

The First Epistle

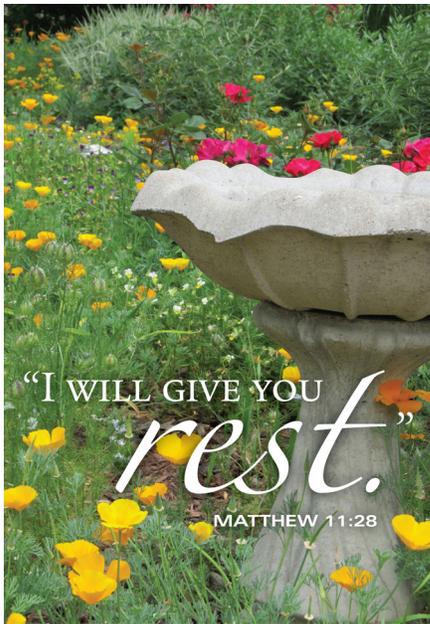


First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

July 2017

ON THE INSIDE:

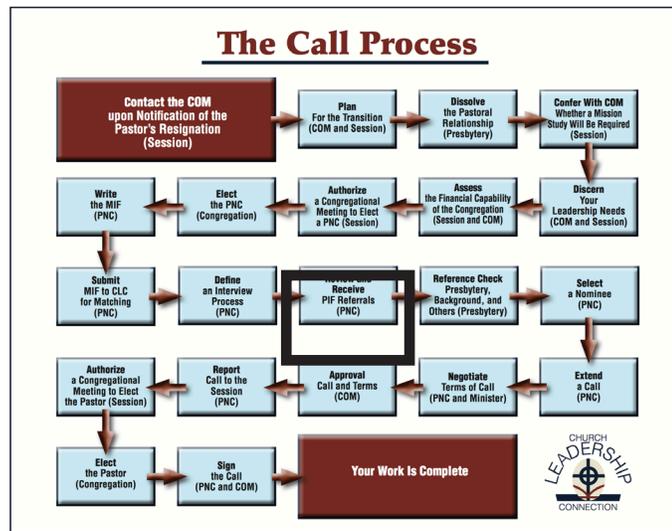
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Zambian Health Post update --- from Margo Worman

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support (financial and otherwise) of my community's health post project. Construction was delayed a bit by the unusually long rainy season, but things are moving forward with the project. We've purchased about 75 percent of the materials needed for the project and the health post building is essentially completed. We plan to buy the last of the supplies in Chibombo next week. Construction of the toilets and staff house should begin very soon. The new clinic volunteer training will be starting at the end of June.

Thank you again for helping to improve health care access in Zambia.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Join us for outdoor worship July 16th. We will be at the Gooseberry park small shelter. See you at 10:30 AM.

Potluck lunch following worship.

PNC Update

The PNC would like to thank you for your prayers and positive support during the process of determining the minister God is calling to shepherd our church. As we review and discuss the PIFs (Pastor Information Form) submitted for our prayerful consideration, we are always mindful of the MIF and our congregation's needs. If you view the chart above, the large black outline refers to the step in the process that we are in. We have commented on how visible the Holy Spirit's presence has been during the process.

Please continue to keep the work of the PNC in your prayers.

Janet Van Amburg(moderator), Adam Massie, Joni Lordeman, Kim Kelsh, and Nadine Swee

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.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead:

Moderator: Paul Campbell, CRE

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



July Hospitality Team:

Jim & Myrna Beattie

Jane Lobitz**

** Group Leaders

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Jeanne Walker

Donald and Marion DeJong

Vernon Bancroft, Jr.

Josh Peterson

Raymond Austin

Mabel Schneider

Theresa Samuels

Austyn

Laura Hagemann



Jennifer Steward	July 2	Tom Dowdell	July 22
Jacqueline Kelsh	July 3	Marlys Winter	July 22
Andrew Cook	July 11	Sara Conrad	July 27
Dorothy Pender	July 12	Mary Long	July 29
Margaretha Hagemann	July 15		
Judyta Browne	July 20		



Pastor Reflections

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.” 1 Corinthians 3:6-8

It is the middle of summer already! For this month the words “middle and growing” seemed like appropriate metaphors for reflection.

The community garden at First Presbyterian of Moorhead is showing signs of growth. The participants have already started harvesting produce. The diverse communities that gather on Wednesday nights are a joy to see. The name of the new garden is the

“The Grateful Garden.” They have also started a collaborative class with the Minnesota Extension Service, teaching proper food handling and storage. It is inspiring to see mission projects grow and expand.

