



FROM PASTOR ERIC

How do any of us know that we are on the right path? It almost feels like a safe rule of thumb these days that the more certain someone is of their own correctness the less likely that is to be true. And yet, at the same time, so many are entirely assured of just this thing. When this is coupled with the belief that one’s opponents are entirely in the wrong, what chance is there for finding the truth with one another?

I have been turning to Psalm 36 with great frequency in recent days. Verse 2 offers such a painfully damning assessment of human nature that I can’t help but be cut by it — “In the eyes of the sinful they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.” Within any remotely honest Christian assessment of the self, we are all sinners. Regardless of our status in Christ, we all run the risk of justifying our own behavior—of baptizing our sin since, in our assessment, we are ultimately “good people.” But isn’t this just self-flattery? Isn’t it a tad naive to assume that God agrees with everything we do? God doesn’t sanctify the excuses we make for our bad behavior.

However, we are not a people without hope, as God’s *love reaches to the heavens; God’s faithfulness stretches to the skies; God’s righteousness is higher than the mountains; God’s justice is greater than the deeps.* We are a fallen people (to be sure), but that doesn’t mean that we need to continue in the all-too-human course of self-justification. Because of God’s character and work in the world, we are afforded the chance to be truly exposed to ourselves—to see who we really are and be given the chance to be transformed. As the psalmist powerfully avers in verse 9, “in your light we see light.” Because of who God is, we see who we are. God reveals all that has been hidden. And once we’ve finally seen the truth, we might discern what it is we need to change.

This fall will not simply be a season of harvest arboreal color; this will be an autumn of discord and division. We will all need honed spiritual sight this season to properly discern the events around us and to properly see ourselves within them. So, allow for your eyes to see what God is making known. Allow for yourself to come into contact with God’s love, faithfulness, righteousness, and justice... and then be changed. Ours is a God who would have us be in the light, so let us see our God and look upon the light into which our God invites us to enter.

In Christ,
Eric



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Sunday, September 1 is Fair Trade Coffee Hour!



The first Sunday of the month is Fair Trade Coffee Hour. Fair Trade coffee is served to support the global movement to improve the lives of farmers and workers in developing countries by ensuring that they have access to export markets and are paid a fair price for their products.

Sunday, September 1 is 2-Cents-A-Meal

NOTE FROM FPC SESSION

As we near the end of the summer, it is important for us to remember just how disruptive the rains were in June and July. In particular, we recognize the incredible upheaval and heartbreak that has affected our neighbors, the Hruska family with the loss of their home and the Dam Store. A member of the church has approached the Session with a request that we all together offer a gift of assistance to the Hruska family as they continue the hard work of rebuilding their lives.



If you would like to join in this joint gift, please write “Hruska Family” on your check memo line or in the comments section of the online giving portal. We will send our gift to the Hruska family following worship on September 1.

Thank you,
FPC Session



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

Prayers for:

- Connections Shelter, which will be resuming its ministry in our building in October.
- The ecumenical Pride Service held before Mankato’s Pride Fest on Saturday, September 7.
- The church’s ministries that will be resuming as we enter into our program year.
- Our graduating seniors who will be commencing a new phase in their educations this fall.

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!
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#/,](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4ea8a92fa1fe3-livestream#/) or, please call the church office and Lori can help you with getting signed up.

