

## Chip's Chatter



The other day I was going through my collection of Christmas CDs in preparation for the upcoming season. One of my favorites is an album by Amy Grant entitled "A Christmas to Remember." One particular song, "Till the Season Comes 'Round Again" really hits home the feelings of the Christmas Season. It reminds us of the good things that happen during this Season of the Year. But wait, didn't I just listen to all this Christmas music a couple of months ago? Didn't we just finish the celebration of Easter? How can it be that Thanksgiving and Advent have arrived again and so soon?

There is a phenomenon of time that happens as we age. The older we get it seems times goes by faster and faster. I can well remember the long summers of my youth and I can easily recall many of the events of childhood. But why does time seem to "stand still" as a youth and race by as an adult?

I did a little research and here's what I found. "For a 10-year-old, one year represents 10 percent of their entire life and even 15 to 20 percent of their conscious memory. But for a 50-year-old, one day represents less than 2 percent of their recallable life." (Clifford N. Lazarus, Ph.D.)

In 2019, another theory arose by Professor Adrian Bejan. He said our memory is made up, primarily, of visual markers. When we recall something, our brain functions somewhat like a movie projector. We remember things in "frames per second." To make a movie in slow motion, we take many frames per second. When the movie is played back, the action seems to slow down. On the opposite end, the fewer frames per second yield a jumpy and accelerated recollection. The scenes in the movie are "fast forwarded" as we view the scene. Here's the result of Bejan's hypothesis: Younger brains record events like slow motion,

many frames per second. As we age, however, the way we record things slows down and we recall things at fewer frames per second. The net result of all of this is that the amount of time we remember between events gets much faster as we age. Time appears to go by faster and faster.

"It has been said that the only truly non-renewable resource on the planet is time. We have a limited supply, and it must be carefully spread around for us to accomplish, share, and be what we are supposed to be." (Budd Davisson)

But, what is God's relationship to time? In our physical world, we live in four dimensions. The dimension of length, width, height (or depth) and time. Albert Einstein called this "space-time." But God does not dwell in our physical world, God dwells in a different realm, the spirit realm. The question of God's relationship to time has generated a great deal of theological and philosophical reflection. Many would take the position that God is timeless in the sense of being outside time altogether. God exists but does not exist at any point in time and he does not experience temporal (relating to time) succession. In Psalm 90:4 we read "For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night." In one sense, the marking of time is irrelevant to God because He transcends it. In other words, God's time is different. It is not ours. We try to confine God to our method of time and our time schedule. Our minds are finite, but God is infinite.

In Advent, we focus on both the Second Coming of Jesus as well as remembering Jesus' first appearance on earth. For many, we eagerly await the Second Coming, but wonder why it hasn't happened yet. It is

good for us to remember Ps 90:4 again and again. In Peter's Second letter to the churches in Asia, we read:

*<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:8-9)*

God's infinite timelessness is hard for our finite minds to understand. God can be described as without a beginning or end, eternal, infinite, and everlasting.

So what is time? Time is simply duration. Our clocks mark the passage of time, but it is our time, not God's. Remembering some old physics classes, time is a feature resulting from the existence of matter. "Time exists when matter exists. But, God is not matter; God created matter. The bottom line is this: time began when God created the universe. Before that, God was simply existing. Since there was no matter, and because God does not change, time had no existence and therefore no meaning, no relation to Him." (Author unknown)

One final thought. I believe time as we know it in our world was established by humankind. We mark the interval of time between sunrise and sunset and the seasons of the year. Seasons follow the position of the sun in the sky. Our time measurement helps us to keep track of growing seasons, work days, etc. However, since heaven has no sunrise, sunset, or seasons, God's time rules. So, to answer the question "Is there such a thing as time in heaven?" The answer is yes, but it is not the time we are familiar with. It is God's time.

The Second Coming of our Lord will come when it reaches God's time. But, we can be thankful the Bible gives us plenty of warning as to when the time is near. But for now, it is best to celebrate Christ's first arrival, knowing with absolute confidence, the Second Coming is on the way. We are simply living in a period of time between the "already" and the "not yet."

May this Christmas Season be a joyous one for all of you and your families. We can celebrate the first Christmas all the while looking joyously to the next Christmas.....the Second Coming.



