

A NOTE FROM PASTOR PAT



I want to take this opportunity to talk with you about my role here at FPC. At the Special Congregational Meeting on April 23, 2023, you voted to make changes to my Terms of Call, compensation package, to better reflect the breadth of my role as your pastor. These changes reflect the new tasks I have taken on, not the permanence of the role.

As you know, for the past eight months I have taken on additional duties as my role expanded to cover many other leadership responsibilities. Besides congregational care, administrative responsibilities, and worship responsibilities, I have now agreed to take on the role of transitional leader. Traditionally, in the PCUSA system, this role has been referred to as an interim pastor. Today in our changing world, this position more accurately reflects the nature of transition and is referred to as a transitional pastor. Leadership in a changing context (transition) is what my Doctor of Ministry work was all about.

As your pastor doing this transitional work, it is my goal to eventually work myself out of a job. Notice I say, eventually. I will be retiring at some point but until then I will continue to be with you as together we work through

a time of healing and discernment. We will spend this summer and fall learning, exploring, dreaming, and articulating who we are today and where God is calling us to be in the changing world around us. Then, together, we will discern what type of leadership we need to accompany us on this journey.

To that end, with the blessing and encouragement of Session, I am planning to be away from the church for the month of June. Part of my time away will be learning, discerning, and planning (continuing education) and part of my time will be spent doing nothing (rest and renewal). I have secured pulpit supply for each Sunday in June and you will be well served by Rev. Mike McCallum, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser, Rev. Everett Bosch, and our Directors of Music Dan Graber and Ben Cochran.

This is a very exciting time in the life of FPC. The world in 2023 looks different than it did in 2019. The church in 2023 looks different than it did in 2019. But I believe God is already at work making plans for FPC. Plans for us to thrive and expand and deepen our mission work into the city and around the world. For 140 years, members of FPC have worked together to build the solid foundation upon which we will continue to grow and go out as faithful followers of Jesus. Now it is our turn to add our own new layer to this already firm foundation.

On this journey with you!

Pastor Pat

IN THE LIFE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 7 – **Confirmation Sunday.** Join us as we welcome our confirmands as our newest members of FPC!

May 14 – **Graduation Sunday.** This day we recognize our High School Seniors who are graduating and heading into new adventures.

May 21 – We will celebrate the **Ascension of the Lord** as we reach the end of Eastertide. In preparation for worship this day, read Acts 1:1-11.

May 28 – **Pentecost Sunday.** Wear red! We celebrate and remember Pentecost as the moment the Holy Spirit came and empowered the early believers and apostles. In this moment, the church is born! Read Acts 2 for the story of Pentecost.

Happy Birthday FPC! On Pentecost Sunday we will celebrate First Presbyterian Church, Sioux Falls and 140 years of faithful ministry! FPC was organized on May 27, 1883.

APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Prior to the start of the formal meeting, the Session spent time reflecting on what can be learned from recent events. This period of restorative conversation was led by Devon Miller, Associate Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

Session has recently started meetings by recognizing volunteers for their efforts in service of the mission of First Presbyterian Church. In previous months, we have recognized Jeff and Judy Little for their tireless work with the audio-visual systems during worship, Rachel Pay for her musical offerings, and Betty Huebner and Connie Tucker for faithfully setting up coffee supplies each week. This month Pam Ephgrave was acknowledged for her consistent contribution as an usher on Sunday morning. This practice helps the Session to be mindful that the work of the Church is done by many hands.

After brief reports about financial and building matters, Session turned to the topic of the Terms of Call in place

for the Rev. Dr. Pat Hammond. Session voted to call a Special Congregational Meeting on April 23, 2023, for the purpose of updating these Terms of Call. Session also voted to recommend to the congregation that Pat's role be changed to Pastor from Associate Pastor and that the compensation package be adjusted to be equivalent to the most recent FPC Pastor salary level multiplied by a 5% cost-of-living adjustment.

Hedge planting will be done on the property as part of our compliance with city codes requiring the screening of the parking lot from neighboring residences.

Finally, the Nominating Committee has begun its annual work. If you are contacted by the nominating committee, Session urges you to give prayerful consideration to serving.

**Eric Wells,
Clerk of Session**

GREEN TEAM-NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Have you heard it through the grapevine??? FPC has a new team!



