

Chip's Chatter



What a difference a year makes! Last year we were in the early stages of the pandemic and hopeful we would be able to return to worship for Easter of 2020. One year later and we are truly beginning to celebrate returning to worship, but with caution regarding the pandemic. We may not be totally out of the woods, but we can see the edge of the woods from here!

What a blessing for returning to worship, especially at Easter. Just as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, we can also see the resurrection of worship.

Many years ago, I was a member of another denomination while stationed in Panama City, FL. On Easter Sunday, the pastor would stand before the congregation and announce, with total and complete joy, "The Lord is risen!" The congregation would immediately respond: "The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!" The paradox of Palm/Passion Sunday has passed and we now fully focus on the risen Lord and what it means to each and every one of us.

Just as Easter reminds us of hope through the resurrection, so to our worship must remind us of the resurrection of the joy to fully worship the Lord in our homes and Sanctuary, amongst friends and new visitors. The amazing thing is this, God's presence in our lives is always there, whether noticed or not. As Father Henri Nouwen writes in his book, "Show Me the

Way," (p.139) "*Easter brings the good news that, although things seem to get worst in the world, the Evil One has already been overcome. Easter allows us to affirm that although God seems very distant and although we remain preoccupied with many little things, our Lord walks with us on the road and keeps explaining the Scriptures to us. Thus there are many rays of hope casting their light on our way through life.*"

To me, the excitement and joy of Easter restores my hope and brings peace to my heart, regardless of what is happening around us. However, I am also reminded that each and every Sunday should be treated as Easter. Yes, I realize we don't precede the days before each Sunday as a preparation. We don't review Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter vigil as we do during Holy Week. But in our weekly Sunday services we come to realize and confess our sins, worship our risen Lord and accept His sacrifice as the atonement of our sins. We learn of His words through Scripture. We joyously sing our hymns of praise as a "thank you" to God for providing his Son as a way to reconcile us back to the Father.

One of the things we will re-read on Easter is from John Chapter 20. It is the story of Peter and John running to the tomb of Jesus

and looking inside. John gets there first followed by Peter. John doesn't initially go in, but Peter does. Peter still has some doubts which will be resolved when he actually sees the risen Jesus. John, on the other hand, knows what has happened. Jesus has risen. John believes this through faith. It is John's belief through faith that applies to each and every one of us. We have access to Jesus' resurrection through our faith. This is the only way we can come to know Jesus and the way to him is by faith.

As I further reflect on Holy Week, it seems to me Christianity and Judaism meet at the time of the Jewish Passover. By the historical account in scripture, we learn the events of the Christian Holy Week take place at the time of the Jewish Passover. You will recall the Passover was held to remind the Israelites of their journey and the saving power of God. God sent the angel of death and only the households that had covered their doors with the blood of an unblemished,

sacrificial lamb, were saved. Jesus becomes the perfect, unblemished "Lamb of God" and becomes our saving act over the power of death. Jesus one act of unselfish sacrifice makes up for the sins of humankind; past, present, and future.

We have a lot to celebrate this Easter: The resurrection of our Lord. The "resurrection" of returning to worship. The appreciation that each and every Sunday is its own "Easter Sunday."

We are given the great example of faith by the disciple, John. And we see the rich heritage of that Judaism and Christianity share.

I believe we need to celebrate Easter every day of our lives. We draw closer and closer to Jesus when we do this simple act. May you all have a wonderful and Joyous Easter and in the days ahead you will come to realize what a great gift we are given; "faith in Jesus Christ".

Pastor Chip

X L E F E I B N O X C I H V J
C R I E S M R N E W O C U I F
G F E V M E A S L G Y C K S P
O R N C C P S O B Y Y O C S O
E Z A N E M A N M P T M Z E W
C Y O T R I M T U M S P S N E
N C I F I E V R H R E A A D R
E P T M L T E E E Y N S W N L
I A B D P T U T R E O S V I P
T G K E R A C D N C H I B K K
A B L U N A C G E U K O X I S
P E S L R E Q T I L L N Q N F
Y T R A N V F M K V I O P D T
T O H A Z W Q I T X E M V Q B
Z C J I C Z I G T C L B S Z M

Power of Kindness

Word List

- BENEFIT
- CARE
- CHARACTER
- COMPASSION
- CONCERN
- EMPATHY
- GIVE
- GRATITUDE
- HONESTY
- HUMBLE
- IMPACT
- JOY
- KIND
- KINDNESS
- PATIENCE
- POWER
- RECEIVE
- SMILE
- TRUST
- VOLUNTEER



They're back!!

