

First Things First

October 2018

A Word from Tom, the Stated Supply

And as fall engulfs us with Annual Meetings, holiday preparation, and thoughts of winter's snowy arrival, I hope we can also be clear in our continuing efforts to think about and plan for this congregation's future. BUT (and that's such a huge word) I also want to remind us that it's not just the future we are thinking about. We are also continuing to "do" so much and offer so much. Worship, fellowship, mission events/activities, adult ed. – these are all continuing to provide a very visible response to God's presence and call to us. And that's so exciting!

Like a one trick pony, I will keep reminding all of us though, that we need share that excitement with others. We often tell others of that wonderful new restaurant we ate at last week or the great movie we saw last week-end but what about the interesting and challenging Adult Ed class on Mary and Martha that we had last Sunday?

In a community and a culture in which religious news seems to be so often about sexual abuse by religious professionals/ministers/priests, it is truly hard to tell the story of a congregation which is doing such good stuff! Our story continues to be one of response, mission, celebration in response to God's presence and call so we need continue to tell it! Think about inviting someone to join us in this journey!

PART II

Whether the journey is from home to work, home to vacation spot or home to the grocery, the trek requires (sorry to bring it up but...) money! October means stewardship ...err STEWARDSHIP!! Consider what your offering/pledge/donation means to this congregation, this community, and the world. Through the work of this congregation and this denomination, people are fed, disasters are responded to, fellowship is practiced, worship happens! HOWEVER, such stuff can't happen without YOUR support so whether you can pledge \$10 or \$10,000 First Presbyterian needs your support. Think carefully how your support helps us in our journey!!

I look forward to this journey and to listening and learning with you.
See you in church or sometime soon I hope.

Peace
Tom Williams

First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha
810 N. East Avenue, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186
(262) 542-4243 presby1@sbcglobal.net
www.firstpreswaukesha.org

October Calendar

OCTOBER 3

5:30 PM Session Meeting
Office

OCTOBER 7

10:00 AM Worship
World Communion Sunday
Sanctuary
Mitten Tree goes up*
Oak Room

10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School
Nursery

11:00 AM Congregational Meeting*
Sanctuary

OCTOBER 10

6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting
Oak Room

OCTOBER 14

10:00 AM Worship
Peace & Global Witness Offering*
Sanctuary

10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School
Nursery

11:00 AM Harvest Festival Fellowship*
Dining Room

OCTOBER 15

Committee Annual Reports Due*
November Newsletter Deadline

OCTOBER 18

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

OCTOBER 21

10:00 AM Worship
Sanctuary

10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School
Nursery

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship
Oak Room

11:15 AM Adult Ed (Biblical Literacy)*
Oak Room

OCTOBER 24

5:30 PM Session Meeting
Office

OCTOBER 28

10:00 AM Worship
Stewardship Sunday
Reformation Sunday
Sanctuary

10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School
Nursery

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship
Oak Room

11:15 AM Adult Ed (Advent)*
Oak Room

*see article

Looking Ahead

NOVEMBER 4

10:30 AM Joint Worship with Faith Springs
Faith Springs Presbyterian Church*

NOVEMBER 18

11:00 AM Annual Meeting of the Congregation

NOVEMBER 25

11:00 AM Hanging of the Greenery

October Birthdays

10/4 Rosemary Duwel
10/16 Bob Winchell
10/18 Jill Radcliff
10/18 Trevor Manke
10/23 Mary Ann Sinclair
10/27 Adam Van Essen



Church office hours are
Monday through Thursday,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

>2018-2019 Calendar of Events available in
Oak Room (on the sign-up table)

Congregational Meeting

Please be sure to attend the **Congregational Meeting at the close of worship on Sunday, October 7, in the Sanctuary**, when we will take two quick actions.

