

THE VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILLMAR



First Presbyterian Church is a caring and compassionate community of God's children in the heart of the city, welcoming all people and striving to work together to be Christ's hands and feet, spreading the good news of God's love throughout the world.

PASTORS NOTE

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12: 4-5)

Friends,

You may be familiar with the expression, "I'm spiritual, but not religious." It has certainly grown in popularity over the past few decades. While I applaud anyone who has a genuine faith and spirituality, as I'm convinced this is better than not. But what does one miss out on by not being an active part of a faith community? What do you miss by going it alone?

I ran across this list that tries to address this question. From author and church leader Sharad Yadav (with some small edits for language):

"As I try to remember why the [heck] I do this for a living, here is a handful of reasons, dear friends, to consider joining a church:

1. To join a church is to commit to a social circle you do not get to choose and can therefore show you whether your spirituality is [baloney] or not.
2. Joining a church is a way of practicing - among a small group of people over a significant period of time - what you'd like the world to be like.
3. To join a church is to live in rebellion against the neoliberal and capitalist forces which are brainwashing you into making your consumer desire the center of the world, reducing all your experiences of the world (including all the people in it) to instruments and resources.
4. Joining a church is to organize your life around a time to confess your limitations, culpability and imperfections together with other people so that you can get used to receiving divine forgiveness and hope in response to your honesty.
5. To join a church is to resist all traditional loyalties to state, party, culture, family or affinity in an act of loyalty to a group that transcends all natural categories.
6. Joining a church organizes your financial priorities around supporting an inclusive community for vulnerable people . . . that you actually have to live with.
7. To join a church is to cultivate an environment unlike your home, work or play where your life is not measured according to any other purpose or goal than to discover and enjoy your own humanity.
8. Joining a church is a way of maintaining healthy skepticism about human knowledge and capacities in the language of divine mystery.
9. To join a church is to cultivate an imagination for how your unique talents and creative potential can be offered on purpose for love instead of money.
10. Joining a church is a life lesson in how to deal with [jerks] without retaliating, dehumanizing or running away (in the desperate hope of not becoming [a jerk yourself])."

This fall we have been working through the 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality from our denomination's Vital Congregations Initiative. These 10 items intersect with so many of those marks. Do any of the items speak to your heart today? Would any of them enrich or enliven your spiritual or personal life? Would any of them help with your loneliness or anxiety or sense of disconnection? I encourage you to spend some time pondering and praying about these questions. And I look forward to seeing you soon!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota

The Vision:

Every West Central Minnesota resident has a decent, affordable place to call home and the necessary tools to ensure long-term financial stability.

The Mission Statement:

Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota believes in enhancing the lives of God's children one home at a time.

About Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota:

Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope. Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman, and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.



11/1 Alan Fritze
11/2 Tyler Bulthuis
11/5 Diann Anderson
11/7 Penelope Kappes
11/8 Rita Phillips
11/8 Owen Schrotberger
11/10 Kelly Jans
11/12 Renee Allen
11/12 Kacen Grunwald
11/12 Livi Magnuson

11/19 Mary Catherwood
11/20 Stacey Olson
11/22 Kelly Klinghagen
11/24 Bob Anderson
11/26 Joseph Thomas
11/27 Harper Luberts
11/28 Erica Boeyink
11/29 Karyssa Zaeska-Christianson
11/29 Chris Pappadackis

PRAYER REQUEST

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office or complete a request card and place in the offering plate. Requests are printed for one month unless otherwise requested.

Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

Jill Boeyink
Bea Ourada
Bonnie Fritze
George Ruter
Ried Arnold
Dorothy Caine
Mark Chamberlain
Jeanelle Stegeman (Kirsten Stegeman's Mother In-law)
Samuel Carver (John and Vicki Carver's Great Grandson)
Nada Bilky (Vicki Carver's Sister)
Jill Berglund (Mary Berglund's Daughter)

Prayers for Those Grieving:

The Family of Marie Woitaszewski (Terry Woitaszewski's Mother)
The Family of Kent Simonson and Pastor Michele Simonson Gawinski
(Karen Stern's Brother and Niece)
The Family of Sasha Rae Hugg (Pastor Scott Thompson's Cousin)
The Family of Ardella Hodgson (Mother of Jill Boeyink, and the entire Boeyink Family)

Prayers for those Serving Elsewhere:

