
The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established in 1872 • April 2010

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**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the May newsletter is Friday, April 23. Please send articles to bugandtim@msn.com or firstepistle@integra.net.

Easter Sunday

We will not have regular church school classes on Sunday, April 4th.

Join us for fellowship, food and children's activities beginning at 9:30 am. Easter worship will be at 10:30 am.



One Great Hour of Sharing

During the season of Lent we have encouraged children, youth, adults and families to use a fish bank to collect their donations to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Donations to OGHS support three aid & support ministries of the Presbyterian Church:

- Presbyterian Hunger Program - supports various programs and agencies which provide food to people in need
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - responds in times of disaster to provide aid and rebuilding following a disaster such as flood, tornado, hurricane, fire.
- Self-Development of People - provides grants and other types of support to groups & individuals who are working to move themselves into positions of self-support and independence.



Please bring your fish banks back to the church on Easter -- Sunday, April 4th. Last year our children and youth generously donated \$84.00 to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Dorothy Dodds Scholarship at MSUM

On April 13th, Minnesota State University Moorhead will be honoring Dorothy Dodds and awarding the inaugural scholarship from the Dorothy Dodds Endowed Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in 2005 in honor of Dorothy and her long and successful career in early childhood education and teacher preparation education. Dorothy has touched the lives of so many children and teachers of children over the years. She is an amazing woman!

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

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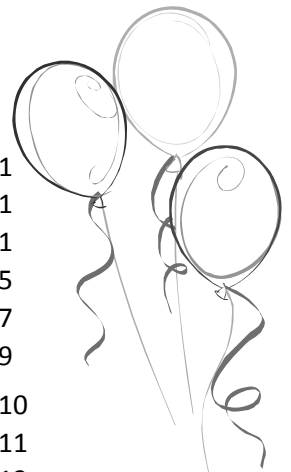
Our mission is to be a caring community of God's people who live by Christ's teachings, reach out to others to share the love of God, and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, thought, and action.

Requesting Updated Information

Please help us to keep our information as updated and accurate as possible. Review your mailing address on the newsletter. Is everything correct? If not, please let us know. Also, if your name is omitted from the birthday or anniversary lists and you would like to have it included, please contact LaVonne in the church office.

April Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Joanne Bale | Apr 1 |
| Evelyn DeJong | Apr 1 |
| Phyllis Dowdell | Apr 1 |
| Karen Dickelman | Apr 5 |
| Elizabeth Swee | Apr 7 |
| Beth Postema | Apr 9 |
| Donald DeJong | Apr 10 |
| Logan Eggiman | Apr 11 |
| Kristin Pennie | Apr 13 |
| Peter Sambo | Apr 14 |
| Kathy Eggiman | Apr 16 |
| Ruth Matthews | Apr 16 |
| Rukhsana Ghauri | Apr 18 |
| Nicholas Kerbaugh | Apr 18 |
| Sidney Zimmerman | Apr 19 |
| Robert Gerke | Apr 20 |
| Bemuse Martinez | Apr 20 |
| Riely Duysen | Apr 23 |
| Bonny Heidrich | Apr 23 |
| Kathryn Schnaidt | Apr 24 |
| Mary Skalet | Apr 30 |
| William Woods | Apr 30 |



Synod School 2010



"So many people having so much fun while examining issues related to faith."

July 25-30, 2010

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Go to www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.

Grace Notes

What a Difference a Year Can Make

By Pastor Nancy Emerson

Just one year ago (51 weeks to be more precise), the people of the Red River Valley were on a roller coaster ride.

On the Friday before the record crest of the flooding Red River, many in our community had traveled to Minneapolis to cheer on North Dakota State University as the men's basketball team played in its first-ever Division I NCAA Tournament game. The next day, following a disappointing loss, people from the community were once again side by side, only this time the competition was rapidly rising flood water.

