

## STAR WORDS WITH PASTOR PAT



Do you remember back in January when I asked you to pick a star word off the back wall of the sanctuary? I asked you to pick a word and then reflect on that word during the year. For all of 2024, this is your word. I asked you to ponder what significance this word might have in your life and how God might be speaking to you through that simple message. Remember?

In just the opening months of the year, a number of you have shared amazing stories about the significance of your Star Word in your life. One person received the word “Discern” and that is exactly what their life has been about so far this year! One person laughingly received the word “Listen” at such a time they were asked to serve on an important committee. The word “Integrity” is leading a couple people to finish current tasks

well. The words “Radiate” and “Sparkle” have brought new awareness for approaching each new day. The word “Affirm” has allowed one person to try to notice at least one thing during the day that they can affirm or that affirms them. And my Star Word – “Family” – well, that word just warms my heart every day.

How about you? How is your Star Word leading you so far this year. Are you taking the time to pause and reflect on your word? Have you pondered the significance of this word in your life? How might God be speaking to you through this one little word?

Keep reflecting! Keep pondering! And keep sharing your Star Word moments with each other!

*On this journey with you!*  
**Pastor Pat**

## PASTOR PAT’S RETIREMENT AND CELEBRATION

We have a VERY special FPC event coming up!!

**Sunday, April 28 will be Rev. Dr. Pat Hammond’s last Sunday as our pastor, as she retires from FPC.**

The Deacons will host a Congregational Brunch in her honor following the 9:30 service, catered by Tony’s in Brandon.

We hope to have a large turnout to thank Pat for her many years of dedicated service to our congregation.

Also, we will have baskets for cards available that day so you can write a personal message to Pat.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



## SESSION FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Session was busy during the beginning of March. Session members met informally with the Personnel Ministry Team (PMT) on March 10 to hear about PMT's recommendation to expand their search criteria from what is called a "bridge" pastor to also include "transition" pastors. One notable difference is that transition pastors often work on an initial one-year contract while bridge pastors work month-to-month. At the Stated Session meeting on March 12, the Session voted to affirm this recommendation from PMT. Paul Gillaspey from PMT and Elder Eric Wells then met with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) on March 18 to communicate this decision to them. Since most PCUSA Pastor searches take over a year, it is unlikely that PNC's work will be delayed by the possible presence of a transition pastor, and such a person might be able to provide additional support to the PNC, and the entire congregation, during the interim period.

To date, 105 annual pledges have been received for an approximate total of \$455,000. The average per pledge (\$4,338) is up about 7% from last year (\$4,036), but there are currently about 20 fewer pledges this year than last. It is not unusual for the last few pledges to come in over the next few months.

February represents 8 months into the current fiscal year. A summary year-to-date comparison between FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024 of actual income and expenses is shown in the table.

	FY 2022-2023	FY 2023-2024	% change
Giving Income (first 8 months of fiscal year)	\$566,000	\$576,000	+1.8%
Total Income (first 8 months of fiscal year)	\$593,000	\$621,000	+4.7%
Total Expenses	\$519,000	\$649,000	+25%
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$74,000</b>	<b>(\$73,000)</b>	

The difference in total income is a result of higher interest rates and building use fees this year. The year-to-year expense comparison is not completely fair because a large number of facility-related expenses occurred in the final third of FY 2022-2023, so it is anticipated that by the end of the year the total expenses for the two years will be similar. In FY 2022-2023, expenses exceeded both the budget plan and total income, and if the FY 2023-2024 trends continue, that will be the case again this year. In both years, facility costs were the major item exceeding budget plans. During the last two years, giving fell from April through June. Session is watching that trend as we begin to prepare a budget for the fiscal year beginning in July.

Due to excessive overhead (16%) and an inability for the Presbytery of South Dakota to distinguish between mission and non-mission spending, Session voted to terminate FPC participation in the PCUSA shared mission giving program in FY 2024-25 and retain those monies in the Good Samaritan Fund until alternative missions are identified. This will allow FPC to maintain its tithing principle with 10% of the budget going to direct mission support. FPC will continue to contribute its normal per-capita apportionment.

