

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

Colossians 3: 17

"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

I don't know about you, but I have a lot to be thankful for. I can be grateful for my family, my work, my friends, my wonderful church family at FPC, and all the creature comforts of life. Indeed, I can sit here as I type and ponder some of those many blessings and I can conjure up a feeling of warmth and gratitude in my spirit as I do so. I do indeed strive to follow Paul's advice and give thanks through Jesus to God the Father. I hope that this is true for you as well in your life.

However, as important as that feeling is, it's only half of our calling. Note Paul's challenge to us in the verse above is that: "*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him*" Whatever you do; do all. Wow. I'm pretty sure that I fall well short of that calling – conforming all my actions in accordance with the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God whatever I do in word or deed.

But I think that I have an inkling of how to proceed. Later this month we'll celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, when we set aside a day to thank God for providence – for the abundance of this good earth, and all the blessings in our lives. We verbalize our thanks; we express it through shared meals and quality time spent with family and friends. The idea of thanksgiving rises to prominence in our minds and we actually live out thanksgiving for a short while, it's more than just a thought or a feeling in our heads.

But what if we made thanksgiving a daily practice? And I don't mean by just harboring a warm fuzzy feeling in our hearts. I mean by actually making an expression of gratitude for somebody or something in a tangible way, each day. Perhaps by writing a note, dropping a line to someone, thanking a store clerk, writing a kind word on social media, or giving a kind word to a loved one. And when you do so, do so in a spirit of Christian charity.

I wonder how our spirits would flourish? I wonder how those around us would respond? Maybe it's an experiment worth trying out for the next few weeks, and seeing if it's worth continuing?

Let me close by giving you this word from Psalm 139: 14, that you are a fearfully and wonderfully made child of God. I am grateful for you and your presence in our church family. I pray that your time spent practicing gratitude in the coming weeks will be a blessing to you and to those you love.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott



11/1 Alan Fritze
11/2 Tyler Bulthuis
11/5 Diann Anderson
11/8 Rita Phillips
11/8 Owen Schrotberger
11/10 Kelly Jans
11/12 Renee Allen
11/12 Kacen Grunwald
11/12 Livi Magnuson
11/14 Charles Knutson

11/19 Mary Catherwood
11/22 Kelly Klinghagen
11/24 Bob Anderson
11/26 Raye Eyrich
11/26 Joseph Thomas
11/27 Harper Luberts
11/28 Erica Boeyink
11/29 Karyssa Zaeska-Christianson
11/29 Chris Pappadackis

Church Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

- Chris Schneider
- Rachelle Somerville (Donna Barbknecht Sister-in-law)
- Lori Peterson (Beci Eliason's Mother)
- 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 Grieving:

- The Family of Dean Anderson (Roger Tatge's Brother-in-law)
- The Family of James Grussing
- The Family of Summer Schmitz (Jeff Schmitz's Wife)

Prayers for the Church Here and Abroad:

- The People of Occidente Presbytery, Guatemala;
- Mark and Miriam Adams, Frontero de Cristo
- Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Reservation, ND.

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, Kansas
- Matthew Sjerven (Grandson of Arlen and Sheila Sjerven) Fort Schofield, Hawaii
- Noah Prout, (Barb Little's Nephew) Air Force, Florida
- Chandler & Hayley D'Incau (Bob and Rita's Grandson & Wife), Beale AFB, Marysville, CA
- Rob Grunwald, Coast Guard, Two Rivers, Wisconsin on Lake Michigan
- Peter Rampaart, Arden Mills, MN

Take a moment & pray for these as well:

- Prayers for families of those that lost loved ones in Afghanistan.
- Prayers for those in Louisiana as they recover from Hurricane Ida.
- Prayers for 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

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is our November Mission of the Month. 2021 has seen numerous natural disasters in the U.S.A. and throughout the world. As the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.,



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities. It provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods and works collaboratively with church partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith based responders.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is currently responding to needs in:

- **Areas impacted by Hurricane Ida:** Initial response grants have been disbursed and PDA has deployed National Response Team members to work alongside Presbyterian leadership as they make assessments and determine their needs.
- **North Carolina:** Tropical Depression Fred resulted in floods and flash flooding in North Carolina. At least five fatalities have been confirmed. PDA will provide grant(s) to meet emergency needs and into the long-term recovery phase.
- **Tennessee:** Heavy rain caused catastrophic flooding and flash flooding across Tennessee beginning August 21. At least 17 fatalities have been confirmed. PDA is responding to this disaster and is processing an initial assistance grant to meet emergency needs. PDA will continue support through the long-term recovery phase.
- **Ethiopia:** PDA is supporting projects to address emergency and life-sustaining needs such as shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), community engagement, livelihoods, food security and more.
- **Haiti:** For decades, PDA has had partnerships in Haiti to enable it to come alongside communities affected by disaster in the immediate aftermath, as well as support communities planning multi-year, long-term recovery projects. Most recently, PDA is responding to the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti the morning of August 14, 2021 that has resulted in the loss of more than 1,200 lives. PDA is providing emergency needs such as WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), emergency power generators, shelter, food, first aid and more.

Donations may be made at the church, mailed or be made through the church's on-line giving portal. Please give generously to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in their efforts to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

Mission Committee Missionary Sponsor

The Mission Committee voted to sponsor a missionary. Committee members researched numerous missionaries and chose to sponsor Mark and Miriam Adams in their involvement in the mission called Frontera de Cristo. Based in the sister cities of Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Frontera de Cristo works to build relationships and understanding across borders. People often see borders as nothing more than division, but at Frontera de Cristo, borders are seen as a place of encounter. Discerning God's will, Frontera de Cristo serves migrants and community members on both sides of the border.



By demonstrating gospel values in all that they do, Frontera de Cristo seeks to build relationships that demonstrate God's will, and build bridges rather than walls. So many people are migrating, seeking refuge and fleeing extreme poverty and violence. Our Frontera de Cristo's goal is not only to address their immediate needs, but also to address the root causes of mass migration, creating safe and prosperous opportunities that allow our sisters and brothers to stay in the land they call home, if they so choose.

Through the building of community-driven partnerships with ministries and secular organizations in Douglas, Arizona, Frontera de Cristo offers shelter, resources, education, emotional support, medical care, and new solutions. The hope is that everyone they meet knows they are made in God's image, they are worthy of respect, and they are welcome here.

Frontera de Cristo also partners in ministry with Café Justo. Café Justo and its sister organization, Café Justo y Mas, operate on a fair trade plus business model. By removing the middleman who purchases coffee from Mexican farmers and sells it to large American corporations, our fair trade plus system creates an opportunity for farmers to be in control of the process from start to finish. From harvesting, to roasting, to packaging, all the way to your doorstep, the cooperative's partners are involved. This optimizes the farmers' profits in a way that creates a just and livable income, eliminates their need to head north seeking work, and allows them to stay on their land with their families. Frontera de Cristo has been proud to serve as a partner with Café Justo since its establishment in 2003 and with Café Justo y Mas since its opening in 2016, watching one man's dream become a reality that provides new life for many through both.

The mission committee was able to meet Mark Adams via zoom at our September mission committee meeting. In the coming weeks and months, we will be telling you more about Mark and Miriam Adams and the mission of Frontera de Cristo and its ministry partners. If you have any questions, please ask anyone on the Mission Committee or Pastor Scott.

Frontera de Cristo website: <http://fronteradecristo.org/>
Café Justo Ministry partner info: <http://fronteradecristo.org/cafe-justo/>

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We continue to adjust to the new normal, as in person worship and on-line services go forward. It is good to be together to worship and fellowship coffee is a welcome return to opportunities to visit and catch up with our church family. The long awaited celebration of our 150th anniversary is taking place in October and we are welcoming former pastors and members from a distance as we worship and have dinner together.

September saw an improvement in our financial picture, though we are still running behind. Check out the side-bar numbers. As you read this, the end of the year is getting very close and we will need help in turning the deficit around, aiming to break even. In September we focused on stewardship of our gifts and talents and asked members to complete pledge cards. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, it is not too late. The financial secretary and treasurer are working on the 2022 budget and will be sending it to Session in November. Your indication of plans of giving help with the planning.

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 \$761. 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 September 30, 2021

General Fund Revenue:

\$ 174,129.00

Per Capita Giving:

\$ 6,921.00

Total General Fund Receipts:

\$ 181,050.00

Expenses:

\$174,878.00

Per Capita Payment:

\$10,148.00

Total General Fund Expenses:

\$185,026.00

Expenses in excess of Receipts:

\$3,976.00

Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:

\$61,659.00

MISSION GIVING

(Peacemaking)

\$425.00

Youth and Children Announcements

Youth at Lulu Beans



Once again, the Jr. and Sr. High youth are invited to gather at LuLu Beans every 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. The **next gathering will be on November 13th**. Plans are to meet in the large room upstairs, social distanced and wearing masks (only when you're not sipping on your favorite cup of whatever). Be sure to connect with Jeff before placing your order to receive your LuLu Bucks. Contact Jeff

Sieck or Rita Phillips if you have questions.

CEYM Director Jill Boeyink will be on vacation the week of November 22nd.

Please contact Darcy Forkrud or Andrea Walz if you have any questions while Jill is out of the office.

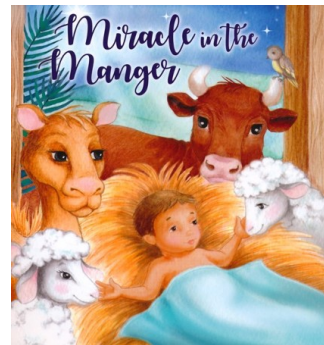


There will be NO children or youth activities on Wednesday, November 24th OR Sunday school/Adult Ed on Sunday, November 28th because of the Thanksgiving holiday. All classes will resume the following week.

Plans will soon be underway as the children and youth begin preparations for this year's Christmas program, "Miracle in the Manger". This traditional style program will no doubt be a celebration of the miracle of God's grace and love. As we recall the miracles of the first Christmas the children and youth will leave you with a sense of wonder and awe.

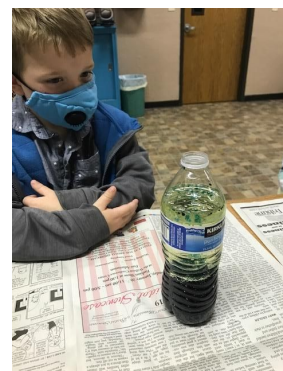
We'll be singing several of your favorite Christmas carols, and hearing the story of the birth of Jesus as told through scripture.

Plan to attend this special service on Sunday, December 19th during the 10 a.m. worship service. A miracle is something Only God can do. The Christmas miracles will show God's power and love for you!



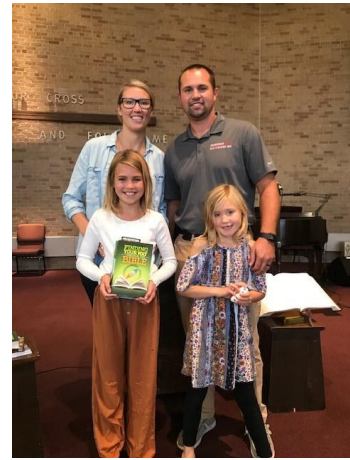
Parents, please be on the lookout for a practice schedule, list of needs, and speaking parts set to arrive in your mailbox the week of November 8.

Sunday School and Adult Ed



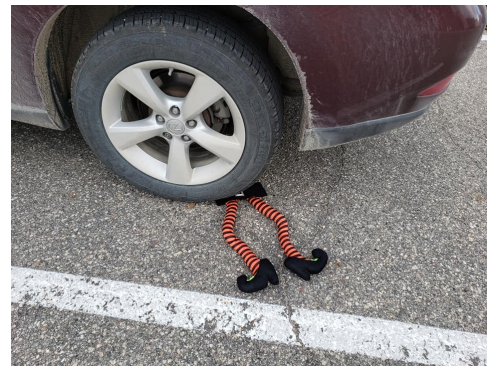


Bible Sunday September 12, 2021



Trunk or Treat 2021





Church Announcements



Don't forget to put your clock back!! Daylight Savings Time is November 7th!!

Exercise class will begin Thursday, November 4th at 10:30am. We will meet in the Narthex and discuss everyone's wants, needs, and wishes for the future. Low impact 30-40 minute sessions. Everyone is welcome. Remember to bring a water and a smile.

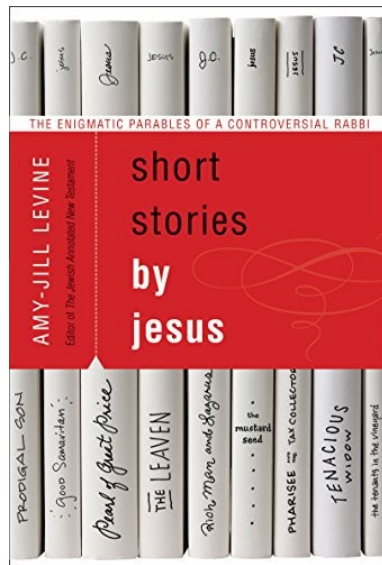


Fall Book Study
1st & 3rd Thursdays
4:00pm by Zoom

All are invited to join this spirited exploration into the parables of Jesus.

