

The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

April 2020

The Session:

Moderator: Robert Drake

Clerk of Session: Kim Kelsh

Treasurer: Chris Swee

Frank Kratky, Walt Worman,
Kathy McKaig, Peggy Johnson,
Kim Kelsh, Mary Larson, Chris
Swee, Mary Skalet, Megan
Wheeler, and David Lanpher

The Deacons

Moderator: Barb Worman

Jim Gale, Kathy Giddings, Nicole
Hestbeck, Joni Lordemann,
John Ortez, Helen Pemble, Deb
Piekutowski, Elizabeth Swee

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Visit our Website:

www.firstpresmhd.org



#AWORLDOFHEARTS

Here are just some of the many window heart displays from our church members. You can drive around and see how many you can spot! Here are the addresses of FPCM members who are participating in #AWORLDOFHEARTS. Call Pastor Robert if you want your address added, or if you have a photo you want to add to our church Facebook page.

- Bill and Marilyn Woods; 2002 35th Street South Circle, Moorhead
- Kathy Giddings; 414 4th Ave South, Moorhead, look on the patio door
- Mary Skalet; 1314 2nd Street South, Moorhead
- Kim Kelsh; 1114 10th Street South, Fargo
- Nadine, Chris, Carleigh, and Charlotte Swee; 5595 Justice Drive South, West Fargo, also look for Carleigh's stained glass door!
- Erik and Elizabeth Swee; 1714 S 5th St. Moorhead, look in the trees
- Julie Sorenson; 100 3rd St. N, Moorhead, Park View Terrace, look at the fifth floor, center of the building, 16 paper hearts in vertical rows.
- Jean, Eston, Balian, Rhonda, and Simon Taylor; 4136 Rivershore Dr South, Moorhead
- Joanne Bale; 201 University Dr., Fargo, Bethany Retirement Homes, 9th floor facing west, drive on 14th street, and look for aluminum heart in the window
- Doug and LuAnn Buehre; 506 4th Ave NW, West Fargo, and if you go at night, look for the Christmas tree lights
- Frank and Patty Kratky; 6604 Broadway Street NW, Moorhead
- Dagne and Bill Forbes; 4830 3rd St SW, Moorhead
- Dan, Megan, Leander, Macsen Wheeler; 1316 44th Ave South, Moorhead
- Pastor Robert; 1301 Belsly Blvd. #203, Moorhead

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

Worship: 10:30 am

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

www.firstpresmhd.org

218.233.1192

E-mail Addresses:

Rev. Robert Drake robert@firstpresmhd.org

Church: admin@firstpresmhd.org

Newsletter Articles: nadineswee@yahoo.com

Find us on Facebook: 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.



ONLINE HOME COMMUNION PHOTOS

Here are photos from some of our first-ever, online home communions.

- Julie Sorenson writes, "Tears of love for my beloved church family flowed during the communion service. Miss and love you all!"
- Gloria Bancroft writes, "Hot dog bun and OJ had a special meaning today."
- Kim Kelsh writes, "I felt very connected to my church family."

Volunteers Needed

Our wonderful volunteers are waning in numbers, so would ask if more people would be able to volunteer! Many hands make light work! If anyone feels they would like to do this, either call Mary Skalet (218-329-1633) or Frank Kratky (218-329-4226). (they do not have to be of the male species) Thank you!

Caring for Neighbors in Need

Julie purchased \$180 of goods for Churches United today. She likes this line at Walmart as Mary is so helpful at check out.



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

During this time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening, we are reminded that the most vulnerable in our midst suffer first, most and longest. One Great Hour of Sharing has, for over 70 years, supported the most vulnerable among us. Because of your support, the Church is able to deepen its commitment to serve. In the days ahead, staff of Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be working with presbyteries to identify and support essential congregational ministries, especially in anti-poverty work. The Church’s response to the present crisis will begin with the most at-risk communities across the country and around the world, as well as those facing spikes of racism in response to this disease.



Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat.

During these uncertain times, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God’s grace to see us through.

OGHS Prayer: Draw all people together, gracious God, and make us your house. Let our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing create a home and a wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crisis, so that the whole human family will know your love. Amen

Donations to the OGHS special offering make a difference in the lives of people in need around the world through these highly developed, well-managed, impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) - works alongside communities around the globe as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters: hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, fires, etc. PDA is currently doing their work through webinars, virtual deployments to disaster areas, digital resources, and grants for the impacts of Covid-19 as well as the “usual” disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) - takes actions to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all my be fed.

