

# STAYING CONNECTED, JANUARY 21, 2025

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CATHY

I am the church!  
You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus,  
all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building,  
the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place,  
the church is a people.

*We Are the Church, March & Avery*

This song keeps singing in my thoughts when I think of all the people who make First Presbyterian, 'The Church.' Especially through this Advent and Christmas seasons we have been the church TOGETHER! The joy of having many different folks lead the candle lighting and scripture readings, the preparation of communion, decorating the sanctuary, bringing treats for fellowship time, greeting one another and supporting one another with welcoming smiles and prayers offered. You are the church together!

As we enter another year of ministry, let us hold this thought close to our hearts. No matter what this year holds we follow Jesus together!

Amen, Thanks be to God,

Pastor Cathy

## Please Pray for . . .

**Healing:** Rose Barberg's daughter Cheryl Paicius, Alma Robinson's grandson Chris Robinson, Mike Koeppel, Maureen Hoover, Rose Barberg, Adell Mumford, Gini Gutknecht's nephew Tim Anderson, Gretchen Karg, and Karen Neisen's brother Rick Wolf

**At Cokato Manor:** Reta Blanchette

**Bereavement:** Please pray for Gretchen Karg's family as they mourn the loss of her mother-in-law, MaryAnn Karg

**Please pray for thankfulness and joy for the life of . . .** Alma Robinson! Lord, we thank you for Alma! Such a beautiful soul and we are very blessed. Hold her in your loving arms!

*"In this life, we cannot do great things.  
We can only do small things with great love."  
~ Mother Teresa*

## Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, 1/26/25, **Jesus Baptized, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:21-38**

Sunday, 2/2/25, **Jesus Tested, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13**

## Bible Study

Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am for Bible Study and Prayer Time.  
Everyone is welcome!

## Youth Program & Learning Groups

We will be meeting on Wednesday, February 5th at 5:15 pm for the Youth Program. The Learning Groups will gather at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:10 pm, and our Sending Prayer will be at 6:45 pm. Come and join us!

### THE LIGHT OF LIFE

Most sand comes from coral and rocks that get around into tiny grains. But in a few places, like some beaches of Japan, the bits of sand are shells or skeletons that once housed single-celled organisms. A magnifying glass reveals their star shape: a rounded middle and five or more spines, like a sea star.

These unique creatures live on undersea reefs and share their interior with algae called diatoms, which convert light into carbohydrates and oxygen through photosynthesis. The star points let light into the exoskeleton; in turn, diatoms produce energy to feed them both. When these organisms die, the star skeletons wash onto beaches, protecting the islands even after their own lives end. Our amazing God designed astounding creatures!

This same Creator made us able to take in light from Christ. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me ...will have the light of life" (John 8:12). When we receive his light, it becomes in us the 'energy' we need to do good: to love others, care for people in need, appreciate nature — including star sand — and give glory to the Artist of this entire incredible world.

~ Heidi Hyland Mann

February Birthdays	
Dwight Chamberlain	4
Rose Barberg	11
Cindi Berg	12
Bob Berg	15
Damien Vail	15
Jenny Robinson	17
Jake Decker	17
Adam Nowak	23

February Anniversaries	
David & Pamella Oberfeld	14
Cathy & Cory Jones	14
Pat & Laura Salonek	23
Steve & Gretchen Karg	24



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

There will be a birthday celebration for Reta Blanchette on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Cokato Manor. Located at 182 Sunset Ave NW in Cokato. This will be her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday! Come and celebrate with her and her family and friends!