LT. Matthew Sjerven, Colorado National Guard, Colorado Springs, CO

Tristian Woitaszewski (Terry Woitaszewski's Nephew) Navy, Pensacola, FL
Perry Bishop (Bruce and Pam Quimby's Grandson-in-law) Army, Fort Benning, GA
Noah Prout, (Barb Little's Nephew) Air Force, Afghanistan
Chandler D'Incau, (Bob and Rita Dincau's Grandson) Air Force, Beale AFB, Marysville, CA
Hayley D'Incau (Bob and Rita's Grandson's Wife), Beale AFB, Marysville, CA
Rob Grunwald, Coast Guard, Two Rivers, Wisconsin on Lake Michigan
Peter Rampaart, Rosemount, MN

Prayers for the Church Here and Abroad:

The People of Occidente Presbytery, Guatemala;
Mark and Miriam Adams, Frontero de Cristo, Douglas, AZ.
Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Reservation, ND

Also be in Prayers for:

Israel/Palestine (war)
Maui(fires)
Morocco (earthquakes)
Libya (flooding)

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Our church designated October as Wills Emphases: month. Across the denomination there is a recognition of this important part of our church life, and at some time during the year, the churches provide for some opportunity of looking at our past and honor the memory of those who have gone before and offer education on how we might consider your own plans. Sunday, October 16, Andrew Kveene, financial advisor for our church was guest and shared a minute for mission and then attended fellowship following worship. In introducing Andrew, Ben Lang noted some of the ways we have benefited from some who preceded us. Some gifts were large some small, but each has served to continue some part of this church's mission that was important to these people. How do you want to be remembered?

Means of providing is as varied as the people doing the providing. A part, or all of retirement funds; naming the church as life insurance beneficiary; a simple dollar amount or percentage of estate, stated in the will; or providing a current investment like a charitable gift annuity giving current income to you with distribution to church at you passing, are all possibilities. Your financial or legal advisor can assist you if you need some assistance with your planning.

Looking at the sidebar, you will see that 2023 continues to show a healthy financial picture for our church. There are several things combining to make this happen. The investments continue to do well for us with good stewardship and guidance from our financial advisor. Some expenses we put into the budget were not as high as expected, or for some reason have not been necessary this year. Our staff and committees continue to be careful and prudent about how they carry on the daily business of the church. And last, but certainly not least, our church family continues to be faithful in their giving throughout the year. We at First Presbyterian in Willmar are so very blessed and have a wonderful church family and staff. In the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one."

The Per Capita for 2023 is \$44 per confirmed member. We have now paid our total Per Capita for 2023. Whatever portion of the per capita that you are able to contribute, we appreciate the help. This is a record year for member support for the Per Capita. And, this strong support is evident in the operating income covering the operating expenses. Thank you for your support and for recognizing how important this expenditure is. Our denomination does an amazing job of budgeting and keeping this cost so low, at all levels, and still serving the needs.

\$552 has been given for Extra Giving dollars so far this year. This ongoing practice helps with the end of year shortfall. God appreciates a cheerful giver, and so do we, the Budget and Finance Committee, financial secretary and treasurer! Thank you, we could not do this without you, nor could First Presbyterian be the Church in the Heart of Willmar with Heart!

PER CAPITA

2023 Per Capita is \$44, please pay as you are able. We will pay per capita to the Presbytery as it is given, through April with the balance paid in May. We appreciate your payment whenever you are able, but the sooner the better for the church cash flow.

2023 Per Capita Expense

\$9,596

2023 Per Capita Received

\$7,516

General Fund through September 30, 2023

General Fund Revenue:

\$ 182,643.00

Per Capita Giving:

\$7,516.00

Total General Fund Receipts:

\$190,159.00

Expenses:

\$164,148.00

2023 Per Capita Payment:

\$9,596.00

Total General Fund Expenses:

\$173,744.00

Revenue in excess of Expenses:

\$16,415.00

Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:

\$90,486.00

MISSION GIVING

(September)

\$1,255.00

Building Maintenance Loan (Roof)

