

The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

June 2017

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While many of you may know my name and face, I wanted to more formally introduce myself as I start as Director of Christian Education. I am a life-long Presbyterian, having spent my early years in a small Minneapolis church where I experienced Sunday school with a similar number of kids to what we currently have at FPC. In my pre-teen years my family moved to a larger suburban church, which gave me the opportunity to begin developing my church leadership skills. During my youth (middle-school – high school) I helped lead a mid-week children's program, which led me to start hearing the call to educational ministry. I share a couple of those moments in my church life to give you a sense of my background and where my faith journey began. I believe everyone has a unique faith journey and it is a privilege to be able to walk along side many of you and your family in your journey.

I am so happy to have the opportunity to help lead the faith formation of this church as your Director of Christian Education. There are so many exciting things happening at First Presbyterian Moorhead now and in the near future - from the community garden and neighborhood kids using our playground, to new worship opportunities and a new Sunday school curriculum. I love to talk about what we are doing in the Christian Education Ministry, so if you have questions, ideas, or concerns about Sunday School, Bible studies or other ways we can explore our faith please let me know.

Blessings to you,
Scott Dobovsky

Call for Service Opportunity

The "Nominating Committee" is the most important committee in the church. They are the committee which selects the next class of Deacons and Elders, the next leaders of your church for going into the future. It is a very essential mission.

The Nominating Committee membership consists of two Session members and one Deacon Representative. The remaining members are from the congregation and need to be one more than the total number of Session and Deacons. The congregation will have the majority. This membership is elected by the congregation. There needs to be 4 congregation members to satisfy this rule. We need one more member from the congregation. They can be a lay person or non-serving Elder and Deacon.

The committee's task will be to seek people with the gifts and talents Christ needs for First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead to complete the ministry and mission to the world.

If you are a person who knows many of the members of this church, please consider this call to be a candidate for this very important position.

"Come, Follow Me", Jesus said. "I will make you fishers of people." Mark 1:17

And when the day
of Pentecost
was fully
come, they
were all
with one
accord in
one place.



The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

Worship: 10:30 am

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.

June Hospitality Team:

Ron & Peggy Johnson

Kim Reiersen Kelsh**

** Group Leaders

Please see note on back of Hospitality calendar

New Life Events

On May 7, the first lunch bunch gathering took place with 33 people of all ages sharing a meal at Snap Dragon. Based on ideas shared at this meal we are happy to announce the next lunch bunch gathering will take place Sunday, June 4 at the Speak Easy. Please plan to join us after worship for lunch. If you plan to attend, we would love an RSVP to provide the Speak Easy with an estimated number. You can tell the church office, a member of the New Life Committee or place a note in the New Life mailbox near the office.

One of the popular event ideas from the surveys was Beer and Hymns; we will be gathering Sunday, June 11 7:00 pm at Junkyard brewing for an evening of hymns and craft beer.

The top requested event from the New Life surveys was an outdoor worship service. On July 16, 10:30 am worship will be at Gooseberry Park, the small shelter has been reserved, Joni has new speakers for her keyboard and there will be a picnic with games following worship.

With the new Wednesday worship service that begins in July be watching for fellowship opportunities connected to this new endeavor. Also in the month of August, we will connect with our neighbors for Night to Unite, have a pool party and end the summer with a campfire.

- June 4 – Lunch Bunch following worship at The Speak Easy
- June 11 – Beer and Hymns 7pm Junkyard Brewing
- July 16 – Outdoor worship and picnic at Gooseberry Park 10:30 am
- August 1 – Night to Unite time TBA

The New Life Committee: Scott Ecker, Scott Dobovsky, Monika Browne, and Erik Swee

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

The family of Tami Enkers
(Sister of Tim Lobitz) at her
passing

Jeanne Walker

Vernon Bancroft, Jr.