**First Presbyterian Church was represented in the recent "Light the Night" parade held in Bemidji the evening of Friday, November 25, 2022. Our own Scout Troop, Troop # 25, carried a church banner and handed out candy. In an outreach to the community, they also handed out flyers about our church, running out of the flyers within the first two blocks!**

**Thanks to Troop 25, Scout Master Greg Roberts, and Elder Terri Murray for coordinating the Outreach event**

In a world that seems not only to be changing, but even to be dissolving, there are some tens of millions of us who want Christmas to be the same . . .  
with the same old greeting "Merry Christmas" and no other.

We long for the abiding love among men of good will which the season brings . . .  
believing in this ancient miracle of Christmas with its softening, sweetening influence to tug at our heart strings once again.

We want to hold on to the old customs and traditions because they strengthen our family ties,  
bind us to our friends,  
make us one with all mankind  
for whom the Child was born,  
and bring us back again to the God Who gave His only begotten Son, that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

So we will not "spend" Christmas . . .  
nor "observe" Christmas.  
We will "keep" Christmas—keep it as it is . . .  
in all the loveliness of its ancient traditions.

May we keep it in our hearts,  
that we may be kept in its hope.

—Peter Marshall  
(1902–1949)



**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 10-31-2022**

**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income       \$ 8,666.48  
 Total Expenses     \$ 9,507.55  
 Net Income         \$ -841.07

**Thank you** for supporting our church

**Sunday Worship Attendance**

Oct 23       24  
 Oct 30       27  
 Nov 6        27  
 Nov 13       26  
 Nov 20       37



December Birthday  
 9     Morris Damp  
 10    Shirlee Harold  
 11    Dixie Wirkus  
 12    Velma Ward  
 18    Dianne Roholt  
 23    Brenda Strowbridge  
 29    Bob Naylor



If we have left off your birthday, please let the office know, 444-5016

**December Head Usher: Gloria Phelps**

**December 4**

**December 11**

**December 18**

**December 24**

**No service on December 25**

**Liturgist**

**Donna Enfield**

**Ruth Andersen**

**Linda Wagner**

**none needed**

**Greeter**

**Ken Paulson**

**Barb McGregor**

**Linnea Mostad**

**Gini Sande**

**Serving Communion:** Bev Novak, Jan Burger

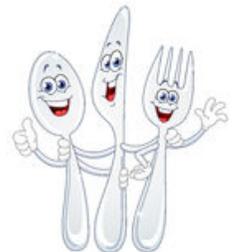
**Setting up Communion:** Jan Burger, Bev Novak

**Kitchen:** Libby Underhill



**Supper Club**

**At  
 5:30  
 Sparkling Waters**



***Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, December 15***

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.

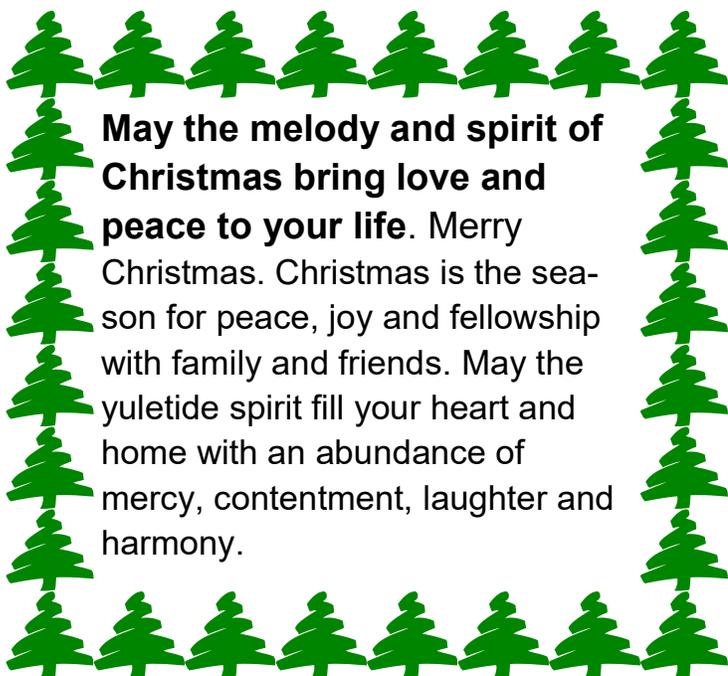
Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

**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.

### Tubs of Love

First Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Churches United, will again sponsor the “Tubs of Love” mission. This mission ensures that local families in need will have presents for Christmas.

