

HAPPY 2023!



Every New Year's Day, I imagine all the days that lay ahead as blank pages in a book yet to be written. What will be written on the pages of our FPC 2023 book?

Here at First Presbyterian Church our Vision Statement says we are "to be present in the Sioux Falls area as the visible face of Christ." For me, that

statement means we show up and we bring hope with us. We show up and encourage others and walk alongside others and work in partnership with others. We do what we can, the best that we can.

Being present as the visible face of Christ is important but there is more to it. Our Vision Statement goes on to say we are to be present as the visible face of Christ "knowing that even as we strive to bear the face of Christ in our relationships with our neighbors, we will find the face of Christ in the very neighbors whom we serve."

We will find the face of Christ in those whom we serve. We need to see each other, really see each other. Look for Christ at work in those you come alongside. Listen to their stories, see life through their eyes. And then see them through the eyes of Jesus.

I have no idea what 2023 will look like for us. But I do know we will start off the year by worshipping together on day one.

January 1st – New Year's Day – Start the new year by worshipping together on the opening day of 2023! (NOTE: Holy Communion will be served on January 8 instead of January 1.)

Join family and friends as we celebrate Epiphany! The day of Epiphany recognizes the time when the Magi completed their long trek across many countries, finally arriving to greet Jesus. It was revealed to us then that Jesus came for people of all nations.

We will start 2023 off right by commissioning our FPC missionaries as they prepare to leave for Honduras and share God's love and grace with our friends in Trinidad de Copan.

It is only right that FPC begin the year with an act of mission! May our FPC book be filled with pages and pages of stories of loving God and loving others. As it should be.

On this journey with you!

Pastor Pat

Thank you First Presbyterian Church!

I want to express my deepest gratitude for all the love, support, and encouragement shown to me during Pastor Appreciation month. Thank you for the cards and numerous acts of appreciation I received. In all my time at FPC I have never doubted how much you appreciate me and my ministry. But you know, the really wonderful thing is that for me, pastor appreciation does not only happen one month out of the year. You bless me every month of every year. And for that I am humbled and so very grateful. Thank you for being the face of Christ to me.

Pastor Pat

DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting on December 13 was a Zoom meeting because of the weather and had 100% attendance.

Elder John Ulmer gave an update on the transition to Eide Bailly doing the church's financial work. The transition is proceeding in a step-by-step process. As John reviews the past year's financials and ensures they are accurate, he transitions processes to Eide Bailly. He plans to have the transfer complete by the end of January. He is also working on a schedule for an Eide Bailly representative to be in the church on a regular basis.

John gave a positive update on the recent pledge drive. The congregation will be updated in worship after Christmas.

Safety concerns were discussed again. The security updates approved last month should be complete in

February. Some short-term arrangements may need to be taken until that time.

A draft of a Request for Proposal for expenditures from the Perkins fund was discussed. More work will be done on this and then it will be shared with the teams and congregation.

Session unanimously elected Eric Wells to serve as clerk of Session beginning in January 2023.

Full Session minutes can be found in a notebook in the church library. If any additional information is desired, every elder on Session is willing to answer questions.

**Claire Gillaspey,
Acting Clerk of Session**

ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION JANUARY SCHEDULE

January 8: In His Steps: Pathways of Peace

Christy Reiners from FPC has been developing supportive relationships in the Holy Land for the last 22 years. The IHS current project is community outreach to save the lives of women and girls in the Holy Land with early detection of breast cancer. The women often prefer spiritual wellbeing over physical wellness. Many do not seek medical care until a stage 4 diagnosis. Add to that a very limited means for examinations and mammography has contributed to many needless deaths. IHS trains female practitioners, medical staff, and local communities to support women in early detection.

Local community involvement is the mainstay of our work. To be able to continue with all the many challenges, we totally rely on your prayers to help sustain us. Being able to come back home and share with you how this work is progressing is what strengthens us spiritually to continue. I can't thank you enough for letting me be part of your church family. Praise God! - Christy

January 15: Mentoring in Sioux Falls

Mayor TenHaken stressed last fall when he visited our class, "The best way to make a difference with folks in need in our community is to go out there and become a mentor for someone!" Michelle Madsen, from Lutheran Social Services, will give us a glimpse into the mentoring services in our

city. LSS matches volunteer mentors with children in the Sioux Falls area. The goal is to empower young people to succeed by establishing trusting relationships with adult volunteers. There are mentoring programs for immigrants and older adults, too.

January 22: Support for Children "Cradle to Grave"

Michelle Erpenbach, President of "Thrive" will speak to the class about support for children. Thrive focuses on four critical needs for school age children:

- Kids and Families
- Affordable Housing,
- Out of School Enrichment
- Food Security.

