

# The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

October 2017

## ON THE INSIDE:

Prayers	2
Birthdays	2
Pastor Reflections	3
News & Events	4-5

### The Session:

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

A congregation meeting has been called for Sunday, October 22 following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act on the report of the PNC. A pastoral candidate has accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead. The candidate will worship with us this day and then the congregation will vote on this candidate as the next pastor and the terms of call.

### New Life Committee:

**October 1:** Lunch Bunch following worship (noon) at the Fargo Fry'n pan.

**October 8:** Buffalo River Pumpkin Patch following worship. Plan is to bring sack lunch to eat at church following worship and then head to the pumpkin patch about 12:45pm.

**October 20:** St John's Bible at Hjemkomst Center and lunch: 11:30 am - gather for lunch at the Rex Cafe in the Hjemkomst center then view the St John's Bible exhibit.

**October 29:** Beer & Hymns - Junkyard Brewery 7pm.

*Coming in November Charlotte's Web at FM Community Theater Nov 12 2pm, and the friendship lunch Nov 19 following worship.*

### Fall Talent Auction

In the First Epistle of September, we announced that the Fall Talent Auction will take place on Friday, November 3. Now we are going to ask for your donations of time, treasure, or talent.

Two thousand years ago, a talent was a unit of weight and money. One talent of gold represented about 20 years of a laborer's wages. By the mid-fifteenth century, the word "talent" had also come to mean a special gift or skill or ability. You all have special gifts, skills, or abilities to share.

Whether you have a cherished heirloom in search of a good home, the time to assist others, or the special skill of baking, cooking, or knitting, share your special gifts with us. And don't hesitate to ask your friends and family members to share their talents.

The announcement in September's newsletter said that the proceeds will benefit the "greater good" of the Church. Looking forward to a hopeful future, Stewardship & Finance will propose to Session that at least half the proceeds will be put at the disposal of our new pastor for innovative plans or projects that support the long-term well being of our church.

As of Sunday, October 1, you'll find Donation slips in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. For the timely production of the bid-book and other materials, please return your completed donation slips by Wednesday, October 25, 2017. There will be an envelope in the Narthex for that purpose.

Thank you very much.

Ineke Justitz



# 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

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

E-mail Addresses:

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

Newsletter Articles: [nadineswee@yahoo.com](mailto: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. October 4th

**Supper:** Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garlic bread, lettuce salad, milk, and ice cream sundaes

### Wed. October 11th

**Supper:** Beef stroganoff, noodles, carrots, milk, rhubarb cake

### Wed. October 18th

**Supper:** Potluck, community garden celebration, milk

### Wed. October 24th

**Supper:** Gremlin Goulash (Tator tot hot dish), Witch Hats (crescent rolls), Crunchy Critters (assorted veggies), Mummy Milk, Monster Cookie Pizza

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.*

## October Hospitality Team:

Vern & Liz Bancroft

Jim & Marlys Winter

Mitch & Kathy McKaig

Chris & Nadine Swee\*\*

Dagne Forbes

\*\* Group Leaders

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Mary Long

Todd Bieber

Ruth Matthews

Kathleen Wilkinson

Jeanne Walker

Raymond Austin

Theresa Samuels

Laura Hagemann

Donald and Marion DeJong

Josh Peterson

Mabel Schneider.



Isaac Nelson

Oct 7

James Gale

Oct 9

Meskavanh Phonethep

Oct 14

Isabella Hestbeck

Oct 14

Dagne Forbes

Oct 15

Vernon Bancroft

Oct 16

Myrna Beattie

Oct 19

Ronald Hagemann

Oct 21

LuAnn Buehre

Oct 30

Amity Cook

Oct 31



### Pastor Reflections

“For I am mindful of the plans I have made concerning you – declares the Lord- plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a hopeful future”  
Jeremiah 29:11

It is appropriate this month to look at a hopeful future. Old and New Testament passages orient us to look forward to the future. As a resurrection people we are called to live in the present but know that Christ left the Holy Spirit to be with us and guide us into the future. God’s thoughts are for our welfare and the future that we hope for.

God has a plan for First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead. We might not see it right away. It might look different than what we thought it should be. But God is mindful for the churches welfare.

The exciting announcement about a hopeful future, is the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has extended an invitation for a call to a new pastor for your church. And he has accepted. This is a time to celebrate. There was a letter sent to the congregation with the initial announcement.

