

Chip's Chatter



Many months ago, I learned of a way to reduce the energy costs in my home. I learned one simple way of reducing costs was to pull all my window shades down and/or close all my curtains. The idea was simply to add “insulation” to the glass in our windows and doors. In summer, this has the effect of reducing/eliminating solar heat that comes into our homes through window glass. This places a lighter “load” on my air conditioning system so it doesn’t run as much. In the winter, the shades and curtains help keep the heat in the house by not requiring us to fully heat our windows and doors. This action helps keep the house warm and reduces the amount of time the furnace operates.

I have been trying this technique since late winter. This spring, as soon as air conditioning was required, I pulled all my shades down and closed my curtains. I must say, it has had a significant impact on my electric air conditioning bill. But it has come at a cost I didn’t expect.

From the outside of my home, pulled window shades sends a signal to my neighbors and friends; my home is “closed for business.” To passers-by, it tells them a “recluse” lives in this home. Or, worse yet, the home is abandoned. None of these things represent who I am nor what I am like. As the summer progressed with the shades down, I began to feel I was experiencing a form of self-isolation. If I were inclined to depression, this closed in feeling could possibly bring on depression. I

could completely isolate and not even pay attention to the world around me.

I needed to make some compromise. Today I open and close my shades depending on the time of day. My home is on a bluff overlooking a lake and faces East. On the West is a gravel road and forest. At night, all window shades are pulled down. In the morning, I lift all the shades on the West side of my home. Once the sun is directly overhead, I open all the shades on the East side to enjoy the view and to feel a part of the world. I close the shades on the West side to cut the solar heating. I may need to make further compromises as we move from summer to fall/winter.

My point is this: If we keep the shades pulled in our lives, we miss an awful lot and tread dangerously close to depression and isolation. Not good things. Being behind the closed curtains and shades tends to take us out of this “world”. But that is not the role of Christians.

Jesus and scripture tell us that we are to be “*in* this world, but not *of* this world.” The word “world” in Greek is *cosmos*. It literally means all things in opposition to God. Further, scripture tells us the world is ruled by the evil one. He is sometimes referred to as “the ruler of this world.” In Ephesians 2:2 Paul refers to “the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.” When we were baptized, we became members of the eternal world because of what Christ did for us. The eternal world is God’s

world. However, we are not taken out of this world. Our citizenship is in God's world, but we must live in this world with all its evils and problems. My citizenship is in heaven and I look forward to Jesus' return to take me to be with him. While waiting, however, I still live *in* this world, but I do not belong to it.

Herein lies another problem with my window shade/curtain analogy. When we live behind closed shades/curtains are we not trying to isolate ourselves from the outside world? Is that our job as Christians? Shouldn't we be coming out behind the curtains and shades and work to spread the gospel and to advance the Kingdom? I may be as upset about the news I hear as much as any of you. I cannot isolate and ignore the troubles of the day any more than I can stay home and withhold the gospel from anyone who wishes to hear it. I simply recognize the news often reports on the evil of this world. But I also know Jesus has prayed for our protection to the Father. We go out into the world with this protection. Isolation behind the shades of life is not an option for us. That was the real tragedy of the COVID pandemic; isolation and fear.

If we choose to live behind the shades and curtains, let's make sure we know the reason why. It should be limited to simply an effort to save energy costs. We must always be ready to lift the shades and reach out to life and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must not be afraid of the outside world. We must be willing to embrace the world in order to spread the gospel and to be a good example of Christianity. To show people what it is like to live *in* this world and not be *of* this world.

Chip



I LIKE TO CALL IT PRAYER

To seek the heights and depths of
thought

And pause in silence there;

Some call it meditation...

I like to call it prayer.

To look out on the troubled world

And find the true and fair;

Some call it contemplation...

I like to call it prayer

To give oneself for others.

To lift and love and share;

Some call it consecration...

I like to call it prayer.

To sense a silent, reverent awe

At beauty everywhere;

Some call it adoration...

I like to call it prayer.

