

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

After consulting with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed musicians to play for the Lord, praising his majestic holiness. They were to march out before the warriors, saying "Give thanks to the Lord because his faithful love lasts forever!"
2 Chronicles 20:21

Dear Friends,

In my youth I had the privilege of attending camp at Camp Rimrock, the Presbyterian camp in the Black Hills. I loved camp. I really loved M.A.D Camp (Music, Art, and Drama Camp)! It was all my favorite activities. In the span of one week we rehearsed and performed a musical. It was intense, but so much fun. And I have never forgotten a single musical we performed. I can still sing the songs today. My favorite musical was the year we performed "Fat, Fat, Jehoshaphat."

If you are not familiar with the story, here it is in a nutshell. Jehoshaphat was the king of the nation of Judah, who found themselves in the unfortunate position of facing invasion from three rival nations: the Moabites, the Ammonites, and the Meunites. With this threat bearing down on his nation, Jehoshaphat seeks the Lord and asks all Judah to fast (which is how fat, fat, Jehoshaphat becomes flat, flat, Jehoshaphat). Through a prophet named Jahaziel, the Lord tells Jehoshaphat that He will deliver Judah without a fight. Believing the word of the prophet to be true, Jehoshaphat does something radical – he goes out to battle with the choir leading the way in front of the soldiers, singing praise to the Lord. While the nation of Judah sings praises to God, they watch their enemies turn on one other and destroy each other without Judah having to lift a sword. If you would like to read the story for yourself, you can find it in 2 Chronicles, chapter 20.

I have been thinking about this story as the COVID-19 pandemic stretches into another month, prompting further cancellations and disruptions. It feels as if we are under attack on multiple fronts: we are battling an illness whose impact we cannot fully predict; we are fighting to keep our heads above water financially; we are caught in the crossfire of political posturing. Like the nation of Judah, we might be tempted to give in to fear and despair; we may be wondering how we can survive against this foe. Perhaps this is the time to take direction from the good king and turn to God in prayer. There will, no doubt be losses – loss of income, loss of security, loss of loved ones. But giving in to fear and despair will not change the outcome. Our best hope is to practice a faithful fast – fasting from worship in our sanctuary, fasting from public gatherings, fasting from blame and finger-pointing. And, like the nation of Judah, let us lead with praise. Lift your voice in songs of praise and choruses of encouragement. May songs of hope sustain us and lift our spirits as we remember *the battle is not ours; it belongs to God* (2 Chronicles 20:15).

In Peace,
Pastor Leanne

COVID-19 Update:
First Presbyterian Church has suspended all face to face gatherings
(worship, committee meetings, small groups)
through the end of May.

Virtual Communion

Christ is made present to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not confined to a particular building, place, or time. Because we believe that sharing Communion is an act of faith, and because we need the nourishment that comes from sharing Christ's feast, we will be celebrating Communion *virtually* for the month of May. What does that mean?

- Pastor Scott and Pastor Leanne will lead us through the traditional and familiar words and actions of communion. They will break bread, pour the cup, and speak the words of institution, inviting Christ to be present with us wherever we are.
- You will supply your own bread and cup. There are no strict rules about this. The bread represents the common food of common people. It can be any variety of bread, crackers, rice cakes, or tortillas – whatever you have available to you. The cup, likewise, was the common beverage of the day. Traditionally, that would have been wine. In our worship service we use grape juice. You may use either of these, or whatever juice or beverage you have available. Remember, the bread and cup are symbols, the presence of Christ is made real in them by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Please let us know that you shared in this wider offering of God's gracious feast by commenting on the Facebook worship video feed or sending a message (text or email) to the pastors.



