

# The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

February 2018

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### The Session:

Moderator: Robert Drake

Clerk of Session: LuAnn Buehre

Treasurer: Chris Swee

Scott Dobovsky, Peggy Johnson, Ineke Justitz, Kim Kelsh, Frank Kratky, Jane Lobitz, Kathy McKaig, Tim Nelson, Erik Swee, Walt Worman

### The Deacons

Moderator: Elizabeth Swee

Pegi Ecker, Bonnie Erickson, Jim Gale, Nicole Hestbeck, Patti Kratky, Arlene Munighan, Helen Pemble, Jane Tandberg, Kathleen Wilkinson, Marilynn Woods, Barb Worman

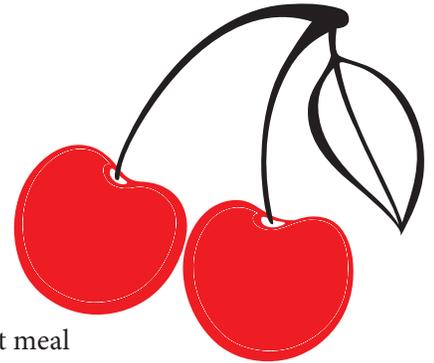
### EPTCL for January:

Patti Kratky

*Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, February 4th.*

## Cherry Pie Supper

On February 24, starting at 4 pm, the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead will host its main fundraising event of the year - The Cherry Pie Supper. Last year the event raised a net income of over \$5,000. Because of increased costs, reaching that level will be a challenge unless we have strong member support. At \$13.00/pre-sale (\$13.50 at the door), it is the best meal in town for the price. Booklets of pre-sale tickets are available at church on Sunday, from Erik Swee (701 388-2675) or from the church office.



### Volunteers Needed – Secret to Cherry Pie Supper Success

Traditional fresh baked cherry pie, the choice of good ham, our own coleslaw recipe, the right mixture of au gratin and scalloped potatoes are all ingredients that make the Cherry Pie Supper great. However, the reason it has always been a success is the willingness of members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to volunteer their time in late February to prepare and serve people who return year after year to what is the best church supper in the FM area.

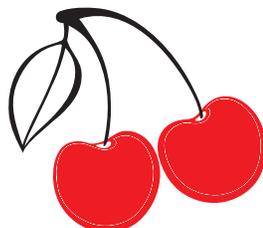
If you have not done so, please sign up for a volunteer position. There are opportunities to help in all areas. Sign-up sheets are available in fellowship hall or contact Erik Swee by phone (701) 388-2675 or email [bswee@midco.net](mailto:bswee@midco.net). The compensation is that you will be working with and become better acquainted with your fellow church members.

### **Jobs available:**

- Bake Pies (Friday) \* Debone and Cook Ham \* Wait on Tables \* Brew Coffee
- \* Serve Pies and Ice Cream
- Wash Dishes \* Help in Kitchen \* Serve Coleslaw \* Runner \* Help with Takeout \* Nursery \* Host

### Help get the word out

All the preparation and willingness to help on Saturday, February 24 is of little value if we keep our supper secret. Please pick up a Cherry Pie Poster after church or from the church office and post it at your place of work, an organization that you may belong to or with whom you may do business.



# The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

Worship: 10:30 am

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

[www.firstpresmhd.org](http://www.firstpresmhd.org)

218.233.1192

## E-mail Addresses:

Rev. Robert Drake      [robert@firstpresmhd.org](mailto:robert@firstpresmhd.org)

Church:                      [admin@firstpresmhd.org](mailto:admin@firstpresmhd.org)

Newsletter Articles:      [nadineswee@yahoo.com](mailto:nadineswee@yahoo.com)

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstpresmhd](http://www.facebook.com/firstpresmhd)

*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.*



## Mid Week Meal & Program

### Wed. February 7th

**Supper:** Pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, pickles, chips, milk, brownies

### Wed. February 14th

**Supper:** Sweetheart Swedish meatballs with gravy, noodles, salad, sour cream biscuits, milk, Valentines cookies

### Wed. February 21st

**Supper:** Big people grilled cheese, homemade tomato soup, veggie tray, milk, ice cream sandwich cake

### Wed. February 28th

**Supper:** Peking pork, egg rolls, lo mein noodles, milk, fortune cookies.

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Meal time: 6:00-6:45pm

Simple Church: 7:00pm

Meal donation is suggested at \$6 adult / \$2 child

*You are always welcome to be our guest should this be a financially tight time in life. Your company is enough.*

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## January / February / March Hospitality Team:

Ron & Peggy Johnson

Cassidy/Landon Johnson

Bill & Marilyn Woods

Jane Lobitz

Clarence & Carole Smerud

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Vern Bancroft

Milt Wilkinson

Jane Lobitz

Jeanne Walker

Raymond Austin

Theresa Samuels

Laura Hagemann

Donald and Marion DeJong

Josh Peterson

Mabel Schneider.



