First Church News

Volume 10 issue 2

February 2021

Chip's Chatter

I can't believe we are nearly entering February of the New Year. Where did January go? When I look back at 2020, I can say, without a doubt, it was a year I will never forget. It will be a year that ended in extreme political turmoil, civil unrest, and a pandemic that continues to plague every aspect of our lives.

Normally, life ebbs and flows within a certain "range of values." However, on some rare occasions the "ebbing" and the "flowing" exceed normal values and we feel it as stress. I usually equate "ebbing" as negative. When the ocean tide causes the water level to drop, it is referred to as an "ebb tide." On the other side is "flowing or flooding" which I feel is a positive. An ocean tide that is "flooding" is causing the water to rise, making safe passage for ships and boats. Not paying attention to the tide can be catastrophic for ships on the sea. Not only must you pay attention to the high and low tide numbers, but you must also consider the current of the water as it floods and ebbs. It can be so strong you can't motor your way through the strong current. (Small boats). There are numerous places like that in the Puget Sound of Washington State. There are many narrow passages where the tidal current is so strong, the ONLY time to motor through is a lowest tide or highest tide, when the current stops.

Our last church year was a lot like the tide. We had some extreme ebbing, but we also had some strong flooding. We experienced the low tide of no worship for our congregation. As 2020 was starting, we had started to see some new faces in our congregation. We even had a couple of Sunday School classes for young people; mainly grandchildren of our members. Our organist situation was stabilizing and consideration was being given to re-starting the choir again. Our adult group, Seekers, was experiencing excellent attendance and we looked forward to each session. We were experiencing a "flood tide." But, as spring continued, we were overcome with a massive ebb tide, a pandemic, the power of which we could not anticipate or control. Just like the tide. Still, we recovered some of our important worship times together. We added a video recording to help meet the needs of our members unable to attend due to the pandemic.

We had started to develop ideas on how to return to coffee fellowship and still observe protective guidelines. Just as the tide was starting to "flood" COVID struck our church family and we were forced to close up in-person worship. To keep a small sense of worship, we modified the video recording to look more like a 35 minute church service. For those unable to attend or who lack technology to view the videos, we distributed a transcript of the enter worship service to those members.

Through it all, we have maintained great communication through the newsletter and

Chips Chatter-continued

weekly videos. We even did our annual stewardship drive in a manner that was similar to how we had done it before. We ended 2020 in excellent financial shape. And, the 2021 budget is a balanced budget. Yea God! We nearly achieved our stewardship goals. Thanks to everyone for helping out.

One of the good things that can happen during an ebb tide is it gives you a chance to work on or repair things. Many large sailboats tie up to a pier. As the water recedes, the large keel reaches the bottom. The water continues to recede and within a few hours, the hull of the boat is dry and clear. Maintenance such as painting and scraping can be done without the expense of haul out.

What does this talk of tides mean for us? It means that as the pandemic recedes and some parts of life return to a level of acceptable normalcy, there will also continue to be ebb and flood tides in our church. Just like maintenance done during low tide, we need to take advantage of this time to "tweak" how we do things. Is there a better way to run "Seekers?" Is there a better way to get information to our members grandchildren who may have fallen through the system of Christian education? Is there special music we can find to enhance our worship.

The tide comes and goes. Just like the experiences of each of our lives. But, we can remain strong in the Lord who will guide us, not only through the storms of life, but also through the extreme ebb tides we sometimes encounter. When the current gets so strong we dare not venture out, the Lord will provide the strength to continue……if we listen to his voice! He may not take away the tide, but he gives us the strength to ride the bad ones out.

Pastor Chip

Answers to Crossword Puzzle from January:

Across	Down
1-Cup	1-Chaste
3-Lethargic	2-Petal
9-Ono	3-Leo
10-Apttoachoo	4-Tac
12-An	5-Ado
14-Tulip	6-Go
16-Asinine	7-Ina
18-Badtempered	8-Convey
22-Halcyon	11-Hos
24-Tacky	13-Wipe
26-Ah	15-Pithy
28-Medicalman	16-Adman
32-Taj	17-Inept
34-Shrinking	19-Ally
35-Apt	20-Cheats
	21-Cygnet
	23-Odd
	25-Comma
	27-Hah
	29-Eon
	30-III
	31-Ang
	33-JR

Report from the BEMIDJI COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

Hi all,

Here are the 2020 statistics. We had about 1000 more visits than last year. I have a feeling the weights were under reported as weight was largely estimated over the summer. Thanks to everyone who helped get this food out to our community!

Cheers!

Mary Mitchell, Director
Bemidji Community Food Shelf
1260 Exchange Ave SE
PO Box 3118, Bemidji, MN 56619

Household Visits	12584
Total Individuals	31076
Children	12404
Adults	15126
Seniors	3546
Pounds Distributed	826620

Shelter Our Shelf (SOS)! We need your help in order to continue to serve our community. Last summer we learned that our roof is in extremely bad condition. We received bids from three area contractors and accepted one for $77,000. We have been conducting a “quiet campaign” and at the time of this writing, have raised about $54,000, including a very generous donation from the George W. Nielson Foundation. Now we are asking for your help to provide the balance. Please consider making an extra donation for our new roof. If received during March FoodShare, your donation will count toward our match. Please put “Roof” in the check memo or on the envelope so we can honor your intentions.

FROM LINNEA:

I ALSO TOOK OVER 133#’s of food generously donated. I don’t have the numbers of financial donations. If you would like that information, please call Cheryl at 751-1667.

FYI We as a church have not been volunteering since February of 2020.

Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, February 18th at MI Rancho at 5:30

Please sign up at the church office: by email presbji@paulbunyan.net–or–by phone; 444-5016

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

All are welcome!