The other area of growth is the planting of a new worship service on Wednesday evenings. Starting July 2nd at 7:00 PM the church will begin exploring an inter generational worship service. It will be a new experience where conversation and spiritual explorations serve as the sermon. A pod group from several of the church committees has been planning the new worship service. This is a fluid and evolving service. So far the closest name to describing it is “Simple Church”. Children will be encouraged to remain in the worship with all generations worshipping together. The pod group is planning for it to be multiple experiences. As we continue exploring different styles of worship, attendees will give feedback for what brings them to encounters with God in worship.

The vision for this Wednesday night service is, how can we do worship differently to grow the church. The PC(USA) revised directory of worship says “..forms of proclamation include song, drama, dance, visual art, and testimony. Like the sermon, these are to illuminate the Scripture(s) read in worship and communicate the good news of the gospel. ...connecting them with the witness of the Scripture(s) to the Triune God.”

There are lots of ideas for how to do this. Discussion, praying the scriptures, visio divina, dramatic readings, creative art, and more are all possibilities. Notice that testimony was also an option. Our own spiritual journeys and faith stories can be shared as a proclamation.

This will be a pilgrimage for your church and a chance to grow. The pod group is looking at having the worship services at different areas on the church property. It will not always be in the sanctuary. When September comes we will add meals to the Wednesday night agenda with worship continuing after the fellowship meal.

In the first century, Christian churches met in homes and intimate gatherings. Weekly worship included not only the Lord’s Supper but included an entire meal. As we come together for Wednesdays worship it is an opportunity to continue the “simple” first century Christian church.

At this time I also ask that you continue to pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). In last month’s reflection article, it was announced that the Ministry Information Form (MIF) was posted to the denominations Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website. This is like a large “help wanted computer bulletin board”. It is for churches searching for pastors and pastors seeking a call. Your church’s MIF is matched with pastors, Pastor Information Form (PIF), who is seeking a call to a church.

The PNC is now in the stage of the process where they review and receive those PIF referrals.

So the PNC committee asks that you continue to pray for them and ask the Holy Spirit to give them wisdom and insight.

Here is the website again if you are interested in looking at your churches “Ministry Information Form(MIF). You can find it at <http://clc.pcusa.org/> . You do not need a log in, just click on the opportunity search, upper right hand menu bar, then enter Moorhead in the city. It should come up.

The mission work and growth of the church comes from you the members. This is an exciting time as we are exploring new growth and ways of worshipping and encountering God.

Let the Grace of God transform our lives.

- Pastor Paul

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - **Philippians 4:6-7***

News & Events

Session News from June

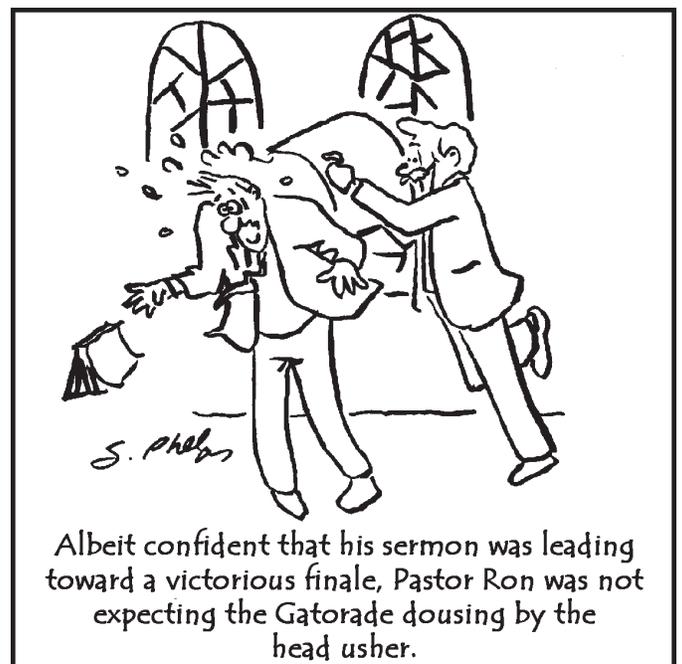
- The session had another visioning time at their last meeting. Looking ahead at where we want to be. Session members had completed a survey, Listening to the Spirit, Assessing the Now, and the results were discussed.
- Church Finances are OK. Member giving is slightly behind projections. Spending and expenses are down. Part of the decreased expenses comes from the decreased pastoral expenses we currently have.
- All bills are paid, and we have a positive checking account balance. We are entering summer when giving is usually down. Please remember the church this summer, and submit your offerings to the office if you are not able to attend church.
- Wednesday evening worship will begin on July 5 at 7pm. Worship will continue on Sunday mornings too. Join us on Wednesday Evenings for worship.
- Building & Grounds reported a tree had come down in the storm on Tuesday June 13. Obtaining estimates for its removal.
- Date for the Vendor Fair was approved for September 23. The Personnel committee is in charge of this endeavor.
- The local portion of the Pentecost Offering was approved to be given to the Tu'Deako youth. The Tu'Deako youth will be singing in worship on July 2. \$ 148 will go to support the Tu'Deako Back to School Day on August 26. The total Pentecost Offering received in June was \$365. Sixty percent (\$219) of the offering goes to the Presbytery and General Assembly for youth related programming. Forty percent (\$146) of the Pentecost offering stays in our local community for youth programming.
- The community garden has been named 'The Grateful Garden'.
- The office computer has received some much-needed repairs and software updates.
- Kathy Shark will be on vacation June 26 -29. Thanks to those who will be helping in the office during her absence.
- We received an update about the Pastor Nominating Committee activity. Several applicants for pastor have responded, a couple look promising. The PNC continues to receive and look at applicants.

