

First Things First

February 2019

A Word from Tom, the Stated Supply

Arrivederci! Tata! So Long! Without being flip or cynical, I want to say good bye, but I also want to say thank you! The list to whom I offer thanks is long and should include every member, friend, staff person, and colleague of First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha. It has been a joyous, challenging, and wonderful six months to be the Stated Supply guy here. Entering a stream of over 140 years of ministry embodied by you all, I have sought to offer some thoughts, a bit of wisdom, and maybe some insightful leadership but however you may see it, to me this has been a joyous time meeting you all, listening and learning with you. May you continue this journey as a faith-filled community growing, changing, and always challenging each other, yourselves, and the world around you.

Now a word about my understanding of “separation ethics”!! For the next year, I am not to have any “ministerial or pastoral” contact with you. It’s actually quite simple. You will soon have new pastoral/ministerial leadership and she/he will provide any care or leadership required.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY KINDNESSES, YOUR FRIENDSHIP, AND YOUR CONTINUING WITNESS TO GOD’S CALL AND GOD’S PRESENCE!

Peace,

Tom

February Calendar



FEBRUARY 3

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
Souper Bowl of Caring*
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Sweet Scrumptious Fellowship***
Oak Room

FEBRUARY 6

- 5:30 PM **Session Meeting**
Office

FEBRUARY 10

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 10:15 AM **Adult Education***
Oak Room

FEBRUARY 14

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

FEBRUARY 17

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

FEBRUARY 19

- 2:00 PM **Presbytery Meeting ****
Registration
Living Hope, Menomonee Falls

FEBRUARY 20

- 6:30 PM **Deacons' Meeting**
Oak Room

FEBRUARY 24

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

*see article

**more information provided in Feb. Bulletins

Looking Ahead

- March 6 Lent begins**
7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service*
Sanctuary

March 10 Daylight Saving Time begins

March 20 First Day of Spring

February Birthdays



- 2/6 Patty Dallmann
2/10 Ian Radcliff
2/11 Helen Pugh
2/16 Betsy Ballmann
2/17 Bob Pugh
2/18 Maryeon Panton
2/11 Sharon Pugh
2/24 Edith Granatella

Have something for the **March** newsletter?
Please send it to

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Thursday, February 14** to have it included. Any items received after the 15th will be included in the April newsletter.

Souper Bowl of Caring



SAVE YOUR PENNIES...and larger coins and bills, too, for the **Souper Bowl of Caring collection**. Your donations will go to fight hunger locally, right here in Wisconsin. The collection will be after worship on **Sunday, February 3**, (the day of that other, similar sounding event.).

Sweet Scrumptious Fellowship



Do you have a delicious dessert or appetizer that you'd like to share with your fellow beaus at First Pres Waukesha? Then get cookin' for the **Sweet Scrumptious Fellowship** after worship on **Sunday, February 3**, in the dining room.

Your Congregational Life committee will provide Chinese Food and beverages. If you're not up for baking or frying, just bring your appetite!

Adult Education

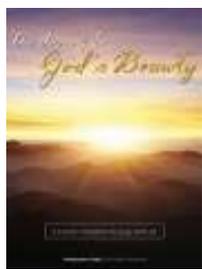
Theologians and Scientists have been grappling with different perspectives on the universe for centuries, but many modern believers think there doesn't need to be a conflict. As Presbyterians, we regularly note that "the Church has been reformed, and is always reforming".

Come explore with us the new worldview of the "evolutionaries", expressed with science informing religion and religion informing science regarding the nature of God. Our sessions take knowledge and belief seriously, featuring a combination of video and guided discussion using the series "Painting the Stars" by evolutionary theologian Bruce Sanguin and published by Living the Questions.

Join us in the Oak Room after worship on **February 10 and February 24** for sessions 3 and 4: Getting Genesis Wrong and An Evolving Faith.

Lenten Devotionals

2019 Lenten Devotionals, **Awakening to God's Beauty** are available by the sign-up sheets.



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

Ash Wednesday Services



This year Lent begins on **Wednesday, March 6**. Our Ash Wednesday service "is a service for the imposition of ashes and the remembrance of baptism based on the sermon's assurance that though we are dust, we are baptized dust, and that makes all the difference." (pcusa.org).

We will have an **Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM**. Please consider taking part to help prepare for our Lenten journey, intentionally traveling through sin and sorrow, despair and doubt, until we reach again the joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Loaves & Fishes



Save the date for **Loaves and Fishes, Sunday, March 24, 2019**. First Presbyterian will provide and cook the food for March 24th.

Southminster will provide and cook food for August 4th. We are accepting any donations of baked goods, food and manpower! Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. More details will be provided in the March bulletins and newsletter.

~Lora Collins

One Great Hour of Sharing

Each year we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering sponsored by the PC(USA). Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Please consider contributing when the One Great Hour of Sharing is collected this Easter. More details about the offering will be made during worship and through bulletin inserts.

