



*Happy are people who make peace,
because they will be called God's children.*

— Matthew 5:9

Contemplative Service: Wednesday, Oct. 7th @ 6:30pm

Dave Tillman

The next Contemplative Service will be on October 7th at 6:30pm at the church. This is a quiet, reflective service with simple repetitive music, reflective readings, and times of silence. The style is very different than our normal Sunday morning worship service.



This service is normally on the second Wednesday of the month, but it was moved to avoid MEA Conference, which is a common week for people with school-age kids to take vacation.

World Communion: Sunday, October 4th

Dave Tillman

World Communion Sunday (celebrated the first Sunday in October) is an ecumenical Christian celebration in which congregations across continents share the Lord's Supper with a special focus on global Christian unity. Churches highlight that believers around the world—across languages, cultures, and denominations—are one body in Christ.



For many years, FPC has celebrated World Communion with a service and communion in the fellowship hall around a light meal. This year, in part because of the construction, this service will not include a meal. However, it will include various breads from around the world.

Introducing: Laura Ludowise

Laura Ludowise has been hired as our new Administrative Assistant, where she will be keeping the daily office operations running smoothly. Her office hours will generally be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am–2pm, or by appointment. Here is how she introduces herself:



"With a background in Human Resources and Office Management, I have a passion for efficiency and keeping up with office processes and technology. I am looking forward to getting to know the many faces in the congregation and have appreciated the warm welcome the staff has offered so far.

"I live in Mound with my husband Dan and have three adult children as well as our adorable Border Collie mix, Miles. I am also a flutist and have a music degree from UW Madison. I play locally in the Plymouth Concert Band and other ensembles. I really enjoy cooking scratch made meals and desserts, and crocheting. Fun fact: I moved to Minnesota from Wisconsin 22 years ago with the possibility of returning. After a year we loved it and decided to stay!"

RENOVATIONS
Updates on page 7



Practice Generosity

As we continue our journey of discipleship, we will explore the theme of generosity in October, a fitting theme for the season. As a church, we usually take this month and into November to reflect on the stewardship of our resources and consider again how we can support our church community in the year ahead. A time that I feel mimics the experience many farmers must have during this season of harvest. A time when they can finally take in the fruits of their hard work, take stock of what they have, pay off debts, and plan for the year ahead. So too, generosity often starts with taking stock of what we have or our

abilities, and then thinking about how much, or in what ways, we can give to others. Hopefully it is no surprise here that we can be generous in ways far beyond finances (though those do help a lot). An idea explained well in resources we are using to guide us in this practice.

Generosity is often understood as an act of kindness that involves giving out of one's abundance to others in need. Biblical teachings describe the practice as something a little different. Generosity is simply, and profoundly, love in action. We practice generosity in all the ways we love God and love our neighbors. It is a practice rooted in justice and concerned with all the world's needs. One may not have a penny to give but can still be plenty generous. Generosity is an expectation, not a simple kindness to be observed. Generosity is caring for our neighbors' mind, body, spirit, and life in the community.

In this way, we can think of generosity as living generatively. That is to say, we should learn to live in ways that help others live. And not just live, but thrive.

To explore this topic, we will break it into four smaller practices and look at scripture texts highlighting each.

Practice Generosity



Worship Schedule

Make Peace Series

October 4th – World Communion
Honor Every Living Thing
Matthew 5:9, John 20:19

Practice Generosity Series

October 11th – Share Resources
Luke 10:25-37, Acts 4:32-35

October 18th – Share Wisdom
Deut. 6:4-9, Act 18:1-4; 24-28

October 25th – Share Justice
Isaiah 58:1-12; Luke 4:16-19

Men's Breakfast, October 10th, 9:00am @ McGarry's Pub

Dave Tillman

The next Men's Breakfast will be October 10th @ 9:00am at McGarry's Pub in Maple Plain.



The change in venue is because of the construction at church. The change in time is because they don't open until 9:00am. Hopefully by November, the construction in the fellowship hall will be finished so we can return to meeting at the church.