Michelle has a lot of impactful information that you won't want to miss.

January 29: Tiny House project

Jason Bieber, Senior Planner for Planning and Development for Sioux Falls, will address another of the poverty concerns in our city, *homeless veterans!* We will learn about the Tiny House project. We will get to see what the buildings will look like and how they function as they provide shelter and safety for some our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country.

KIDS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Service Learning: January 11– February 22, 6:30-7:30 pm

Do you have a passion for helping? Do you want to do good in your community? Do you want to have a say in the service and missions of our church? Come to Service Learning Wednesdays for K-5th graders this winter. During this time you will explore what community means and ways that you can help your community. You, *the students*, will choose, research, plan and implement a service project. You will get to make decisions and follow your passions. You will spend the first four weeks researching and planning, the fifth week implementing and the last week debriefing and celebrating. This is an opportunity to use your talents to do some good and help others while making friends and learning!



Our kids looking sharp in matching shirts for the Christmas Program on December 11!



ADVENT WORKSHOP

The Presbyouth helped with the annual Family Advent Workshop. Many of the youth dressed in costumes and told part of the Christmas story to the kids. The kids journeyed through luminary lit hallways to discover the story and make projects and snacks along the way.

ANGEL TREE

The Deacons would like to send a big “THANK YOU” to all of our church family who helped make our Angel Tree/Sharing Christmas project a success! The Children’s Offering in November bought milk for families. Many others donated to purchase food baskets and some donated for the youth, who shopped for gifts. Many supported us in prayer. We appreciate the families who gave of their time and effort to deliver the gifts Saturday, December 10. What a lovely way to feel and share the true spirit of Christmas!

**Pamela Ephgrave
Deacon**



Deacons and more on delivery day!



Presbyouth went shopping for Angel Tree gifts!

NEIGHBORHOOD CARE TEAM DONATION FOR HOMELESS VETS



I had the privilege of delivering items to the VA hospital homeless outreach program. This is a picture of Rachel who is in charge of the program and the boxes of new items. We were able to purchase 78 hats, 59 gloves, and 29 pkgs of socks... each with 6 pairs. I want to thank Ethan and Misty Small who gave me a great contact at the Outdoor Gear Warehouse. All of the items were very high-quality and way less expensive than I would’ve been able to purchase even at Walmart. Rachel was thrilled with the donation and texted me after the delivery and shared how excited all the staff were to see the quality of the items. Thank you all!

**Shelly Simantel Horr, Deacon
Neighborhood Care Team**

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR UKRAINE REFUGEES

FPC held a Christmas party for the Ukrainian refugees that our members have been working with since the Ukrainians came to the U.S. We had a wonderful time on the 11th of December. We had 46 Ukrainian adults and children attend our party along with several FPC members. The food was amazing! It was provided by Anita Braunschmidt, Anja Hoekman, as well as two Ukrainian ladies who brought 2 homemade Ukrainian cakes. The lounge was decorated so beautifully.

We had a great conversation and a "sing-off" of Christmas songs in Ukrainian by the Ukrainians, and in English by FPC members. All of the folks that we are helping received Christmas gifts from NCT (Thanks to Emily Hutchinson for purchasing the children's gifts.) A good time was had by all.



AN INVITATION TO WOMEN OF FPC

If you have been intending to join one of our small groups of women (circles) for study, mission, and fellowship, now is the time. You are welcome to join us in this new year!

We meet at various times and places on the 3rd Thursday of the month. This month's study chapter is entitled, "Sabbath and Surrender."

Please contact Lisa Tunge to learn more about Presbyterian Women(PW) at 605-361-9787 or email lisajane@midco.net

We look forward to seeing you!



Presbyterian Women, Jo Erickson and Sue Hanneld, presented Sally Kulm with an Honorary Life Membership at the Christmas Gathering on December 20, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

It's the time of the year when thoughts go toward making New Year's resolutions. Pray with conviction, serve with purpose, read the Bible more, be kinder. All come into mind.

Second Timothy promises us that the Holy Spirit gives us power.

I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...for the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline...join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 2 Timothy 1:6-8

That could mean being a friend.

Compliment the waiter, greet the check-out person, be considerate driving, bring a coworker a coffee, ask an acquaintance to church, reach out to a neighbor.

Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence. Proverbs 27:9

In 2023, share the power that is in you and allow the Holy Spirit to light a flame by being a friend.

**Judy Rops and the Membership Ministry Team of
Andrea Boerigter, Hilda Bosch, Arla Peterson, and Carol Raker**

FPC LIBRARY

Did you know that there will be new biographies featured for the month of January, put out after Epiphany.

