

EPHESIANS, DISCERNMENT, AND FPC IN THE CITY



As we enter the month of September, FPC is buzzing with lots of activity!

In worship, we are in the middle of a sermon series following Paul's letter to the Ephesians. If you want to better understand the connectedness between Christ and the Church, this is

the letter for you! Education classes for all ages begin this month. The Sanctuary Choir and Bell Chorale are both gathering again.

The leaders of our church continue to guide us forward with a steady hand. Session continues to gather data as we discern and vision how best to be the church for the next 5-10 years. This includes looking at future staffing and programming needs, along with how to maintain our facility inside and out. The Deacons continue to serve our congregation, wherever we may be, and continue to serve our neighbors, wherever they may be.

Looking to FPC's engagement with our neighbors throughout the city, I want to lift up two specific ways FPC is the visible face of Christ in the city. First, FPC is an Ecumenical Partner with Church on the Street. Church on the Street is a ministry with the unhoused in Sioux Falls and is a worshipping community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Being an Ecumenical Partner means FPC comes alongside the ELCA and Church on the Street to engage in opportunities to minister together as we strive to give visibility to the unity that exists in Christ. FPC has a seat on the Steering Committee for Church on the Street and many of our members have experienced the joy of serving at Laundry with Love and engaging in monthly worship services. Check out the Church on the Street website: <https://churchonthestreetsf.org/>.

Second, FPC is a founding member of the Eat Well Sioux Falls (EWSF) Mobile Market. What began as "a crazy idea" for a mobile grocery store in the food desert areas of Sioux Falls has now become a reality. FPC was there in the beginning to help encourage this "crazy idea" conceived from a member of First United Methodist Church who also served on the Steering Committee for

Church on the Street. FPC has a seat on the EWSF Mobile Market Advisory Board and former Deacon moderator, John Boerigter, serves as a vital member of the Advisory Board, faithfully representing FPC in this new citywide endeavor. First



Presbyterian and First United Methodist are the only churches on the Advisory Board and serve alongside Church on the Street, Fair Market/Empower, Augustana Research Institute, Active Generations, Sioux Falls Food Co-Op, Feeding South Dakota, Food Security Action Team, and the City of Sioux Falls Health Department. Look for the Mobile Market to begin serving neighborhoods in need (hopefully this month) and check out the website at: <https://siouxfallsthive.org/eatwell/>. If you would like to volunteer to help, go to the website listed above, and scroll down to "How Can I Get Involved" for ways to volunteer with the Mobile Market!

God is at work within our walls and around the world. And God invites us to join God's mission to love and heal our world. We do this in whatever ways we can, wherever we are. Thanks be to God!

On this journey with you!
Pastor Pat

WHAT WOULD YOUR LETTER SAY?



Pastor Pat has been doing a sermon series on Paul’s letters to the Ephesians, which got me to thinking! What kind of faith-filled encouragement, guidance, love and instruction would I write in a letter to other Christians and non-Christians to energize them in their faith journey today? What lengths

would I go through to get my letter out to others like Paul did?

We know that besides Ephesus, Paul also wrote letters to the churches in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica somewhere between the years 48 A.D - 62 A.D. We also know that Paul wrote several of these letters while he was in prison. Can you imagine being in prison and threatened with death for your faith, yet still feeling so passionate about your faith and your message that you just had to continue spreading the Word and instructing the churches all around you? He felt that what he had to say was important enough to write it down and send it along to make its journey so he could continue bringing others back to the Christian faith.

When Paul authored his letters he was writing plain, ordinary letters to regular people in cities all around trying to deal with the environments they were presently living in. Paul wanted to address the theological issues that were amiss within the churches and their communities, but Paul wasn’t doing that as much as he was giving advice and instruction and encouragement for living a faith-filled life for God. Paul provided significant teaching on peace, salvation, grace, reconciliation, equipping others, and the Christian identity in such a way as not to offend but to truly teach them through the gospels teachings. As you read through Ephesians, you can pick out what I call basic master phrases of instruction and encouragement from Paul. Phrases like “we were chosen.” “We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.” “Bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth.” “We are God’s accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.” “Lead a life worthy of your calling.” “You who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” “I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.” “His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until

we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God’s Son.” “Instead, renew the thinking in your mind by the Spirit and clothe yourself with the new person created according to God’s image in justice and true holiness.” “Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers.” “I pray that God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, will give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you.”