McGarry's Pub is at:
5189 Main Street East
Maple Plain MN 55359

McGarry's does not have a buffet, so we order individual items from their "brunch" menu. If you want a sneak peek, you can check their website: [McGarry's Pub - Food Menu](#) (click on "Brunch"). Breakfast item prices range from \$11 to \$17.

McGarry's Pub has wheelchair access through an outside elevator by the back door.

Looking Ahead

- Saturday, Nov. 4 – Starwatch with Kevin Lynch (rescheduled from last year)
- Wednesday, Nov. 11 – Palestinian/Jewish Speakers
- Sunday, Nov. 15 – New Recipe Fellowship
- Saturday, Nov. 21 – Feed My Starving Children
- Wednesday, Dec. 2 – Cookies & Carols
- Sunday, Dec. 20 – Christmas Pageant
- Thursday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service

Trivia Night: Wednesday October 21st 6:00pm @ Iron Exchange

Julie Lokken

After taking the summer off from flexing our trivia muscles, we are ready to go again in October! Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and factoids at Iron Exchange on Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00pm. Trivia begins at 6:30pm, no prior experience or expertise required. All that is needed is a readiness and willingness to enjoy one another's company.



Open House: October 8, 4–6pm

Dave Tillman

WeCAN is having an open house at their office in Mound on Thursday, October 8th, 4–6pm. If you are curious about anything or everything that they do, this is a great time to come and see.



Share the Warmth **Winter Coat Drive** **October 12 - 22**



*CLEAN, Gently Used Coats, Snow Pants, Boots
NEW Hats & Mittens*

*WeCAN, 5213 Shoreline Drive in Mound
Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

**Other collection sites include: Hilltop Primary School,
Shirley Hills Primary School, Grandview Middle School,
Good Shepherd Church, Lyndale Lutheran Church, Our Lady
of the Lake, St. Martin's Church, St. Boniface Catholic
Church, Westwood Church, 21st Century Bank Loretto**

Also at First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain

Questions?

Call WeCAN at 952-472-0742

www.wecanmn.org





CLEARWATER FOREST

Moms Relax & Renew

Breathe again! 



DATE:
DECEMBER 4-6



THEME:
Breathe again!



COST:
\$325 SINGLE OCCUPANCY
\$225 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

A weekend focused on deep rest, quiet spaces, gentle movement, and unplugging from daily demands. We will have time to wrap presents, make gifts, bake, hike/snowshoe, or just lounge around in fellowship with other moms.



WRAP
PRESENTS



MAKE
GIFTS



BAKE



HIKE OR
SNOWSHOE



LOUNGE &
RELAX



FELLOWSHIP
WITH OTHER
MOMS



*Come breathe again,
recharge your spirit,
and enjoy meaningful
fellowship.* 

— SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER EARLY! —

CLEARWATER FOREST

| DEERWOOD, MINNESOTA 

Protecting Children from Gun Violence Action Circle

Are you concerned about gun violence against children? **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

Imagine a school bus of 50 children crashing, killing every child, every four days for a year—year after year after year. Wouldn't we do something about it?

That is the equivalent number of children being killed by gun violence in the United States today—about 50 children every four days. Since 2020, gun violence has been the top killer of American children—more than cancer, vehicle crashes or any other disaster. It has been the number one killer of children of color since 2006.

Join with congregations across the nation for:

- **Protecting Children from Gun Violence Action Circle**
- One Hour on Zoom for five **Wednesdays** at **Noon Eastern**, plus One Hour of Preparation
- Fall 2026: September 30 – October 28
- Offered by the **Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gun Violence Prevention Ministry** and led by educators, pastors and other faith activists.

