



## FROM PASTOR ERIC

Recently I have found myself turning to the wise counsel of Ecclesiastes. As someone who places a disproportionate emphasis on the reading of books and learning, I have often been chastened by 12:12, “Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.” Even more so I have felt the truth of how the King James translates 1:18, “For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.”

We happen to live in a moment of time when the increase of knowledge does indeed seem to bring sorrow. Whether it’s being bombarded by 24-hour news networks that need to keep reporting (or at least talking) about something in order to maintain revenue, or learning about the minutia of what people impulsively post online, we are constantly being fed more and more information. With the exception of our friends and families having children or completing projects, I would wager that this glut of information we receive doesn’t make us any happier. More likely than not, we find ourselves in the exact opposite situation, where the weight of the world’s problems drags us down.

William Wordsworth, in a famous poem declares, “The World is too much with us[.]” For him this is an ironic truth, for while we are obsessed with spinning our wheels when it comes to the problems we humans create, we miss the marvels of creation right outside our doors. That is, we weary ourselves by focusing on learning about and thinking through worldly matters that we cannot possibly control—increasing our sorrow with each new bit of knowledge we acquire—while all the while ignoring the teacher who might calm our weary minds.

For Ecclesiastes, we are not simply placated by the natural world, but rather are instructed by the One who created all things. As the wise teacher assesses the world around him, he recognizes that wisdom, and not knowledge, ultimately satisfies, for wisdom is born of God. As 12:11 says, “The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.” Wisdom is something that stirs us to action and offers us structure since it is ultimately given by God, our one shepherd.

So if you find yourself becoming enamored by the lure of information and knowledge; if you believe that you can somehow gain control through learning, then know this: *it is not learning, but God who can bring peace.* Each and every day people will try to tickle your ears with assessments about the state of the nation and the course of the future, but these words cannot satisfy. The pursuit of knowledge as a means of control is ultimately a pursuit of sorrow, for that is the only thing it shall reap. Recognize that the world, is indeed, too much with us, but that God is with us more still. May you take comfort in the wisdom of our God to put this world aright. May you give up the control of *knowing* and accept the wisdom of trust.

In Christ,  
Eric



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## Sunday, August 4 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, August 4 is 2-Cents-A-Meal



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](http://www.fpcmankato.org/prayer-requests), call, or email the Church office at and our administrative assistant will get you connected to our Pastoral staff and Deacons! 507.387.2160 | [info@fpcmankato.org](mailto:info@fpcmankato.org)

Marcia Richards would like to extend prayers and condolences to Gracie Rawson and her family on the death of her sister, Bette Rademacher on July 13, in Mankato.

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## 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.



# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship Service Communion  2-Cents-A-Meal  <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Mankato MoonDogs!	5	6 <b>12:00 p.m.</b> FPC Staff Meeting	7 <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Love Thy Neighbor Book Club	8	9	10
11 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship Service	12	13 <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Budget Comm. Meeting	14 <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Properties Comm. Meeting	15	16	17
18 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship Service  <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Deacons Meeting	19	20	21 <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Worship Comm. Meeting  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Session Meeting	22	23 <b>1:00 p.m. To            7:00 p.m.</b> Summer Fun Friday!	24
25 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship Service	26	27	27	29	30	31  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Candlelight Concert Tribute to Adele  <b>8:45 p.m.</b> Candlelight Concert Tribute to Cold Play



# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Fred Lutz Karla Schafer	5 Linda Leiding Thai Sartell	6	7 Erin Oberle	8	9	10 Carol Greenwald
11 Clair Attarian Nick DeVetter	12 Janet Goff	13 Libby Guss Dick Lewis	14	15	16 Andrea Tacheny	17
18	19 Rallah Madison	20	21 Mark Taylor	22	23 Isabel Carleton Doug Cutler	24 Amelia Fahey Duane Rader
25	26 Paul Bollman Melissa Enter	27	28 Pete Steiner	29	30 William Hanson Talay Sartell Colten Warpinski	31 Dennis Murray





