

First Church News

Volume 1 issue 10

October 2024

Chip's Chatter



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The other day I was going through some of my US Air Force memorabilia and came across manuals for all the airplanes I had flown. In each of the aircraft's operating manual was a section dedicated to emergencies and emergency procedures. Each manual this mantra, drilled into us nearly every day. When dealing with emergencies, three basic rules applied:

Maintain aircraft control
Analyze the situation
Take appropriate action

three simple rules could be

These applied to nearly every situation from emergencies to normal operations. Maintain aircraft control. Analyze the situation. Take appropriate action. For some emergencies you have to take immediate steps and those steps had to be memorized. These critical action items were printed in **BOLDFACE** letters. Once a week, we had to fill out a slip of paper with all the boldface items. It had to be 100% correct, including dashes, commas, and periods. For non-boldface items, we had time to consult our checklist to address the problem. In the world of commercial airlines, they use the terms "Normal" and "Abnormal" procedures. Steps that needed to be committed to memory were called "Memorize Items." We were tested every 6 months in the simulator to ensure we had the correct procedures. I guess the airline world got too nervous using the term "emergency." I must say I liked the USAF approach much better.

My point to all of this is I wonder if it is possible to have a simple, quick, and short step to get our lives back on track whenever we have deviated from God's word. In other words, where is it written about the "basics of Christianity?" Somewhere I can go and read and get the message without deep theological study. If so, where would we look?

The first source, of course, is God's written word to us in the Bible. Think about this: In our Pew Bibles in church, there are 1089 pages for the Old Testament and 317 pages for the New Testament. While the Bible is the best source of all, it can take some length of time to search the answers.

In our denomination, we are guided by the Presbyterian Book of Confessions. That book is 465 pages long and contains our church's statements of faith from the very beginning. Next is our Presbyterian Book of Order that not only describes how Presbyterians "operate" it also contains shorter statements of what we believe. The Presbyterian Book of Common Worship is yet another source, but it is 410 pages long. Our "Glory to God" Hymnal is 1018 pages in length.

Each hymn is based on the great foundations of the faith. I think I am now getting closer to the "back to basics" questions.

For me, however, nothing can more simply and easily state the fundamentals of the faith than the Creeds of the Church. We regularly use the words of the Apostle's Creed. We save the Nicene Creed for special occasions. Other churches use the Nicene Creed regularly and save the Apostle's Creed for special occasions. Sometimes words in the Creeds are slightly adjusted but the meaning always remains the same. For example, I know of one denomination that regularly uses the Nicene Creed has changed the "we believe....." to "I believe."

Going back to the pilot analogy, I would summarize things like this:

The Bible is our Operating Manual. It describes normal day to day life for a believer. It also has sections giving us direction and guidance during times of "emergency". With the Bible in our hands, we are able to "Maintain (Aircraft) Control." Looking through the lens of Scripture, we can "Analyze the situation". And following the teachings of Jesus and the Prophets, we learn to "take appropriate action."

Now, we come down to the critical action BOLDFACE items. Some might suggest we memorize as many verses of scripture as we can. Being able to quote scripture is an invaluable tool, especially during times of spiritual warfare. Jesus used this tactical when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. This might be a great and wonderful idea for some, but I need something a little simpler and easier to recall. The two BOLDFACE items common to us all are: The Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer. When we say the Lord's Prayer, we are taking our situation directly to the Creator. Because of Jesus' atoning work, we have a direct line of communication with the Father. Secondly, the Apostle's Creed (or Nicene Creed if you prefer) is a statement of our faith for the hope we have in Jesus.

I have two additional prayers. The first is Psalm 70; *"O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me."* The second is *"Lord have mercy!"* I say these prayers repeatedly until the sense of emergency passes. These two prayers are very effective to combat spiritual warfare. I also use them when I anticipate a spiritual attack.

So, the next time trouble strikes remember these three steps:

Maintain Control

Recall and remind yourself that God is in complete control. You need to be familiar with your Bible which is your operating manual. Start with the book of Psalms and proceed to the Gospels, the Book of Acts, and Romans.

Analyze the situation

Look through the lens of scripture to see what is really going on. Ask yourself if this emergency is a result of my action (sin); spiritual action from the Enemy of our souls; or is God pruning me for further work in the kingdom.

Take appropriate action

Pray. Then listen to and for the Holy Spirit to guide you. Test the response using scripture. Use your BOLDFACE actions when needed. As things begin to come under control, rest calmly in the arms of Jesus knowing you are never alone, the Holy Spirit is with you.

“Do you realize what a peaceful life you can live if you decided to live like this? Do you realize how relaxed you can be, how free of stress? Honestly.

It’s so helpful for me to remind myself: He is the One who is unfathomable. He is unsearchable. I’m neither.”

