

IT'S WHAT WE DO



As you know our Deacons are called to serve FPC through “compassion and service.” Their responsibility is clearly laid out in the Book of Order (G-6.0402), which says, “It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both

within and beyond the community of faith.” Our Deacons serve our congregation (Congregational Care) and serve our neighbors (Neighborhood Care).

Let me give you a sampling of how Deacons have recently served our neighbors.

Through our Deacons, FPC, we: helped a neighbor of the church with rent, provided a comforter and sheets to a family in need in the community, provided beds and bedding for a family in need, purchased a sewing machine and supplies for a hospice patient.

Deacons purchased gift cards and hygiene products for Edison and Whittier middle schools in Sioux Falls. We bought bus passes and paid off some student lunches to help out McGovern Middle School students. We bought summer reading books for students at Laura Wilder. And members donated paperback books for children who are unhoused in the city.

We purchased Bingo prizes for an assisted living home, purchased hats, gloves and socks for the Homeless Vet Outreach program. We welcomed and supported newly arrived Ukrainian immigrants with food and Christmas gifts for their kids. We supported the Women’s Day of Service and supported a new education program on Pine Ridge Reservation. We supported a school in South Sudan started by a local resident, David Jul, and we provided

funds to purchase food for school students when flooding in that country caused food prices to soar. Each month, we deliver several laundry baskets full of kitchen supplies to Glory House, as a way for us to support and encourage those who are transitioning from the Glory House into their own apartments.

FPC provided volunteers to help with Food to You – 95 households were served including 307 people, 97 children and 41 seniors. A total of 3,308 pounds of food was given out during that one event. FPC continues to provide volunteers to help with Laundry with Love, a ministry of Church on the Street. We delivered boots and gloves to the homeless in Sioux Falls via Church on the Street. FPC members delivered food and Christmas presents to 43 families (184 people). On the second Saturday of each month, rain/snow or shine, members of FPC are in our church parking lot helping Feeding South Dakota distribute food to a long line of hungry neighbors. FPC Youth served at the Banquet, members served at Sallies Table (Salvation Army), and members made sandwiches for Lunch is Served.

We assisted the Union Gospel Mission with the purchase of lockers and other needs related to water damage they had last Christmas.

Peaceworks Sewing Ministry made and distributed items to: Teddy Bear Den, Glory House, Laundry with Love, Foster Care Closet, local Care Facilities, Church on the Street, and Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Center.

Thank you FPC for being the visible face of Christ to those in need. And thank you for continuing to see the visible face of Christ in those we serve. It’s what we do.

On this journey with you!

Pastor Pat

PRESBYOUTH

Welcome back to the PBY program year. We were excited to welcome the students back with some fun events.

August Events included a #PhotoFind and a Speaker and Float night.

We are so very excited to welcome Brighton, our new Youth Director, sometime in November and to continue to offer Wednesday Night meals to the youth.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL Help Needed: We would love to have help with Wednesday Night meals. Here is what we are looking for . . . a meal leader for each Wednesday night that we are serving a meal. Jen DeGroot has the schedule. You can lead it by yourself, with your family, your ministry team, small group, etc. You only have to do one Wednesday, or you can sign up for a couple. Your choice!!

Meal Leader will . . . choose the meal (we can help), purchase the meal (we will reimburse the cost!!), prepare, serve, and clean-up the meal. Time for dinner is 5:45-6:20ish. This helps the leaders and youth so they can nourish their bodies with food and then head to youth group to nourish their minds with faith!

Please call Jen 605-261-3294 to get signed up!!

Love & Peace - Youth Ministry



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Following a review of spending categories, Session voted to approve an operating budget of approximately \$900,000 for FY 2023-2024. This budget retains all current staff positions. Details will be discussed at the upcoming annual meeting.

Brighton Larson will start as the Director of Youth Ministry on November 6th.

Director of Facilities Jacob Forstein and Paul Gillaspey presented items from the Facilities Team. The Session authorized the repair of the fire panel and associated strobe lights by Johnson Controls Fire Division, rectifying the unpermitted, incorrect work done by Johnson Controls Fire Division during the original installation. The Session concluded that pursuing additional legal action on this matter would not be worthwhile. The repairs will bring the system up to code at little or no cost to the Church. Session noted that moving to a different vendor would require a substantial expenditure in the

short term, although a switch in the next 3-5 years may still be advisable.

The Facilities Team reported on the prioritized list of repairs and upgrades the building will likely need in the next five to ten years. The estimated costs range from \$200,000 to \$450,000. Most of the repairs involve the HVAC systems. The Facilities Team assessment is that the building envelope, electrical, and plumbing systems are not currently in need of substantial repairs.

Elder John Ulmer reported that templates are now in place for producing monthly expense reports for Teams.

