

Chip's Chatter



I was thinking about the subject of perseverance the other day. I wonder how many of us have dealt with a situation requiring perseverance. If you think about it, we face the need every day. For example, we go to the grocery store and the shelves are empty of the product we need. We persevere until another day. How about this one; we are facing a sleepless night and turn on the TV only to discover the cable channel isn't working. We persevere until morning and discover the cable was down for routine maintenance.

These may seem like trite examples since these two examples are quite minor in the course of our lives. There are other examples in our lives that are much larger and may stay with us for some time. I think of Job in the Old Testament, who perseverated through all his trials. In the end, God restored everything back to him. There are many of us who have persevered through the trials of life and have survived. But we need to remember there are people around us persevering waiting for a solution to their issues.

The Bible address perseverance in two well-known parts of the New Testament:

In Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

And again in Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

New International Version

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

These two passages offer great comfort when we go through the thorny times of life. It can be a constant reminder that problems will eventually come to an end.

I wonder, too, if there is some sort of "conditional" perseverance. This is the kind of perseverance that occurs in life when we fail to keep our eyes on Jesus. We try to persevere without Jesus. We glibly say to ourselves "whatever"..... or "no big deal"....or something similar. We are saying, in essence, we can take care of this problem ourselves no matter how big it is. We might try to use shortcuts to deal with the situation to avoid persevering through the problem. I think this can be the starting source of alcoholism, drug addiction, or any other form of addictive behavior used to try to live through a situation.

Sometimes people will say "I don't want to bother Jesus with my issues." Folks, I've got news for you. Jesus knows already and is eager to talk with you and listen to your needs. It is that simple. When we take Jesus out of the per-

severance equation, we lose the most powerful weapon in our arsenal to defeat the messages Satan will try to send us. Satan will try to take this opportunity to “take us down.”

When we say “This too shall pass” are we including Jesus in our thought process? Maybe our correct response should be “This too shall pass because Jesus is with me.” Think about that the next time a major issue comes up in your life or in the lives of someone you care about.

I also wonder where patience fits into the idea of perseverance. I think it is part and parcel to perseverance. As we persevere we usually have to wait. How we wait is important. If we are impatient in our perseverance, aren't we asking God to hurry things along? We've all heard the statement, “God grant me patience and grant it to me NOW!” Persevering requires a great deal of underlying patience. But patience is still not enough. We must also have hope and confidence. We can only achieve those additions through our focus on Jesus.

So here come the Holidays. The demands of our time, treasure, and talent seems to increase four-fold; sometimes to the breaking point. If we are not careful we can take it out on others. We take it out

on the check-out, the server at the restaurant, and the list goes on. The older I get, the more I notice I must persevere through the Holidays. But, I also notice, if I put my eyes on Jesus, the “Reason for the Season” I can slip out of a perseverance mindset into a joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus and what His presence in the world has done, what He is doing today, and what he will do when He comes again.

Last month I talked about attending church to get your “Booster shot for the soul.” Let's get a “booster shot of perseverance” by everyday remembering “the reason for the season.” Maybe we should also work at getting a “booster shot of patience” this year. Maybe I'm getting a little carried away. Nonetheless, it is my sincere prayer for all of us at First Presbyterian that our time in Advent is truly blessed and we remain focused on all that it means to have Jesus in our lives. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Chip

Tubs of Love

First Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Churches United, will again sponsor the “Tubs of Love” mission. This mission ensures that local families in need will have presents for Christmas.

Beginning December 1st, the small giving tree in the narthex will be decorated with ornaments. Each ornament will be labeled with a specific gift item. The congregation is encouraged to select an ornament, purchase and wrap the gift item, and bring it to the church by **Sunday, December 19th**.

Please contact Libby (444-9774) if you have any questions. Thank you on behalf of the Outreach Committee.



End of Year SCOUT TROOP 25 UPDATE

FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Troop 25 remains a very active Scout Troop in Bemidji. We have 29 boys registered, and about 25 of those are very active, regularly attending meetings, campouts, and other outings. We have continued to be active throughout the Covid pandemic. We met by Zoom for a few weeks in the spring of 2020, then we met in small groups outside during that summer. During last fall and winter, we were able to have our meetings indoors in small groups, and we have been outside again all this summer.

We took 21 Scouts to summer camp at Camp Wilderness in July of this year, and this was a record number for us. The Scouts had a terrific time at camp and completed 55 merit badges, along with completing 49 more partial merit badges.

During the summer of 2021, we have been working on both Hiking merit badge and Cooking merit badge. We have done several 10 mile hikes, three 15 mile hikes, and one BIG 20 mile hike. We had 13 Scouts complete all the requirements and all the required hikes to finish Hiking merit badge. We are still finishing up Cooking, but we will have quite a few finish that merit badge as well.

In recent months, we have done weekend campouts at Camp Nushka on Cass Lake, at Camp Wilderness, at the Shingobee Recreation area, at the Schulze cabin on Mann Lake, at Mosomo Point campground near Lake Winnie, and then back at Nushka.

In October, we will be doing our "bushcraft" camp south of Bemidji on a piece of school district property. The Scouts will camp without tents and will make their own sleeping shelters. They will cook on fires instead of our usual stoves.

In November we will camp on Paul Conklin's farm west of town and have patrol competitions. In December, we plan to take a trip to Duluth, camp at Horace Johnson Scout camp, and see some sights of Duluth.

The Scouts continue to learn wonderful life skills of independence, resourcefulness, leadership, and self confidence. We are so, so grateful to the First Presbyterian Church for being our sponsoring organization, providing space for meeting and for storing equipment, and for the continued strong support of our Troop. Thank you so much!

