

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 3, following
Worship Service



FROM PASTOR ERIC

As the weather begins to hint at a coming chill, I find myself anticipating the slowdown that comes with the changing seasons. There’s a gift in the cold and dark; an invitation for strivings to cease so we can simply anticipate what lies ahead. Nature is a particularly good teacher for these virtues, for knit deep down within it are messages of conserving energy in hope for new life. Our natural teachers offer spiritual counsel as they train us in the ways of peace.

The biblical call to peace doesn’t exactly line up with our modern expectations of that word. While we tend use it to describe an absence of conflict or a sense of tranquility, Scripture instead follows the Hebrew conviction of *shalom*. This peace goes beyond personal serenity or keeping hostilities at bay, and instead conjures a sense of wholeness—the world being complete. *Shalom* is the world operating in the way that God intends, including both the seasonal promise of new life as well as the possibility for peacefully just living amongst humans.

The extra-biblical Jewish Mishnah goes so far as to make the *shalom*-oriented claim: “Whoever destroys a single life is considered by Scripture to have destroyed the whole world, and whoever saves a single life is considered by Scripture to have saved the whole world.” The choice to work on the side of life is the work of *shalom*, which we all are called to do, even on a small scale.

Once again, nature is a fine teacher for such a lesson. Yes, animals will kill and die and feed on one another, but this could hardly be viewed as the *destruction of life* rather than entropic systems fulfilling their course. Instead, nature works towards a balance of preservation, in which Life (as a capital-L concept) sustains itself. The hibernating animal rests in the hope of a return of the spring and sustenance—life made whole—living in peace—fulfilling *shalom*. In this, the hibernating animal maintains its life with the meager provision of its body at rest, not stripping its environment of the resources needed by animals who do sleep away the winter.

Words like *hope* and *peace* speak to realities we need enacted in our world today. We are a people who hunger for *shalom* since so much often feels broken rather than whole. They are also words (along with *joy* and *love*) that reflect the message of Advent. As we approach the Advent season, I would like to invite all of you to join with me in considering the animals as we approach Christ’s birth in the reading of *All Creation Waits*, by Gayle Boss.

Continued on Page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

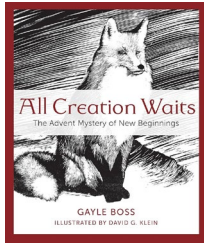
Prayer Requests	1
Volunteers	1
Note from Session	1
Church Calendar	2
November Birthdays	3
Theology on Tap Invitation	3
Presbyterian Women	4
Programming	4
Session Minutes	6
Library	7
Fair Trade Bazaar	8
Church Contact Info	10



Sunday, November 3 is
Fair Trade Coffee Hour!

Sunday, November 3 is
2-Cents-A-Meal

Continued from Pastor Eric



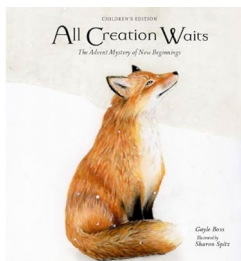
This literary Advent Calendar considers the lives of many woodland creatures we'd recognize in our own backyards, and how their winter struggles educate us in the work for *shalom*.

If you are open to joining me in this Advent practice, I hope that you will attend a **church supper on November 19 at 6:00 p.m.**, where will be blessed through an evening with Gayle Boss over Zoom. She will share with us about the animals of this book as we prepare for the expectancy of Advent with one another.

We will have copies of the book available for free to anyone who wants them; although a \$10 donation for a book would also be greatly appreciated.

Let's prepare ourselves for the working of *shalom* with one another.

In Christ,
Eric



Do you know someone who is in the hospital, someone who would like to hear a friendly voice, or someone who would like to make a prayer request? The FPC Pastoral staff and Deacons would like to hear from you!

You can complete a Prayer Request form online at www.fpcmankato.org/prayer-requests, call, or email the Church office and our administrative assistant will get you connected to Pastor Eric and the Deacons! 507.387.2160 | info@fpcmankato.org

PRAY

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Every Sunday, FPC members **generously volunteer their time** during worship services and for many other activities—we **just want to say**

THANK YOU!