Finally, Elder Chisty Nicolaisen reviewed Communion serving, and Session heard an initial report on the data collected in the Congregational Care survey.

Eric Wells,
Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Saturday, September 16, members of the women's circles were introduced to this year's study series, "Sacred Encounters - The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts" by Olive Mahabir. Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser was the presenter. New leaders were installed, and light refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by those in attendance.

Thursday, October 19, circles will meet for the first lesson, "Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter." Please join us!

For more information contact our moderator, Lisa Tunge at 605-403-4505.

Connie Tucker,
PW Vice - Moderator

PROJECT CAR



Do you need a ride to church, a church activity, or to a healthcare appointment? FPC has partnered with Project Car for rides to church and church activities. Project Car provides safe rides using a reliable community of volunteers to help people with rides at no charge to you!

For more information or to arrange rides please contact Jana Phelps in Congregational Care at FPC @ 605-336-2886

DEACON HIGHLIGHTS

So, what are the Deacons up to? We're gearing up for the Angel Tree this Christmas with more details to come! What is a Glory House Basket? They are baskets filled with items that help people who are ready to move into their own homes. An action we took was to donate money to Empire Mental Health Support. Stay tuned as we have more plans to come! An opportunity for FPC to work together to help others is with Food to You scheduled for October 26th. Watch the "In the Know" emails for more information.

Come One, Come All to the Potluck Fall Fellowship Brunch on Sunday November 5, 2023! Join us following worship for fellowship and a fabulous meal prepared by non-other than all of US together! Where? In the Covenant Center. When? Immediately following worship!

Peri Erdmann

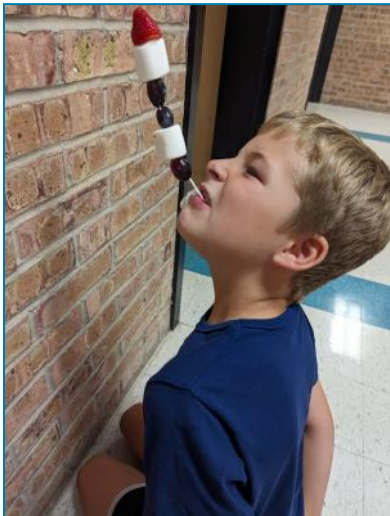
Make a difference; be a volunteer driver!

Project Car relies entirely on volunteer drivers to help others get to their medical appointments or to church activities. Volunteering is easy. They provide the car, the insurance, and the fuel. You sign-up for the times that work best for you and your schedule, then bring your smile and desire to help others! You must be between the ages of 25-79 with a clean driving record for the past 3 years to be a volunteer driver.

To learn more, visit their website at

ProjectCarsf.org/volunteer or call Jana Phelps in Congregational Care here at FPC.

We do FUN stuff



During our fellowship and game night at **Kid's Club** our students played animal games with a lesson of Noah and the ark. Kids made "animal enrichment" snacks and had to work hard to eat the snack without hands!

The CEREAL bar at our **Sunday School Kick-Off** was super yummy! Whipped cream and sprinkles really make cereal exciting!



PRESENTATION OF BIBLES



Declan Larson, Aiden Rokusek, Brayden Kooima, Eliza Cochran, and Katelyn Van Oort received the gift of Adventure NIV Bibles on Sunday, September 24.

Nova Krause and Harper Tilk also received Bibles this fall.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

- Wed. 10/4 Corn Maze at Heartland Corn Maze 6:30 pm
- Sunday 10/8 *NO Sunday School*
- Wed. 10/11 Children's Christmas Program Practice begins
Wednesday nights 6:30 pm
- Sunday 10/15 Annual Congregation Meeting 10:30-11:15
ALL kids invited to KidMin Room during meeting
- Sunday 10/29 Heritage (Reformation) Sunday:
Kids join worship processional
- Sunday 11/26 *NO Sunday School*
- Sunday 12/3 Advent Workshop at 10:40
- Sunday 12/10 **Children's Christmas Program** (*NO Sunday School*)
*Families are welcome to join Adult Education showing
"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"*
- Sunday 12/24 *NO Sunday School*
Stellar Christmas Service at 9:30 am



Back-to-school bingo is a popular annual tradition. Kids of all ages love the fellowship and winning fun school supply prizes!

FACILITIES UPDATE

Fire Alarm System: We take the safety of our congregation seriously, and as part of our commitment to maintaining a secure environment. We've recently conducted thorough inspections and tests to ensure its functionality. Additionally, we have been working closely with a contractor who will be providing a replacement for the strobes and horns within the system, so that the church continues a path on following local and national code. We are delighted to share that this upgrade comes at no cost to the church. This enhancement will further enhance our safety measures, ensuring that everyone can worship in peace.

