

# First Church News

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2018



## Chip's Chatter

### **Prayer; a conversation with God.**

For many years I was taught to pray, and then to meditate. As I continue to mature in my faith journey, I see these two functions as joined and inseparable. I have often noted during prayer, I have a sense of new insight into problems or situations. Early in my faith journey I was taught prayer was a one-way street in which we voiced our needs, concerns, desires, etc. Then, at other times, you would study scripture and reflect or meditate on the word. Both are good approaches but I think prayer and meditation are much closer together than we think. In fact, I believe our prayer time needs to be thought of as a conversation with God.

Many of you know I am an Oblate of Saint Benedict. An Oblate is one who has offered themselves up to God. An Oblate does not take vows. Instead, we renew our "Oblation" promises annually. We are joined to a Benedictine religious community and pray with Monks and Nuns from a distance. We receive spiritual strength from God through this association. I am joined with Assumption Abbey in western North Dakota. To quote my friend Brother Benet, "an oblate is a monastic who hasn't quit their day job."

I recently returned from a spiritual retreat at the Abbey. The peace and silence there is nearly overwhelming. I make this pilgrimage between 3 and 5 times per year and immediately fall into the rhythm of monastic life. St. Benedict teaches a balance of work and prayer. In fact, the community has 5 worship services per day, including Mass. It is interesting to note they spend approximately 1 ½ hours in prayer and individual bible study before they begin the work of the day. In all, they spend nearly 3 hrs daily in prayer and nearly two hours each day devoted to individual bible study. This does not include Mass! Most of their prayers are done in the Abbey sanctuary choir loft. Their prayers revolve around the Psalms, sometimes spoken, sometimes sung.

I have learned much about prayer from them. First, I have learned silence is absolutely necessary. Distractions must be eliminated. When praying and meditating, St. Benedict urges us to "listen with the ear of our heart." I also think it is appropriate and correct to speak to God from OUR heart. Second, I have learned prayer is grounded in humility and simplicity. God does not need our many words of prayer. Tranquility of mind is the target we hope to reach. This also means we must clear our minds of useless stuff, thoughts, work, etc; anything that hinders our dialog with the Father. Thirdly, to pray well we must prepare well. This does not mean rehearsing your words beforehand. It does mean, however, we maintain a discipline and routine about daily prayer. With prayer, God is in control. We are all beginners. We need to pray to God to help us to pray! Finally, I have learned that before every task, I am "to pray to Him most earnestly to bring it to perfection". This means to always ask God for assistance to do His will.

People sometimes come to me saying they don't know how to pray. My answer is simply this, consider prayer a conversation with God and talk with Him in honest simplicity as you would your very best friend. Some still struggle with this and I point them directly to the Psalms. The Psalms are, indeed, prayers. They address nearly everything in the human experience and are a great source of comfort. Praying the Psalms gets you on the road to prayer. But, you must do it daily to achieve the peace and tranquility we all desire in this hectic world of ours.

In closing, prayer needs to be so much a part of our lives that it literally becomes the air that we breathe. I challenge everyone to make daily prayer an activity for just one week. I will guarantee a difference in your life.

## **Consecration Sunday Is Coming in November**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Session has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Session members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Session Members,

*Leroy Hill, Bob Weber, Bill Beck, Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz, Duane Hayes*

From the Church Office



1 Joyce Ackerman      9 Dona Mae Naylor  
 5 Naomi Lowth      15 Ken Paulson



<b>October Service Chair:</b>	<b>Brenda Miller</b>	<b>(218) 766-3053</b>	
<b>Darrel/Kathy Bahr</b>	<b>444-8695</b>	<b>Duane/Mary Hayes</b>	<b>218-694-2290</b>
<b>Loren Kimmes</b>	<b>751-1971</b>	<b>Arlene Lee</b>	<b>586-2857</b>
<b>Dianne Roholt</b>	<b>444-2859</b>	<b>Joe/Judy Rossi</b>	<b>218-835-8925</b>

**Communion in September:**

Set-up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean up: Joe Forbes, Joyce Ackerman, Joan Forbes, Mary Lou Miller, Betty Hanson-Lehman

**Communion in October:**

Set-up: Bob and Nancy Weber

Serving/helping with clean up: Duane/Mary Hayes, Gloria Phelps, Cheryl Hiltz, LeRoy Hill

**Head Usher: Donna Dickinson**

	<u>Ushers:</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Liturgists:</u>
<b>October 7</b>	<b>Gloria Aylesworth</b>		<b>Betty Hanson-Lehman</b>
<b>October 14</b>	<b>Gloria Aylesworth</b>	<b>Gini Sande</b>	
<b>October 21</b>	<b>Gloria Aylesworth</b>		
<b>October 28</b>	<b>Gloria Aylesworth</b>		



