



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 (5) x 3 = | 6 (6) x 6 = |
| 2 (7) x 4 = | 7 (9) x 3 = |
| 3 (4) x 6 = | 8 (3) x 8 = |
| 4 (2) x 10 = | 9 (10) x 4 = |
| 5 (9) x 5 = | 10 (11) x 8 = |

KEY

A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____.

Come and share your master's happiness!”

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV



The LORD hath done
great things
for us; whereof
we are glad.

~PSALM 126:3, KJV~

October
2021

First Presbyterian Church
512 3rd Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55902
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October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church
for October 2021



PASTOR'S QUILL

Nancy Guthrie writes, "Sometimes what causes us the most pain and confusion is not what God says to us but the fact that in the midst of difficulty, God seems to say nothing at all."

God's silence. Certainly a major theme in the Book of Job. In his misery, Job dared to question God about the silence in the face of his prayers.

The silence of God has been explored by many novelists, playwrights, and theologians – and by most people who have gone through tough times. We may not eloquently articulate our questions, but they still boil deep within us. The answers we receive can feel inadequate to provide comfort or to genuinely explain what weighs on us and bewilders us. We long to know why devastating things happen to us. Like Job, we long for understanding so we can bear the pain.

Did God answer Job? Yes – but with more questions and a long, dramatic monologue describing birds, beasts, mountains, and storms – all the wonders of creation. Where was Job when God made all this?

"God doesn't explain," Guthrie writes. "Instead, God reveals the Divine Presence and in the midst of this awesome presence, Job's questions are not answered – they simply disappear."

Magnificence and mystery – those are the two "answers" the Book of Job reveals to us. We find much wisdom, guidance and truth in God's Word. But we also find a lot of mystery as well. Our minds cannot even frame the right questions.

We'll never solve all the mysteries, but we know all that happens is weighted down with significance. As Guthrie writes, "Job had no idea he was a player in a cosmic confrontation." He had no idea his faithfulness in extreme difficulty mattered so much. But it did."

It does for us as well, as we worship God and pray that God will keep us faithful in these trying pandemic times. Each follower of God is a key player in this magnificent mystery.

For me, no season offers more magnificence than autumn. The colors, the smells, the taste of the air – all of it reveals the glory of God.

So I pray that you will enjoy my favorite season, and I hope to see you at one (or all!) of the events highlighted in this Newsletter.

Peace,

Contact: Parlette. TJ@FPCRochester.org
Phone: (814) 715-0290

- 2 _____ *Out of the Darkness Walk*..... 10:00 a.m.
- 3 _____ *Worship & Communion* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 5 _____ *Deacons & Committee meetings* Check with your elder
- 6 _____ *Worship at Charter House* 1:00 p.m.
- _____ *Wednesday activities* 4:45—7:45 p.m.
- 7 _____ *Bell and Choir Rehearsals* p.m.
- 8 _____ *Sitter Service* 5:30 p.m.
- 10 _____ *Worship* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 13 _____ *Wednesday activities* 4:45—7:45 p.m.
- 14 _____ *Bell and Choir Rehearsals* p.m.
- 16 _____ *Ruth Circle* 10:00 a.m.
- _____ *Chancel Choir Retreat* a.m.
- 17 _____ *Worship* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 18 _____ *Esther Circle* 1:00 p.m.
- 19 _____ *Session meeting* p.m.
- 20 _____ *Priscilla Circle* 9:15 a.m.
- _____ *Wednesday activities* 4:45—7:45 p.m.
- 21 _____ *Bell and Choir Rehearsals* p.m.
- 24 _____ *Worship* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 27 _____ *Wednesday activities* 4:45—7:45 p.m.
- 28 _____ *Bell and Choir Rehearsals* p.m.
- 31 _____ *Worship* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- _____ *A Festival of Music* 4:00 p.m.

The Church Directory is Coming!

Don't forget: photography sessions are scheduled from Tuesday, October 26, through Saturday, October 30.