# AUGUST PROGRAMMING

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 Moondogs Game @ 5:05 PM	5	6	7 Book Club @ 6 PM	8	9	10
11 10:00 AM Synod School Service	12	13 Compassion Camp 5:30-7:30 PM	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Compassion Camp 5:30-7:30 PM	21	22	23 Youth Summer Fun Friday Backpack Program & Lake Time 1-7 PM	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31





*First Presbyterian Church*  
OF MANKATO  
rooted in community • growing in faith

# COMPASSION CAMP

WHAT EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS

**TUESDAY EVENINGS  
THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER  
FROM 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**OPEN TO  
AGES 2-12**

Tuesday, June 18 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Every Living Things Needs  
Shelter

Tuesday, June 25 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Every Living Things Needs Food

Tuesday, July 9 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Every Living Things Needs Water

Tuesday, August 13 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Every Living Things Needs Air

Tuesday, August 20 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Every Living Things Needs  
Community

Compassion Camp is an inclusive vacation Bible school program for children focused on loving our neighbors, ourselves, and the world! Activities will include story time, music, art projects, games, movement, and more!



[www.fpcmankato.org](http://www.fpcmankato.org)

507-246-6381

220 E. Hickory Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

Contact Lizz Kendall with any questions: [educator@fpcmankato.org](mailto:educator@fpcmankato.org)

## 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:educator@fpcmankato.org)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE

The Presbyterian Women's Circle is taking the **summer months off** and will resume meeting in September.

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024** at 9:30 a.m. in the FPC Fellowship Hall.

See you then!



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN



### BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM!

For our youth fun Friday on August 23, the youth and I will be delivering food donations to the Backpack Program in North Mankato.

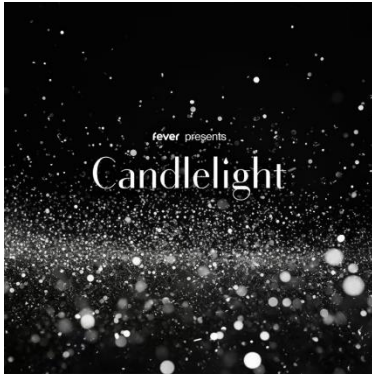
Community funded and community led, the BackPack food program provides elementary school students with nutritious, well-balanced meals when school is out. Free food is distributed weekly in FOCP food packs (i.e. large freezer bags).

With help from FOCP volunteers and staff, the food packs are discreetly delivered at the end of each week to the student's teacher. The packs are then placed into the student's backpack when they are out at recess or away from their lockers for them to take home for the weekend.

The Backpack program serves students in over 30 schools in 6 school districts: Janesville, Waldorf, Pemberton, Nicollet, Lake Crystal Welcome Memorial, St. Clair, Maple River, and Mankato.

Following on pages 8 and 9 is a list of food donations that we will collect at FPC before August 23. There will be totes for the food in the narthex.

Please ask Lizz Kendall any questions at [educator@fpcmankato.org](mailto:educator@fpcmankato.org)



**Saturday, August 31, 2024**

A Tribute to Adele at 6:30 p.m.

A Tribute to Cold Play at 8:45 p.m.

In the FPC Sanctuary

Information and tickets can be found here:

<https://feverup.com/en/mankato-mn-us/candlelight>

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## 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!



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**“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  
August 7 | 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 (Session Elder);  
[sophie.hoiseth@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.hoiseth@gmail.com)



# Food Pantry Wish List

FOCP provides meals & snacks to area youth struggling with food-insecurity. Below are items we are in most need of.



**Canned Chicken:** Swanson, Great Value  
Small individual cans or packages



**Canned Vegetables:** Del Monte, Great Value, Hy-vee, Cub Foods, Aldi



**Rice Packets:** Great Value, Bens Original, Minute, Knorr, etc.  
Preferably individual microwavable bags



**Peanut Butter:** Jif, Skippy, Good & Gather, Great Value, etc.  
Preferably smaller jars



**Hamburger Helper:** Any flavor and brand



**Cereal Boxes:** Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Frosted Flakes, Life, Cap'n Crunch, etc.



**Canned Fruit:** Individual cups or cans, any fruit and brand.



**Granola Bars:** Chewy, Sunbelt, Nature Valley, Nutri Grain, KIND, etc.



**Jerky:** Jack Links, CHOMPS, etc. Small bags or individual wrapped sticks.



**Ramen Noodles:** Any flavor and brand

# FOCP

FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PARTNERS

# Food Pantry Wish List

FOCP provides meals & snacks to area youth struggling with food-insecurity. Below are items we are in most need of.



