

## Chip's Chatter



Well, 2022 has arrived and like many of you, I wonder what is in store for us personally as well as for our church and nation. As I reflect on 2021, I can always find something good that happened, especially in the life of our church and in our members. But, I can also see some "other" that occurred that will remain with us for some time to come.

As many of you know, I acquired a new female Labrador puppy the last Friday of November. She was 9 weeks old on that day and we have named her "Stella." She will be a companion dog and hopefully a therapy dog to all who come into the office. She is my 3<sup>rd</sup> dog and it seems I had forgotten what "potty training" was all about. The good news is she is keeping me active and, hopefully, young.

I saw the first pictures of her shortly after her eyes opened and I couldn't get over how much she had changed in just a few short weeks. That got me thinking about what life looks like through the eyes of a puppy. Are there any comparisons to our own lives? This might be a stretch, but I'm going to give it a try.

Dogs are born with their eyes closed. For the first couple of weeks of life, they depend on their instincts to find "mom" and nurse. They have to crawl around strange objects to find nourishment. "Mom" cleans them and helps guide them to that nourishment. Even the runt of the litter finds a special place for receiving care from "mom". Then, their eyes open. I

don't know if they see clearly yet, but what a strange world they now experience. They find those strange objects they had to crawl around are really their litter-mates. As their vision improves, just looking at "mom" draws them to nurse. Soon, they are crawling more, then starting to walk, and eventually run. Aside from the initial blindness, this sounds very much like a human baby except, of course, the time frame is much shorter.

Then one day it happens. This little puppy goes to a new home, away from "mom" and the litter-mates. After some initial adjustments, the puppy "bonds" with the new family. From then on, the puppy desires, more than anything, to be with the new family. It wants to please the new family as much as possible as it makes its way in growing. The dog "wags its tail" just at the sound of the new family voice. You might say, the dog has now received a "second sight"; the sight of its new future.

I think the same is true of us. We grow through the early years of life. We become dependent on our family. We eventually grow to independence. Our vision, which we had from birth, guides us as best it can. We may sense love, nourishment, affirmation, and comfort, among many things in our family. But like the dog, there is another future ahead for us. It is the "second eyesight" we receive when we respond to the



calling of the Holy Spirit. This second eyesight may take years or even decades to come into focus. This new sight might also be called “spiritual” sight. When it comes into focus, I believe our response is the same as the growing puppies. It wants to be with the new “family of God.” We see our own sin and want to draw even closer to the one who died for us on the Cross at Calvary. We “wag our tail” with enthusiasm as we attend worship and help in carrying out the mission of our church. We are not critical of others because we know that they, too, are working to carry out the mission as they see it, motivated by the Holy Spirit.

As we begin this new year of 2022, let us work to acquire our “second eyesight” or to bring it better into focus. Sometimes, as we grow older, our physical eye sight deteriorates a little. But, perhaps that happens to allow us to see more clearly with our “second eyesight.” May this New Year bring peace, joy, love, hope, and better “spiritual” eyesight to us all.

Pastor Chip

A New

Year is here and we are thinking of ways to brighten our days. In 2021 many of you did just that by bringing flowers. Jan Kuleta and Donna Enfield shared flowers from their gardens. Terri Murray, Ray Hamblin, and Joan Forbes shared flowers in memory of a loved one. We thank them for sharing.

You will find a “Flower Bouquet” next to the sanctuary where you too may sign up to brighten our days. Flowers may come from your garden. They may be in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, a special birthday, an anniversary, or special occasion. You might even want to share “incognito”!

Message to the congregation:

I would like to include all members of the congregation in this “**Peek into the congregation**” and I need and would love your co-operation. Those of you that have computers and email, if you would please write a short version of the history of yourselves and then email to me here in the office at [presbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:presbji@paulbunyan.net), or call me at 218-444-5016, and we can do this over the phone, or better yet, stop into the office. If you do not wish to be included in this project, please let me know. Thanks to all who have participated so far.

I have heard how much this is being enjoyed so I am hoping for full participation.