In a conversation with our own Lois Merritt, an extremely faith-filled woman whom I admired, just days before her passing, I asked her “Lois, how has the church changed in the 71 years that you have been a member of this church” and she told me “you know, Jana, the church never changes, it’s the people that change the church, and I’ve known a lot of people that have come and gone in their faith, but the church has always been right here (and she pointed to her heart) instructing me on how to be!” Such wise words that will stick with me for a lifetime! But with that in mind, I want you to imagine that you, like Paul, are the author of a letter to your family, your church, your community, your state, your nation. What might a spiritual letter written by you look like? What words would you use to energize others in their faith? What would you say that might bring others back to Christ? What would you say about how your faith grew and who helped you to do that? What kind of religious instruction would you give to the younger generations? What would your letter say, and how far would you send it?

Ephesians 3:8 God gave his grace to me, the least of all God’s people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles.

Grace and peace to each of you,
Jana Phelps
 Congregational Care Coordinator

ADULT EDUCATION

Our Adult Education team will kick-off classes on Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 am. Brochures with class topics and schedules will be available in worship.



AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At the July meeting, the Session welcomed new Elders Meredith DeCou, Amy Engebretson, and Tom Nicholson. The Session rejoiced over the approval of three baptisms and 11 new congregation members.

Session recognized Noah Amundson-Reiter for diligently helping with the elderly members coming into services.

The fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023 giving was \$757,033. For FY 2021-2022, the total was \$808,593. The FY 2022-2023 giving was approximately 9% below the yearly average of the previous four fiscal years. A draft budget was presented based upon current personnel costs and requests from ministry teams. The proposed budget was discussed and requires additional revision before adoption.

An update of the long-term renters was presented to the Session, including updated pricing effective July 1, 2023. Anticipated annual revenue from these contracts is approximately \$48,000.

Director of Facilities, Jacob Forstein, also presented several other building-related items. The Session authorized expenditures for several repairs, including the Sanctuary projectors and HVAC items in the Kingdom Kids and Sunday School areas.

Rev. Hammond presented a quick overview of the transition planning. One initial step will be a survey about Congregational Care needs to be sent out during August. The survey will be online, but there will be additional response methods available.

**Eric Wells,
Clerk of Session**

AUGUST DEACON HIGHLIGHTS

The Deacons met on Thursday, Aug 3. We began the year with a meal and fellowship. Much of the discussion centered around who we are and what we are called to do as Deacons. We are called to serve. The ministry and Gifts of Deacons and the Responsibilities are found in the Book of Order G-6.0401 & G-6.0402. Discussions centered around the Congregational Care Survey, Project Car (which

we chose to join and make a donation.) On the schedule is a joint meeting between the Session & the Deacons in September and coming up is an All-Church Brunch on Sunday, Nov. 5th following worship. Be sure to ask any Deacon what's going on!

**Peri Erdmann
Moderator of Deacons**

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Presbyterian Women (PW) will begin the program year in September with an introduction of the study to ALL interested women on Saturday, September 16. Watch for those details coming soon. PLEASE consider joining your church sisters in small group study and fellowship this year. Circles are small groups of women who have found a convenient time to meet on the third Thursday of each month.

	<u>Meeting time/location</u>	<u>Circle Leader</u>
CHARITY	6:30 pm Lounge	Lois Stanfield
FAITH	9:30 am Room 205 and homes	Alvina Van Veldhuizen
GRACE	1:00 pm Room 207	Ruth Parry & Angie Nelson
HOPE	9:30 am Lounge	Ruth Metcalf & Connie Tucker
JOY	12:00 (noon) Lounge	Pat Boelman & Judy Rops

Call our Moderator, Lisa Tunge at 605-403-4505 for any information you may need. We hope to see you soon!

Connie Tucker, PW Vice - Moderator



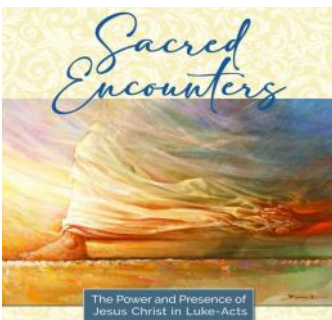
YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT THE PW FALL GATHERING!

Room 101 on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser will introduce the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, "*Sacred Encounters-The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*".

This delightful study is a great way to learn all about it! Enjoy fellowship and light refreshments.