Helen Lawrie Marshall



Woman of God...Wonderfully Made...Devotions for Women by CTA

Growing up with three brothers, I witnessed my fair share of squabbles. Screams of “That’s my toy” or “He pushed me!” were as common as bumps and bruises. As most parents would, mine required apologies after a fight. I often heard a monotone “I’m sorry” and a mumbled “I forgive you,” followed by a mandatory handshake. The boys went through the motions, but it was clear their hearts weren’t in it.

Unfortunately, those closest to us often get the worst of us. Family members use hurtful words and actions within their own homes that they would never use with others. Those who know you best have the greatest capacity to hurt you. Yet, the bonds created within a family can be stronger and longer lasting than any other. Co-workers and neighbors may come and go, but family connections can’t be erased.

Navigating family relationships isn’t easy. Apologies and forgiveness are a necessary (and often daily) part of healthy family life. But what if there isn’t an apology? What if forgiveness isn’t deserved? How can you forgive someone who just doesn’t deserve it?

There are conflicts that just can’t be resolved and differences that can’t be settled. Sometimes the only way to build a healthy relationship is to forgive and love anyway.

Forgiveness is possible only through the power of God. His love enables you to give what isn’t deserved or even asked for. You can forgive others only because the Lord has forgiven you. Before you even asked for it, Jesus earned your complete forgiveness. God sent Jesus to pay the price for your sins.

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

You don’t deserve God’s forgiveness, but in Jesus, you have it. You have it filled to the brim and overflowing with more than enough to share!

You and I can never love and forgive to the extent that God loves and forgives us. Like fighting children, we often go through the motions of giving and receiving apologies. Thankfully, our weaknesses don’t erase God’s strength! He works through our attempts to love our family and forgives us when we fail. In Jesus, you have total forgiveness-filled to the brim and overflowing!

(Devotions for Women, CTA, Inc.)

A Good Daily Prayer

“

God,
Help me love the life I live right now. Show me the good things I often overlook and help me be content with what I have. Forgive me when I compare myself to others, forgive me for longing for things outside of You and Your kingdom. Thank You for loving me right where I am, right as I am. Help me keep my eyes on You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

NICKI KOZIARZ



woman's day

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 7/31/2023

Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00

Total Income	\$ 9621.71
Total Expenses	\$ 7621.83
Net Income	\$ 1999.88

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

2023

July 2	28
July 9	26
July 16	30
July 23	34



10 Jeannine Brooks
 13 Susan Cronemiller
 23 Libby Underhill



September Head Usher:

Liturgist

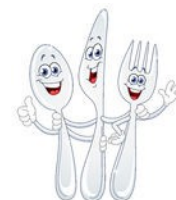
Greeter

Sept. 3	Linda Wagner	Mary Lou and Jenny Miller
Sept 10	Libby Underhill	Donna Dickinson
Sept 17	Dianne Roholt	Carla Erickson
Sept 24	Shirlee Harold	Linnea Mostad

Kitchen: Chair: Libby Underhill with helpers, Carol Waughtal, Ruth Andersen, Jan Burger
 Communion setup: Nancy Weber
 Serving Communion: Gloria Phelps and Shirlee Harold



**5:30 at
 Brigid's Cross/Pub, 317 Beltrami Ave NW
 Supper Club**



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, September 21 at 5:30pm.
 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!

Our Benevolence for the month of September

Bemidji Meals on Wheels



Nonprofit that provides balanced meals and socialization in a warm caring setting and meals on wheels to the elderly homebound, enabling them to continue living in their own homes

What does meals on Wheels do?

Meals-on-wheels service is a critical component of the continuum of care services that enable older people to remain living in the community or to return to their own homes after hospitalisation.

Who is eligible for Meals on Wheels NSW?

You're 65 years or older, Are registered for My Aged Care, Are registered with the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), or. Are younger with a disability and registered under National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Consistent well-balanced meals can boost your immune system, reduce your risk for many health-related conditions and prevent the need for premature nursing home or assisted living care.

Our affordable meals are available to older adults age 60 and older for a suggested donation.

