



# The Tie

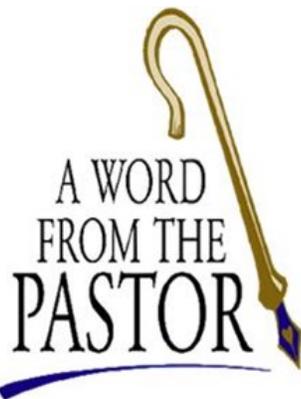
Peoples Congregational Church

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First Congregational Church

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Savage MT 59262



Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to start by saying thank you for your warm welcome to Peoples and First. It has been very humbling to be among you as your Pastor. Alyssa, the girls and I are so grateful for the gifts and cards; we are very blessed. I am excited about the opportunity for ministry within our church and community.

We have some great opportunities already happening in our churches:

- Chapel Talk at Peoples
- Devotions at First
- Online Worship

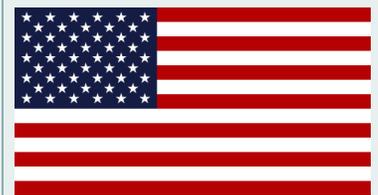
And as we look to the fall, I am starting to think about and plan a mid-week worship service. It will be more of a contemporary style worship, in the chapel. We will use music and media on a screen and have a time of scripture and a message. My hope is that this will be a time to gather and worship with a different style of worship. I welcome any thoughts you may have as we plan this service.

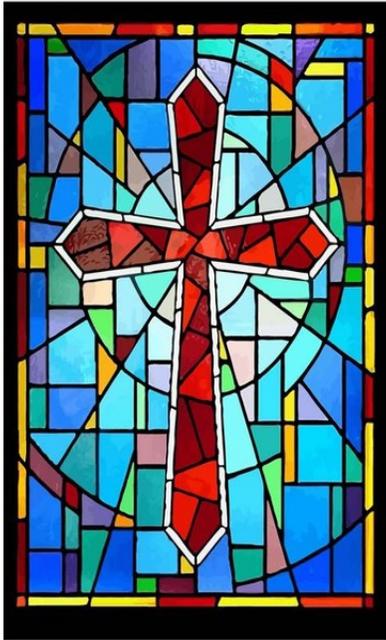
I am so excited to be part of this ministry and community. I am hoping to continue my home visits with you. I have enjoyed the ones I have been on and look forward to getting to know all of you better. If you need to get ahold of me for anything, please feel free to contact me anytime via email or cell



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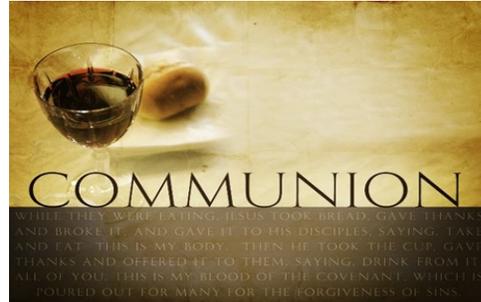




phone (text message ok). We have great ministry here and an opportunity to proclaim his word to all we meet. May God bless you in the coming month and I hope to see you in worship.

Pr. Josh

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The question of how often to partake in communion in church worship services has been a matter of discussion for centuries since the New Testament church was launched. Many evangelical churches celebrate communion *periodically* – monthly or quarterly. There’s no clear command in Scripture as to how often we’re to receive the Lord’s Supper and for this reason, many churches have decided not to offer it weekly because they don’t want it to become routine or lose its special status.

If this becomes our reasoning then does that mean we should also avoid praying too often, singing hymns to much, or hearing a sermon and scripture to much? All of these acts of worship don’t lose their significance because we practice them too frequently, but because we don’t recognize our dependence on our Heavenly Father, or the ongoing significance of the crucifixion and resurrection in our lives, and the depth of power available to us in and through them. Communion isn’t just *special* – it’s the sacred centerpiece of our worship and our lives. It reminds us of the supreme sacrifice Christ offered and the New Covenant that’s now been made available to us through the shedding of his blood. Is that only worth celebrating occasionally?!