Raymond Austin

Theresa Samuels

Laura Hagemann

Donald and Marion DeJong

Josh Peterson

Mabel Schneider

Austyn



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Milton Wilkinson	June 1	Allison Lobitz	June 17
Tim Nelson	June 2	Martha Wheeler	June 21
Beverly Biever	June 2	James Winter	June 23
Jane Lobitz	June 3	Julie Munsey	June 24
Lynette Nelson	June 6	George O'Neill	June 26
Mathias Larson	June 8	Janet Iverson	June 27
Kathy McKaig	June 13	Arlene Munighan	June 28
Amanda Ghauri	June 13	David Wheeler	June 30
Scott Dobovsky	June 16		



Pastor Reflections

The school year is winding down. We look forward to the warmer days of summer, but for First Presbyterian Church they do not need to be “The Lazy Days of Summer.”

There are many things that continue in the life and growth of the church. We start off right away with Vacation Bible School. This year it is again a joint collaboration with Bethesda Lutheran Church. We will have VBS in the mornings from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm starting on Monday, June 5th through Thursday, June 8th. Thursday night there will be a picnic at the church highlighting and celebrating the week.

The New Life Committee and the Worship Committee are in the planning stages for an outdoor worship and picnic at Gooseberry Park in July on Sunday the 16th.

The Community Garden is getting planted at this time and will be meeting on Wednesday nights from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for its care and nurture. The first meetings and planting have brought a diverse community of New Americans to the garden. It is truly a great joy to see a diverse group of people laughing and working together in God’s soil to grow fresh vegetables.

Remember earlier I said this is not the lazy days of summer.

At the May session meeting we had a mini-retreat and visioning time. This came out of the Elder training in January and the discussion of taking time as your leaders to discern where the church should go in the next year.

The session made a decision to pursue growth. We will be adding an additional worship service on Wednesday evenings for the next year. Our church families find it increasingly difficult to get to church on Sunday. School and sport activities are scheduled on weekends, taking families away from home and the opportunity to attend church and church activities. The session discussed how we could make it possible for people to attend church, Sunday School, and other church events. If we want First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead to grow, we need to consider what we may do to reach/bring/offer others and our members the opportunity to participate in the life of the church. Session chose to begin a Wednesday Evening Worship service this summer, starting July 5 at 7:00 pm, and continue on Wednesday evenings through the next year and hopefully beyond. Our Sunday Worship will continue as well. The added service will be a “worship light” or a shorter service and using different mediums for praise and worship. There will be more information as the committees finalize and follow where the Holy Spirit is leading them.

Please keep the session and committees in your prayers, as we launch this new and exciting Worship service.

Your churches “Ministry Information Form” (MIF) has been posted to the Church Leadership connection. This is the next process of matching, searching, and extending a call to a new pastor. If anyone is interested in seeing the information that the session and the Pastor Nominating Committee has posted for the position it is available online. You can find it at www.clc.pcusa.org. You do not need a log in, just click on the opportunity search, then enter Moorhead in the city. It should come up. We need to hold the PNC in prayer as they continue the call process of looking at Pastor Information Forms (PIF) and listening to God on calling your next pastor.

A new pastor can help guide you, pray with you, and offer you support as a church. But the mission work and growth of the church comes from you. It is you who will welcome new faces into the community, who will do mission work at agencies that need your support, pray together and study the bible. Remember, First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead is your church. You have to be the movement and face of Christ to others. Share yourself and invite people to join you.

What other areas can we bring outreach projects to? Let your leaders know.

Let the Grace of God transform our lives.

- Pastor Paul

“I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God.