Renowned biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers.

Get your own copy of the book, and contact Pastor Leanne to receive the Zoom link.

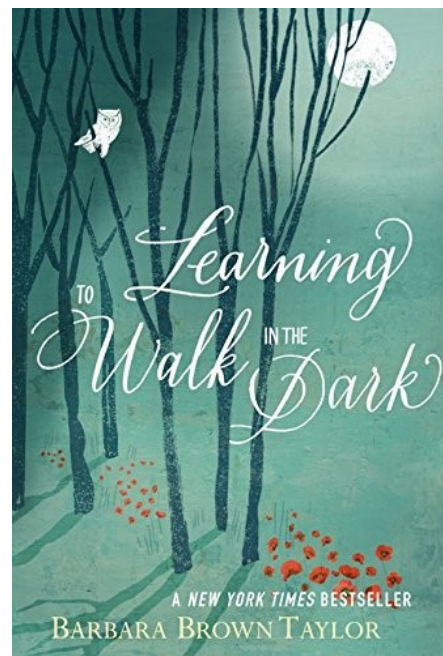


Fall Women's Bible Study
Wednesday Mornings at 8:00am
Friendship Room

"I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is only really one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light."

With her characteristic charm and literary wisdom, Barbara Brown Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments.

Get your own copy of the book and join us on Wednesday mornings!



Exercise can be fun! All you need is a bunch of Presbyterians all in one place at the same time. Becky Armstrong and Beth Johnston are looking for these fun Presbys. If you are interested in joining a group like this, either call, message or email Becky. We want to know what you're looking



for to increase your movement. We want to customize a class, (or 2, or 3??) to accommodate all ages, genders and activity levels. And, when, how often, and what kind of exercise would you like? Are you interested in improving flexibility? stamina? cardio? balance? Do you want to move just a LITTLE, or a LOT? You tell US! The only requirement is your own water bottle and a smile

Climate Speak-out at Presbytery



"I'm Earl Knutson, a member at First Pres Willmar. My passion is a healthy climate for my grandkids and great- grands, and by the way for your grands and great grands, and by the way for all grands and great-grands.

I'm a member of a group called Presbyterians for Carbon Dividends, which is a small branch of Presbyterians for Earth Care. We are about 80 strong from all over the US. Our core group, about 8, meets twice a month via zoom.

Our group is firm in the belief that we badly need a tax on carbon to slow global warming which causes harmful climate change.

We have a few projects to encourage and enable all Presbyterians to lobby Congress to include a carbon tax in forthcoming climate legislation. Some months ago I wrote to all 52 presbytery churches offering some of our products. The Valley Bridge has carried three of our offerings. I hope that many Presbyterians will join in. Some here already have."



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](#)

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.



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



COMING SOON!!

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

November

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

1 Monday

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

2 Tuesday

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

6:30pm: Deacons in the Choir Room

3 Wednesday

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

9:30am: Staff Meeting

5:30pm: Gospel Rock and Youth Group

4 Thursday

10:30am: Exercise class

4:00pm: Book Study via Zoom

7 Sunday

9:00am: Sunday School in the Family Cafe and Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

8 Monday

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

9 Tuesday

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

5:45pm: Personnel in the Admin Office

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

10 Wednesday

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

9:30am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Gospel Rock and Youth Group

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

11 Thursday

10:30am: Exercise Class

Committee Minutes Deadline

13 Saturday

10:00am: Youth at LuLu Beans

14 Sunday

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

9:00am: Sunday School in the Family Cafe and Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

15 Monday

VOICE DEADLINE

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

16 Tuesday

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

6:00pm: Budget and Stewardship in the Choir Room

17 Wednesday

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

9:30am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Gospel Rock and Youth Group

18 Thursday

10:30am: Exercise Class

4:00pm: Book Study via Zoom

6:30pm: Session

21 Sunday

9:00am: Sunday School in the Family Cafe and Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

22 Monday

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

23 Tuesday

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

24 Wednesday

NO Gospel Rock and Youth Group-Thanksgiving Break

25 Thursday

Thanksgiving

Office Closed

28 Sunday

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

29 Monday

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

30 Tuesday

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

November 22-26: Jill is on vacation

Reminder: The office is closed every Friday

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Erica Boeyink
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