We will elect the officers of the 2018 Nominating Committee, in advance of the Committee providing a slate of candidates to serve the Church beginning in 2019. Elder Jim Ziegler and Deacon Kathryn Herman have been selected by the Session and Board of Deacons to join the previously elected at-large members, Judy Berthelsen, Bob Pugh, Adam Van Essen, and Earl Davison (alternate).

We will also consider modifying the Church's By-Laws to reduce the number of active Deacons serving on the Board and to provide additional flexibility in the service terms of the Church Officers.

Christ Church Mitten Tree

The **Christ Church Mitten Tree** will be up **Sunday, October 7**, in the Oak Room. The following would be greatly appreciated:

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



Harvest Festival Fellowship!



Join us after worship on **Sunday, October 14**, in the Dining Room for our **Harvest Festival gathering**. The church will provide beef pot roast with vegetables, bread, and beverages. The congregation is asked to bring appetizers and desserts.



Flu Shots

With the flu season rapidly approaching, flu shots for all ages will be available **Sunday, October 14, 11:15 AM in the Oak Room**. Show your insurance card and Medicare card, if applicable.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

The **Peace and Global Witness Offering** will be collected on **October 14 this year**. This offering is one of four PCUSA Special Offerings and is used to promote Peace by addressing injustice in the world.

Annual Reports Due

Are you responsible for submitting an annual report for your committee or area? Please submit your report to Therese in the office no later than **Monday, October 15**. You may put it in her mailbox or email it to her at presby1@sbcglobal.net. You should have received an email from Therese reminding you that the report is due, along with the report submitted last year for reference. Thank you in advance for getting your report in by the deadline.

Invitation to Katie Ebel's Ordination

Under the nurturing guidance of First Pres, Katie Ebel has completed everything required to become an ordained pastor in the PC(USA). You are cordially invited to **Katie's ordination at 2:30 p.m. on October 21 at Faith Springs Presbyterian Church**. Faith Springs (formally known as Zion, a daughter church of First Pres) is located at **N13W28771 Silvernail Rd., Pewaukee, WI 53072**. Come help us celebrate this joyous occasion!

College Care Packages

It's that season again! We'd like to let our college-age kids (Heather Holberg, Erika Margis, Monique Noska and Roxanne Panas) know that we are thinking of them as they continue with their studies.

Please consider writing them a note or a card and/or making a donation of treats to be sent to them in **care packages in October**. A donation basket is set up in the Oak Room. Please leave notes and make any donations no later than **Sunday, October 21**.

Adult Education

Upcoming Adult Education classes will be **October 21** about **Biblical Literacy** and **October 28** when we will discuss **Advent**. Join your wonderful peers and Rev. Tom from **11:15 AM – 12:15 PM in the Oak Room**.

Stewardship Sunday

On **Sunday, October 28**, we will be coming together to make our pledge of support for the upcoming year. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". In this same vein the focus is on the spiritual growth of the giver, allowing individuals a tangible expression of faith.

Enter a pledge of time and talents or financial is a way to serve and is a natural part of our worship together. No one will call on you for a pledge, but we do ask you to attend worship on October 28.

For over 170 years, Stewardship at First Presbyterian Church has made so many blessings possible. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge again this year. We welcome pledges of all kinds, be it a pledge of your time, your talents or your treasure. They are all important not only to First Presbyterian Church but also to you as your travel along your personal "Faith Journey". Please plan on attending worship October 28, 2018 and turning in your pledge.

Thank you! Sara Winkelmann, Elder for Finance

Presbytery of Milwaukee Volunteer Opportunity and Help First Pres Win A Coffee Hour!

Great Commission Task Force Needs a New Name: Tick-tock-tick-tock . . . Be sure to submit your contest entries **before the Nov. 1st deadline!** The Great Commission Task Force has requested that the Presbytery provide a new name for the task force. To do so we have created a contest! Every congregation can submit as many entries suggestions as you like. The Presbytery will vote on the best entries at the November Presbytery Meeting. The winning congregation will receive a **FREE CHURCH COFFEE HOUR** as the prize. Entries can be made at the Presbytery homepage, www.pbymilwaukee.org.