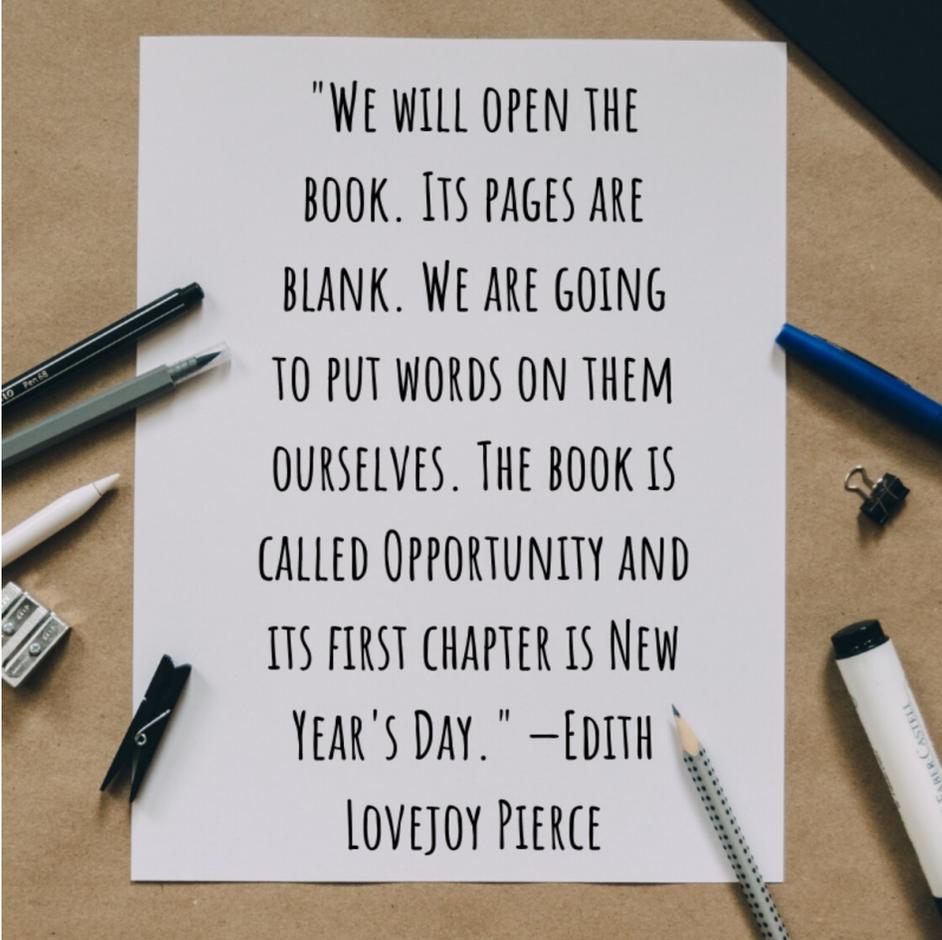
Thank you in advance, Shirlee Harold, church office



## JUST FOR TODAY

- Just for today,* I will live thru the next 12 hours and not tackle my whole life problem at once.
- Just for today,* I will improve my mind. I will learn something that requires effort, thought and concentration.
- Just for today,* I will be agreeable. I will look my best, speak in a well modulated voice, be courteous and considerate.
- Just for today,* I will not find fault with friend, relative or colleague. I will not try to change or Improve anyone but myself.
- Just for today,* I will have a program, I might not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two enemies-hurry and indecision.
- Just for today,* I will exercise my character in three ways, I will do a good turn and keep it a secret. If anyone finds out, it won't count.
- Just for today,* I will be unafraid. Especially will I be unafraid to enjoy what is beautiful and believe that as I give to the world, the world will give to me.

—Author Unknown



"WE WILL OPEN THE BOOK. ITS PAGES ARE BLANK. WE ARE GOING TO PUT WORDS ON THEM OURSELVES. THE BOOK IS CALLED OPPORTUNITY AND ITS FIRST CHAPTER IS NEW YEAR'S DAY." —EDITH LOVEJOY PIERCE



NEW  
Year  
NEW  
CHANCES



"JANUARY BRINGS THE SNOW, MAKES OUR FEET AND FINGERS GLOW."

— SARA COLERIDGE

**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 11-30-2021**

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

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Total Income   | \$ 6,924.27   |
| Total Expenses | \$ 8,016.27   |
| Net Income     | \$ (1,092.00) |

**Thank you** for supporting our church

**Sunday Worship Attendance**

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| November 28 | 32            |
| December 5  | Church Closed |
| December 12 | 38            |
| December 19 | 23            |
| December 24 | 68            |
| December 26 | 20            |



- 5 Milo Mostad
- 8 Jan kuleta
- 17 Tia Langhout
- 18 Wanda Burke
- 23 Brenda Miller



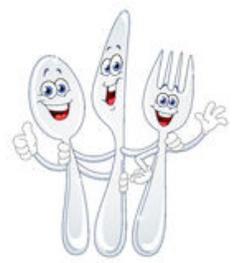
**January Head Usher Cheryl Hiltz**

|            | <b>Liturgist</b>    | <b>Greeter</b> |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|
| January 2  | Donna Enfield       | Linnea Mostad  |
| January 9  | Betty Hanson-Lehman | Shirlee Harold |
| January 16 | Bill Beck           | Ken Paulson    |
| January 23 | Dianne Roholt       | Barb McGregor  |
| January 30 | Dianne Roholt       | Carla Erickson |

# Supper Club



Country Kitchen



**Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, January 20 at 6:00**

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!**



*Benev*  *lence*

Evergreen Youth & Family Services is a private, non-profit youth and family service provider. In the past 40 years, Evergreen has developed a safety net of services to strengthen youth, preserve families, and help support successful transitions to adulthood. Evergreen's services are primarily provided through two program sites based in Bemidji, MN.

Every year, 2500 children, youth, and young families come to Evergreen for emergency food and shelter, mentoring, independent living skills training, counseling, pregnancy prevention, transitional housing and community suicide prevention.