\$58,743.58

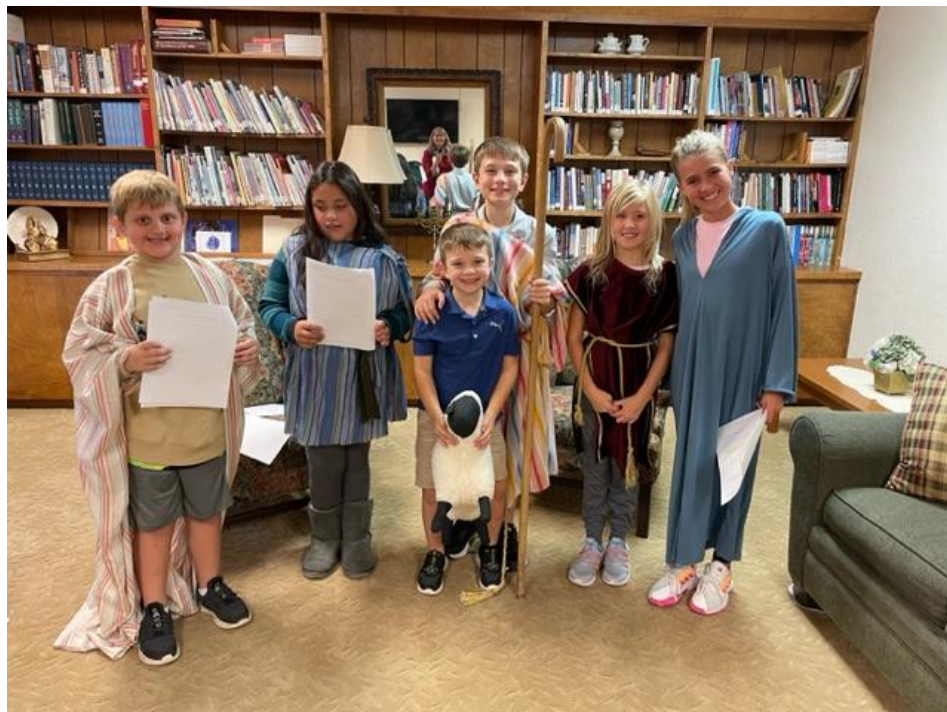
Youth and Children Announcements



Youth at Lulu Beans

The next LuLu Beans gathering for all youth, grades 6-12 will be on Saturday, November 11th at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to grab your LuLu Bucks from Jeff or Rita before you place your order.

Gospel Rock 2023



Youth Hay Ride & Labyrinth Walk



There will be NO Wednesday Night Live classes or activities on November 22 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes for all ages will resume the following week on November 29th.





CEYM Director Jill Boeyink will be out of the office the week of November 20-26. Please contact Committee Chair Bob Anderson if you need anything. Thank you!



“A Christmas To Believe In”

This year's children & youth Christmas program, titled “A Christmas To Believe In”, will leave you with the beautiful telling of the Christmas story through the eyes of those that were there all those years ago. Narrators will guide you through the story of Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, along with the angels who deliver good news. When one of the narrators wonders if the story is true, at the end he finds that it really is “A Christmas To Believe In!” Join us for this cute, warm-hearted program of love, hope, joy and peace, setting the stage for this season of Advent and Christmas, during the worship service on Sunday, December 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Program Practice Dates for children & youth:

- Wednesday, November 29 at 6:20 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 6 at 6:20 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13 at 6:20 p.m.
- Saturday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. with Program to follow at 10:00



Program Practice

"Wednesday Night Live" (WNL) Classes

From 5:30pm-7:30pm

Each Wednesday begins with a catered meal
in JKH at 5:30pm, followed by a short time of Worship.

STARTING AT 6:20pm:

ABC Faith

All Adults

John Knox Hall

Rainbow Venture

Preschool- 1st Grade

Rainbow Venture Class Room

Gospel Rock

Grades 2-5

Family Cafe

Youth Group

Grades 6-12

Youth Room

ALL ARE INVITED AND WELCOME

****Nursery Care provided as well!**

Church Annoucements

Vital Congregation Initiative Update



By now you've likely heard the terms "Vital Congregations Initiative". Our church is using this set of seven "marks" or characteristics of healthy and vital churches to hold up a mirror. What do we see in that mirror? Do we see the image of Jesus Christ in that mirror? And are we being the church that Christ asks us to be at this time and in this place?

So far we have looked through the lens of "Spirit Inspired Worship" and "Lifelong Discipleship Formation" as both Wednesday Nite Live and Sunday sermon topics. Pastors Leanne and Scott are doing a **great job** unpacking these terms for us and giving us real life context for this work. Hope you join in if you haven't been able to as yet.

