

The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

December 2017

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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, Patty Kratky, Arlene Munighan, Helen Pemble, Jane Tandberg, Kathleen Wilkinson, Marilynn Woods, Barb Worman

EPTCL for December:

Arlene Munighan

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 3 and at the Christmas Eve service at 5:30pm on Sunday, Dec. 24.

Little Bits of Christmas

Please come for the fun, the music and the laughter. "Little Bits of Christmas" at First Presbyterian, 2900 S. 5th St, Moorhead, 4 pm, Dec. 10.

First Congregational Choir

and First Presbyterian Choir will set the tone, with drama, jokes, stories, and audience participation to follow. Contests will include "Awesome Christmas Sweater" and musical song quiz, treats included. Bring a canned meat item to help resupply the food pantry if you wish. This is a "not for profit event" - just for your well-being and enrichment of life!



CHRISTMAS SEASON

Nov. 28-Rev. Robert Drake starts.

Dec. 3-First Sunday of Advent Worship at 10:30 AM. At 4 PM come to the Hanging of the Greens and help decorate the church. There will be activities for children as well. Stay for the potluck dinner afterwards.

Dec. 10-Second Sunday of Advent Worship at 10:30 AM. Come and join with your church family in a rollicking good time at "Little Bits of Christmas" Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10, at 4 PM. There will be caroling, jokes, drama, chimes, Awesome Christmas Sweater Contest, 2 choirs, stories, treats, etc.! Bring your best caroling voice, something for the food pantry, and the whole family! Expect to have fun! If you want to contribute to the program contact Diane Wray-Williams.

Dec. 17-Third Sunday of Advent At the 10:30 AM service enjoy the Children's Advent Service.

Dec. 24-As it is both Sunday and Christmas Eve there will be our usual 10:30 worship service for the last Sunday in Advent and also the 5:30 Christmas Eve service which will again include communion this year.

Jan. 21-There will be an Installation Service for Rev. Robert Drake.

Jan. 28-Potluck and Annual Meeting



A big thanks to Mary Skalet for her donation of a newer kitchen stove.

No more burnt cherry pies! Also a big thanks to Frank Kratky for switching out the stoves.

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:

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.



Mid Week Meal & Program

Wed. December 6th

Supper: Chili, cornbread, oranges, milk, ice cream sundaes

Wed. December 13th

Supper: Baked chicken, broccoli with cheese sauce, fruit cup, milk, bread pudding with rum sauce

Wed. December 20th

Supper: Baked potato bar with various toppings, milk, decorate your own christmas cookie

Wed. December 27th

No Meal and Program during the holidays

Meal time: 6:00-6:45pm

Simple Church: 6:45pm

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.

December Hospitality Team:

Frank & Patti Kratky

Julie Sorenson/Julie Munsey

Diane Wray Williams**

Greg & Renee Akason

Steve Knorr/Flory Austin

** Group Leaders

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Mary Long

Todd Biever

Kathleen Wilkinson

Jeanne Walker

Raymond Austin

Theresa Samuels

Laura Hagemann

Donald and Marion DeJong

Josh Peterson

Mabel Schneider

Jane Lobitz



Carolyn Ballard	Dec. 1	Theresa Samuels	Dec. 16
Eloise Massie	Dec. 3	Gerald VanAmburg	Dec. 17
Clarence Smerud	Dec. 4	Kelsie Phonethep	Dec. 18
Ross Mathews	Dec. 7	Kaleb Phonethep	Dec. 18
Nadine Swee	Dec. 8	Jane Tandberg	Dec. 19
Noah Steward	Dec. 9	B. Erik Swee	Dec. 19
Peter Erickson	Dec. 10	Micah Pemble	Dec. 19
Thomas Williams	Dec. 11	Joan Piepkorn	Dec. 19
Kathy Giddings	Dec. 11	Marilynn Woods	Dec. 20
Doreen Taber	Dec. 12	Luke Hestbeck	Dec. 23
Garrick Larson	Dec. 13	Barbara Worman	Dec. 24
Joni Massie	Dec. 14	Carleigh Swee	Dec. 27
Hal Dickelman	Dec. 14	Peggy Johnson	Dec. 27
Holly Martin	Dec. 15	Bradley Hawkins	Dec. 29
Julie Sorenson	Dec. 16		

Session News from November

- Session approved the baptism of Jaxson Jerry Mullen for Sunday, November 26. Danielle and Erik Mullen will be received into membership on November 26.
- The 2018 budget was presented to session at the November meeting. Each committee had submitted their budgetary requests, and Stewardship & Finance compiled this information to form the 2018 budget. Additional meetings will be held to work on the budget.
- The Annual meeting date has been changed to January 28 2018, following worship and potluck dinner. Committee Reports will be due January 18, 2018. Current committee moderators will be responsible for preparing the committee's report.
- Installation of Rev. Robert Drake will be January 21. Presbytery will be planning this worship service. Details will be announced in early January.
- Worship on December 24 is at 10:30am and 5:30pm.
- The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for elder and deacon. If you are interested, please contact Kim Kelsh or Walt Worman.
- Session expressed their sincere Thanks to Paul for his time with us.



