

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

"But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet." (John 20: 11-12)

Friends,

I've been particularly touched by the poetry and art we've been using throughout Lent from our friends at Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org). I wanted to share this Easter poem written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed as a special blessing for you and I pray that it encourages you in your faith as we move from Easter Sunday into the spring.

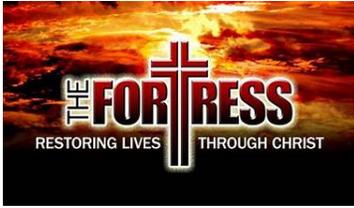
lost and found

By Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

Mary wept.
Standing in the garden,
soft dirt under her feet,
sun still tucked away,
sleeping under the horizon.
The other disciples left,
but Mary stayed.
Mary wept.
Shoulders shaking,
tears running down her face.
She said, They have taken my Lord away,
and I don't know where they put him.
But here's what Easter taught me:
if you think you've lost God,
if it feels like heaven has slipped through the cracks,
if you feel like the night will never end,
then know, there is no hide-and-seek with the divine
that doesn't end in you being found.
Stay still.
Keep breathing.
God is closer than you think.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott

MISSION OF THE MONTH



The Fortress

Our mission of the month for April is The Fortress here in Willmar. The Fortress is a thirty bed, men's faith-based restoration abstinence based program, whose center of focus is Jesus Christ. It is not the "Program" that saves us from addiction, it is Jesus in us and Jesus in the "Program" that leads to victory over addiction.

The Fortress has daily personal one on one counseling sessions, daily bible readings and devotions and a Wednesday night worship they are required to attend. These men are also required to find a home church to attend on Sundays in the Willmar area. This is a very important ministry, as most of us have been touched by addiction in some way or form in our families, our friend groups, our church.

The Fortress holds several events to raise money to be able to keep it going. The Fortress Banquet is in April and in the summer there is the "One Way" Festival. Clothing, blankets, towels and toiletries are other ways that we can contribute along with a cash donation.



Sign Up For

FRONTERA DE CRISTO

MISSION TRIP

OCTOBER 14-20, 2024

HANDOUTS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX!!!



**Frontera
de
Cristo**

Check out this great video about the border below!!

Video



4/3 Jerry Schiro
4/4 Richard Lange
4/8 Rev. Leanne Thompson
4/14 Elise Vomacka
4/16 Pat Clark
4/17 Jon Gubrud
4/18 Scott Boeyink
4/18 Carter Robles

4/19 Trenton Bulhuis
4/20 Aven Magnuson
4/22 Troy Schoolmeester
4/22 Jessica Walz
4/25 Roger Tatge
4/27 Jill Boeyink
4/28 Pat Walthers
4/28 Zachary Boyd

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:

Betty McDonnell (Ryan Lesteberg's Grandmother)
John Carver
Bea Ourada
Andy Sjerven (Sheila Sjerven's Stepson)
Bev Skare
Ben, Jessie, and Ronni Quimby (Deb Grunwald's Niece)
David Radabaugh (Carol Tatge's Brother)
Minnie Apel (Lori Manzer's Mother)
George Ruter
Ried Arnold
Jeanette Stegeman (Kirsten Stegeman's Mother In-law)
Samuel Carver (John and Vicki Carver's Great Grandson)
Nada Bilky (Vicki Carver's Sister)
Jill Berglund (Mary Berglund's Daughter)

Prayers for Those Who Grieve:

The Family of Rev. Mark Chamberlain
The Family of Dorothy Caine

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
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.
Bdecán Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Reservation, ND

Also be in Prayers for:

Israel/Palestine (war)
War in Ukraine
Burnsville, MN Tragedy
Kansas City Parade Shooting
Baltimore Bridge Tragedy

TREASURER/BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We had a bit of a turn around this month and are no longer in the black. Looking at numbers in the sidebar you will see that expenses are greater than the income for year to date operations. Giving is down some, and expenses are up, perhaps an over simplification of the problems. We are hopeful there will be another turn around and this will not become a bigger concern. We do monitor this closely and will try to keep you aware of this. Your usual giving and can make an effort to catch up that will help us all. If we all do a little bit, and if some of us can do a little bit more, we can stop this before it becomes serious. We know our economy is struggling with inflation and this touches us all—you and your family and our church operations. We do understand that things happen, and sometimes you have to change your priorities.

