

First Church News

Volume 1 issue 5

May, 2025



Chip's Chatter



I love the month of May. Spring has officially arrived and the long cold winter is behind us. We see trees starting to bud, flowers

starting to emerge, the warm sun and the longer days. It is good time to stop and give thanks.

The other day I read a quote from the late Fred Rogers, of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood fame. You might be surprised to know Mr. Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian Minister, ordained in 1963. His home church was in Pittsburgh, PA. The quote comes from an acceptance speech at the 1997 Emmy Awards. Mr. Rogers was being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. Here is a portion of his speech:

"Thank you. Thank you. Oh, it's a beautiful night in this neighborhood. So many people have helped me to come to this night. Some of you are here, some are far away, some are even in Heaven.

All of us have special ones who have loved

us into being. Would you just take, along with me, ten seconds to think of the people who have helped you become who you are. Those who have cared about you and wanted what was best for you in life. Ten seconds of silence. I'll watch the time.

[10 Sec Pause]

Whomever you've been thinking about, how pleased they must be to know the difference you feel they've made."

What caught my attention was "All of us have special ones who have loved us into being..... think of the people who have helped you become who you are." Many of us might think of our parents, perhaps an uncle/aunt or grandparent. As Mother's Day approaches, we might turn our attention especially to her. Sadly, there are some whose childhood experience may not have been so good. Perhaps a parent died at young age. Perhaps the family was split by divorce. Perhaps there was some form of abuse experienced. For these folks, they must dig deeper into their memories to find someone.... *who have loved us into being..... think of the people who have helped you become who you are."*

There are several types of "love." Ancient Greek philosophers identified [six forms of love](#): [familial love](#) ([storge](#)), [friendly love](#) or [platonic love](#) ([philia](#)), [romantic love](#) ([eros](#)), [self-love](#) ([philautia](#)), [quest](#)

[love](#) ([xenia](#)), and divine or [unconditional love](#) ([agape](#)). When we take this into consideration, we will find there are many people in our lives that fulfill what Mr. Rogers is talking about. Providing some kind of love towards us.

One thing I noticed about Mr. Rogers' speech was there is no length of time required of those who have loved us. I find it true in my only life. Many of the people who have helped me become who I am are no longer in my life. Some were only present for a very short time, others for several years. But their impact is still the same.

I have another observation. Mr. Rogers used the past tense, "loved." The Bible says that as we grow in our faith, we are continually growing to become more Christ-like. That means people continue to influence our lives and guide us and help us into becoming who we are and perhaps, will be. These people may only be in our lives for a short time, perhaps only minutes or hours, but their impact remains with us.

The speech also implies we are to pass this gift on to others. We need to be the people that love others into their becoming who they will be. It now becomes full circle. In so doing we develop a sense of humility and gratitude. We must also take the opportunity, when it is presented to thank those people who have influenced us or taught us valuable life lessons.

I obtained my Commercial Pilot's license in March of 1969, before entering the U. S. Air Force. During the flight check, the examiner simulated an emergency engine failure. The failure was not a sudden

engine failure but rather an engine in the process of failing. I passed the check ride.

Fast forward to March 1977. I was flying a single engine, single pilot fighter 100 miles Southwest of San Diego, CA out over the water. Suddenly my only engine began to vibrate and shake just as the simulated emergency from years before. The outcome was good. I was able to land the fighter at Miramar Naval Air Station (Top Gun) with a non-functioning engine. The engine seized immediately after I turned off the runway. The training I received in 1969 had a direct influence on saving a 28 million dollar fighter.

That summer I was home on leave and when directly to the man who had given me that check-ride back in March of 1969. I told him the story. I also told him HE was responsible for teaching me how to recover a stricken airplane. Harlan "beamed" for days. We must never fail to tell others of their impact on our lives.

As Mother's and Father's Day approach, let us not fail to remember the others who have helped us. We must also never fail to let them know what they have done for us. Let us not forget to give thanks to God for bringing them into our lives

Blessings
Chip



This is a repeat from 2024

Benevolence for May
Pentecost Offering

***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 19, 2024), 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

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 3/31/2025**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$12502.91**

Total Income	14630.25
Total Expenses	12359.26
Net Income	2270.99

Thank you for supporting our church**Sunday Worship Attendance**

March 22	17
March 30	29
April 6	27
April 13	29
April 20	35

**May Birthdays**

4	Juanita Bahr
18	Bev Novak
?	Jarad Syrstad

Head Usher: Cheryl Hiltz

	Liturgist
May 4	Donna Enfield
May 11	Jan Burger
May 18	Chip Holt
May 25	Mary Hayes

Greeter
Linnea Mostad
Palmer Berg
Barb McGregor
Carla Erickson

Communion: Nancy Weber—Set up Serve Brenda Miller, Linnea Mostad**Kitchedn: Terri Murray with Helpers: Dean Beattie, Donna Beattie, Linnea Mostad***Supper Club***Call Diane for location****Date and Time**

Please call Dianne Roholt directly at 218-444-2859 for your
reservations!

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

All are welcome!

Around our Community

Mary Martha Circle

Will be meeting on May
21st at 1:30 at Raphaels



We are trying to upgrade our Shepherding List.