The next major step in this process for a new pastor is a worship service this month to hear the candidate preach and then a congregational meeting afterwards to accept the terms of call. There will be more information coming in the next weeks about the service, congregational meeting, and a time to meet the new candidate.

The church can prepare for the next step for your life going forward into the future with hope. The PNC is very excited about the candidate and has felt that the Holy Spirit moved to bring him to your church.

There will be challenges in any time of change. From the short time I have got to know your congregation, I see you ready to go forward into the future and sharing the mission of your church to the community. This can be an opportunity and time of growth for you.

The first step in preparing is to pray. We will continue with the Wednesday night #simple\_church and looking at prayer. This month we will look at several reflections on the spiritual growth each of us brings to the community and how we learned to pray. There will also be a harvest celebration this month for the “Grateful Community Garden” on Wednesday October 18th. We will set aside our normal worship service and gather with different faith communities who have participated in the community garden. This will be a harvest celebration for the first year.

God is gracious! The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. Regardless of what might cause us despair, God wills our well-being. Spend this month giving thanks for all that you as a church have. Dream of what God might yet provide for you. Seek God with all your heart, looking towards a hopeful future.

Let the Grace of God guide us forward.

- Pastor Paul



*We want to thank all for the cards, greetings, and words of concern during the illness and death of our son, Vernon. It was a great comfort to us at this time and we appreciate it very much.*

*Vern & Elizabeth Bancroft*

# News & Events

## Session News from August

- PNC met with Session to discuss the Terms of Call for a pastoral candidate. These Terms of Call have been offered to a Candidate. The offer was accepted. A Congregation meeting will be held Sunday October 22 to present the Candidate to the congregation, elect the Pastor, and vote on the offered Terms of Call.
- Stewardship & Finance presented data pertaining to the sustainability of church finances. Projected shortfalls of Income to Expenses beyond the year 2019 are expected. Stewardship & Finance recommended to session that the Covey trust funds be utilized to meet any budget shortfall. Session approved the recommendation. We have been blessed with a wonderful gift, and session wants to judiciously use the funds in the manner recommended. A letter will be sent to congregation members to inform them of our financial situation.
- Budget preparation for 2018 will begin in October. A stewardship campaign will occur in November.
- Building & Grounds and the Memorial Committee are looking for additional members for their committees.

## PNC Update

The PNC has been working diligently through the last year and a half to find the perfect Pastor for the church. We have followed the process of the Presbytery and would like to share it with you.

- Session and COM (Committee on Ministry)/ Presbytery discerned and determined our pastoral needs and or the criteria that will be given to the PNC to select a pastor.
- PNC is nominated & then elected by the congregation.
- PNC met numerous times to create and refine a MIF, (Minister Information Form) which is a description of our church and it's ministry. Within this MIF we choose 10 matching points that we felt best described our church, our mission, and what we were looking for in a pastor.
- Session and Presbytery/ COM Approved the MIF
- The MIF was sent to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) and entered online in a large database to derive matches of pastors that would fit our church. Pastors can self refer or send their PIFs (Pastor Information Form) through the CLC directly to a church of their choice.
- PNC read and evaluated around 20 PIFs, which also included watching or listening to church services, sermons. Through this process we also found out that some of the candidates we were were interested

## Presby Players Act Up Again!

On Sunday Dec. 31 the Presby Players will lead us in worship. We are looking for "actors"! Please speak to Diane, or Scott Ecker or Monica Browne-Ecker if you would like to be a part of this ministry.

## Chime Choir Needs Ringers!

Chime Choir will play in worship on Oct. 15, and rehearse on Oct. 4 & 11. If that fits your schedule and you would like to join the melodies, please come! Tell Diane or Joni you are coming!

A congregation meeting has been called for Sunday, October 22 following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act on the report of the PNC. A pastoral candidate has accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead. The candidate will worship with us this day and then the congregation will vote on this candidate as the next pastor and the terms of call.

in were not interested in moving to MN. Two pastor candidates were interviewed via Skype.

- In late July, PNC interviewed the first choice in person and attended a service held in a neutral pulpit. All PNC members agreed that this candidate was a good fit for our church, and would be our selection.
- COM / Presbytery preformed the necessary background checks on our candidate and gave their approval for us to extend the call.
- PNC, with session and COM, extended & negotiated the terms of call to our candidate, Robert Drake.
- Robert Drake, has accepted our call.
- The COM Committee on Ministry is now working out the employment details.
- On October 22, Robert Drake will preach to the congregation. After, he will be presented for a vote. If elected, Robert will start in December.
- Robert Drake was the first choice of the PNC and we truly felt the holy spirit and your prayers in the process.