The Action Circle is designed for adults, parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, church leaders, veterans, health professionals, gun violence survivors and others who believe that *“Children are a heritage from the Lord”* (Psalm 127). It's for those who own firearms and those who do not. It's for people of faith who are willing to face a difficult issue together in order to protect and nurture the children and youth in our midst. If that is you—and others from your congregation—please sign up at www.bit.ly/protectfall

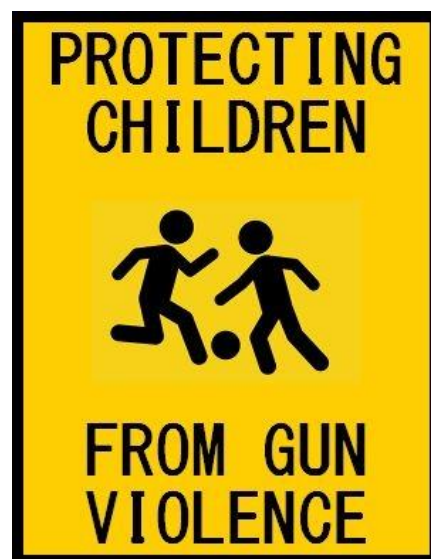
Topics:

- Week 1 Children in The Crossfire: How Gun Violence became the Top Killer of US Children
- Week 2 Saving Children's Lives with Secure Storage Programs
- Week 3 Seeing Our Children: The Spiritual and Mental Health of Children in the Crossfire
- Week 4 Direct Action Options for Real Safety for Children
- Week 5 Advocacy, Voting and Next Steps for Your Congregation

Find a news article about the launch of the Action Circle program at:

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/1/12/beginning-feb-4-peace-fellowship-will-offer-action-circles-protecting-children-gun-violence>

For questions or suggestions, contact gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org



Still Under Construction

Dave Tillman

In September, construction continued slowly. The mason has finished the brickwork outside around the new windows. The electrician has continued the work on lighting and fans. The conduit for our sound, video and stage lighting has been run in the back sanctuary wall and other places.

Pending approval, sheetrock should start being installed on Friday (10/2). After that comes taping, painting and carpet.

We continue to hold worship services and yoga in the sanctuary. However, these events may move, based on the workers' requirements. Regardless of where we meet, we will continue streaming our Sunday services using Facebook Live. See our website (CatchOurSpirit.org) or search for us on Facebook.

Since West Village Homeschool Coop resumed their program in mid-September, the contractors have avoided doing work on Wednesdays and Thursdays. However, there may come a time when West Village will need to modify their schedule or venue to accommodate painting and carpeting.



