

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



Dear Friends,

*"Through laziness, the roof sags; through idle hands, the house leaks."
Ecclesiastes 10:18*

The Bible is full of these zingers, these little one liners of wisdom. They are found most commonly in the parts of the Bible we call the *Wisdom Literature* (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs). I love them because they are so practical and down to earth. And so much like real life. In real life, leaky roofs happen. As we have noticed increasing problems with our aging church roof we recognized that we couldn't sit idly by and ignore the situation. It was time for something to be done.

As this verse from Ecclesiastes nudges us to remember, leaving a problem to fester is not good stewardship. We have a responsibility to care for this property and maintain it for the work, ministry, mission, and fellowship that happen here. That is why the Session made the responsible and necessary decision to replace the roof. It is an expensive endeavor in the range of \$140,000. We are fortunate to have the financial resources to take loans from our endowment funds to cover the expense. But those funds have designated purposes for unique missions and ministries, and we have a responsibility to pay them back.

That is why you will see a special request for extra giving to our *Building Maintenance Fund* as part of the stewardship campaign this year. This is your church; yours are the hands that do the work of keeping the roof from sagging. If it seems overwhelming, consider the words of Mother Teresa:

*"None of us, including me, ever do great things.
But we can all do small things, with great love,
and together we can do something wonderful."*

This is true of roofs, and it is true of the meaningful things that happen under the roof. In this place, all of us contribute what we can, investing in this community that is so important to us. Those gifts might be financial, like the ones that help repair the roof, pay the bills, or support a mission project. But it may also be the gifts of your time, talents, and presence that contribute to creating a place of welcome, acceptance, and grace. Small or large, every gift matters.

As we enter into the season of Stewardship Commitment during the month of September, I invite you to *Raise the Roof* with us as we explore how to live lives of faithful stewardship. You will find more information about our sermon series in the newsletter, and you should watch for your stewardship packet to arrive in the mail. I truly believe that together, we can do great things.

In Peace and Partnership,
Pastor Leanne



Stewardship 2021 Sermon Series

September 12

Raise the Roof with Our Tithes and Offerings
Matthew 27:24-27

September 19

Outdoor Worship - Staff Appreciation & Blessing of the Animals

Raise the Roof with Our Gratitude and Praise
Psalm 95:1-7

September 26

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Raise the Roof with Our Compassion and Service
Mark 2:1-5



Sunday, September 19th

Outdoor Worship with Blessing of the Animals

***Bring a lawn chair if you have one**

Friends, this is “bring your pets to church” day! A popular Sunday school song says, “all God’s critters got a place in the choir.” On September 19th, they will also have a place in our worship. We will be meeting outdoors for worship and offering a “blessing of the animals.” Just to be clear, *animals* refers to all living creatures, domesticated or wild, with whom we share our lives. You can bring your pets, safely contained, whether they be large or small. If you are not able to bring an animal, you may wish to bring a picture of the animal you love, or of an endangered species. Beloved stuffed animals are also welcome.



9/1 Gary Manzer
9/1 Robin Raasch
9/4 Bev Donley
9/5 Deb Willis
9/6 Ashley Johnson
9/6 Nicholas Johnson
9/8 Gerald Tallakson
9/16 Fanchon Ellwood
9/18 Katie Drexler
9/20 Stephen Thomas
9/20 Perry Lemke

9/20 Aubriaunna Lemke
9/22 Brinley Boeyink
9/23 Kristine Schueler
9/23 Caroline Bell
9/25 Melanie Hathcock
9/25 Madison Douglas
9/25 Samantha Marquardt
9/27 Michelle Schoolmeester
9/27 John Tatge
9/27 Brianna Schoolmeester

Church Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

Summer and Jeff Schmitz and Family
Georgia (Marguerite Austin's Sister)
Dallas Allen (Renae Allen's Mother)
Kyla Anderson (Bob and Diann Anderson's Niece)
Jill Berglund (Mary Berglund's Daughter)
Ried Arnold
Mark Chamberlain
Lyle Avant (Christie Avant's Husband)
Vicki Carver
Rita Phillips
Norm and Diann Tempel

Prayers For Those Who Grieve:

The Family of Ruth Carlson (Dorothy Caine's Sister)

Prayers for those Serving Elsewhere:

Perry Bishop (Bruce and Pam Quimby's Grandson-in-law) Army, Syria
Matthew Sjerven (Grandson of b Sheila Sjerven) Fort Schofield, Hawaii
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, Two Rivers, Wisconsin on Lake Michigan
Peter Rampaart, Arden Hills, MN

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:

For the all the essential people working on the front lines.
Prayers for our leaders to guide our country through this pandemic.
Prayers for all people to have faith in God during this time. God will carry us through this time of turbulence. "God is Good".