Elders Bobbi Lower and Amy Engebretson were joined on the Nominating Committee by new members Alex Anderson, Jo Erickson, and Warren DeCou. One of their first actions was to repopulate the Finance Team (Phil DeGroot, Rachel Pay, John Ulmer, and Alvina Van Veldhuizen), and they are now looking to find four Elders and four Deacons for election in June. Session thanks the members who have volunteered to serve. If you have names of prospective Elders and Deacons, or would be interested in serving yourself, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee.

Each month, Session takes a moment to officially recognize a church volunteer. This month, Session recognized Pam Koepsell for preparing the water for baptisms and taking special care to find the appropriate temperature to sooth the infants. Session reflected that Pam's work is symbolic of the many small, often unseen, acts that help FPC fulfill its mission.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIFTS TO FPC!**

## SUMMER REGISTRATION IS LIVE

WWW.FPCSIIOUXFALLS.ORG/CHILDREN



**Music Camp 2024** is scheduled for June 3-7!

With a high-octane story, clever dialogue, dynamic contemporary songs, and uncompromising spiritual truth, Agape League will be an ALL-TIME music camp favorite!

## SUMMER CAMPS

**Presbyterian Summer Church Camps** Our kids have access to several church camps this summer! FPC offers camp scholarships to families to cover 1/3 of the cost of camp for students (elementary and up). Email Kathie Douma at [kathiedouma@fpcsiouxfalls.org](mailto:kathiedouma@fpcsiouxfalls.org) to learn more. Additional funds may be available if needed. **Scholarship deadline is May 15.**

**Presbytery of SD Rimrock Camp** in Rapid City [www.rimrock.camp/](http://www.rimrock.camp/)

**Lakeshore Retreat at Okoboji** [www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/](http://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/)



**SCUBA VBS**, July 8-11 from 9 am to noon.

Kids will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.

## COMMUNION WORKSHOP

During Lent, Children's Ministry hosted a three-week Communion Workshop for 1st and 2nd graders (and older students who had not previously participated). Each student and a caring adult learned about the sacrament of Holy Communion and the events of Holy Week through interactive DO-TOGETHER station including: making a chalice from clay, reading scripture, stomping grapes, washing feet and much more. This workshop is a very memorable experience for our kids as they begin to claim their faith for themselves.

*And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."* Luke 22:19



## EMOTIONS DEVOTION



*Philippians 4:6* Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

How many times have we seen this scripture text, read it, repeated it, and then ignored it? As a mother, a father, or a teenager, how many times did you feel the need to hide your emotions in order to appear “strong and put together?” How often did you cry in your car or the shower or out on a walk so that nobody else could hear you? When was the last time you erupted with anger in an instant only to regret your words and actions later? How often do you fear what’s before you? And when was the last time you were able to name the emotion that was tugging at you and pulling you under?

Naming our emotions can be difficult, overwhelming, and painful, so instead we smile and fake it until we make it, right? But what impact does that have on our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual selves? At what point do we cross from our true authentic selves in Christ to an unrecognizable version of ourselves in Christ, to our eventually fake selves pretending for Christ?

Every emotion you experience is important because it is trying to tell you something. God did not intend for us to hide behind or stuff our emotions but bring them to him in prayer and petition. Emotions can be seen and felt throughout the entire Bible. In fact, according to the Brigham Young University exhibition aptly titled “Jesus Wept: Emotions in the Scriptures,” 127 emotion words and their various conjugations appear 9,685 times across a total of 7,238 verses. Wow, that’s a lot! It’s apparent that our God is an emotional God; He was not void of feelings, nor was Jesus. David, possibly the most emotional being in the whole Bible, rode his emotions like a roller coaster. But what David also displayed throughout scripture, was the ability to identify, name, and describe his emotions and feelings and take them to God. Part of loving God with our whole heart, mind, body, and soul therefore must include intentionality towards our inner and outer emotional selves.