We knew we were in for a major flood in 2009, but the predictions kept changing, sometimes by the day and sometimes, seemingly, by the hour. The river in Fargo-Moorhead finally crested at a record level just under 41 feet. While the breaches to levees and dikes were minimal, the experience left an exhausted community in its wake.

As a colleague reminded me in the weeks that followed, we needn't have sustained damage to large numbers of homes and businesses to have suffered trauma. Yes, the flood of 2009 was traumatic to this community in many ways. The hospitals closed to all but emergency cases. Residents of nursing homes were evacuated as far as 300 miles. In Moorhead, entire neighborhoods in the eight blocks nearest the river were asked to voluntarily evacuate.

Sewer systems were compromised. Lift stations failed.

Some dikes were breached. Many families' homes were in fact flooded when sump pumps were unable to keep up with the incoming waters. The National Guard posted soldiers on the corner of the street where our church sits. It's the only time I've ever had to ask permission to enter the neighborhood of the church I serve. It's also the first time I ever experienced a flizzard (that's when a blizzard and a flood converge).

Yet the flood of 2009 is not remembered most for its trauma. The flood of 2009 in Fargo-Moorhead is remembered for the people's heroic actions. Tens of thousands of volunteers helped to fill and lay down 6 million or so sandbags. Schools -- including secondary schools, colleges, universities, and technical institutes -- canceled classes in favor of sandbagging. People poured in from outstate, from out of state, and in a case or two from across the country to lend a helping hand to "neighbors" in need. We in the Fargo-Moorhead area are grateful they did. They helped us to save our cities from catastrophe. In case we haven't said so before, we thank you all.

Fast forward 51 weeks, to 2010. As I write, the river is three days from its predicted crest of approximately 38 feet. While nearly 3 feet lower than last year, this will be among the top five floods on record. Our anxiety has been accelerating as we have once again prepared to ride the roller coaster. But for most of us, this ride seems more like a carousel than the Wild Thing.

As one of my congregation members whose in-laws live on the front lines of the flood said to me, "This is a piece of cake compared to last year." His 90-year-old mother-in-law was in the house, reading the newspaper. "This is becoming old hand," she said to me. It is after all the third major flood in just five years.

Rivershore Drive was eerily quiet this afternoon. Last year seemed chaotic just days before the crest. Then, the streets were lined with cars, volunteers and piles of sand. For nearly a week straight, communities worked from sunrise until sunset, wondering whether they could build dikes tall enough and strong enough for the ever-rising flood predictions. Today there were a handful of volunteers placing the final sandbags on the top of a much shorter dike.

The volunteers were out in droves Tuesday, and much of the labor was accomplished once again by youth and young adults. Tonight the sandbagging stations sit empty as 1.3 million sandbags have been delivered throughout Fargo-Moorhead. For the time being, additional reserves are not required, and Fargo's mechanical sandbag spiders sit idle. Thanks to resiliency of spirit, help from neighbors and Mother Nature, and thanks to lessons learned in 2009, the communities of Fargo-Moorhead are prepared for this particular flood.

And if we ride out this year's flood with minimal damage, we will have had thrill enough.

-reprinted from mpr.org

News and Events

Midweek

As we head into spring and more outdoor activities fill our days, the church takes a break from our weekly meals and fellowship on Wednesday evenings. But there are still two more Wednesdays to join us for a delicious supper.

April 7: Scalloped Potatoes with Ham, Lettuce Salad, Green Beans Almondine, Ice Cream Sundaes, Milk

April 14: Tater Tot Hotdish, Peas, Carrots and Celery sticks, Biscuits, Dreamsicle Ice Cream and cookies, Milk.

Supper is served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per adult/youth and \$2.50 per child. Reservations are not needed. We hope to see you at Midweek when we start up again in October!

Our Sister Church in Kenya

Please hold in your thoughts and prayers all of our brothers and sisters in Kenya. The name of our sister church is Kajiunduthi. Please pray for their health and well-being as they too celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter.