**Supper Club**  
**The Turtle River Chop House**  
**5:30, October 19**



**Supper Club** will be meeting Friday October 19th at 5:30 at **The Turtle River Chop House**, 468 Bemidji Rd NW, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601, (218) 586-5827

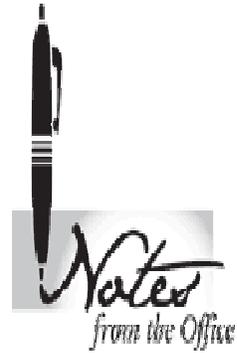
Please sign up at the church office: by email; presbji@paulbunyan.net -or- by phone; 444-5016, on or before Wednesday, October 17th.

This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.

**All are welcome!**

**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending July 31, 2018**

Total Income	\$ 7,127.38
Total Expenses	9,675.01
Net Income	(2,547.63)
Memorial Fund	13,471.49
Endowment Fund	\$70,443.54
Communion Served—45	



**IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER**

If you have items for the **Newsletter**, Please call or email the office by **Wednesday, October 24th for the November Newsletter.**

**Bulletin** items need to be into the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday you wish it to appear. To avoid confusion, please send information for the bulletin and newsletter to the church office via email at [presbj@paulbunyan.net](mailto:presbj@paulbunyan.net). If you don't have email, call the office at 444-5016 or stop by the office during office hours, Monday—Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mary-Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 17th at 1:30pm at Raphaels Bakery, 319 Minnesota Ave NW.



The First Presbyterian Church CHOIR will continue to rehearse before church at 9:00am.

If you wish to become a member of the choir, please contact Gloria Phelps at 218-308-1113.



We are available  
tual lift for them-

**Prayer Chain**

or just needs the prayers of his or her friends. Call the church office at 444-5016 or Libby Underhill at 444-9774.

to all members who need a spiri-  
selves or for a loved one who is ill

**Pastor Chip's hours will be:**

Monday—Thursday, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Other times by appointment

**To reach Chip after hours, call 444-5016 and press 1 when prompted. It will call his cell phone.**



## Our 4th Sunday Benevolence For October

The little church feels smaller inside, its single room lined with old carpet and yellow walls. This simple space serves a humble purpose: keeping homeless alcoholics alive through the winter. The Wolfe Center, an overnight shelter for chronic inebriates is accepting donations for the 2018-2019 winter season which begins October 1st and runs through April, 2019. The shelter can accommodate 17 people. A main room containing 16 beds, all covered in donated patchwork quilts, will house men and a separate small room with two beds will provide a more private place for women to stay. Near the back of the building, two brightly painted bathrooms include a toilet and shower each, and a washer and dryer stand between them. Everything has been donated, including the beds and the frames, and certainly the quilts and the bedding.

Because the shelter serves people with substance abuse issues, there will be a space for clients to lock up alcohol and retrieve it in the morning. Bemidji, the seat of one of the state's poorest counties, is home to at least 20 to 30 homeless, chronic alcoholics who bounce between friends and family, a church shelter and outside, according to a 2014 study by Center City Housing Corp., a nonprofit, Duluth-based affordable housing developer.

The shelter is in need of the following items: hats, gloves, mittens, socks and coats; personal toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste, as well as boxed granola bars and hard candies. We will have a tub in the Fellowship Hall designated for donations to The Wolfe.

Remember these are people who have fallen on hard times. They are our neighbors with stories, gifts and problems. Financial donations are also welcome. Checks can be made to Nameless Coalition for the Home-less, PO Box 353, Bemidji, MN 56619.

### First Presbyterian Church

Bemidji, MN

September 18, 2018

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on September 18, 2018 at 9:00 am. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Duane Hayes, Bob Weber, Donna Dickinson, Bill Beck

**ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Leroy Hill, Cheryl Hiltz

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

**QUORUM DECLARED**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** Agenda Adopted with the addition of the following item: Eagle Scout project

**MEETING MINUTES** The minutes from the August session meeting were accepted.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Presbytery will meet Oct. 26-27 at Clearwater Forest. The registration deadline is Oct. 17.

**CLERK'S REPORT** was accepted.

**First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report September 18, 2018**

**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:** September 2 Served 45. Servers: Bob Weber, Joe Forbes, Mary Lou Miller, Betty Hanson-Lehman

**Membership as of September 18, 2018: 108**

**FINANCIAL REPORT** The financial report was reviewed. The Memorial Fund report is in progress. The endowment fund interest income to date in 2108 is \$11,757.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Administration/Worship/CENurture**

**RECOMMENDATION TO SESSION:** Partner with Calvary Lutheran for Taizeø services. Approved. The date for the service at First Presbyterian is the evening of November 25.