## February BIRTHDAYS

Amy Lobitz	Feb. 1
Marion DeJong	Feb. 4
Logan Cook	Feb. 7
Molly Ecker	Feb. 10
Hal Ecker	Feb. 22
Virginia Kolba	Feb. 25
Tim Ortez	Feb. 25
C Wilbur McGinnis	Feb. 27

Joni Lordeman\*\*

John & Judy Ortez

Tim/Ryne Ortez

Garrick & Mary Larson

Greg & Renee Akason

\*\* Group Leaders



### Pastor Reflections

In many ways I feel as though I've arrived. I feel as though I've arrived at the church call where God wants me. Being called as your pastor feels like the right place at the right time and with the right people. I am happy to be here. I feel as though I've arrived.

But, I do not feel as though I've arrived when it comes to my understanding of God. This same feeling holds true for my understanding of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. I do not feel now, nor have I ever felt, as though I completely understood who God is and what God is all about. I have many unanswered questions about who Jesus was. About the Holy Spirit—that eternally mysterious member of the tripartite God, my beliefs are even more uncertain.

My doubts and uncertainties were principle motivators for my disaffection with religion, church, faith, and the Triune God way back when I was in confirmation. At the time, I got the sense from my confirmation teachers that faith was like a magazine subscription. You either got it, or you didn't. And once you got it, you had it for as long as you paid the subscription dues.

Faith felt like a prize.

Faith felt like something you owned.

Yet, it is not a prize, we do not own it, and it is not a subscription. Surprisingly, I wish I could see my faith this way; I wish I could own it, keep it like a prize I've earned, and simply write my subscription check once a month.

If faith does not work this way, if it's not a simple quid pro quo transaction, then what is it, and how do we gain a solid footing in our faith life?

Wondering. Questioning. Doubting. Trusting. Wandering. Shouting. Leaving. Returning. Asking. Answering. Evolving.

But not arriving.

Faith is not like boarding an airplane and landing at some new, wonderful, gold-plated tarmac. We will never hear, "You have landed at Salvation City, where the temperature is 75 degrees and sunny, enjoy your permanent vacation, and thank you for flying "Faith Frontier."

We don't arrive at faith. We wonder about faith, we question faith, we doubt faith, we trust faith, we wander from faith, we shout at faith, we leave faith, we return to faith, we ask friends and family about their faith, we answer questions asked of us about our own faith, and most importantly, our faith evolves.

It's a long process. And it's hard. Faith is hard. And often not fun. I'm glad I arrived here at FPCM. And I'm glad I get to work with all of you as we evolve our faith together.

- Pastor Robert

### New Life for February

Lunch bunch will be meeting again on Sunday, February 11th at noon. Join us at Wild Terra Cider and Brewing in Fargo (<https://wildterraciderandbrewing.com/>). For this event New Life will be providing childcare at church from the end of worship until 2pm with lunch provided, so we are hoping that this will encourage parents to join us for lunch without the kids.

Due to the success of the recent game night we are doing it again Feb. 18 4-6pm. Please bring a snack and game(s) to share.

### Session News from January

- A Task force was formed to gather ideas and information for rental opportunities of the church building space. Discussions are occurring and information will be brought to session.
- Discussion of the acquisition of an AED (defibrillator) for the church continues. Possible grants were applied for and denied. Possible to use Memorial funds. Cost of a defibrillator is about \$1500.
- Rev. Drake shared an example of a marketing video he would like to produce in the future.
- Final Income and Expenses for 2017 were shared with session. This information will also be included in the Annual report. The 2018 Budget was approved at the December meeting. A deficit budget was approved.
- S&F reported that November and December 2017 payroll invoices were not received from the Synod. Payroll to the Synod for these two months did not get paid in 2017 as they normally would. The Synod is undergoing a change in their billing process. The invoices were received in January 2018 and have been paid.
- Task Force is researching ideas for replacing the church administrator and bookkeeper. Kathy Shark will be leaving by the end of January, and Garrick Larson will be done as bookkeeper at the end of February.

