

First Things First

September 2019

Perseverance

Many people take stock of their personal and family lives as each New Year's Day rolls around, but we often look backward and forward at our community involvement in the Fall, when the new school year begins, we attend homecoming reunions, or restart meetings of clubs and service organizations after a Summer pause. At First Pres Waukesha, we have published our calendar for Sep 2019-Aug 2020, we will soon hold our Teacher Commissioning, and the Session is completing the work requested by the Presbytery for us to determine our next steps.

As the annual cycle recommences, we are reminded that the ritual has been repeated at this church longer than any of us has lived, which is a testament to how faithful God has been in ages past, and to the long-lasting love this congregation has for its members and neighbors. As the chain continues this year, we take comfort in knowing the very same God is our hope for years to come, and that our continuing service to God and God's people is always worthwhile. Like so many believers before us, we have heard the words of the prophet instructing us to "love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, and strength" (Deuteronomy 6), and we understand how that translates into action as Jesus taught his followers to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and care for the sick (Matthew 25). And, like so many believers throughout the world today, we continue to follow that call.

The word that has been handed down to us is filled with remarkable stories. Sometimes the situations seem rich with opportunity, and other times the church seems stretched thin with concern. Regardless of the circumstances, God always finds a way for the church to persevere.

Knowing God prevails,
-Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session



September Calendar

SEPTEMBER 1

- 10:00 AM **Worship with Southminster Communion Sunday**
First Pres Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room



SEPTEMBER 2

Labor Day Observed
Office Closed

SEPTEMBER 8

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Commissioning of the Teacher
Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM **Back-to-School Bash Fellowship***
Dining Room

SEPTEMBER 11

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

SEPTEMBER 15

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

SEPTEMBER 19

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

SEPTEMBER 22

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

SEPTEMBER 25

- 3:00 PM **Presbytery Meeting***
Good Shepherd Trinity Church

SEPTEMBER 29

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

*see article

September Birthdays

- 9/4 Turner Dittrich
- 9/5 Kaitlyn Lucht
- 9/10 James Ziegler
- 9/14 Arlene Burdick
- 9/23 Judie Berthelsen
- 9/26 Lora Collins



Church office hours are
Monday through Thursday,
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.
Office Closed September 2

Have something for the **October** newsletter?
Please send it to:

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Monday, September 16** to have it included. Any items received after the 16th might not make it into the October newsletter.



Session Recap

The Session composed a survey letter asking members to rank five options for the future of First Pres. After the questionnaire was distributed, collected, and tabulated, we discussed the results in depth and will make a decision on our path, which we will then provide to the Presbytery. This will help determine what we require from our next pastor. (For example, a pastor who specializes in helping churches merge would not necessarily be the appropriate pastor for a church that wishes to age in place.)

Because we had budgeted for a full-time pastor, we have more money in the checking account than expected. Because of this, we voted to take no disbursements from the Endowment Fund from August 2019 through the end of the year.

In September, First Pres will take part in several events to support the community.

On Sept. 6, we will be represented at Carroll University's Student Involvement Fair*

Together with Southminster and Faith Springs, we will host a food & fellowship student dinner at Carroll University on Sept. 8.*

We will take part in the Feed My Starving Children mobile food packing event at Brookfield Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI, on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9:30-11:30am. Please join us!*

Carroll Involvement Fair

On Friday, September 6, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, First Pres will take part in the **2019 Carroll University Student Involvement Fair**. We will hand out information about First Pres, as well as cookies.

If you would be willing to bake a dozen cookies for the occasion, please contact Erika Margis (emargis1@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Student Dinner for Carroll

On Sunday, September 8, First Pres, together with Southminster and Faith Springs, will host a food and fellowship student dinner at **Carroll University**. After a worship service on campus, representatives from each church will share a meal with students and discuss Presbyterianism with them. We would very much appreciate your culinary skills, since First Pres will be providing the sides. **If you would be able to prepare a side, please contact Jim Ziegler.**

Back-to-School Bash

Who says you're too old to go back to school? Join us after worship on Sunday, **September 8, in the Dining Room** for our **Back-To-School Bash**. We'll partake of some good ol' cream of tomato soup along with grilled cheese and PB&J sandwiches (with some ham, turkey, tuna salad and cheese also available). The church will provide drinks too. Please contribute to the event with salads, chips, and desserts. After lunch, we'll whip up some fun with our Things-You-Should-Have-Learned-in-School Trivia game! Save me a seat!

