

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,

It's January - a new year - a new beginning. I confess it is difficult to consider new beginnings when we are still in the grip of winter. But that is where hope and faith come in - we hold fiercely to the new life we know is possible. So I offer you this charge and blessing in the new year. It is a poem, but it is also a prayer. May it be so for you.

In hope and peace,
Pastor Leanne

The Bravest Thing We Can Do By Sarah Speed

Trust your belovedness.
Let it be a protest,
an act of resistance,
a song of celebration.
Trust your belovedness in a world
that is rarely satisfied.
Wear it like a badge of honor.
Speak it as confidently as your last name.
Tattoo it to your heart.
When outside forces
chip away at your sense of self,
when life asks you
to hand over the keys,
remember the water.
Remember creation.
Remember how it was *good*,
so very good.
Let that truth hum through your veins.
Sing it so loud
that it drowns out the weariness of the world,
for the bravest thing we can ever do
is trust that we belong here.



UPDATE

Effective at the end of January, Family Promise will no longer be leasing space in our church building. We are honored to have been part of launching this important ministry and are happy that they have grown into a larger space where they can serve more families. We will be able to share more with you about what this means for Family Promise and for our church at the Annual Meeting on January 28th.



From your Virtual Congregations Initiative facilitators...Sheila Sjerven and Ben Lang...

Our "official" start up for this project is actually not until spring, with this still being a prep year. But our church was more than ready to go. As a church we looked at the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations through sermon, Wednesday night study time, and prayer. So we've looked at our church through a variety of lenses to answer this one BIG question: What does Jesus want us to be doing at this time and in this place? Several of you have mentioned you have started looking at church in new ways from fresh perspectives and its a good feeling! Keep praying for our church. The printed prayer guide includes prayers for each day of the week and prompts to aid our thinking. If you need a prayer guide, contact the office.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



KANDIYOHI COUNTY
FOOD SHELF

The Mission for January is the Food Shelf of Kandiyohi County.

Thanks for allowing us to be your non-profit for January! In 2023 an average of 650 families were helped each month and almost 50,000 pounds of food were distributed.

Two mass produce giveaways at the Kandiyohi Fair Grounds this summer were hosted for anyone to come to. An average of 400 families were helped at each of these events. Potatoes, carrots, onions, watermelon and cucumbers were items distributed. It takes an average of 30 volunteers each time to make it run successfully.

On call volunteers are always needed. Some options for volunteering: 1. Using your own vehicle to go to the Cub, Kwik Trips, Target or Aldi stores in the morning and bring back the food rescue items they have for us. 2. Help people shop. On call means we would call you when one of our regular volunteers needs a day off. We would call you to see if it works in your schedule to help us out that day.

Thank you for your support of the Kandiyohi Food Shelf.



1/1 Emily Mattson
1/2 Jerry Bulthuis
1/4 Hannah Gabbert
1/5 Elliot Christensen
1/7 Eric Boyer
1/12 Kirsten Stegeman
1/12 Seth Tebben
1/14 Renee 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 Russel Fehl
1/23 Taunia Tiegs-Marquardt
1/24 Emily Walz
1/24 Andrea Walz
1/24 Oliver Forkrud
1/25 Ben Lang
1/25 Kyle Reich
1/26 Jessie Cortez
1/28 Kaitlynn Kienholz
1/28 Ralyk Grunwald
1/29 Becca Bell

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:

Wanda Dorr (Curt Jans' Sister)
Bea Ourada
George Ruter
Ried Arnold
Dorothy Caine
Mark Chamberlain
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 Terry Holmquist

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)

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

With one month to go in reporting the operating income we continue to have a strong positive balance as shown with the sidebar numbers for November 30. Whatever the balance is on December 31, we will use that as a carryover to the 2024 operations. For your information, previous balances are retained in the General Fund and we have built a Rainy Day Fund as a protection of maintaining operations in case of something unforeseen. We have an ambitious budget for 2024, replacing some things that had been temporarily put on hold and continuing to update technology, maintenance etc. You will find the new budget included in the Annual Report that will be available before the annual meeting in January.