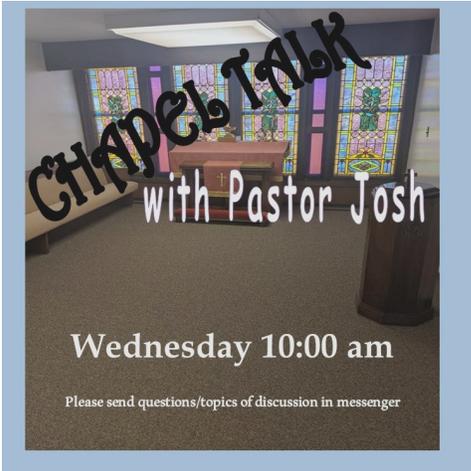
In Acts 2:42, Luke explains that one of the key activities to which the early church was devoted as often as they gathered was the breaking of bread, or communion. Luke also records in Acts 20:7, “*On the first day of the week, when we were*

*gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”* Even though we’re not commanded to observe communion each week, the teaching of Scripture indicates that believers shared the Lord’s Supper often – even as often as they gathered.

So, our congregations have chosen to observe communion more than just once a month, at First we celebrate it each week and at Peoples we celebrate it the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. This allows us to reflect and focus on the cross of Christ and his return as our eternal hope and joy. During communion, we sit at the feet of Jesus, at the foot of the cross, we partake of the body (bread) and blood (wine) of Jesus. Since the Lord’s Supper is of such value, importance, and significance to the gathered church, the real question we should be asking isn’t why we have communion every week or bi-weekly – it’s why wouldn’t we?

If you have questions about the sacrament of Holy Communion as a recognized sacrament of the UCC please let Pr. Josh know and he will gladly have a conversation with you.

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**On our website you can find the weekly bulletins, chapel talks, devotionals, Sunday Services and much more.**

# REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS

**Peoples Congregational Church:** Jeana Barnhart, Duane Bergemann, Kathy Crowell, Clara Cundiff, Aaron Franz, Ron Gurney, Lois Kalberer, Jan Scheetz, Doris Swenson, Shari Viall, Peggy Zadow, Anita Scheetz, Tom Scheetz, Nancy Oberfell, Robyn Heck, Dick Davidson, Judy Jensen, Bill Forrester

**First Congregational Church:** Leslie Hagler, Amelia Messer, Sandy Quinnell, Even Sunwall, Craig Seeve, Linda Lowry, Sandy Ler, Harvey Hamburg, Leonard Odenbach



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

Patti Cayko	4th
LuAnne Williams	5th
Leonard Odenbach	8th
Leslie Hagler	13th
Bobbie Kalberer	13th
Shirley Taylor	22nd
Rick Stone	26th
Joanne Hagler	30th

### ANNIVERSARIES

Marshall and Laura Vojacek	3rd
Alan and Wanda Tofte	12th
Jason and Dawn Rehbein	14th
Tom and Anita Scheetz	17th
Chad and Laurel Molden	21st
Chris and Jennifer Vojacek	25th
Tony and Elaine Barone	29th



**PEOPLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING JULY 13, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Pastor Josh Rau, Mike Gear, Vic Gustafson, Kristan Haugen, Blinda Larsen, Tom Scheetz & Jeri Stone

Pastor Josh led us in an Opening Prayer.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the May 2022 Meeting had been read. A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Jeri to approve the minutes as read in the TIE NEWSLETTER. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Blinda gave the May and June Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Vic to approve the Treasurer's Report and the May and June checks as written. Motion carried. A \$3000 donation to the Memorial Fund was given for the Church North Wall Repair.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PASTORIAL RELATIONS:** They will meet with Pastor Josh soon. Tom reported that Pastor Josh has been approved by the United Church of Christ to serve our churches as a lay minister. Tom is working with the Montana Wyoming Conference Minister to obtain Pastor Josh's ordination into the United Church of Christ.

**PROPERTY: At the Parsonage:** The soft water softener needs to be replaced as well as some of the plumbing. Vic is getting bids. There is a water leak to the refrigerator's ice and water unit. The front screen door needs to be replaced. There is some water leakage in the basement shower. The sprinkler system needs to be checked, and sprinkler heads may need to be replaced.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Sunday School will start after Labor Day.

**FINANCE:** NO REPORT

**ENDOWMENT:** The Endowment Committee met on July 12, 2022 and the written Endowment Report ending 6-30-22 by Bob Goss, Chairman is as follows: The Revised Endowment Rules were approved at a Special Congregational Meeting February 6, 2022. Based on the guidelines approved by the Council in November 2021 there is \$4,566 available for mission gifts as of 6/30/22.

