

First Church News

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2018



Chips Chatter

Starting Over

It seems hard to believe summer is nearly over!! And, with the end of summer, comes the “new” fall season. People return from vacations. School starts for our children and grandchildren. There is a certain sense of “newness” in the air.

I am old enough to remember schools with wooden floors, wood desks, chalk boards, and samples of cursive script posted above the chalk boards. I especially remember the smell of new pencils and crayons, wide lined paper, construction paper, and the vast amount of sticky white glue for art projects.

I was fortunate to spend the entire summer with my family on Lake Plantagenet. My family has been a on this land since 1925. Today, I live in the original cottage, although vastly remodeled and updated. What I remember most was heading into Bemidji a week before we returned to Grand Forks. I was always marched into Gill Brothers or Patterson’s clothing to get new clothes for school. Aw, the sound of corduroy pants still inhabits my mind!

The fall start of school also reminds me of the optimism we feel at the start of the New Year. The New Year begins with hopes and dreams and expectations and resolutions. The same can be said for the start of the fall season.

Our fall at First Presbyterian is exactly like the start of the New Year or school. We have some exciting things beginning to return to our church. We see the return of our church choir. We see stability in worship returning. We see the improvements to the building and parking lot. With the return of the choir, we will see more music and the possibility of a BSU music student working with us to further expand our worship experience. And, along with our idea of “emphasis Sundays”, we hope to see the return of our friends to Sunday worship.

But, while there is always excitement in newness, we sometimes experience things that tend to through us off track. Unexpected illness, a child facing a contentious and difficult divorce, death of a loved one, financial issues, and the list goes on. These are

Chips Chatter-continued

interruptions to our lives and our plans. Interruptions may have unintended consequences. We are no longer as mobile as we once were and so may not be able to attend regular worship. We may be so overcome with these life events that it begins to affect our prayer life and our time to be alone with God. Perhaps the new year or fall is moving along smoothly and it is interrupted by sadness. The advancement through the season begins to slow down or even stop. At which point, many withdraw and decide to “ride out the storm” at home. Still others think they need to start all over again and try to push through the event that is causing the interruption.

I propose a different perspective to these interruptions. Henry Nouwen likes to think of life as a journey, similar to driving a car down a road. Sometimes, things get bumpy and we must slow down to get past the rough spots. Sometimes the road gets so difficult we pull over on the side of the road and examine our options. We get burned out and declare we need to start all over again from the beginning. We want to hit the “reset” button. Nouwen’s point is this: You don’t need to restart your journey from the beginning. Instead, simply imagine we have pulled over on the side of the road. When we are ready, we will RESUME the journey picking up where we left off. We may even want to view this time as a “season of life”. But Nouwen also urges us not to take too long or the car may not start again. I think this concept is especially true in our faith journey. Sometimes the noise of life interrupts and we stop our daily devotions. Not long thereafter, we stop our weekly attendance in church and begin to attend sporadically. We lose our sense of presence with the Lord.

But, here is the good news! Jesus is simply waiting for us to RESUME our journey. We don’t need to start over because He is, and always will be, with us. When we RESUME our devotions or RESUME worship, we feel guilty about our absence. But Jesus, always near to us, might say “Yes, I know. I know you left me for a season, but I never left you. Welcome home.” It is the story of the prodigal son. The prodigal son story may also be called the story of the “waiting father”. Jesus is there with us by the side of the road patiently waiting for us to RESUME. There’s even more good news. Our season may last years, months, weeks, or days. But Jesus RESUMES with us anew each and every day. In some cases, each and every moment!

So, rather than make New Year’s resolutions or get wrapped up in the resumption of events in the fall, let us simply reconnect with our Lord each and every day. Let the events of our lives be just that; events. If we need to stop by the side of life’s road for a time let us think and remember all the times Jesus has been with us. Let’s keep our focus on the Lord Jesus Christ, the “author and finisher of our lives.” (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus is always with us through the joys and difficulties of life.