### Presbyterian Trivia

If you are the first person to answer the Presbyterian Trivia question by calling the church office at 218-233-1192 you will receive a gift. The answer and winner from the this month and a new question will appear in the March Newsletter.

### February Question:

What famous late night talk show host had a mother that worked as a secretary at a Presbyterian church?

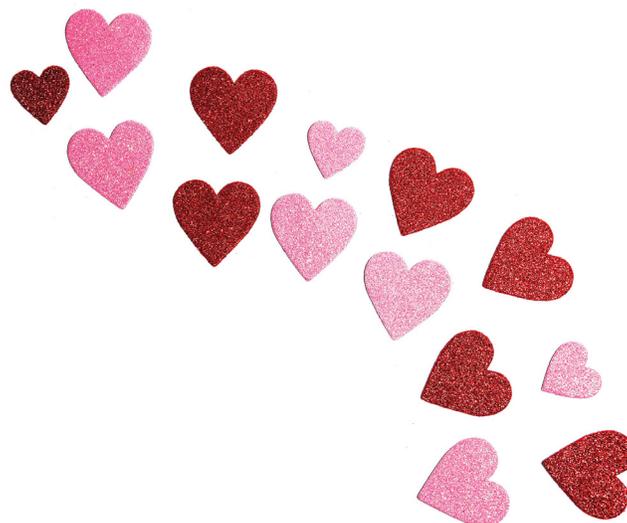
### Temporary Staffing Change

Personnel Committee would like to announce that Clement Sambo, our custodian, is out of the country until March 18, 2018. He has arranged a replacement to provide custodial work at the church in his absence. The gentleman's name is Todd Solberg. Todd comes to us with 6 years of experience doing similar work at a different church in town. If you see Todd, greet him and please welcome him to our staff.



### Installation of Robert Drake

On January 21, a special service was held for the installation of Rev. Robert Drake as the new pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead.



**Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,**

Today, I am passing along some personal news. The good news is that after several months of searching, my husband, Steve, has accepted a job that is a good fit for him. The bad news is, the job is at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, ND. So, my time as your office administrator will be coming to a close, probably at the end of January.

As you can imagine, while we are grateful for this opportunity, it has caused quite an upheaval in our lives. It's tough to leave behind your friends, neighbors, church, home, community, and a job that you love. It has been a pleasure to work at FPCM and I am so very grateful that I had a chance to get to know you. I will miss working with you and Pastor Robert and seeing how the life of the church continues to unfold under his caring and excellent leadership. I thank you so much for your encouragement, support, love, and laughter, and for making me feel like family from the very first day I set foot in the office. I will miss you and hold you in my heart and in my prayers.

If I may make a request - please keep Steve and me in your prayers as we embark upon this new chapter in our lives.

With a thankful heart,

Kathy Shark



**Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) Presentations**

The Fargo-Moorhead Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are hosting a speaker series in February at the Moorhead Public Library. Each Monday at 7pm, an RPCV will speak about their experiences serving in the Peace Corps. The schedule of speakers is as follows:

February 5th: Mike, Nepal, "Speaking in Nepali for 47 Years"

February 12th: Helene, Honduras, "Life in Llanga for 14 Years"

February 26th: Margo Worman, Zambia, "The 5 People You Meet in Zambia"

**February Nursery Schedule**

**9:15 AM**

February 4                      Chris/Nadine Swee  
 February 11                     Adam/Joni Massie  
 February 18                     Maggie Sambo  
 February 25                     Mary Larson

**10:15 AM**

Kathy McKaig  
 Kim Kelsh  
 Eric/Danielle Mullen  
 Holly Martin



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### February Worship Schedule

**Sun. February 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

- Isaiah 40:21-31, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

**Sun. February 11<sup>th</sup> - Transfiguration of the Lord Day**

- 2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

**Sun. February 18<sup>th</sup> - First Sunday in Lent (What! Lent! Already?)**

- Genesis 9:8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

**Sun. February 25<sup>th</sup> - Second Sunday in Lent**

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38