So far there have been no gifts to the “Extra Giving”. A little extra giving can help us finish the year without having to make an unwelcome appeal of significant extra money to cover a shortfall. The same thing is accomplished if you just add something to your usual monthly giving, but sometimes it helps to see donations directed to the extra giving of our general fund.

The Per Capita for 2024 is \$45 per confirmed member. If you are new to First Presbyterian, or are not familiar with per capita, talk to the pastors or Budget Committee members to understand how this money is used. Per capita is paid in support of the three governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church USA, our presbytery, the synod and the General Assembly. This goes toward operating or administrative expenses of each body. The work of the greater church, Mission, Disaster, Hunger etc are supported by designated giving. When you think about it, it is a bargain to operate the governance of the greater church at \$45 per member. Compare this to any secular charity and be impressed! We have a practice of taking per capita giving each month for the first three months of the year and paying as received. We then pay the balance in the fourth month. Remember, we welcome your payment as early as possible but receive any time during the year you are able to pay.

As noted, there has been nothing given for Extra Giving in 2024. 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!

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.

2024 Per Capita Expense

\$9,596

2024 Per Capita Received

\$2,612

General Fund through January 31, 2024

General Fund Revenue:

\$ 37,498.00

Per Capita Giving:

2,612.00

Total General Fund Receipts:

\$40,498.00

Expenses:

\$39,912.00

2024 Per Capita Payment:

\$2,612.00

Total General Fund Expenses:

\$42,524.00

Expenses in excess of Revenue:

\$2,026.00

Building and Remodeling Fund Balance:

\$95,564.00

MISSION GIVING

(February)

\$710.00

Building Maintenance Loan (Roof)

\$98,903.00

Youth and Children Announcements



Youth at Lulu Beans

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

Thank you to everyone who supported our church youth by bringing in a filled Noisy Cup during the month of February. Your contributions totaled \$1,219.49, a new record of giving! All of these donations will go towards expenses occurred during the youth mission trip to the Bdecan Presbyterian Church this coming August.



Mark Your Calendars



While filling in your calendars the next couple of months, be sure to include the following dates:

- Wednesday, May 1 – Youth Led Worship practice at 6:20 p.m. in the sanctuary
- Wednesday, May 8 – Last WNL Meal/Classes
- Wednesday, May 8 – Youth Led Worship practice at 6:20 p.m. in the sanctuary
- Sunday, May 12 – Youth Led Worship practice at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
- Sunday, May 12 – Youth Led Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 15 – ALL Children & Youth Awards Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in JKH

Boxed Lunch Fundraiser

Sunday, April 7 at 11:00 a.m. in JKH



IT'S TIME FOR
**CLEARWATER
FOREST CAMP
BOXED LUNCH
FUNDRAISER**

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH, 2024
RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP IN JKH

**SUGGESTED DONATIONS ARE
\$12 FOR ADULT BOXES AND
\$6 FOR CHILDREN'S BOXES.**

**MENU:
SUBWAY SANDWICH (TURKEY OR HAM)
CHIPS AND COOKIE
WITH A BOTTLE OF WATER**



Let's celebrate "Camp Sunday" together with the annual Boxed Lunch Fundraiser, with all proceeds going towards camp scholarships for all individuals going to Clearwater Forest!

Enjoy a lunch consisting of ham or turkey subs with "Subway" bread, a bag of chips, cookie and water. Also, plenty of sub toppings will be available. Suggested donations: \$12 per adult box (includes a 6" sub) and \$6 for children's box (includes a 3" sub). Invite a friend or bring the whole family to this special fundraiser highlighting Clearwater Forest Camp!