Youth and families of all backgrounds and walks of life are welcome. Approximately 60% of the youth they serve each year are Native American or mixed race, 30% are Caucasian, and 10% are African-American, Asian, Hispanic, or mixed race.

How Your Support Can Help Youth -

\$50 donation can provide 10 hygiene bags

\$100 donation can provide 10 food bags

\$180 donation can provide one night at the youth shelter

\$200 donation can provide 10 baby care bags

Your gift to Evergreen helps support food, shelter, transitional housing, clothing, youth and family counseling and other services that can interrupt the cycle of homelessness. Please consider giving to this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday benevolence.

<https://www.evergreenyfs.org/>



Here are a few New Year's wishes, messages and quotes for your family and friends

**Wishing you a Happy New Year with the hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come.**

**Have a sparkling New Year!**

**Out with the old, in with the new: may you be happy the whole year through. Happy New Year! New adventures are around the corner. Happy New Year!**

**Counting my blessings and wishing you more. I hope you enjoy the New Year in store.**

**I resolve to stop wasting my resolutions on myself and use them to repay you for the warmth you've shown me. Happy New Year!**

**I said this 365 days ago, but happy New Year!**

**Nights will be dark but days will be light, wishing your life to be always bright – Happy New Year.**

**May the New Year bless you with health, wealth, and happiness.**

**Let us look back at the past year with the warmest of memories. Happy New Year.**

**Let the old year end and the New Year begin with the warmest of aspirations. Happy New Year!**

**Here's hoping you make the most of 2022!**

**One more year loaded with sweet recollections and cheerful times has passed. You have made my year exceptionally uncommon, and I wish this continues forever. With you around, each minute is a unique event for me. I wish you to have a year as incredible as you are.**

**May the New Year bring you peace, joy, and happiness.**

**On this New Year, I wish that you have a superb January, a dazzling February, a Peaceful March, an anxiety-free April, a sensational May, and joy that keeps going from June to November, and then round off with an upbeat December.**

# Your session at work

## First Presbyterian Church Bemidji, MN

**December 21, 2021**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the conference room on December 21, 2021, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

### **ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:**

Linnea Mostad, Gloria Phelps, and Libby Underhill

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Peter Nordquist

### **QUORUM DECLARED**

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

**MEETING MINUTES MSP** to approve the minutes from the November Session meeting

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Christmas wishes from Marlene Zech with donation

Request from Carla Erickson to use a Sunday school room for temporarily storing Girl Scout cookies. **MSP** to approve request

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report December 21, 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:** December 12, 2021: 38 served

**Membership** as of December 21, 2021: 72

### **Sunday Worship Attendance:**

|                   |                   |                         |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| November 21st: 30 | November 28th: 32 | December 5th: No church | December 12th: 38 |
| December 19th: 23 | December 24th 68  | December 26th 20        |                   |

**FINANCIAL REPORT** Finances from November were reviewed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson Subs for the organist have been secured for January 2, 9 and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Buildings & Grounds** Peter Nordquist reported that the fence/gate has been installed and secured. Cost of materials and labor were \$780. Peter also gave an update on securing a certified boiler operator to be in compliance with state requirements. A motion was made if the way be clear, to approve the proposed Boiler Operating Service agreement between First Presbyterian Church and David Bahr of 3SunsLLC. **MSP Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Total pledges received - \$53544.00. Cheryl will send out letter requests after Christmas to those members who have not sent a pledge.

**Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad The current Seekers' class will end December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Nominating:** Chairperson: No report

**Outreach** Chairperson: Libby Underhill Tubs of Love were delivered December 21<sup>st</sup> to Churches United. Once again, the congregation and Boy Scout troop were most generous in filling the tubs.

**Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps The order of the new parament has been cancelled for now. The new advent candleholder is working well.

**Computer** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz No report

**Kitchen** Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no additional business

**Next Meeting:** January 18th at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

**MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 2:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill

Acting Clerk of Session

Sundays  
10:00 am  
Worship  
11:00am  
Fellowship

# JANUARY



| Sun  | Mon                  | Tue                              | Wed                              | Thu                           | Fri                    | Sat |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
|  |                      |                                  |                                  |                               |                        | 1   |
| 2<br>Chip<br>Communion<br>fellowship   | 3<br><br>7pm-Scouts  | 4                                | 5<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel  | 6                             | 7<br>Scouts<br>Lock-In | 8   |
| 9<br>Chip  | 10<br><br>7pm-Scouts | 11                               | 12<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel | 13                            | 14                     | 15  |
| 16<br>Chip<br>fellowship   | 17<br><br>7pm-Scouts | 18<br><br>1pm-Session<br>Meeting | 19<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel | 20<br><br>6:00-Supper<br>Club | 21                     | 22  |
| 23<br>Chip<br>Congregation<br>Meeting  | 24<br><br>7pm-Scouts | 25                               | 26<br><br>6:30-Calvary<br>Chapel | 27                            | 28                     | 29  |
| 30 Chip  | 31<br><br>7pm-Scouts |                                  |                                  |                               |                        |     |



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 Website: [Firstpresbj.com](http://Firstpresbj.com)