**RECOMMENDATION TO SESSION:** Use Young Living non-toxic, essential oil based cleaners. Establish a non-profit business account for purchasing at a 40% discount. Approved.

**RECOMMENDATION TO SESSION:** Spend a total of \$557 to purchase door levers, replace fire emergency lights and buy glow in the dark exit signs to meet the recommendation of the Fire Chief. Approved. Bob will order the items and get the lights installed.

The following special dates/events were approved: Nov. 25 Consecration Sunday, Nov. 25 Taizeø Evening Service, Nov. 27 community Remembrance Service, Dec. 2 øHanging of the Greensø service for first Sunday of Advent.

Supper Club will be Friday, Sept. 21 at Backwoods Bar and Grill

**Outreach**

Mugs given to visitors have been updated to include a welcoming letter from Chip and a booklet on øWhat it means to be Presbyterianø

**OTHER BUISNESS**

Scouts will be asked to put up the sanctuary Christmas tree.

An Eagle Scout community project by Daniel Roberts of installing accessible/inclusive musical playground equipment near Paul & Babe will have an estimated cost of \$11,000. A request to use the churchø 501C3 for handling funds will be discussed by Chip with Scout Leader Greg Roberts. The church would not be responsible for collecting funds. A legal opinion on how to set this up may be necessary.

An updated Credit Card Policy for the Manual of Operations was approved. See below. An accompanying Credit Card Use form is being worked on.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 16 at church with Pastor Chip Holt moderating. The time was not set.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

# First Presbyterian Church Bemidji, Minnesota

## Credit Card Policy

### Purpose

First Presbyterian Church of Bemidji holds one credit card for the sole purpose of facilitating session approved purchases specifically for the church's needs or function for which other types of transaction are not possible or practical.

### Policies

1. The church shall hold one and only one credit card.
2. The credit card shall have an authorized maximum limit of up to \$2000.
3. Use of the credit card is limited to those specific purposes pre-approved by Session action. Those purposes may include online transactions, travel, goods and services.
4. Only the person designated by the pre-approved session action may use the credit card and then for that purpose only. Designees shall only be pastor, employees or Session members.
5. The church Administrative Assistant shall be responsible for keeping the card in the safe spot chosen by Session. The assistant shall check the card out to the designee using the attached Credit Card Issue Form only after receiving in writing a copy of Session's pre-approval. The copy should be attached to the form. The designee must sign the form. In the absence of an Administrative Assistant, the person responsible for the credit card shall be the Treasurer or another person assigned by Session.
6. Those using the credit card may use it for the approved purpose only, and then only for the amount approved. Should the amount charged exceed the approved amount, the person making the charge shall be personally responsible for that amount.
7. The designated user of the card shall be responsible for the protection and custody of the credit card.
8. The person using the credit card shall return the card to the Administrative Assistant the first business day following its use. The returned credit card must be accompanied by all sales receipts, credit slips, record of goods and services, etc. The user should sign each slip.
9. The Administrative Assistant shall check in the card and accompanying receipts and see that the Credit Card Issue Form is completed and signed again by the designated user. The receipts should be attached to the form.

### In the Event

10. No personal items may be charged at any time for any reason.
11. There shall be no cash withdrawals.
12. If the credit card is lost or stolen, the holder should immediately notify the financial institution issuing the card and the Church Administrative Assistant.
13. Emergency use of the credit card may only be authorized by contacting the Treasurer who must then contact session members. If needed, a special meeting should be called.

The person to whom the credit card is issued will sign a copy of this policy each time the credit card is issued.

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**I have read the Church Credit Card Policy and I understand and agree to abide by its terms.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Issue \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Return \_\_\_\_\_

Sundays  
 10:00 Worship  
 Service  
 11:00 Fellowship

# October 2018



SUN                  MON                  TUE                  WED                  THU                  FRI                  SAT

	1  5pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts	2	3  6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	4	5  Wedding Rehearsal 4pm	6  Wedding Alyssa Allen Trevar Smith 4pm
7  Chip Holt Preaching w/Communion	8  5pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts	9  9:00 am Admin Mtg.	10  6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	11	12	13
14  Chip Holt preaching	15  5pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts	16  7pm-Session Meeting	17  6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	18	19  5:30-Supper Club-The Chop House	20
21  Chip Holt preaching	22  5pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts	23	24  6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	25	26	27
28  Rick Weinert- Preaching	29  5pm Bell Choir 6pm Boy Scouts	30	31  6:30 pm Calvary Chapel			