All children & youth, grades 2-12 are asked to help prep, serve and clean up before during and after the meal. Please report to the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. to receive instructions.

So, mark your calendar for this exciting event to support camp scholarships to Clearwater Forest!

“Wednesday Night Live” (WNL) Classes

From 5:30pm-7:30pm

Each Wednesday begins with a short time of Worship in JKH at 5:30pm, followed by a catered meal.

STARTING AT 6:20pm:

ABC Faith

All Adults

John Knox Hall

Rainbow Venture

Preschool- 1st Grade

The Nursery

Gospel Rock

Grades 2-5

Gospel Rock Classroom

Youth Group

Grades 6-12

Youth Room

ALL ARE INVITED AND WELCOME

****Nursery Care provided as well!**



“CAMP FIRELIGHT” VBS 2024

Surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills, Camp Firelight VBS 2024 is the perfect location for every Camper’s favorite summer activities! During each assembly session, Campers join first-time camp counselor Sam and Lu (short for Lumen), the lightning bug puppet, and learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, Campers see Counselor Sam face new challenges, from as simple as leading Campers on a hike to as intimidating as meeting a new and wise nature expert. With the help of Lu the Lightning Bug and the Camp Counselor Guidebook, Counselor Sam and our Campers will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God’s name.



Through these stories, this program will teach us about people in the Bible who experienced the gift of a trusting relationship with God. In addition, it will teach us to trust that God will go with us, lead the way, share wisdom, to give us peace, and spark joy as we celebrate the good news of Jesus in our own lives and in the lives of others. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God’s work in the world and share the Good News of God’s love through Jesus Christ. Rotations will include crafts, recreation & Bible storytelling.

Camp Firelight VBS will be held June 9-12 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Willmar. To get your child registered head to our website, or complete a registration form located in the Narthex or sent to you at home.

Be sure to invite a friend or two, and grandparents, get those grandkids here...they will love it!

Contact Jill Boeyink if you have questions, or if you would be interested in helping as a youth or adult leader.

Camp Firelight Volunteers Needed



If you have signed up, or would like to sign up to help with “Camp Firelight” VBS in June, please mark your calendars for our one-time informational meeting on Monday, May 6th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Café. During the meeting you will receive all of the information and resources necessary to begin making plans for your part in VBS. You will also have an opportunity to meet directly with your team members. Please contact Jill Boeyink if you would like to sign up to help, or would like more details.

Clearwater Forest

SUMMER CAMP

At Clearwater Forest each session of camp for children, youth, adults and families is rich in a variety of activities, fresh air, engaging worship, and connection building. The loving, enthusiastic and dedicated summer staff provide guidance and support for campers to take healthy risks through fun, challenging and adventurous activities. Whether its learning to paddle a sea kayak or completing the high ropes course, these activities help any camper stretch and grow in a safe Christian community. Leadership opportunities abound for all ages – from choosing daily activities, participating in planning and leading worship, to leading a cabin or quest group through the various daily activities.

Please note that all week-long camps will end on Fridays!

All those attending camp from First Presbyterian Church will receive a scholarship of ½ off the price of camp. This applies to ALL ages. Please contact Jill Boeyink with camp questions, or to request a scholarship.

2024 Summer Camp Schedule

	June 23-28 Session 1	June 30- July 3		July 7-12 Session 2	July 14-19 Session 3	July 21-26 Session 4	July 28- Aug 2 Session 5	Aug 4-9 Session 6	
Adventure Discovery	Discovery Adventure	First Timers	NO CAMP ACTIVITIES JULY 4-6	Discovery Adventure	Discovery Adventure	Discovery Adventure	Endless: Discovery Adventure	Camp Create: Discovery Adventure	
Sr. High	Sr. High			Sr. High 10 Day (July 10-19)			Sr. High	Endless Sr. High	Camp Create Sr. High
Grands Camp	Grands Camp Session 1 (Jun 23-26)	Grands Camp Session 1,5 (Jun 30- July 3)		Grands Camp Session 2 (July 7-10)	Grands Camp Session 3 (July 14-17)				
				Sr. High Sailing (July 10-19)					

Seeds of Service 2024

Who: People of all ages! [Register Here!](#)

When: April 19-21, 2024 (7 pm on Friday until 11 am on Sunday)

Where: Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center

Cost: \$150/camper

Leaders: This event will be led by a team including...