Greg Roberts

Scoutmaster, Troop 25, Bemidji

The Seekers are BACK. Every Wednesday, at 12:00 noon in the conference room . We are studying Romans Chapter 8. All are invited to come! The last day for this session of Seekers will be December 22.

For those of you that are thinking about bringing flowers for our church service, please contact Gloria at 308-1113. We truly appreciate you.

Many thanks, Gloria

What would you like to see in your newsletter?



FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 10-31-2021

Monthly requirement to meet our budget **\$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$ 6,554.71
Total Expenses	\$ 7,965.14
Net Income	\$ (1,410.43)

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

October 24	28
October 31	24
November 7	23
November 14	29
November 21	30



- 9 Morris Damp
- 11 Dixie Wirkus
- 12 Velma Ward
- 18 Dianne Roholt
- 23 Brenda Strowbridge
- 29 Bob Naylor



December Head Usher **Donna Dickinson**

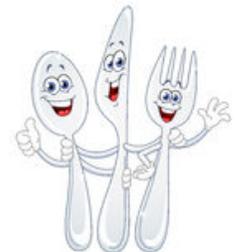
	Liturgist	Greeter
December 5	Mary Hayes	Linnea Mostad
December 12	Bill Beck	Shirlee Harold
December 19	Libby Underhill	
December 24-Christmas Eve	Donna Enfield	
December 26	Dianne Roholt	Gini Sande



Note date & time change

Supper Club

**Sparkling Waters Restaurant & Lounge
824 Paul Bunyan Drive South**



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, December 30 at 5:00pm

Please call Dianne Roholt directly at 444-2859 for your reservations!

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

All are welcome!

Christmas Joy Offering



Being Together

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.

Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them-we are with them.

50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Thank you for your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering-for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

When did Christmas start?

December 26, 336 (Rome)

What are 5 facts about Christmas?

- Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. ...
- Christmas trees were first used by ancient Egyptians and Romans. ...
- The term 'Xmas' simply means Christmas. ...
- Santa Claus was known as Sinterklaas in Dutch. ...
- Santa Claus did not always dress up in red clothes.

May the melody and spirit of Christmas bring love and peace to your life. Merry Christmas. Christmas is the season for peace, joy and fellowship with family and friends. May the yuletide spirit fill your heart and home with an abundance of mercy, contentment, laughter and harmony.

Your session at work

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
November 16, 2021**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the conference room on November 16, 2021, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Gloria Phelps, and Libby Underhill

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Nordquist

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA MSP to adopt the agenda with the additions of Nominating Committee report and Outreach Committee item, "Tubs of Love"

MEETING MINUTES MSP to approve the minutes from the October Session meeting with corrections

CORRESPONDENCE Chip shared an email from organist, Stacy Crystal. She wishes to become a snowbird beginning in February. Chip has contacted various people in the community who could possibly help the church find a replacement organist for the winter months.

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report November 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: November 7, 2021: 22 served

Membership as of November 16, 2021 : 72

Sunday Worship Attendance

October 24th: 28 ; October 31st: 24 ; November 7th: 23 ; November 14th: 21

FINANCIAL REPORT Finances from October were reviewed. The Outreach Committee recommended that the Servants of Shelter benevolence monies be combined with The Wolfe Center benevolence as the program no exists. MSP

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report

Buildings & Grounds Peter Nordquist reported on possible fencing options to keep people from "living" in the space behind the wooden shed in the back of the church. MSP to allow Peter to purchase and install a fence not to exceed \$1000. Note: This fence will meet the city's fire

code. Peter also gave an update on the boiler and the plan to keep it in compliance. Peter treated the large wooden doors on the south side of the church to help protect them from the winter. In the spring, the committee will look at restoring these doors.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Pledge Sunday will be November 28th. A light lunch will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Update on the Seekers' class

Nominating: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz The committee has found three people to serve the three open Elder positions for the next three years. MSP to bring these names to the Congregational Meeting in January.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill MSP to reinstate the Covid protocols for the duration Bemidji Chorale concert on December 12th only. COVID protocols will be returned to inactive status following the concert. Libby attended via Zoom the quarterly meeting of Churches United. Our church will participate in the "Tubs of Love" program again this year. The Boy Scouts will fill one tub and the congregation with the Circle will fill another. Our church will not serve at the Food Shelf in November as it is closed on the fourth Friday. Our next date to serve will be December 31st. Volunteers from our church did Meals on Wheels the week of November 14th.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps Hanging of the Greens service will be November 28th. The order of the replacement paramant has hit a snag. Gloria is working on correcting it.

Computer Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz No report

Kitchen Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report

OTHER BUSINESS

There will be a wedding at the church on November 20th.

Hope House has cancelled their annual Thanksgiving dinner at our church due to Covid.

Next Meeting: December 21st at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Underhill

Acting Clerk of Session



Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship

DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12pm Seekers 7pm Calvary Chapel	2	3	4
5 Pastor Chip Communion- Fellowship	6 Boy Scouts 7pm	7	8 12pm Seekers 7pm Calvary Chapel 8:15pm Rehearsal/Bji Corale	9	10	11 Eagle Scouts Court of Honor 1pm
12 Pastor Chip Bemidji Corale Concert 3PM	13 Boy Scouts 7pm	14	15 12pm Seekers 7pm Calvary Chapel	16	17	18
19 Pastor Chip Fellowship	20 Boy Scouts 7pm	21 1:00pm Session Mtg	22 12pm Seekers-Last Day 7pm Calvary Chapel	23	24 Christmas Eve 4pm Christmas service	25 Christmas Day 
26 Pastor Chip	27 Boy Scouts 7pm	28	29	30 5:00pm Supper Club Sparkling Waters	31 	Jan. 1 New Years Day



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