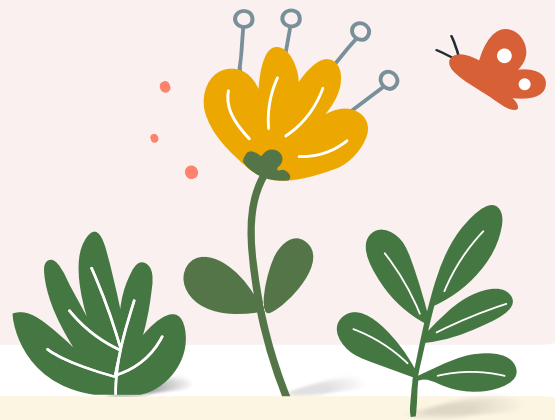


# CHIMES



A special thank you to everyone who generously gave their time, energy and hard work to help fix and improve our plumbing issues this past month. Your willingness to step in - whether it was extra cleaning, making calls or swinging the hammers, we are truly blessed to have such dedicated and selfless individuals in our congregation.

An extra thank you to Matt Tiffany for his countless hours and sweat on this project.

Thank you all for being the hands and feet of Christ!

## FRIENDSHIP DINNER

May 11  
11:30 am- 1:00 pm

## GAME NIGHT

May 4  
4:30 pm  
Games & Food Will Be  
Provided  
Friends are Welcome!

## PHOTOS

Thank you to everyone who has sent pictures to the church office.  
Please keep sending them in!!!

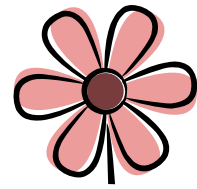
## CONTACT

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to the church office:

scott\_prouty@hotmail.com  
churchofc@hotmail.com  
507-627-8751  
www.fpcrwf.org



# Serving Your Church



## Attention

Please review the lists below, if you have any concerns please contact the church office.

### Greeters

Deacon of Month:

Laura Kohler

May 4: Bob & Sonya Alexander

May 11: Dan & Maria Alexander

May 18: Bruce & Ann Tiffany

May 25: Dale & Sandy Starr

### Money Counters

May: Rick Hauge &  
Nick Brozek

June: Michael Joldersma &  
Becky Stephens

### Ushers

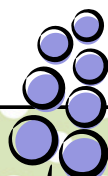
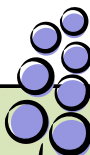
Head Usher: Leon King

Ushers: Greg Dording,  
Stephen Dording, Kim McKay,  
Tom & Barb Stough,  
Julie Rienstra,  
Shawn & Leanne Corder

### Communion Servers

Head Server:  
Julie Rienstra

Servers: Nick Brozek,  
Nathan Stephens,  
Shawn Corder,  
Scott Goodyear,  
Paul Hagen,  
Becky Stephens



# 20 Years... A Tithing Congregation

In February of 2004, several members of our congregation attended a Transformational Conference in Charlotte, NC. I attended the conference and as chair of the Stewardship Committee that year I attended primarily Stewardship related breakout meetings at the conference. One breakout meeting I went to was hosted by a pastor from the St. Louis area, she talked to us about the benefits of churches becoming tithing congregations and in the process transforming themselves from maintenance oriented congregations (which we were at the time) to missions oriented congregations (which we have since become) and how this would enable churches to become outward looking bodies of worship. After attending the conference, I visited with Pastor Scott and asked him for his opinion on whether he thought our church could become a tithing congregation. He said it was worth a try, and at the March 2004 Session meeting the Session approved our church becoming a tithing congregation. With Session approval, we also were on our way to becoming a mission oriented church. 2005 marked our first full year as a tithing congregation. It was also the first year that we split our tithing income giving 50% to Presbytery and retaining 50% of our tithing income for our own church's mission projects. **2025 marks 20 years of our being a tithing congregation!**

Around 2011 we developed a mission-oriented plan for dispersing our tithing funds. We continued to give 50% of our mission funds to Presbytery and we decided to support missions on four levels: International (missions outside America), Regional (the greater United States), Regional (the area covered by our Synod) and local (the area supported by our church). On all four levels, we support both Presbyterian and non-Presbyterian missions.