Jane Murl, Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

First Presbyterian Church	
Financial Statement / August 2021	
General Operating Budget	
Balance (07/31/2021)	\$ 44,374.60
Receipts (August 2021)	53,092.76
Disbursements (August 2021)	<u>53,794.21</u>
Balance (08/31/2021)	\$ <u>43,673.15</u>



Contact: Rowland.Jay@FPCRochester.org
Phone: (507) 990-1367

In Holy Remembrance:

Remembering:

Lyle E. Abrahamson
Constance D. (Jones) Bowen
Helmut Buettner
Carolyn Kay Burt
Elizabeth Owens Dobyns
Shirley Reps Gove
Marilyn Ruth Haglund
Margaret Weaver Harris
Jean Catherine Johnson
William J. Johnson
Marcia Ann (DenHerden) Kempers
David Otto Lewis
Carol Shirley McDonough
Jennie Morgan Orvis
Ruth Ellen (Mackey) Pexton
Lynn Catherine (Dollerschell) Reiter
Donald A. Scholz
Alan Davies Sessler
Charles Ellwood Smyrk Jr.
Thomas T. Takekawa
Alfred LaVerne Thedens

Every year on the Sunday closest to *All Saints Day*, November 1st, we take time as a church during worship to remember and honor those who have died since the previous All Saints Sunday. This year that Sunday will be October 31—which is also Reformation Sunday. Traditionally we share a brief liturgy and prayer, then the name of each church member who died since last November 1 is spoken aloud as a candle is lighted in loving remembrance. But this year it feels appropriate to add another dimension to the observance. This year we will also remember our beloved members who died during the shutdown/quarantine period which began in the spring of 2020. This unprecedented situation created an added burden for every grieving person in our congregation. The loss of many Christian rituals, processes and ceremonies which are relied upon before, during and after death is a significant loss. Although most had at least a brief burial service or placement of ashes attended by immediate family, some did not, and for all it was a severe departure from the norm. This added to the grief of the people closest to those who died in ways that still may not be fully absorbed. And so on Sunday, October 31, we will take a moment during worship, as part of our annual Memorial/All Saints Sunday litany to include those who died during the worst of the pandemic. We simply must acknowledge the painful complications the pandemic inflicted upon every surviving spouse and family member who are grieving, as well as our congregation as a whole. In doing so we affirm our faith in the *communion of saints, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting*, as articulated in the Apostles' Creed.

Jay



Christian Education & Youth Group News

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education



October Youth Group Update

The FPC Youth Group is back in full swing! We've been meeting on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:00 pm. All youth in grades 6-12 (and their friends!) are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and fun! Dinner is served each week and the youth will spend time exploring their faith, making new friends, working on service projects, and having fun. All FPC COVID guidelines will be followed during Youth Group, masks will be required, social distancing enforced, and we will meet outside as much as we can.

Note: On Wednesday, October 13, the Youth Group will be meeting at:

Northwoods Orchard from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

RSVPs required; please contact Susanna if your youth is interested in attending.

Also, there will be **NO Youth Group** on Wednesday, October 20, due to MEA.

Sunday School Substitutes NEEDED!

We are looking for a few individuals to sign up as substitute Sunday School teachers. You would not have to teach every week and would only be asked to help out when another teacher is absent. Please contact Susanna if you are interested in being a substitute Sunday School teacher.

FPC Halloween Spooktacular

Join us for a *spooky good time* FOR ALL AGES on Saturday, October 30, from 2:30-4:00 pm. There will be games, crafts, activities for the younger crowd and a *spooktacular* organ music broadcast; AND we are looking for volunteers for our



All you need is a vehicle and some goodies to hand out. Feel free to dress up and/or decorate your vehicle if you'd like.

Please contact Susanna if you'd like to sign up your vehicle for the **Trunk or Treat** or if you'd like to register your family for any **Halloween Spooktacular** events.