The Presbytery is also beginning to make plans for a Fall visit from six members of the Chogoria Presbyteries. If you would like to consider hosting a Kenyan visitor in your home for one night or several nights, please contact Pastor Nancy.

The Volunteer Corner...Who Does That?

There are many active "church mice" among us. Without the untold volunteer hours of many, we could not accomplish all of the administrative as well as programmatic responsibilities that it takes to be the church.

So...who feeds the hungry Midweek crowd? We extend a joyful thank-you to our menu planners and shoppers Kathy Giddings and Mary Skalet and to our cook Kathy McKaig. The meals have been great! Also thank you goes to our frequent table-setters Katie Kuhn, Djeljana & Srdjana Alijaj.

Next month...who keeps order in the sanctuary? See if you can catch our "church mice" in action.

Set Sail on a High Sea Expedition - Exploring the Mighty Love of God!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday - Thursday, June 7 -10

Join us for four mornings of adventure out on the high seas -- thankfully not due to flooding! Vacation

Church School for children ages 4 years through grade 5 will meet from 9 am - noon each day.

Watch for more information in the May newsletter!



Watching the Contributions Roll In...

There is good news in the contributions received at First Presbyterian-Moorhead for January and February of the new year 2010. Pledged income totals \$35,000 for the two months versus a budget amount of \$24,000. Some reasons for this might include 2009 contributions for the next year and enthusiasm for the 10% increase suggested at the Annual Meeting in January. Whatever the reason, contributions have picked up and that is good news! We'll keep you posted.



News and Events

Hospice Volunteers Needed!

Hospice of the Red River Valley is in need of volunteers to visit patients in our area.

Volunteering for Hospice of the Red River Valley is a powerful way to help friends and neighbors at a critical time; it is also one of the most rewarding experiences a person can ever have.

Patient care volunteers are needed to provide companionship by:

- Reminiscing and sharing stories
- Giving wheelchair rides
- Writing letters or keepsake cards
- Sitting with a patient so

caregiver can have a break

If any of these opportunities sound like a fit for you or you would like additional information, please call Muriel Leach, volunteer coordinator at 701-356-1565.

Meet LaVonne Langord, Church Secretary

If you haven't had a chance, you should stop by and meet our new secretary, LaVonne Langord.

Originally from Audubon, MN, LaVonne lives in Moorhead. In fact, she heard about this job from her next door neighbor, LaRae McGillivray.

LaVonne has been married to Richard for the past 39 years. He

is a mailman in south Fargo. They are parents to 2 cats.

LaVonne worked for AAA North Dakota for 35 years. In addition to her work at First Presbyterian, she owns a small personal errand business, Leave it to LaVonne, in which she does errands and offers personal assistance to people who don't have time or cannot do their own errands.

She an active member of St. Joseph's Church in Moorhead.

LaVonne says she loves the job, as everyone she has met has been very supportive and kind, and working with Pastor Nancy is a pleasure!



Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to those who shoveled the sidewalks this winter. The amount and weight of the snow this season brings an even bigger appreciation for these efforts.



Dead Sea Scrolls

The Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul is currently hosting an exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls, one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. See the actual scrolls and discover their cultural, scientific and religious impact. This exhibit will also include pages from *The Saint John's Bible*, history's newest hand-written, illustrated Bible. For more information and ticket information go to www.smm.org or call 651.221.9444. Advance reservations are recommended.



Youth

2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium Special Offering



In late July, Molly Ecker and Ehrin McKaig will travel with a group of youth and chaperones from our Presbytery to join thousands of other youth at Purdue University in Indiana for a week of faith, friends and fun at the national Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Our church has been sending youth to this event for many years - decades even!