Call the office for reservations by Wed., Sept. 13th 605-336-2886



LITURGICAL DANCE CAMP 2023

- 18 children and youth dancers divided into two groups
- 8 hours of practice
- Choreographed by Katie Schultz



BACKPACK BLESSING 2023



During our annual Back-to-School Backpack Blessing, we present prayer pillows to kids entering Kindergarten to mark and celebrate this milestone.

Pictured is Julia Huberg proudly hugging her pillow with Kathie Douma. Also entering Kindergarten this year:

Kolbie Dykstra, Weston Gulden, Lorelei Halberstadt, Samantha Lower and Avery Vink. Extra special thanks to Hilda Bosch for making a wide variety of pillows so each student can choose their favorite design.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE KICK-OFF

Wednesday, September 13

End of Summer Tie-Dye Party 6:30:30

Kids will make a tie-dye shirt to keep (Wear appropriate clothing!)

Parents are encouraged to participate with your kids.

Don't forget to turn in your Children's Ministries fall registration form. Forms are available at the Welcome Desk or the church website and are required before your child is allowed to participate. *Completed forms can be mailed to the church office, placed in the offering plate or turned in to Kathie Douma.*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

Thursday 9/7	Kingdom Kids Orientation Night
Sunday 9/10	Sunday School Kick-Off 10:40
Monday 9/11	Kingdom Kids Begins
Wed. 9/13	Wednesday Night Live Kick-Off
	End of Summer Tie-Dye Party 6:30
Sunday 10/17	Regular Sunday School Classes begin
Sunday 10/24	Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders
Wed. 10/4	Corn Maze at Heartland Corn Maze 6:30 pm
Wed. 10/11	Children's Christmas Program practice 6:30 pm

TRANSCONTINENTAL BICYCLE JOURNEY!

On August 3, 2023, I and 5 of my friends finished an adventure that previously we had only dreamed of doing. 73 days, 4,000 miles and untold adventures. There were moments of greatness, there were moments of pain, and there were moments of deep reflection. We had an amazing chance to see the tiniest sliver of this giant nation. Our journey began on the Olympic Peninsula of



Washington way out at the Pacific Ocean. The water was cold, and the waves were strong. It was a body of water so large I could not see the other side. It was awe-inducing as much

as it was fearful. I ended up picking up a couple rocks along the shore. I figured I would carry them across. One to throw and one to take home. Through the Cascades of Washington and over the Rockies of Idaho and Montana those rocks traveled. It was hard in the mountains, and I probably didn't get as much training before the trip as I should have. I crashed a total of four times over the trip. Two of which came on the same day descending from the continental divide. The literal high of crossing the continental divide came down into a crash that had me scraped on my legs and elbow and sitting next to my bike after a rainstorm screaming "I'm done!" Somehow, I found a way to pick myself back up again and carry forward. Across the basins of Montana and the badlands of North Dakota. A quick pit stop at the Medora Musical was perhaps one of the highlights of the summer.

We then carried across the great plains of Minnesota and Wisconsin before zig zagging the great lakes through Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. A trip through the produce section awaited us in Ontario, Canada where we rolled past fields of cabbage and tomatoes, orchards of cherries and peaches, and some new things I'd never seen in person, including tobacco and ginseng. Back to the US and across New York via the historic Erie Canal. Then it was one final push up and over the thick woods of the Appalachian Mountains through Vermont and New Hampshire all the way to yet another body of water so big I could not see



the other side. We did it! I did it. The ocean felt much different this time. The sun was out, temps were warm, and the waves were welcoming. I also felt different this time. I had achieved something I had only dreamed of just a few years before. There was excitement, elation even. But as I swished my feet in the water, I found myself with a tinge of grief because it was over. In that moment I realized the journey was just as incredible as it was reaching the finish line. I thought about all the moments of grace we had received. The times when I pulled off the road to take a picture right before a semi came whizzing past. The time when I broke my chain just a block before our lunch stop. The time when one of our crew only had to wait an hour to go get a new bike because friends were coming to see us for the week. The moments were many indeed. Truly I think that one of the most surprising things about my trip was just how far our story had traveled and how much of an impact we had. So many people messaged me online saying they were praying for me. So many mentioned to my family they were thinking of us. Grace and blessings may not always be overt, but when one takes the time to truly reflect on them, they become overwhelmingly bountiful. With all these thoughts and more I threw that rock into the ocean and found one more to take back home. Then it was time to come home. I was welcomed with such great generosity from my family, neighbors, and friends with hugs, banners, and signs. Now it's time to start thinking of what the next adventure may be. Whether it be big or small, I'm sure it'll be amazing.