For all you do! We couldn't do it without you!

If you would like to volunteer during a worship service, please visit our SignUp Genius website here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4ea8a92fa1fe3-livestream#/>, or, please call the church office and Lori can help you with getting signed up.

NOVEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR



November 2024

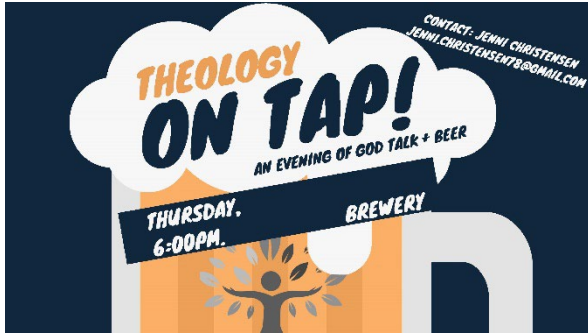
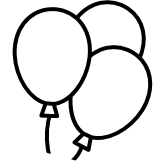
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion	4	5	6 12:00 p.m. Deadline: Articles for weekly e-blast	7 12:30 p.m. FPC Staff Meeting	8	9
10 10:00 a.m. Worship	11	12 6:00 p.m. Budget Committee	13 12:00 p.m. Deadline: Articles for weekly e-blast 5:30 p.m. Properties Committee	14	15	16
17 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting	18	19	20 9:30 a.m. PWC 12:00 p.m. Deadline: Articles for weekly e-blast 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee 6:00 p.m. Session	21 12:00 p.m. Deadline: Articles for December Newsletter	22	23
24 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fair Trade Event	25	26 12:00 p.m. Deadline: Articles for weekly e-blast	27	28 THANKSGIVING!	29	30

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11/2 ~ Margery Anderson
11/3 ~ Amily Crowell
11/8 ~ Julia Prouty
11/8 ~ Audra Whittington
11/13 ~ Wanda Domeier

11/16 ~ Nyibol Dojiok
11/20 ~ Sophie Hoiseth
11/26 ~ Carla Chesley
11/26 ~ Pam Grems
11/28 ~ Tyler Kuechle



THEOLOGY ON TAP OPEN INVITATION!

We're looking for future speakers/panel discussion members for future gatherings!

I've been a member of our church for less than 2 years, and I'm learning some wonderful things about a few people in our congregation. However, wouldn't it be nice to learn about the journeys of the lives/careers/faith of more of our congregants? I heard from one member that said it's a shame that we often don't learn about our fellow church members until we attend their funerals. Pastor Eric, Lizz, and I would love to have some volunteers that are willing to share, whether as a solo or duo or as a small group, followed by discussion.

If a brewery is not your comfort zone, we can plan some of our gatherings in our fellowship hall. We will also be sending out requests to individuals that have been recommended, but we want to start with an open invitation 😊

Please respond by email or text or phone (below), or you may send an email about your willingness to be a speaker or panel member to Lori in the church office at administrative@fpcmankato.org.

Thank you!

Jenni Christensen
jenni.christensen78@gmail.com
651-703-6116
and
Pastor Eric Garner
pastor@fpcmankato.org
507-519-2633

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is on a break during the summer months, but join us beginning in September!

Children Kidz Club

Classes during the Worship service for age groups:

Pre-K – 5th grade
10:20 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Children's room

No registration Required.

Contact Lizz with any questions!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Every Sunday with Lizz. Tons of activities planned for fall!

No registration required.

Contact Lizz at with any Questions!

educator@fpcmankato.org



CHANCEL CHOIR

Sunday morning rehearsals at 9:00 a.m. in the FPC Chapel, choir sings at 10:00 a.m. during Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

Contact Dr. Andrew Kendall at music@fpcmankato.org

Our adult choir provides beautiful musical offerings during our Sunday worship services. This is a low-commitment opportunity to sing with a group and dive more deeply in worship arts practices.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE

The PW Circle will meet Wednesday, **November 20, at 9:30 a.m.** in the FPC Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Muriel Schoon who will lead the *Horizons* Bible Lesson 3 *Food Justice*. Thank you also to Marcia Richards who will serve as hostess. **All are welcome for this time of study and fellowship!**



PW will host the Pathstone Assisted Living November Birthday Party on Friday, November 15, at Pathstone with Pete Steiner performing on the guitar. Thank you Pete and servers!

