

The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

December 2016

ON THE INSIDE:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Prayers | 2 |
| Birthdays | 2 |
| Pastor Reflections | 3 |
| News & Events | 4-5 |



Holy
IS
HIS
NAME.

LUKE 1:49

Scrip

It is hard to believe, but by the time you read this you've already had your Thanksgiving dinner. Advent is upon us, that wonderful time of year when all the trappings of Christmas abound. It is also that time of year when sales abound and the stores are packed. Did you know you can shop online and help raise money for the church? How? SCRIP! And as always, Scrip can be used in stores as well. So whether it's finding something for that hard to shop for person or picking up that last item to bake your famous cookies, scrip can help. Orders are due December 4th and will be available for pickup December 11th. If you have any questions, talk to Chris Swee.



Family Advent Service

The Family Advent Service will be December 11th at 10:30 with the youth leading the service. We will have a soup and sweets lunch following. If you would like to volunteer to bring a pot of soup or two dozen treats, please contact Jane Lobitz or sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall. The younger children will be playing chimes for the introit each Sunday during Advent. There will be a rehearsal for the Family Advent Service on December 10th at 10:00.



Christmas Eve there will only be the 5:30pm service due to Christmas falling on a Sunday. We will have 10:30am church service Christmas Day.

Stewardship and Finance - Thank You!

The Stewardship & Finance committee would like to thank all those who have faithfully pledged for 2017. We are grateful for your commitment of time, talents and treasures. Without you, First Presbyterian would not be able to commit to fulfilling its mission teaching the words of Christ through our wonderful community of faith. If you've not yet pledged, don't worry, it's never too late. Pledge forms can be found in the church office. Any gift given with an open heart will be dutifully used to continue the mission of First Presbyterian.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

Worship: 10:30 am — Sunday School: 9:15am-10:15am (all ages)

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

www.firstpresmhd.org

218.233.1192

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstpresmhd

E-mail Addresses:

Church: admin@firstpresmhd.org

Newsletter Articles: nadineswee@yahoo.com

Our mission is to be a caring community of God's people who live by Christ's teachings, reach out to others to share the love of God, and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, thought, and action.



Prayers for Others:

Plinio Espinosa (uncle of
Flory Austin)

Laura Hagemann

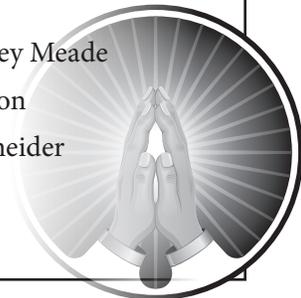
Donald and Marion
DeJong

Carley Farley Meade

Josh Peterson

Mabel Schneider

Austyn



Mid Week Meal & Program

Wed. December 7th

Supper: Baked Chicken, Broccoli w/cheese sauce, Fruit, Milk, Bread Pudding w/sauce

Worship: Notice Life

Wed. December 14th

Supper: Baked Potato Bar with Various Toppings, Milk, Ice Cream Sundaes

Presentation on Cooper House: Bonnie Erickson

Wed. December 21st

Supper: Chili, Cornbread, Cutie Oranges, Milk, Decorate your own Christmas Cookie

Hymn Sing

Wed. December 28th

No Midweek Meal - Happy Holidays!

Meal time: 6:00-6:45pm

Programming: 6:45pm (Program start time may vary slightly)

Meal donation is suggested at \$6 adult / \$2 child

You are always welcome to be our guest should this be a financially tight time in life. Your company is enough.



| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Carolyn Ballard | Dec 1 | Julie Sorenson | Dec 16 |
| Eloise Massie | Dec 3 | Gerald VanAmburg | Dec 17 |
| Clarence Smerud | Dec 4 | Kelsie Phonethep | Dec 18 |
| Ross Mathews | Dec 7 | Kaleb Phonethep | Dec 18 |
| Nadine Swee | Dec 8 | Micah Pemble | Dec 19 |
| Noah Steward | Dec 9 | B. Erik Swee | Dec 19 |
| Peter Erickson | Dec 10 | Joan Piepkorn | Dec 19 |
| Thomas Williams | Dec 11 | Jane Tandberg | Dec 19 |
| Kathy Giddings | Dec 11 | Marilynn Woods | Dec 20 |
| Rich Martin | Dec 11 | Luke Hestbeck | Dec 23 |
| Doreen Taber | Dec 12 | Barbara Worman | Dec 24 |
| Garrick Larson | Dec 13 | Peggy Johnson | Dec 27 |
| Joni Massie | Dec 14 | Carleigh Swee | Dec 27 |
| Hal Dickelman | Dec 14 | Cheri Martin | Dec 28 |
| Holly Martin | Dec 15 | Bradley Hawkins | Dec 29 |
| Theresa Samuels | Dec 16 | | |