Wednesday Evening Worship

A Wednesday evening worship service is being added this summer. The service will begin at 7pm and feature a more contemporary style. Music will be a highlight of the service. Please come on July 5.

Worship on Wednesday evening was an agreed vision for the next year. Our church families find it increasingly difficult to get to church on Sunday. School and sport activities are scheduled on weekends, taking families away from home and the opportunity to attend church and church activities. Thus, session discussed, how do we make it possible for people to attend church, Sunday School, and other church activities. If we want First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead to grow, we need to consider what we may do to reach/bring /offer others and our members the opportunity to participate in the life of the church.

Session then determined that a **Wednesday Evening Worship service will begin this summer, Wednesday, July 5 at 7pm**, and continue on Wednesday evenings through next year and beyond. Midweek will occur on Wednesday evening in the fall, followed by Worship. Our Sunday Worship will continue as well. Please keep the session and committees in your prayers, as we launch this new and exciting Worship service.



Albeit confident that his sermon was leading toward a victorious finale, Pastor Ron was not expecting the Gatorade dousing by the head usher.

News & Events

Report from The Grateful Garden

The month of May was an exciting time for First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead's Community Garden, which has been named "The Grateful Garden". On May 6th we broke ground, which resulted in 4 - five feet by twenty feet garden beds. The next week compost was added and the raised beds were established. On May 24th, we had 20 gardeners out planting the cool weather vegetables, which included bok choy, cabbage, flowers, kale, lettuce, radishes, and spinach. The following week the gardeners finished planting all of the vegetables. The remaining vegetables planted were carrots, cucumber, eggplant, onions, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, zucchini, basil, chives, mint, oregano, and parsley. There is great variety of vegetables in the garden for everyone to enjoy. A fence has been put up around the garden to help deter rabbits from eating the newly planted vegetables. Overall, there has been tremendous work being done on the garden. And the latest news is that we have begun to harvest the first vegetables from our garden – radishes!



A Teaching moment - How are bible passages selected on Sunday Mornings?

The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of weekly lections used to varying degrees by the majority of mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States. The RCL is built around the seasons of the Church Year, and includes four lections for each Sunday, as well as additional readings for major feast days. During most of the year, the lections are: a reading from the Hebrew Bible, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading. During the season of Easter, the Hebrew Bible lection is usually replaced with one from the Acts of the Apostles.

After the season of Pentecost there is a choice of scripture passages in the Old Testament readings. One strand of Old Testament readings follows major stories/themes, read mostly **continuously**, beginning in Year A with Genesis and ending in Year C with the later prophets. A different strand of readings follow the centuries-old historical tradition of thematically pairing the Old Testament reading with the Gospel reading and called **complimentary** passages.

We are in Year A in the lectionary. This summer the continuous passages begin in Genesis and look at the patriarchs of our faith. The scripture passages for this summer will follow these themes. We will hear of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Grace and Peace, as we journey together with their faith stories this summer during Sunday worship.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU
WELCOMES ME,



AND WHOEVER WELCOMES ME
WELCOMES THE ONE
WHO SENT ME."

MATTHEW 10:40, NRSV

July Worship Schedule

Sun. July 2nd - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Test of Abraham's faith, Sacrifice of Isaac

- Genesis 22:1-14
- Matthew 10:40-42

Sun. July 9th - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Wells, Rebekah, and Isaac

- Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49
- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sun. July 16th - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Esau and Jacob

- Matthew 9:35-10:8
- Genesis 18:1-15

Sun. July 23rd - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Jacobs Dream at Bethel

- Genesis 28: 10-19
- Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sun. July 30th - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Jacob, Rachel, and Leah

- Genesis 29: 1-35
- Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52