Self-Development of People (SDOP) - invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

Our gifts to OGHS are currently supporting members two local programs:

- The Immigration Assistance and Citizenship Education, organized by the United Liberians Association in North Dakota, received a MidCouncil level grant of \$19,920. “The project is needed because most of our members are indigent and cannot afford attorney fees. Several members of our community have lost their Green Card, Social Security card, have need of filing for citizenship, as well as helping their spouses do the same. With this project we will train members how to use the computer, find the relevant form and type in the form by themselves, print it and submit to the USCIS. We will assist members who have citizenship test pending with the study of questions and answers, explaining the meaning of the same, the value and responsibilities of being a US citizen, as well direct those who need immigration documentations to available resources.”
- The South Sudan Lutheran Church received a National level grant of \$15,000. The project is One-on-One tutoring. “The Fargo-Moorhead area is home to approximately 3,000 South Sudanese refugees now living in North Dakota who struggle everyday to find work, secure housing, access services and transportation, understand and overcome cultural differences, learn and understand English and raise their children in a culturally unfamiliar context and ensure their educational success. We are projecting that many people will be able to get jobs after learning English, which will lead to better living.”

During this Lenten season please consider making a donation beyond your usual offerings to the church to support the life-changing work of these three programs. Please mail your OGHS gifts to First Presbyterian Moorhead (please write “OGHS” on the memo line of your check) anytime during the month of April. We will then send all of our combined offerings to OGHS early this summer.

Pastor Reflection

Way back when I was a freshman in college, in the fall of 1988, I wrote in my journal something along the lines of, “All of history is done, there is nothing left that will be interesting in the world. All the great struggles and the great movements have already happened. I live in boring times.”

A little over a year later, in November 1989, the Berlin Wall came down. And I never again uttered the words, “I live in boring times.”

For many of us today, the coronavirus pandemic of 2020 is likely the most disruptive public event to happen in our lifetime. It brings immediate and mandatory changes to our daily lives. It affects us emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. For some of us it very well might also affect us physically.

These are definitely not boring times!

How will we move through these times? How will our families be affected? How will our church be affected? Will this change our relationship with God? Will we move closer to God, or will this push us further from God?

Experiencing difficult times is both a blessing and a challenge.

The challenge is that we must continually monitor our attitude, making sure we don't become pessimistic during the difficult trial. We must continually guard against feeling overwhelming despair. God can help with us with that.

King David wrote a lot about feelings of despair and helplessness. Take a look at Psalm 69, specifically verses 13-15. Here's a short line from that section, “Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up...” There are numerous psalms where David feels completely helpless, yet always turns to God for rejuvenation and hope.

The blessing is that we discover something new about ourselves, our family, our church, our world.

Because we are following the statewide shelter-in-place and social distancing guidelines, we are not worshipping together in the church building. Instead, many of you are watching our pre-recorded worship videos.

In fact, a surprising number of people are watching our videos. 415 people watched at least 70% of our March 29th worship video.

415!

As a direct result of the challenging circumstances of the coronavirus, we are reaching five times the number of people we normally reach on a typical Sunday morning.

This is a blessing indeed.

As we go through these definitely not “boring times,” I invite you to always look for a small blessing tucked somewhere among the many layers of challenge.

- Pastor Robert Drake

**DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES**

Check out this great resource for your devotional time during these challenging times ---