Matt Cook

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. Psalm 23: 1-3a

It's September and that means back to school, back to church, back to Sunday School and Adult Education, back to choir and bell practices, and back to other routine schedules both at home and at church. May the Shepherd lead us in whatever we do. "As we stay close to our Shepherd, we discover safe pastures and living waters. Walking with Jesus is not merely a good decision, it's the best decision we can ever make, for the dividends of this relationship are eternal." (Amaryllis Sanchez Wohiever, MD)

Prayer: Help me remember I am your hands and feet in my school, my workplace, my home, my church, my community and my world. Amen

Membership Ministry Team

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Shirley and Cindy Bailey. They are mother and daughter. They are often together. Rarely seen without smiles on their faces. They are a joy to be around. A Christian example to us all.

Shirley and Cindy moved from New Jersey to Sioux Falls in 1970 and joined First Presbyterian Church that December. In addition, Shirley has three other daughters (living in Rapid City, Kansas City area and Washington state), five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Shirley served as the Thursday morning office volunteer for over 20 years. That alone is amazing. She has been an active member of the Prayer Partner's ministry. She also served as Clerk of Session, was a member of Sanctuary Choir and a Deacon.

But her most recent ministry at 97 years of age, is her card ministry. She said, "I needed a way to serve God and the church from my humble home. So, I came up with a birthday card ministry. I get the birthday list from the monthly *Messenger* and use the church pictorial directory to identify



people. Then I try to get the cards mailed on the correct day." That's where Cindy helps out.

Many of you may have been a recipient of a birthday greeting from Shirley (and Cindy).

She said, "I have received a number of thank you's from rather surprised recipients. What a blessing to me. My card list has now expanded to those who need special prayers. Like my #2 daughter said, you often get what you give."

Cindy has been the office manager for the Presbytery of South Dakota since April, 2016. She says, "It's basically a one-person office since the other staff members work remotely. I am responsible for maintaining the Presbytery database, processing deposits, preparing various mailings, organizing meetings, processing the annual Planning Calendar order and a variety of other projects in addition to the day-to-day operation of the office."

"But my greatest personal joy is being a part of the local therapy dog chapter where I am currently director. Our dog, Annie (a terrier mix,) and I are involved in a reading program where we go to the library one time per week and children sign up to read to her. This program has been very successful in building confidence for young readers (children are more likely to read to a dog than an adult). In fact, Annie is so popular she currently has a waiting list for her 15-minute sessions!"



Cindy says her greatest accomplishment was testifying before the 2020 State Legislature on legislation allowing therapy dogs in court to support children or developmentally disadvantaged individuals if or when they might have to testify.

Cindy has a long history of involvement in member activities and offices and mission projects at FPC.

Shirley and Cindy are two members you may want to get to know better for the love and support they offer to everyone at FPC. Their tag on all emails says it all—*in a world when you can be anything, be kind.*

Judy Rops

LAUNDRY WITH LOVE

*“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.
Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13*

It is simply awesome that the First Presbyterian Church congregation steps up twice a year to provide funds and volunteer support so that our neighbors who are struggling financially, homeless, and hungry can do their laundry and have a good meal.

On Tuesday, October 24 from 3:30-7:30 we will once again serve at The Laundromat located at 701 N. Cliff Ave. Look for the call for volunteers in the next Messenger and in October “In The Know.” Thank you!

Don and Anja Hoekman

LUNCH IS SERVED

Can you help? First Presbyterian Church members have the opportunity to be *The Visible Face of Christ* on Monday, September 25th at 5:30 pm packing simple brown bag lunches for **Lunch Is Served, Inc** at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1600 E. 12th St. Fifteen volunteers are needed for approximately 1-2 hours and there are jobs for ages 7 to 97.

Lunch is something many of us take for granted. Food, and especially lunch is a luxury for women and men struggling to break the bonds of poverty and hunger with their paychecks committed to basic living expenses of rent and utilities. **Lunch Is Served, Inc.**, has the unique mission of providing nutritious mid-day meals to the working poor in Sioux Falls by delivering sack lunches to local non-profit partners and day labor offices for distribution. First Presbyterian Church is one of many churches and organizations who also support **Lunch Is Served, Inc.** with financial gifts. **Please call the church (605-336-2886) to volunteer Monday, September 25th.** Contact Angie Nelson (605-336-8173) with questions.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING SEPTEMBER CHILDREN’S OFFERING

Empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves.