The value of investments has declined by more than \$22,000 (16.8) in the first half of the year. Oil royalty income has increased slightly because of current oil prices. This is a good time to remember that this is a long-term investment and that future ministry donations will remain consistent due to the changes in calculation of funds available. The total value of our endowment stands at \$115,400.11. If you are aware of a mission need that we could help, please let any member of the Endowment committee know. Last year's donations went to: The Food Bank, the Shriners Club, the Matthew's House, the Senior Companion Program, & the Coalition against Domestic Violence.

The committee has set Wednesday September 14 as the date for a fundraiser: A SALAD & SANDWICH LUNCHEON. Chad Molden has agreed to conduct a records review in 2022.

**OUTREACH:** OUR CHURCH GARAGE SALE will be held in October. You may bring your items to the church and put them in the Kindergarten Room. No clothes please.

**WORSHIP:** NO REPORT

**PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Pastor Josh reported officiating the Funeral Service for Sharon Quinnell at First Congregational Church. He is working on a social and virtual presence for both of our churches: He has updated our Facebook Pages and is working on new websites. The yearly church website fee for both churches totals \$325. A motion was made by Blinda and seconded by Kristan to pay our half of the first yearly fee. Motion carried. Pastor Josh has also put the Sunday service, the weekly bulletin, and the TIE newsletter online, and this has been well received. He has started Chapel Talk 10AM on Wednesdays and it was online this week. Devotionals with Pastor Josh will be held 10AM on Thursdays.

The Council had a conversation with Pastor Josh about communion.

He is looking for ways to make our church look more welcoming. At both front entrances he has put up signs with the church office hours and his phone number. The church office and the pastor's office doors will be open during office hours. The Sanctuary Door will be unlocked during office hours, instead of the kitchen door. He would like to put up a Big Sign, "ALL ARE WELCOME", in front of the church and dress up the front airlock to look more welcoming as people enter.

He had questions about how the Good Samaritan Funds were given out. A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Vic to have \$200 cash locked in the minister's office to be used for the Good Samaritan Fund. Motion carried.

The council okayed Pastor Josh to advertise for a part time organist with a \$50 max for regular church services.

Pastor Josh plans on making home visits with congregational members soon. A sign-up sheet is in the church narthex.

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:** NONE

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jeri Stone

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Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting

7/27/2022 at 4:00 PM

Peoples Church

In attendance were: Pastor Josh Rau, Laura Vojacek, Leslie Messer, Paula Bostrom and Tom Scheetz. Absent: Wanda Tofte and Kathy Hurley.

Leslie welcomed everyone and then Pastor Josh led us in prayer.

Since the committee hasn't met since November of 2019, Leslie stated that the group needed to elect a chair. Leslie asked if anyone wanted to be the chair, and all said "no". Laura then moved to elect Leslie as the chair, Paula seconded. All in favor, carried.

Leslie then passed out a flyer that described the importance of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) and the role that we serve for our churches, and the pastor. The PRC provides support for the pastor and provides a regular channel of communication between the pastor and congregations. By doing so, the PRC builds up the body of Christ through church and ministry, provides focused and consistent support, and provides feedback and communication. Leslie emphasized the importance of confidentiality and creating a foundation of trust for all.

There was discussion about the need for an adopted practice of procedure that the PRC requires to operate successfully. Leslie stated that if a church member, or anyone, brings an issue to one of the PRC members, we are to listen to them, and then ask the church member to take the issue directly to Pastor Josh. If, after doing so, the church member does not feel that the issue has been heard or resolved, bring it back to the PRC and we will then have a discussion on it. This practice of procedure is outlined in the "Guidelines for the Pastoral Relations Committee" handbook provided to the UCC. Tom moved to adopt this practice of procedure, and Laura seconded it. All in favor and carried.

Pastor Josh then presented his report on how things have been going for his first month of service. He discussed successes, satisfactions, goals, and areas where he would like additional feedback. Some of the accomplishments, in addition to his church services that he has completed, are: updating of the websites, chapel talk, devotional times, meeting with community members, and on-line services. He has also spruced up the sanctuary, his office area, and Savage's office as well.

Tom and Pastor explained that other churches in the conference have what is called "Member & Discernment Committee". The committee is composed of church council members from both congregations. Tom believes that the PRC from our churches provides this same function, and there is no need to create another subcommittee.