James Eiden, Clearwater Forest Intern/Green Camp Certification Lead
eidenjames11@gmail.com OR (651) 605-1970

Heidi Auel, University of Minnesota Extension Regional Sustainable
Development Partnership/Central CERT (Clean Energy Resource Teams)
Coordinator

Madee Luhrs & Anice Lucas, Clearwater Forest Program Coordinators

What is the Seeds of Service Retreat?

The purpose of this retreat is to provide dedicated time and energy to completing service projects at Clearwater Forest. These projects will largely focus on our goal of becoming a [Green Camp](#). In order to do this, we are working to reduce our environmental impact in meaningful and sustainable ways.

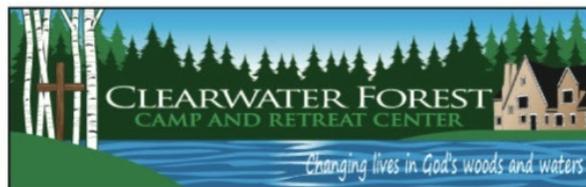
Why are we doing this? It is part of the Mission of Clearwater Forest!

Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith-building Christian programming, nurture an active Christian community, and **be a faithful steward of God's Creation**.

So what are we actually going to do? We will be broken into teams to complete one or more of these projects:

- Planning and planting a garden
- Implementing a composting system
- Helping with maple syruping
- Implementing waste reduction strategies
- Other tasks as determined by the Green Camps Needs Assessment and Minnesota Power energy audit

To join us, register at [https://clearwaterforest.campbrainregistration.com/!](https://clearwaterforest.campbrainregistration.com/)



Church Announcements

Easter Monday

April 1st, 2024

OFFICE CLOSED



ECUMENICAL EVENING PRAYER

Light of the World

May our shared prayer promote unity, heal divisions, and renew peace.

Sunday, April 7th, 2024 at 7:00pm
at Tripolis Lutheran Church
(Kandiyohi, MN)

MEN'S

Bible Study

Every Tuesday Morning
in the Friendship Room
at **8:00am.**



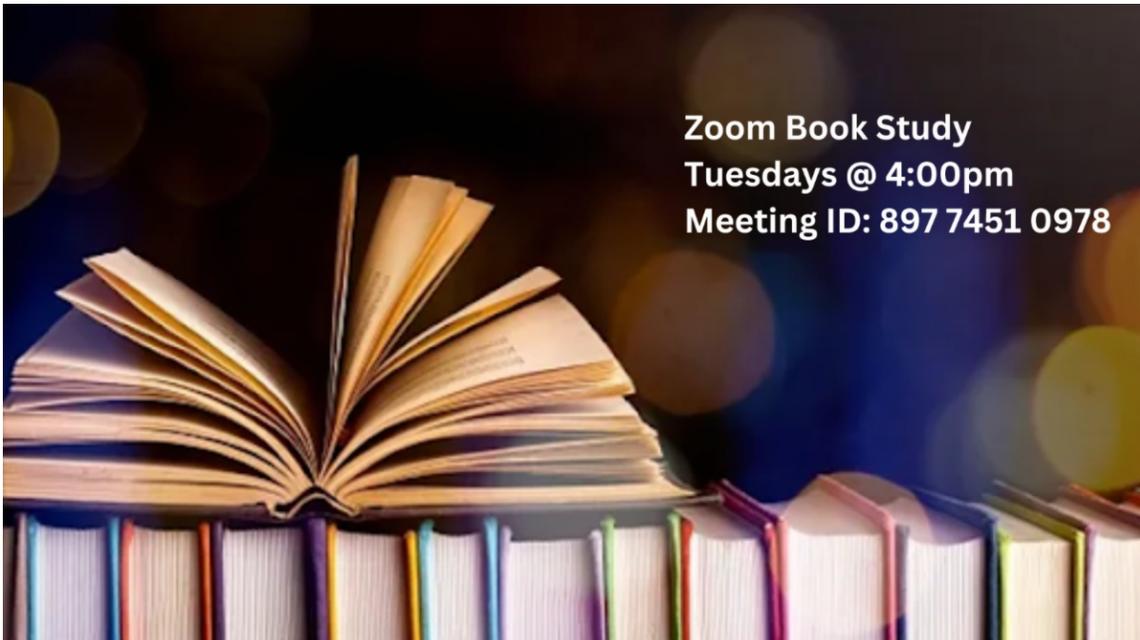
Wednesdays at 8:00am
in the Friendship Room