5/2 Don Dean
5/6 Mercedes Ann Schueler
5/7 Matthew Hathcock
5/8 Sara Roelofs
5/8 Rebecca Armstrong
5/9 Bea Ourada
5/11 James Kueseman
5/11 Barb Samuelson
5/12 Brock Lesteberg
5/15 Rita Dincau
5/15 Alexis Kaenel
5/20 Ashley Boeyink
5/20 Kathryn Gubrud
5/21 Connie Spartz
5/23 Presley Magnuson
5/23 Jada Tatge
5/24 David Ellwood
5/24 Nicole Reich
5/26 Jay Goldenstein
5/27 Michele Odens
5/29 Gerald Ruter
5/29 Ryan Lesteberg
5/29 Nathan Jans
5/31 Juliette Anderson

Church Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

- David Ellwood
- Mike Bakke
- Carol Lange (Richard Lange's Mother)
- Jeff Campbell (Marguerite Austin's Brother)
- Ried Arnold

- Linda Thomas
- John (Jack) Tatge (Roger Tatge's Brother)
- Mark Jackson (Marilyn Goeddert's Nephew)
- Norman Berglund
- Mark Chamberlain
- Elaine and Kent Boyd
- John Carver
- Fanchon Ellwood
- Steve and Bette Ourada
- Arlen Sjerven
- Norm Tempel
- Jill Berglund (Norm & Mary Berglund's Daughter)
- Keith Ergen (Mary Berglund's Grandson-in-law)
- Lori Peterson (Beci Eliason's Mother)
- Merle Stiles (Sister of Connie Spartz)

Prayers for those Who Grieve:

- The Family of Chyrstell Cherrington (Linda Thomas's Mother)
- The Family of Wayne Hanson (Diann Anderson's Brother)

Prayers for those Serving Elsewhere:

- Tristian Woitaszewski (Terry Woitaszewski's Nephew) Navy, Pensacola, FL
- Cameron Johnston (Bruce and Pam Quimby's Son-in-law) Army, Fort Riley, KS
- Perry Bishop (Bruce and Pam Quimby's Grandson-in-law) Army, Syria
- Matthew Sjerven (Grandson of Arlen and Sheila Sjerven) Fort Gordon, GA
- Noah Prout, (Barb Little's Nephew) Air Force, Afghanistan
- Chandler D'Incau (Bob and Rita's Grandson) GoodFellow AFB, San Angelo, TX
- Rob Grunwald, Coast Guard, Saugerties, New York;
- Sam Husmann (Nephew of the Pastors) Navy, Everett, WA.

Prayers for the Church Here and Abroad:

- The People of Occidente Presbytery, Guatemala;
- Minnesota Valleys Presbytery- Union Presbyterian Church, St. Peter, MN;
- Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Reservation, ND.

Take a moment & pray for these as well:

- Prayers for all the essential people working on the front lines.
- Prayers for our leaders to guide our country through this pandemic.
- Prayers that the people of our country to stay safe by abiding by the rules put upon us to control this virus and we "stay safe at home".
- Prayers for all people to have faith in God during this time.
- God will carry us through this time of turbulence. "God is Good"!

May Small Group Schedule

These will take place over Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact the pastors to receive the phone number/email link to join the Zoom gathering.

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7am

Contact: scott.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7am

Contact: leanne.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Bibles & Brew

Alternating Tuesdays at 7pm (May 5th & 19th)

Contact: jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Jr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Contact: jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Sr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays at 1pm

Contact: jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Caring Hearts Fund



As a Church known for being “a church with heart in the heart of Willmar,” we often have individuals and families walking in asking for help with food, gas money, shelter, or other incidentals. Many of us take for granted that we will have gas in our tanks to get to a medical appointment or work. We could find it in our family budget to purchase a warm coat, or a bus ticket to visit a family member who is ill. We don’t wonder if we will have a place to sleep when it’s pouring rain or bitter cold outside. Now, in this season of

COVID-19, families are experiencing extra hardships. Our pastors offer the hospitality of a listening ear, a word of encouragement, and prayer. When possible, they help connect these folks to resources in the community that can help meet their needs. When there aren’t other options available, they do their best to help in the small ways that resources allow. That is why we have a fund called the *Caring Hearts Fund*. This fund provides the pastors with funds that can be used, at their discretion, to respond to the needs of our neighbors. **May is the month that our mission offering goes to this Caring Hearts Fund. Please consider supporting this important ministry to our community.**

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP **COMMITTEE REPORT**

We are grateful that the March numbers are very similar to February! March was a five-Sunday month which usually gives a little spurt in giving, but with the pandemic we started worship on line for three of those Sundays. March completed the first quarter and so we had investment income as part of these totals.

