

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TRANSITION – PHASE 1

RECALLING OUR HISTORY

An important step in our church's transition and the calling of a new pastor is reflection on our church's history. Our history reveals our identity, values, priorities, strengths, and challenges. The Transition Team asks the help of each member as we consider the church's history.

There are two parts to this first phase. One is a "Scrapbook on the Wall" (see below). The other is in the form of a survey, located at the end of this document. We've also included a brief history of FPC, just to get your thoughts flowing. We ask that you complete the survey as soon as possible, with a deadline of March 6th. Thank you so much!

If you have any questions, please call one of the transition team members or Pastor Casey.

Team Members: Betty Beck, Jake Bjornstad, and Natasha Yates (#'s available at the office)

"Scrapbook on the Wall"

As part of this first phase of information-gathering for our transition, we have posted a special timeline on the north wall of the Sunday morning gathering area. We'll fill in some of the historical events in the life of FPC. We ask that you bring your own memories to post on that timeline. (Think "scrapbook" here...these can be pictures, bulletins, mementos, even just a written note.) We will place a basket in front of the space for you to put your documents into and will post them ourselves as quickly as possible (that way we won't have to worry about little hands getting hold of a box of tacks or pins). There will be pens and postcards to write your own note for posting. For items not specifically dated, please leave a Post-It Note on the item, indicating where on the timeline you would like your item posted. If you'd like, you can send something in to the office (please be sure you indicate the date it happened) and we'll post it for you. Let's put together a wonderful scrapbook of our shared memories of First Presbyterian! (Note: if you have a one-of-a-kind item, please make a photocopy of it for posting so that you don't lose it. We can help with that in the office.) The Scrapbook will remain up for the next few months and you can feel free to add to it at any time. We will include pictures of the Scrapbook in the Newsletter and on our Facebook page, for those not currently coming to the building.

A Brief History of First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing (paraphrased from our website)

The journey of First Presbyterian church began June 17, 1849, when Joseph Hancock, his wife, Maria, and daughter, Marilla, arrived in Red Wing, Minnesota. Hancock was sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to serve as a teacher for the native people of the area.

Hancock and his family were the first permanent inhabitants of European descent in this area and became instrumental in establishing the town of Red Wing on the Mississippi River. Hancock later found his focus beginning to change, so he attained his theology credentials.

On January 13, 1855, the First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing was chartered with seven members. Pastor Hancock's congregation met in the mission house, a carpenter's shop, a summer shanty, and a one-room schoolhouse. In 1857, the congregation erected the first church building at a cost of \$5,000, with a bell tower and 60 pews to seat 300 people. Over the years, 26 settled pastors have served our members, as well as numerous interims.

Many renovations helped First Presbyterian keep up with the times. Then, on May 24, 2002, an electrical fire consumed the building which had housed our congregation for 145 years. Drawing courage and inspiration from those who had gone before us, and finding strength in the grace of God, the membership planned and rebuilt a modern facility. It was occupied May 23, 2004, almost two years to the day from the destruction of the old church.

SURVEY QUESTIONS (deadline is Monday, March 6, 2023)

Name (required):

****Your name will not be shared publicly****

Here are the questions we are asking, designed to prompt your reflections on your place in our shared history.

(For those filling out a paper copy, please feel free to attach extra sheets.)

1. How many years have you been a part of the life of First Presbyterian Church (FPC)?

2. What originally brought you to FPC? Do you remain here for the same reason(s)?

3. What do you recall about the church's place in the community over the years?

4. What is your first memory of First Presbyterian Church? Is it from the present building or before? Who was the Pastor?

5. What moments (events, programs, interactions, etc.) were the most joy-filled...that represent the very best of your experience?

6. What are the most significant events of the church in your experience, either joyful or sad?

7. Are there any of those sad events for which you would seek some healing or closure before moving on? If so, please name it/them.

8. What church service or event has touched you most deeply?

9. What else about our history should we be sure to remember?