

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,

For over 5 years we have been blessed to be partners with Family Promise of Kandiyohi County to serve homeless families in our area. As you know, the program resides on the 3rd floor of Westminster Hall, which we remodeled to suit their needs. We created office space, two handicapped accessible restrooms, a living area, a kitchenette, classrooms, and a laundry room. We are so pleased with this arrangement! Over the years scores of people – men, women, and children – have been given a roof over their head and food on the table because of your willingness to include this valuable ministry as part of our congregation's ministry.

You may not be surprised to hear that the demand for Family Promise's services has only increased with recent years, especially with the circumstances of the pandemic. Family Promise has been at capacity for nearly a year and has had to turn families away for lack of space. Which brings me to the point of this message: We were recently approached by the owners of G&S Staffing who own the red two-story house adjacent to the church. They are retiring, selling their building, and approached our church as a potential buyer. Our session immediately thought of our partnership with Family Promise when we learned of this opportunity and of the demand for their services.

The session has put together a task force to investigate what it would mean for our congregation to purchase the G&S Staffing building and to partner with Family Promise as a tenant expanding their ministry into that location to serve homeless families. The demand for their services is so great that they would continue to use the 3rd floor location in Westminster as well as any additional potential space in the G&S building.

At this point there are still many unanswered questions. The session task force consists of Bob Dincau, Sherry Myers, Betty Knutson, Mel Odens, and Pastor Scott. We are all doing the legwork to investigate what a purchase of the G&S building would mean for us. In January the task force will be hosting listening sessions via online meetings to share more information with you and to answer questions. If the congregation were to purchase this building and use it in partnership with Family Promise it would take a vote of session, a vote of the congregation, and the concurrence of the Presbytery. That's in addition to the ordinary steps one might take to purchase real estate.

What we need most from you at this time is your prayers. The session will only pursue this purchase if it is in line with the mission of the church. Pray for God's guidance as we examine this opportunity. Pray for our hearts to respond to the call of God to care for the people of our community. And pray for the session and task force as we pursue this process. And watch for more information via emails, Facebook postings, and mailings, about how you can be part of the conversation as we move forward.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott

Facebook Live Worship & Midday Prayer

This is a reminder that you can join us for Facebook Live Worship (Sundays, **10am**) and Midday Prayer (Wednesdays, **11:30am**). You do not need a facebook account to watch the video recording of those services. A link to the recording is sent out in the Monday email, and is included on the home page of our website. If you prefer, we would be happy to send you a printed manuscript of the worship service and sermon. Contact Shara to be added to the mailing list!

Celebration of Communion

January 10, 2021

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 in January.

- 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.
- If you are worshipping virtually 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.



1/1 Emily Mattson
1/2 Jerry Bulthuis
1/4 Hannah Forkrud
1/5 Elliot Christensen
1/10 Vanessa Tatge
1/12 Kirsten Stegeman
1/12 Seth Tebben
1/14 Renae Willms
1/17 Brenda Arnold
1/17 Tayte Tjernagel
1/18 Brian Schueler
1/18 Christopher Baker
1/18 Isabelle Kienholz
1/22 Anna Bakker-Anderson
1/22 Abygail Kienholz
1/23 Russell Fehl
1/23 Tania Tiegs-Marquardt
1/24 Emily Walz
1/24 Andrea Walz
1/24 Oliver Forkrud
1/25 BenLang
1/25 Kyle Reich
1/26 Jessie Cortez
1/28 Renella Busk
1/28 Kaitlynn Kienholz
1/28 Ralyk Grunwald
1/29 Becca Bell

Church Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

- Kris Samuelson
- Jody Fernholz
- Vicki Carver
- Chris Woltjer
- Ardella Hodgson (Jill Boeyink's Mother)
- Faye Rogers (Karen Lange and Cheryl Tebben's Mother)
- James Johnston (Mark Johnston's Father)
- Rick (Jody Fernholz's Friend)
- Doug (Jody Fernholz's Friend)
- Rita Phillips
- Mary Groen
- Norm and Dianne Tempel
- Chuck Stern
- Mark Chamberlain
- Elaine and Kent Boyd
- John Carver
- Fanchon Ellwood
- Steve and Bette Ourada
- Arlen and Sheila Sjerven
- Jill Berglund (Mary Berglund's Daughter)
- Lori Peterson (Beci Eliason's Mother)
- Merle Stiles (Sister of Connie Spartz)

Prayers for Those Who are Grieving:

- The Family of Harriet Altman
- The Family of Mitchell Roger Berghuis (Infant son of Mitchell and Lauren "Sing" Berghuis)
- The family of Lane Swenson (Grandson of Corrine Ferguson)
- The family of Lester Kaenel (Ron Kaenel's Father)
- The Family of Richard Rogers (Karen Lange and Cheryl Tebben's Step Father)
- The Family of Norman Berglund
- The Family of George Kluver (Bonnie Kluver's Father)
- The Family of Mike Bakke

Prayers for those Serving Elsewhere:

- Tristian Woitaszewski (Terry Woitaszewski's Nephew) Navy, Pensacola, FL
- Perry Bishop (Bruce and Pam Quimby's Grandson-in-law) Army, Fort Riley, KS
- Matthew Sjerven (Grandson of Arlen and Sheila Sjerven) Fort Schofield, Hawaii
- Noah Prout, (Barb Little's Nephew) Air Force, Afghanistan
- Chandler and Hayley D'Incau (Bob and Rita's Grandson and wife) Beale AFB, Marysville, CA
- Rob Grunwald, Coast Guard, Two Rivers, WI on Lake Michigan

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 people of Lake Charles, LA who are having to recover and rebuild after Hurricane Laura.
- 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"!

January Small Group Schedule

*These will take place over Zoom or **Facebook LIVE**. 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 (starting January 12th)
Contact: scott.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7am (starting January 13th)
Contact: leanne.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Faith Book Study

Mondays at 7pm (starting January 18th)
Contact: leanne.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Sr. and Jr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm (starting again January 6th)
Contact: jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Midday Prayer

Wednesdays at 11:30 am on Facebook LIVE (starting January 13th)

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Kandiyohi County Food Shelf



Kandiyohi County Food Shelf is thankful for the continued support and partnership with First Presbyterian Church. The Kandiyohi County Food Shelf is at 624 Pacific Ave SW, Willmar, 320-235-2641 and has been helping Kandiyohi County residents since 1982.

Currently, they are seeing people come from these top 3 towns; Willmar, New London and Raymond . They are serving an average of 650 households a month (2300 individuals) with a food order. Most household's live paycheck to paycheck and just one bad event such as getting laid off, a health issue or a death in the family and they are seeking help. Some of the newer people to the food shelf are coming because of decreased work in hospitality.

Some questions you may have:

Ethnicity Served:

59%: Caucasian
31%: Hispanic
4% Somalian
3% African American
3% Other

Financial Support:

We rely solely on donations from individuals, churches, businesses, civic groups and grants to continue.

36% Individuals
22% Businesses
20% Churches
15% Grants
4% Civic Organizations
2% Trusts
1% Memorials

Hours of Operation and service during COVID-19:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8am-3:45pm, Friday 8am-2pm

They are offering curbside pickup only. When you arrive at the Food Shelf, pull up to our front door where there is a sign with a phone number on it to call. They will get your food ready inside and will put it in your vehicle. Typically takes 3-5 minutes to receive your food.

A \$20 donation can help purchase almost \$200 worth of food through our Food Bank, Second Harvest Heartland. It is good to give money donations locally so the funds can stay in our community. Cash is King at the Food Shelf.

An average household will take home between 80-100 pounds of food depending upon what they choose. Meat, milk, cheese, miscellaneous dairy and produce are some of the main favorites at the Food Shelf.

Thank you! The Mission Committee

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The numbers for November are difficult to share as we have gone from black ink to red—\$377 expenses in excess of receipts. This number is not too great, but it has been a significant drop from October. Having noted that, we are still confident that with some December extra giving and the fourth quarter of investment income we will end the year on a positive note. Knowing what this year has been like for our church families and continues to be, we are gratified to be even close to break even, and again thank each of you for doing whatever you can to help the church continue to minister to members, friends and neighbors. We look forward to 2021 and the gradual return to a more normal life. We know it will take time but are confident we will be moving forward in the days and weeks ahead.

We now have the 2021 billing from Presbytery for the per capita expense, which has increased to \$43 per confirmed member. Our total obligation toward the operation of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly is \$10,148. It has been our practice to make monthly payments according to what we received from you during the first three months of the year, making the final payment in April. If you are able to pay your share during the first quarter of the new year it helps both the denomination and our operating expenses, as we will pay the balance regardless of how much it is. But, we remind you that paying as you are able through the year is a major help to the operations. We will make note of the benefits we receive for what is really a nominal cost per member in future reports. Church treasurer, financial secretary and pastors will be happy to answer your questions.

Extra giving to date is \$2,083. 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. Some of our smaller sources of income are not happening. The extra giving continues to help toward reducing any end of year appeal.

The November General Fund numbers are in the sidebar and it is with gratitude and appreciation for our members and friends, who continue to make their donations by mail, in person, or on line. Our thanks to each of you for making what could be a difficult struggle a joy and pleasure.

ABOVE ALL, STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY.

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 \$9,783 and your share is \$42.

2020 Per Capita Expense

\$9,783

2020 Per Capita Received

\$5,815.00

General Fund through November 30, 2020

General Fund Revenue:

\$ 206,775.00

Per Capita Giving:

\$ 5,815.00

Total General Fund Receipts:

\$ 212,590 .00

Expenses:

\$203,184 .00

Per Capita Payment:

\$9,783.00

Total General Fund Expenses:

\$212,967.00

Expenses in excess of Revenues:

\$377.00

Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:

\$31,522.00

Youth and Children Announcements

December's Advent Kits



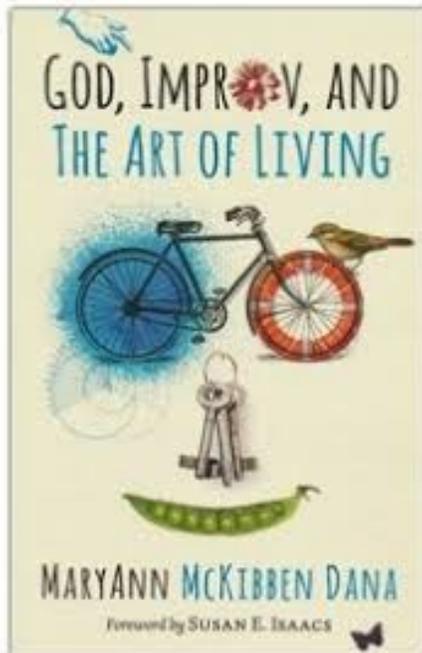
Church Announcements

Start the New Year Off Right by Joining One of the Faith Book Studies

Get your own copy of the book and join us one of following times. Contact Pastor Leanne (leanne.fpcwillmar@gmail.com) to be added to the list!

Wednesdays @ 7:00AM via Zoom
Beginning January 13, 2020

Mondays @ 7:00PM via Zoom
Beginning January 18, 2020



God, Improv, and the Art of Living By MaryAnn McKibben Dana

The principle of "yes, and..." in improvisational theater has produced a lot of great comedy. But it also offers an invigorating approach to life in general, and the spiritual life in particular. From Moses to Ruth to Jesus, scripture is full of people boldly saying "yes, and..." as they accept what life throws their way and build upon it.

Pastor, speaker, and improv aficionada MaryAnn McKibben Dana here blends Scripture, psychology, theology, and pop culture in a wise, funny, down-to-earth guide to **improv as a practice for life**. Offering concrete spiritual wisdom in the form of seven improvisational principles, **this book will help readers become more awake, creative, resilient, and ready to play**--even (and perhaps especially) when life doesn't go according to plan.

Save the Date
Annual Meeting of First
Presbyterian Church
of Willmar, MN
January 24, 2021 at 11:00am
via Zoom

As we usually do, we will be holding the Annual Congregational Meeting in January. What will be different this year is that it will not be in person. We will be holding a virtual meeting using an online meeting platform called Zoom.

Shara will be sending out the Annual Report by email and posting it on the church website. The instructions for using Zoom will be included in both the email and online. You can contact the church office to request a printed version of the Annual Report if you would prefer that.

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

LET'S PLAY BINGO!

TIRED OF THE WINTER DOLODRUMS?
COVID CONFINEMENT GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH?
MISS SEEING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS?

THEN JOIN US!

WHO: Members/Friends of all ages
WHAT: Online Bingo, using Zoom
WHEN: Sunday, January 31, 2021
TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PRIZES! FUN! FELLOWSHIP!

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Call or email the church office and let Shara know that you want to play Bingo. Also let her know how many individuals will be playing Bingo at your site.

Deadline to contact Shara is January 25th

Once you register you will receive an email message containing a link to the game. You will also need to download the Zoom app to your computer if you do not currently have it. Instructions for downloading the app will also be included in the email!

CALLING ALL SNOWBIRDS!!

Do you and/or your family go south for the winter?? Do you not receive all the wonderful mail that the church sends out during that time? If so, please contact Shara in the church office to get your address changed to stay in the loop of all church related things!!!



Thank you to everyone who had prayed, called, messaged, and sent cards and/or memorials upon my father's death. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is much appreciated and long remembered.

-Bonnie for the Kluver-Grothe-Gilbertson clan

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 button below

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.



1 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

HAPPY NEW YEAR

3 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

5 Tuesday

6:30pm: Deacons via Zoom

6 Wednesday

9:30am: Staff meeting via Zoom

6:00pm: Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

9 Saturday

9:30am - 2:45pm - Presbytery Leadership Event via Zoom

10 Sunday

10:00am: Worship with Communion via Facebook Live

12 Tuesday

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

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

13 Wednesday

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

9:30am: Staff Meeting

11:30am: Mid-day Prayer on Facebook

6:00pm: Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

6:30pm: Building & Grounds via Zoom

7:00pm: Nurture and Fellowship via Zoom

15 Friday

VOICE Deadline

17 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

18 Monday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm: Book Study via Zoom

19 Tuesday

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

6:00pm: Budget and Stewardship via Zoom

20 Wednesday

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

9:30am: Staff Meeting

11:30am: Mid-day Prayer on Facebook

6:00pm: Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

8:00pm: Willmar Interfaith Network via Zoom

21 Thursday

COMMITTEE MINUTES DUE

24 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Faceook Live

11:00am: Annual Meeting via Zoom

25 Monday

7:00pm: Book Study via Zoom

26 Tuesday

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

27 Wednesday

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

9:30am: Staff Meeting

11:30am: Mid-day Prayer on Facebook Live

6:00pm: Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

28 Thursday

6:30pm: Session via Zoom

31 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

3:00pm: **ALL CHURCH** Bingo via Zoom

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Custodians

Erica Boeyink
Nursery Supervisor

Bea Ourada
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