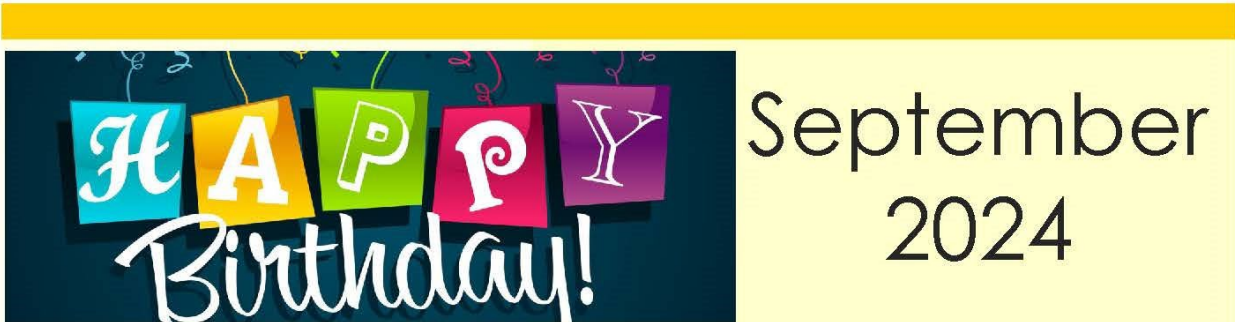
CHURCH CALENDAR



September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i> 11:15 a.m. Faith Formation Meeting	2 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	3 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	4 6:00 p.m. Book Club	5	6	7 3:00 p.m. Pride Service
8 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	9	10 12:00 p.m. FPC Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting	11 5:30 p.m. Properties Comm. Meeting	12 4:00 p.m. Connections Shelter Block Party	13 12:00 p.m. Session Agenda Items Due	14
15 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 a.m. Deacons Meeting	16	17	18 9:30 a.m. PCW Meeting 5:00 p.m. Worship Comm. Meeting 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting	19	20	21
22 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. MN Welsh Festival	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	30					

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Karen Nelson	4	5 Renee Bristol	6	7
8	9 Janine Turbes	10	11	12 Barbara Hanson Annette McGinness	13 Mariah Enter	14
15	16	17 Luella Krause	18	19	20	21 Lynn Kuechle
22 Eileen Johnson	23 Lynette Smith	24	25 Nadine Sugden	26	27	28 Carol Oberle
29 Susah Schoon	30					

SEPTEMBER

PROGRAMMING



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Book Club @ 6 PM	5	6	7 Pride Service @9:30 AM & Mankato Pride
8	9	10	11	12 Connections Shelter Block Party 4-7 PM	13	14
15 Rally Mission Fair Sunday	16	17	18 Presbyterian Women at 9:30 AM	19	20	21
22 Carnival after church	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Choir, Kidz Club, Wired Word	30					
Families Connect - Welsh Heritage Apple Orchard after church						

PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Children

Classes during the Worship service for age groups:

Pre-K – 5th grade
10:20 - 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



On Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., FPC will be hosting the annual ecumenical Pride Service along with other churches from our area. We need individuals who would be willing to volunteer before, during, and after the service.

If you are able to volunteer your valuable time, please email or call the church office at administrative@fpcmankato.org or 507-387-2160.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE

The PW Circle will meet Wednesday, September 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the FPC Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Jenni Christensen who will lead the *Horizons* Bible study *Let Justice Roll Down*, Lesson 1: *Environmental Justice*. Thank you also to Karen Nelson who will serve as hostess. **All are welcome for this time of study and fellowship!**

PW will also host the **Pathstone September Birthday Party on Friday, September 20**, with Pete Steiner performing on the guitar. **Thank you to Pete and to the servers!**



For more information, please contact Rick Sartell at 507-320-9787 or visit the Mankato Mathnasium website at:
<https://www.mathnasium.com/math-centers/mankato>



Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Mankato. Get your tickets now to discover music inspired by Halloween at First Presbyterian Church of Mankato under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Saturday, October 13, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Tickets are available online here:

<https://feverup.com/m/193394>

FREE Books in the Library

HELP YOURSELF TO FREE BOOKS IN THE FPC LIBRARY!

Please check the cart outside the library for free books that have been withdrawn from the church library. Please help yourself.

New Jigsaw Puzzles are also available ~ Help Yourself ~ Return them if you wish ~ No checkout required!



New Book in the Library:

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb has been added to the church library purchased with Shirley Higginbotham's memorial funds. It is an intriguing mystery about a Black classical musician whose family heirloom violin is stolen on the eve of the most prestigious classical music competition in the world. It also highlights the discrimination that this Black musician faced in the classical music world.

“Love Thy Neighbor” Social Justice Book Club a low-commitment group for anyone 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.

- For all adults
- First Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the FPC Narthex
September 4 | October 2 | November 6 | December 4
books for fall meetings will be announced in late summer

- Just show up! No sign-up required.

Contact: Sophie Hoiseth: sophie.hoiseth@gmail.com



AUGUST 21, 2024 SESSION MINUTES

Prayers & Devotions

- Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Moderator, Pastor Eric Garner
- Devotion: Pastor Eric Garner
- Elders express their Joys and Concerns
- Opening Prayer led by Pastor Eric Garner

For the Record

- Attendance: Pastor Eric Garner, Jim Connors, Brad Leiding, Joyce Prahm, April Austin, Nora Henry, Sophie Hoiseth, Lynn Kuechle, Kelly McBride
- Excused: Paul Peterson
- Guests: Kathy Gordon, Deacon representative and Theo Black, Finance Committee.
- Motion to allow guest, Theo Black, to discuss future church purchases; motion passed. Theo shared a handout on the ABC Priorities Model for capital projects. The presentation focused on prioritizing using an urgent/important model.
- June 26, 2024, Minutes approved via email.
- Communion count for July 7: 65; Communion Count for August 5: 47
- Communion count to homebound members for July: 0; for August: 0
- Births in June and July: N/A
- Baptisms in June: 0; Baptisms in July: 1, Arthur Hoiseth.
- Members who passed in June and July: N/A
- New members in June and July: N/A
- Transfer members in June and July: N/A
- Next Session meeting is Wednesday, September 18, 2024.
- Letter from the City of Mankato regarding the hotel located across the street from the church.