Continuing at noon down in the Fellowship Hall is the "Seekers".

Seekers is the bible study that was created for all. It has been a very good experience for the last attendees and they spoke highly of that experience.



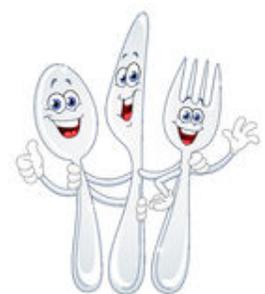
Funeral service for Joseph P Forbes will be Saturday, April 10th, 2021, at 11:00am at First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji,. Visitation one hour before the service. Celebration of Life will be held at the Eagles Club Bemidji, following the service. Memorials preferred to First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji or Boy Scout Troup #25 of Bemidji.



Supper Club

Brigid's Pub

317 Beltrami Ave NW



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, April 15th at 5:30

Please sign up at the church office: by email presbji@paulbunyan.net—or—by phone;

444-5016 or call Dianne Roholt at 444-2859

This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.

All are welcome!

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 1-31-2021	
Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00	
Total Income	\$ 6,015.07
Total Expenses	\$ 7,952.37
Net Income	\$(1,937.30)
Thank you for supporting our church	

Sunday Worship Attendance	
Feb 21	30
Feb 28	31
Mar 7	27
Mar 14	28
Mar 21	35



- 1 Richard Miller
- 10 Gloria Aylesworth
- 19 Ruth Andersen
- 20 Joan Forbes
- 20 Betty Hanson-Lehman
- 21 Cheryl Hiltz
- 24 Vera Weis
- 27 Norma Feay
- 29 Ginny MacKinnon



Head Usher Cheryl Hiltz

	Liturgist	Greeter
April 4	Peter Nordquist	Terri Murray
April 11	Laurie Nordquist	Gini Sande
April 18	Libby Underhill	Mary Lou Miller
April 24	Betty Hanson-Lehman	Barb McGregor

This year, Easter will be observed on **Sunday, April 4**. (Eastern Orthodox Easter will take place on Sunday, May 2.) This Easter is just one week after [March's full Moon](#) (Sunday, March 28), which is the first full Moon to occur after the [spring equinox](#) (March 20, 2021) and is therefore known in the Christian calendar as the "[Paschal Full Moon](#)." Would you believe that the date of Easter is related to the full Moon?

What Is the Most Common Easter Date?

Easter is a "movable feast" and does not have a fixed date. However, it is always held on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

Over a 500-year period (from 1600 to 2099 AD), it just so happens that Easter will have most often been celebrated on either March 31 or April 16.

Many Eastern Orthodox churches follow the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian. In this case, the observance of Easter can occur between April 4 and May 8. **Moon**" (which we'll explain further below). So, to put it another way: Easter is observed on the Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon.

April Benevelance

One Great Hour of Sharing

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Our 4th Sunday benevolence for April will be One Great Hour of Sharing. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

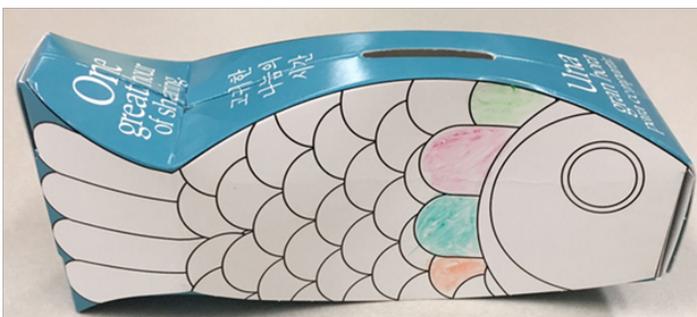
- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
- Receives 32% of funds raised

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds raised

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills
- Receives 32% of funds raised



Look for the fish banks in the back of the sanctuary for a fun way to support this mission. The bank would be a great place for all that loose change you might have. You can even color your fish! Please bring all banks to the church by **Sunday, April 25th**.

