

# The Presbyterian Press

October 2020 - First Presbyterian Church, Hayfield, MN

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## PASTOR'S PEN

*A word from the heart*

### *"Uplifted by Prayer"*

This past year my left hip became very painful. I resisted going to the doctor thinking my leg would get better. One day I limped into the library. The librarian noticed my limp and asked me how I was doing. It was then I started to talk about my pain. As I told her about my bad left leg, a total stranger, a man in the library said to me, "You need a hip replacement." He then told me that he had a hip replacement that solved his pain and he was a new man. We talked about what his hip replacement surgery was like and he gave me encouraging words. The librarian told me she would "pray for me."

This chance conversation was a "God Moment." It encouraged me to go to the doctor and to ask for prayers. I left the library with a new attitude about seeing the doctor. I phoned my MD for an appointment. Usually it takes a week or two to get an appointment, but the lady on the phone said, "We have just had a cancellation, can you come in this afternoon?" I said "Yes!" The doctor listened to my complaint, believed I had a big problem and ordered x-rays which were taken right away. The doctor looked over the x-rays as soon as they were finished, showed me the x-rays and told me my left hip would need a total hip replacement surgery. I said "OK". He phoned the surgeon, emailed the x-rays and set up an appointment for me to see the surgeon. He said it would be days or weeks before I could see him.

Amazingly the surgeon had an opening and I was seen in a few days. The surgeon said the surgery was necessary. I agreed. He ordered a pre-surgery health examination with my regular doctor. I passed this health exam as healthy enough for surgery. Surgery was scheduled. I am amazed at how quickly all of these exams went after I first phoned the doctor. It was answered prayer.

When I first thought about hip surgery, more than one person told me "horror stories" of people whose surgery went bad. This scared me enough to start asking people to pray for me. I contacted the churches I have served and my friends for prayers. An amazing result was the feeling of peace that came over me. I believe the prayers were a big help in my successful surgery. They gave me the confidence to see the doctor and have the surgery. The "fast track" for my surgery was God's help.

A new surgery technique spared me cut muscles and a faster recovery. As I went for the

surgery, I "felt" people praying for me and for the medical staff to do their best. I felt the power of prayer giving me courage to face the surgery, peace that it would go well, and a profound sense of being loved and cared for. According to the doctor, the surgery went "perfect." My recovery has been steady.

Some people would say that I had "good luck" with my surgery. I say it was answered prayer that gave me the good luck. Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, get well cards, emails, and visits. I still need prayers for a complete recovery and patience to let my body heal. I look forward to leading worship at First Presbyterian Church in Hayfield for World Wide Communion on Sunday October 4.

~ Clint Patterson ~

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Kelly Johnson, Pastor Dan's wife, is having back surgery in early October. We pray for the doctors doing the surgery and for Kelly to make a speedy recovery. We pray this surgery will relieve her pain.



We pray also for the shut-ins and others that don't feel safe to go out. We want them to know they are not forgotten and they are still a part of our church family.

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### **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update:**

At our last Session meeting, the Session/PNC received an update from the Task Force assign to help evaluate potential Pastor Candidates. To date, there have been 89 total matches through the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) database of which, 11 expressed interest, 9 were extended interviews and 5 were interviewed by the Task Force. From this the PNC received from the Task Force 3 candidates to interview of which 2 were interviewed and the third ended up taking a position elsewhere before our first interview.

We've had some great discussion and interviews - we have not found the right fit yet for what we believe will be the right Pastor and leader for our church. While we are eager to find our next Pastor, we also want to make sure our next Pastor is a great fit for us and vice versa. In the coming weeks we plan on advertising our open position on the Presbyterian website and Presbyterian Magazine. We hope this will increase the activity of possible candidates.

Please continue to pray for this team as we continue through this process and our church as we find our next Pastor.

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We continue to learn to live with the challenges of the COVID Pandemic and now the Flu season knocking on the back door! It can be hard to stay positive and healthy! This fall, try to take a walk around the block on a nice sunny day and take in all that nature has for us! Notice the things you normally wouldn't notice! Consider getting your flu shot to not only protect yourself, but to protect others! Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer to prevent the spread of germs!