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

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.

PW MISSION COFFEE

To the FPC Congregation:

Thanks to your generous support of our Mission Coffee, \$2,232 will be given to **In His Steps: Pathways of Peace** to assist them in providing women in Palestine with access to mammograms and follow-up care, if needed, as well as educational classes. IHS also strives to support research and promote collaboration among doctors, nurses and other healthcare personnel. Many lives are being saved through this organization’s work.

**Shirley McCallum and Pat Boelman,
PW Mission Coordinators**

On August 8th, 2023, and more than 3500 miles from Sioux Falls, SD, residents of Lahaina, Maui had their lives changed forever. In just a few short hours, a perfect fire-storm destroyed Lahaina, once the capital of Hawaii, its buildings and its history. With a population of more than 9,000, more than a 100 lives have been lost and the number continues to grow with an additional 1000 or more people that are still missing. The majority of the structures destroyed were residential, leaving an estimated 4500 people in need of shelter. These people have lost virtually everything they owned except the clothes they were wearing. This disaster is why the Children’s Offering for September is designated for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help with the relief efforts for Maui, Hawaii** for the long-term recovery. The emergency needs include, but not limited to food, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene, medicine, and other needs.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

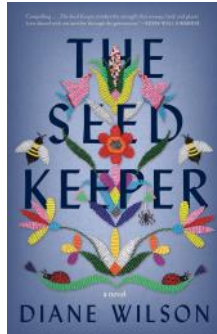


ON THE MOVE

Karleen Abarr
10404 S.W. Waterway Lane
Port St. Lucia, Florida 34897

PRESBY READERS

ONE BOOK SOUTH DAKOTA EVENT
"The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson
(Provided by the South Dakota
Humanities Council)
Discussion Leader Lori Walsh
September 14, at 7 pm.



Peaceworks Four junior high students were able to come and work on their sewing skills in July. Each girl made a Foster Care bag to be donated. Then we made a bone shaped neck pillow and finally they made cosmetic bags to carry with them to school. The cosmetic bags consisted of sewing strips of material together, adding batting and doing some easy quilting skills. They were

very pleased with their final project.

Our adult seamstress produced four dozen Foster Care Bags, Microwave Bowl holders for Glory House; and bibs and burp cloths for the Teddy Bear Den.

In September, we will be tying blankets for Sanford Breast Cancer Center. This will be done on Saturday, September 23rd from 1-4 pm in the Peaceworks room and hallway. Anyone who would like to help cut the fringe on blankets before the 23rd please call Pat Boelman 605-940-3091. We will arrange a convenient time.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gary Hoekman	09/01	Henrik Boerigter	09/16
Kate Mickey	09/01	Hosea Cochran	09/16
Mary Braithwaite	09/02	Lyndsey Rausch	09/17
Ariel Engebretson	09/02	Kendall Van Oort	09/18
Madison Johnson	09/02	Cinda Kogel	09/19
Jennifer DeGroot	09/03	Bobbi Lower	09/19
Connie Tucker	09/04	Beckham Ingalls	09/20
Kristin Anderson	09/05	Matthew Mosher	09/20
Zachary Horr	09/05	Jennifer Slater-Unruh	09/20
Justice Martin	09/05	Mike Thielke	09/20
William Unruh	09/05	Sophie DeGroot	09/21
Janice Welsh	09/05	Hanna Hruby	09/21
Phyllis Harmsen	09/06	Michelle Kooima	09/21
Ann Weflen	09/06	Kay Olson	09/21
Arla Peterson	09/07	Lawrence Opp	09/21
Connie McMacken	09/08	Melvina Newman	09/22
Jean Nicholson	09/08	Scott Henry	09/23
Mindy Braithwaite	09/09	Donna Meinen	09/26
Peri Erdmann	09/09	Gayle Nelson	09/26
Linda Rasmussen	09/10	John Juul	09/27
Craig Rosenberg	09/10	Melinda Tibbetts	09/27
Linda Bauer	09/11	Tom Adamson	09/28
Zoe Larson	09/12	John Boerigter	09/29
Michael McCallum	09/12	Katie Dwire	09/30
Marlene Sinning	09/13	Cathy Ostrowski	09/30
		Melva Roos	09/30

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>