Your **PW Thank Offering** donation is very welcome. One of the eight recipients this year is in the Dakota Presbytery of the Minnesota Synod of Lakes and Prairies: *the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Waniyetu Consulting Welcoming of the Child* program. This program empowers young mothers by providing teaching and direction for their role as a parent. This grant will fund a program to bring back the Welcoming of the Baby ceremony, one of the oldest and most significant ceremonies in Lakota culture. During the Oglala Lakota ceremony, new mothers are taught the traditions of protecting the baby's fontanel (soft spot) from harm or sickness and the sacred connection to walking in balance. This ceremony celebrates the birth and provides an opportunity to teach parenting skills such as nutrition, nurturing baby care and healthy relationships.

The eight national and international recipients will receive an anticipated total of \$270,000 with your help.

Thank Offering envelopes are in the narthex. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with "PW Thank Offering" in the memo line.



Families Connect

Fourth Sunday at 11:30 a.m. at various locations.

Contact Lizz Kendall at educator@fpcmankato.org

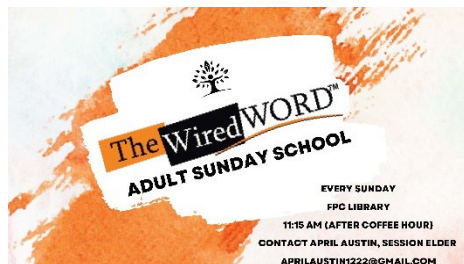
All families are welcome!

Board Game Nights

Fourth Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the FPC Fellowship Hall.

Contact Lizz Kendall at educator@fpcmankato.org

Bring board games and appetizers to share!



Every Sunday at 11:20 a.m. in the FPC Library

for Adults

Contact April Austin at aprilaustin1222@gmail.com

“Love Thy Neighbor” Social Justice Book Club

First Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the FPC Narthex.

A low-commitment group for anyone (all adults) who cares about making a difference in their corner of the world. Didn't finish or read the book? No problem! Join us for a great discussion anyway.

Contact Sophie Hoiseth at sophie.hoiseth@gmail.com

Just show up! No sign-up required.



OCTOBER 16, 2024 SESSION MINUTES

Prayers & Devotions

- Moderator: Pastor Eric Garner
- Devotion: April Austin
- Elders express their Joys and Concerns
- Opening Prayer with Pastor Eric Garner

For the Record

- Attendance: April Austin, Jim Connors, Sophie Hoiseth, Lynn Kuechle, Brad Leiding, Paul Peterson, and Joyce Prahm.
- Excused: Kelly McBride
- Guests: Jeanne Steiner, Deacon representative.
- September 18, 2024, Minutes approved via email.
- Communion Count for October 6: 61
- Communion count to homebound members for October: 0
- Births in September: N/A
- Baptisms in September: N/A
- Members who passed in August and September: Carol Williams, August 28 and Bob Madsen, September 11.
- New members in September: N/A
- Transfer members in September: N/A
- Thank you note from Southern MN Pride.
- Thank you note from the Welsh Organization.
- Sophie motioned and April seconded to accept Nora's resignation on Session and the Faith Formation committee. Session wants to express our thanks to Nora for her work and dedication in these roles.
- Next Session meeting is Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Review of Financial Reports

- **Committee Reports – Unanimously Approved to receive Committee Reports as submitted**
- Budget, 10/8/24, Minutes.
- Community Engagement, 9/12/24, Minutes; 10/10/24, Minutes.
- Deacons, 9/20/24
- Endowment, 7/29/24, Minutes.
- Faith Formation, 10/6/24, Minutes.
- Nominating Committee
- Personnel, Minutes.
- Properties, 10/9/24
- Worship

From Budget Committee (Brad Leiding)

- September 30, 2024, Financial Compilation Report was shared.
- CD Renewal notice, motion from Lynn Kuechle and second from Jim Connors to renew CDs for 6 month commitment.
- Technology assessment.
- A motion was made by Brad Leiding and seconded by Paul Peterson to remove Nora Henry as an authorize check signer and add Sophie Hoiseth.
- Property insurance increase with State Farm was discussed. The insurance renewal is \$21,500, annually, an increase of approximately \$1,500. Brad Leiding shared the policy details.