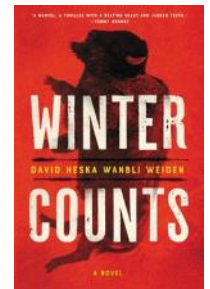
Did you know the library takes books all year long? The next library sale will be the last weekend of April.

Did you know your library has reached out to groups that meet in the building? We've had a good response from Kinder-music parents checking out books for their children.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN READERS

January 12, 2023—"The Second Life of Mirielle West" by Amanda Skenandore
Discussion Leader—Judy Rops

February 9, 2023—"Winter Counts" by David Heska Wanbli Weiden
(One Book Siouxland Selection for April 2022)



LAUNDRY WITH LOVE

On November 29, 2022, our FPC congregation was responsible once again for bringing joy to Laundry with Love participants. It is significant that we did this shortly before our season of Advent, when we focus on hope, peace, joy and love. It is very simple. When we experience the Holy Spirit, we care for one another. When we care for one another, we encounter God. Everyone is connected through love.

At Laundry with Love, a ministry of Church on the Street, we come alongside those who are struggling financially/homeless/hungry. We provide the funds to do laundry and we serve meals. Your generosity in putting money in the LWL jar in the office, and your pledges make this happen. This time at LWL our FPC Peaceworks provided 24 laundry bags, and we also gathered items for hygiene kits to be given out.

Since we began serving at LWL in March 2020, we have had 38 different FPC members come to the Laundromat on 3rd and Cliff to help. On November 29, Hilda Bosch, Carolee and Gary Hoekman, Craig and Suzannah Spencer, Peri Erdmann and Lyn Halvorson, Sue Holmes, and Mary Nettleman helped Don Hoekman serve the food.

Listen to some of their thoughts:

“I really felt the ‘love’ in doing Laundry with Love. Everyone in the laundromat was receiving and giving love and that’s what makes Laundry with Love truly special.”

“In our very busy lives, especially this time of year, it is often so easy to stay in our comfort zone and ignore the needs of the less fortunate in our community. The joy and appreciation offered by the many recipients of the food provided was very rewarding. It was so gratifying to know that just a little effort from us can provide so much

comfort and appreciation to others in need. Thank you church family for supporting LWL.”

“We appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk to people who come to do their laundry. It’s great to be able to give a word of encouragement, share a joke, or give a smile to those we interact with.”

“Everyone was so organized, by having soap pods and dryer sheets in baggies, to having the right amount of quarters also in baggies to run the washers and dryers. Everything ran smoothly. The people were also pleased to have a warm meal. LWL provides a great service to a lot of people. And who doesn’t like clean clothes?”

From 3:00-8:00 pm those who came {despite the ice and snow} did 331 loads of laundry. We again served a meal of Italian beef meatball/marinara subs, etc., which guests at LWL have come to look forward to and really appreciate. We heard so many “thank you!” “God bless you!” and “I love this food!” comments.

Our FPC volunteers communicated God’s love at LWL on November 29. They did more than provide quarters and serve food. They listened, they heard, they saw people who came in need. One went to Breadsmith at closing to bring donated bread loaves back to the people at LWL. One gave her own warm pair of gloves to a man with freezing fingers. Two volunteers took a cold homeless man to Bishop Dudley to spend the night inside.

We will serve again at LWL in 2023. Every time we go to LWL we are reminded what it says in the Bible. Love God. Love others.

The rest is commentary.
Anja Hoekman



DECEMBER CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The Children's Offering each month is for a different local, or international organization. Each week during December, we purchased a different animal through the PCUSA Giving Catalog.

December 4 we raised \$199.89 for CHICKENS,
enough for **8 families of chickens!**

December 11 we raised \$821.20 for GOATS,
enough for **9 goats!**

December 18 we raised \$349.50 for BEES,
enough for **1.5 beehives for communities.**

Christmas Eve/Day offering will buy PIGLETS.

THANK YOU FOR SPECIAL GIFTS TO FPC

Your continued financial support (including memorials, honorariums and bequests) means everything to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Your support not only allows us to minister to our congregation, community, and world, but also to take care of our facilities. Thank you!

SEED SOWERS MINISTRIES CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

January 3, 2023 is the 20th Anniversary of the Seed Sowers Mission Project! Started by Richard Braithwaite in coordination with Richard Foster, founder of the Philippine Self-Help Foundation, FPC is fortunate to be celebrating this wonderful occasion throughout the month and the year. The Children's Offering for January is designated for Seed Sowers. As always, a huge thank you to all of you that have been so generous over the past two decades in supporting this project of supplying funds for micro loans to the citizens of the Philippines that are starting new businesses or expanding their existing businesses. The current conversion rate is \$1 =55.82 Philippine peso. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ongoing mission and watch for future updates on the 20th Anniversary Celebration!