Our volunteers personally greet and get to know each person when they deliver the fresh, hot meals. Older adults enjoy the friendly, personal interaction which for many is the only person they see or speak to all day.

Family members gain peace of mind in knowing that someone is checking on their loved one daily. If the delivery volunteer notices anything of concern, with the older adult's permission, we can notify family members.

Our volunteers personally greet and get to know each person when they deliver the fresh, hot meals. Older adults enjoy the friendly, personal interaction which for many is the only person they see or speak to all day.

Family members gain peace of mind in knowing that someone is checking on their loved one daily. If the delivery volunteer notices anything of concern, with the older adult's permission, we can notify family members.

Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church **Approved 8-15-23**
Bemidji, MN
July 18, 2023

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on July 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:
 Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, Bev Novak, Gloria Phelps, and Libby Underhill.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

MEETING MINUTES - MSP to approve the minutes from the June Session meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

Note from Marlene Zech
 Letter from NW Foundation indicating a \$1500 grant from the Bob Naylor fund

CLERK’S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk’s Report - July 18, 2023

Weddings: None
Baptisms: None
Deaths: None
New Members: None
Return to Active Membership: None
Request Transfer of Membership: None
Removed from Membership Roll: 0
Communion: July 2, 2023: 28 served
Membership as of July 18, 2023: 66

Sunday Worship Attendance:

June 25th: 26	July 2nd: 28	July 9th: 26	July 16th: 30
------------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------------

FINANCIAL REPORT - Finances from June were reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Bev Novak; no report
Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Terri Murray; fan in the men’s restroom repaired. Gym floor stripped and waxed. Will be getting rid of dead tree. Contact will be made to repair dishwasher.
Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report
Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; no report
Outreach Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4th Friday in June. Meals/Wheels will be delivered August 7-11th.
Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; wedding church fees for non-members were discussed. **MSP** to reduce the sanctuary rental fee to \$425 and increase the organist fee to \$120.

OTHER BUSINESS

Computer Committee: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; the company serving the church’s website is no longer in business. Terri will check out local website businesses to create and maintain the church’s website.
Kitchen Fellowship Committee: Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; Discussion was held on the upcoming August 9th recital of the Bemidji Area Church Musicians. Box lunches from Raphael’s will be served for \$7. Greeters and kitchen help volunteers will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 15th, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session

Coffee Fellowship Update

In May we began coffee fellowship following the church service on the first and third Sundays.

Table Fellowship (potluck) will move to a quarterly schedule. The next Table Fellowships will be:



Sunday, October 1st (harvest theme)

To all the members of the congregation:

Seekers (Bible Study) will return, Wednesday, September 13 at 12:00

The topic will be:

“No Other Gospel’s, Pauls Letter to the Galatians

**Laughs
And
Giggles**

Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into school without help. I asked our sixth-grader, Noah, to help his brother carry them in. "I could," he said, "but I'd prefer not to." Spotting a teaching moment, my husband asked Noah, "What would Jesus do?" Noah answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes." — *Rachel Nichols*

Several children found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they secured a small box and some cotton batting, dug a hole in the back yard, and made ready to dispose of the deceased. The minister's 5-year-old son was chosen to say the prayer. And so with great dignity, he intoned, "Glory be to the Father...and unto the Son...and into the hole he goes."

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."





Muldoon said, "I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why did ya' not tell me the dog was Catholic?"

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellow ship



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 Pastor Chip/ Communion Fellowship	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6	7	8	9
10 Pastor Chip	11 We will never Forget 	12	13 Seekers 12:00pm	14	15	16
17 Pastor Chip/ Fellowship	18	19 1PM-Session Meeting	20 Seekers 12:00pm	21 PEO Mtg 1-3:30 5:30 Supper Club PEO Mtg 5-7	22	23
24 Pastor Chip	25	26	27 Seekers 12:00pm	28	29	30



First Presbyterian Church,
501 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601
218-444-5016
Email: presbji@paulbunyan.net
Website: Firstpresbji.com