

The First Epistle

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

*January
2019*

*Evangelical
Union will be celebrated
on Sunday, January 6th.*

The Session: Moderator:
Robert Drake Clerk of Session:
LuAnn Buehre Treasurer: Chris
Swee Tim Nelson, Ineke Justitz,
Frank Kratky, Scott Dobovsky,
Walt Worman, Kathy McKaig,
Peggy Johnson, Kim Kelsh, Mary
Larson, Chris Swee

The Deacons Moderator:
Elizabeth Swee Pegi Ecker,
Jim Gale, Kathy Giddings,
Patti Kratky, Joni Lordeman,
Arlene Munighan, John Ortez,
Helen Pemble, Jane Tandberg,
Kathleen Wilkinson, Barb
Worman

on Facebook:
[facebook.com/firstpresmh](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresmh)

our Website:
firstpresmhd.org

A VAN IS

Dates July 8-11,
from Clearwater
with us for a fun
will include lunch
there is no cost
If you have any
please speak to Scott
or Pastor Robert.

Cherry Pie Supper Saturday,

January 16 *Sign up early, Sign up a friend!* As 2019 rolls around it

is time to be thinking about Cherry Pie Supper. Pre-sale tickets and volunteer sign-ups will be available starting Sunday, January 6. Starting in 1938 the Cherry Pie Supper has been a central February activity providing both a bonding activity for members and an excellent fundraiser for the church. In 2018, we raised over \$10,000 and had 400+ satisfied hungry individuals. If you are not available to help on Saturday, February 15, distributing flyers, or helping get the word out. Contact us for additional information.

Declaration of Human Rights. Copies are available from Diane Drake for purchase in advance of this beforehand. This agreement was signed by all 46! I was shocked to see how long ago we identified what was wrong for every human, and sorrowful for our lack of progress. We need a renewed commitment to treating each and every human with the same respect as every one of God's children.

Book Club January 29, Tuesday, 7:00 pm in the church Library we will

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead *Worship: 10:30 am*

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560 www.firstpresmhd.org Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/firstpresmhd 218.233.1192 **E-mail Addresses:** Rev. Robert Drake

robert@firstpresmhd.org 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.

Online Book Study Presbyterian Women of the Synod invite all interested men and women to join an online book study NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG on forgotten roads with an Indian elder by Kent Nerburn. The study begins January 14 at either 1:00 pm or 6:30 pm (your choice) and then every 2 weeks for 7 sessions. There is no charge to participate, yet registration is requested by January 7 to Marilyn Stone, mmstone52@att.net. Detailed information can be found on the attached flyer for posting in your churches and sharing with your PW group, your Session, men's and women's Bible study groups, etc. The book is available at many public libraries and book stores. The book takes readers to the heart of the Native American experience with an Indian elder speaking eloquently on the difference between land and property, the power of silence, and the selling of sacred ceremonies. What a great opportunity for everyone to participate in together.

Sunday School Schedule January-May 2019 The Sunday school schedule for the rest of this

church year is below, it is also available on magnets for your fridge. Please talk to Scott D., Andrew L. or Pastor Robert if you have any questions. **JANUARY: ESTHER** 1/6 K-3rd ART-PURIM MASKS

4th-5th COOKING -BAKED ALASKA 1/13 K-3rd COOKING -IN A PICKLE

4th-5th RT- PURIM MASKS 1/20 K-3rd DRAMA

4th-5th GAMES 1/27 K-3rd GAMES

4th-5th VIDEO- VEGGIE TALES

FEBURARY: DEBORAH 2/3 K-3rd ART- SPONGE ART

4th-5th DRAMA-PALM TREE COURT 2/10 K-3rd PHOTOGRAPHY

4th-5th ART- SPONGE ART 2/17 K-3rd DRAMA-PALM TREE COURT

4th-5th PHOTOGRAPHY 2/24 K-3rd COOKING - MILK AND HONEY

4th-5th VIDEO

MARCH- JOSEPH 3/3 K-3rd ART- BOOKMARKS

4th-5th SCIENCE - 2 EXPERIMENTS 3/10 K-3rd SCIENCE - 2 EXPERIMENTS 4th-5th ART-
BOOKMARKS

3/17 K-3rd DRAMA- JOSEPH GOES TO EGYPT

4th-5th COOKING- HUMMUS 3/24 K-3rd COOKING- HUMMUS

4th-5th DRAMA- JOSEPH GOES TO EGYPT

MARCH/APRIL JESUS HIS LIFE AND DEATH 3/31 K-3rd ART-JESUS AS A BOY-BOOK OF
GIFTS

4th-5th ART- CHILD-WIRE STAR 4/7 K-3rd ART- STEPPING STONES

4th-5th COOKING- UNLEAVENED BREAD 4/14 K-3rd COOKING- UNLEAVENED BREAD

4th-5th SCIENCE-LAST SUPPER MEMORY 4/28 K-3rd COOKING- GREAT COMMISSION

4th-5th STORYTELLING

- THE GREAT COMMISSION

MAY: PETER AND PAUL - RESURRECTION/ACTS 5/1 K-3rd ART-PETE LEAP OF FAITH
MURAL

4th-5th GAMES- PETER 5/12 K-3rd DRAMA- PAUL- SUPER SLOW MO 4th-5th SCIENCE- PAUL
POPCORN 5/19 K-3rd ART-PAUL- FEET MURALS

4th-5th COOKING- PAUL BRIGHT LIGHT

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Pastor Reflections Advent is over. January is here. A new year has started. What will it bring?