If you have overlooked any payments of 2023 contributions, you may still deliver them to the church, labeled for 2023, and they will be received as Prior Year for general fund, and for other donations, just entered in the designated fund. Please understand if received after 12/31/23 it will be entered on your giving record for 2024.

The Per Capita for 2024 is \$45 per confirmed member. 2023 was a great year with generous extra giving and excellent participation of membership. Can we do this again? If you are new to First Presbyterian, talk to the pastors or Budget Committee members to understand how this money is used. In this column we will continue to update you on the significance of this denomination wide account. In practice, we make our payment to the Presbytery as we receive the designated donations for the first three months and then we pay the total in the fourth month. We encourage your early payment but assure you, pay it as you are able. Per Capita is a billing we receive from the Presbytery according to our membership on 12/31/22. The rate is determined by the per member assessment from the General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery.

\$608 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!

For our final message, let us close with appreciation to the leadership who work to manage the budget and stewardship of our fiscal resources: Budget and Stewardship Committee: Mel Odens, Chr., Doug Bakker, Rita Phillips, Dorothy Kienholz and, Pastor Leanne, ex officio; Deb Lang, financial secretary and Bea Ourada, treasurer.

PER CAPITA

2024 Per Capita is \$45, 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

\$7,605

General Fund through November 30, 2023

General Fund Revenue:

\$ 236,768.00

Per Capita Giving:

\$7,605.00

Total General Fund Receipts:

\$244,373.00

Expenses:

\$220,884.00

2023 Per Capita Payment:

\$9,596.00

Total General Fund Expenses:

\$230,480.00

Revenue in excess of Expenses:

\$13,863.00

Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:

\$93,026.00

MISSION GIVING

(November)

\$893.00

Building Maintenance Loan (Roof)

\$101,743.

Youth and Children Announcements



Youth at Lulu Beans

The next LuLu Beans gathering for all youth, grades 6-12 will be on Saturday, January 13th at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to grab your LuLu Bucks from Jeff or Rita before you place your order.

Youth Christmas Party

December 3, 2023



Family Movie Night

December 9, 2023



2023 Christmas Program

December 17, 2023





All Church Caroling

December 20, 2023



To see more pictures, go to our church website.
www.fpchurch.org

"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!**

Jill Boeyink is searching for a couple of people to take over the reigns from Alida Rampaart as the Rainbow Venture class teacher(s) during Wednesday Night Live. If enough people volunteer, we could potentially have each of you cover 2 weeks to 1 month. These preschool thru 1st graders are such a joy to hang out with, just ask Alida!



CLEARWATER FOREST SNOW CAMP 2024

Clearwater Forest Snow Camp is set for January 12-14th, 2024. ALL youth grades 6-12 are invited to this wonderful winter retreat where there will be lots of outdoor activities, with time to come in from the cold and play games, get to know each other and enjoy delicious food. The cost is \$150 per person, with the church paying one-half of the fee,

just like summer camp. Contact Jill Boeyink for more information, and to get registered. You do not want to miss out on all of the fun!