Beginning December 1st, the small giving tree in the narthex will be decorated with ornaments. Each ornament will be labeled with a specific gift item. The congregation is encouraged to select an ornament, purchase and wrap the gift item, and bring it to the church by **Sunday, December 19th.**

Please contact Cheryl (218) 760-3456 if you have any questions. Thank you on behalf of the Outreach Committee.

# Your session at work

## First Presbyterian Church

**APPROVED AS CORRECTED: 11-15-22**

**Bemidji, MN  
October 18, 2022**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on October 18, 2022, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, and Gloria Phelps.

### QUORUM DECLARED

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP** to approve

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

### CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

### CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - October 18, 2022

**Weddings:** None

**Baptisms:** None

**Deaths:** 0

**New Members:** None

**Return to Active Membership:** None

**Request Transfer of Membership:** None

**Removed from Membership Roll:** 0

**Communion:** October 2, 2022: 27 served

**Membership** as of October 18, 2022: 68

**Sunday Worship Attendance:**

September 25th: 27	October 2nd: 27	October 9th: 30	October 16th: 28
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**FINANCIAL REPORT** - Finances from September were reviewed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson; no report

**Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Terri Murray; a representative from T&K Outdoors presented a proposal for updating the church's landscaping. This proposal would also correct the water leakage problems. No action was taken at this time on the proposal. Two proposals were received for digitizing the outdoor signage. No action was taken at this time on either of the proposals. Terri repaired the broken boards on the shed. Her son-in-law will help with repairs to the back of the church.

**Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

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

**Outreach** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in September.

**Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; All Saints Day will be Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Friends and Family members who have passed away in 2022 will be recognized. Recommendation to have Christmas Eve Service at 4pm Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> with no Christmas Day service Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. **MSP** to approve

### OTHER BUSINESS

**Computer Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

**Kitchen Fellowship Committee:** Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; A suggestion was made to

have a monthly potluck during Fellowship Hour. Discussion followed. **Terri agreed to chair the first potluck for November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Nominating Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chip reported on the recent Presbytery Meeting; outstanding attendance

A book study for Session members was suggested, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church"

**Next Meeting:** November 15th at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

**MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linnea Mostad  
Clerk of Session, pro tem

We are resuming **Seekers**. Meeting in the conference room on Wednesdays at 12:00pm.

We will embrace the topic Christianity in America with Stephen Nichols. Come prepared for lively discussions. We may learn something and have fun while doing it.

We want to do a shout out to Dianne Roholt for the decorations in the planter at the top of the stairs to the office and also with chairing the decorations committee for the rest of the church. It feels so good when you come into the church and it is all decorated for the holidays.

Thank you Dianne and crew



"If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence."

"Come as you are. You can change inside."

"Hipster Jesus loved you before you were cool."

"The fact that there's a highway to hell, but only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers."

"Don't make me come down there." -God

CH CH

What's missing? UR

Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet Him.

Seven days without prayer makes one weak!

The best vitamin for a believer is B1

Trust in God, but lock your car.

Church parking only. Violators will be baptized.

Jesus will love the Hell out of you.

Your name may be on a bottle of Coke, but is it in the Book of Life?

I was going to waste, but Jesus recycled me.

God loves you whether you like it or not.

Can't sleep? Counting sheep? Talk to the Shepherd!

What could this sign say to get you here on Sunday?

God is our wireless provider!

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

Under the same management for more than 2,000 years.

Sundays  
10:00 am  
Worship  
11:00am  
Fellowship



**Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat**

<h1>ADVENT</h1>				1	2	3
4 Pastor Chip Communion <b>Fellowship</b>	5  7pm Scouts	6	7 12pm-Seekers  6:30 Calvary Chapel	8	9	10
11  Pastor Chip	12  7pm Scouts	13	14 12pm-Seekers  6:30 Calvary Chapel	15  <b>5:30pm</b> Supper Club	16	17
18  Pastor Chip/ <b>Pot luck</b> <b>Brunch</b>	19  7pm Scouts	20  1:00 pm Session Mtg.	21 12pm-Seekers  6:30 Calvary Chapel	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service <b>4pm</b>
25 <b>No service</b> 	26	27	28	29	30	
		<h1>2023</h1>				



**First Presbyterian Church,**  
501 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-444-5016  
Email: [presbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:presbji@paulbunyan.net)  
Website: [Firstpresbji.com](http://Firstpresbji.com)