

United Presbyterian Church  
 302 2nd Ave SE  
 Jamestown, ND 58401  
**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

# *The Communicator*

**Summer Edition**

United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, ND

Volume 44 No. 8, August 2017

## *Our Mission*

*Sharing Christ's Love Through Service*

### *Why are Presbyterians Associated with Predestination?*

The doctrine of predestination has long been part of the Presbyterian tradition. It was part of the theology of John Calvin and developed further by Calvin's followers. Predestination, or election, played a role in the important theological disputes in the seventeenth century between the Calvinists and the Arminians. In America, these disagreements translated into differences between Presbyterians and Methodists on doctrine.

Predestination is part of the biblical and Christian tradition. It was given prominence by the theologian Augustine (354-430). Calvin and his later followers were highly influenced by Augustine's understandings of the doctrine and developed it further in their own sixteenth and seventeenth-century contexts. Thus, predestination became associated with Presbyterians.

Often the doctrine of election, or predestination, is caricatured. It is said to be a harsh doctrine, turning God into a tyrant. Or it is said to deny that humans can make any choices because "everything is predestined." Another way predestination is sometimes described is to say it is just a theological word for "fate."

To the Presbyterian, none of these are correct understandings. Calvin came to the doctrine from a very pastoral concern: Why is it some people respond to the Christian gospel and others do not? His answer, as he studied Scripture, was that God has elected or chosen ("predestined," as Rom. 8-28-30) those who believe. This is a gift of God's grace, because humans are sinners and do not deserve the salvation God gives as a free gift in Jesus Christ. For Calvin predestination should lead to gratitude and joy! It means that when we believe the gospel, we believe because of God's powerful Spirit in our lives, and that God has elected us out of God's free grace.

When Presbyterians talk about predestination, we are talking about the actions of the God of the Bible. God is not the blind laws of nature or impersonal force (like "fate"). God here chooses to enter into relationships with sinful people (covenants) and to provide the gift of salvation by sending Jesus Christ into the world (John 3:16-21). This is a God who cares and loves and gives grace to underserving people like us. So predestination is a comforting doctrine, since it assures us that our salvation rests in God's work not our own.

Predestination is not the only thing Presbyterians believe! But we can be grateful for our understandings of predestination, not because they show us worthy of God's love, but because we experience the loving power of God, who proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). This is the joy of predestination! —Donald McKim

### **AUGUST WORKMONTH FAMILIES**

**Chairpersons:**

Prentice, *Edie	952-3882
Lee, *Mark & *Dixie	252-2772
Bennett, *Scott & *Amy	952-2604
Bennett, *Alex	952-2604
Johnson, *Arlene	252-5269
Johnson, *Harry & *Dianna	252-0554
Leigh, *Jesse & *Simone	269-8737 or 269-8738
Lueck, *Les & *Bethyl	252-1593
Mayer, *Gary & *Lou	252-0031
McMillan, *Bill & Theresa	251-1071
Spitzer, *Selmer & *Phyllis	327-4295 (Dawson)
Szarkowski, Tyler & *Marcy	763-6526
Thoele, *Kevin & *Kim	952-2844 or 269-1229 (Kim)
Thoele, *Brenna	952-2844
Wright, *Wanda	952-6665
**Bennett, *Emma	952-2604
*Member	
**High School Student	

### **UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**302 2nd Avenue SE  
 Jamestown, ND 58401**

**Phone (701) 252-1748**

*website: www.upcjamestown.org*

*e-mail: presbyterianchurch@daktel.com*

### **SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS**

**Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM**

### **SECRETARIAL HOURS**

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Monday - Thursday**

*For corrections or additions to  
 the newsletter please call the  
 church office—252-1748*



# August 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Reading Ministry 3:00 PM	2 Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 PM	3 Christian Nurture 6:15 PM AA 7:00 PM	4	5
6 Worship 9:30 AM Communion	7	8 Reading Ministry 3:00 PM Deacons 6:00	9 Congregational Meet and Greet 4:00-7:00 PM	10 AA 7:00 PM	11	12
13 Worship 9:30 AM	14	15 Reading Ministry 3:00 PM	16 Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 PM	17 Session 5:15 PM AA 7:00 PM	18	19
20 Worship 9:30 AM	21	22 Reading Ministry 3:00 PM	23 Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 PM	24 AA 7:00 PM	25	26
27 Worship 9:30 AM	28	29 Reading Ministry 3:00 PM	30 Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 PM	31 AA 7:00 PM		

### More dates to remember. . .

- August 9** Meet Pastor Bob and Ellen's daughter, Kristina, Wednesday, August 9 between 4:00 and 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- September 10** Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 AM with worship service beginning at 10:30 AM.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Dianna Johnson	2
Olivia Orn	4
Pastor Bob Boyar	6
Adilynn Miller	8
Clyde Young	8
Aaron Motter	10
Bonnie Schmitz	10
Logan Motter	12
Jeff Enger	13
Kevin Koehn	13
Jackie Tarpinian	15
Jordan Gengler	16
Roger Pringle	17
Bernie Thompson	19
Elvera Divers	22
Dennis Divers	24
Noah Leigh	27
Marlys Legler	28
Janet Holaday	29



## August Anniversaries

Jim & Susan Bond	2
Mark & Elizabeth Sherfy	3
Dean & Kathy Wegner	11
Mark & Dixie Lee	11
Kevin & Kim Thoele	15
Randy & Janet Miller	20
Duane & Kathie Dunn	21
Dick & Doreen Larson	21

## SUMMER NEWS

- \* **THANK YOU!** I'd like to thank my church family for all the prayers, cards, and food during my recovery period from hip surgery. I could not image NOT having my church family in my life. Thank you all ! Mark Lee
- \* **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—The Christian Education Coordinator position is now vacant. We are in a search for the next person to lead this position. A job description and application are available in the church office.
- \* **PW CIRCLES**—This year, beginning in September, we will be studying the book of Hebrews exploring what it says about peace, peace-making and hope. There will be nine themes under the umbrella of Community. COMMUNITY: a social, religious, occupational, or other groups sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists. Think about the many communities you belong to – community of family, community of friends, community of church and so on. Add at least three more in your personal relationships.

Consider Hebrews 12:1 and the phrase "CLOUD OF WITNESSES" which means Christian Saints. Think of a cloud. Think of a wall made of stones. Think of them as metaphors – the Cloud of Witnesses would be a community of saints. The wall, made of stones laying one on another without mortar, as a foundation, just as Jesus is our foundation as we pile our needs and wants on him with faith he will carry us through.

There is much mystery about the Book of Hebrews – who wrote it, when. Was it written by a woman? Is it a letter or a book, or, both? What is its message to each of us? Reading it aloud at home gives the double impact of hearing and seeing. Be prepared for a stimulating Circle this year with this new study.