HVAC System: We understand that comfort during worship is crucial, and we've been addressing some HVAC concerns, particularly with cooling in the sanctuary. Our team is actively working to improve the cooling system to create a more comfortable environment for all. We have also initiated minor AC repairs to ensure consistent and efficient climate control throughout the facility.

Organizing and Storage: Organizing our spaces is an ongoing project, and we are making significant progress. We have dedicated efforts to streamline storage areas and mechanical rooms, optimizing our space to serve our growing congregation more effectively. These improvements will help us maintain and access important equipment and resources efficiently.

Landscaping and Irrigation: We are excited to share that we have begun the process of irrigating areas around the

church with the goal of establishing lush green grass. This initiative will enhance the overall aesthetics of our grounds, providing a welcoming environment for everyone who visits our church.

As we continue to work on these projects, we appreciate your patience and support. These improvements are made possible through your generosity and dedication to our church community. We are committed to creating a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to get involved in any of these projects, please feel free to reach out to me. Your input and assistance are always welcome and appreciated. ***Facilities Ministries Team meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm.***

Thank you for being an essential part of our church family. Together, we will continue to strengthen our faith, our community, and our beloved facility.

**Jacob Forstein,
Director of Facilities**



New irrigation sprinkler!

DOOR-LOCKING POLICY

As we continue to come together for various events, meetings, and group activities, it is crucial that we prioritize the safety and security of our church premises, particularly when gatherings occur outside our normal business hours. We are writing to remind all congregation members and group organizers of a vital policy aimed at safeguarding our church facility and those within it.

Lock and Secure Doors When No Staff or Session Member is Present: Whenever you are organizing an event or meeting that falls outside of our regular operating hours, please remember that if there is no staff member or Session member present, it is imperative that the doors to the building remain locked and closed at all times. This measure is in place to ensure the security of our church and the individuals within it.

Designate a Representative for Building Access: To facilitate access for your group members and attendees, we kindly request that you designate a responsible

representative from your group who will be responsible for letting individuals into the building and monitoring access. This representative should arrive prior to the start of your event and remain near the entrance to ensure that only authorized individuals gain entry.

Prevent Unwanted Access: It is the responsibility of the designated representative to prevent any unwanted individuals from accessing the building. This includes politely but firmly denying entry to anyone who is not a member of your group or an approved guest. Please exercise discretion and be aware of unfamiliar faces to maintain the safety and comfort of everyone present.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can uphold a secure and welcoming environment for all who gather in our church. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to the well-being of our congregation. Thank you for your dedication to our faith community.



Pumpkins are a staple of fall. They are used to make all kinds of foods. They are carved and shaped. They are set on doorsteps as seasonal décor. But pumpkins can give us advice. What kind of advice?

Be well-rounded, get plenty of sunshine, give thanks for life's bounty, have a thick skin, keep growing, be outstanding in your field, and think big! (Imar Shamir)

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:11

Take a lesson from the pumpkin.

Membership Ministry Team

ASSISTANCE WITH MEDICARE PART D

Pamela Ephgrave, a trained volunteer with SHIINE, can assist you at FPC on Tuesdays, October 17, October 24, or October 31st between 9AM-4PM. Call the office at 336-2886 for an appointment.

Please note that even if the premium has not changed, formularies and coverage of current medications may be different than last year, so a check-up for options may save you money. **You must bring your current prescription medication list or bottles, Medicare card, and medicare.gov user name and password (if available).**



Recently, Rowan and Riley Papke visited Robbie Robsahm at Bethany Nursing Home to deliver his prayer quilt from FPC. Robbie was delighted with the visit and the prayer quilt!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The DeGroots are seen regularly in church sitting together as a family—Phil, an agricultural banker at First National Bank, Jen, a nurse practitioner with Sanford Pulmonary, and children Sam, a 10th-grader, Sophie, an 8th-grader and Sydney, a 5th-grader.

Phil and Jen met at SDSU their senior year and were engaged six months later. They are long-time supporters of SDSU football and basketball. Go Jacks!

Jen, daughter of Dave and Mary Tidwell, was born into First Pres and has been attending ever since. Phil grew up in Iowa in a Reformed Church and started attending FPC after the couple got married and moved to Sioux Falls. They attend church as a family and enjoy worshipping together. They even usher together.

Both Phil and Jen have been active in the church. They taught Sunday School in the kindergarten room for many years, and Phil has served as both a Deacon and Elder. Jen went on mission trips as a member of the youth group growing up to Atlanta, Pine Ridge, and Mexico. In 2022 she accompanied the youth trip to Puerto Rico along with Sam. The DeGroot kids have enjoyed the children's and youth activities including Wednesday night activities, the Christmas program, and VBS.

Hobbies include watching their kids in various activities. Sam is involved in football and basketball (his passion). Sophie has done gymnastics and is now in volleyball and

track. Sydney participates in three different dance classes. Phil also farms land with his brothers near Canton, SD.