Starting in 2011 and for the next 9 years, we prepared an annual Missions Booklet showing the mission projects that we supported the previous year. This includes both narratives and photos of missions being supported. We also give a financial summary of the previous year's mission support. On the Sunday in January before our annual meeting, we would present this Mission Booklet to the congregation and have Pastor Scott offer a Missions Blessing for the upcoming year. Our website has a missions page where we show the importance First Presbyterian Church places on missions!

Something else that has happened over the past several years is the number of private missions projects that we are now funding. Projects like the weekend food program for students, the Reed Gray backpack program, water park tickets for families, food shelf donations, Imagination Library etc. have all benefited from private donations.

This is a brief history of our Missions Program over the past 20 years since we became a Tithing Congregation!

Respectfully,



Rick Hauge, Past Mission Committee Moderator

# *Per-Cap vs Tithing*

## **Per-Capita vs Presbytery's share of our tithing fund.**

Concerns have been raised about the uses of the tithing income and to what use the Presbytery makes of the 50% of collections we send them quarterly. Questions like are these funds being used to pay wages at Presbytery plus other operational expenses on the Presbytery level. Here is a short answer to these questions... The tithing funds that we give Presbytery go for Presbyterian church mission projects at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels. This money goes for mission projects, not for wages, travel expenses, ect.

The Per-Capita is the cost to our church for us, as individuals, for being members of the Presbyterian Church. In 2025, our church will pay \$7,065 for each of us to be a Presbyterian!

Where does this money go? Part of this money goes to the Presbytery to help pay their day-to-day expenses, and part of it goes to the Synod and to the General Assembly for the same reasons. The per-capita costs are what pays salaries and keeps the doors open for all three level of the Presbyterian church.

The per-capita and tithing funds that we send to the Presbytery of MN Valleys are separate funds with separate uses. As far as we know, they are never co-mingled together.

## **Exciting News**

The Deacons have some exciting news to share...

**With the changing of our church family we are doing a new directory!**

### **Mark Your Calendars/Watch Your Mailbox**

Photo Days: September 13 & 14

Sunday, September 14, following worship we will be taking a congregational photo!

Updated contact information forms will be sent out prior to the picture date in September.

*Directories and all photo orders will be ready by Christmas!*

# Mission Update

The Mission committee met in April and voted to send funds to the following:

**Local:** WRAP \$800, Child's Place \$800

**Regional:** International Institute of MN Refugee Placement \$850,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe \$850

**National:** PDA - Flooding \$600, Fires \$600

**International:** Backpacks for Mexico \$800, PDA - Earthquake \$1,000



## BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

## MISSION'S MAY EVENT

The mission committee is planning an event for May in coordination with the baby bottle campaign for Choice's Pregnancy Center.

Just to have a little fun and raise some extra funds, we are asking for all of your participation! Let's see how well we know our church family!!!

Please bring in a baby picture or childhood photo of yourself. Place in an envelope with your name on it and give it to Tina in the office, or leave it in the office mailbox by May 10!!!

For a \$5 donation you will be able to guess who the pictures are of. The names will be provided, you simply have to match up the pictures with the names! All proceeds raised will benefit Choice's Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for your support! We will need several pictures to support this mission. Thank you all. ~ The Mission Committee



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May				1 Pastor Scott: Vacation April 30- May 6	2	3
4 <u>Youth</u> <u>Sunday/</u> <u>Senior</u> <u>Sunday</u> S. School/ Choir Worship- Guest Speaker Game Night	5 B Scouts Use of Church	6	7 Bible Studies Piecemakers LAST Youth Club	8 Pastor: Visits	9	10
11 S. School/ Choir Worship- HC Friendship Dinner	12 Pastor Scott: Vacation May 12-18 B Scouts Use of Church	13	14 Deacon Meeting	15	16	17
18 LAST SS Choir Worship- Guest Speaker	19 Pastor: Rotary Meetings Session Meeting	20 B Scouts Use of Church Pastor: Visits	21 Bible Studies Piecemakers	22	23	24
25 Choir Worship	26	27	28 Bible Studies	29	30	31

## Birthdays

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Kory Schneider

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Henry Bentson, Lois Tiffany, Sue Nearing,  
Anika Martin, Own Mathiowetz