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains is providing transportation but each youth needs to pay a \$409 fee for the event (plus they will each have additional out-of-pocket expenses). In the past we have paid about half of this event fee for each participant and we are fortunate to have two youth attending this time!. The youth group has raised some funds this year to support triennium and other summer events. We are also asking members of the church to help support Molly and Ehrin's participation in this event by giving to a special offering collection which will be held on Sunday, April 25th. The loose offering on April 25th and payments specifically designated for Triennium will be used to help support this opportunity. Thank you for supporting our youth and making this opportunity possible for Molly and Ehrin!

Great Days Out

Camp Fire will be hosting two free activity days here at the church during the Moorhead school vacation days on Friday, April 2. Great Days Out meets from 12:30 – 5:30 pm. These activity days are for elementary aged children. Call Camp Fire at 236-1090 to register.

Youth Group

Younger Youth group (grades 4 - 7)

Here are our plans for the rest of the school year:

- Sunday, April 11th** ~~ we will be going to the climbing wall at Y West after worship & a quick lunch. Invite a friend! Please bring \$5 toward expenses. **Every climber needs to have a signed parental permission form.** Forms will be available on the table outside the sanctuary or from the YMCA web site.
- Sunday, April 25th** - 4:00 pm ~~Bike ride to a local park (weather permitting) Bring your bike & helmet. Friends welcome!
- Sunday, May 16th** - 4:00 pm ~~ last meeting time for the school year. Picnic & games at Pastor Nancy's, 823 22nd Avenue South, Moorhead.

Older Youth (grades 8- 12)

We meet on Wednesdays at 7 - 8:15 p.m. This youth group will continue meeting through mid-May. The last week for Midweek suppers will be April 14th.

In late March we started painting two more walls in the youth room. We may need to finish up some of the work in April. We will also be planning our April activities while we paint!

Youth

Living in Fast Forward -- Presbytery Youth Retreat April 9 - 11, 2010

Join us on the weekend of April 9-11 at Crystal Springs Camp, located 40 miles west of Jamestown on I-94. All 6th grade through 12th grade youth are invited to come. We encourage you to bring a friend or two with you!

“Living in Fast Forward” will serve as our theme for this great weekend get-away. We live in a world that moves at the speed of light with high speed internet and fast food. Youth are inundated with high tech gadgets, cell phones, and instant messaging. How can we keep up? Join us as we slow down and remember what is truly important in life: our relationship with God and others. We will take time to

play, pray, have fun, share in God’s word, and to connect with others.

When is it?

The retreat will begin with registration at 7:15 PM on Friday night (program begins at 8 pm) and will conclude around 12 noon on Sunday. We will meet at the Moorhead Church at 5:00 pm on Friday (leave by 5:15 pm) and return about 2:30 pm Sunday.

How much is it?

The cost of the entire weekend is only \$75. This includes lodging, food, and program expenses. The Moorhead Church pays transportation costs (mileage for private vehicles).

To register, please complete a registration form (available in

the youth room or on the table outside the sanctuary) and return with your \$75 registration fee (checks can be made payable to the “Presbytery of Northern Plains”) to the Moorhead Church office. We will collect all our registrations and payments and send them all in together.

What do I need to bring?

Sleeping bag, pillow, clothing, towel, toiletries, Bible, note-book, pen/pencil. Homework, if needed, as free time will be provided in the schedule. Bring money also – we’ll stop for a fast food supper in Jamestown on Friday evening and probably a snack on the way home Sunday (these kids seem to be hungry all the time!)

150 Ways to Show Kids You Care

Here at First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, we're counting down 150 ways to show kids you care. Each month in the newsletter we will print ten of the ways as promoted by the Search Institute and Metro Youth Partnership.

How will you show kids you care today? It's easier than one might realize!

- 90. Deal with problems and conflicts while they are still small.
- 89. Applaud their successes.
- 88. Support them.
- 87. Ask them to help you.
- 86. Be happy
- 85. Unwind together.
- 84. Pamper them.
- 83. Tell them how proud you are of them.
- 82. Marvel at what they can do.
- 81. Give them a special nickname (one they like!)