If you were around for Advent, you know that we commenced an Advent sermon series based on Herod's attempt to kill the baby Jesus by killing all children under two years old living in and around Bethlehem.

Our series followed a fictional path where Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee violence back home by escaping to Egypt. In Part 1, they safely cross into Egypt, settle down in Heliopolis, and then return to Judah a few years later. In Part 2, they are stopped at the border by guards and a large fence. After staying in a refugee camp for a few weeks, they climb over the fence, running into the desert night. In Part 3, the Holy Family is once again stopped at the border by guards and a large fence, and they once again climb over the fence. But this time, they are caught by

soldiers and Jesus is separated from Joseph and Mary and sent to a children's detention camp.

Finally, in Part 4, which we explored on Christmas Eve, they are once again stopped at the border. But this time, Jesus succumbs to the rigors of an illegal border crossing and dies in the Egyptian desert of dehydration.

If you sense the trail of current events, you are right. Our Advent sermon series followed today's newspaper and TV headlines.

Was I right to preach this series? Did I step over a line and breach politics from the pulpit? Was the series too gloomy? Did I make the Christmas season sad?

I welcome your feedback, please let me know what you thought of the series. If you missed it, all sermons are on our website (look under "resources").

Aside from the political misinterpretations in the sermon series, it offers us a good opportunity to consider the mood and purpose of Advent. Fleming Rutledge, an Episcopal priest, author, theologian, and powerhouse preacher, writes that Advent is "not for the faint of heart."

Rather, Advent is for those willing to take a hard look at the fundamentally futuristic aspect of Christian faith. Fleming writes, "the Christian community lives in Advent all the time. It can well be called the Time Between..." She says that we live in the time between the first coming of Christ and his second coming in which he will "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed).

Fleming finishes by saying that since we live in this "Time Between," we must always be ready for a "life lived on the edge," one in which we are reactive to the "sufferings of this present age" (Galatians 1:4).

This is not easy. It is not for the faint of heart.

So now, since we are no longer in the Advent phase, are we ready for the hard work of 2019? Many challenges face Moorhead Presbyterian Church this year, not least of which are financial shortfalls.

At the same time, many challenges face our nation and our world leaders in 2019.

I think our challenges, while not synonymous, are definitely answerable to the Advent season through which we just emerged.

At our congregational level, we turn 147-years old; and we look forward to a future of 147 more.

At a national level, we are a nation birthed in the promise of hopeful opportunity; and we look forward to a future of increasing hope and expanding opportunity.

In 2019, may God truly bless you, your family, our church, our nation, and our world in this Time Between.

- Pastor Robert

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Banner Art Hanging on the wall in the sanctuary is one of the many banners available as the seasons go by. This one, Christmas Joy, was made and designed by Jean Lund with help from Ginny Kolba about 35 years ago. It was recently refurbished by Dagne Forbes, Jean's daughter. A more recent one for Thanksgiving featuring a cornucopia was designed by Ginny

Kolba and with a little duct tape has survived well. With a 35 foot ceiling to floor some of the banners have taken up a good portion of the wall. Some have floated out into the sanctuary, hanging down from the light fixtures. Some have been rigged to cross over the chancel area. Although one of the lectures I took at Presbyterian Women's church wide gathering in Purdue said never call them banners, "they are art!" and some of the art is temporary, never to be used again (the lecturer had a massive budget for visual arts) we at First church have used them and re-purposed them. If you are interested in designing or making a new banner, the visual arts committee could use your help. Please contact Elizabeth Swee for more details 701 446 7479 or bswee@aol.com.

DID YOU SEE OUR NEW SIGN? Located on the corner of 5th Street and 30th Avenue, it points the way to our church.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING You may have noticed that we are no longer holding Wednesday night dinners or worship services. There are multiple reasons for this, though the most prominent is that attendance and participation was low. In response to decreasing attendance, a task force was formed in the spring of 2018 to discuss options and plans for Wednesday night programming. After many months, the task force decided to retire Wednesday night dinners and worship services. The task force made this decision only after careful consideration of the many benefits provided by Wednesday activities. The task force would like to thank Kathy McKaig for preparing so many absolutely delicious meals. Who can forget the delicious German Night food and authentic schnitzel! Pastor Robert commented, "Kathy came in every Monday evening and got everything ready. Mitch Sr. was there too, though I'm not sure what he did. I think he helped out too." This does not mean Wednesday night programming is permanently retired. There is always the possibility to reinvent Wednesday night. "We want people to know that if there is something new they think we should do as a church, that we can definitely discuss it. We just decided that it was time to retire what we had been doing, and see what comes up in the future," said Diane Wray-Williams, task force member. If you have an idea for something we could do on Wednesday night, or any night, make sure to let Pastor Robert know.