First Presbyterian Church has a new team that has been busy at work. Spurred by an idea that arose from Meredith DeCou's experience at Synod School and furthered by a series of Adult Education Classes, the Green Team has been established as a sub-team of the Building and Grounds team.

So, what have we been up to? At this point, most of our focus has been on outdoor projects at the church. One of those projects (which may be completed when this article is published) came about as we became aware that the church was non-compliant with a city code which says there must be a barrier between parking lots and homes. The west side of the south parking lot was lacking that barrier, and so shrubs of the same type as those on the south side of the lot will be planted. Volunteers to help water those shrubs until the roots are established would be VERY welcome!

Other projects that are in various planning stages include:

- Testing the soil where the grass was killed (southeast corner of the lot) and determining what and when to replant
- Planting native plants in the south parking lot center island
- Adding a perimeter around the church sign on West Avenue and planting hardy shrubs or flowers
- Testing the possibility of creating on-site gardens (perhaps community gardens) with the potential of contributing produce to the Food Desert Buses that are being piloted this summer
- Addressing the issues of drainage and runoff onto the sidewalk by the north parking lot

For help on many of these projects, we are partnering with Augustana students who are working on degrees in sustainability. We are grateful for the expertise Augie professors and students have already shared with us and look forward to more collaboration.

We have a few larger "dream" projects that are being brainstormed also. Feel free to talk to one of us for more information or to share your ideas. Better yet, come to a meeting! Join the team! Contact Meredith DeCou for more information.

Claire Gillaspey for the Green Team

STELLAR VBS 2023

Volunteers and Participants

REGISTER NOW <https://vbspro.events/p/events/a86da0>

3-years-old through completed 5th grade

July 10-14 from 9-noon



VBS Decorating Work Nights

May 8-11 at Trinity Baptist Church from 5:30-8 pm

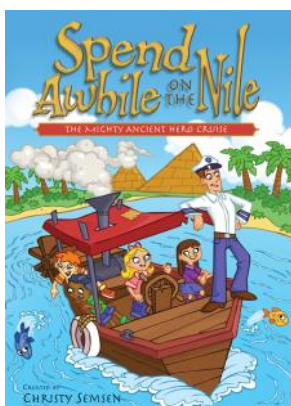
- FPC is responsible for at least 5 volunteers each night May 8 and 9 who can paint, build, glue or cut!
- Set-up shift Monday, May 8 from 1-4 pm
- At home job—dye tarps

FPC Decoration Moving Night

June 22 at Trinity Baptist Church at 8 pm (Help move the VBS set decorations to FPC.)

- Need enclosed trailer and several large vehicles
- 12 volunteers

Contact Kathie Douma to sign up!



MUSIC CAMP 2023

REGISTER NOW AT FPC website www.fpcsiouxfalls.org

Completed 3rd grade-completed 8th grade

June 5-9

- **Group Auditions**—all participants should attend May 10 at 4 pm
- Performance is June 9 at 7 pm in the sanctuary
- We need help building a boat for our set

LITURGICAL DANCE CAMP 2023

August 1-4, Dance in worship Sunday, August 6

Kindergarten –HS dancers may attend

Our amazing choreographer Katie Schultz will be returning to lead this meaningful and fun camp. Watch for details to sign up soon!

KINGDOM KIDS FALL REGISTRATION

Check out FPC's weekday morning program for one- and two-year-olds taught by Maggie Tilk. Registrations for fall classes are open, sign up today to reserve your spot.

One-year-olds meet on Monday

Two-year olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday.

Please share with friends and neighbors!

Brochures and registration forms available at FPCsiouxfalls.org



WORSHIP BAG HELPERS

Worship bags in the sanctuary are filled with simple toys, books, and activities to engage our youngest worshippers. Kids feel valued and special knowing there is a bag waiting for them.

Did you know that our bags are sorted and organized each week? Our volunteers spend about one to two hours at their convenience preparing bags for the upcoming worship service. Would you like to share some love and support to the kids of FPC? Contact Kathie Douma or Amy Engebretson.