EPCTL is Elizabeth Swee and all Deacons



Pastor Reflections

It is the start of a new Christian Liturgical year and the time when we look forward to celebrating our Lord and Saviors birth. The time of waiting for advent is the season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We are entering advent season and traveling on the road to Bethlehem. For small children Christmas does not seem to come fast enough. For others it would be nice to have a few more days to prepare for the holidays, before family arrives or we travel. I am closer to the later. There is not enough time. As my grandson says, "Maybe you are trying to do too much". When that happens I start to miss the joys of the season and the road I am traveling on.

The last two years I have been trying to do a spiritual practice of celebrating a Celtic Advent. It starts 40 days before Christmas, on November 15th. This has helped me to slow down and appreciate the journey, to be grateful for simple blessings and the community around me. The angel proclaimed to the shepherd's on Christmas Day. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. A Savior has been born to you; he is the Christ, the Lord" I need to remember that. The words of the children's song, "because the bible told me so", reinforces that. There are 365 times in scriptures we are told to fear not. God has a plan for us and his church.

Celtic Christianity also lifts up the "Spirituality of Hospitality. There is a report coming in January from the visioning workshop which the congregation participated in. The top two responses were "Be a Welcoming – caring community – respect all people & who they are" and "Children's / Youth Choir". In this season of advent we have that opportunity to start living that vision and practicing hospitality. Sunday December 11th is the Children's Family Advent service and the "Soup and Sweets" meal afterwards. Special days like this are wonderful opportunities to invite a friend or acquaintance to come to church with you. We can be welcoming and enjoy the children's message at the same time. The children's Christmas program is a very special time in any church. Why not invite someone you might know who does not attend a church regularly. Invite them to come with you and attend worship and share the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of the season. This is a simple way for the congregation to begin living the vision you have.

God gives us glimpses of where the church is being called. They are not always burning bushes. So follow the vision you have for being the church you want to be. Invite someone to worship with us on Sunday December 11th. Do not be afraid, Share the Good News.

Post Script note: I will doing an Advent Study, "A Season of Hope and Anticipation: Advent Themes in the Four Gospels", on Sunday Mornings at 9:00. We will start in the library on November 27th.

- Pastor Paul



Wedding Representative

The Worship Committee is looking for anyone interested in being the Church Wedding Representative. Job description is still in process. If interested please contact Holly Martin 701-866-1071.

Liturgists Needed

Would you be willing to serve as a Liturgist for our Sunday Morning service? For more information, please contact Carole Smerud at 701-361-5933



Please join us for a Carol Jam December 18th at 4pm.

Looking for Chimes players! If you are interested please contact Holly Martin (701) 866-1071.

News & Events

Session News from November

- The session got a look at the preliminary 2017 Church budget. Another budget meeting is scheduled for December 5.
- The session is studying the possibility of sharing pastors with another church in the area. The church was contacted about this possibility, with Pastor Paul meeting with church representatives of another church. He brought the information to session. Session felt it was beneficial to have a conversation to gather more information.
- Session approved the request for a Letter of Transfer of church membership for the Postema family, to Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead.
- Current church finances indicate that 2016 may not end with budget deficit. Expenses are greatly reduced (thanks to decreased spending by committees, but also reduced pastoral expenses). Member giving does not appear to be meeting our projected 2016 member giving estimates. This is a concern for member giving/income for 2017.
- The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday January 22, 2017 following worship and potluck dinner. Current committee moderators will be responsible for preparing reports for the Annual meeting. The deadline to submit reports is January 12. Any questions about preparing a report, check with LuAnn Buehre, Clerk of Session.
- Action Ministry reported that the gardening project planning is proceeding. They are determining the best placement of the garden.
- Three laptop computers were donated to the church from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Communication committee will acquire software for the laptops, as well as update software on the office computer. The laptops will be utilized for church business and church programs.
- The Nominating Committee reported that they have 10 of 12 elder and deacon slots filled. Thank you to those who have said Yes to serving.

November Hospitality Team:

Frank & Patti Kratky

Julie Sorenson/Julie Munsey

Diane Wray-Williams**

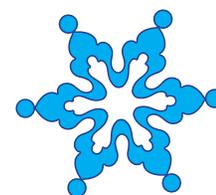
Greg & Renee Akason

Steve Knorr/Flory Austin

** Group Leaders

Winter Snow Removal Schedule

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| NOV 28-DEC 4 | Ron Johnson |
| DEC 5-11 | Tim Nelson |
| DEC 12-18 | James Gale |
| DEC 19-25 | Chris Swee |
| DEC 26-JAN 2 (2017) | Tim Ortez |
| JAN 2-8 | Frank Kratky |
| JAN 9-15 | John Ortez |
| JAN 16-22 | Mitchell Mckaig |
| JAN 23-29 | Erik Swee |
| JAN 30-FEB 5 | Scott Ecker |
| FEB 6-12 | Ron Johnson |
| FEB 13-19 | Tim Nelson |
| FEB 20-26 | Adam Massie |
| FEB 29-MAR 5 | Chris Swee |
| MAR 6-12 | Tim Ortez |
| MAR 13-19 | Frank Kratky |
| MAR 20-26 | John Ortez |
| MAR 27-APR 2 | Mitchell Mckaig |
| APR 3-9 | Erik Swee |
| APR 10-16 | Scott Ecker |
| APR 17-23 | Ron Johnson |



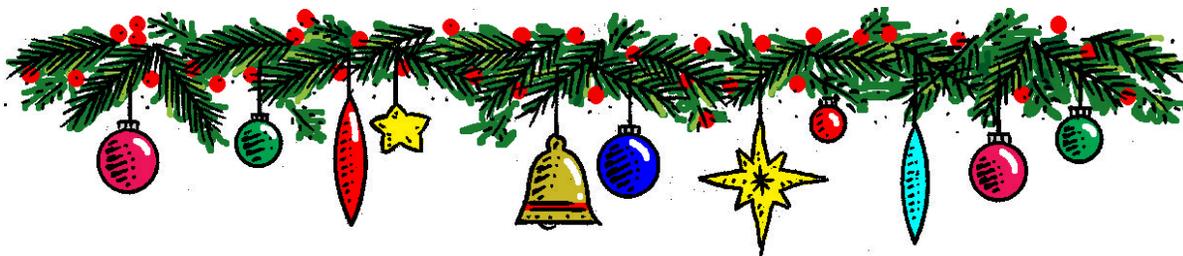
News & Events

Christmas Donations for Cooper House Residents

As you begin your Christmas shopping please consider picking up a few additional items for the residents at the Cooper House. In the past we've done a Giving Tree for the Cooper House but thought this year we would make it easier for our church members by having you bring a few items that will be put in a gift bag for each resident. Items you can donate include new white athletic socks, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and kleenex. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall to collect the donations.

The Cooper House is a housing unit for the chronically homeless in Fargo. We have 42 residents living there, all who have been homeless for a number of years. Most of the residents are dealing with mental and physical illness and addiction issues. The Cooper House provides stable housing for them, allowing support staff to assist them with their problems. Christmas is always a challenging time for the residents as it reminds them of the things they're missing in their lives, such as a close relationship with family. For many of the residents the gift we provide will be the only one they receive.

Christmas is a season of giving and sharing God's love. What better way to show God's love then to provide some comfort to people who have struggled so much and have so little. If you have questions about gifts please contact Bonnie Erickson at 218-233-4861. Thank you for your support!



Dorothy Day House of Hospitality & Food Pantry:

We will serve on Monday, December 26th at 6:15 p.m. Additional hours are available to help out on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. (or as long as you can stay).

Please consider serving each month with your church congregation. It is great fellowship and helps out the pantry in a very important mission.

We cannot do it without you! If you have any questions, please contact Marilynn Woods at 236-9917. *Please join us when you are able!*

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead
2900 Fifth Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December Worship Schedule

Sun. Dec. 4th - Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Matthew 3:1-12

Sun. Dec. 11th - Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

Family Advent Service and Soup & Sweets Lunch

- Isaiah 35:1-10
- Luke 1:46b-55

Sun. Dec 18th - Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Sun. Dec 24th - Christmas Eve - Lessons and Carols

Sun. Dec 25th - Christmas Day - Cloth for the Cradle

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-20