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all that Rosie Peterson has done for our church in her role as Parish Nurse! She is missed! She checked your blood pressures faithfully every month, did home visits and many other things for the health and wellness of First Presbyterian Church in Hayfield! My sympathy to her family!

I will be working with Kim Jacobson to get a better Prayer Chain system in place. There are some apps available for us to use on our cell phones rather than texting. Texting has limitations. If you have not already expressed interest in participating in the prayer chain, please let us know! If you want to be removed, also let us know!

If you need information or have a question I may be able to answer, please feel free to reach out to me by email: [dahlen.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:dahlen.nancy@gmail.com) or by phone: 507-951-0358.



Sunday School for all ages will be held after the Children's Sermon – if the weather permits it, we will hold the class outside, but if it's cool/raining, class will be held in the Pine room.

There will be no Sunday School on October 18<sup>th</sup> due to MEA weekend.

Please direct any feedback or questions to Mariah.



## Financial Offerings for September

Aug 30	\$ 1,350.00
<i>Corrected total for August:</i>	<b>\$ 4,551.80</b>
Sept 13	\$ 2,035.00
Sept 20	\$ 1,105.00
Sept 27	\$ -
Per Capita	\$ 109.50
<b>TOTAL (as of 9/24)</b>	<b>\$ 3,249.50</b>

*\*\*Needed each week - \$2,010.71*

There will be no Stewardship Dinner this Fall. As always, we are so very thankful for your generous giving. Even though we don't see everyone on Sundays, the donations are still coming in. We will not be sharing a meal this fall, but know that you, the congregation, is loved and appreciated. ♥



## September Session Notes

- Several members of the Presbytery Task Force were in attendance at the Session meeting. Candidate selection was discussed but the process is very slow.
- Communion will be served October 4. For those not attending church but still requesting communion, it will be brought out to your car on the east side of the church after the service. Call Dave Santjer (477-2339) to tell him you will be there. Spaces will be reserved for those wanting communion.

## October Calendar

- Oct 4<sup>th</sup>:** 10am Service - Rev. Clint Patterson  
*World Communion Sunday*
- Oct 6<sup>th</sup>:** PFP – 6:15pm / Session – 7:00pm
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup>:** 10am Service - Rev. Clint Patterson
- Oct 12<sup>th</sup>:** *Columbus Day*
- Oct 18<sup>th</sup>:** 10am Service – Contemporary  
- No Sunday School
- Oct 25<sup>th</sup>:** 10am Service - Rev. Dan Johnson



### **October Birthdays**

Jill Matthiesen	3
Brittney Dahlen	5
Mark Peterson	5
Jan Louks	8
Ruth Kruger	10
Tara Becker	12
Sarah Gunderson	12
Gary Allen	15
Liz Dahlen	16
Krystine Kramer	21
Kyle Jacobsen	24
Katie Steele	25
Braelyn Gunderson	27
Jordan Becker	31

### **October Anniversaries**

Greg & Nancy Dahlen	1
Lee & Sarah Gunderson	15
Harlan & JoAnn Buck	16
Jon & Kim Jacobson	20

### **10/4/20**

*Lay Leader* Sandy Krekling

*Counters* Nancy, Sandy

### **10/11/20**

*Lay Leader* Dave Livingston

*Counters* Sandy, Dave L

### **10/18/20**

*Lay Leader* Jenna Johnson

*Counters* Dave L, Kristi

### **10/25/20**

*Lay Leader* Nancy Dahlen

*Counters* Kristi, Dave S

### **First Presbyterian Church**

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## Can you find thirty (30) books of the Bible in the following paragraph?

Actually, there are 31 if you can find the variant of one Old Testament prophet's name, a variant that's used in the text of the King James Version (not as the title of a book, but in the text itself.)

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Amos	Mark	Luke	Joel	John	Hebrews	Esther
Judges	Job	Acts	James	Ruth	Romans	Titus
Osee*	Matthew	Genesis	Philemon	Chronicles	Hosea	Lamentations
Daniel	Nahum	Revelation	Timothy	Samuel	Numbers	Malachi
Peter	Exodus	Kings				

\*Note: Osee appears in the King James Version translation (KJV) of Romans 9:25 as a variant spelling of Hosea.