

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

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8: 26-27

Dear Church Family,

This was meant to be a big year. A year stacked with graduations, weddings, reunions, anniversaries, and celebrations. I know in our personal life alone, there have been two graduations, a wedding, a milestone high school reunion, a family reunion, a shortened college school term, and a family spring break vacation that have been affected by the raft of cancellations hitting all of us.

You probably have a similar list for your family, I am sure. Some of you are dealing with far heavier hurts, such as a funeral that is still pending, or the inability to hug a grieving friend, or the disappointment of being separated from someone dear. Each one of these situations is a disappointment and a set-back. And today's message to you is that it is OK to be sad, hurt, disappointed, and to grieve. It is OK to name your outrage at the circumstances that have brought us this far and to let it all out. As Christian counselor Dr. John Delony puts it in his online blog post, "How to Deal with Disappointment,"^[1] "Don't try to gloss over or numb these feelings. Name them and feel them. Be angry. Have a hard cry. If you're saddened by the grief and loss of a loved one, write your lost family member letters, stay connected to your community, or get virtually plugged into a church or group. Connect and talk about your loss with your close friends... let them know you're sad. Hear their losses. Sit in your grief, but don't bathe in it . . . and then make a plan for being courageous."

And the good news for us as a family of Christ is that we are not alone in our grief. Our plan for courageousness is supported. It is buttressed by the love of each other, and as Paul reminds us in Romans 8, the Spirit who intercedes for us in our weakness. Even when we have no words, the groanings of our hearts, are heard by God, received by God, and welcomed by God.

One of the first steps to getting through your disappointment and grief is to share the burden with another. I would like to encourage you to check in with each other. Check in with Pastor Leanne or me. And above all, check in with God. Bring it all to God. Pray it out. Write it out. Spend time in devotion and scripture reading. Seek the support of the Comforter who is the Holy Spirit who hears us in our weakness and intercedes for us to God.

Finally, as children of God who follow a Savior who conquered very powers of sin and death, know that we are all in the secure hands of God. That God has got this in the end. That God has the last word, and that word is a benediction of mercy and love.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

^[1] Delony, John. "Dealing with the Disappointment of Cancelled Plans and Missed Milestones." <https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/how-to-deal-with-disappointment>. Accessed May 21, 2020.

COVID-19 Update:

Out of concern for the safety of our family of faith, First Presbyterian Church will continue to suspend face to face gatherings through the month of June. Join us for Facebook Live Worship at 10AM on Sundays and Facebook Live Midday Prayer on Wednesdays at NOON. If you are interested in joining one of the Zoom Bible Studies, please contact the Pastors!

Facebook Live Worship & Midday Prayer

This is a reminder that you can join us for Facebook Live Worship (Sundays, 10am) and Midday Prayer (Wednesdays, NOON). 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!

Virtual Communion **first Sunday of the month**

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.

6/4 Gabe Lesteburg
6/6 Jack Magnuson
6/7 Doug Bakker
6/8 Alida Rampaart
6/9 Aimee Clemens
6/11 David Arnold
6/12 Miriah Robles
6/12 Brittany Odens
6/12 Suzanne Keuseman
6/14 Ron Kaenel
6/17 Betty Knutson
6/17 Jeff Sieck



6/17 Jeremy Boeyink
 6/18 Corinne Ferguson
 6/18 Terry Woitszewski
 6/19 Rev. Scott Thompson
 6/19 Bev Skare
 6/26 Christopher Odens
 6/28 Sharon Bakker
 6/28 Nicholas Baker

Church Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

- Catherine Campbell (Marguerite Austin's Cousin's Daughter)
- Mike Bakke
- Carol Lange (Richard Lange's Mother)
- Jeff Campbell (Marguerite Austin's Brother)
- Ried Arnold
- Linda Thomas
- 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 Shirley Nelson
- The Family of Krista Arends (Shelly Schoolmeester's Cousin's Daughter)
- The Family of Derek Krieger

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"!

June 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

Contact: scott.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7am

Contact: leanne.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Jr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Contact: jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Sr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays at 3pm

Contact: jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

NEW!!

Midday Prayer

Wednesdays at noon on Facebook

MISSION OF THE MONTH



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Pentecost Offering

"If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Each year on Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, inspiring

the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. The Pentecost Offering nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71,"Our God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

Our Congregation keeps 40% of this offering and it will support a program for young people in our community.

Thank you for your support of Pentecost!
The Mission Committee

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Friends, you are awesome! Though we have had virtual worship for all of April, and no opportunity for on site worship, including giving opportunities, we have stayed very near the same totals for our operating fund as last month. Note the numbers on the sidebar. Certainly, giving is down some, and some expenses are down. But, much of our budget is fixed costs and continues whether we are having our normal activities or not.

We paid the per capital balance to Presbytery April 30. We remind you that though the obligation is paid, if you have not yet paid your per capita, please pay any or all of it whenever you can. Per capital is \$42 per confirmed member for 2020. Our total obligation is \$ 9,783 this year.

Extra giving to date is \$433. 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 your can.

ONLINE GIVING IS HERE! It has been in place for a couple of weeks, with access through the weekly email and on the website. The weekly email gives a detailed explanation and a video. It is totally user

friendly and we are delighted to tell you that we have already seen members using it, besides staff, who put it to the test. Try it, you will like it! It should be noted that your giving will be documented by the Presbyterian Foundation, NOT on your church contribution statement. We do receive regular reports and will receive a deposit at the end of each month, with a directive of which funds should be credited. You may make your gift with check, debit or credit card. And, you may make your gift to any of the usual church funds they are listed on the site for your selection.

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.

Again, you may continue your current means of giving, or you may change to the online giving, or any combination. We will continue to use the monthly direct banking, but if you are using that and would prefer to use online giving, let Deb know.

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

\$4,437.00

General Fund through April 30, 2020

General Fund Revenue:

\$76,608.00

Per Capita Giving:

\$4,437.00

Total General Fund Receipts:

\$ 81,045.00

Expenses:

\$ 73,176.00

Per Capita Payment:

\$4,437.00

Total General Fund Expenses:

\$82,959.00

Expenses in excess of Revenues:

\$1,914.00

Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:

\$86,899.00

Internal Loan:

\$4,000.00

Youth and Children Announcements

*You're
Invited!*





Graduate Open House

Undoubtedly, these past few months have been really hard on the Graduating Class of 2020. Each of these students have been disappointed because of cancellations pertaining to their proms, sports activities, award dinners, commencement and personal open houses. This is a lot for them to handle, and they have done it with such grace.

In conversations with the CEYM Committee, it was determined that we, the Church, could do something about it! So, you are cordially invited to a “Drive-Thru” Open House honoring our three church graduates, Elliot Christensen, Isabelle Kienholz & Andrea Walz on Saturday, June 13th from 1-2:30 p.m. at the church.

Simply follow the line of cars leading up to the church canopy where the graduates will be waiting to greet you, 8 feet apart. You can watch the church Power Point video from your car while you wait in line. There will be separate individual baskets to place a card, gift or note of congratulations into. Finally, as you move along there will be a delicious cupcake waiting for you to take home.

Let's show our love and support to these amazing students who are such a vital part of our church family! If you are unable to attend the “Drive – Thru”, and would like to send a card, addresses have been provided on the Graduate spotlight page of this VOICE newsletter, located below.

A special thank you to Karen Lange for putting together such a wonderful Power Point video honoring our church graduates!

Our 2020 Senior Graduates

Isabelle Kienholz

Parents:

Kelly and Dorothy Keinholz

Future Plans:

Isabelle plans on attending Ridgewater College while living at home.

Address:

208 High Ave NE
Willmar, MN 56201





Elliot Christensen

Parents:

Cory Christensen
and Jason Zook

Future Plans:

Elliot plans on attending the University of
Wisconsin -Madison

Address:

710 SE 4th St.
Willmar, MN 56201

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.

Address:

PO Box 136
253 Horseshoe Drive
Pennock, MN 56279



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!



Church Annoucements

What's new at First Presbyterian Church of Willmar?

We now 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.



Midday Prayer

The Pastors are offering weekly midday prayers with them virtually on our church Facebook Page every Wednesday at noon for anyone interested.



COVID-19 Response from Clearwater Forest: UPDATED 5/20/2020

In response to the current health crisis, we have made the difficult yet, responsible decision to suspend all 2020 summer camp

programs. Clearwater Forest will remain open to guests and visitors through the end of May. As we do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19, please check this document for updates to programs, events and meetings. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and the families, communities and youth we serve at www.clearwaterforest.org.



Synod School's Response to COVID-19 from Facebook:

The Synod School Committee came to the difficult decision to cancel Synod School for 2020 as we know it due to the pandemic. This is not something we wanted to do but because of our care for each other, our deep desire not to be a source of illness for anyone, and the inability to truly be together as we ordinarily are – singing heartily, laughing together, sharing meals in close proximity, and more – we feel as if this was what we have to do.

Recognizing that we cannot replicate the Synod School experience online, we are not going to try to do so. BUT we are working to put together some

special opportunities for a simpler Synod School online for the week of July 27. We are looking at opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship and fun and will have a better sense of what this looks like by early June. At that point you will receive an email with information about how to participate in the pieces that stir your interest. We certainly won't have you or your children in front of a screen for 12 hours/day!! Stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, I am working on refunding any fees you paid for Synod School. What we offer virtually will be at no cost to the participants.

Thank you for understanding! Mark your calendars for July 25-30, 2021!

150th Anniversary

2020 marks the 150th anniversary year for First Presbyterian Church, Willmar, MN. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Anniversary Celebration will be postponed to 2021. Our year of celebration will kickoff with the Advent Festival on December 6, 2020. Watch this space for coming events, important updates, and anecdotes from our history.

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

If you've worshipped in our sanctuary and marveled at our beautiful pipe organ with its vast array of pipes, you may be interested in its history:

**Excerpt taken from THE VOICE,
July 10, 1975**

"An Organ Committee appointed by the Session has been studying for some months the problems with our present Baldwin organ, installed in 1952. On a number of occasions during the past several years, organ malfunctions have created a problem during worship services, funerals and weddings. An outside technician appraised the organ's condition and suggested that at least \$4,000 would need to be invested in rebuilding the organ to its 1952 condition without touching the brittle wiring. But the organ at best would still be of 1952 vintage without the many new technical advances of electronics and sound engineering of present day electronic organs. He could promise only 10 years of additional service. In light of this, the Organ Committee recommended to the Session last winter that the purchase of a new organ be explored. The results of that exploration are now complete, and the Session and Trustees at a joint meeting this week have recommended to the Congregation the purchase of a new Hendrickson 8 rank pipe organ at the cost of \$25,000. (Already \$11,500 of this is presently in the organ fund)."

Notes from the Organ Committee

After visiting with several electronic organ companies, the committee members were more and more confused by the variety of options. They finally decided to hire an organ consultant, Mr. Robert Kendall, who assessed the acoustics of the sanctuary and the needs of the church's musical program and convinced the committee to look into the selection of a pipe organ that could be built to those specifications. After traveling to St. Paul to listen to several different pipe organs, "...the fog lifted! It became clear that we were hearing a far superior sound and that a pipe organ would be the best and wisest choice to meet the needs of our church...Mr. Kendall also made us aware that pipe organs appreciate in value through the years as opposed to an electronic organ that rapidly depreciates."

A New Organ

A Congregational Meeting was held on July 20, 1975, and the recommendation to purchase the pipe organ was approved. A Dedicatory Organ recital was held on May 21, 1978, with Esther Lygre as the recitalist. Mrs. Lygre was a former Willmar resident and had served as organist at the Presbyterian and Calvary Lutheran churches in 1974.

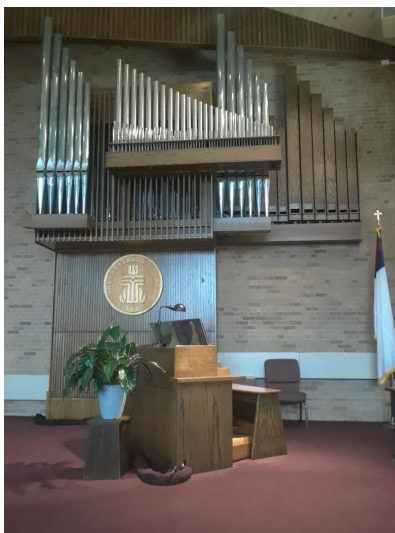
The organ builder, Charles Hendrickson, was a native of Willmar and a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and the University of Arkansas. During 1964 and 1970 he studied European organ building and completed a survey of historic and contemporary instruments. The Hendrickson Organ Company was founded in 1964 in St. Peter, MN.

The organ contains 8 ranks of pipes and is all self-contained in the oak casework mounted on the front wall of the church. 531 speaking pipes are made from alloys of tin and lead, similar to pewter, wood and zinc. 395 pipes are installed within a swell box located behind the shiny exposed pipes of the principal chorus. A set of 21 chimes is installed behind the grill along the east wall of the church. The entire organ is supported by massive steel supports which cantilever the pipes and chests out from the wall. A small blower and rectifier are installed in the organ to supply the air and DC current for operating the organ.

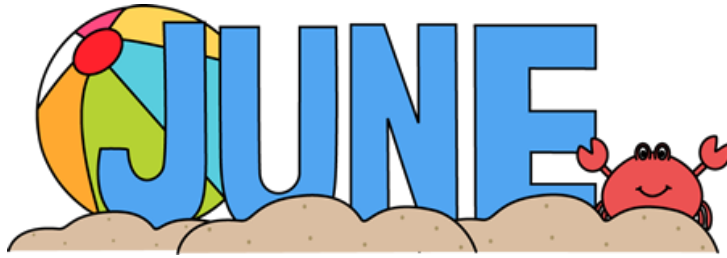
The Prayer of Dedication

O God, Our Heavenly Father, who has given us the gift of music, to express our deepest expressions of faith, grant that this organ may bring a blessing to all who worship here. May the notes of cheer, comfort, communion, and courage inspire us for our daily tasks. Bless all organists who shall play it, and all worshippers who shall be inspired by its varied voices, to the praise and glory of Your name. Amen.

Many thanks to our former members who had the foresight to build this glorious instrument for the enjoyment of generations to come!



Stay tuned for more fun memories!!



2 Tuesday

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

6:30pm: Deacons via Zoom

3 Wednesday

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

3:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

7 Sunday

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

9 Tuesday

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

5:45pm: Personnel via Email

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

10 Wednesday

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

3:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

6:30pm: Building & Grounds via Zoom

14 Sunday

8:45am: Nurture and Fellowship via email

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

15 Monday

VOICE DEADLINE

16 Tuesday

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

6:30pm: Budget & Stewardship via Zoom

17 Wednesday

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

3:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

18 Thursday

COMMITTEE MINUTES DUE

21 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

23 Tuesday

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

24 Wednesday

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

3:00pm: Sr. High Youth Group via Zoom

5:30pm: Jr High Youth Group via Zoom

25 Thursday

6:30pm: Session via Zoom

28 Sunday

10:00am: Worship via Facebook Live

30 Tuesday

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

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

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**Rev. Leanne Thompson
Co-Pastor**

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