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering is received during the season of Advent and Christmas. This offering promotes education and leadership development through the establishment and support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Our future racial ethnic church leaders can receive much-needed assistance while they pursue their profession goals at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

The offering also supports current and retired church workers and their families in need. Church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received December 24.

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 this month and a new question will appear in the January Newsletter.

November Winner: Elizabeth Swee

She was the first one to contact Kathy in the office to win a prize!

November Question:

Who was the first martyr in the American Abolitionist movement in the nineteenth century?

November Answer:

Rev. Elijah Parish Lovejoy, a Presbyterian minister from Albion, Maine, was assaulted by a mob in the Mississippi river town of Alton, Illinois where he was the publisher of an abolitionist newspaper, the Alton Observer, and served as Pastor at Upper Alton Presbyterian Church, (now College Avenue Presbyterian church) in 1837. On November 7, 1837 a mob of pro-slavery partisans attacked the warehouse where Rev. Lovejoy kept his newspaper printing press with the intent of destroying it. In the attempt to stop the mob from breaking in, Lovejoy and his assistant were shot and killed, and the printing press was thrown down from a window to the river bank below. The participants in the mob were found not guilty of any wrong doing by a pro-slavery judge and jury. Rev. Lovejoy was hailed as a martyr for the cause of abolition and is called the first casualty of the Civil War. Numerous honors have been given to the memory of Rev. Lovejoy. In January 1838, Abraham Lincoln referenced Lovejoy's murder in his Lyceum address, and John Brown, inspired by Lovejoy's martyrdom, declared in church, "Here before God, I consecrate myself to the destruction of slavery".

More information can be found on line at [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Elijah Parish Lovejoy](http://Wikipedia.org/wiki/Elijah_Parish_Lovejoy).

December Question:

Who was the first woman to cross the Rocky Mountains on the Oregon Trail in the 19th century?



Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias are available to order. Deadline for ordering will be December 3rd. Price is \$10 a piece, contact Elizabeth Swee (701) 446-7479.



Pastor Reflections

“ThenI will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” Joel 2:28

Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come.

This passage from Revelation is my wish; I want to leave you with. This and... “Dreams and Visions”!

My prayer for you is to know that the peace of Christ is with you. In times of change and transition it is important to know that Christ comes in the midst of our feelings of uncertainty and reminds us that he is with us. In John’s gospel, when the disciples were still contemplating the stories of a risen Christ and uncertain about the immediate future, the Risen Christ came among them and said “Peace be with you”. That is what God does. He comes and is with us. He gives us His calming presence.

This is my final reflections letter to you. I have the highest regards for your church community and congregation.

In June of 2016 I came and filled the pulpit at your church for the first time. It was the Sunday that Rev. Mary Holte moderated the congregational meeting to elect your Pastor Nominating committee. Six weeks later I was asked by the session to guide you as a transitional minister. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to walk with you during your search process for a new pastor. You met me with open arms. You invited me into your community. I knew that God had guided me here and “made clear the way” for us sharing our lives together for the last 16 months.

You spoke of your visions and dreams for where your congregation would like to go. That was reflected in your ministry form in the search for your new pastor. Remember those dreams you have and continue to act on them. Go back to the 2016 Year Book and continue to review them. Remember where you want to go as a church.

In last month’s reflections, I mentioned the energy I felt in the congregation with the coming of a new pastor. I still sense that excitement. That is not to say that there will not be bumps and learning as you go forward together. But I have seen and felt the welcome that you extend to people. I know you will show that with Robert also.

This is my humble thank you. You have given me a wonderful experience of ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead. I enjoyed the transition time and getting to know you. You have been supportive of me as I made mistakes and asked questions of how you do things. I am sure you will continue to extend that sincere welcome to others as your church grows for where God is calling you to advance His Kingdom.

Let the Grace of God continue to guide you forward.

With sincere thanks,

- Pastor Paul

Hospitality Groups

You will find the new 2018 Quarterly Hospitality Group assignment schedule in this month’s Epistle. Each person will find they have been assigned to one Quarter which consist of three consecutive months that as a group you are responsible for covering the duties of greeting, ushering, recording the number attending worship service, collecting the offering, and preparing/serving/ cleaning up coffee in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Each group has a group leader that has agreed to organize the group for each Quarter. Please make their difficult job as easy as possible by being available to help during your Quarter. The change to the Quarterly System was necessary in order for our congregation to continue providing coffee during the Fellowship Time after worship and there were several months (April, June, July, August, September, November, and December) that were not adequately covered. THANK YOU for your cooperation.