When we stuff our emotions, we ruminate, and our minds can become obsessed with thoughts. Positive thoughts turn negative, our hearts start to retreat, little things turn into big things, and we become distant, unforgiving and eventually

resentful. Then the physical symptoms start to arise, your blood pressure starts to creep up, your aches and pains start to intensify, your chest gets tight or starts to flutter. Your thoughts become scattered, you start to get headaches, and sleep—nope, nada, not tonight. The body begins to suffer.

God wants us to know, that we are perfectly imperfect in His eyes. God created us to have emotions, to feel those emotions, and to survive those emotions. Christ tells us His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) and begs us to bring all our cares, concerns, worries, and fears and lay them at His feet. As we look to God as our beacon, God anchors us, and our perspectives begin to shift. He helps to guide us beyond the present circumstances and helps us to focus on the life He meant us to live. God is the peace, love, joy, and the hope that comes in the morning. In Him we find strength to weather the storms of life.

I recently saw this saying: Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

The Bible teaches that our emotions are controlled by our thoughts, but are you listening and perceiving those thoughts and emotions today?

*Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27*

Later in the month of April you will see a display in the Narthex that addresses emotional health and how our spirituality plays an important role in that health. This display will rotate every couple of weeks to help lead us through an emotionally healthy spiritual journey. Please take a moment to stop and interact with the display, take what you need, and take time to deeply reflect on your own emotional and mental health or that of someone you love. The display will be for adults and children. Watch for additional classes and information too!

Blessings,  
**Jana Phelps**  
 Congregational Care



## PEACEWORKS

I was asked to write about my experience with the sewing group since I joined. I have been involved with the group since September. I cannot sew on a sewing machine but Pat has found many jobs for me to do! I can cut fabric, tie blankets, knit hats on a loom, cut and make netting rolls for scrubbies, etc. You name it, she has me doing it!! I do enjoy the camaraderie in the group. We discuss our projects as well as our families and the church. It is a relaxing time for me and I have met new friends in the church. We do so much for so many people who need us and that makes it very rewarding. Consider joining us on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:00ish.

**Cheryl Pappadackis**

## DEACONS HIGHLIGHTS

This Deacon message comes to you with a variety of things happening on your behalf. We have helped the family of a teenage boy recovering from an accident with gift cards, prayer cards of support from the youth, and a gift basket. We helped a cancer survivor with financial assistance for her pain medication. We delivered hot cross buns and Lenten devotionals to those unable to get out. We have brainstormed and put together some plans for congregational activities throughout the year with our next one being a cooking class with Cathy Newcomb April 25th! We are working on the brunch for Pastor Pat on April 28th so be sure to come! We are continuing to visit those hospitalized and who are unable to get out easily. Stay tuned for more things to come! If you have any ideas on what you'd like to see happening in the life of the church, please be sure to contact a Deacon. The more participation we have from you, the better we can serve you!



Bill Meinen won the Snoop game at "The Young & the Rest of Us" on Sunday March 17th! Want to know more? Come have fun with us Sunday May 19th at 3:00pm!

Is your family member graduating from College or Vo-Tech this year? The Deacons want to celebrate them so please be sure to let the church office know all the details including mailing address!

## HEALTHY EATING CLASS

Are you trying to implement better eating habits? Have you gone gluten free? Sugar free? Low carb? Eating healthy doesn't mean it has to taste like cardboard. Join Cathy Newcomb as she shares about her eating lifestyle. We will chat about healthy ingredients, walk through some recipes, and sample the results.

Date: Thursday, April 25th

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Room: Lounge

## ADULT EDUCATION

**April 7 Coffee Fellowship**

**April 14 Brighton Larson, FPC Youth Ministry**

Come and join us as we learn about First Presbyterian's Youth Program, their service projects, and how you can come alongside to support them. The youth have been partnering with many organizations, ministries, and creating their own projects to serve the church as well as the surrounding community. Plus, you get a chance to meet our new Director of Youth Ministry in a personal setting!