The PNC would like to thank you ALL for your continued prayers through this process. It was felt by all of us!

PNC Members: Janet Van Amburg, Kim Kelsh, Joni Lordeman, Adam Massie, Nadine Swee

# News & Events

## General Shepherd's Training

In today's uncertain world we are always placed on our guard for safety. This can mean anything from a chemical spill, an intruder or bad weather coming our way. In response to this, the Session of First Presbyterian of Church of Moorhead has developed a plan/template to follow in case of these uncertainties. There has been a document created called the "*Emergency Plan Template for Faith Based Organizations*".

The plan is still evolving and will be placed in the church handbook soon. We are working on a few final details to wrap up to complete the Plan. Such things are acquiring an automatic defibrillator, a lighted exit sign for the door by the choir, some sort of an alarm system to alert the whole building of any potential situation. You may have also noticed maps in some areas to inform you where you are in the building, the nearest exits, where fire extinguishers are, telephones, etc. Please take a minute to review these maps. There will be more added throughout the building soon.

So how does all of this information affect you? Anyone can be a Shepherd in times of emergencies, if you see a situation where someone needs your guidance or assistance to get to safety. I Peter 5:2 - "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve".

Always look to the current Elders or leaders in the church for direction if you are uncertain how to respond to an emergency situation. Remember we can't possibly think of every scenario; however, we can be prepared the best way we can.

## Did you know that?

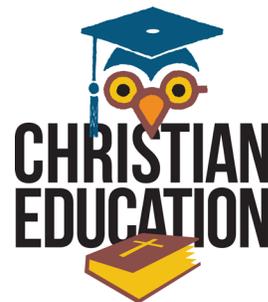
The term 'Protestant' was first used in 1529, during the Diet (Assembly) of Speyer, which met in the city of Speyer in today's southwest Germany. German princes and representatives of autonomous cities, Catholics and Evangelicals (as the followers of Luther's teachings were called), met with Ferdinand, the emperor's brother and representative, to discuss how to deal with the widespread religious changes in Germany. These changes had led to much unrest and rebellion, which threatened the political and social order. The emperor demanded that religious unity—Catholicism—be restored. It was unacceptable for ancient religious rituals and customs to be violated. Reformed teachings, such as the denial of the physical presence of Christ in communion, were in error and therefore intolerable. The majority of the Assembly resolved that the religious changes must stop. The evangelical minority, however, denounced the Assembly's resolution and issued a public Protest. The princes and cities, which signed the Protest, became known as "Protestants" (Euan Cameron, *The European Reformation*, 341-42).

Ineke Justitz

We have had a few weeks of Sunday school and I wanted to provide a quick update. It has been fun to see both familiar and new faces during the Sunday school hour from kids 4th grade down to a couple of months old. New this year we are beginning each week in the theater room for an opening time and both of the elementary classes watch a video each week related to the lesson. In addition to the great things happening Sunday morning I want to put a plug in for Wednesday night dinner and simple worship. I believe this time Wednesday night is like our "best kept secret". A delicious no repeat meal each week followed by a simple (but varied) worship experience is something more folks in our congregation should come and check out. So join us Wednesdays at 6pm for dinner with worship at 6:45pm and done by 7:30pm.

