

The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

May 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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#aworldofhearts

Here are just some of the #aworldofhearts window displays. If we missed yours, we apologize, please text Pastor Robert and we will feature your window in the June newsletter.



The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

Worship: 10:30 am

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

www.firstpresmhd.org

218.233.1192

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstpresmhd

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.



EMAIL SPAM ALERT

If you receive an email from Pastor Robert (or anybody for that matter) asking for gift cards or money, or saying that Pastor Robert needs your help, DO NOT REPLY TO THE EMAIL. Delete the email right away.

Pastor Robert will NEVER ask you for money in an email, text, or phone call.

702 Communications said these spam emails are interception emails, where spammers create an email account that looks similar to Pastor Robert's account, and then send an email to you. They said there is nothing we can do to prevent this. So please be on the guard for them, and if you receive one, simply delete it, and call Pastor Robert.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

As our time apart has gone on I believe we all are much more aware of the need to maintain connections and to support one another. We have also had to find new ways to reach out to support and care for those in need in our community and world. Hopefully these efforts will continue once we are able to gather again as a church family. One of the first things we plan to do once we are back together on Sunday mornings is to celebrate -- celebrate our church family, our care for one another, and the ways we have a positive impact in our community and world.

As people worked to recover from WW II, the church created One Great Hour of Sharing as a means to support the most vulnerable. For 70 years the three programs of OGHS (Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) have worked around the globe to identify and support essential ministries, especially in anti-poverty work. The Church's active response to the present Covid-19 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, 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.

So as we safely return to our church building (whenever that may be) we will collect fish banks, checks, coins or cash for the OGHS special offering - and we will celebrate the ways we are making a difference in the lives of people in need around the world through the highly developed and well-managed programs of OGHS.

Note: due to the disruptions caused by Covid-19 and the delay in completing the OGHS Offering, our church has chosen to not do a special offering in late May for the Pentecost Offering.



Pastor Reflection

Can you believe it? This is our second coronavirus-era newsletter. Way back at the end of March, I was quite certain—actually make that, sort of certain—that by the time we got to compiling the May newsletter we would be “back to normal.”

Well, here we are again, it's newsletter time again, and things are not at all “back to normal.”

The \$64,000 Question that everyone is asking is, “When will things get back to normal?”

Just this morning I was talking with a clergy friend of mine, and she said her church in Wisconsin is making contingency plans to professionalize their online worship so that they can continue remote, online worship through as late as August.

August??? What!!!

Can you imagine watching our church service online all the way out as far as August?

As wonderful as our online videos have been, as beautiful as the musical worship from Joni, Tim, Diane, and Frank has been, as authentic as Dave's reading have been, and hopefully as insightful as my sermons have been, despite all this, we all want to get back to in-person, corporate worship.

When will this be?

You know the answer to this as well as I do. We will wait until it is prudent to do so and we will follow the advice of our state government officials as make that prudent decision.

So what do we do in the meantime?

We continue doing what we've been doing. The worship team will continue meeting every Monday evening on Zoom, discussing what to do for the next worship. Church staff will continue working from home to the degree that they are able. Deacons will continue chatting with their care recipients. Various committees will find ways to continue their church work. I will continue sending the Daily Message email and talking on the phone everyday with church members, checking in to see how you're doing. And Session will continue the strategic work of guiding your church through this coronavirus era.

In other words, we continue doing the spiritual, missional, and administrative work of the church, because although this is a stressful period, where none of knows when things will “go back to normal,” we trust that somewhere in the midst of all this, God is still in control.

That's the #1 reason I am confident that FPCM will not only weather this storm, but that we will come out the other side stronger and healthier than we were before all this started. There's a variety of reasons for this, but rather than share them right now, in the May newsletter, I'm going to wait for a few more things to be evident, and I will share them in the June newsletter.



- Pastor Robert Drake

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Moorhead, MN 56560

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Inside this Issue:



One Great Hour

#AWORLDOFHEARTS