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Mark Oja, Brandy Toomer

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Nathan Prouty

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Lauren Karnitz

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Ryan Becklund

**11<sup>th</sup>:** Greg Dording, Brennen Fuhr

**13<sup>th</sup>:** Dallas Kleinhuizen, Savannah Kleinhuizen

**18<sup>th</sup>:** Joyce Goodyear, Larry Wessels

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Dan Fuhr, Jim Palmer

**25<sup>th</sup>:** Preston Brozek

**30<sup>th</sup>:** Lucas Fuhr

**31<sup>st</sup>:** Curt Meyers

## Anniversaries

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Nathan & Kristi Zimmerman

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Gerry & Deb Hess

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Winston & Rosie Venable

**19<sup>th</sup>:** Bruce & Ann Tiffany

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Dave & Corrine Gertsema

**25<sup>th</sup>:** Curt & Claire Meyers

**28<sup>th</sup>:** Brandy & Jeff Toomer

## PASTOR SCOTT'S VISITATION SCHEDULE

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR VISIT WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE**

### May 8 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am

Wayne Mann at 11:00 am

Kevin McKay & Kim McKay at Noon

Jenny Hindt at 1:00 pm

Merlin Goudy at 2:00 pm

Dan Tiffany at 3:30 pm

### May 20 Pastor Scott Visits:

Todd Peterson & Lois Tiffany at 9:30 am

Bunny Nolting & Doug Jensen at 11:00 am

Lee & Diane Davis at 2:00 pm

Judy Curtis at 3:00 pm

Doreen Steenblock at 4:00 pm

### May 29 Pastor Scott Visits:

Butch & Faythe Amberg at 9:30 am

Leon King at 11:00 am

Dale & Sandy Starr at 2:00 pm

Paul & Elaine Hagen at 3:30 pm

### June 3 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am

Merlin Goudy at 10:45 am

Lois Tiffany & Todd Peterson at 2:30 pm

Bunny Nolting & Doug Jensen at 4:00 pm

### June 12 Pastor Scott Visits:

Dan Tiffany at 2:00 pm

Scott & Joyce Goodyear at 3:30 pm

Don & Lorrie Quinn at 7:00 pm

### June 17 Pastor Scott Visits:

Kathy Peterson at 2:00 pm

Doreen Steenblock at 3:00 pm

Phil & Ag Johanneck at 4:00 pm

Dave & Adrienne Danielson at 7:00 pm

### June 24 Pastor Scott Visits:

Nancy Miller at 2:00 pm

Rick Kramer & Gerilyn Kodet at 3:30 pm

Scott & Laura Kohler at 7:00 pm



## **As Christians shouldn't every morning be Easter morning?**

We just celebrated Easter Sunday but as Christians really every morning is Easter morning. This statement touches on something deeply rooted in Christian faith: the idea that the resurrection of Jesus wasn't just a one-time historical event, but a reality that reshapes every day.

Here's why every morning can feel like Easter morning for Christians:

### **1. Resurrection Power Is Ongoing**

Easter celebrates Jesus rising from the dead — conquering sin, death, and despair. For Christians, this isn't just a past victory; it's a present source of power. Each morning is a chance to rise again, spiritually — renewed, forgiven, and alive in Christ.

### **2. New Mercies Every Morning**

In Lamentations 3:22-23, it says, "God's mercies are new every morning." That pairs naturally with Easter — the ultimate display of mercy and grace. Every new day brings a fresh start, echoing the dawn of the Resurrection.

### **3. A Living Hope**

1 Peter 1:3 says, "God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

That living hope means Christians wake up with purpose, confidence, and joy — not because life is always easy, but because Jesus is alive.

### **4. Death No Longer Has the Final Word**

Easter morning reversed the curse. So, each day, Christians can wake up knowing that even their greatest fears — like death and failure — have been defeated. That's freedom. That's peace.

So, to say "Every morning is Easter morning" is to say:

"Today, I live because Christ lives. Today, I rise because He rose."

Avery and Marsh even made the song "Every Morning is Easter Morning."

You can find recordings of it on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PD2ogutong>

The Words say: Every morning is Easter morning from now on.

Every day is resurrection day, the past is over and gone.

Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance.

Hello Lord, hello Sun. I am one of the Easter people, my new life has begun.

Every morning is Easter morning from now on.