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SESSION MINUTES CONTINUED

- Pension/benefits due to the Presbytery will go up 4 percent each year for the next three years.
- Presbytery per capita annual cost was paid on September 30. A suggestion was made to pay per capita monthly next year. Next year the cost will go up by \$1 per member.

From Corporate President (Jim Connors)

- None presented.

From Board of Deacons (Jeanne Steiner)

- Jeanne Steiner shared a report from the Deacons and discussed the needs around filling volunteer spots on Sundays.

From Community Engagement Team (Joyce Prahm, Lynn Kuechle)

- Joyce Prahm shared the Team's report.

From Faith Formation Committee (Nora Henry)

- Pastor Eric shared that he has invited the author of a devotional to speak in mid-November. The Committee will purchase sixty copies of the book for a total of \$650. Motion carried.
- Sophie Hoseth will join the committee after Nora Henry's departure.

From Nominating Committee (April Austin)

- April shared the status of the nominations for Deacons and Elders.

From Personnel Committee (Paul Peterson)

- Paul Peterson shared a recap of the Committee's work.

From Properties Committee (Joyce Prahm)

- Joyce Prahm shared an update on the building's sprinklers.

From Worship Committee (April Austin)

- April shared a report on upcoming special services and discussed the Committee expenses.

Motion to Adjourn ~ Closing Prayer

***Next meeting: Wednesday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. – Multipurpose Room**

Devotions for November: Sophie Hoiseth

Deacon's Representative for November: TBD

LIBRARY



Where Rivers Part by Kao Kalia Yang has been added to the church library, a donation from Kathryn Rusch. It is a “mesmerizing memoir about a Hmong family’s epic journey to safety told from the perspective of the author’s incredible mother who survived, and helped her family escape, against all odds.” Yang, now a Minnesotan, is also the author of *The Latehomecomer*, in our library and read by many.



FAIR TRADE BAZAAR

On Sunday, November 24, First Presbyterian Church will host a Fair Trade Bazaar from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Vendors will include 10,000 Villages, SERRV, Global Mamas, and Equal Exchange.

Global Mamas: Founded in 2003, the Global Mamas community is comprised of thousands of people from around the world working together with the mission of creating prosperity for African women and their families. The Mamas define prosperity as going beyond financial well-being to include happiness and good health. They achieve prosperity by creating and selling unique, handcrafted products of the highest quality. Being able to do the work they love and being empowered by financial independence leads to greater happiness. The Mamas realize their dreams of having the opportunity to support their families, send their children to school, improve their health, and save for the future. Our Global Community is made up of the Mamas who produce beautiful products using traditional methods; our employees who manage production, ensuring high quality and delivering personal customer service; our international volunteers and interns who contribute their time and talents to further the development of our Mamas' expertise; our donors who support the expansion of our programs leading to more jobs, and customers who make everything we do possible by purchasing our products.

10,000 Villages: We're a global maker-to-market movement that addresses economic injustice. Because every handcrafted object has a life of meaning behind it. We're a way for you to shop with intention for ethically sourced, handcrafted wares and to share in the joy of empowering makers in ten thousand villages. As a pioneer of Fair Trade, we do business differently, putting people and planet first. That means you can trust that every purchase and donation you make directly impacts the life and community of its maker in an under-resourced community. Together we break the cycle of generational poverty and ignite social change. #LiveLifeFair

SERRV: Since 1949 we have been fighting global poverty through fair and ethical trade. One of the first fair trade organizations in the world, SERRV International began its mission in 1949 by helping displaced European refugees trade their handcrafts for income after the Second World War. Since then, we've extended our reach to countries worldwide, working to support over 8,000 artisans and farmers every year by selling their beautiful handcrafts and delicious foods. Our mission is to empower small-scale global artisans and farmers through long-term trading partnerships, helping them build sustainable employment, resources, rights, and a vision of hope in their communities. SERRV works to provide employment opportunities to all artisans, regardless of gender, race, religion, or sexuality. We also work to prevent child labor, instead making sure artisans' children stay in school and have brighter futures.

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Equal Exchange: Equal Exchange is a worker-owned cooperative with democratic principles. Each worker-owner invests an equal share in the business and receives one vote, and all financials are completely transparent to all worker-owners. They have a top-to-bottom pay ratio that hovers around 4:1, and profits are distributed equally among them at the end of each year. They have written into their policy that 10% of pre-tax profits are donated to NGOs working within the space to transform food systems. The founders envisioned a different way of doing business, one where trade values each part of the supply chain. They have proven that business can be done by centering all people within the supply chain over the centering of only profits. They believe that by organizing a more democratic food system that puts power in the hands of small-scale farming communities, alternative traders, and Citizen Consumers, a more secure future can be created for us all. Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through our success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.

Fair Trade is committed to the following principles:

- Guaranteeing a fair price that covers the cost of production plus allows the farmer to provide the basics for his or her family. If the world market price goes up, the fair trade price also goes up. If the world market price goes down, the fair trade price stays the same.
- Eliminating the middle men so the purchasing company pays the farmer directly, meaning that more money goes to the farmer.
- Providing credit and low interest loans so the farmer can get out of the cycle of poverty and stay out.
- Using sustainable farming practices and growing organically so the farming communities have clean air, water, and land and the consumer has a high quality, healthy product.
- Prohibiting slave or child labor so children can go to school and have an avenue out of poverty.
- Encouraging diversity of crops and new businesses so the farmers have other income to fall back on when weather or pests ruin crops.
- Guaranteeing safe working conditions and prohibiting use of dangerous chemicals.
- Forming coops so farmers have control over work decisions.
- Adding a social premium to the price of the product that the coops save to invest in their community. The social premium is used for projects like digging wells for clean water; providing electricity; building schools, medical clinics, hospitals or roads; hiring teachers; providing scholarships for students or health care for workers; helping families start new businesses.



FPC Leadership, Staff, and Contact Info

Pastor and Head of Staff

Reverend Eric Garner

FPC Session ~ Elders

Jim Connors, President | Brad Leiding, Treasurer | Joyce Prahm, Clerk of Session
April Austin, Worship | Sophie Hoiseth, Stewardship and Faith Formation
Lynn Kuechle, Community Engagement | Kelly McBride, Properties | Paul Peterson, Personnel

FPC Board of Deacons

Mark Taylor, Moderator | Derek Fette, Treasurer | Chris Renne, Secretary
Karen Anderson | Nancy Black | Amily Crowell | Kathy Gordon | Deb Kienholz
Marcia Richards | Diane Murray | Susan Schoon | Jeanne Steiner

FPC Staff

Ben Marti, Organist | Dr. Andrew Kendall, Director of Music Ministries
Lizz Kendall, Director of Outreach & Faith Formation
Mark Zallek, Building Manager | Lori Olson, Administrative Assistant
Noa Malone, Faith Formation Intern | Katelyn Prahm, Custodial Assistant

Staff Contact Info:

Pastor Eric Garner: pastor@fpcmankato.org | 507-519-2633

Administrative Assistant, Lori Olson: administrative@fpcmankato.org | 507-387-2160

Building Manager, Mark Zallek: buildingmanager@fpcmankato.org | 507-327-7907

Pianist and Organist, Ben Marti: music@fpcmankato.org | 507-387-2160

Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Andrew Kendall: music@fpcmankato.org | 507-387-2160

Director of Outreach and Faith Formation, Lizz Kendall: educator@fpcmankato.org | 507-246-6381

Faith Formation Intern, Noa Malone: intern@fpcmankato.org

Custodial Assistant, Katelyn Prahm: info@fpcmankato.org

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220 East Hickory Street, Mankato, MN 55901 | 507-387-2160 | administrative@fpcmankato.org