Session Recap

From the Session:

In December the annual joint Session and Deacons meeting was held at the Avalon. This is used as an opportunity to share fellowship and let each group know what the other has been doing over the past year. After the joint meeting, the Session interviewed the two new officers, Erika Margis (new Elder for Mission) and Illisia Du Mez (new Deacon). We approved Communion for the first Sunday of every month in 2019, as well as Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Also, it was agreed that Rev. Williams would complete staff reviews before he retires.

We continue to pursue a partnership with St. Joseph's Medical Clinic, possibly in conjunction with Carroll College. Carroll is considering purchasing a building for the medical clinic, but the building has asbestos and mold. Carroll is currently debating whether it's worth renovating. We have made it clear that we are willing to work with both organizations to house a medical clinic at First Pres.

The Session's other major priority has been seeking a stated supply pastor to replace Rev. Williams when he retires. We received three promising applications. After a 1-1/2 hour long Skype interview with Susan McDougall, we were impressed enough to invite her to preach at First Pres on January 13. In a meeting after the service, we offered her the position for the term of one year with option of renewal. Several days later, after praying over it, Susan accepted the position. As of this writing it is uncertain when she will begin. The Session is very excited, since she seems like an excellent fit. We think her energy and enthusiasm will bring new life to our church.

2019 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2019 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$38.00. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian might use your share elsewhere in the budget. Per Capita is not taken from your regular contributions because it must be designated by you for this specific use.



Thank-you to everyone at FPC for once again making the Holiday Season a most memorable occasion at the Greatest Old Church in Waukesha!

I'm so proud that ALL of you care so much to take the time to decorate our place of worship on an annual basis and 'Show-Off' what a wonderful place our Church is especially in celebration of the birth of Christ. You do everyone that attends our Church a gigantic favor by exhibiting the kind of spirit that comes with being a family-friendly congregation!

I believe OUR CHURCH has one of the finest Christmas Eve Services that you will find anywhere. The lessons and carols format is timeless. The music is absolutely first-rate. Karen Minson and Brianne Sura always give their best and make the Service so enjoyable and this year Reverend Thomas Lee Williams stepped in to keep things flowing with just the right touch of casual direction and dignity.

I would also like to mention that Gladys Manke went out of her way to keep the church table cloths and linens cleaned and pressed and Ella Holberg organized the Silent-Night candles and holders so that everyone that wanted to participate could do so. Ella even de-waxed the pew cushions with her trusty electric iron in the days after the Service. I also need to say thanks to Joan Schmidt and her sister for taking the time to decorate the Mitten Tree after the donations were sent off for the children by Kathryn Herman.

I know that there were also many others who contributed greatly to the Church with their time, talent, and donations that make being a member at First Presbyterian Church the special place that we all want it to be now and hopefully into the future. You know who you are and I know that someone else has taken notice also!

God Bless All of You now and during the New Year, ~Bob Pugh-Custodian

MISSION, TITHING, AND CELEBRATIONS

Having served a number of congregations, I know the commitment many make to reach a level of mission support equal to 10% of their overall budget. Many truly struggle to reach this level and celebrate when it happens. First Presbyterian ought join in such as YOU ALL in 2018 provided at least 10% of your income for various mission efforts in and around Waukesha, Wisconsin, and the world. While I am no accountant, my figures show that at least \$15,000 in direct cash support was offered through the budget for 2018!! AND that doesn't take into account the meals provided to Hebron House, the free space offered the Caring Place, the Christmas offerings (note the plural), and/or the special offerings of the PC-USA which we/you support. The 10% level would be about \$19,000 and the above would be well over that! TAKE A BOW but be humble knowing that now it's time to recommit to that support in 2019!!!

PS: Here's the breakdown from the Deacons with \$9000 additional dollars budgeted for various levels of governance and mission efforts by the PC-USA.

The Deacons disbursed 2018 year-end support of local charities in the amount of \$6,000. The following charities were supported this year: a. The Salvation Army - \$1,000.00 b. Avalon Square Chaplaincy Services - \$500.00 c. Avalon Square Benevolence Fund - \$500 d. ERAs Senior Network - \$500.00 e. St Joseph's Medical Clinic - \$500.00 f. The Women's Center - \$500.00 g. Hope Center - \$500.00 h. Hebron House - \$500.00 i. Food Pantry of Waukesha - \$500.00 j. Redeem and Restore - \$500.00 k. Christmas Clearing Council - \$250.00 l. National Fire Safety Council (Waukesha Chapter) Fire Pup Program - \$250.00

~Rev. Tom



The Session

Andrew Byschenk, Clerk of the Session

Class of 2019

Russ Volmar
Joan Schnidt

Class of 2020

Jim Ziegler
Sara Winkelmann
Andrew Byschenk

Class of 2021

Erika Margis

The Board of Deacons

Susan Byschenk, Moderator

Class of 2019

Arleen Burdick
Gladys Manke

Class of 2020

Ella Holberg
Jen Van Essen
Charlotte Smith

Class of 2021

Susan Byschenk
Ilisia DuMez