Contact: Stone.Susanna@FPCRochester.org
Phone: (507) 282-1618

Dear friends,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to walk with you all through the summer, worshiping and serving the Lord. You opened your doors to me, modeling hospitality in the stories and meals shared and by integrating me into your community through shared purpose. I am grateful for the experiences you have provided which helped reinforce my motivation for the current school year. With an extra incentive, I go about my studies because I now see more clearly the many connections between academics and the real world. Now in school, I still play Sunday morning services, build community, select choral music, plan choral warmups, accompany choirs, sing in choir, practice the organ, prep scores, and ring in bell choir. I appreciate all the help I received in developing techniques for all of these tasks which I can continue to build upon in school. Thank you for helping me develop confidence in myself and my career choice. What a wonderful summer it has been. I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Many thanks,
Nathan Elsbernd



John Stender, Director of Music
stender.john@fprochester.org

Music Ministry

Katie Kuisle, Calvin & Cherub Choirs
Janine Yanisch, First Players Bands

Civil Rights leader, Rabbi, professor of Jewish Mysticism, and Jewish theologian/philosopher Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972) wrote a little book on the meaning of the Sabbath. I keep it nearby and read from it often. As the seasons are changing, I am looking ahead at the enticing musical opportunities that now populate the calendar. I maintain an eagerness for the rewarding fellowship and community building available to us all at FPC. So, I was reminded to return to this handbook on time yet again.

Heschel writes, "Time is the presence of God in the world of space, and it is within time that we are able to sense the unity of all beings." Later the Rabbi offers a handy musical metaphor: "Creation is the language of God, Time is God's song, and things of space the consonants in the song. To sanctify time is to sing the vowels in unison with God. This is [our] task: to conquer space and sanctify time."

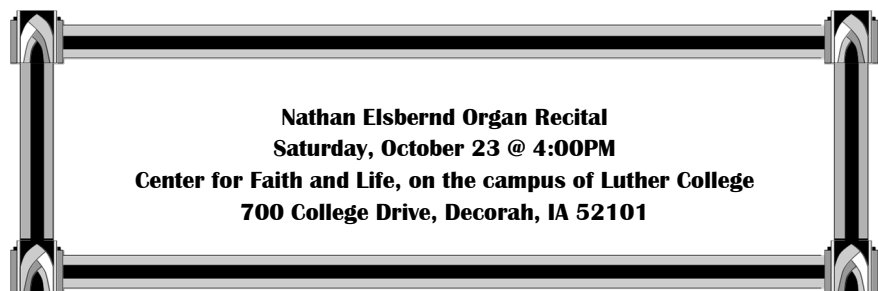
Covid-19 awareness (with realistic acknowledgment), precaution, vigilant skepticism, are all still very important. This I feel strongly as ever, and I work to accept this each new day.

I am led, however, to ask a question. How are you balancing your focus when it comes to temporary things and things of the Spirit, which are of God and of time? We don't own time and we all get the same amount to make due with. God is present today as ever and is actively continuing the work begun at creation. How are you participating in this present, yet, eternal pursuit?

I'd like to draw your attention to ongoing and upcoming ministry offerings that I hope may hold an element of Sabbath for you. Perhaps your participation in these opportunities will enrich your Spirit for YOUR sake and help you sanctify your measure of time. Good! Perhaps your participation in these opportunities will translate to an act of love or strengthened bond THROUGH you, in community. The subtle benefits of a Christian way of life are easy to imagine (and overlook) and are difficult to commit to.

- ♦ Sunday Worship Services at 8:30AM and 11:00AM (also on YouTube) for ALL people
- ♦ Choir and Handbell Ensembles are rehearsing now, open to ages 4 to 'Old as Moses'
- ♦ October 30th Fall Spooktacular with Trunk-or-Treat, SPOOKY organ music, and MUCH MORE
- ♦ Festival Worship on Sunday, October 31st commemorating the Protestant Reformation and All Saints' Day/Memorial Sunday with multiple music ensembles and a guest string quintet
- ♦ **A Festival of Music** concerts in October and November
- ♦ Midday service of Prayer for Justice and Peace on Veteran's Day (Thursday, November 11)

...and continuing, by God's grace!