They enjoy attending SDSU football games, spending time at Lake Benton with grandparents and extended family, spending time with Phil's family on the family farm in Iowa, and traveling together. They have traveled many places including Alaska, Hawaii, Colorado, Florida, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Utah, and Mexico.

This family enjoys being together, and being a part of a community of faith is important to them all.

Judy Rops



AUGUST CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Our congregation generously raised \$995.45 for The Salvation Army After School Program through the Children's Offering this past August. Twice a week, students receive homework help, learn golf skills from First Tee South Dakota, learn music skills, practice character building, and enjoy a meal.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves.

The local portion of this offering (25%) will be shared with **Empire Mental Health Support here in Sioux Falls**, whose mission is to work toward empathy and equal rights among our mentally ill citizens and their families by working with the justice system, lawmakers, and leaders. Learn more at empirementalhealthsupport.org

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of the four Special Offerings of PCUSA. It is collected September 3-October 1.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

OCTOBER CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The October Children's Offering is coordinating with the Peace & Global Witness offering to support the **Empire Mental Health Support** organization as they work to raise funds for an executive director for their important work in Sioux Falls.



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, October 24 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 donating 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 October 24? We need 9 volunteers to help serve the meal and help in other ways (3 people for each slot: 3:15-4:30, 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!

Don and Anja Hoekman

PEACEWORKS BLANKET WORKDAY

Peaceworks volunteers from the church and community came together to cut, fringe, and then tie Breast Cancer Blankets for Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Center. For three weeks before the Saturday tying event, ladies came to cut and prepared the material so we could sit and tie the blankets, on the 23rd of September. A total of twenty-six women have helped with this project either taking blankets home to tie, cutting blankets, or being part of the group on Saturday to have conversation and fellowship while tying the blankets. Thanks to all these dedicated volunteers, we will be delivering nineteen blankets to Sanford before the first of October. A special thank you goes to Royal Neighbors of America for a grant of two hundred dollars that helped to buy the material for this project.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joe Thompson celebrates 93 years on October 26.

Margaret Jones celebrates 98 years on October 29.



ON THE MOVE

JoAnn Klingbile
2500 W. Bethel Pl Apt. 111
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

FPC LIBRARY

Summer vacations are over! Now is the time to stop in at FPC's Library for a good read or two. Choose a novel, a devotional, an audio book, or a DVD. The choice is yours. If you would like assistance, call or text Sue Han-neld at 605-310-6810. We can set up a time to meet on Sunday morning or another day of your convenience. Just come in and look around. Hope to see you soon.

Happy reading!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Becky Hillestad	10/01	Camron Amundson	10/20
Delilah Hruby	10/01	Robert Elliott	10/20
Jack Gulden	10/08	Jeremy Blue	10/22
Sue Harsh	10/09	LaRae Elliott	10/22
Lynnette Olson	10/09	Eleanor Harle	10/22
Sue Tower	10/09	Heather Knutson	10/22
Lori Rypkema	10/10	Andy McQuistan	10/23
Jodie Thorson	10/10	Elinor Parry	10/23
Parker Vink	10/10	Jared Klinkenborg	10/24
Zeke Mosher	10/11	Corey Vilhauer	10/24
Charles Ostrowski	10/11	Brenna Vink	10/24
Jadeyn Otten	10/11	Ellen Hamilton	10/25
Maya Parry	10/11	Sue Holmes	10/26
Kym Christiansen	10/13	Joseph Thompson	10/26
Jacob Newcomb	10/13	Cindy Bailey	10/28
Alyssa Ullrich	10/13	Kayden Dykstra	10/28
Andrew Unruh	10/13	Josh Olson	10/28
Denzel Busick	10/16	James Tucker	10/28
Bryson Esser	10/16	Margaret Jones	10/29
Deb Thoelke	10/16	Melissa Nielsen	10/30
Kalette Hutchinson	10/17	Lori Rickenbaugh	10/30
Cadence Jorgensen	10/18	Emily Wells	10/30
Cash Martin	10/18	Suzannah Spencer	10/31

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

October 1 – World Communion Day On this Sunday, we join with congregations around the world celebrating our unity through the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup. We will also collect the Peace and Global Witness Offering, one of our four denominational special offerings. Our portion of this offering is designated to support Sioux Empire Mental Health Awareness.

October 15 – During worship we will remember those members who passed away this last year. Stay for the Congregational Annual Meeting when the Elders will present the 2023-2024 budget. During the meeting, kids will have special time with Children's Director Kathie Douma and middle school helpers!

October 29 – Reformation Sunday/Heritage Sunday This Sunday begins with bagpipes and a procession of clergy and choir and children. During this service we will recognize our long-time members.



CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

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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>