Janet Van Amburg, Coordinator of Hospitality Groups



What does the word “history” conjure in your mind? At first glance, we may think of things that happened in the past; events from long ago, people we read about in history books, past presidents of our country, generals of various wars, or black-and-white pictures of people in outdated clothing. In other words, we might think of history as something that is finished and done.

Yet, “history” also possesses an aspect of future possibility. Maybe the Steve Miller Band said it best back in 1976, “Time keeps on slippin’, slippin’, slippin’ into the future.”

History is not static and backward looking. Instead, history points us toward the future. Our own history as Presbyterians supports this view. In the Confession of 1967, we state that Jesus Christ “gave history its meaning and *direction*...” I italicize the word “direction” to emphasize the way this word points our attention forward to tomorrow, forward to what lies ahead, and forward to our hope that Christ offers us a reason to direct our attention forward to the wonderful possibilities that lie ahead for us.

As many of you may know, I was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament last month at Community Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, my hometown. One of the gifts I received was a Bible, given to me by my friend and mentor Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Merrill. This Bible was first given to him at his own ordination on May 2nd, 1954, by his parents Ida and Alfred Merrill. Its edges are tattered, the binding is loosening, and the pages are yellowed, all signs of its many hours in the service of God’s work.

We could say that this Bible is a piece of history, that it marks a day in time sixty-three years ago when a much younger Arthur Merrill received this Bible. More accurately, we could say that in passing from one hand to another, this Bible continues its journey in the persevering stream of Christian history, giving meaning and direction to our lives as followers of Christ.

I feel the same way about First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead. For 145 years, FPCM provides meaning and direction for its members and for the Fargo/Moorhead community. As I begin my service with you, I look forward to joining you as we continue building the history of this amazing church.

--Pastor Robert

Robert Drake Ordination

On Sunday, November 12, Robert Drake was ordained in the Community Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MN, the church that sponsored Robert as he attended Princeton Theological Seminary. It was a beautiful service in which many ordained ministers spoke, who accompanied and served as mentors to Robert on his spiritual journey. The music by the choir, organ and piano, flute and trumpet, and bells was a wonderful, integral part of the service. The love and respect in which Robert was held by the congregation and all who participated in the service was very obvious.

After Robert was ordained, all who were or had ever served as deacons and elders were invited to lay hands on Robert in a prayer for the newly ordained. Kim and Ineke gladly participated. Next Robert served communion to the congregation.

A reception including a dinner of ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans with almonds and dessert concluded the afternoon.

Readings during the service included: Galatians 3:27-28, Psalm 19, Isaiah 1:16-20, Isaiah 44:22, Genesis 21:8-19, 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Matthew 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-8, 11



2018 HOSPITALITY GROUP SCHEDULE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH

Ron & Peggy Johnson
 Cassidy/Landon Johnson
 Bill & Marilyn Woods
 Jane Lobitz
 Clarence & Carole Smerud
 Joni Lordeman***
 John & Judy Ortez
 Tim / Ryne Ortez
 Garrick & Mary Larson
 Greg & Renee Akason

JULY/AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

George O'Neill
 Jim Gale
 Kim Reieson Kelsh
 Kathy McKaig
 Scott Dobovsky
 Nicole Hestbeck
 Maggie Sambo
 Erik & Elizabeth Swee***
 LuAnn Buehre
 Jim & Myrna Beattie
 Tim Nelson
 Diane Wray-Williams

*** *Denotes Group Leader*

Duties of Hospitality Groups:

Greet
 Usher/Record attendance
 Collect offering
 Prepare, serve and cleanup coffee in Fellowship Hall

APRIL/MAY/JUNE

Ineke Justitiz
 Holly Martin
 Hal & Pegi Ecker
 Richard & Helen Pemble***
 Gerald & Janet Van Amburg
 Scott Ecker & Monika Browne-Ecker
 Mary Skalet
 Kathy Giddings
 Robert & Mary Long
 Adam & Joni Massie

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Vern & Liz Bancroft (greeters)
 Jim & Marlys Winter (greeters)
 Chris & Nadine Swee
 Dagne Forbes
 David Miller
 Jane Tandberg
 Arlene Munighan
 Walt & Barb Worman***
 Frank & Patti Kratky
 Julie Sorenson/ Julie Munsey
 Steve Knorr/Flory Austin
 Jay & Bonnie Erickson



News & Events

Donations For Cooper House Residents

Once again we are asking for donations of hygiene products for residents at the Cooper House for Christmas. These items include shampoo, soap or body wash, deodorant, razors and shaving cream and lotion. There will be a box in Fellowship Halls to collect the items and they need to be in by Sunday, December 17.