Remember: only the first 1000 entries will be accepted for consideration, so get your entries in ASAP! Thank you, Chris Halverson

Presbytery Seeks Volunteer Treasurer: As our current treasurer, Jessie Read, plans for retirement this year, we are looking for a part-time, volunteer Treasurer to begin working with her to transition. For the complete job description or if you have questions, **please contact Rachel Yates**.

Contact: Presbytery of Milwaukee
(414)292-2740
office@pbymilwaukee.org



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See Jim Ziegler with questions or to sign up.

Joint Worship with Faith Springs

We have been invited to **share worship with Faith Springs** (formerly Zion, which was formed by First Pres members) on **November 4**. We will arrange carpooling for those who would rather not drive that far. Pastor Katie Ebel has extended the following invitation:

“We would love to celebrate the history and faith that bind us to one another. Plus, we have cookies to share!” Grace and Peace, Katie Ebel, Pastor

Sunday, Nov. 4 at 10:30 a.m.
Faith Springs Presbyterian Church
N13W28771 Silvernail Road
Pewaukee, WI 53072
faithspringspcusa.org

Hebron House of Hospitality Gala

Dinner, Auction and Fundraiser on Saturday, November 10 at 5:00PM. An elegant evening of great food, good company and the opportunity to support your community. Hebron House is Waukesha County's Largest Homeless Shelter Service.

The Legend at Brandybrook
1 Legends Way
Wales, WI

Please contact Jessi at gala@hebronhouse.org or call (262)549-8720

20th Annual HOPE CENTER Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction

Thursday, November 15, 2018
5:00 PM - 10:00PM

Ingleside Hotel
(formerly Country Springs Hotel)
2810 Golf Road
Pewaukee, WI

RSVP Today!
call: (262) 549-8726

or

online: www.hopecenterwi.org/events.html
Donations welcomed.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

On Sunday, November 18, First Presbyterian Church will hold its Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The meeting will be held after service at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.



Presbytery Meeting Recap

The Sept. 11 Presbytery Meeting took place at Kettle Moraine United Presbyterian Church in Hartland and centered around the theme of Christian responsibility toward the environment. It involved a nature tour of the grounds, a worship service outside, and a presentation (also outside) about Global Warming by Prof. Calvin B. DeWitt. The meal was inside, but attendees were encouraged to bring their own reusable table service. Congregations were encouraged to be good stewards of creation and to consider joining the Earth Care Congregation program. (If interested, contact Jim Ziegler)

The highlight of the business meeting was the examination in preparation for ordination of First Pres member Katie Ebel. She passed and will be ordained **at Faith Springs on October 21**. (Members of First Pres are invited to attend! *)



The Session at Work

At our regular Session meeting, we scheduled the **upcoming Congregational meetings for Oct. 7** to elect officers for the Nominating Committee and Nov. 18 for the Annual Meeting.

We also proposed changes which the Congregation will vote on Oct 7, including:

Reducing the number of Deacons from 9 to 7 in 2019, and from 7 to 6 in 2020.

Reducing the number of at-large members of the Nominating Committee from 3 to 2, beginning in 2019

Allowing Elders and Deacons to be elected for a term of “1 to 3” years, instead of 3-year terms only, for more flexibility.

In addition, Rev. Williams and each Elder presented their usual reports.

The Session also met on Sept. 13 with Sand Bur consulting, who, together with Rev. Williams, are helping us discern our path for the future.

We are looking at the various possibilities for First Pres – from staying where we are to merging to relocating - and will thoroughly consider the ramifications of each option in turn.

We realize that God is with us on our journey into the future, whatever that future is. First Pres has been – and continues to be - a blessing to the community. So we will be focusing on which option will best help us to **continue** to be a blessing to our community.

2018 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2018 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$34.00. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian can use your share elsewhere. Please note “per capita” in the memo line. -Thank you!