark, Night,
This Guardian Of Honor
So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over,
With A Voice Soft And Pure,
Whispered, "Carry On Santa,
It's Christmas Day, All Is Secure."

One Look At My Watch,
And I Knew He Was Right.
"Merry Christmas My Friend,
And To All A Good Night."

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 8/31/2023**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	10,345.35
Total Expenses	10,844.47
Net Income	-499.12

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

October 1	27
October 8	28
October 15	24
October 22	25



Nov. 17 Kathy Paulson
 Nov 21 Donna Enfield
 Nov 29 Bob Hiltz

**Head Usher for November: Cheryl Hiltz**

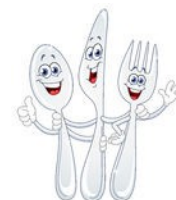
	Liturgist
November 5	Donna Enfield
November 12	Mary Hayes
November 19	Ruth Andersen
November 26	Libby Underhill

Greeter

Barb McGregor
Donna Dickinson
Mary Lou Miller/Brenda Strowbridge

Kitchen: Terri Murray with helpers, Bob Wagner, Linda Wagner, Terri Murray**Communion: Set up: Nancy Weber****Server: Palmer Berg**

Tutto Bene Supper Club

***Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, November 16 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!**

November Benevolence



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

During this season of unrest and change, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God's grace to see us through. **Together**, our gifts work to build God's household where all can find shelter, where all can find love. Your generosity helps build a Matthew 25 Church: a home of wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crises, disrupting the cycle of poverty. Your generosity creates a space for justice, dismantling systemic racism, and it enlivens the Church, giving voice to the declaration that we, the church are not dying, but are filled with vitality and live.

A Season of Peace is upon us, which culminates with the Peace & Global Witness Offering, usually taken on World Communion Sunday, we have the opportunity to promote the Peace of Christ in our own communities and around the world. Congregations are encouraged to use up to 25% of this Offering, with the remainder going to your mid-council and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support this same mission of peace.

Thank you, again, for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ. **Together**, we are the church, building the household of Christ.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking>



Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church

APPROVED: 10-17-23

Bemidji, MN

September 19, 2023

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on September 19, 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, Bev Novak, Gloria Phelps, and Libby Underhill.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

MEETING MINUTES - MSP to approve the minutes from the August Session meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Zach Roberts requesting permission to charter a Venturing Troop for ages 14-20. Zach is currently a member of Troop #125. Discussion held with consensus that more information is needed. Chip will contact Zach for additional information.

Chip shared feedback from the recent Committee on Ministry meeting

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - September 19, 2023

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: 1- Gloria Aylesworth

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: 0

Communion: September 3, 2023: 28 served

Membership as of September 19, 2023: 65

Sunday Worship Attendance:

August 20th: 30	August 27th: 24	September 3rd: 29	September 10th: 26	September 17th: 23
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FINANCIAL REPORT - Finances from August were reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson:

Bev Novak; Eric Gustafson has been hired as our organist. In addition, two high school students have been hired to fill in on piano or organ as needed.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Terri

Murray; Windows on 5th Street have been repaired; pantry has been cleaned out and freezer defrosted; Continue trying to make contact to repair dishwasher.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson:

Cheryl Hiltz; no report

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson:

Linnea Mostad; Seekers has resumed for the Fall; topic is "Paul's Letter to the Galatians"

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

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; no report

OTHER BUSINESS

Computer Committee: Chairperson:

Cheryl Hiltz; outdoor sign is malfunctioning. NFLX has been contacted for repair.

Kitchen Fellowship Committee:

Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

NEW BUSINESS

A possible grant through "Partners for Sacred Places" was discussed. It was decided not to pursue this option as it is too restrictive and requires

raising 50% of the requested grant.
Troop #125 wishes to be in the Night We Light parade and requested help from the church. Discussion tabled until October.
Discussion on hosting a Christmas Carols Sing-Along was held. Details regarding possible dates will be pursued.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 17th, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session

To all the members of
the congregation:

Seekers (Bible Study) has restarted, Wednesdays, at 12:00pm

The topic is:
"No Other Gospel's, Pauls Letter to the Galatians

If there is any one in the congregation 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.



Sun-
days
10:00
am
Wor-
ship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	2	3	4 Turn your Clocks back
	5 Daylight Savings Time Pastor Chip Communion	6 7pm Scouts	7 Election Day	8 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	9	10
11 Veterans Day						
12 Pastor Chip	13 7pm Scouts	14	15 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	16 Hope House Thanksgiving Dinner 3-8 5:30-Supper Club	17	18
19 Pastor Chip	20 7pm Scouts	21 1pm Session Meeting	22	23 	24	25
26 Pulpit Supply	27 7pm Scouts	28	29	30		



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