

First Things First

December 2018/ January 2019

A Word from Tom, the Stated Supply

And so, we ring in the Advent season – a time of holiday decorating, gift buying, and special memories! For us church folks, Christians you know, it is a time of preparation and contemplation and a time to think about not just the season but the meaning! As we move through this time, I offer some thoughts on what its meaning might be!

First, family and community – two intertwined joys we share. It is from our families we draw so much – identity, traditions, memories! And yet those two also often confront us with loss as we acknowledge that this year, perhaps for the first time, we are without the physical presence of a parent, spouse, partner, family or community member. However, I hope we all will not seek to ignore that sorrow but encounter it with at least some joy as we remember loved ones who taught us so much, enabled us to move on in life, and/or provided us with the wherewithal to build a life of joy. Their absence is troubling, but their memory should bring joy. It is upon their shoulders that we stand, and we shouldn't shy away from acknowledging that. Let us draw meaning and joy from them.

Second, the world – all around we can hardly ignore the frenzy of those who want us to get “stuff” and share that “stuff” with others. It can be not simply overwhelming but dismaying for anyone seeking deeper meaning. Might I suggest that first we might consider “stuff” to be given as a symbol of our desire to share with others and then grapple with how we might share not simply with those we know but many we don't. AND many for whom that “stuff” that's needed is not found in many malls! Maybe the meaning of the season can be discerned in the offerings found in places like the “Presbyterian Giving Catalogue” or in the plate of cookies offered to a neighbor or the visit made to a friend long ignored! The “stuff” which creates the season can be very expensive or quite dear but often the two remain miles apart!

And lastly, our faith – and it's last because the last shall be first – let's all spend just a few moments thinking about how we might not simply consider the meaning of this season but share it. What does it mean to share with the world a belief in a God whose entrance isn't at the head of a mighty army or as CEO of a great corporation but as a baby? What can one say and do to witness to that faith? Peace, justice, joy, pleasure, beauty, hope, meaning – those are words which that birth sought to make real. How can we share them this and every season is the question and the gift we might share?

See you in church or sometime soon, I hope.

Peace

Rev. Tom

December Calendar



DECEMBER 2

10:00 AM **Worship**
Communion Sunday
Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery

11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

DECEMBER 5

6:30 PM **Combined Session/Deacons' Meeting***
Avalon Square

DECEMBER 9

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery

11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

DECEMBER 16

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery

11:00 AM **Christmas Tea***
Oak Room

DECEMBER 20

8:00 AM **Men's Breakfast**
Dady-Oh's

DECEMBER 23

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery

11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

DECEMBER 24

7:00 PM **Christmas Eve Service**
Sanctuary

DECEMBER 24 and 25
Office Closed

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
No Worship at First Presbyterian

DECEMBER 30

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery

11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

DECEMBER 31 and JANUARY 1
Office Closed

January Calendar

JANUARY 6

10:00 AM **Worship**
Epiphany

(celebrated)

Baptism of the Lord
Communion Sunday
Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery

11:00 AM **Removing the Greenery***



JANUARY 9

5:30 PM **Session Meeting**
Office

JANUARY 13

10:00 AM **Worship**
Ordination/Installation of Elders and Deacons
Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery

11:00 AM **Soup Cook-Off Fellowship***
Dining Room

JANUARY 17

8:00 AM **Men's Breakfast**
Dady-Oh's

JANUARY 20

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education (TBD)**
Oak Room

JANUARY 27

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education (TBD)**
Oak Room

*see article

December Birthdays

- 12/8 Russ Volmar
- 12/9 Therese Dorna
- 12/12 Edna Churchill
- 12/21 Russell Volmar, III
- 12/22 Charles Franzke
- 12/26 Krista Dittrich
- 12/29 Charlie Davies



January Birthdays

- 1/13 Derek Noska
- 1/17 Sue Root
- 1/19 Kaelyn Van Essen
- 1/29 Tom Williams
- 1/29 Karen Schmidt
- 1/30 Linda Volmar
- 1/30 Mackenzie Van Essen



VOTE for the First Pres Gingerbread House!

Stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore any time from 10:00AM Tuesday, November 27 to 4:00PM on Saturday, December 1, 2018 to vote for our gingerbread house! Every dollar donated to our house counts as a vote (in fact, it's 1 vote for \$1, 7 votes for \$5, 20 votes for \$10). The ReStore is located in the Westbrook Shopping Center at 2120 E. Moreland Blvd, Waukesha. Every dollar goes to affordable housing, so we win no matter what!

Bell Ringers Needed!



The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to ring bells on Friday afternoons at the downtown Waukesha State Bank location beginning on **November 9 through December 21**. If you can help with this, please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the Oak Room. For further information, please contact Earl Davison. (262)446-9429

Christmas Eve Readers

As part of our Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols on **Monday, December 24 at 7:00 P.M.**, we are looking for several volunteers. If you would be willing to read one of the lessons, please contact Jim Ziegler by **December 2** so he can get you your reading. Thanks!