**Pancake Mix:** Hy-vee, Great Value, Bisquick, Krusteaz, Hungry Jack, etc.



**Muffin Mix:** Betty Crocker, Great Value, Hy-vee, Pillsbury, etc. any flavor



**Syrup:** Great Value, Mrs. Butterworth, Aunt Jemima, Hungry Jack, etc.



**Soup:** Bear Creek Mix, canned soup, any brand and flavor



**Noodles:** Any style noodle and any brand



**Tuna:** Individual cans or packages, any brand



**Pasta Sauce:** Prego, Great Value, Ragu, Hy-vee, etc. any flavor



**Chef Boyardee:** Preferably individual microwavable containers, any flavor



**Alfredo Sauce:** Prego, Great Value, Hy-vee, Ragu, etc.



**Instant Mashed Potatoes:** Any flavor and brand, preferably individual microwavable cups



FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PARTNERS

**YOUTH WHO COMPLETED  
GRADES 6-12**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUMMER**

*Fun Fridays*



**DAYS CONSIST OF  
SERVICE PROJECTS IN  
THE MANKATO  
COMMUNITY AND  
OUTDOOR FUN**

**FRI JUNE 21 - 1-7 PM**

**POSTPONED**

GARDEN

FARM

**FRI JULY 12 - 1-7 PM**

OAK 1  
ASSIST  
BING  
RESIDENTS

**DONE**

AND  
IG

**FRI AUGUST 23 - 1-7 PM**

BACKPACK  
FOOD  
PROGRAM

BAKING WITH  
ERICKSON &  
LAKE TIME  
AT THE TAYLOR  
HOME



## FPC Leadership, Staff, and Contact Info

### Compassion Camp

This summer, First Presbyterian Church of Mankato is again offering Compassion Camp, an inclusive vacation Bible school program for children ages 2 through 5th graders and spread across the summer months on Tuesday evenings. Activities will be focused on loving our neighbors, ourselves, and the world! Activities will also include story time, music, art projects, games, movements, and more! For children ages 2-3, please have an adult accompany your child.

### Dates and Times:

5:30-6:00 p.m.: Dinner and Fellowship, potluck style, please bring food to share

6:00-7:30 p.m.:  
Programming

**Tuesday, August 13:**  
Every Living Thing  
Needs Air

**Tuesday, August 20:**  
Every Living Thing  
Needs Community

**Please register with Lizz at  
educator@fpcmankato.org**

### 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 | Andrew Kendall, DMA, Choir Director  
Lizz Kendall, Director of Outreach & Faith Formation  
Mark Zallek, Building Manager | Lori Olson, Administrative Assistant

### Staff Contact Info:

Pastor Eric Garner: [pastor@fpcmankato.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmankato.org) | 507-519-2633

Administrative Assistant, Lori Olson: [administrative@fpcmankato.org](mailto:administrative@fpcmankato.org) | 507-387-2160

Building Manager, Mark Zallek: [buildingmanager@fpcmankato.org](mailto:buildingmanager@fpcmankato.org) | 507-327-7907

Pianist and Organist, Ben Marti: [music@fpcmankato.org](mailto:music@fpcmankato.org) | 507-387-2160

Choir Director, Andrew Kendall: [music@fpcmankato.org](mailto:music@fpcmankato.org) | 507-387-2160

Director of Outreach and Faith Formation, Lizz Kendall: [educator@fpcmankato.org](mailto:educator@fpcmankato.org) | 507-246-6381

### 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](mailto: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.

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220 East Hickory Street, Mankato, MN 55901 | 507-387-2160 | [administrative@fpcmankato.org](mailto:administrative@fpcmankato.org)