Stand fast in it.” - 1 Peter:5-12

News & Events

Session News from April

- Session visited with the confirmation students, Isaac Nelson, Landon Johnson and Greta Larson. Each presented their Statements of Faith and answered questions presented by session members. They will be confirmed on Sunday April 23 during worship.
- Approved baptism of William Zachary VanHorn on May 7. Parents are Hanneli and Phillip VanHorn.
- Session approved Scott Dobovsky to be hired as the CE Director. Scott will begin approximately May 1. He comes highly recommended. Welcome Scott!
- Church Finances are in decent shape. All bills are currently paid. Member giving is slightly behind giving projections for 2017. Per Capita Sunday is April 23.
- The Personnel committee presented a Paid Time Off policy for church employees. Additional suggestions for this policy were given.
- An Emergency Plan for the church has been in the works by the Personnel committee. They presented an emergency plan and the importance of having a plan, an emergency response guide-what to do in certain situations, and a map of the church which identifies safe areas of the church by the emergency presented. The congregation will be introduced to the emergency plan in the near future.
- Salary for a new pastor was clarified, and was to be presented to the Committee on Ministry April 11. The MIF (Mission Information Form) and proposed salary has been approved by COM. The MIF can now be posted on the Church Leadership Connection, which will allow prospective pastors to see we are seeking a pastor.

The process of Calling A Pastor (June)

The Mission Information Form (MIF) has been entered into the Church Leadership Connection. The CLC is a web-based site that is used by Churches seeking a Pastor, and Pastors seeking a church to serve. A Pastor seeking a church has completed a form called a PIF – Personal Information Form. Prospective pastors will use the church MIF to help them discern whether God is calling them to serve our church. The Church Leadership Connection will help to ‘match’ prospective churches and pastors using the MIF and PIF. The Pastor Nominating Committee will receive, review and evaluate PIF referrals from the CLC, and determine if any action should be done.

The Pastor Nominating Committee members are: Kim Kelsh, Nadine, Swee, Janet Van Amburg, Joni Lordeman and Adam Massie.

Session News from May

- Time was spent on Visioning and discernment. Looking back at the Strategic Planning team work from summer 2016, the Visioning that the congregation did in 2010 and the Fall of 2016, the session discussed where, as a Church Family, we want to be. The decision was to pursue growth. The addition of worship on Wednesday evening was an agreed vision for the next year. Our church families find it increasingly difficult to get to church on Sunday. School and sport activities are scheduled on weekends, taking families away from home and the opportunity to attend church and church activities. Thus, we discussed how we could make it possible for people to attend church, Sunday School, and other church activities. If we want First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead to grow, we need to consider what we may do to reach/bring /offer others and our members the opportunity to participate in the life of the church. The discussion continued about a Wednesday evening worship service, and the plans began to take shape. Session then determined that a Wednesday Evening Worship service will begin this summer, Wednesday, July 5 at 7pm, and continue on Wednesday evenings through next year and beyond. Our Sunday Worship will continue as well. Please keep the session and committees in your prayers, as we launch this new and exciting Worship service.
- Church Finances are doing OK. All bills are paid. Projected Member giving is not meeting projected expectations, but bank balances are good. Decreased spending and decreased pastoral expenses are keeping our expenses down. \$808.86 has been received for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your support of this special offering. Per Capita: \$3466 of the \$7172 we owe for our 2017 Per Capita has been received.
- The garden project is underway. The garden plot has been developed on the east side of the church.
- Vacation Bible School is June 5-8. Bethesda is joining us for VBS. The June Bug Fun Run is Thursday June 29.
- Active membership is 151. We have gained 5 new members in the last two months.

Ehrin Bailey McKaig graduated from UND in Dec., 2016, with a major in Forensics and a minor in Psychology. She is now continuing her studies at NDSU with a major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Fraud Investigation. Ehrin is the daughter of Mitch & Kathy McKaig.

Mitchell Allen McKaig, Jr. is graduating from Moorhead Sr. High School on June 4th. Mitchell is the son of Mitch & Kathy McKaig.

Cees Postema is graduating from Fargo South High School on June 4th. Cees is the son of James & Beth Postema.