Beattie's 60th Anniversary You are invited to join Jim and Myrna Beattie for an Open House celebration honoring their 60th wedding anniversary. The event will take place at The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead January 5th from 2-4 PM.

Children's Worship on Sunday mornings Immediately after the Children's Sermon, kids (ages 3 years through grade 2) may head to Room 10 where a developmentally appropriate worship environment has been prepared. The goal of Children's Worship is to help young children encounter and worship God. Our worship time includes biblical stories, prayers, and response activities that help children understand scripture and experience God's presence. Leaders for Children's Worship are Jane Lobitz and Barb Worman. Parents can pick up their kids in Room 10 right after worship ends.

As we start the new year we will focus on New Testament stories to learn about the life of Jesus and his disciples. On January 6th, the children will rejoin their families in the sanctuary so they may participate in Communion with the entire church community.

Personnel Committee Update We are now fully staffed with 9 fabulous employees that offer their expertise in various ways. In the words of Larry the Cable Guy, they "Git R Done". We are, truly blessed to have them doing the Lord's work with us. There is an updated "Incident Report Form" to record any event where someone on the church property is injured. There are many groups/events who use the church on a regular basis that may also report any injury situation. The forms will be located by the mailboxes near the church office and hanging on the bulletin board in the Nursery. When the form is completed, submit a copy to the church secretary or place it in that mailbox.

Approved by Session are the following 2019 Holidays that the church office will be closed: January 1 – New Years (Tuesday) May 27 – Memorial Day (Monday) July 4 – Fourth of July (Thursday) September 2- Labor Day (Monday) November 28 and 29 – Thanksgiving (Thursday and Black Friday) December 25 – Christmas – (Wednesday)

Margo Worman - Peace Corp Project Update: I am thrilled to share another update on the Mulonda Health Post project. During my Peace Corps service in Zambia, I worked with the Mulonda community to complete construction of a small clinic and staff housing. On World AIDS Day (December 1st), a ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the health post. The facility is now staffed by a nurse and a trained community health worker, which is typical for a rural health post. A former co-worker told me the new clinic is envied by staff at other health centers in the area. Thanks to your generous donations, Mulonda community members are now able to directly access healthcare services in their community. Thank you for all of your support for this project and my Peace Corps service! -- Margo Worman

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2019 HOSPITALITY GROUP SCHEDULE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH APRIL/MAY/JUNE Greg & Renee Akason Ineke Justitiz***
Cassidy/Landon Johnson Holly Martin Bill & Marilynn Woods Pegi Ecker Jane Lobitz Richard &
Helen Pemble*** Clarence & Carole Smerud Gerald & Janet Van Amburg Joni Lordeman*** Scott
Ecker & Monika Browne-Ecker John & Judy Ortez*** Mary Skalet*** Tim / Ryne Ortez Kathy
Giddings Garrick & Mary Larson*** Robert & Mary Long

Ron & Peggy
Johnson

JULY/AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER George O'Neill Walt &
Barb Worman*** Jim & Stephanie Gale Jane Tandberg Kim Kelsch Chris & Nadine Swee Kathy
McKaig Dagne Forbes Scott Dobovsky David Miller Nicole Hestbeck Jane Tandberg Maggie Sambo
Arlene Munighan Erik & Elizabeth Swee*** Jay & Bonnie Erickson LuAnn Buehre Frank & Patti
Kratky Jim & Myrna Beattie Julie Sorenson/ Julie Munsey Tim Nelson Steve Knorr/Flory Austin Diane
Wray-Williams

*** *Denotes Group
Leader*

Duties of Hospitality Groups: Greet at the
door Usher/Record attendance/Collect offering
Prepare, serve and cleanup coffee in Fellowship

Hall

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Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday January 27, 2019. The meeting will follow worship with a potluck dinner prior to the meeting. Current Committee Moderators are responsible to prepare a report of 2018 committee activities. Please submit your report to the office with a comment that this is a report for the Annual meeting. Please submit your reports by Thursday January 17.

Per Capita 2019 It's not too late to pay your 2018 Per Capita. Per Capita for 2018 is \$44 per confirmed member. Indicate on the check in the memo line '2018 Per Capita'. Per Capita for 2019 is \$46 per confirmed member. Please consider paying your Per Capita in January 2019. Please indicate on your check memo line- '2019 Per Capita'.

Session Update The session has approved a budget for 2019. This will be presented at the Annual meeting on January 27, 2019. Committees will be working in the coming year to review their responsibilities and obligations; to inter-act and communicate with other committees to best make decisions, and then report to session when needed. Elders and deacons will be elected at the Annual meeting. If you are interested in serving as Elder or deacon, contact Kathy McKaig or Walt Worman. Installation of Elders and Deacons will be Sunday February 10.

"My family continues
to come back to First
Presbyterian because
of the Art Space" Liz
Bancroft

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

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