Review of Financial Reports

Committee Reports – Unanimously Approved to receive Committee Reports as submitted.

- Budget, 6/11/24 and 8/6/24
- Community Engagement, 6/27/24 and 8/1/24
- Deacons, 5/19/24, 6/9/24, and 8/18/24
- Endowment
- Faith Formation, 6/9/24; 7/28/24.
- Personnel
- Properties, 6/12/24 and 8/14/24
- Worship

From the Pastor (Eric Garner)

- Eric presented building use request policy updates. Motion by Jim Connors and seconded by Brad Leiding to accept the policy updates as presented.
- Eric shared the Metro Sales' proposal for the multifunction printer. The current contract is coming to close by November 18, 2024, and discussion was had regarding researching options that better meet the printing/copying needs of the church.
- Pastor Eric shared that he met with Jennifer Echevarria, Connections' executive director, and shared updates from Connections. Motion by Sophie Hoiseth and seconded by Kelly McBride to state that Session is open to continuing the discussion regarding Connections' requests provided the discussion regarding building safety and check outs are also discussed. Motion passed.
- Discussed request to support the Rapid Dam family. Motion by Nora Henry, and seconded by Jim Connors to support sending an email to congregation members sharing the opportunity to support the family.

SESSION MINUTES CONTINUED

From Budget Committee (Brad Leiding)

- June 30, 2024, and July 31, 2024, Financial Compilation Reports, reviewed.
- A proposal was presented to combine the discretionary funds of Eric and Lizz's. Motion by Brad to accept this proposal, motion carried. This combination would allow for more flexibility and ease of charging expenditures. Eric and Lizz will work together to be sure the total budgeted amount isn't exceeded.
- Brad discussed the Candlelight events payments, and a stipend will go to the building manager with the Property Fund receiving the balance remaining.
- Brad requests that the Committees prepare their annual 2025 budget and submit them to Brad by the end of November 2024.
- Brad discussed payment of three Rickway invoices from 2022 and 2023 that the Committee had recently become aware of.

From Corporate President (Jim Connors)

- No updates.

From Board of Deacons (Kathy Gordon)

- No updates.

From Community Engagement Team (Joyce Prahm, Lynn Kuechle)

- The Committee shared a reminder that on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, there will be a Fair Trade shop in the Fellowship Hall/basement.

From Faith Formation Committee (Nora Henry)

- Nora shared that Lizz is doing a great job.

From Personnel Committee

- No updates.

From Properties Committee (Kelly McBride)

- Kelly shared a recap of what is reported in the Committee's minutes.

From Worship Committee (April Austin)

- No updates.

Other Business (from church office)

- Discussion regarding purchasing new IP phones for Pastor Eric and Lori. Follow up will be done.
- Discussed the need to schedule an annual meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Eric Garner

KIDZ CLUB

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR BABIES, TODDLERS & KIDS
 BEGINS SEPTEMBER 22 - EVERY SUNDAY
 FPC KIDS ROOM
 10:30-11 AM (AFTER CHILDREN'S SERMON)
 CONTACT LIZZ KENDALL AT EDUCATOR@FPCMANKATO.ORG

Families Connect

Welsh Heritage Apple Orchard
 Bring Your Own Lunch for a Picnic
 September 29
 After Church Service

All are welcome!

Chancel Choir

Begins September 22nd
 Rehearsals at 9 AM
 Sundays in the Chapel
 Contact Dr. Andrew Kendall
 ajkendall1129@gmail.com

The Wired WORD™
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

STARTING SEPTEMBER 22
 CONTACT APRIL AUSTIN
 (SESSION ELDER)
 APRILAUSTIN1222@GMAIL.COM

Want to be a FPC volunteer for children and/or youth programming events?

Please contact the church office to request and complete a background check authorization form.

After completing the form, you can submit your completed form to the church office by emailing it to administrative@fpcmankato.org, dropping it off at the church, or mailing your completed form to the church office.

Please call the church office at 507-387-2160 if you have any questions.

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 | Nora Henry, Faith Formation | Sophie Hoiseth, Stewardship
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

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

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