We will pay the per capita balance to Presbytery by April 30. We remind you to pay the \$42 per confirmed member as you are able and we welcome the payment at any time during the year. Our total obligation is \$ 9,783 this year.

Extra giving to date is \$208. Operating expenses go on, whether the doors are open or not, with some not as high and others higher. And we know the same is true for each of you. Some people will have to set aside their commitment and pledge until things return to normal. Please consider an extra gift if you can.

A big thank you to those who have mailed in their contributions. For some time we have looked at setting up on line giving. With the website in place it is possible for us to add this alternative mode of giving. The application has been sent to the Presbyterian Foundation and they are processing. There are many churches who are applying due to the pandemic but we hope it will be in place by the time you read this. All the funds, monthly mission causes, etc. will be available for you to select.

Online giving will be one more choice in addition to regular giving by check and cash. You will still be able to make gifts in other ways. We provide for automatic bank transfers monthly. People who reach the age of required distributions from IRA accounts may direct that distribution to the church (or other non-profit) and may realize some tax benefit as well. Gifts of appreciated stock or other assets may be given. At any time if any alternative giving interests you, talk to Deb or Bea with any questions.

ABOVE ALL, STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY. We look forward to the day we can join together in worship and fellowship!

PER CAPITA

The 2020 per capita is \$42 per confirmed member. First Presbyterian Church, and every Presbyterian church in this Presbytery pays per capita for each confirmed member. Our share of the total is \$10,048 and your share is \$42.

2020 Per Capita Expense

\$9,783

2020 Per Capita Received

\$3,479.00

General Fund through March 31, 2020

General Fund Revenue:	
\$54,246.00	
Per Capita Giving:	
\$3,479.00	
Total General Fund Receipts:	
\$ 57,725.00	
Expenses:	
\$ 56,206.00	
Per Capita Payment:	
\$3,479.00	
Total General Fund Expenses:	
\$59,685.00	
Expenses in excess of Revenues:	
\$1,960.00	
Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:	
\$86,095.00	
Internal Loan:	
\$4,000.00	

Youth and Children Announcements



This announcement comes with many heavy hearts as the CEYM Committee has made the very difficult decision to cancel this year's Vacation Bible School, which was scheduled to take place June 14 thru June 17.

Also cancelled is the Jr. High mini-mission project, which was set for June 25, along with the Sr. High mission trip to the Twin Cities the week of July 20.

These painful decisions, made during the Committee's April 14th Zoom meeting, were not easy or without robust discussion. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our families who have had to endure so many changes and cancellations during the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to the day when we can celebrate your children and youth with the ongoing events in the life of the church this Fall!



Confirmation, Gospel Rock & Youth Group Awards Banquet

Because of the Covid-19 extended stay at home order, and the safety of our church families, the end-of-the-year Gospel Rock and Youth awards dinner scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th **will now be a joint awards/kick off dinner on Wednesday, September 16.** We'll celebrate with a fiesta party in John Knox Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.





Pictured above are Aven and Presley Magnuson, Brock and Gabe Lesteberg, and Keana and Mia Goldenstein. Each of these Gospel Rock students received directions and supplies to make this Easter craft at home, along with a short lesson and gift card to Dairy Queen. Many thanks to their teachers, Tammy Douglas and Darcy Forkrud for coming up with this idea to connect with their class during the stay at home order, and thanks to the kids for sending in their pictures!

Church Announcements

If you and/or someone you know (that does not have email) from the church would like the May/June Upper Room Devotional Guide, please email Shara at fpcwillmar@gmail.com and she will get it mailed to you!!

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Different Brews  *Different Views*
BIBLE & BREW
— BEER, CONVERSATION, & GOD —

Via



Bible and Brew

Bibles and Brew for Young Adults of our church will be Tuesday, May 5th and May 19th at 7:00pm via Zoom. Check the Young Adult Facebook Group for the Zoom details the day of each gathering.

Not yet apart of the Young Adult Facebook Group?? Email the church office at fpcwillmar@gmail.com to get added.



ALL CHURCH MISSION PROJECT

**POSTPONED
DATE TBD**



We Can Do It!!

CANCELLED



**WILLMAR FEST PARADE IS
CANCELLED THIS YEAR DUE
TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC.**

Our 2020 Senior Graduates

Isabelle Kienholz

Parents:

Kelly and Dorothy Keinholz

Future Plans:

Isabelle plans on attending Ridgewater College while living at home.



Elliot Christensen

Parents:

Cory Christensen
and Jason Zook

Future Plans:

Elliot plans on attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison

Andrea Walz

Parent:

Karen Skaggs

Future Plans:

Andrea will be attending Ridgewater College in the fall with plans to attend St. Cloud State for Radiologic Technology in the future.



150th Anniversary

2020 marks the 150th anniversary year for First Presbyterian Church, Willmar, MN. Watch this space for coming events, important updates, and anecdotes from our history.



150th Anniversary Year CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Men's Event July (date TBD)

Plans are underway for a day long men's getaway.
Stay tuned for further updates.

Ice Cream Social August 8, 2020

2:00 – 4:00 in John Knox Hall. Gather with present/past church members. Enjoy some special treats, view historical displays and reminisce.

Anniversary Worship Service August 9, 2020

Worship Service at 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Church Banquet at Noon at the Willmar Community Center.
Meal is free; RSVP is required by July 7th, 2020.

Community Concert September 12, 2020

Join us for an outdoor Inter-generational Family Concert on the church grounds.
Music/games/food. Free to the community.

Advent Festival December 6, 2020

Immediately following the worship service.
Lunch will be provided in the Family Café,
followed by crafts in John Knox Hall.

Community Concert Saturday, September 12, 2020

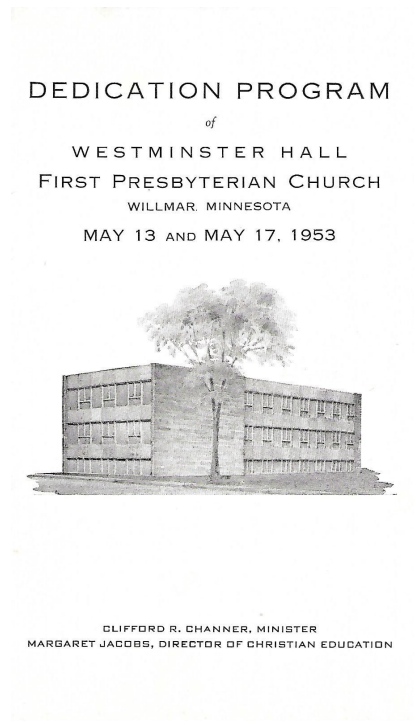
Join us for an outdoor inter-generational Family Concert on the church grounds.
Music/games/food. Free to the community.

We will be having entertainment by "The Jolly Pops. For some free fun virtual (Facebook) entertainment for your littles, click on the link. There is a new LIVE video everyday.



[The Jolly Pops Facebook Page](#)

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY



Westminster Hall, the Christian Education wing of our church
was formally dedicated on Sunday, May 17, 1953.
The Willmar Tribune, dated May 15, 1953, detailed the special events of the day:

Sunday School

The Sunday School's portion of the program, which begins at 10:15 a.m., will include songs by the children in the beginner and primary departments, to be followed by the litany of dedication, led by W. G. Ferguson, Sunday School Superintendent. The Chapel Choir, under the direction of Mrs. C. R. Channer, will sing "I Was Glad," followed by the dedicatory prayer by Dr. C.M. Kleinhuizen.