First Presbyterian Church

Bemidji, MN

March 16, 2021

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church fellowship hall on March 16 at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Palmer Berg, Linnea Mostad, Libby Underhill, Cheryl Hiltz, Donna Dickinson, Gloria Phelps

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA MSP to **adopt** the agenda.

MEETING MINUTES MSP **Approve** the minutes from the February session meeting **with corrections** to the Worship Committee report: Maundy Thursday evening service will not include communion and will be held in the sanctuary.

CORRESPONDENCE

Net of the North announced a March for Jesus in the city of Bemidji on May 22 at 10 am.

NWMN Foundation sent \$7500 for the church General Fund.

The AWL Charter School requested gym use and CE storage space for the 2021-22 school year. Session consensus was that we are not interested.

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report March 16, 2021

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: none.

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership:
none

Request Transfer of Membership:
none

Removed from Membership Roll:
none

Communion: March 7 - 25 served

Membership as of March 16, 2021

69

**Sunday Worship Attendance Feb. 21-30;
Feb. 28-31; Mar. 7-27; Mar. 14-28**

FINANCIAL REPORT Finances from February were reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson:

Donna Dickinson **Recommendation:** Increase salaries for Shirlee to \$17 per hour, Terri to \$13 per hour, and Stacy's stipend to \$115 per service.

Approved.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg Restroom repairs have been completed. Committee member Peter Nordquist suggested conversion of the lights for the north sanctuary stained glass windows to LED. He will contribute \$1500 and be the project manager. Session **approved with the addition** of dimming and possibly color adjusting to allow the lights to match the natural

Lighting on the south side as closely as possible.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Final report of the PPP loan/grant has still not been received. Application for the new round of funding will be done when the report is in. The \$800 donation from the Girl Scouts for use of the church for cookie storage will be used to support the local Girl Scouts, if possible.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Seekers topics are being developed. Linnea will provide Sunday School during part of the worship service if children are in attendance.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps
Recommendation: Have communion on Palm Sunday rather than the first Sunday of April which is Easter. **Approved.**

Computer Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Workable donation software continues to be sought.

Kitchen Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Naylor will be asked to find members for an Advisory Committee for the Aldrich Trust Fund.

MSP to resume fellowship following worship, initially the first and third Sundays of each month beginning on Easter. Kitchen volunteers are needed.

Next Meeting: April 20 at 1:00 pm. in the fellowship hall. Chip will moderate. The meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Chip at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

 Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session



Q. What's the Easter Bunny's favorite restaurant? A. IHOP!

At our weekly Bible study, the leader asked an elderly gentleman, Walt, to open the meeting with prayer. Walt did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you." —Richard Steussy

How does Moses make tea? He brews.

My sister-in-law was teaching Sunday school class. The topic for the day: Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ. "What did Jesus do on this day?" she asked. There was no response, so she gave her students a hint: "It starts with the letter R." One boy blurted, "Recycle!" *Mari-Lynn Finley, Los Angeles, California*

When our minister and his wife visited our neighbor, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. "Mom!" she yelled toward the living room. "God's here, and he brought his girlfriend."

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship

APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm	2 Good Friday	3 Great Vigil of Easter
4 EASTER Chip 	5 6:30-Scouts	6	7 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary	8	9	10 Funeral Joe Forbes 11 am Visitation 10 am
11 Chip	12 6:30-Scouts	13	14 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary	15 5:30-Supper Club	16	17
18 Bill Beyer	19 6:30-Scouts	20 1pm-Session Meeting	21 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary	22	23	24
25 Chip	26 6:30-Scouts	27	28 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary	29	30	