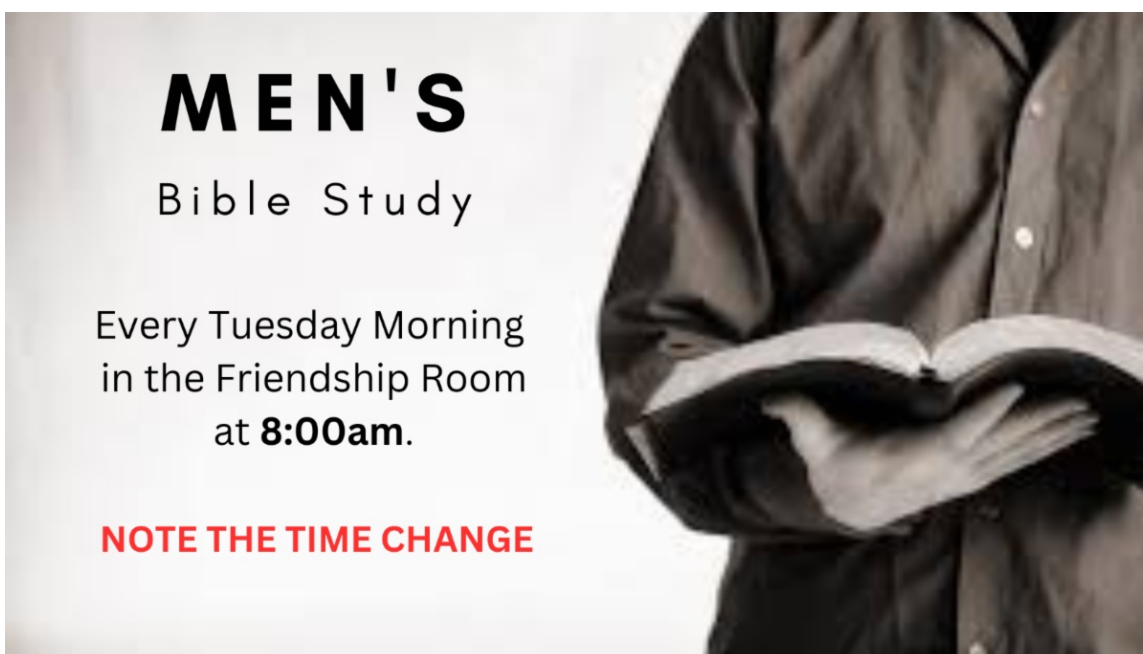


WINTER WEATHER

During the season of Winter Weather, it is possible that church related activities may be cancelled. As a reminder, evening youth activities will be cancelled if school in Willmar is dismissed early or cancelled. If school is cancelled, the church office will be closed. Cancellation of committee meetings and music rehearsals will be the decision of committee chairs and directors.

Listen to Q102/KWLM, KDJS AM 1590 or visit www.Q102.com/operationsnowdesk for any weather related announcements and on our church Facebook page.