From the Church Office

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| 10 | Jeannine Brooks | 23 | Libby Underhill |
| 13 | Susan Cronemiller | 26 | Carol Close |

September Service Chair: Vera Weis

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Paula Ellingson | 444-7498 | Betty Hanson-Lehman | 751-2133 |
| Jan Kuleta | 751-1732 | Richard & Mary Lou Miller | 333-1323 |
| Velma Ward | 444-5471 | Dixie Wirkus | 553-0796 |

Communion in August:

Set-up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean up: Cheryl Hiltz, Barb McGregor, Libby Underhill, Donna Dickinson, Gloria Phelps

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

Head Usher: Gloria Phelps

| <u>Ushers:</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>Liturgists:</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| September 2 | | Betty Hanson-Lehman |
| September 9 | Gini Sande | Carol Severn |
| September 16 | Donna Dickinson | |
| September 23 | Donna Dickinson | Dianne Roholt |
| September 30 | Donna Dickinson | |



Supper Club
Backwoods Bar & Grill
5:30, September 21



Supper Club will be meeting Friday September 21st at 5:30 at the Backwoods Bar & Grill, 48220 Reserve Trail, Bemidji (formerly the Blue Moon Saloon). Please sign up at the church office: by email; presbji@paulbunyan.net –or– by phone; 444-5016, on or before Wednesday, August 15.

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

All are welcome!

From the Church Office

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending July 31, 2018

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Total Income | \$ 7,190.76 |
| Total Expenses | 7,499.35 |
| Net Income | (308.59) |
| Memorial Fund | \$13,467.49 |
| Endowment Fund | \$70,194.66 |

Communion Served—53



It seems that someone has borrowed the laminating machine and we would be grateful if it were returned to the church office. Thank you.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

If you have items for the **Newsletter**, Please call or email the office by **Tuesday, September 25th for the October 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 presbji@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.

We are back on regular office hours.



We are available spiritual lift for who is ill or just friends. Call the church office at 444-5016 or Libby Underhill at 444-9774.

Prayer Chain

to all members who need a themselves or for a loved one needs the prayers of his or her

News from the Food Shelf Farm:

The Food Shelf Farm grows fresh greens and vegetables for our clients. So far this summer the Farm has provided 1,313 pounds of fresh produce with the bulk of it still to be harvested. This is an awesome endeavor. We have but one fundraiser for the Farm, namely the Harvest Ball which is scheduled on September 13th at the Eagles Club. Any proceeds will go entirely and exclusively to the Farm. The meal will be roast pork from Stittsworth's, the rest of the meal from local growers. Desserts will be provided and Culver's has generously offered to provide their frozen yogurt as well. The band After 5 will provide music for your dancing and listening pleasure. There will also be a silent auction and activities for the children. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under. For tickets see Linnea or Shirlee in the office. Thank you in advance for your generous support of this vital community service.

The Benevolence for September goes to Bemidji Meals on Wheels.

serving up smiles



If you have any questions regarding Meals on Wheels, you can contact Joe or Joan Forbes at 751-3965

What is Meals on Wheels?

The Meals on Wheels service delivers hot meals to seniors in their homes or in community centers across the United States. The organization consists of more than 5,000 independent local programs, and more than 2 million people volunteered through Meals on Wheels as of April 2015

Donors and the Older Americans Act provide funding for Meals on Wheels. The organization also asks recipients to pay for meals if they are able, although payment is not required. In addition to providing food for individuals who can't leave home, Meals on Wheels notes that its delivery service provides a valuable safety check for seniors who live alone.

How does Meals on Wheels determine eligibility?

Meals on Wheels determines eligibility on an individual basis, with priority given to individuals who are at least 60 years old and have a health condition that prevents them from shopping for or preparing their own meals. Younger persons with qualifying conditions are accepted as well.

Meals on Wheels programs are in place in nearly every city in the United States. The organization provides not only meals, but also companionship, transportation, pet food deliveries and home repairs to many eligible participants. However, in areas where many seniors live in poverty and isolation, waiting lists for service are often long. According to 2012 data, 9.3 million Americans over the age of 60 struggle with hunger, 14.8 million are living alone, and 17.6 million have trouble paying for their basic needs.