Morning Worship

At the morning worship service, beginning at 11:00 a.m., Mr. Eldon Wenzel, Minnesota Synod executive, will deliver the dedication sermon which has been entitled "Beyond the Incidental." Music for the morning service will include a selection by the choir, under the direction of Mrs. C. M. Kleinhuizen, a vocal solo by Mrs. A. L. Walkup, and the organ prelude and postlude by Organist Mrs. G. M. Robbins.

Open House

Sunday afternoon will be devoted to a three-hour open house event at Westminster Hall, to which the general public is cordially invited. The Women's Association of the church, with Mrs. J. H. Robertson, president, and Mrs. Rudolph Sanderson, second vice president in charge, will serve refreshments to the visitors.

Sunday Evening

Dr. Charles J. Turck, president of Macalester College in St. Paul, will be the guest speaker at a community service Sunday evening, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Dr. Turck's address will deal with the relation of church and state with emphasis on Christian education. The choir of the First Methodist Church of Willmar, under the direction of S. R. Sonnickson, will furnish the special music. Following the evening program, Westminster Hall will again be open to visitors from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m., which will mark the close of the day's events.



Above are pictures taken the day of the Dedication of Westminster Hall, 5/17/53



Stay tuned for more fun memories!!



3 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live with Virtual Communion

5 Tuesday

7:00am: Men's Bible Study via Zoom

6:30pm: Deacons via Zoom

7:00pm: Bible and Brew via Zoom

6 Wednesday

NO Women's Bible Study via Zoom

1:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

10 Sunday

8:45am: Nurture and Fellowship

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

12 Tuesday

7:00am: Men's Bible Study via Zoom

5:00pm: Worship Committee via Zoom

6:30pm: CEYM via Zoom, Mission via Zoom

13 Wednesday

7:00am: Women's Bible Study via Zoom

1:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

6:30pm: Building & Grounds via Zoom

15 Friday

VOICE DEADLINE

17 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

19 Tuesday

7:00am: Men's Bible Study via Zoom

6:30pm: Budget & Stewardship via Zoom

7:00pm: Bible and Brew via Zoom

20 Wednesday

7:00am: Women's Bible Study via Zoom

1:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

21 Thursday

COMMITTEE MINUTES DUE

24 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

26 Tuesday

7:00am- Men's Bible Study via Zoom

27 Wednesday

7:00am: Women's Bible Study via Zoom

1:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

28 Thursday

6:30pm: Session via Zoom

31 Sunday

Did You Know??

The church website is another great tool to stay connected to the church!

Shara has made some more wonderful changes to the church website recently!!

Take some time today, this week, or this month and click on the link labeled "visit our website" or go to www.fpchurchwillmar.org to check out the new changes.

[Visit our website](#)

CHURCH CONTACTS

**Rev. Scott Thompson
Co-Pastor**

scott.fpcwillmar@gmail.com
320-403-0509

**Jill Boeyink
CEYM Director/
Music Team Director**

jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

**Erica Boeyink
Nursery Supervisor**

Church Phone:
320-235-1263



**Rev. Leanne Thompson
Co-Pastor**

leanne.fpcwillmar@gmail.com
320-262-6169

**Deb Lang
Financial Secretary**

deb.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

**Bea Ourada
Treasurer**

bfourada@gmail.com

Church Email:
fpcwillmar@gmail.com

**Shara Goldenstein
Administrative Assistant**

fpcwillmar@gmail.com

**Jerry & Sue Schiro
Custodians**

**Betty Knutson
Clerk of Session**

bettyknutson722@gmail.com
320-222-1613

Church Website:
www.fpchurchwillmar.org

[Visit our website](#)