When someone from our congregation is hospitalized, the hospital does not let us know, so it is up to you to let the office know for visitations.

Also, when you move, we need the new address for you as we keep cards for all our members..

The same goes for new phone numbers.

MEMORIAL DAY

History of Memorial Day

The American Civil War of 1861 to 1865 claimed the lives of more than 550,000 people. During those years, many citizens began to place flowers on the graves of the war dead. Several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the originators of Memorial Day, but in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Waterloo, New York, as its official birthplace.

In 1865, Henry Welles, a Waterloo pharmacist, suggested that the town formally set aside a day to honor those killed in the war. The following year, Waterloo held the first formal observance of a day dedicated to honoring the war dead.

In 1868, John A. Logan, a former Civil War general and founder of an organization of war veterans, extended the idea by suggesting May 30 as an annual date to remember the massive numbers who died during the turmoil of the divided nation. Called "Decoration Day," it is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

By the turn of the century, nearly every state had declared "Decoration Day" an official holiday. After World War I, Decoration Day was expanded to honor those killed in all of the nation's wars, and after World War II, it became known as Memorial Day.

Watch for our local Memorial Day Celebration

Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
March 18, 2025

APPROVED AS CORRECTED: 4-15-25

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on March 18, 2025, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Darlinda Coe, Duane Hayes, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, Bev Novak, and Libby Underhill.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

MEETING MINUTES - MSP to approve the minutes from the February Session meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Receipt was received from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, regarding Darlinda Coe's transfer of membership.

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report – March 18, 2025

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 2, 2025: 26 served

Membership as of March 18, 2025: 62

Sunday Worship Attendance:

Feb. 23rd: 22 March 2nd: 26 Ash Wed. March 5th: 12 March 9th: 27
March 16th: 21

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel: Chairperson: Bev Novak; Chip shared procedures learned at the recent Boundary Training. One being that all rooms in the church that are not being used are to be kept locked. Terri will make sure of this ASAP. Duane checked in to the need for a lightning rod for current insurance premium that is due in April. Duane and Chip will check with other churches in the Presbytery for alternative insurance options.

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson: Terri Murray; Lake Country Electric repaired the broken light switch in the gym. The molding was repaired in various places by Allen. Terri's brother-in-law will look at repairing the broken plastic covering the stained glass windows in the upstairs Sunday School rooms.

Finance Report & Stewardship: Chairperson: Bev Novak; Financial reports for February were reviewed.

Adult & Christian Education: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; The first spring session for Seekers will end on April 2nd.

Outreach: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf on February 28th and will serve again on March 28th. Meals on Wheels will be served a week in May.

Kitchen Fellowship: Libby reported that the next Table Fellowship (potluck) will be Sunday, April 6th.

Worship & Music: Chairperson: Darlinda Coe; Maundy Thursday service will be April 17th at 4pm. Darlinda has received training from Gloria regarding protocols for the Worship Committee. The Bell Choir resumed practices on March 17th.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding Outreach ideas. One idea was to participate in the Beltrami County Fair. One possibility is to join the Boy Scouts at their pop stand. The possibility of including the model of the church that is currently being restored was also discussed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session

Session Approval Requests via Email

On March 26, 2025, Chip requested Session approval for the Bemidji Veterans to use the conference room for individual mental health counseling with a licensed provider. This would occur every other Wednesday morning. **MSP** to approve.

On March 28, 2025, Terri Murray requested to use the Fellowship Hall for the Bemidji Archery Club's year-end celebration on April 26th from about 4-7. She is a member of that club. Potluck food will be served. **MSP** to approve.



breathe

she sat at the back
and they said she was shy
she led from the front
and they hated her pride

they asked her advice
and then questioned her guidance
they branded her loud
then were shocked by her silence

when she shared no ambition
they said it was sad
so she told them her dreams
and they said she was mad

they told her they'd listen
then covered their ears
and gave her a hug
whilst they laughed at her fears

and she listened to all of it
thinking she should
be the girl they told her to be
best as she could

but one day she asked
what was best for herself
instead of trying
to please everyone else

so she walked to the forest
and stood with the trees
she heard the wind whisper
and dance with the leaves

and she spoke to the willow,
the elm and the pine
and she told them what she'd been told
time after time

she told them she never
felt nearly enough
she was either too little
or far, far too much

too loud or too quiet
too fierce or too weak
too wise or too foolish
too bold or too meek




then she found a small clearing
surrounded by firs
and she stopped and she heard
what the trees said to her

and she sat there for hours
not wanting to leave
for the forest said nothing...
it just let her breathe

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

					1 Libby PEO 5-7pm	2	3
4 Pastor Chip Communion Fellowship	5 7pm Scouts	6	7 Seekers 12pm Calvary Chapel 6:30pm	8	9	10	
11 Pastor Chip Fellowship 	12 7pm Scouts	13 VA 12:30-3pm 1st day	14 Seekers 12pm VA 9-12pm Calvary Chapel 6:30	15	16	17	
18 Pastor Chip Fellowship	19 Meals on 7pm Scouts	20 Wheels	21 Seekers 12pm Last one Mary Martha 1:30 at Rapha- aels	22	23	24	
25 Pulpit Supply Fellowship		27 VA 12:30—3pm	28 VA 9-12pm	29	30	31	



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