Chip

To all the members of the congregation:

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

The topic is:

“The Message of First Peter”

SAVE THE DATE

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS HAVING THEIR
2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL COMMUNITY**

SING-A-LONG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

3 PM

WE WILL BE SERVING CIDER, COFFEE

AND COOKIES FOLLOWING THE

SING-A-LONG

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 9/30/2024

Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00

Total Income	\$ 13842.45
Total Expenses	\$ 9971.91
Net Income	\$ 3870.54

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

2024

Sept. 1	24
Sept 8	26
Sept 15	29
Sept 22	27
Sept 29	26

October Birthdays

- 1 Joyce Acherman
- 9 Dona Mae Naylor
- 15 Ken Paulson



October Head Usher: Gloria Phelps

Liturgist

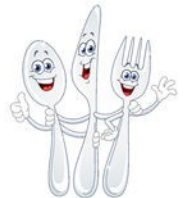
October 6	Linda Wagner
October 13	Ruth Andersen
October 20	Mary Hayes
October 27	Dianne Roholt

Greeter

Gini Sande
Barb McGregor
Kenny Paulson
Carla Erickson

Kitchen: Chair: Terri Murray Helpers: Kathy Burger, Trish Brager, Bev Novak
 Communion setup: Kathy Burger
 Serving Communion: Ken Paulson and Barb McGregor

**October 17 at 5:30 at
 Keiths Pizza South
 Supper Club**



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, October 17at 5:30pm.
 Please call Dianne Roholt directly at 444-2859 for your reservations!
 This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.



Also known as the [Nameless Coalition for the Homeless](#)

NOT SURE WHAT YOU NEED?

A nighttime shelter for chronic homeless people struggling with chemical dependency. Able to house 16 people during the winter months. Serving single adults 18+ years old, male or female. Showers and laundry facilities are available on site. Clients CAN be intoxicated upon arrival. Hours of access: 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

We are a 501(c)(3) & operate a nighttime shelter for chronic, homeless inebriates in Bemidji. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 353, Bemidji, MN 56619

The Nameless Coalition - Stoppap Committee has been tasked with procuring safe, warm shelter for chronic, inebriate homeless individuals who presently do not have adequate sleeping arrangements. ,

Our Benevolence for the month of October

Bemidji Wolfe Center

- Disability Hub MN: **866-333-2466**. Talk to an expert about people with disabilities
- Veterans Linkage Line™: **888-546-5838**
- **Specialists are also available by phone:**

Senior LinkAge Line®: **800-333-2433**. Talk to an expert about persons 60 and older

[MinnesotaHelp.info](#) is a wonderful resource for people in need.



Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church **APPROVED: 9-17-24**
Bemidji, MN
August 20, 2024

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on August 20, 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 July Session meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you note from Gloria Phelps
a thank you note from Evergreen Youth and Family Services for our benevolence donation
an announcement for the Trinity Lutheran Meatball Dinner
an announcement for the New Salem Church Craft Fair

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - August 20, 2024

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: 1 (Shirlee Harold)

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: None

Communion: August 4, 2024: 27 served

Membership as of July 16, 2024: 63

July 21st: 27	July 28th: 23	August 4th: 27	August 11th: 25	August 18th: 22
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Sunday Worship Attendance:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel: Chairperson: Bev Novak; no report.

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson: Terri Murray; cost of a refurbished AED -\$1000; will seek grant money to pay for this. Terri's son-in-law will repair outside window ledges; front door needs to be re-stained.

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

Adult & Christian Education: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; no report

Outreach: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; First Presbyterians will serve at the Bemidji Food Shelf on August 23rd. Meals on Wheels will be served the last week of August.

Worship & Music: Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; no report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the recent Open House on August 3rd. Suggestions were made for next year.

Discussion was held regarding the Area Churches Musicians Concert at our church on Wednesday, August 21st.

Libby provided an update on the church's new website. It has been a struggle to get the website going. She will check with other vendors for the possibility of hosting the website and being the webmaster.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the Celebration of Life for Shirlee Harold on Saturday, August 31st at 2pm.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 1:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session

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SAD NEWS FROM MINNESOTA

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and trauma complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 75.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin.

Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Captain Crunch. The grave site was piled high with many flours.

Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded.

Born and bread in Minnesota, Doughboy rose quickly in show

Business but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes.

business being a little flaky at times, he still was a crusty old man and was considered a positive roll model for millions.

Doughboy is survived by his wife Play Dough, three children: John Dough, Jane Dough and Dosey Dough, plus they had one in the oven, He is also survived by his elderly father, Pot Tart.

The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

If you smiled while reading this, please rise to the occasion and pass it to someone having a crummy day and kneading a lift.

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Theme	2 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	3	4	5
6 Pastor Chip Communion/ Fellowship Potluck-Harvest Pastor Chip	7 7:00 Scouts	8	9 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	10	11	12
13 Pastor Chip\ Fellowship	14 7:00 Scouts	15 1:00 Session	16 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	17 5:30 Supper Club Keiths Pizza	18	19
20 Pulpit Supply Randy McGuire	21 7:00 Scouts	22	23 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	24	25	26
27 Pastor Chip\ Fellowship	28 7:00 Scouts	29	30 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	31		



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