MISSION OF THE MONTH



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

Peace is active, not passive. Peace is doing, not waiting. As we work to share Christ's

peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders. The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together, and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global brothers and sisters, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere. The Peace & Global Witness Offering provides the tools and resources for us to join together as active peacemakers. It helps us imagine and create in each of our individual expressions, and together as a whole Church, a witness to the God of Peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering builds on the Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking established in 1980. Twenty-five percent of our collection will be used by our congregation for our own peacemaking work; 25 percent will be used by our mid councils (the Presbyteries and the Synods of the church); and 50 percent will be shared with our denominational partners so that our witness to peace is extended, and we will help fulfill the daring prayer in 2nd Thessalonians: that the God of Peace is known "at all times in all ways."

There is so much peace we are only beginning to imagine, and so we pray hard, with our minds, our gifts, with our Church and all those who inspire a sense of God's Peace. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We are learning and re-learning what is normal. It is good to see so many youth activities returning—kids going to Clearwater Camp, a field trip to Valley Fair, and VBS with a welcome worship service well attended by family and friends. Sunday School classes are expected to resume in the fall. And, more committees are holding face to face meetings. The meetings are a welcome return to open participation. As with so many things, we appreciate these opportunities, after missing them for more than a year.

Something else that is normal, and not quite as welcome is the summer deficit. Take time to review the numbers on the side bar. We know from experience that as we go into the fall vacations are over and we again think about responding to the blessings in our lives and giving increases. We hope and pray that the deficit will be reduced significantly and end of the year needs and appeal will be small.

If you have been around the church property, you have noticed a major maintenance project, as the entire roof is repaired and replaced by West Central Roofing. After consideration, it was decided by the church leadership to fund this with internal loans, using some of the designated funds that are currently not being used. The repayment will be made by donations and the Building Maintenance Fund, which is funded partially by our occupancy income. Contributions to the Building Maintenance Fund are welcome.

The Per Capita for 2021 is \$43 per confirmed member. Our total obligation of \$10,148 toward the operation of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly has been paid. We continue to encourage confirmed members who have not yet paid their per capita to do so when able.

Extra giving to date is \$566. Extra giving helps to reduce the end of year deficit so that we can minimize our end of year appeal for help in balancing the budget. We have been blessed in recent years with close to break even and minimal appeal for additional giving. Let's keep it going!

We hope we will be seeing you back at worship and other activities, soon.
ABOVE ALL, STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY.

PER CAPITA

2021 Per Capita is \$43, please pay as you are able. We will pay per capita to the Presbytery as it is given, through March with the balance paid in May. We appreciate your payment whenever you are able, but the sooner the better for the church cash flow.

2021 Per Capita Expense

\$10,148

2021 Per Capita Received

\$6,921.00

General Fund through July 31, 2021

General Fund Revenue:

\$ 131,325.00

Per Capita Giving:

\$ 6,921.00

Total General Fund Receipts:

\$ 138,246 .00

Expenses:

\$132,734.00

Per Capita Payment:

\$10,148.00

Total General Fund Expenses:

\$142,882.00

Expenses in excess of Receipts:

\$4636.00

Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:

\$42,467.00

JULY MISSION

(Family Promise)

\$405.00

Total Donations Given to Family Promise

\$1,000.00

Youth and Children Announcements

RALLY SUNDAY

Join us for an Inter-generational “Rally Sunday” event on Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. in John Knox Hall! Come for a brief informal worship gathering with songs & readings, followed by a continental style breakfast with delicious cinnamon rolls, coffee and juice provided by the CEYM Committee. Don’t miss out on this get together marking the start of Sunday school & Adult Ed!