Also, as a whole church we continue to pray together asking the Lord to be present in our discernment journey using our prayer booklets. If you do not have a prayer guide, please contact Shara at the church and she can forward one to you.

Sheila Sjerven and Ben Lang, VCI Facilitators

Starting at 4:00pm



Fall Back 1 Hour

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH



Light of the World

An Ecumenical Evening Prayer

7pm

Sunday, Oct 1 Eagle Lake Lutheran

Sunday, Nov 5 First Presbyterian

Willmar, MN



**WE NEED HELP MAKING COOKIES
FOR THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD SERVICE
ON NOVEMBER 5TH**

**SIGN UP SHEET
IS IN THE NARTHEX**



It's time for the annual Willmar Holidaze parade on Saturday, November 18 beginning at 6:30 p.m. We are all set to dust off the wooden horses that have become a popular tradition of our church and the parade. Children will be gearing up to ride these adorable horses, as we light up the evening skies with twinkling Christmas lights. So, please come out to the parade and support our children and youth, along with their parents, as we kickoff the season of Christmas!





Christmas Cookies Needed!!

We will need cookies made
for the Holidaze Event held
here after the parade. If you
would be willing to help out,
please sign up in the Narthex.
Thank you!!

MEN'S

Bible Study

Every Tuesday Morning
in the Friendship Room
at **8:00am.**

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

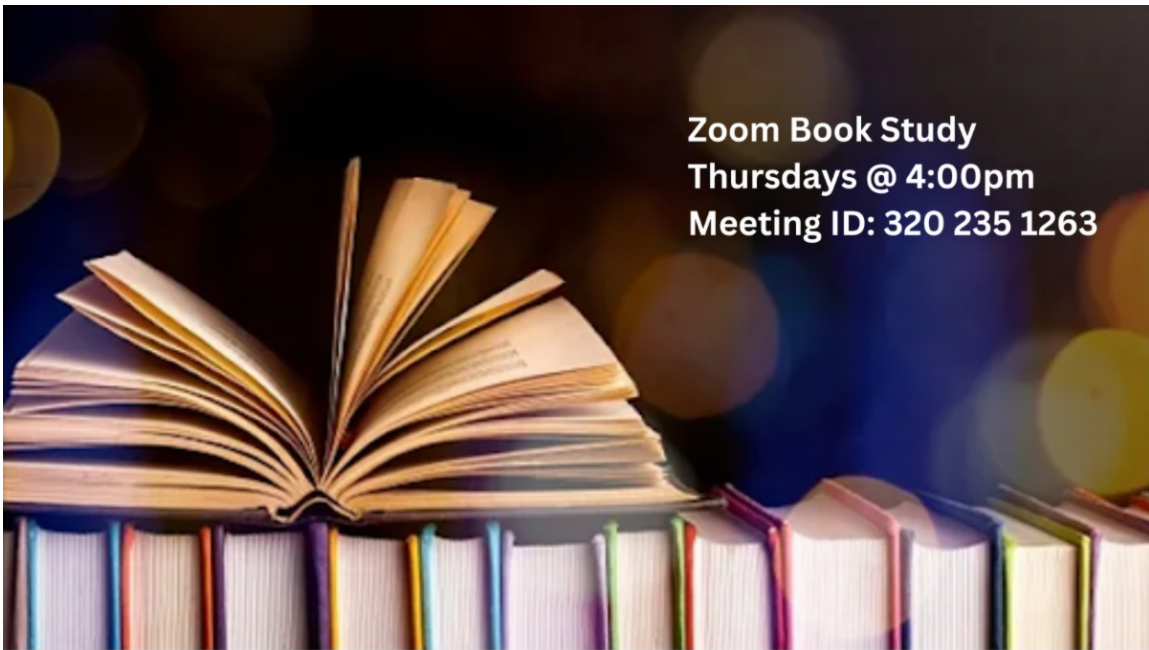


Wednesdays at 8:00am
at THE GOODNESS downtown

Women's BIBLE STUDY

Bring your Bible and join us for
Coffee, Conversation, and Prayer.





Zoom Book Study
Thursdays @ 4:00pm
Meeting ID: 320 235 1263



We are in need of Coffee Fellowship Volunteers for Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings. If you are able to volunteer for a Sunday or two, please sign up on the sheet in JKH or contact Shara in the office during office hours. Thanks in advance!