**April 21 Food Insecurity in Sioux Falls**

Learn the full story behind the Mobile Market and FPC's role in this endeavor. What does the future look like for this innovative way to lessen the food deserts in Sioux Falls? How can we help? Michelle Erpenbach from *Thrive* will lead the discussion.

**April 28 Pat Hammond Reception (no class today)**

**Monday's Men's Bible Study**

Led by Rev. Skip Mulock - library 6pm

**Missed a class?** Past classes are archived on YouTube.

- Simply click on the 🔍 .
- Type in *First Presbyterian Church Sioux Falls*.

☑️ Click on the tab *Playlists*

Check out the class on 2/25/2024 (Peaceworks & Meals On Wheels). You will be amazed by the dedication to service this congregation exhibits.

**Presbyterian Women Invite You To  
Find Spiritual Comfort in Nature  
at the Guest Day Luncheon**

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

11:00 am in the Covenant Center

*An Invitation is Extended  
Church Women and Guests*

**Ross H. Hier, The Prairie Painter, Presents  
"The Natural World - A View Through My Eyes"**

Ticket sales on Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>, & Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>  
in the narthex and daily in the church office.

\$12.00 per person

An original painting will be given away!

Ticket sales end April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kym Christiansen is our member spotlight for the month of April. She is a fairly new member.

Kym comes to FPC from St. James, MN, where she graduated from high school. She attended Buena Vista University (a Presbyterian affiliated school) in Storm Lake, Iowa, and then Iowa Lakes Community College and holds a degree in Public Administration.

Kym moved to Sioux Falls in October, 2021, and began working for Minnehaha County as a Commission Recorder which she continues to do. If you watch the televised Commission meetings, you usually see Kym recording the work of the Commissioners.

While in high school, Kym became interested in elections. She and her Dad would go to the courthouse and watch the totals come in from the precincts. That interest continued and Kym now finds herself heavily involved in the elections in Sioux Falls.

Kym is a life-long multi-generational Presbyterian. As Kym wrote



in the 2023 Advent devotional booklet, “The church that raised me is a beautiful stone church located in St. James, MN. I was born and raised in this family of faith that was built on the stones that shouted the love of Christ to those that came before me and will shout a faith story to future generations.”

“Joining FPC was a natural choice and I really enjoy the people here as well as Adult Education that is offered. I am involved with the Adult Education Team as well as Presbyterian Women and their Bible study.”

Kym’s hobbies include reading, doing jigsaw puzzles, and spending time with her family.

If you have not already done so, introduce yourself to Kym and welcome her to our church family. We want to get to know you better, Kym.

## DIRECTORY PHOTO APPOINTMENTS

April is “photo shooting” time for the new church directory at FPC. It is very important that you schedule an appointment for your individual, couple, or family picture. See the available times. Scheduling an appointment is as easy as using the QR code, connecting to Digital Tapestry Photography, and filling out the needed information as the site prompts you to do. Or you can go directly to the website which is <https://DigitalTapestryAppointments.as.me/FPCSiouxFalls> (you need to enter the entire address). Personal information including current address, cell phone numbers, and email addresses will be updated at the time of your “photo shooting.” Do not delay.

**Schedule your appointment TODAY.**



### April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 10:00am-
7 10:45am- 12:30pm,	8 6:00pm-7:45pm	9 6:00pm-7:45pm	10 10:00am- 12:30pm,	11 6:00pm-7:45pm	12 6:00pm-7:45pm	13 4:15pm- 6:30pm
14 10:45am- 12:30pm,	15 6:00pm-7:45pm	16 6:00pm-7:45pm	17 10:00am- 12:30pm,	18 6:00pm-7:45pm	19	



## MARCH CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The Children's Offering during the month of April is REACH. REACH Literacy's mission is **to empower adults and children to thrive through literacy education**. REACH's "Pathways to Promotion" or workplace literacy program focuses on basic skills workers need to retain or advance their careers. Their BEE a Reader program pairs volunteers with second graders in the Sioux Falls area to grow both confidence and reading abilities. REACH's bookstore, located on the back side of the Western Mall provides affordable books as well as many events to encourage literacy in the community. The proceeds of this secondhand bookstore go towards their "Pathways to Promotion" and "BEE a Reader". The bookstore also provides 5 free books for any child visiting as well as resources and book grants for educators.



## ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Presbyterian Women of FPC is now accepting applications for the Adams Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each spring to men and women who are pursuing roles in Christian Service—ministry, mission work, church music, etc. Initial consideration is given to FPC members, and thereafter to outside applicants.

The Adams Scholarship originated in 1966 to honor Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Adams. Dr. Adams was senior pastor at FPC from 1939-1966. Presbyterian Women created the scholarship in 1966 and have continued to support it through annual fundraising events. Memorials, bequests, and individual contributions are also welcomed as ongoing opportunities to support our future Christian leaders. Checks or donations can be directed to PW—Adams Scholarship.

Scholarship forms are available on the FPC website [www.fpcsiouxfalls.org](http://www.fpcsiouxfalls.org).

Applications are also available in the church office. Completed applications are due April 30<sup>th</sup>. Any questions may be directed to Ruth Metcalf at [metcalfruth@gmail.com](mailto:metcalfruth@gmail.com)

Adams Scholarship Committee  
**Judy Regan, Ruth Metcalf, Bobbi Lower**

## SEED SOWERS OFFERING

Seed Sowers - A big heartfelt thank you to ALL of you that participated in January for Seed Sowers Month and also to those who have supported this mission for the past twenty-one years! Seed Sowers is a mission project that is very much alive and well all these years later and continues to help our brothers and sisters in their efforts to make better lives for themselves and their families in the Philippines through the Philippine Self Help Foundation (PSHF.) This mission is not just one month out of the year, but lasts all year long! Please continue to keep this mission project in your prayers and please prayerfully consider increasing your financial support for Seed Sowers! Thank you and God Bless as we strive to be the Visible Face of Christ on the other side of the world!



## FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The Children's Offering gift for the month of February went to Family Visitation Center to purchase "Birthday Bags" which contain party supplies and a gift. These bags allow kids to celebrate their birthdays with non-custodial parents.

A group of kids from FPC in the Service-Learning Project shopped for supplies and filled 30 bags for the Family Visitation Center!

## THANK YOU FOR FOSTER CLOSET DONATIONS



SO MUCH STUFF—the clothing drive was a HUGE success! The Service-Learning Project kids were impressed with ALL the donations for the Foster Closet. Thank you for helping make a difference for foster kids in our community!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SPECIAL GIFTS TO FPC!**



These eager kids were excited to join the palm processional on Palm Sunday.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Margaret Dalthorp celebrates 90 years on April 5.



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kate Hruby	04/01	Andrea Boerigter	04/20
Patricia Olson	04/02	Carrie Draeger	04/20
Brent Kruse	04/03	Marylou Schnabel	04/20
Alissa Thorson-Meester	04/03	Eileen Wood	04/22
Margaret Dalthorp	04/05	Pati Ellwein	04/23
Douglas Raker	04/05	Skip Mulock	04/24
Harlan Pietz	04/06	Candy Engelland	04/25
Anja Hoekman	04/09	Karel Vander Lugt	04/25
Megan Gulden	04/10	Gerald Weflen	04/25
Hilda Bosch	04/12	Jon Kolba	04/27
Natalie Harms	04/12	Barbara Amundson-Reiter	04/28
Kieran Parry	04/12	Dan Haushild	04/28
Allen Rickenbaugh	04/12	Jeff Little	04/28
Donna Vaupel	04/14	Drake Lower	04/28
Janice Hight	04/15	Linda Saloum	04/28
Misty Small	04/15	Joe Wright	04/28
Violet Griess	04/16	Heidi Kruse	04/29
Levi Haushild	04/16	Christy Nicolaisen	04/29
Mia Reiter	04/16	Tony Dwire	04/30
Mardella Koerner	04/18	Terri Schuver	04/30
John Stengel	04/18		

### CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

**First Presbyterian Church**  
2300 S. West Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

**Email**  
[info@fpcsiouxfalls.org](mailto: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>