Christmas Poinsettia & Giving Catalog due 12/3

Please contact Therese if you need an order form. All ordered poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

Please note office hours are **Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**
Office will be closed
**December 24 & 25 and
December 31 & January 1**

Christmas Mission Outreach

The **Christ Church Mitten Tree** is now up in the Oak Room and is looking wonderful. We still could use the following :

- warm hats
- warm scarves
- warm gloves or mittens
- toys
- puzzles
- children's books
- crayons
- markers
- children's activity books
- large print playing cards

ERAs gives Christmas care packages to low income seniors. Our donation basket will be in the Oak Room starting the first Sunday in November. Items in need are:

- books of Forever postage **stamps**
- thin **puzzle books**
- thin **gripper socks** (Medline is a good brand)
- **combs**
- individually wrapped **toothbrushes**
- blank Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Valentine, and Christmas **cards**
- **\$10 gift cards** to Walgreens, Pick & Save, or McDonald's (please write the value on the card)
- large print playing cards

The last day to contribute to both will be **Sunday, December 2.**

Session / Deacons' Meeting

The annual combined session and deacons meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 5, at Avalon Square, beginning at 6:30 PM** with a potluck meal and continuing with our combined meeting and then separate session and deacons' meetings.

Christmas at Carroll

The Waukesha community has enjoyed Christmas at Carroll each year for several generations. For many, this cherished tradition marks the beginning of their Christmas season. Join the Carroll University Wind Symphony, Choirs, Chamber Orchestra and Handbell Choir as they present music to welcome the Christmas season. **Performances are Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Shattuck Auditorium.** Tickets are \$10. Call 262-524-7182 to order.



Advent Is Coming!

Christmas Tea Fellowship

Sunday, December 16

Please join us after service in the Oak Room on **Sunday, December 16** for our annual Christmas Tea. We will share cookies and tea, along with coffee, hot cocoa, hot cider, and the ever-popular peppermint bark. If you are able, feel free to bring a plate of your holiday baked goods.

Longest Night Service

Faith Springs Presbyterian Church

December 20, 7:00pm

For some, it is hard to embrace the joy of the holiday season. Loss, loneliness, strained relationships, or simple stress can make this a difficult time of the year. **On December 20, at 7:00PM** Faith Springs will host a service of prayer and reflection, a time when we can lift these sorrows (whether our own or not) to God.

Regular Sunday Service

December 23, 10:00am

We will hold our regular Sunday morning worship service at First Presbyterian Church.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Monday, December 24, 7:00pm

First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha will hold its traditional lessons and carols Christmas Eve service, capped by singing Silent Night by candlelight. Friends, family, and visitors are welcome!

Donna Lexa Art Centers

November 12, 2018

First Presbyterian Church
810 North East Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53186



Dear First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha:

Thanks to you, more people with disabilities and special needs will experience the informative and healing aspects of the creative process. Myself, our students, staff and volunteers genuinely thank you for your generous gift of a variety of art supplies.

At the Donna Lexa Art Centers we are honored and privileged to serve our community by promoting independence, creativity, dignity and a space to connect in a supportive environment. Our students are able to explore self-expression, learn new skills, build self-confidence and champion their independence as a result of your support.

With support from you, we can continue to provide opportunities for our students to assert their independence, creatively express themselves, and develop meaningful, lasting friendships through their art classes.

Thank you very much for supporting our program! Rosemary Pearson; Executive Director

Christmas Meals for the Homebound

Christmas Meal for Homebound and Needy:
Most of us are fortunate to have family and friends to share the holidays with. But there are many individuals in our area who are either homebound or alone, or just having a hard time making ends meet. This is especially true in economically deprived areas.

On Christmas Day, we will be delivering a FREE Christmas meal to anyone who may be in this situation. **The meals are prepared at St. William's Church, and are available to be delivered or picked-up between 11:00AM and 1:15PM.** If you or someone you know is in this situation, **please contact Marcia Slowinski at 262-798-1520** to arrange for a meal, and we'll make sure that they receive a warm Christmas dinner and friendly visit. **We can accept requests through Friday, December 14.** Please help us meet the needs of those who hunger for food and friendship are so much greater than our own!

Removing the Greenery

Just as the tree must come down in your home, so must the tree (and garland and poinsettias and wreaths and pew decorations) in the sanctuary. Please join us after worship on **Sunday, January 6**, as we ready the church again for Ordinary Time.



Have something for the **February 2018 newsletter**? Please send it to presby1@sbcglobal.net or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Monday, January 14** to have it included. Any items received after the 15th will be included in the March newsletter.

Soup Cook-off!

Join us January 13, after worship for a soup cook-off. Everyone bring a soup for entry for the contest! The church will provide salads, bread and butter, desserts and drinks. Don't miss out on this time of good fellowship and a little friendly competition.



From The Session

The Session has begun seeking a stated supply pastor to take over when Tom retires at the end of January. A job description has been posted in several online venues.

We discussed the possibility of a partnership with St. Joseph's Medical Clinic, which is need of a larger space.

Sara and Russ put together the 2019 budget, which the Session reviewed and approved.

Waukesha roofing was contracted to repair three separate sections of roof.

Plans were made for upcoming fellowship events.

Care packages were sent to our college students.

The Session met again with Sandbur Consulting on Oct. 15 and determined Guiding Principles that are important for First Pres. The Session then began to look at how the various alternatives for our future do or do not fit with these Principles.

Another meeting with SandBur took place on Nov. 26. We resolved to press forward in talks regarding a partnership with St. Joseph's Medical Clinic. The Session decided to form a committee, comprised of two Session members (Russ and Jim), one member from the congregation at large (to be determined), and the Pastor serving in an ex-officio capacity. The importance of communicating developments in the process with the congregation. **A meeting will be held on Dec. 9 after worship** to update the congregation on talks with St. Joseph's Medical Clinic and to answer questions.