From the Church Office

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 11-30-20

Monthly requirement to meet our budget $10,705.00

Total Income	$ 14,536.32
Total Expenses	$ 11,499.06
Net Income	$ 3,037.26

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance Report

Jan 3-17	No services
Jan. 24	20

February

6 Palmer Berg

7 Duane Hayes

14 Donna Dickinson

Meals on Wheels

is a great way to deliver meals for those who cannot fix for themselves or get out to get a hot meal at noon, and/or even seeing anyone for days. Our church has been delivering meals for a number of years (can't pinpoint a number) but it has been a long time. We always have a group of six to help with the delivering although our numbers to get help delivering are getting smaller.

I want to thank those who helped this last week. They are Donna Dickinson, Ken Paulson, Linnea Mostad, Becky Bastien, Gloria Phelps, Palmer Berg and myself. I am not sure we can continue with such a small number of people. We will see for next time how it works out.

Thanks again

Joan Forbes

February Benevolence 2021

The 4th Sunday benevolence for February is the Village of Hope in Bemidji. The mission of Village of Hope is to promote self worth and independence through the provision of temporary shelter and supportive services for families experiencing homelessness. Village of Hope is more than a place for a family to lay their heads or grab a meal. It is a place to plan for the future.

Sponsor a family as they build hope for the future:

$75 Sponsors a family for 24 hours.
$500 Sponsors a family for one week.
$2,000 Sponsors a family for one month.

This includes 3 meals and snacks each day, 24-hour emergency shelter, transportation assistance, case management, problem-solving skills, job search and housing assistance.

https://www.villageofhopebemidji.org/index.html

CARE PACKAGES FOR CHURCHES UNITED

We distribute the packages to the homeless and low-income clients we serve daily.
WHAT TO DO: Purchase large Ziploc Bags and fill them with needed items. Bring them to the Churches United office at Mt. Zion Church between 12 noon and 4pm.
Things to Include are: Shampoo/Conditioner; Toothbrushes/Toothpaste; Combs/Brushes; Soap; Feminine Items; Disposable razors/Shaving Cream; Small Packages of Tissues/ Whipes; Washcloths; Socks; And any other items you think someone in need would like.
We ask that the packages include no medicines or pain relievers as we are unable to distribute them.
These packages have brought smiles to clients we see daily. They appreciate the extra touch this thoughtful gifts brings.
The office also takes Marketplace Stamps, Diapers, Cleaming Supplies and more!

Churches United, Inc. 414 Lincoln Ave. SE, Bemidji, MN 56601

First Presbyterian Church

Bemidji, MN
December 15, 2020

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church fellowship hall on December 15 at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Palmer Berg,Linnea Mostad, Libby Underhill, Cheryl Hiltz
ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Gloria Phelps, Donna Dickinson
OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes, Joan Forbes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA **MSP** to **adopt** the agenda.

MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the October session meeting were **approved.**

CORRESPONDENCE

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed.
First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN,
Clerk's Report December 15, 2020
Weddings: none
Baptisms: none
Deaths: Joseph Paul Forbes March 7,1938 – November 19, 2020. Service is planned for spring of 2021.
New Members: none
Return to Active Membership: none
Request Transfer of Membership: Nell Cash, former active member
Removed from Membership Roll: None
Communion: November 1 – 28 served. Servers: Cheryl Hiltz and Gloria Phelps
Membership as of December 15, 2020=69
Sunday Worship Attendance Oct. 25 - 26, Nov. 1-28, No Worship held Nov. 8, 15 ,22, 29, Dec 6, 13

FINANCIAL REPORT Finances from September and October reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report
Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg Roof repair was done.
Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Pledges for 2021 are coming in but more are needed to meet basic expenses.
Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad No report.
Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill Our church is doing one Tub of Love.
Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps No report
Computer Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Midland software is being examined for cost saving and function.
Kitchen Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report.

OTHER BUSINESS
With the passing of Joe Forbes, a new person in charge of the Aldrich Fund is needed. **MSP** to approve Bob Naylor as Aldrich Fund supervisor. A second person will be found so two people can

access the fund.

Peter and Laurie Nordquist requested to become Affiliate Members. **MSP** to receive them as Affiliate Members upon receipt of their church's letter.

Due to Covid concerns, **MSP** to maintain closed-for-worship status and continue the use of video recordings. Review this decision at the next session meeting.

Taping of video services is done on Thursday mornings. People are encouraged to attend the tapings.

Due to Covid concerns, handling of the January Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be looked into.

Next Meeting: January 19 at 1:00 pm. In the fellowship hall. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Chip at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

New Church Office Hours

Tues, Wed and Thurs:

10:00am to 2:00pm

Bible Study

The Seekers will begin again as soon as we are able to meet. In the meantime listen and watch the recordings each week for any special announcements.

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who had died in various wars. He asked the pastor, "Who are these people?" The pastor said, "Those are members from our church who died in service." The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?" —Submitted by James Powers

As church secretary, I prepare the bulletin for each week's services.
One Sunday morning, I heard snickering from the pews. Quickly grabbing the bulletin, I found the cause. The sermon title for that day was: "What Makes God Sick: Pastor Joe Smith."

Sundays

10:00 am

Worship

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Memorial Service: Breanne Rex Russell
7 Chip Communion	8 Scouts not Meeting due To Covid	9	10	11	12	13
14 Chip	15 Scouts not Meeting due To Covid	16 1 pm Session Mtg	17	18 12:30—PEO 5:30 Supper Club Mi Rancho	19	20
21 Chip	22 Scouts not Meeting due To Covid	23	24	25	26	27
28						