

Chip's Chatter



I was thinking about transitions the other day. Everywhere we go we see some kind of transition in progress. When we leave our homes to go to the grocery store, we are “transitioning” from a warm, safe environment into a less familiar location. Likewise, we see the seasons change throughout the year. On March 20, we experienced the Vernal Equinox which marks the first day of Spring. Equinoxes happen twice per year; one in the Spring and one in the Fall. These days are significant because on these two days, the amount of daylight and night are equal. We also have the Winter Solstice; the shortest amount of daylight. The Winter Solstice occurs on or about Dec 21. On the flip side, we have the longest day on or about June 20, called the Summer Solstice. Our “theatre of seasons” is in constant transition.

This morning (April 13) we woke up to more snow on the ground. What happened to the transition into Spring? Many of us had started to enjoy being outdoors again. Some of us were starting to prepare our gardens for the upcoming Summer. Still others were outside working on projects that could not be done during the winter months. The point is, transitions are not necessarily linear. This means transitions can be ebb and flow but eventually get us to where we are going.

So it is with us. We all have personal transitions throughout our lives. We transition of “single” life to “married” life. And, sadly, some-

times we transition from “married” life back to “single” life. Sometimes we transition to a new place to live; a new job; a new career; and becoming a parent. Transitions may be difficult at times. Our men and women who leave their children and families to serve in Afghanistan for a year or more, return with some difficult challenges. To a lesser extent, spouses who travel for their jobs must develop a way to transition back into family life when they return. I think you get the point.

I like to think of transitions as either “good” or “other.” I never use the word “bad” as I may never know the final outcome. If I were to look solely at the “other” transitions in my life, I may miss how God is using these transitions to take me to a better place than I ever imagined. If we remain focused on the “other” transitions and avoid the “good” ones, we easily stay disappointed with our lives and have the potential to turn the transition into depression.

Transitions can sometimes be a bit uncomfortable. We develop a certain routine or pattern to our daily lives. When that pattern is disrupted for a long time, we might say we have begun to “transition.” Our lives have been greatly interrupted by the pandemic. As things begin to get better, we start another transition. A transition that takes us back to how things were before the pan-

demic. Somethings may never change fully, but we can have faith, most things will return.

Here's the key. I am reminded of Hebrew 13: 7-8 (NIV):

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

While we face transitions daily, some "good" and some "other," we need to remind ourselves of the unchanging nature of God. The world around us may be in turmoil. Our society may seem to be falling apart. People are growing fearful of each other. Yet there is one absolute truth: ***⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.***

I also think many of us are crying out for some stability in our lives and stability in our world. The true stability can only come from our faith in Jesus and expressed often within our lives and church family. That is why worship is so essential and it is essential we return to in-person worship. We need in-person worship to not only share our joys and sorrows, but to strengthen our church family as we emerge from the pandemic. Your presence at worship has the power to provide stability and comfort to those who might be struggling. We have a wonderful opportunity to bring new people to our church as others remained closed.

Stability is a large part of growing into a mature faith. My friends from a Benedictine Monastery live out their faith and stability daily. They worship five times per day. They take a vow (not a promise) of stability whereby they will live with the religious community for the remainder of their lives. The stability and worship do not always rule out some occasional transitions but the stability of worship creates the backbone to a life of faith. I once had a wonderful conversation

with a retired Priest and former Abbot of the monastery. He told me he had lived with this particular community for over 75 years. His face "glowed" with peace and comfort as he told me he could not have ever imagined a better life for himself. Abbot Lawrence has since "graduated" and gone home to the Lord.

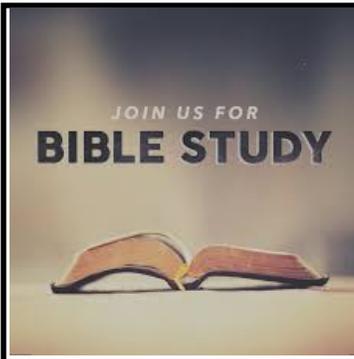
And so it is with us. To emerge from the damage of the pandemic we need to return to the stability of weekly worship. We need the stability of worship to carry us through all the periods of transition. We need to keep engaged with our fellow believers. And, we must continue to carry out the mission that has been given to us by God. I know we are all getting a bit tired of COVID but you would be surprised how one small act of service will bring joy to someone. Even as simple a service as attending worship helps all of us.

Thank you all for your efforts to keep going through this pandemic and changing times.

Pastor Chip

See you in church!

May is the fifth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and the third of seven months to have a length of 31 days. *May* is a month of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.



At noon every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall is the “Seekers”.

Seekers is the bible study that was created for everyone. The study has been a very good experience for the last attendees who spoke highly of it.

Google is celebrating Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the movable-type printing press.

The German inventor's movable-type printing press revolutionized the publishing industry more than 500 years ago.

Few people in history have had as great an impact on the world as Johannes Gutenberg. In the 15th century, the German inventor introduced movable-type printing to Europe, sparking a revolution that helped spread knowledge to the masses.

To honor this milestone achievement, Google dedicated Wednesday's Doodle to Gutenberg on the 21st anniversary of the Gutenberg Museum launching a retrospective exhibit on his life.

Born in Germany around 1400, Gutenberg invented the process for movable type in 1439, essentially retrofitting a wooden screw press in common use at the time. His process replaced handwritten manuscripts and wooden block printing with a process that involved a combination of movable metal type, adjustable molds and proprietary oil-based inks.

Gutenberg started churning out a book on Latin grammar around 1451, but his most notable work came in 1455 with what's now referred to as the Gutenberg Bible. It had 42 lines on each page and cost the equivalent of three years wages for the average clerk, but it could be produced faster and cheaper than a manuscript version, which could take a year to hand letter.

In a few decades, Gutenberg's invention would spread to more than 200 cities around Europe, and by the 16th century, presses had produced an estimated 200 million books.

Gutenberg's revolutionary system ushered in an era of mass communication and allowed for the economical mass production of printed books. His invention became so synonymous with communication that it lent its name to a then-burgeoning mass media field called the press.

The Gutenberg Project, the oldest library of digitized books, is named in his honor. The volunteer effort encourages the creation and distribution of free e-books and counts more than 60,000 items in its collection.

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 3-31-2021

Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00

Total Income	\$24,065.24
Total Expenses	\$ 9,353.97
Net Income	\$14,711.27

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

March 21	35
March 28	31
April 4	49
April 11	28
April 18	31
April 25	



4	Juanita Bahr
19	Grace Privratsky
27	Helen Spaulding



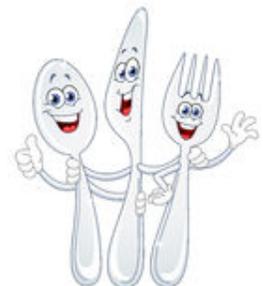
Head Usher Gloria Phelps

	Liturgist	Greeter
May 2	Bill Beck	Brenda Miller
May 9	Laurie Nordquist	Carla Erickson
May 16	Dianne Roholt	Gini Sande
May 23	Mary Hayes	Barb McGregor
May 30	Ruth Andersen	Donna Dickinson



Supper Club

Lazy Jacks
6735 Fairgrounds Road, NW



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, May 20 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!

Benevolence for May:

THE PENTECOST OFFERING -- BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

“O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

~ Psalm 71:17



The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday (May 23, 2021), we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and *pointing us to the church of the future.*

Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come; children, youth, and young adults.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

Young Adult Volunteers

Ministries for Youth

Children-at-Risk

Pentecost Offering Financials

First Presbyterian Church

**Bemidji, MN
April 20, 2021**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church fellowship hall on April 20 at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened prayer and a reading by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Palmer Berg, Libby Underhill, Cheryl Hiltz, Donna Dickinson, Gloria Phelps

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Linnea Mostad

OTHERS PRESENT: Joan Forbes, Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA MSP to adopt the agenda with the addition of Key Chart under Other Business.

MEETING MINUTES MSP Approve the minutes from the March session meeting, along with additions to the October 2020, December 2020, and February 2021 minutes.

Note was made of session action since the meeting of March 16: On March 24, session members informally approved a request by Treasurer Cheryl Hiltz to apply for a new round PPP loan. Approval was given via email and phone contact with Pastor Chip.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Administrative Assistant Shirlee requested vacation days on May 13, 14 and 17. MSP to approve.

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report April 20, 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 April 20, 2021 69

Sunday Worship Attendance Mar. 21 -35; Mar. 28 -31; Apr. 4 -49; Apr. 11 -28; Apr. 18 -31

FINANCIAL REPORT Finances from March were reviewed. A second PPP loan/grant for wages and utilities was received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg One small roof leak remains. The winter water drip to prevent frozen pipes will be shut off.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz No report

Adult & Christian Education

Chairperson: Linnea Mostad No report.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill

4th Sunday Benevolence giving was reported. Church ads in the Saturday Pioneer newspaper have been resumed.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria

Phelps Recommendation: Replace the communion table white cloth at a cost of at least \$150. Memorial funds to be used. Approved.

Computer Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz

Workable donation software continues to be sought.

Kitchen Session Contact Person: Cheryl

Hiltz Data of prep time and participation in the resumed fellowship times was shared.

kitchen to replace the old Magic Chef 10 burner stove. MSP to approve. Clerk Mary will post a sale notice for the old stove.

The key chart was reviewed. Four people who no longer need keys will be asked to return them. Donna Enfield will be given one of them so she can work on bulletin boards in the fellowship hall. MSP to approve holding the funeral of Leigh Waughtal on May 22.

Next Meeting: May 18 20 at 1:00 pm. in the fellowship hall. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Chip at 1:55 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joan Forbes requested that a designated memorial for Joe Forbes be accepted, with the funds to provide two regular gas stoves for the church

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session



Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Nordquist Wedding 4:30pm
2 Chip Communion Fellowship	3 6:30-Scouts	4	5 12pm- Seekers 6:30-Calvary	6	7	8
9 Chip Mothers Day	10 6:30-Scouts	11	12 12pm- Seekers 6:30-Calvary	13	14	15
16 Bill Beyer Fellowship	17 6:30-Scouts	18 1pm-Session Meeting	19 12pm- Seekers 6:30-Calvary	20 1pm-PEO 5:30-Supper Club Lazy Jacks	21	22 Leigh Waughtul Visitation 1pm Funeral 2pm
23 Pentecost Chip	24 6:30-Scouts	25	26 12pm- Seekers 6:30-Calvary	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sun- day Chip						