



*Don't remember the prior things;
don't ponder ancient history.
Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness.
— Isaiah 43:18-19*



Are you ready to paw-ty? 🐾

Jill Schmitt

Please make plans (and invite your dog-loving friends and family too!) to join us for DoggiePawlooza – our free annual outdoor celebration for dogs and the people who love them –



on Wednesday, June 17th, from 5–7:30pm. 🐾

🐾 🍕 🗣️ Word-of-mouth may feel old-fashioned in this day and age, but a personal invitation is one of the best ways for us to raise awareness of FPC and increase event attendance!

We also will need help with various tasks the day of the event, including with setup, welcoming/greeting visitors, running the dog and people games, judging awards, cleanup, among other things. A signup sheet can be found in fellowship hall on Sunday. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated!

😊 Here are the highlights of DoggiePawlooza at a glance:

- Pizza Karma food truck that offers fresh tandoori-fired pizzas and appetizers
- Doggie games and activities 🐾
- Dog-themed trivia and bingo (with doggie treats to cover the spaces)

(Continued on page 3)

RENOVATIONS

Starting: June 8

Dave Tillman

As detailed in the April newsletter, Session is embarking on a major refresh of the sanctuary, fellowship hall and narthex/foyer over the summer. This refresh project supports the strategy laid out by Session in 2024 to “create a more welcoming and flexible space that will accommodate multiple uses, benefit the broader community and give people a reason to visit.”

So, starting June 8th, the use of these spaces will be severely limited. All worship services and other activities will be held outside, in the education wing, basement or offsite.

Men's Breakfast, June 13th, 9:00am @ McGarry's Pub

Dave Tillman

Because of the construction at the church, the next Men's Breakfast will be May 9th @9:00am at McGarry's Pub in Maple Plain.



We'll have good food, lots of conversation, just enough reflection, and end in prayer.



FROM THE PASTOR

Good Question!!!!

I love a good question; don't you? It makes you pause and think a little deeper than you did before. It can make you look at something from a new angle or make you see something you were overlooking.

You may or may not be aware, but our scriptures are full of them. And some of these questions are particularly potent. Because while they are addressed to a particular character or audience in the story, they also carry a spiritual resonance that reaches through the pages and becomes a question that we get caught up in. Often, either a question that feels like God is also asking us, or one we too have for God.

Just take a few Psalms for example.

Psalm 8, when looking at the stars, asks, *"What are human beings that you are mindful of them?"* This pondering question comes from the experience that many of us have had when looking at the grandeur of the universe. This feeling, as part of the human race, makes you realize how small and insignificant you are, yet at the same time, incredibly fortunate and magnificent.

Or Psalm 121, which seems to be written in the context of something terrible looming. It states, *"I lift my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? It comes from the Lord, the maker of the heaven and earth."* From a moment of desperation rises a prayerful question, a reminder that, in the end, it is only God in whom we can find our comfort.

Then there is Psalm 22, famously quoted by Jesus on the cross. Here rises a great question of anger or confusion: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* A painful statement of this human feeling of being forgotten, crying

out to God, questioning the justice of this world when left to suffer.

That is scratching the surface. The Gospels alone have so many gems:

- The rich man asks Jesus, *"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"*
- Jesus asks his disciples, *"Who do you say that I am?"*
- Peter asking Jesus, *"How many times should I forgive someone?"*
- The lawyer asks Jesus to clarify, *"Who is my neighbor?"*
- Jesus asks James and John, *"Can you drink from the cup I am about to drink?"*
- Jesus teaches, *"Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"*
- Or *"What does it benefit you to gain the whole world and lose your soul?"*

And those are just a few of the famous ones.

Do you see what I mean? So many great questions to explore. Frankly, way more than we will get to this summer. But I'm excited to explore a few of my favorites. I hope you can join us when you're in town—or, as always, online.

Be well,
Pastor Dan

Worship Questions for June

Jun 7th – Who told you that you were naked?
Genesis 3:11

June 14th – Am I my brother's keeper? Gen. 4:9

June 21 – Where were you when I laid the foundations of the Earth? Job 38:4

June 28 – What do people get from all their hard work under the sun? Ecclesiastes 1:3

Doggie Pawlooza

(Continued from page 1)

- Doggie kissing booth / photo area 🤗 📷
- Individual blessings of the dogs 🙏
- Veterinary, training and grooming information
- Free dog treats, bandanas and temporary tattoos 🐾
- Drawings for free prizes
- Awards for Best Dressed Dog, Most Talented, Most Photogenic, Most Friendly, Best Behaved, Best Athlete, Best Kisser 🏆

All dogs must be on leashes. This event is always a howling good time! 🐾

Please reach out to Sue Potter, Victoria Wise or Jill Schmidt with any questions.

Synod School 2026

Pastor Dan

Every summer, around the end of July, our Synod, which includes most of the upper Midwest, hosts a conference for all ages at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA. For one week, around 600-700 Presbyterians just like you take over the university and enjoy classes, learning from each other, and hearing from a great speaker and worship leaders.

Pastor Dan has probably attended twelve out of the last fourteen years and is heading back this summer. If you want to learn more, talk to him about it. You can also check out the website (lakesandprairies.org/synod-school) and peruse the catalog (a print copy is also available at the church).