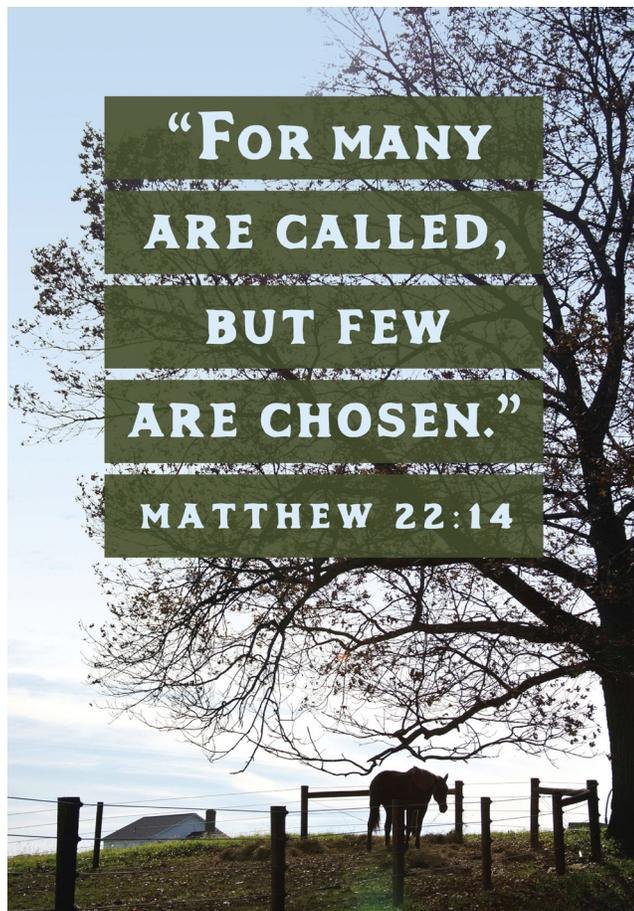
To close I want to share again I would love to talk about ideas or concerns you might have about Christian Education at FPC, for any age (Birth - 103) or any group (men, women, special interest). Please feel free to call me 612-986-9356 or email me [ce@firstpresmhd.org](mailto:ce@firstpresmhd.org)

Blessings, Scott D



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### October Worship Schedule

**Sun. October 1<sup>st</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*World Communion Sunday*

- Rev. Dan Billings filling the pulpit

**Sun. October 8<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Expect rejection, the cornerstone remains secure.*

- Matthew 21: 33-46

**Sun. October 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Grace of election and the obligations of obedience*

- Matthew 22:1-14

- Philippians 4:1-9

**Sun. October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*PNC Candidate & Congregational Meeting*

**Sun. October 29<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Reformation Sunday*

# October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Worship 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch 12:30-5pm—Korean Church 1:30pm—CROP Walk</p> <p><b>WORLD</b> Communion Sunday</p>	<p>2 7-9pm—Heather &amp; Thistle Pipes and Drums Beginners Class (HTPD)</p>	<p>3 11am—Silver Sneakers, Substitute Leader: Sue 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Deacons, Personnel, B&amp;G Committee Meetings</p>	<p>4 6pm—Midweek Meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry 7:30pm—New Life Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5 7-9pm—HTPD Intermediate Class</p>	<p>6 PNP Meeting in Hallock MN <b>Deadline for Committee Budgets to S&amp;F</b> 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship</p>	<p>7 PNP Meeting in Hallock, MN</p>
<p>8 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Worship 11:45am—Action Committee Meeting 12:30-5pm—Korean Church 4-6pm—Youth Group Church Clean-up &amp; Games</p>	<p>9 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>10 10am—Memorial Committee Meeting 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Worship, CE,S&amp;F Committee Meetings</p>	<p>11 1pm—Circle One in Fellowship Hall 6pm—Midweek Meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry</p>	<p>12 11am—Silver Sneakers 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>13 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Worship 12:00pm—BYO sack lunch at church, then Buffalo River Pumpkin Patch at 12:45 12:30-5pm—Korean Church</p>	<p>16 9am-5pm—Craft Day in Fellowship Hall 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>17 11am—Silver Sneakers 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Session Meeting</p>	<p>18 6-8pm—Community Garden Potluck/midweek meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry</p>	<p>19 11am—Silver Sneakers 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 11:30am—Lunch, St. John's Bible Exhibit 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship 7:30-9:30pm—Youth Group at Corn Maize</p>	<p>21 5:30pm—Card Club</p>
<p>22 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am—Intergenerational Sunday School 10:30am—Worship followed by <b>Congregation Meeting</b> 12:30-5pm—Korean Church</p>	<p>23 6:15pm—Dorothy Day Food Pantry Volunteering 7-9pm—Girl Scout Leaders 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>24 9:30am—Newsletter Assembly Group 11am—Silver Sneakers 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study 7pm—Book Group</p>	<p>25 6pm—Midweek Meal 6:45—Worship in FH 7:30pm—Music Ministry</p>	<p>26 11am—Silver Sneakers 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>27 6-10pm—Korean Church Worship</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 21st Sunday after Pentecost/ Reformation Sunday 9:15am—Sunday School 10:30am—Worship 12:30-5pm—Korean Church 7pm—Beer &amp; Hymns at Junkyard Brewing</p>	<p>30 7-9pm—HTPD</p>	<p>31 11am—Silver Sneakers 6-9pm—Korean Church Bible Study</p>				