What have the PresbYouth been doing? Great question. This Lenten season the youth switched up their regular Wednesday Hub Nights with some interactive Lent activities AND brought back Wednesday Night meals. The new addition of food has been a huge positive for all and we are so thankful to the Bell Chorale for volunteering to help with dinners for the remainder of our program year. As we are on Thank Yous, here are just a few more: thanks to Misty Small who has come and helped with dinner and activities, Rebecca Small for helping and leading on Wed. Nights, Ben Cochran for leading us in music to start our night out right, Heidi Dykstra for jumping in and leading Sunday school (Faith & Fellowship) for our MS and HS kids, Ruth Parry who has helped lead and plan Confirmation for our 6 students, and to our Life Group leaders - Jenne Esser and Andrea Boerighter for leading the HS girls, Nate White and Will Unruh for leading HS guys, Daisy

Larson for helping with MS girls, and Phil DeGroot and Alex Anderson for leading MS boys. All of these leaders have also stepped up in many other leadership roles to help with youth group and other activities. A HUGE THANK YOU to them!

Now, getting back to our Wednesdays in Lent, here are the highlights. Each Wednesday we focused on a different letter. First off,

L - Learn and Live into Lent. We spent this night taking a Lent quiz "What do you know about Lent," Who is the Secret Person and finishing with mixed up Life Groups where the High School students became the new leaders for their Lent Life group. We also tried to give up our phones during all of the Lent Hub Night as a sacrifice. We did pretty well. We'll keep trying!



Congratulations to our high school and college graduates.

“Graduation is a time for reflection on the labors of the past, the accomplishments of the present, and the possibilities of the future.” (Patty Love)

A bird needs two wings to fly. God has also given you two wings. One is the wing of realization of our human helplessness. The second wing is the realization of God’s power.

Never underestimate the power of God in your lives. May you be blessed with the knowledge that you are never alone in life, and that God will always be with you to watch over you and guide you.

*May the Lord bless you and protect you,
May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you,
May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

Judy Rops and the Membership Ministry Team

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023

Camron Amundson
Erika Bien
Kady Davis

Jill Drager
Josh Holden
Connor Horr

Imara Jacquemart
Ashlyn Kelliher
Lily Raysby

Brooklyn Rombough
Sara Sudenga
Malik Turner

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2023

Matthew Amundson-Reiter
Katy Burggraff

Sam DeGroot
Brad Esser

Dawson Unruh
Kade Hruby

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT-BEN AND BECKY HRUBY

Ben and Rebecca (Becky) Hruby and their daughters Sydney and Delilah (Dells) have been attending First Presbyterian Church since 2019.

Ben is one of seven siblings growing up in Marion, SD where he was active in sports. He graduated from USD and began his career at Oscar Howe Elementary as a 4th grade teacher. Next year he will be teaching 7th grade English at Harrisburg North Middle School where he will be closer to Sydney, who is a kindergartner at Endeavor this year.

Becky grew up in Spearfish and graduated from SDSU. She worked as a registered nurse in a cardiac unit in Phoenix and in the peri-operative setting at Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital before obtaining her doctorate as a nurse practitioner. Becky has worked the past 8 years at Avera Medical Group Neurology as a Certified Nurse Practitioner and a Certified Multiple Sclerosis Specialist.

This busy family is involved in many activities. Sydney is six years of age and is in Girl Scouts, drums with Groove, and dance. She starts t-ball in a couple of weeks. Dells is 3 years old and in preschool at Embe. She has quite the personality and loves to sing and dance. You may recognize the sisters (one blonde and one brunette) as they walk hand in hand together to put offerings into the globe each Sunday morning. God loves a cheerful giver and these two certainly exemplify that.

When asked about what they like best about FPC, they commented the following.

Becky said, “I was very impressed by the active children’s programming and felt the church was similar to the Episcopal church where I grew up.” Becky helps with Sydney’s Sunday School class.

Ben said, “I enjoy the music and being surrounded by extended family.” That means not only his brothers, Brad and Chuck and their families, but also the FPC family.

This playful and talented family might be someone you would like to know better.

**Judy Rops,
Membership Ministry Team**



SYNOD SCHOOL

The theme for Synod School (SS) 2023 is “Our Family Story.” As living and breathing entities of Christ, we are each natural storytellers. Each experience we carry is sewn into the tapestry that our ancestors created, and these experiences carry us forward toward relationship and connection with others. Familiar Bible stories will be studied in new ways during SS in hopes of gaining a new closeness with God and each other.