The mission and purpose of Seed Sowers Ministries is to provide livelihood and education loans as well as medical assistance to the poor in the central Philippines through its partnering agency, the Philippine Self Help Foundation (PSHF). In the 20 years since Dick first announced the founding of this ministry, 79 members and friends of Sioux Falls First Presbyterian Church, have made donations amounting to \$145,125. Mindy Braithwaite has been the liaison with the PSHF since 2007.

The generosity of SSM supporters have enabled 988 projects to be funded.

- 826 small business loans to groups or individuals
- 48 loans for college education
- 9 loans to meet medical needs
- 101 grants for medical or housing assistance
- 4 scholarships for the PSHF-run Lighthouse Learning Center

The recipients of SSM assistance are all in the 30% of the Philippine population deemed to be living in poverty. Most of the families we are helping are living on monthly incomes of \$200 or less. The vast majority of our loan recipients do well with their loans and see their incomes rise. 85% of loans are eventually repaid and credited back to the account of the donor. These same funds can then be used to help another family.



There is a wide range of livelihoods for which the PSHF provides loan assistance: farming, fishing, shop-keeping, sewing, vegetable vending, land redemption and many more.



**Richard Foster, PSHF founder
December 2022**

Our websites can be found at pshf.net for PSHF and pshfllc.net for Lighthouse Learning Center.

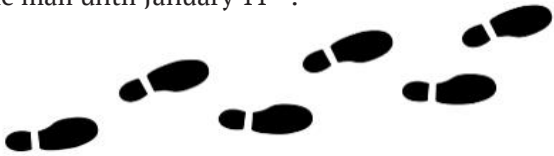
WITH APPRECIATION

Thank you to my church family for your prayers and for the many expressions of sympathy through cards, calls, emails, texts, visits, and memorials following the loss of Justin. It was truly appreciated.

The family of Judy Rops

FPC WEDNESDAY WALKERS

The Wednesday Walking Group will not be walking in the mall until January 11th.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Patti Newby	01/01	Ashlyn Kelliher	01/18
Jerry Simmons	01/01	Dan Schnabel	01/18
Eric Wells	01/01	Marne Shaffer	01/18
Emma Kruse	01/02	Drew Nielsen	01/19
Sally Kulm	01/02	Rhys Nielsen	01/20
Brady Jatton	01/03	Dorothy Rust	01/20
Conner Lower	01/03	Lynne Acheson	01/21
Rachel Pay	01/03	Jack Helin	01/21
Julie Risty	01/03	Alice Robbins	1/21
Kaylea Rickenbaugh	01/04	Mark Bukovich	01/22
Kylee Olson	01/05	Edyanne Haafke	01/22
Patrick Thurman	01/05	Juliane Ingalls	01/22
Asher Griess	01/08	Connor Horr	01/25
Kevin Wilson	01/08	Julie Wooters	01/25
Nadine Amundson	01/09	Sue Hanneld	01/26
Daniel Meester-Gillette	01/09	Riley Marie Papke	01/26
Katie Noguchi	01/09	Rowan Moon Papke	01/26
Brian Carlson	01/11	Jack Burggraff	01/27
Dave Larson	01/11	Paul DeCou	01/27
Sheryl Papke	01/11	Doug Brock	01/28
Cindy Carlson	01/13	Nancy Loudon	01/28
Olivia Hruby	01/13	Dawson Unruh	01/28
Ruby Noguchi	01/13	Julie Burggraff	01/29
Lisa Tunge	01/13	Stephen Egger	01/29
David Tidwell	01/14	Dennis Graber	01/29
Norman Dittman	01/15	David Winter	01/29
Megan Holden	01/15	Ross Brown	01/30
Jeanie Miller	01/16	Michael Van Oort	01/30
Judy Schaap	01/16	Karleen Abarr	01/31
Rachel Wilson	01/16	Imara Jacquemart	01/31
Wendy Severson	01/17	Marc Madison	01/31

WELCOME TO FPC



We're happy to announce that Jacob Forstein has been hired as our new Facilities Director. He will be starting after the first of the year. He comes with extensive experience in building maintenance, repairs, carpentry, etc. Nate White and Noah Amundson-Reiter will report to him and will still be here doing the custodial work of keeping the church clean and sparkling while also learning some of the facilities skills from Jacob.

Please give him a warm welcome as you see him around the church.



CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

First Presbyterian Church

2300 S. West Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Email

info@fpcsiouxfalls.org

Phone

[605-336-2886](tel:605-336-2886)

Mailing List

[Sign up for mailing list](#)

To Donate

<https://www.fpcsiouxfalls.org/give>