Calling ALL children (Grades 2-5) & Youth (Grades 6-12)! Gospel Rock and Youth Group are set to begin on **Wednesday, September 22 at 5:30 p.m.** with a short opening in John Knox Hall for all participants. Snacks and a drink will be served as you find out what wonderful opportunities are in store for you in the next year. From 6-7 p.m. you will meet with your teachers and leaders for your first night of activities. Parents, there will not be a meal for the whole family as in the past, as we strive to be safe and social distance with the children and youth. Please contact Jill Boeyink if you are interested in helping with any of our Wednesday education programs.



Youth at Lulu Beans

There will be NO youth “Coffee & Conversation” at LuLu Bean’s on Saturday, September 11th because of the Heart of Willmar 150th event at the church that same day from 10-2 p.m. We will resume our monthly gatherings on October 9th at 10 a.m.

Here's some EXCITING news! Jill Boeyink is looking for Sunday school teachers & assistants, along with Gospel Rock leaders for the 2021-2022 school year. This is so exciting because at this time last year, we weren't meeting in person, and Jill knows just how sad that was for everyone. Let's make up for lost time and help her fill these openings. Whether you'd like to help on a weekly or monthly basis, Jill needs you...and so do our kids. This is a wonderful opportunity to see first hand how awesome our church kids are.



Get involved by contacting Jill on Sunday mornings or calling/emailing her. She would be so EXCITED to hear from you!

Please SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 3rd has been designated as our first annual "Youth Focused Worship & Fellowship" service at 10 a.m. Bibles will be presented to our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students, children and youth will lead in worship, we will recognize teachers and leaders and fellowship will be hosted by church families! Come and celebrate the gifts that our young people have to offer to you on this very special Sunday!



Clearwater Forest Camper Kate Marquardt

August 1st-7th, 2021



VBS Celebration Worship Service

August 8th, 2021



[Click For More VBS Fun](#)

Youth Valleyfair Trip

August 11, 2021



Church Announcements



Sunday, September 19th Outdoor Worship

Join us in saying thank you to the wonderful people who work diligently and faithfully to carry out the work of the church. We are blessed to have a great team working together to embody the values of our church. We are so grateful for all they do. We will be honoring them in worship on September 19th. Come and show your appreciation!



DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?
The Deacons are looking into offering rides to Sunday Service for members that are not able to drive to church. If that is you, please email Shara at the church office at fpcwillmar@gmail.com or call her at 320-235-1263.

Stingers Game

August 8th, 2021



To see more Stingers Baseball Game pictures, click the link below!!

[Stingers Game Pictures](#)

Will You Lend Your Hands to Meaningful Service?

Can you bake a cake or a batch of cookies? Set a table? Help serve a simple lunch? Wash dishes and wipe down tables? Make phone calls to organize volunteers? Keep workers organized in the kitchen? If you can do any one of these simple tasks, then you can help provide an important ministry of compassion to grieving families in our church. We are reorganizing how we serve funeral meals, and we need your help. Whatever your schedule or ability, there is a way you can help! To find out more about where you can offer your hands to service, contact Bonnie Kluver (blkuver@tds.net). Many hands make for light service. Contact Bonnie today.



CALLING ALL WITH CROCHETING AND KNITTING TALENTS!!

We are looking for individuals that are skilled in crocheting and knitting. If that is you, we would love you to help us make our church pocket prayer shawls. All the details are in the PDF button!

Thank you in advance!!

[Pocket Prayer Shawls Instructional PDF](#)

REMINDER: We have an ONLINE giving option.

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

GIVE NOW

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. This is simply another option.

150th Anniversary



WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT OUR NEXT EVENT!!

**September 11, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
“The Heart of Willmar 150” Celebration**

Art Activities
Balloon Artist
Touch -A-Truck
Jolly Pops Concert at 11:00
Additional entertainment at 12:30 and 1:00
William Crooks Locomotive on display
Rides on the FPC wooden ponies
Carnival Games
Bounce House
Food Trucks

**Events take place on the church grounds and adjacent streets
All Activities are FREE to the Community
Invite your family and friends!**

COMING SOON!!

October 17 – Anniversary Worship Service and Banquet
Worship Service at 10:00 am followed by a banquet in John Knox Hall.
Meal is free. RSVP required by September 20, 2021.

December 5, 2021 – Advent Festival
Immediately following the worship service.
Lunch will be provided in the Family Café, followed by crafts in John Knox Hall.

**The JOLLY POPS Are Coming!
The JOLLY POPS Are Coming!**

Outdoor Concert
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th
11:00 a.m.