Nathan Elsbernd Organ Recital
Saturday, October 23 @ 4:00PM
Center for Faith and Life, on the campus of Luther College
700 College Drive, Decorah, IA 52101

A Festival of Music presents...



Dr. Andrew Whitfield, Baritone
& Dr. Nicholas Shaneyfelt, Piano

Sunday, October 31, 2021

4:00 p.m.

This collaboration of Luther College faculty celebrates the high-art tradition of song recitals and will include fine examples of art song, lieder, and arias, including music by Gerald Finzi, Moses Hogan, and others.

Face masks will be required for all present.
Fellowship in the atrium will follow, with no reception.

The Ergonomics of Electronics

Ariel Boswell, Parish Nurse

Many jobs and activities these days revolve around electronic devices like computers, phones and tablets rather than dangerous machinery or rampaging livestock. Yet the potential for injury is still present! Carpal tunnel and “cell phone elbow” have flourished. Office setting back pain is common. How can we work and play safely?

- 1) Watch your posture - even when you watch TV. Keep your back straight, neck neutral and shoulders back and down. Consider using a backrest to promote natural spine curvature. Keep wrists straight when using keyboard and phone. Don't cradle your phone between shoulder and ear.
- 2) Make sure your back is supported and legs are at 90 degrees with feet on the ground. Don't sit cross legged or off balance to avoid nerve compression.
- 3) Switch it up! Use a sit/stand desk if possible. Use voice dictation for your phone or Bluetooth in the car to make calls. Alternate using fingers and thumb to text. Use a headset for calls at work
- 4) Take breaks and stretch. Do stretches of arms and fingers - one minute for every 30 minutes of electronic activity. Go old school and walk to a colleague if possible rather than send a message. Walk around between episodes.
- 5) For eyestrain remember 20-20-20. Your computer screen should be at least 20 inches away and for every 20 minutes of computer work, glance away for 20 seconds. For every 2 hours, rest eyes from computer work for 15 minutes. Keep the top of your computer monitor at eye level or just below.

If your body is warning you with pain, listen. Maybe you need a break, maybe you need to change what you're doing, but ignoring soreness now can lead to more problems later!

Sources: Esportshealthcare, Southeastern Spine Institute, American Optometric Association, Consumer Reports

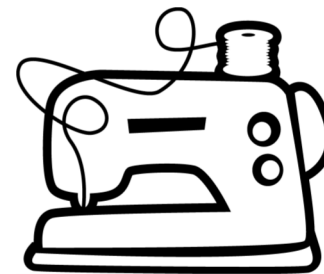


ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO LIKES TO SEW??

Marylynn Aalderks, Mission Committee

God's Child is a non-profit organization that provides washable, reusable hygiene pads and pad holders for schoolgirls so that they can attend school every day. This program promotes good health and hygiene and encourages girls to stay in school and makes it easier for them to learn. The long-term goal is to encourage girls to succeed and to break the cycle of poverty. These pads will be sent to Guatemala.

If you are someone who sews and would be interested in helping with this program, please call Marylynn Aalderks (641-420-0349). She will provide patterns and directions to help you get started. One enthusiastic and skilled sewer from our church has already started making these pads – please join in!



Mission Committee Extends their Gratitude:

Marylynn Aalderks

The Mission Committee would like to thank the members of the congregation for their generous donations to special offerings:

The **Joy Offering** for December of 2020 was \$7,440.00.
The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** in 2021 was \$4,630.61.
The **CWS Blanket Sunday Offering** in 2021 was \$4,570.00.
The **Bdecan Mission Special Offering** in 2021 was \$1,875.00.



Thank you very much for your generous giving this and every year!

We are grateful !!!