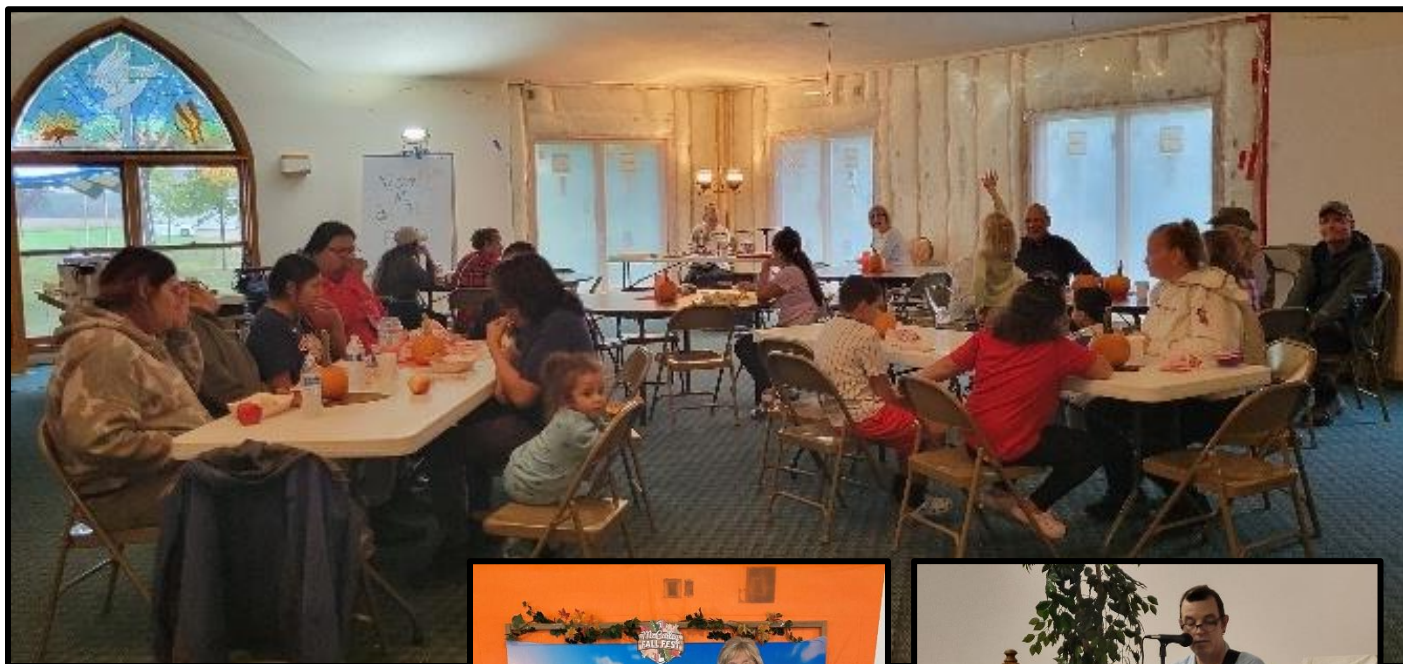
McCulley Fall Fest

Dave Tillman



Even though it was raining outside (so the horse-drawn hay wagon was cancelled), we had a great time inside at the McCulley Fall Festival. We enjoyed live music, food, face painting, pumpkin painting, children's games, bingo, trivia, s'more roasting, and more. We served 90 hot dogs; so we think about 120 people came through our doors at some point during the three-hour event. Here's hoping for better weather next year!





BIRTHDAYS

6
18
24

Lois Kukuk
Wally Baker
Aaron Barkus

26
30

Heather Baker
Kathy Holida

ANNIVERSARIES

1

Dan & Shawn Elasky

11

Bart Kusske & Julie Maas-Kusske

Thank You, West Village Homeschool Coop!

Dave Tillman

If you have been around FPC any of the last few weeks, you will notice changes that West Village Homeschool Coop has been making. As previously reported in the June newsletter, last spring West Village purchased and installed the new playground set.

This fall, they have purchased a large tipi that they can use for both cultural enrichment and as a classroom. (Tipis are portable, so if/when they leave, it will go with them.) They have also cleaned out the volleyball court and cleaned out the underbrush beneath the conifer trees north of the building. The place looks a lot nicer and is more useable.

Parents from West Village often tell me how much they love our facility; and they are helping to make it better for everyone!





OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	28 11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy	29 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom	30 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op	1	2	3
4 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	5 11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy	6 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom 11:30am - 12:30pm CN Meeting	7 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op 6:30pm Contemplative Worship Service 7:15pm Choir Practice	8 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op 2:45pm Deacons Meeting	9	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast at McGarry's Pub
11 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	12 11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy	13 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom	14 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op 7:00pm Choir Practice	15 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op	16	17
18 Maple Leaf Articles Due 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	19 11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy	20 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom 6:00pm Session Meeting	21 Trivia Night at Iron Exchange 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op	22 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op	23	24
25 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	26 11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy	27 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom	28 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op 7:00pm Choir Practice	29 8:30am - 3:30pm West Village Homeschool Co-op	30	31

The latest calendar is available at:
CatchOurSpirit.org/calendar



First Presbyterian Church
558 County Road 110
Maple Plain, MN 55359

Address correction requested.



October 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain

763-479-2158

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9am–2pm

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Administrative Assistant
Choir Director
Clerk of Session
Deacons Chair
Maple Leaf Editor
Prayer Chain Leader
Prayer Chain

Rev. Dan Voigt
Laura Ludowise
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