The theme verse of “Our Family Story” is *...All Jesus did that day was tell stories—a long storytelling afternoon. His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy: I will open my mouth and tell stories; I will bring out into the open things hidden since the world’s first day.* Matthew 13: 34-35 MSG

CANARIES FAITH & FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Come join us at the birdcage for a night of baseball, fun & fellowship for the whole family to cheer on the Canaries. It’s the Canaries VS the Winnipeg Goldeyes! The Canaries kick off the night with a special prayer before the game, and video testimonials from Canaries players and other local luminaries on what having faith in their life means to them.

When: Wednesday, June 14th, 2023.

Where: Canaries Stadium in Sioux Falls

Tailgating: Tailgating in the parking lot will begin at

2023 is the 69th year of Synod School in Iowa.

Presbyterians (pastors, adults, teenagers, children of all ages) will come from all over the country play and live together through worship study and fun. It is an opportunity to learn something new, hear from keynote speakers, share talents and creativity in worship, and be energized for service.

Synod School is held each summer the last week of July in Storm Lake, Iowa, at Buena Vista University.

www.lakesandprairies.org If interested, check with a member of the Membership Ministry Team for possible scholarships.



Synod of
Lakes & Prairies



5:30pm where we will be serving hotdogs, chips, cookies, beverages and have some fun family games to play.

Game: Game starts at **6:35pm**.

Cost: *Free*—First come, first serve. 100 tickets available*

Sign-up: You can call or stop by the church office 605-336-2886 OR online at www.fpcsiouxfalls.org

*Please sign-up by June 4th as any extra tickets will be donated to the local Foster Care Network

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

PW Guest Day

We came, we gathered, we laughed, and we “Stepped into Spring” together at the PW hosted Guest Day on March 25, 2023. Guest speaker Phyllis Schrag delighted us with her program, “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, We are Our Mothers After All.” She reminded us of all the funny sayings and sometimes not so funny rules we learned from our mothers. Phyllis had us in stitches of laughter. We enjoyed a delicious lunch created by Chef Anita and put together by her crew. The Covenant Center was decorated beautifully with “Tablescapes by Anja.” It took many willing hearts and hands to make this event a success. I am truly grateful to the dedicated Presbyterian Women of our church. Thank you to all who attended. I hope you enjoyed the day and left with a little “Spring in your Step!”

Lisa Tunge, PW Moderator



PW June Gathering

All women of our church family are invited to the PW June Gathering on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 1:30pm in Room 101 on the lower level. The new slate of leaders will be elected and installed. Pie and ice cream will be served and we’ll wrap up our 2022-2023 Presbyterian Women church year.



PENTECOST—SPECIAL OFFERINGS



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

The Pentecost Offering is one of our four PCUSA denominational offerings. 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. This special offering is split between national needs and local community needs. Forty percent of the Pentecost offering is retained by our congregation as we strive to make an impact in the lives of young people in Sioux Falls. This year the Mission Team has designated CASA as the recipient. CASA supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect. At the national level, 60% of the offering is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The Pentecost Offering will be collected May 28th, Pentecost Sunday. You can find a giving envelope in the pews.

GLORY HOUSE CAMPAIGN

Greg Sands, owner of Sands Wall Systems in Sioux Falls, SD, grew up in a broken home and turned to drinking and drugs as a teen to mask his pain. His journey from “teenager” to “today” has been filled with character-building incidents. Greg will join FPC during worship on Sunday morning, May 21, to share how his experience as a resident at Glory House helped put him on the path to success and how important its mission continues to be for other men and women.



LAUNDRY WITH LOVE

“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.

Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13

This is exactly what we will do on Tuesday, June 27 when once again we come alongside those who are struggling financially/homeless/hungry. We anticipate providing funds to run 90+ loads of laundry and to serve 120+ meals for Laundry with Love (LWL), a ministry of Church on The Street.

We will serve at The Laundromat, located at 701 N. Cliff Ave.

Thank you so very much for your continued support of the LWL program and for your continued generosity in putting bills and quarters in the LWL jar in the office! Through those donations we will take care of the laundry costs (which usually runs \$600-\$800 depending on how many come). The cost of the meal is provided by the Deacons’ Neighborhood Care Team funds.

Can you help on June 27? We need 9 volunteers to help serve the meal and help in other ways (3 people for each slot: 3:00-4:30, 4:30-6:00, 6:00-7:30). Please contact us if you are willing to help.