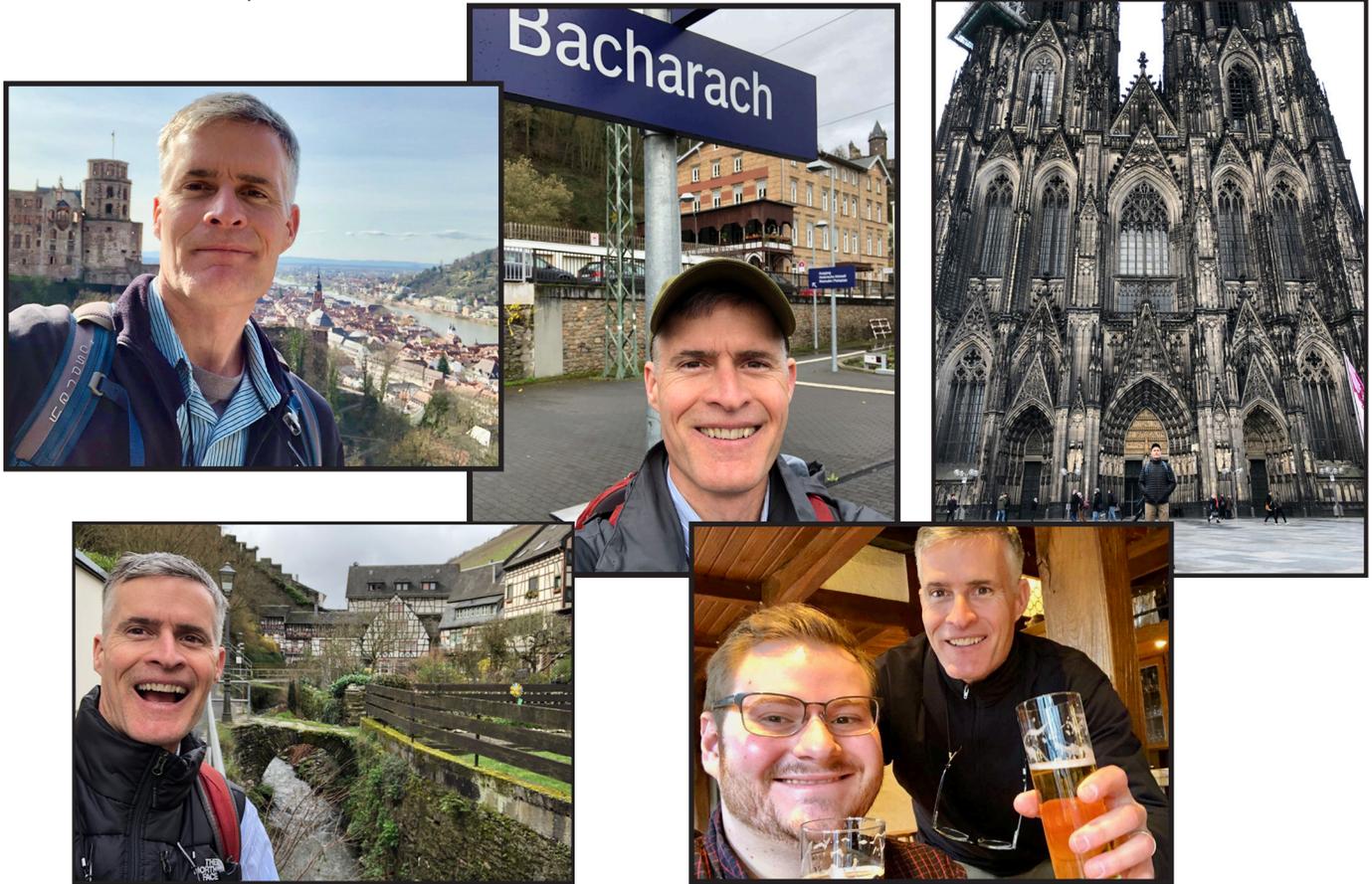
These Days, a quarterly devotional that you can subscribe to and have mailed directly to you, is offering **free devotions**. In addition to a daily devotion that includes a Scripture reading, reflection, and prayer, each issue also includes inspiring essays and adult coloring pages for added spiritual reflection each month. Deacons have been providing these devotional books to older church members for many years.

To help you as you try to find new spiritual disciplines at home, *These Days* is providing the devotions for the month of April and two of the coloring pages free for your use

[Click here to download the free copy of *These Days*.](#)

PHOTOS FROM PASTOR ROBERT'S VACATION

Although his vacation was cut short by two weeks, Pastor Robert was still able to have a good time in Germany. He visited Bonn, Heidelberg, Cologne, and Barmen (where the 1934 Theological Declaration of Barmen was signed, you can read it in the Presbyterian Book of Confessions).



Stories from the Coronavirus Pandemic 2020

The following are thoughts from Juneve Givers as she shelters-in-place during the coronavirus pandemic of 2020. These are historic times, and no doubt, historians a century from now will be interested in reading what our lives are like, how they are changed, and what went through our minds. Juneve Givers shares some of her thoughts here. If you too are journaling your thoughts and would like to share them with them in the next newsletter, please contact Pastor Robert.

From Juneve, on March 21, 2020:

Well now, I am mostly sitting in my wheeled chair in front of computer, polishing up much of my writing about growing up on a farm, 1940s - '50s, with as much descriptive detail as I can recall. I have many black and white photos to insert, but need my computer guru, Amity, to show me how to do so again, again.

I go out as needed, or as I choose, mostly to grocery shop; too chilly for fun walking outdoors yet, so have not gotten together with my usual walking companion, Helen Pemble. They are holing up, too. I have been rationing my book reading to when I walk up and down the apartment building hallway, but am again now down to the last paperback. So it goes.

Brad and Amity [Juneve's daughter and son-in-law]- working from home as of last Thursday. Kiddies have their entertainments. I just dropped off JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and the *LOTR* trilogy at Logan's [grandson] request yesterday. He, Andy [grandson], and I played rummy games for a half hour or so. Longer than that and the boys tend to get growly and competitive. I brought ice cream and oreos for bribes. They have fun with their two kitten/cats, now nigh onto a year old.