Contemplative Service:

June 10th @ 6:30pm

Dave Tillman

The next Contemplative Service will be June 10th 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.



Weather permitting, this service will be somewhere outside.

Starwatch Program

with Mike Lynch

Jill Schmitt

We had around fifty people turn out for Mike Lynch's Starwatch Program on Friday, May 15—more than half of whom were friends or visitors. We started the evening indoors with space-themed snacks and with Mike sharing some general information and specific insights about the springtime night sky in Minnesota.



Unfortunately, partially cloudy skies prevented us from being able to view the planets, stars and constellations through Mike's giant telescopes that night. Mike has offered to come back in the fall to redo the program. We will be looking at dates to reschedule the event. Keep an eye out for more information.

[Ed: Sorry, no pictures; maybe next time.]



Session Minutes Available to All

Pastor Dan

Every month, your elected Session members gather to make decisions about the church and prayerfully try to guide our work in a faithful direction. But have you ever wondered what it is they are talking about? If so, you may not know that all Session meeting minutes are publicly available.

Please contact the office if you would like to get a copy, or stop in and Emily, Dan, or Mark Prok can show you where to find minutes from previous years. Don't like to read meeting minutes? Well, you are also in luck. Any Session member would be happy to fill you in on what we are currently talking about, discerning, and would love to hear from you if you have something to share.

Save the Date!

- August 5-6 – VBS @ Calvin Church



We regularly need help with our Sunday morning worship services. Can you help? Slots are available for multiple roles. Please sign up to be a Worship Assistant (Liturgist, Usher/Greeter, or Fellowship), to help with audio/video technology, and/or Sunday School.

If you can help, please click on the link below to sign-up or sign up at church in Fellowship Hall.

[Volunteer Link](#)



There are many ways to donate money (or equivalent) to the church:

- Putting cash or checks in the offering plate on Sunday morning (or in the Financial secretary mail slot in the office).
- Using our online donation link website: CatchOurSpirit.org/donate.
- Donating appreciated securities (contact Jeff Potter).
- Donating directly from your retirement account (contact your financial institution).

Each method has its own advantages.

Butterfly Release

Jill Schmitt

Off into the world! 🦋🌍 On Sunday, May 10th, we released the Painted Lady butterflies we've been watching grow since Easter. Releasing the butterflies was a good and beautiful reminder of new beginnings and the power of resurrection. 🌱🌟🌅



Soon to Be...Under Construction

Jill Schmitt

As announced during our worship service on May 23, our renovation project is set to kick off the week of June 8. During construction, we will be worshipping outdoors when weather permits or in the basement if it doesn't.

To get the space ready for the crews to do their work, there has been lots of packing and moving of furniture, tech equipment and other items going on. We'll be using the classrooms and nursery in the education wing to store everything until the project is done.

Many thanks to the tech team for their hard work dismantling and moving all our tech equipment. Thanks also to all the many people who have spent their time and effort helping with the move.





The New Playset

Dave Tillman



West Village Homeschool Co-op has purchased and installed a new playset! This was installed at the beginning of May. It is somewhat larger than the previous one. They have worked hard to raise the funds for this new playset. This included holding a garage sale of donated items.

The old set, which served us for around 20 years, was donated to someone who refurbishes them and resells them.

Thank you to West Village Homeschool Coop for this investment in both their future and ours.



City of Independence Spring Clean Up Day: May 2, 2026

Jill Schmitt

Thank you to everyone who pitched in (literally) to make this year's City of Independence Spring Clean Up Day a success! We had seven volunteers – Mark Anderson, Jeff and Sue Potter, Mark and Sue Prok, and Kyle and Jill Schmidt – join with city officials and staff to help unload items from vehicles and trailers. Gina Anderson and Victoria Wise teamed up to prepare and serve lunch for all the volunteers.

Volunteering at this event is a good way for us to put our values into action, give back to our community, raise awareness of FPC and build relationships with city officials, staff and others in our community. Our efforts were greatly appreciated.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 3:00pm - 9:00pm Girl Scouts	1 11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy	2 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom 11:30 am CN meeting in Library	3	4	5	6
7 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	8 	9 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom	10 6:30pm Contemplative Worship Service	11	12	13 9:00am Men's Break- fast. At McGarry's
14 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	15	16 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom	17 5:30pm - 7:30pm Dog- gie Pawlooza	18	19 	20
21 Maple Leaf Articles Due 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	22	23 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom 5:30PM Session, Dea- con. & Admin Meeting	24	25 7:30pm Night at the Delano Ballpark	26	27
28 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	29	30 10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom	1	2	3	4
The latest calendar is available at: CatchOurSpirit.org/calendar						



BIRTHDAYS

Karen Larsen, Derek Prok, & Soren Voigt	7
Rob Hill	9
Mitch Jensen	10
Ashlyn Baker	16
Jeanne McElderry	30

FUN FACT: Did you know there are no FPC Anniversaries June?!!!!



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

Address correction requested.



June 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain

763-479-2158

Office Hours: Variable
refer to the church calendar at CatchOurSpirit.org/calendar

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Choir Director
Clerk of Session
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