The Cooper House is a housing unit for the chronically homeless in Fargo. Right now we have 4 females and 38 males, some who just moved in and many who have been there a number of years. The residents have been living in shelters or on the street before moving into the Cooper House and are dealing with physical or mental illness or addiction and usually all of the above. Christmas is a very difficult time for the residents as it reminds them of the things in their lives they don't have anymore. Most are estranged from their families and most have lost many friends over the years.

The residents were very excited about our donations last year and many expressed their gratitude. For the majority of the residents this was the only Christmas present they received. One of the most important things we can do for them is to show that people do care about them and the donations are an expression of our love for them. If you have any questions about donations you can contact Bonnie Erickson at 218-233-4861. Thank you for your participation!



Talent Auction

To all who gave a variety of gifts, time, and service to the Talent Auction, thank you! And to all who acquired these gifts, thank you! And to all who made the event happen, thank you. And, last but not least, to all who came to join in the fun, thank you for your presence. You are truly awesome. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter and good cheer. We estimate the net proceeds to be around \$2,750, which will be used to strengthen the mission and ministry of our church. May these gifts yield sevenfold.

We are already thinking about next year's Talent Auction, and several ideas have surfaced. For instance, we might set up a table with food items (for instance, jellies or lefse) and gifts of which we have multiples (for instance, mittens) and offer these at fixed and fair prices. Another idea is to offer more Christmas gift items for the silent auction. Would you like entertainment during the intermission? Do you need more time to bid on the silent auction? We would like to have the bid book available a week before the auction, but that is only possible if your talents come in earlier than they typically do. To reach more people, we encourage you to invite your family and friends to this fun event. They will have a good time, whether they bid or not. We welcome your ideas and suggestions to make the talent auction even more fun. And fun we had!

May your Thanksgiving be blessed. It is good to give thanks to the LORD.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead welcomes Reverend Robert Drake and his husband Jordan Goodwater to our community. Pastor Robert was ordained Sunday, November 12, 2017 at The Community Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, MN. We are looking forward to Pastor Robert leading our congregation in worshipping God, fellowship, and guiding us to be responsive to the needs of our community. Pastor Robert begins serving our church Tuesday, November 28 and he will open the Advent Season by leading the December 3rd worship service. WELCOME Pastor Robert and Jordan.



December Worship Schedule

Sun. December 3rd - 1st Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Mark 13:24-37 6: 7-21
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Sun. December 10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Mark 1:1-8
- 2 Peter 3:8-15

Sun. December 17th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
- John 1:6-8
- 1 Thess. 5:16-24

Sun. December 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Luke 2:1-20
- Titus 2:11-14

Sun. December 31st - 1st Sunday after Christmas

- Isiah 61:10-62:3
- Luke 2:22-40
- Gal. 4:4-7

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Worship 12:30-5pm—Korean Church 4pm—Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p>4 7-9pm—Heather & Thistle Pipes and Drums Beginners Class (<i>HTPD</i>)</p>	<p>5 11am—Silver Sneakers 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Deacons, Personnel, B&G, and S&F/ Session Meetings</p>	<p>6 6pm—Midweek Meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry 7:30pm—New Life Committee Meeting</p>	<p>7 11am—Silver Sneakers 7-9pm—Heather & Thistle Pipes and Drums Intermediate Class (<i>HTPD</i>)</p>	<p>8 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Worship 11:45am—Action Comm. 12:30-5pm—Korean Church 4pm—Little Bits of Christmas</p>	<p>11 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>12 10am—Memorial Committee Meeting 11am—Silver Sneakers 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Worship, CE, S&F Committees Meet</p>	<p>13 1pm—Circle One in FH 6pm—Midweek Meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry</p>	<p>14 11am—Silver Sneakers 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>15 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship</p>	<p>16 5:30pm—Card Club</p>
<p>17 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent/ Christian Ed. Sunday</i> 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Children’s Advent Service 12:30-5pm—Korean Church</p>	<p>18 9am-5pm—Craft Day in FH 6:15pm—Dorothy Day Food Pantry Vol. 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>19 11am—Silver Sneakers 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Session Meeting</p>	<p>20 6pm—Midweek Meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry</p>	<p>21 11am—Silver Sneakers 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>22 Newsletter Deadline 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 <i>4th Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve</i> 10:30am—Worship 12:30-5pm—Korean Church Worship 5:30pm—Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25  CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office Closed</p>	<p>26 11am—Silver Sneakers 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Book Group</p>	<p>27 6pm—Midweek Meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry</p>	<p>28 9:30am—Newsletter Assembly Group 11am—Silver Sneakers</p>	<p>29 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas Day</i> 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Worship 12:30-5pm—Korean Church</p>						