Amity and I had airplane tickets to Seattle for this weekend to visit with Jeremiah [Juneve's son] and family. Not to be. I am not unhappy at cancelling flight, as I much prefer AMTRAK Empire Builder travel out to Seattle. I am learning Skype to see what Elliot [grandson] is like as a five year old. Five minute attention span or less, as expected.

Springtime coming with warmer weather. I predict the Red River will hit 31.5 feet at the highest flood stage in April. My annually predicted high water levels have been within two inches since I started studying such during the Big Flood of 1997. I probably am due for a comeuppance, such smugness as I exhibit.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



I would like to thank everyone who made the 2020 Cherry Pie Supper a success. Without you CP would not exist. Not being able to thank you all face to face I would like to do so via "The First Epistle". I have listed below the volunteer list as of Saturday, February 22, 8 am.

I try every year to keep a list of volunteers and it is never totally accurate. This year, because I have the time I would like to make it as accurate as possible. As you look over the list, if you volunteered and don't find your name or are listed incorrectly please email me (bswee@midco.net) the correct information.

Bake Pies – Friday

- * Elizabeth Swee - lead
- * Cassidy Johnson
- * Marilyn Woods
- * Judy Ortez
- * Diane Wray Williams
- Laurie Knoll

Rene' Park

Beva Hansen

* Amanda Ghauri

* Juneve Givers

Setup - Saturday Morning

* Tim Ortez

* Melisa Ortez

* Ryne Ortez

* Clarence Smerud

* Carol Smerud

* Helen Pemble

* Rich Pemble

Cook – debone ham & Start cooking

- * Mitch McKaig
- * Jim Beattie
- * Ron Johnson
- * Tim Ortez
- Anthony Johnson
- Justin Marek

Hosts

- * John Ortez
- * Jay Erickson
- * Bill Woods

Announcer

- * Tim Ortez

Tickets

- * Elizabeth Swee
- * Maggie Swee

Coffee Preparation

- * Chris Swee
- * George O'Neill
- * Kit O'Neill

Nursery

- * Jane Lobitz
- * Nikki Hestbeck

Take Out

- * Barb Worman
- * Myrna Beattie

Pie Room – Shift 1

- * Landon Johnson
- Ashley Busche
- * Emily Lutgen
- * Ellen Lutgen
- MacKenzie Jackson

Pie Room – Shift 2

- * Landon Johnson
- * Isaac Nelson
- Ashley Busche

Cherry Pie Supper - Saturday**Salad Room**

- * Kathy Giddings
- * Mary Skalet
- * Peggy Johnson
- * Julie Sorenson
- * Stephanie Gale

Potatoes

- * Cassidy Johnson
- * Deb Piebutowski
- Pam Marek
- * Dagne Forbes

Scrape/Wash Dishes – shift 1

- * Joni Lordeman – shift 1
- * Frank Kratky – shift 2
- * Walt Worman – shift 2
- * Ineke Justitz – shift 2

Table Servers – Shift 1

- * Mary Larson – head
- * Greta Larson
- * Bonnie Erickson
- * Marilyn Woods
- * Carleigh Swee
- * Peter Sambo
- * Sinda Sambo
- * Diane Wray Williams
- * Ryne Ortez
- Quinn Mears
- Rowen Deutsch
- Mary Ann Thompson
- k Isabell Criveizos
- k Brooklyn Laducer
- k Emma Stuber
- k Gasl Gloss
- k Antonia am Orde
- k Kacy Haphey
- k Megan Swanson

Kitchen Shift - 1

- * Kim Kelsh
- * Judy Ortez
- * Julie Sorenson

Table Servers – Shift 2

- * Jim Gale
- * Maria Lim
- * Robert Drake
- * Emily Gress
- * Norah Johnson
- * Dylan Jean
- * Payton Waldoch
- * Quinn Pelowski
- * Barb Worman
- * Scott Dobovsky
- Kylie Held
- * Holly Martin
- * Scott Ecker
- k Regan Erdman
- k Gabby Feil
- k Bailey Overbo
- k Kacy Haphey
- k Megan Swanson

Kitchen – Shift 2

- * Kim Kelsh
- * Judy Ortez
- Mary Thron

Clean up

- * Gill Woods
- * Ineke Justitz
- Ellen Faberstrom
- * LuAnn Buehre

Transportation of Materials

- * Ron Johnson

* Denotes Church Members /family k Denotes Key Club Members

Thank You Everyone – Erik Swee

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Inside this Issue:



One Great Hour

#AWORLDOFHEARTS