Women's BIBLE STUDY

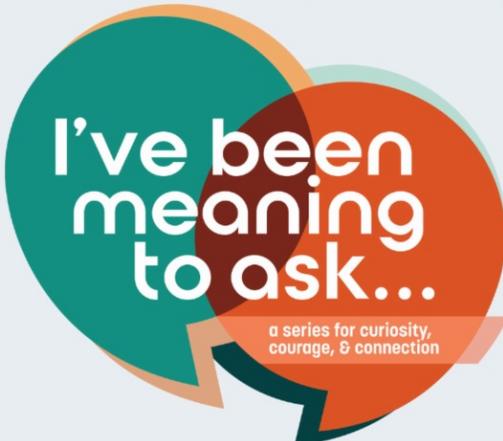
Bring your Bible and join us for
Coffee, Conversation, and Prayer.



Zoom Book Study
Tuesdays @ 4:00pm
Meeting ID: 897 7451 0978



Wednesday night *Live*



I've been
meaning
to ask...

a series for curiosity,
courage, & connection

STARTING APRIL 3RD, 2024

Pulpit Assistants & Song Leaders Needed

Sign Up Sheets are in the Narthex for
Song Leaders and Pulpit Assistants! Pick
Your Date(s) **TODAY!**

NURSERY CARE ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are in need of a few more Nursery Assistants for Sunday Mornings. If this is something you feel called to do, contact Shara in the church office.



(This position is a paid position)



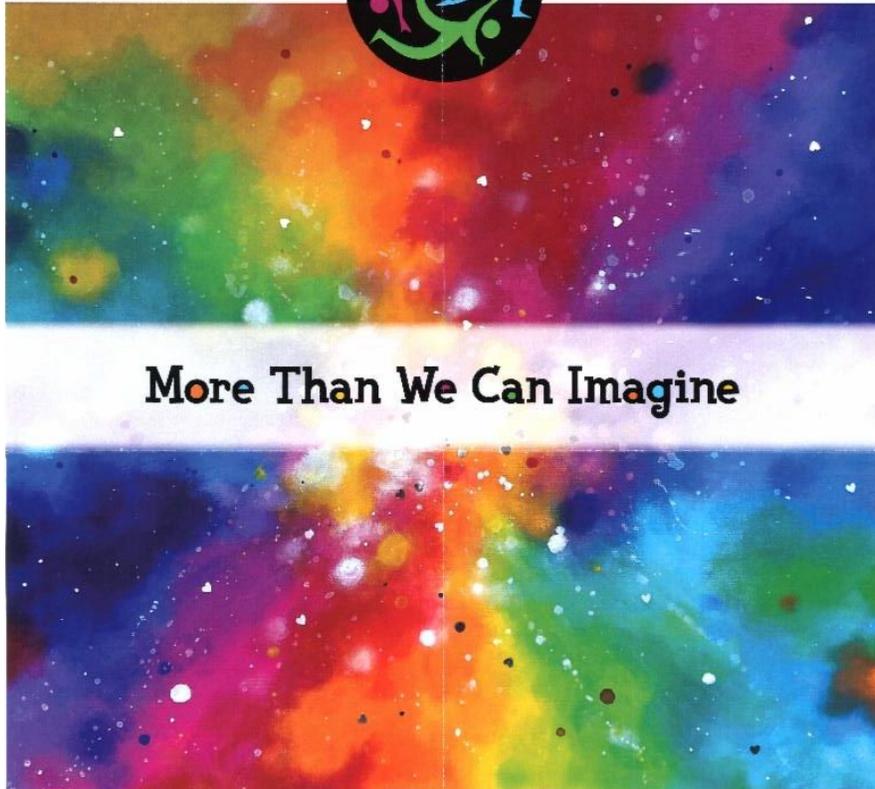
Update from your Vital Congregations Initiative Facilitators:

Although we are on hold with the PCUSA Vital Congregations project, we are as a church moving forward in our discernment process. The VCI office turned us onto a website called 8 Habits of Evangelism. We have identified Evangelism as one of the VCI marks that we should be learning more about and this site is turning out to be a great way to do it. If you are like me, the word evangelism has been a scary one. We do, as Presbyterians, identify with the term “the frozen chosen”, right? What we’re finding out is that evangelism is nothing like our stereotype....and so much more accessible! We’re only on lesson one and two but learning so much about faith in action and what church can look like in this new age. Check out this site! It’s a good one! Sheila Sjerven and Ben Lang



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 APRIL filled, please!



July 21-26, 2024

**Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa**

www.lakesandprairies.org

Synod of Lakes and Prairies • Synod School • 2115 Cliff Drive • Eagan, MN 55122-3327
Phone 651.357.1140 • Toll free 1.800.328.1880

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.



MONTHLY CALENDAR

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

1 Monday

Office Closed

Easter Monday

2 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 (Meeting ID: 897 7451 0978)

3 Wednesday

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

10:00am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live

4 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

6 Saturday

10:00am: Rev. Mark Chamberlain's Visitation at FPC

11:00am: Rev. Mark Chamberlain's Funeral

7 Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Clearwater Forest Boxed Lunch Fundraiser in JKH

9 Tuesday

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

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

4:00pm: Zoom Book Study (Meeting ID: 897 7451 0978)

6:30pm: Deacons in the Choir Room, CEYM in the CEYM Office, 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"

11 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

12 Friday

6:00pm: Fortress Banquet

13 Saturday

10:00am: Youth at LuLu Beans

10:00am-3:00pm: Presbytery Meeting in Renville

14 Sunday

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

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Fellowship in JKH

15 Monday

VOICE DEADLINE

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 (Meeting ID: 897 7451 0978)

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

18 Thursday

COMMITTEE MINUTES DEADLINE

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary and Buildings and Grounds in the Admin Office

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 (Meeting ID: 897 7451 0978)

24 Wednesday

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

10:00am: Staff Meeting in the Admin Office

5:30pm: Wednesday Night Live

25 Thursday

10:00am: Exercise Class in JKH

6:00pm: Music Team in the Sanctuary

6:30pm: Session in the Choir Room

26 Friday

6:00pm: Family Social Hour at the Legion

28 Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

9:00am: Adult Ed in the Friendship Room

10:00am: Sunday Worship

11:00am: 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 (Meeting ID: 897 7451 0978)

The office is closed on Fridays.

April 13-April 20: Kentucky Mission Trip

April 30-May 2nd: Clearwater Forest Work Camp

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rev. Scott Thompson
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Co-Pastor
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Shara Goldenstein
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Jill Boeyink
CEYM Director/Music Team
Director
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Deb Lang
Financial Secretary
deb.fpcwillmar@gmail.com

Tom Wodash
Custodian

Now Hiring
Nursery Supervisor

Bea Ourada
Treasurer
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Betty Knutson
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320-222-1613

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Church Website:
www.fpchurchwillmar.org



Pastoral Care
Emergency Phone:
320-737-0649

Visit our
website

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