Thanks be to God for the LWL program and our opportunity to serve outside the walls of our building!

Anja and Don Hoekman

MAY CHILDREN’S OFFERING



The Mission Team of FPC has designated the Children's Offering for the month of May to go to Laundry With Love! Laundry With Love is a wonderful project that was begun in May of 2018 and is the ministry of Church on the Street. First Presbyterian Church is also active in this ministry serving twice a year, in June and October. This ministry provides free laundry for people in need. Individuals can sign up for doing laundry one week before on the Laundry With Love - A Ministry of Church

on The Street Facebook page. They are allowed three loads per person and up to six loads per household. Laundry detergent, dryer sheets, stain spray, and bleach are provided free of charge. In addition to being able to do their laundry, everyone is also invited to come and have a free meal. Please watch for more information as our time to serve in June approaches!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

FPC is passionate about helping others in need around the world! Through your generosity, our congregation raised:

Children’s Fish Offering Banks	202.32
Children’s Offering (March)	809.67
General Gifts	4,804.00
Total	5,815.99

YOU ARE INVITED

The **2023 Nominating Committee** is seeking candidates for Deacons (Board of Deacons) and Elders (Session).

Please prayerfully consider submitting your name or nominating someone else. To learn more, contact

Bobbi Lower at (605) 366-7309 or
bobbi.lower@yahoo.com

Debre Mihret Kidus Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Inauguration

Sunday May 7, 2023 at 12 pm
315 N. Summit Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57104

I am writing to thank FPC for supporting the **Veteran's Community Project** of Sioux Falls and personally invite you to our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our first five tiny homes. We hope to share this exciting milestone with you as we are one step closer to getting our first Veterans off the street.

Eric Gage
Executive Director , VCP of SF

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Tuesday, May 9
11:30 am-1 pm
376 N. Willow Avenue



THANK YOU

We are so grateful for your generosity and support. Your support is helping us to provide education and to share Good News with our brothers and sisters in Khor Wakow Village, South Sudan.

David Jal
one of the Lost Boys of Sudan
Khor Wakow Project

Thank you for your support of our Annual Book Sale. We no longer will be accepting books. This will be our last book sale.

Sue Hanneld
Library Team Leader

FPC ON THE MOVE

Edyanne Haafke
Helping Hand Assisted
Living
1000 Teakwood
Street #38B
Brandon, SD 57005

Marni Shaffer
Strand-Kjorsvig Living
Center
P.O. Box 195, Room 34,
801 Main Street,
Roslyn, SD 57261

Joseph & Ann Henkin
1540 S. 79th Street
Omaha, NE 68124

Lois Stanfield
5313 W. Pineridge Drive
Apt. 103
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Diane Helin	05/01	Mary Jane Howard	05/17
Cathy Winter	05/01	Dorothy Wentzel	05/17
Dan Wray	05/01	Becky Blades	05/18
Gale Wray	05/01	Pamela Ephgrave	05/20
Donna Miller	05/03	Katie Thompson	05/20
Shelly Simantel Horr	05/03	Becky Hruby	05/21
David Dickmeyer	05/04	Ken Schliinz	05/21
Ruth Parry	05/04	Rian Stovall	05/21
Jarrold Vink	05/04	Claire Gillaspey	05/23
Daisy Larson	05/05	Emily Hutchinson	05/23
Ron Mattice	05/07	Callen Knutson	05/23
Mary Tidwell	05/07	Ann Henkin	5/24
Robert Leech	05/08	Terry Keill	05/24
Tammy Otten	05/08	Brooklyn Rombough	05/25
Julia Lufkins	05/09	Cora Bukovich	05/26
Kerry		Lily Gulden	05/27
Koerselman-Griess	05/10	Carol Raker	05/27
John Ulmer	05/10	Matthew	
Ben Hruby	05/12	Amundson-Reiter	05/28
Patricia Merritt	05/12	Cal Hanneld	05/28
Renee Koupal	05/14	Judith Van De Berg	05/28
Bob Woltjer	05/14	Gus Boerigter	05/29
Colin Ingalls	05/15	Roger Wollman	05/29
Meredith DeCou	05/16	Calvin Adamson	05/30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary Jane Howard celebrates 91 years on May 17.

CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

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Phone

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Mailing List

[Sign up for mailing list](#)

To Donate

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