BACK COVER: *Master Multiplication* Puzzle

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things



Making a Difference

Jane Hallman

After a three-year hiatus because of the COVID virus and other factors, the annual Presbyterian Women Rummage Sale returned with vigor to FPC on September 16-18. While income is still being tallied, our PW is overjoyed that it was one of our most successful sales ever. Thanks go to the individuals (members and others) who contributed items to be sold. The community building among the members of our congregation (both women AND men!) as the sale was being set-up and conducted and the building was returned to its previous state is priceless. When final income has been determined, PW leadership will meet to determine the recipients of these profits. As in past years, all proceeds will be designated for mission—local, national, and international. Special thanks are due to Sally Brooks and Judy Kruesel for once again spearheading this project and to the countless other individuals who contributed with hours and hours of their time. Working together, our church family is making a difference!

PW News

Sylvia Swede, coordinator

Many thanks to all of the women who contributed to Presbyterian Health Ministries, part of the national PW *Thank Offering*. \$5,500 will be sent to support the 2021 projects. Over the last 33 years Presbyterian Women have granted nearly \$27 million to more than 1,600 projects at home and around the world through the *Thank Offering*. More than 40% of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus: Do you know Tamar? Read Genesis 38.

Interested in learning more about Native American culture? Two books are recommended by the women on the Native American Concerns Committee of our Synod of Lakes and Prairies – *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*, by Kent Nerburn; and *Madonna Swan: A Lakota Woman's Story*, as told to Mark St. Pierre. *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* has also been made into a film.

AWW: Awe, Wonder, and Wander

Lea Jennings, author

"Awe" will surprise, spontaneously leaping into our minds.
It's wonderful to discover and celebrate new finds.
Often "Wonder" will follow, pausing to create and inspire,
Many times generating excitement and lighting a fire.
Sometimes our creative minds will "Wander" about,
Finding multiple surprises that cause us to shout.
AWW: Awesome acronyms may lead the way.
Try to remember some and start the new day.

May this new fall season be filled with wonder and awe.

Circles

- ✂ **Prayer Shawl Group** meets on Wednesday, October 13 @ 1:00 p.m.
- ✂ **Ruth Circle** meets on Saturday, October 16 @ 10:00 a.m.
- ✂ **Esther Circle** meets on Monday, October 18 @ 1:00 p.m.
- ✂ **Priscilla Circle** meets on Wednesday, October 20 @ 9:15 a.m.

Stewardship: *Giving as an Act of Love*

Mark Keller, Stewardship & Finance Committee



We are entering the final stretches of 2021 and we are right on track with our approved budget!

Church committees continue to find creative ways to deliver their mission during this time of uncertainty and change. Your contributions have been greatly impactful by allowing First Presbyterian Church to provide new ways to connect to the congregation, support repairs to the facility, and allow the restart of in-person services. Contributions are instrumental for the church to continue delivering ministry to the community and allows the many gifts of FPC to be shared in new and exciting ways.

We are pleased to announce that the 2022 annual Stewardship Drive campaign will kick-off in October. The theme this year is "*Giving as an Act of Love*" in recognition of the continued strength and generosity of our family. Stay tuned to learn more about how you can participate in the 2022 Stewardship Drive!

Among our Church Family

Birthdays

- Ruth Guy** on October 5, 97 years
- Charlene Kyle** on October 5, 91 years
- Jo Rockwell** on October 10, 95 years
- Jane Destro** on October 11, 94 years
- Peter Dyck** on October 20, 94 years
- LaDonna Fay** on October 31, 90 years

Anniversaries

- William and Judy Haas** on October 6, 59 years
- William and Sharon Nichols** on October 12, 58 years
- Peter and Carol Carryer** on October 24, 51 years



First Presbyterian Church
512 3rd Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902
507-282-1618 / www.FPCRochester.org / web@FPCRochester.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. T.J. Parlette
Associate Pastor: Rev. Jay P. Rowland
Director of Music: John E. Stender
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education: Susanna L. Stone

Sunday worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in-person;
service livestreamed at 11:00 a.m. on YouTube (channel fpcrochester.org)
Education & Fellowship Hour: 9:40 a.m.
A weekly video with Bible Story is available on YouTube.
In-person music education for ages 4-12th grade on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Member: Presbyterian Church USA