“Who are **The JOLLY POPS**, you ask?” They’re a group of dads from the Twin Cities who deliver music programs featuring lots of movement and fun. And they’re coming to Willmar to perform right outside our door, as part of the **“Heart of Willmar 150”** celebration!

The concert will provide music for all ages (even adults!) but will especially appeal to preschool and elementary aged children. So spread the word to your kids, your grandkids, your neighbors and anyone else you may meet. You won’t want to miss this lively performance!

Jolly Pops



ALSO – The Anniversary Committee Needs your help!

WEDDING PHOTOS – Were you, a family member, or friend married at First Presbyterian Church, Willmar? If so, we need your pictures! We would like one photo only, and would prefer a picture of just the wedding couple (but a full bridal party is acceptable). Also, a shot taken inside or outside the church is preferable to one taken at an offsite location. **However**, if you were married by FPC pastors and your wedding was held elsewhere, we still want your picture! Just send us what you have.

Send the pictures via email to Shara at fpcwillmar@gmail.com or bring them in to the church office and Shara will scan them for you.

CONFIRMATION PHOTOS – We are also looking for Confirmation photos. These are the years that **we already have**:

**1957 1963 1964 1966 1967 1968 1969 1983 1984 1986 1988 1989
1990 1992 1993 2000 2001 2005 2006 2008 2014 2020**

If you have any photos prior to 1957 or can fill in any of the gaps, please share them with Shara as well. We are looking for pictures of the whole confirmation class and would be very grateful if you can share the year it was taken and provide the names of the confirmands.

SCOUTS – Finally, we would like to compile a list of current or former members who were leaders of Girl Scout or Boy Scout Troops sponsored by/associated with our church. Please share their names with Shara.

Thanks for your help!!

150th Plaque Dedication

August 8th, 2021



SEPTEMBER

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

1 Wednesday

9:30am: Staff Meeting

2 Thursday

10:00am-12:00pm: MVP COL in the Choir Room

12:00pm-2:00pm: MVP Search Committee in the Friendship Room

5 Sunday

10:00am: Worship with Communion

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

6 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

7 Tuesday

5:45pm: Personnel in the Admin Office

6:30pm: Deacons in the Choir Room

8 Wednesday

9:30am: Staff Meeting

4:00pm: Worship Committee in the Friendship Room

6:30pm: Buildings and Grounds in the Admin Office

11 Saturday

10:00am-2:00pm: The Heart of Willmar 150th Celebration

12 Sunday

8:30am: Nurture and Fellowship in the Choir Room

9:00am: Sunday School Rally Day

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

13 Monday

4:30pm-6:30pm: Search Group in the Choir Room

14 Tuesday

6:30pm: CEYM in the Admin Office and Mission in the Friendship Room

15 Wednesday

VOICE DEADLINE

9:30am: Staff Meeting

16 Thursday

Committee Minutes Deadline

19 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed and Sunday School

10:00am: Outdoor Worship with animal blessing and Staff Appreciation

11:00am: Fellowship outside

20 Monday

4:30pm-6:30pm: Search Group in the Choir Room

22 Wednesday

5:30pm: Gospel Rock/Youth Group Kick-off

23 Thursday

6:30pm: Session

26 Sunday

Stewardship Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed and Sunday School

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

27 Monday

10:00am-2:00pm: MVP Leadership in the Choir Room

4:30pm-6:30pm: Search Group in the Choir Room

28 Tuesday

7:00am: Men's Bible Study in the Friendship Room

29 Wednesday

9:30am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

6:00pm: Gospel Rock/Youth Group

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rev. Scott Thompson
Co-Pastor

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

Rev. Leanne Thompson
Co-Pastor

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

Shara Goldenstein
Administrative Assistant

fpcwillmar@gmail.com

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

jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Deb Lang
Financial Secretary
deb.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Jerry & Sue Schiro
Custodians

Erica Boeyink
Nursery Supervisor

Bea Ourada
Treasurer

bfourada@gmail.com

Betty Knutson
Clerk of Session

bettyknutson722@gmail.com
320-222-1613

Church Phone:
320-235-1263

Church Email:
fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Church Website:
www.fpchurchwillmar.org



Visit our website

First Presbyterian Church | 312 SW 6th St, Willmar, MN 56201

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