Pastoral Care

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, please give the church a call and let us know. Because of the privacy laws now in place, pastors can no longer have access to files. We'll be glad to visit you. If you've been ill at home and would like to talk with a pastor, let us know that also. Pastor Chip is available for home visits. If you would like communion brought to you, let us know. If you'd like to talk over some personal issues or seek pastoral help, let us know. We invite you to communicate your needs to us and we'll do what we can to help. Call the office at 444-5016.

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.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Josiah Kondos to First Presbyterian Church. He is our new custodian. Welcome Josiah!



A very exciting announcement- - -The First Presbyterian Church CHOIR will have their first rehearsal/meeting on September 2, before church at 9:00am to begin getting ready for their first appearance September 30. If you wish to become a member of the choir, please contact Gloria Phelps at 218-308-1113.

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
August 21, 2018**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on August 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer and a devotional reading from "Bread for the Journey" by Henri Nouwar by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Duane Hayes, Bob Weber, Cheryl Hiltz
ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Leroy Hill, Donna Dickinson, Bill Beck
OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Agenda Adopted with the addition of the following items: cleaning products, results of fire inspection, custodian update

MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the June 12 session meeting were **accepted** with a followup note regarding 6 extinguishers being purchased to be added.

CORRESPONDENCE Two letters of thanks were received from First City Singers and Bemidji Lions Club

CLERK'S REPORT was **accepted** with the communion date correction to August 5.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report August 21, 2018

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: Ronald Hubert Batchelder March 13, 1932 ó July 12, 2018 Memorial Service First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, Rev. John Yingling Officiating. Inurnment Greenwood Cemetery

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: August 5 Served 53. Set-up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis. Helpers-Cheryl Hiltz, Barb McGregor, Libby Underhill, Donna Dickinson, Gloria Phelps

Membership as of August 21, 2018: 108

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was **reviewed**. Improving clarity in the reports continues to be examined.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Worship/CENurture

Custodian Josiah Kudos has been hired through Always There Staffing. He started August 20.

MSP Use music funds of \$ 450 to enable us to sponsor a music student to assist in worship.

MSP Allow secretary Shirlee two paid days off on Sept. 14 & 17, 2018.

Outreach No report

OTHER BUISNESS

Results of Fire Inspection

Chip reported on a walk through inspection done with the Bemidji Fire Chief. Four points need action:

1. Self illumination exit signs are adequate. Put up more signs for exits from sanctuary.
2. Emergency floodlights using 110 volts with battery backup don't work and need to be replaced, LEDs suggested.
3. Removed deadbolt from door exiting sanctuary next to the pulpit and install crash bar or lever.
4. Remove shelf that stands in front of the boiler.

Other items from the inspection: The south door is not a viable fire exit and it's not needed as such.

Lighted candles are fine since we have fire extinguishers. It's okay that we have no exit ramps. The kitchen stoves and ovens are approved for current level of usage. It's okay to have custodian/designee check battery backup lights, no third party need be hired to do so. Suggestion was made of training for ushers on location of extinguishers and evacuation procedure. The fire chief said "You're doing a great job."

A statement of work will be written for action items 1-3. Bob will get any necessary bids.

Stewardship/Consecration Sunday will be used again this year.

Memorial Fund Money Market Distribution ó Session is evaluating a breakdown of Memorial Fund distribution, with Cheryl and Donna working on spreadsheet.

Non toxic cleaning will be addressed. Information was distributed.

A presentation on church revitalization that was presented at Presbytery was shared in print form.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 pm at church with Pastor Chip Holt moderating.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays
 10:00 Worship Service
 11:00 Fellowship

September 2018



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------|--|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Chip Holt Preaching w/Communion |  | 4 | 5 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Chip Holt preaching | 10 | 11 9:00 am Admin Mtg. | 12 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Chip Holt preaching | 17 Meals on Wheels 6pm Boy Scouts | 18 Meals on Wheels 7pm-Session Meeting | 19 Meals on Wheels 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel | 20 Meals on Wheels | 21 Meals on Wheels 5:30-Supper Club- | 22 |
| 23 Rick Weinert Preaching | 24 6pm Boy Scouts | 25 | 26 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Chip Holt preaching | | | | | | |