News & Events

Connectional Church

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains is reorganizing and creating a new structure. It will no longer have committees. They will utilize four pods to do the work of the presbytery. They are seeking 2 members from each church to help out with the Presbyteries work and mission. There is a review and description of each pod below for the new structure. You can go online at www.northernplainspresbytery.com and rank your interest in participating with your skills, talents, and gifts. Please consider giving your time to the greater church and the connection to the denomination.

1. Leadership Pod - Shall work to foster a joint working relationship between all leadership within the Presbytery and relaying important communication throughout the Presbytery. The Pod shall handle and consider administrative and programmatic business, including but not limited to, financial review, reviewing of records and personnel issues.
2. Care for Congregations Pod shall work with congregations to maintain a healthy environment between congregations, pastoral leaders and other congregations. The responsibilities of this Pod shall include, but not be limited to, aiding in securing session moderators, assisting churches with pastoral leadership, and providing mediation for congregations.
3. Care for Pastoral Leaders Pod shall work with Teaching Elders, Commissioned /Trained Ruling Elders, and other Pastoral Leaders. This Pod shall be responsible for, but not be limited to, the process by which pastoral leaders enter and leave the Presbytery and shall have the powers described in G-3.0307. This Pod shall also be responsible for the care, following, and oversight of inquirers and candidates, and the commissioned ruling elders. Also, to approve annually the status of at-large members and validated ministries.
4. Mission Pod shall oversee the mission of the Presbytery. The Pod shall be responsible for, but not be limited to, developing strategy for the mission of the church within the Presbytery's geographic area, consistent with G-3.0000, and to recommend to the Presbytery appropriate actions to initiate mission in the light of the larger strategy of the Synod and the General Assembly. Current areas of mission that the Presbytery is engaged with are (please list below any you are interested in knowing more about): Self Development of People Committee, Youth Connection Team, Bdecan Ministry Team, Chogoria Ministry Team, Presbyterians for Earth Care Team, 1001 Worshipping Communities Team, Clearwater Forest and University of Jamestown.

Tree Donation by Robert Gerke

You may notice some new trees out in front of the church on the south lawn. These trees were generously donated by Robert Gerke in honor of his parents. They are a hybrid Maple tree, designed for our climate, that will turn a beautiful shade of red in the fall. We are very excited for this donation and appreciate all that Robert has done for our church.

Tim Ortez
Building & Grounds



The Process of Calling A Pastor (May)

The PNC requested additional details about the Pastoral compensation package that was prepared in early 2017. The compensation package presented is for a teaching elder, newly ordained up to two years of service, at 70% Full Time Equivalent (FTE), to include automobile and professional expenses as well as continuing education expenses, 2 weeks for continuing education, and 4 weeks vacation. The total compensation package is \$47,754.85. The MIF (Mission Information Form) and proposed salary were presented to Presbytery COM (Committee on Ministry), and was approved by COM. The MIF can now be posted on the Church Leadership Connection, which will allow prospective pastors to see we are seeking a pastor.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Vacation Bible School -- Sign up NOW!

Come Join Us for Vacation Church School - June 5 - 8, 9am-noon. We're partnering with Bethesda Lutheran Church to present "Maker Fun Factory - Created by God, Built for a Purpose"!! There will be games, crafts, singing, science and movies. Join us as we explore how we were all created by God.

Questions, please contact Scott Dobovsky- Christian Education Director CE@firstpresmhd.org. Registration sheets will be in Fellowship Hall along with a sign-up sheet for volunteers

June Worship Schedule

Sun. June 4th - Day of Pentecost

Remember to wear red!

Amazed, What does this mean?

- Acts 2:1-21

Sun. June 11th - Trinity Sunday

Fellowship of the Triune God

- Matthew 28:16-20

- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

- Genesis 1-2:4a

Sun. June 18th - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Are you up for the job?

- Matthew 9:35-10:8

- Genesis 18:1-15

Sun. June 25th - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Persevere even in times of fear

- Matthew 10:24-39

- Genesis 21:8-21

- Romans 6:1b-11