Church Announcements



Wednesdays at 8:00am
in the Friendship Room

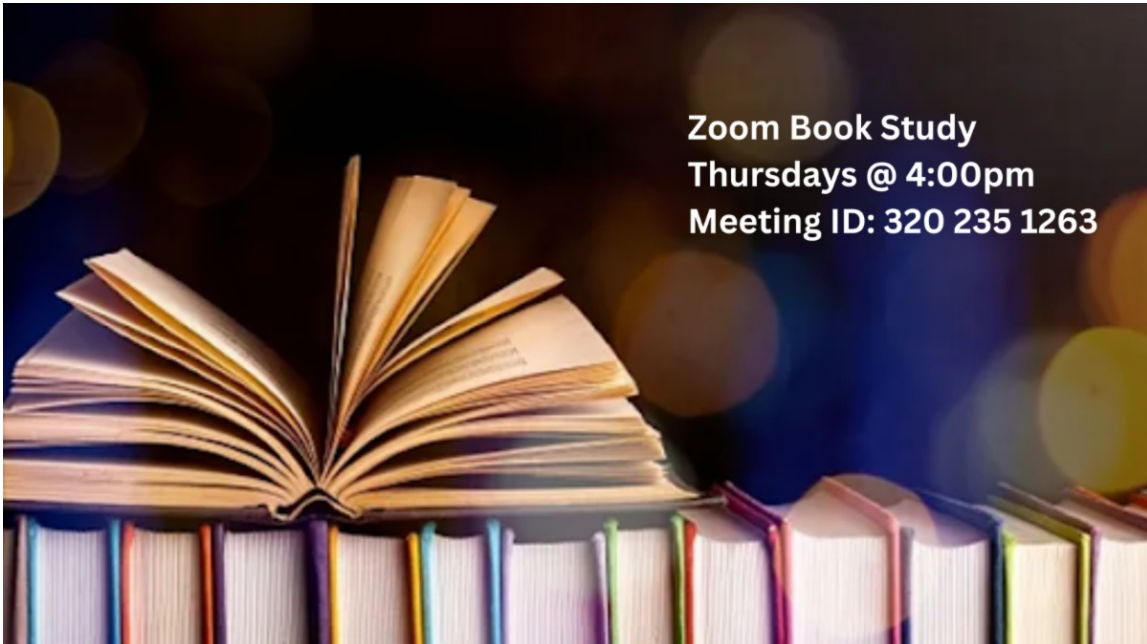
Women's

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 JANUARY 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.

Christmas Giving for the Fortress

Thank you to everyone that donated



Other Announcements

The 4th Annual Memorial

**CHAD NORSTEN
OPEN TOURNAMENT
JANUARY 6, 2024**

10 A.M. SIGN-UP | 11 A.M. START | WILLMAR VFW

SCOTCH DOUBLES | DRAW FOR PARTNER | 100% PAYOUT 1ST-4TH

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER FROM 7-10, MEAT RAFFLE,
DRINK & FOOD SPECIALS, J-MARK ENTERTAINMENT,
SILENT AUCTION, GUN RAFFLE**

*Registration: \$20 ENTRY FEE/\$15 GREEN FEE PER PERSON
GUARENTEED TWO MATCHES WITH A RACE TO THREE
LEAGUE RULES WILL APPLY.*

**SPONSORS: VFW #1639, EAGLES #2334, M&K TIRE, TUXEDO JUNCTION,
FOSTERVOLD TRUCKING, DOMINOS, FIVE STAR HEATING & AIR**

Proceeds go to Diabetes through the Spicer Lions and Veterans. If you would like a raffle ticket contact Sue Schiro!



MONTHLY CALENDAR

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

1 Monday

HAPPY NEW YEAR

OFFICE CLOSED

2 Tuesday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

3 Wednesday

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

NO Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

4 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

3:30pm: Presbytery Life via Zoom

6:00pm: Music Team Practice in the Sanctuary

7 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship with Communion

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

8 Monday

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

9 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

10 Wednesday

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

10:00am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

11 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

12 Friday - 14 Sunday

CLEARWATER FOREST SNOW CAMP

13 Saturday

10:00am: Youth at LuLu Beans

14 Sunday

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

10:00am: Worship (Ordination and Installation of Officers)

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

15 Monday

VOICE DEADLINE

OFFICE CLOSED

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

16 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

4:00pm: Zoom Book Study

17 Wednesday

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

10:00am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

10:00am: College Meal

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

18 Thursday

COMMITTEE MINUTES DEADLINE

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

21 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

23 Tuesday

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

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

4:00pm: Zoom Book Study

24 Wednesday

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

10:00am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

10:00am: College Meal

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

25 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

6:30pm: Session in the Choir Room

28 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Annual Meeting

11:30am: Fellowship in JKH

30 Tuesday

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

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

4:00pm: Zoom Book Study

31 Wednesday

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

10:00am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live Classes

January 7th- January 13th: Scott is gone on Study Leave

January 17th-January 28th: Deb is out of the office

January 25th-February 8th: Leanne is out of the office

The office is closed on Fridays.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rev. Scott Thompson
Co-Pastor
scott.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Rev. Leanne Thompson
Co-Pastor
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Shara Goldenstein
Administrative Assistant
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Jill Boeyink
CEYM Director/Music Team
Director
jill.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

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:
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Church Website:
www.fpchurchwillmar.org



Pastoral Care
Emergency Phone:
320-737-0649

Visit our
website

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