We need NOVEMBER filled, please!

REMINDER:
We have an ONLINE giving option.

GIVE NOW

Go to our church website homepage at www.fpchurchwillmar.org and click on "GIVE NOW" or click the "GIVE NOW" button to the right

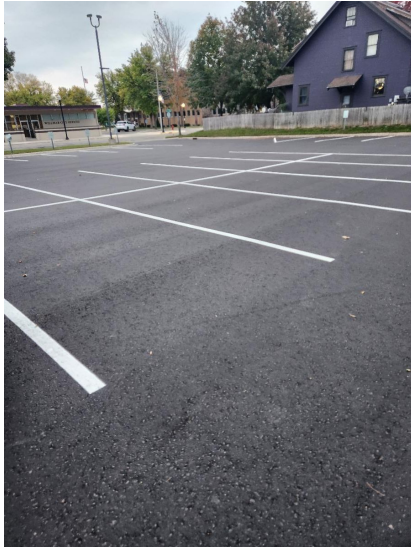
You can still give in the traditional ways. This does not replace offerings by cash or check dropped in the offering plate or sent to the church. If that is how you prefer to give, please continue to do so.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you all for your prayers and well wishes during my recent, unexpected surgery and recovery. Also, a big thank you for the cards & flowers, in addition to lining up meals to be brought in so that Scott didn't have to cook. I'm doing so much better, and look forward to getting back to my regular work schedule at the church. Again, thank you for your love and kindness, I appreciate it so very much!

Jill Boeyink

The church parking lot has a new and refreshed look!!



MONTHLY CALENDAR

***Worship Services are held in the Sanctuary and streamed on Facebook LIVE**

1 Wednesday

8:00am: Women's Bible Study at The Goodness

9:30am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

2 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

5:30pm: Kiwanis Touch of Life Banquet

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

3 Friday

4:00pm: Social Hour at the Foxhole

4 Saturday

5:30pm: Family Fun Night at Scott and Jill Boeyink's Home

5 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship with Communion

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

7:00pm: Light of the World Service at First Presbyterian Church of Willmar

7 Tuesday

8:00am: Men's Bible Study in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

4:00pm: Zoom Book Study with Pastor Leanne

8 Wednesday

8:00am: Women's Bible Study at the Goodness

9:30am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

9 Thursday

COMMITTEE MINUTES DEADLINE

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team Practice in the Sanctuary

11 Saturday

10:00am: Youth at LuLu Beans

12 Sunday

9:00am: Nurture and Fellowship in the Choir Room and Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

14 Tuesday

8:00am: Men's Bible Study in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

4:00pm: Zoom Book Study with Pastor Leanne

6:30pm: CEYM in the CEYM Office, Deacons in the Choir Room, and Mission in the Admin Office

15 Wednesday

VOICE DEADLINE

8:00am: Women's Bible Study at the Goodness

9:30am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

16 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

6:30pm: Session in the Choir Room

17 Friday

4:00pm: Social Hour at the Foxhole

18 Saturday

6:30pm: Holiday Parade with Hot Cocoa and Cookies after at FPC

19 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

21 Tuesday

8:00am: Men's Bible Study in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

10:30am: College Meal Prep in the Kitchen

22 Wednesday

8:00am: Women's Bible Study at the Goodness

NO Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

10:00am: College Meal

NO Wednesday Night Live Classes

23 Thursday

THANKSGIVING DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

26 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

28 Tuesday

8:00am: Men's Bible Study in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

4:00pm: Zoom Book Study with Pastor Leanne

29 Wednesday

8:00am: Women's Bible Study at the Goodness

9:30am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

30 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

November 2nd-November 8th: Pastor Leanne is gone on study leave

November 20th-November 25th: Jill is out on vacation

November 27th: Shara is out of the office

The office is closed on Fridays.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rev. Scott Thompson
Co-Pastor
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Rev. Leanne Thompson
Co-Pastor
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Shara Goldenstein
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Jill Boeyink
CEYM Director/Music Team
Director
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Deb Lang
Financial Secretary
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Tom Wodash
Custodian

Now Hiring
Nursery Supervisor

Bea Ourada
Treasurer
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Betty Knutson
Clerk of Session
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Church Email:
fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Church Website:
www.fpchurchwillmar.org



Pastoral Care
Emergency Phone:
320-737-0649

Visit our
website

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