The Church & Ministries committee sent three questions to Pastor Josh to answer. This is part of the process to be considered for ordination. If the PRC agrees and approves of his answers, we are to compose a letter of support and send it to the Church & Ministries committee at the Conference, stating that we support him, and further, support him becoming ordained. Leslie asked the PRC members to read the questions and responses that Pastor Josh completed, and to email her with questions or support. Once everyone has submitted their responses, Leslie will move forward.

Tom asked if we could have a joint council gathering of both churches. The PRC decided that we will bring this request to our respective upcoming church council meetings.

The next PRC meeting was scheduled for August 24, in Savage, at 4:00 PM.

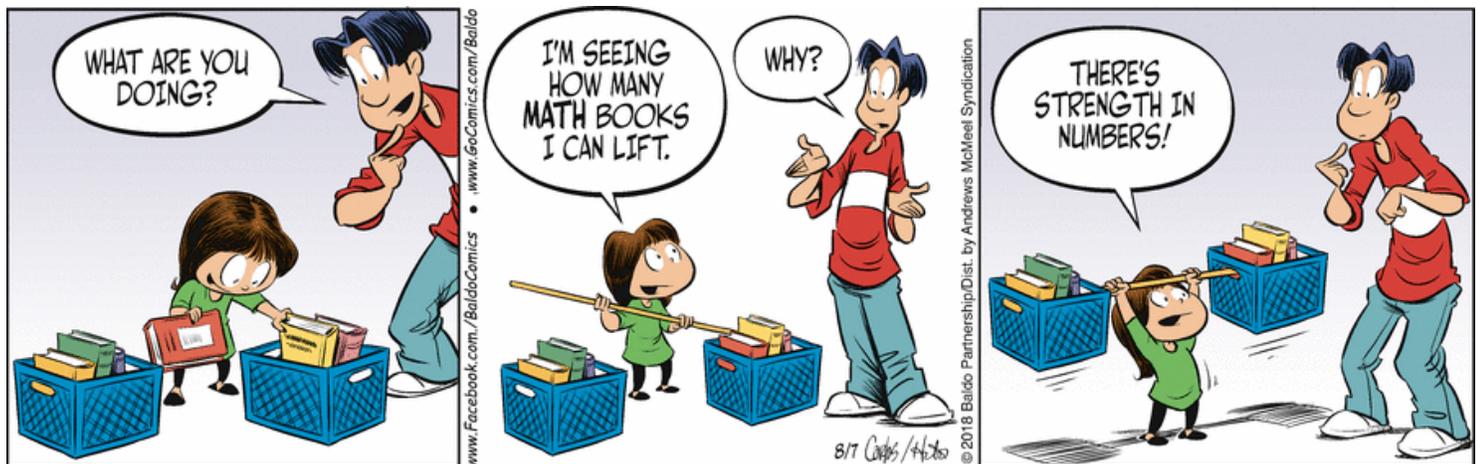
With nothing further, Pastor Josh closed in prayer.

# Announcements

Peoples Congregational Church's Garage Sale coming in October 2022. Bring your items to church and put in the Sunday School Room closest to the kitchen starting May 1, 2022. NO CLOTHS PLEASE!

## Pastoral Visits

Pr. Josh would like to get to know you and your family. There are sign up sheets in the narthex of both churches, please put your name and number down. Pr. Josh will start contacting people and setting up times to meet.



*We offer Holy Communion every  
Sunday at First and the 1st and 3rd  
Sundays of each month at Peoples.*

*Chapel Talk and  
Devotionals can be  
found on Facebook*

# August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7 9am Worship (F) 11am Worship (P)	8	9	10 10am Chapel Talk Peoples 1pm Peoples Coffee	11 Devotionals First @ 10am	12	13	
14 9am Worship (F) 11am Worship (P)	15	16 11am Council Meeting @ Peoples	17 10am Chapel Talk Peoples 1pm Peoples Coffee 2pm Manor Worship	<b>Pastor Josh Gone</b>			
21 9am Worship (F) 11am Worship (P)	22	23	24 10am Chapel Talk Peoples 1pm Peoples Coffee 2pm Manor Worship 4pm Pastoral Relations	18 Devotionals First @ 10am 7pm Council Meeting @ First	19	20	
28 9am Worship (F) 11am Worship (P)	29	30	31 10am Chapel Talk Peoples 1pm Peoples Coffee	25 Devotionals First @ 10am	26	27	

# AUGUST

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