Every day is resurrection day, the past is over and gone.

Daily news is so bad it seems the good news seldom gets heard.

Get is straight from the Easter people. God is in charge spread the word!

Every morning is Easter morning from now on.

Every day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone.

Yesterday I was bored and lonely, but today look and see,

I belong to the Easter people, life's exciting to me!

You and I need to live out Easter every day! You and I need to share the joy of Easter in world which can be so sad at times. So, let's work on being Easter people! Amen

Have an awesome May!

Pastor Scott Prouty



**Christians can honor their mothers on Mother's Day in many meaningful and biblical ways that reflect love, gratitude, and respect. Here are some ideas—ranging from simple gestures to deeper spiritual practices—that align with Christian values:**

**1. Show Genuine Appreciation**

Verbally express love and gratitude: Say “thank you” and “I love you” sincerely. Proverbs 31:28 says, “Her children rise up and call her blessed.”

Write a heartfelt letter or card: Reflect on her sacrifices, wisdom, and the ways she’s shaped your life.

**2. Pray for Her**

Pray for her health, peace, faith, and future.

Thank God for the role she has played in your life.

**3. Spend Time Together**

Take her out for a meal, a walk, or do something she loves.

If you can’t be there in person, a phone call or video chat means a lot.

**4. Serve Her**

Take care of household chores, cook her a meal, or give her a day of rest.

Acts of service show love in a Christlike, humble way.

**5. Honor Her Spiritually**

Share a favorite Bible verse that reminds you of her.

Attend church with her or share a devotional together.

Reflect on her spiritual legacy and thank God for it.

**6. Give Thoughtful Gifts**

Consider something that reflects her faith (like a devotional, jewelry with scripture, or a framed verse).

Personalized gifts that show thoughtfulness go a long way.

**7. Live Out Her Teachings**

One of the greatest ways to honor a godly mother is to walk in the truth she taught.

3 John 1:4 says, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

**8. Honor Her Memory (if she’s passed away)**

Visit her grave, pray, or do something in her memory.

Share stories with others about her faith and love.

**Mother’s Day Prayer**

Dear God, Thank You for the gift of mothers—especially the one You’ve placed in my life. Thank You for her love, her sacrifices, her prayers, and the countless ways she’s shown Your heart through her actions. You have used her to guide, nurture, and strengthen me, and I am so grateful.

Lord, I ask that You bless her today. Fill her heart with peace, joy, and the deep knowledge that she is loved—not only by her family but by You, her Creator. Renew her strength, comfort her in weariness, and continue to pour Your wisdom into her life.

Help me to honor her—not just today, but every day—with my words, my actions, and the life I live. May I walk in the truth and grace she’s helped plant in me. Let her see the fruit of her faithfulness and know that her labor in love has never been in vain.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### **Mother's Day Prayer for the Grieving**

Loving God, Today is a tender day. My heart aches with the weight of missing my mother. I thank You for the life she lived, the love she gave, and the memories I carry. Though she is no longer with me here, I know she is with You—and for that, I am grateful, even in my sorrow.

Lord, wrap me in Your comfort. Be near to the brokenhearted, just as Your Word promises. Let Your peace quiet the ache, and let Your love hold the spaces where her voice, her hugs, and her presence are deeply missed. Help me to honor her legacy with the way I live—carrying forward her faith, her kindness, her strength. On days when the grief feels sharp, remind me that You are close, and that one day, every tear will be wiped away.

Thank You for being a faithful and loving God, even in seasons of loss. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **A Memorial Day Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

On this solemn day, we lift our hearts in gratitude and remembrance.  
We thank You for the brave men and women who laid down their lives  
in service to our nation and in defense of freedom.  
Their courage, sacrifice, and dedication will never be forgotten.

We pray for the families who carry the weight of their loss—  
comfort them with Your peace that passes all understanding.  
Surround them with love, strength, and the assurance  
that their loved ones did not die in vain.

Lord, help us to honor their memory not only with words,  
but by living lives that uphold the values they fought to protect.  
Grant us wisdom and compassion as citizens,  
and guide our leaders with integrity and humility.

Bless our nation, and bless those who continue to serve today.  
May peace one day reign, and may we always remember  
the high cost of our liberty.

In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen.