

First Presbyterian Church
512 3rd Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Address Service Requested

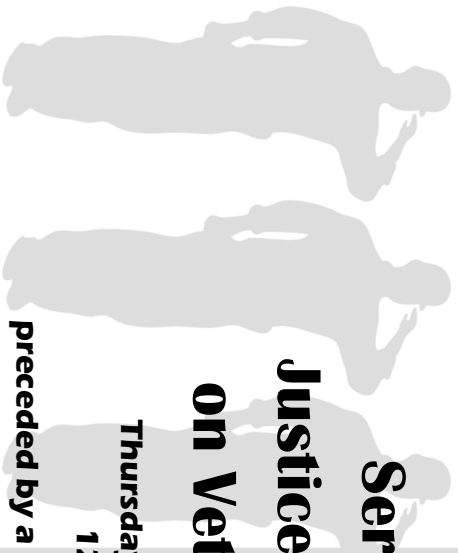
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, MN
Permit No. 111

November

2021

I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt
BOUNTIFULLY
with me.

Psaln 13:6



**Service for
Justice and Peace
on Veterans Day**

**Thursday, November 11
12:15 p.m.
preceded by a simple soup luncheon
11:40 a.m.**

November 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				



The Good News of First Presbyterian Church for November 2021

PASTOR'S QUILL

I am writing this newsletter article in mid-October on a breezy rainy day – finally, it actually feels like Fall. It’s hard to believe, but Advent is just around the corner. With Advent on my mind, I want to call your attention to a few aspects of our spiritual lives, two that are new and one we’re used to, but have missed for the past year and a half.

First, we plan to offer a new worship experience in honor of Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11th. We will gather for a Service of Justice and Peace at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Prior to the service, there will be a simple soup lunch at 11:40 a.m.

In the season of Advent itself, we will also gather for a short Service of Evening Prayers on Wednesdays beginning December 1st and continuing through December 22nd. The service will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will last approximately 20 minutes or so. It will be very similar to what John, Jay and I did last year as a pre-recorded service. We do plan to live-stream the Wednesday evening prayer service for those of you who can’t make it in person.

And finally, I’m happy to announce the return of our Wednesday night Advent Study each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. This year we are going to work through a study by Matt Rawle called “*The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch.*” I think you all probably know the story. It’s a Christmas classic, right alongside “*A Charlie Brown Christmas*” and “*A Christmas Carol.*” We don’t know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. For the four Wednesdays of Advent, we will explore the themes of faith that run through the story and rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons and bows. You may register for the class through the church office. Books are available for \$12.00 and the order deadline is November 15th. The class will begin on December 1st.

In this season of Thanksgiving, let us pause to remember that all good things – turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, the Macy’s parade, football, and of course, friends and family – are a gift from God.

Peace and Blessings to you all!

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

- 2 _____ Deacons & Committee meetings Check with your elder
- 3 _____ Worship at Charter House **1:00 p.m.**
 Wednesday activities **4:45—8:00 p.m.**
- 4 _____ Bell and Choir Rehearsals **6:00—8:30 p.m.**
- 6 _____ Jubilate Deo Handbell Clinic **9:00 a.m.**
- 7 _____ Worship & Communion **8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 9 _____ Kitchen Guild **1:00 p.m.**
- 10 _____ Prayer Shawl Group **1:00 p.m.**
 Wednesday activities **4:45—8:00 p.m.**
- 11 _____ Service for Justice and Peace **12:15 p.m.**
 Bell and Choir Rehearsals **6:00-8:30 p.m.**
- 12 _____ Sitter Service **5:30 p.m.**
- 14 _____ Worship **8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
 A Festival of Music **4:00 p.m.**
- 15 _____ Esther Circle **1:00 p.m.**
- 16 _____ Session meeting **7:00 p.m.**
- 17 _____ Priscilla Circle **9:15 a.m.**
 Crafters Group **3:00 p.m.**
 Wednesday activities **4:45—8:00 p.m.**
- 18 _____ Bell and Choir Rehearsals **6:00-8:30 p.m.**
- 20 _____ “Deck the Halls” for Advent **9:00 a.m.**
 Ruth Circle **10:00 a.m.**
- 21 _____ Worship **8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 25 _____ Thanksgiving
- 28 _____ Worship – First Sunday of Advent... **8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 30 _____ Forum@First—Jeremiah Program **7:00 p.m.**



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

Music Ministry

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

“Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations...and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.”

—from the June 4, 1926 Congressional Resolution seeking to establish Armistice Day as a federal holiday, which wouldn't take its first form until 1938

I played percussion in school from 4th grade until I graduated high school. Naturally, marching band season was always a busy time, and getting to be a member of both our drumline and “the pit” (all the keyboard instruments and other non-mobile things like a gong) was such a wonderful experience. I bring this up because the Halloween parade was always a big deal in Davenport, Iowa ... probably still is. But, my Christian band teacher always insisted (and ardently defended to administration) that our band march in the Veterans Day parade, too. Every high school in the area was on board for the Halloween parade each year. But, just ours and maybe one other on occasion could be expected to march on Veterans Day. We marched with the first responders and always played at the little ceremony by the courthouse with one of our trumpeters playing taps. The importance and reverence of Veterans Day will never be lost on me and I'll always be proud of my music mentors and educators for supporting it. My grandfather was a Vietnam Marine vet. As you know, Sarah and I formerly were located in Beaufort, SC. That's the site of the Parris Island Marine training facility, a Marine Corps Air Station, as well as a national military cemetery. Being church musicians, we participated in countless funerals, celebrations of life, and memorial functions. In a military-rooted town such as Beaufort, you could be sure that any federal holiday like this was always anticipated with much reverence.

It was then that I began a tradition of planning special worship opportunities on Veterans Day. It's easy to find faith in the military community, and God at the true height of any chain of command. There's also a great deal of war and peace, justice and mercy, and imagery easily found in our hymnal (and the Bible, of course). There is wonderful poetry from many generations of war time to draw upon. As for organ repertoire, there is a treasure trove of 19th and 20th century music written by composers directly affected by war and reflecting upon it. As much as small town America venerates the war dead with monuments and commemorations, the French and other European peoples do to a much greater degree. Beloved composer Jehan Alain was a bicycle messenger killed at a very young age in World War II - there are several pieces dedicated to his memory. Composers from Maurice Ravel to George Dyson served in World War I. Before coming back to a shell-shocked life in sacred music and composition, Dyson distinguished himself as an officer and the author of a still-relevant training pamphlet on the most effective use of hand grenades.

Thankfully, the *Presbyterian Book of Common Worship* provides a “Service for Justice and Peace” (BCW, p. 599). It's meant for use in a time of controversy or crisis. After more than a century since the end of World War I, as long as the United States maintains military presence around the world, as we often hear of concern over fluctuating diplomatic situations, nuclear capabilities, and many of us have military veteran family members to thank or remember, and many have actively deployed friends and family; I can't see how setting aside special time to pray for justice, peace, and God's presence and intervention in the pursuit of justice and peace is not a necessity.

Won't you pray with us on Thursday, November 11th? We'll gather for a simple soup lunch in the social hall at 11:40 a.m., followed by a Service for Justice and Peace at 12:15 p.m.

A Festival of Music presents...



Four Hands, Four Feet Organ Duo Recital

Sunday, November 14, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Lee Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus, and John Stender, Director of Music, will team up for a duet program highlighting many different musical styles and moods from Ragtime to Bach with something for everyone! This is a concert you will not want to miss.

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



Lee Afdahl receives Luther College 2021 Distinguished Service Award

Luther College President Jenifer K. Ward recently announced the 2021 recipients of the Distinguished Service Award, presented to alumni or individuals with strong connections to Luther College who have exhibited admirable service to society in areas such as education, government, the arts, business, church, labor, industry, agriculture, research, medicine and community affairs.

Afdahl's 50-year career as a church musician, organist, conductor and composer has taken him from Michigan to St. Paul. In 1991, he moved to Rochester, Minnesota, where he served 28 years as director of music and organist at First Presbyterian Church. He retired as director of music emeritus in 2019.

Afdahl has been a conductor and clinician for handbell, choral and church music conferences nationally and internationally. He is a past president of the *Handbell Musicians of America* and represented the organization as a conductor at the International Handbell Symposia in Australia in 1994, the United Kingdom in 2012 and South Korea in 2014.



Lee Afdahl, Class of '71

Afdahl is an active organ recitalist, published composer, and arranger of handbell, instrumental, and choral music with over 100 compositions and arrangements in print. He continues to volunteer time for the American Guild of Organists, Choristers Guild, Handbell Musicians of America and the Rochester Music Guild. Prior to retiring, Afdahl organized an extensive free concert series for 28 years and additional seasonal recitals to serve the Rochester community.

Afdahl and his husband, Van Jacobsen, are the parents of two adult children, Natalie and Evan.

Luther College Media Relations



Christian Education & Youth Group News

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education



November Youth Group News

FPC Youth Group continues to meet regularly. Unfortunately, our October outing to Northwood's Orchard was cancelled due to weather, but we enjoyed our other October meetings by playing Bible Family Feud and having a Halloween-themed evening. With the end of Daylight Savings Time, we'll be losing our light during our evening meetings, so Youth Group meeting times/locations will change in November. The best way to stay up-to-date with Youth Group news is by being part of our email list. Emails are sent out no more than once a week and provide all the Youth Group information.

Sunday School Update

- In-person Sunday School classes for children from age 3-grade 12 are in full swing! Children in Grades 5 and below spent October learning about Moses and hearing many stories from his life that filled others with awe. The middle & high school combined class meets weekly in the youth room for some lively discussion, many laughs, and treats!
- Note: there will be no children's/youth Sunday School classes on November 28 (join us for Advent Creations instead!), December 26, or January 2.
- Weekly Sunday School videos are posted on the FPC YouTube site for families who are unable to attend Sunday School in-person. These videos follow the Celebrate Wonder curricula being used in the Pre-k through Grade 5 classes.
- Adult Christian Education classes have been meeting during the education hour each Sunday (9:40-10:50 am). Al Depman leads a current events class in the Sheldon Jackson Lounge, and Ruth Walts and Jane Goodfriend lead the Kerygma Bible Study class in the south fireside room. New attendees are always welcome!

Advent Creations

Join us in the Social Hall on Sunday, November 28, from 9:40-10:50 a.m. for Advent Creations. Advent Creations is open to ALL ages and is an opportunity to use your creativity to construct Advent and Christmas crafts! Kids under the age of 8 will need adult supervision.

This year we will be providing individual craft kits to limit the sharing of supplies. We are also planning a group craft where each person can individually contribute part of the larger finished craft project. We will provide all supplies and package them individually to limit the sharing of materials.

The Nursery will be open during Advent Creations. *Susanna*

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

Congregational Meeting	Sunday, November 14	9:30 a.m.
Election of Officers		

Congregational meeting called to elect new officers

Katie Lenn, Nominating Committee

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, November 14 at 9:30 a.m. (following the first service) for the purpose of electing church officers for the coming year including new classes of deacons and elders and congregational representatives for the Endowment and Nominating Committees.

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of candidates. Nominations from the floor will be accepted provided the nominee has given prior approval to having his or her name placed on the slate.

New elders and deacons will attend new officer orientation in January, followed by ordination and installation, after which they will begin their term of service. Each elder will be assigned a standing committee of the Session (Building & Grounds; Christian Education; Mission; Social Concerns; Stewardship & Finance; Welcoming and Nurturing; and Worship & Music.)

Elder Class of 2022 (one-year term)

Mark Mueller

Elder Class of 2024 (three-year term)

Marylynn Aalderks

Marion Pitts

Elizabeth Remfert

Phyllis Schmid

Lindsay Zetzsche

TBD

Deacon Class of 2024 (three-year term)

Than Boutelle

Sarah Edgerton

Cheryl Hann

Bev Lewis

Bob Litwiller

Leslie Litwiller

Juliet Parlette

Endowment Committee Member-at-Large (three-year term)

Carol Evans

Nominating Committee Member-at-Large (one-year term)

Barb Depman

Dwight Jennings

Lea Jennings

Casey Lenn

Katie Lenn

Shelley Steger

This year's Nominating Committee includes **Katie Lenn**, lead elder; **Gabe Perkins**, elder; **Kristen Perkins**, elder; **Bev Salomonsen**, Deacon; **Dwight Jennings**, **Lea Jennings**, **Casey Lenn** and **Melissa Wobig**, members at large.

We extend a huge "thank you" to this group for putting together a strong leadership group.

Thanks for the memories ♦♦♦

A Day to Remember: October 31

Each year in October or November we remember our loved ones who passed away during the preceding year. We acknowledge and celebrate their lives with us, and know that even as they gave of themselves during their lifetime, so even now they continue to be a part of us.

On October 31, we remembered with love and affection these members and loved ones who have passed away since October 2020:

Mary Aletta (Joseph) Beyerle	Ruth Ellen (Mackey) Pexton
Constance D. (Jones) Bowen	Marilyn Jane (Steele) Postier
Elizabeth Owens Dobyms	Lynn Catherine (Dollerschell) Reiter
Robert Vann Groover	Donald A. Scholz
Charles Kenneth Irvin	Lori Lynn (Johnson) Sheridan
Rose Mary (Simon) Johnson	Charles Ellwood Smyrk, Jr.
Marcia Ann (DenHerden) Kempers	

Endowment Fund: using your blessings to serve future generations

All we own, plus the earth and life itself, are given to us by God. This stewardship brings with it a responsibility that we, as giving Christians, use our blessings wisely.

The Endowment Fund was established to encourage wise stewardship and to promote special giving to First Presbyterian Church; to provide access to earnings from endowment funds for the financial support of special ministries, education, and capital improvements not within the normal budget of the church; and to provide a financially stable vehicle to receive and invest proceeds derived from gifts and bequests to the funds.

In the past year First Presbyterian Church received donations from the estates of Mary Beyerle and Beverly Olander.

Since October 2020 the Endowment Fund has provided for :

- ♥ **“Home Touch” and for C.A.R.E. members**
from Wise Cheer Fund
- ♥ **Music Internship Fall 2020 (Brady Zimmerman)**
from General Endowment earnings
- ♥ **Support for confirmation program**
from McIlrath Confirmation Fund
- ♥ **Support of Festival of Music Harpsichord Recital (Sarah Hoffmeister Stender)**
from Festival of Music Fund
- ♥ **Wanless Hospital, Miraj, India**

Columbarium: place of the dove

The First Presbyterian Church Columbarium was dedicated in May 1991 in memory of Jacqueline Beth Goodyear. One hundred twelve of the 192 niches have been reserved. In the past year, we held committal services for **Robert Groover, Ruth Pexton, Lynn Reiter, and Charles Smyrk, Jr.**



Memorial and Special Tribute Fund: a chance to remember and honor

Our Memorial and Special Tribute Fund consists of money given to the church either in memory of a member or friend of the church or in honor of a special person or event. The money is used for special needs and projects. Since November, 2020, we have received undesignated gifts in memory of these members and friends:

Lyle Abrahamson	Marilyn Haglund	Marilyn Postier
Clement Akogyeram	Marcia Kempers	Lynn Reiter
Mary Beyerle	Paul Leonard	Donald Scholz
Helmut Buettner	David Lewis	Alan Sessler
Sally Brooks' brothers	Carol McDonough	Lori Sheridan
Barbara Cain	Beverly Olander	Charles Smyrk
Elizabeth Dobyms	Bonnie Parlette	Thomas Takekawa
Robert Groover	Ruth Pexton	Alfred Thedens

During this time, we designated memorial and special tribute funds for:

Capital Maintenance Endowment Fund
in memory of Lyle Abrahamson, David Lewis, Donald Scholz, Alan Sessler, and Alfred Thedens

Endowment Fund (permanent)
in honor of Carol Evans

Card Crafters
in memory of Ruth Pexton

Festival of Music
in memory of Horace Hallman and Paul Leonard and
in honor of John Stender

Mission
in memory of Lyle Abrahamson

Music program
in memory of Lyle Abrahamson and
in honor of John Stender

Organ upgrade
in memory of Hugh Cocker and Paul Olander

If you have questions about the memorial fund or the endowment fund, any member of the Endowment Committee would be happy to talk with you. Committee members are Al Depman, Mark Keller (lead elder), Ken Boyer, Cindy Kunzman, Jeff Remfert, T. J. Parlette, Karen Sessler, and Paul Steger.

An endowment fund brochure is available in the atrium or church office.



Ariel Boswell, Parish Nurse

Parish / Faith Community Nursing FAQs

How did Parish/Faith Community Nursing start?

In the mid-1980's, Lutheran pastor Granger Westberg encouraged the formation of "parish nursing" with nurses in local churches promoting health and providing support and resources for those in need. Some consider it a rebirth of the healthcare that used to be done through religious orders and "parish deaconesses" earlier in history. It has spread to other denominations and religions, and the name has changed to Faith Community Nursing to show inclusivity.

Okay - how did it start in our congregation?

In 2014 for a public health project for nursing school I spent time with some local parish nurses. Starting our parish nursing program became my capstone project. The deacons supported this ministry and I report to them. I passed out a health needs assessment and have worked with other nurses in the congregation and area. Over the years we have checked a lot of blood pressures, trialed a parenting Bible study, partnered with Mark Mueller's informative and healthful walks, taught some classes about Advance Directives, and of course provided many articles!

I'm a nurse, how can I become a Faith Community Nurse (FCN)?

To become an FCN you can take a course in-person, over Zoom or online. Go to Westberginstitute.org for more information.

What activities are available for FCNs?

There is a monthly meeting for Rochester area FCNs. The organization in the Twin Cities is very active and offers many interesting educational symposiums with CEUs. There is also an annual symposium.

Can you give me a shot?

No, Faith Community Nursing is focused on accessing resources that are already available. I can help you find someone to give you a shot! I am also happy to answer questions about shots!

What if I am interested but I'm not a nurse?

If you have some health related ideas for the congregation that you would like to partner on, no matter your role, you can reach out to me at fpccparishnursing@gmail.com!



Members of the Prayer Shawl group displaying their donations for the Hawthorne Hills education program.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

PW News

Sylvia Swede, coordinator

Prayer Shawl Group and others providing warmth this winter!

Susie McClocklin

Crocheters, knitters and seamstresses have been busy creating hats, scarves and gloves for students enrolled in the Hawthorne Hills educational programs — 45 hats, 8 scarves and 7 pairs of mittens were donated!

FPC is sending 6 prayer shawls and 3 lap robes to our new friends at NOROC in Romania. Youth in the NOROC program present shawls to the elderly at their annual Christmas program. They are grateful for our gifts of shawls as many groups donate smaller items.

Sincere thanks to Sandy Holloway and the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, including Hope Meschke, Marion Pitts, Bev Lewis, and Susan Clarida who created these warm, cozy and practical Christmas gifts!

Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus: Do you know Rahab? Read Joshua 2; 6:22-25.

"We're not called to give thanks because everything in our lives is going wonderfully. We're called to give thanks because our life itself is a wonderful gift from God."

- from *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton

"For each new morning
with its light,
for rest and shelter
of the night,
for health and food,
for love and friends,
for everything thy
goodness sends."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Count your blessings,
name them one by one;
count your blessings,
See what God hath done."

Johnson Dalman, Jr.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Circles

- ✔ Prayer Shawl Group meets on Wednesday, November 10 @ 1:00 p.m.
- ✔ Esther Circle meets on Monday, November 15 @ 1:00 p.m.
- ✔ Priscilla Circle meets on Wednesday, November 17 @ 9:15 a.m.
- ✔ Ruth Circle meets on Saturday, November 20 @ 10:00 a.m.

Social Concerns Committee—Forum@First Jeremiah Program

Tuesday, November 30, 2021
7:00 p.m.

We are excited to have Ally Hanten-Ebert, the Executive Director from the Jeremiah Program, for a Forum on First on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

The Jeremiah Program is designed to disrupt generational poverty, two generations at a time. The new campus in Rochester has space for 40 single mothers and children. The program provides housing, career, and life support for mothers; and Early Childhood Education for their children.

Join us to learn more about the Jeremiah Program.

Social Concerns—Sharing Tree

Ruth Saling

The Sharing Tree is back! This Advent season we are offering you an opportunity to help children and families and those who are homeless in our community. The tree will be located in the atrium decorated with colorful gift tags, each color representing a charitable organization in Rochester.

- ♥ **Childhood Cancer Community** - This is a local organization that provides meaningful connections for families affected by childhood cancer.
- ♥ **Red Drop Resources** - Started by Kristina Wright-Peterson, this organization provides general assistance to blood cancer patients and their families for lodging, food and other financial needs.
- ♥ **Alternative Learning Center** - These gifts go to infant children whose parents are finishing high school credits at the Alternative Learning Center.
- ♥ **Family Promise** - Formerly known as *Interfaith Hospitality Network*, this organization helps families achieve sustainable independence by providing assistance in the way of housing, meals, and daycare.

Once the tree is up (either by the 21st or 28th of November), select a gift tag off the tree and purchase the item or items on the tag. Following the instructions on the back of the tag, wrap and deliver your donation to the church. It is important that you attach the tag to your gift(s) to help keep everything organized. We need to know where to deliver the donations.

Instead of purchasing gifts, there is also the option of purchasing a gift card from one of our local restaurants, stores, or gas stations. Put the card in an envelope and drop it off in the church office.

Any questions? Please contact Ruth at rksaling@msn.com.
Thank you for your generosity.

Mission Committee Extends their Gratitude:

Marylynn Aalderks

In the October newsletter, the amount of monies submitted for One Great Hour of Sharing was reported incorrectly.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering in 2021 was actually **\$9,630.61**.

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



Mission—Freedom to Export to Cuba

Eileen Hay

The USA has a long-standing trade embargo on Cuba and this significantly harms the Cuban people, a situation greatly worsened now by the pandemic. Cuba relies on agricultural imports to feed its 11 million population and with the pandemic and consequent restriction of imports, food insecurity is severe with people receiving limited food via ration books. COVID programs are less than ideal, travel has stopped, internet connections are often unreliable and churches are closed though pastoral care is continuing and, in some areas, is vital.

The Cuba Partners Network (CPN) facilitates connections between the Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Cuba and Presbyterian Church (USA). Here at FPC, we have a long-standing relationship with Jaguey Grande Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Matanzas, and we are a member of the CPN. CPN is working hard to meet the needs of the Cuban people in this time of severe economic difficulties, and they are advocating here in the USA for an end to the embargo and for improvement in relationships, religious freedom and freedom of travel.

In May 2021, US Senators Moran (R-Kan), Klobuchar (D-Minn) and Leahy (D-Vt) introduced major bipartisan legislation to lift the Cuba trade embargo. This *Freedom to Export to Cuba Act* would eliminate the legal barriers to trade between the USA and Cuba, giving new opportunities for boosting US exports and allowing Cubans greater access to US goods. The CPN Advocacy Committee continues to work to encourage action on Cuba Policy in the hope of lifting many travel and trade restrictions. Phone calls and letters to our representatives in Congress can make a big difference by encouraging increased political action which many consider extremely beneficial to both Cubans and Americans. We strongly encourage our congregation to consider such action in an attempt to alleviate this humanitarian issue.

Mission Committee—Call for committee members

Marylynn Aalderks

The Mission Committee would welcome new members!! If you are interested, please keep reading and let us know that you would like to join the Mission Committee!

The Mission Committee represents our call to share the love of Christ worldwide. Through financial support and direct hands-on activities, this committee organizes FPC mission work outside the immediate area of Rochester, Minnesota.

SERVING JESUS CHRIST GLOBALLY

FPC currently supports nine PC(USA) mission co-workers in Africa and Central America as well as providing financial assistance to missions through mission budget disbursement, special offerings, and targeted gifts. Over the years, FPC members have served as volunteers in Cuba, Venezuela, Hungary, Malawi, India, Florida, Texas, North Dakota, and Alaska. FPC also has a long-standing relationship & involvement with the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF).

Annual VBS Mission Trip: Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Nation Bdecan (buh-DAY-chan) Mission Teams, coordinated through FPC Mission Committee, have traveled to the Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota to provide Vacation Bible School (VBS) from 2015 through 2019 at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church near Tokio, North Dakota. COVID19 has forced us to pause our annual summer VBS but we look forward to resuming as soon as it is once again safe for all.

In the meantime, FPC members have continued to generously donate to ongoing special projects and direct requests from the leaders of the Bdecan Church, including donating winter blankets and funds for winter clothing, school supplies, food for the food pantry and other necessities needed to help support the children and families of the Bdecan Church.

PLEASE JOIN US!!!

First Presbyterian Church	
Financial Statement / September 2021	
General Operating Budget	
Balance (08/31/2021)	\$ 35,078.83
Receipts (September 2021)	53,612.46
Disbursements (September 2021)	<u>63,382.79</u>
Balance (09/30/2021)	<u>\$ 25,308.50</u>



Stewardship: *Giving as an Act of Love*

Mark Keller, Stewardship & Finance Committee

Soon you will be receiving your stewardship packet for 2022. Please prayerfully consider your support for the coming year. From providing messages of God’s love to providing outreach in our local community and beyond, our church committees continue to find creative ways to deliver their ministry.

The theme for this year’s campaign is “*Giving as an Act of Love.*” Help build a community of faith and love vital to all people who participate and even those who have not yet walked through our doors.

With your help, we will continue to spread God’s love in 2022 and beyond!

Beyond the Offering Plate ...

The stewardship & finance committee is encouraging everyone to consider alternate methods for submitting your pledge dollars to First Presbyterian Church. We currently offer two easy alternatives for automatic giving and a third option is available through most banks and financial institutions.

Options currently available include ...

- Automated Clearing House (ACH) - a network that electronically moves money between bank accounts. You must provide authorization to utilize an ACH.
- Vanco Online - simple online processing service that utilizes Payment Card Industry (PCI) security protocols.
- Bill-pay - online service that allows you to pay your bills through your own online banking.

Some advantages of using automatic contributions include that:

- transactions are environmentally friendly;
- they save you time;
- and they offer convenience.

DECK THE HALLS 🎵 🎵 🎵

Sally Brooks and Bev Lewis

The Advent season is fast approaching, and we will be decorating the church halls for Advent on November 20 starting at 9:30 a.m. We have trees to decorate, wreaths to hang, and poinsettias to distribute around the church halls. We have projects for all ages and abilities, and many hands make light work. We hope to see you there!



A reminder for all who use the kitchens:

Bev Lewis, Kitchen Guild

Please wash and put away all equipment that is used. If food is left over, please take it home or give it away. If there is a reason to keep food for an upcoming activity, it needs to be well wrapped, and marked with the activity date and name of the group. A lot of food just goes bad in the refrigerator and ends up having to be thrown out.

Items such as condiments, spices, ice, coffee, and paper products etc. are available for all groups. Only buy new when they are used up. (We don't have space for each group to store eight bottles of ketchup.)

We are all enjoying the opportunities to socialize together, so help us to keep the kitchens in great shape.

Thank you to the watering crew

Judy Felten

Thank you to Terry Narr, Jane Murl, Sara Kluck and Ruth Saling for answering the call to help keep our garden beautiful. It was a hot, dry summer and every assistance was greatly appreciated. The flowers were all beautiful; however, if you have any input to the combinations of plants for next year, please contact Judy Felten.



November BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays in November

- 8—JoAnne Curnutt, 94 years
- 8—Suzanne Tolman, 90 years
- 22—Naomi Hysell, 103 years
- 23—Elaine Davis, 95 years
- 30—Warren Potter, 94 years

Anniversaries

- 18—Tom & Marilyn Theismann, 54 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