Blessing of Backpacks



Blessing of Backpacks: As we return to the school year rhythm of worship, **Sunday, September 15, during worship service**, we want to send our students into the year with a blessing. From Day Care to Graduate School, all students are invited to bring backpacks for us to bless.

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 can use your share elsewhere. Please note "per capita" in the memo line. Thank you!

Next Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: Good Shepherd Trinity Church

Theme: Reconciliation

Speaker: Award-winning educator, Bettina L. Love

Dr. Bettina L. Love is an award-winning author and Associate Professor of Educational Theory & Practice at the University of Georgia. Her most recent book, *"We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching And The Pursuit Of Educational Freedom"*, draws on personal stories, research, and historical events to offer a vision of educational justice inspired by the rebellious spirit and methods of abolitionists.

On September 25 at Good Shepherd Trinity Church, Dr. Love will show us the harm done by an educational system that does not recognize the gifts of all students, particularly students of color. She will focus on the struggles and the possibilities of committing ourselves to an abolitionist goal of educational freedom, as opposed to reform, and moving beyond what she calls the educational survival complex. Abolitionist Teaching is built on the creativity, imagination, boldness, ingenuity, and rebellious spirit and methods of abolitionists to demand and fight for an educational system where all students are thriving, not simply surviving.

Good Shepherd Trinity Church · 3302 N. Sherman Boulevard · Milwaukee, WI 53216



The Caring Place Fundraising Events

Join us at **Culver's** at **1650 East Main Street** (near Woodman's) on **September 24 and November 26 between 5:00-8:00PM**. A percentage of the sales will go to benefit The Caring Place.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels drivers needed! A hot nutritious meal with a smile can do amazing things for a senior in need. Now more than ever, Meals on Wheels drivers are needed to deliver meals to homebound seniors living in the Waukesha area. Meals are delivered over the lunch hour, Monday-Friday, excluding holidays.

If interested, call 262-548-7829 or visit the website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/adrc.

Feed My Starving Children



We will take part in the Feed My Starving Children mobile food packing event at **Brookfield Lutheran Church, 18500 Burleigh Road, Brookfield, WI** on **Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9:30-11:30am**. Please join us! If you have questions, or to sign up, please contact Erika Margis (emargis1@gmail.com)

The Caring Place Benefit



Music filled the air on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in August at First Pres! More than fifty attendees were treated to the amazing vocal and instrumental talents of Charlotte Hajewski, Erin Sura, Brianna Sura, Karen Minson and Sam Grabow.

A special thanks to Gladys Manke, Jim Ziegler, Bob Pugh and Therese Dorna for tremendous support behind the scenes in promotion, programs, set up and the warm welcoming to many community attendees for the event.

A reception in the Oak Room after the concert offered tasty treats provided by the Caring Place Board members and a chance to mingle with the performers.

A free will offering netted more than \$900 for The Caring Place Foundation. ~Penny Goodyear

Upcoming First Pres Congregational Meeting

Please be sure to attend the **Congregational Meeting at the close of worship on Sunday, October 6**, when we will take one quick action. We will elect the officers of the 2019 Nominating Committee, in advance of the Committee providing a slate of candidates to serve the Church beginning in 2020. An Elder and a Deacon will be selected by the Session and Board of Deacons to join the previously elected at-large members.

Pulpit Supply Schedule

Sept 1 - Rev Christian Boyd
Sept 8 - Rev. Jerry Kramer
Sept 15 - Susan Byshenk
Sept 22 - Rev. Kathryn Craven
Sept 29 - Sara Knowles

Oct 6 - TBA (Congregational Meeting)
Oct 13 - TBA
Oct 20 - TBA
Oct 27 - TBA

Nov 3 - Rev. Ted Anderson
Nov 10 - TBA (Annual meeting)
Nov 17- TBA
Nov 24 - Rev. Erin Little

Peace & Global Witness Offering

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Our congregation uses up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils, like presbyteries and synods, retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

This offering is one of the four PC(USA) offerings collected throughout the year for work by the whole denomination, and will be collected on World Communion **Sunday, October 6**.

Looking Ahead to October

The Christ Church Mitten Tree will be up in the Oak Room on **Sunday October 6, 2019**. A list of things needed will be published in the October Newsletter.



The Survey Results are in:

Thank you to all participants who provided responses to the survey on our church's future. The Session has reviewed the results and would like to let you know what our membership is feeling.

- We received back 68% of the surveys distributed.
- We analyzed the results using methods both simple (e.g. Weighted Mean) and sophisticated (e.g. Schulze).
- The top voted Option was “Age-in-Place”, described as operating the church as-is for as long as possible.
- The second highest voted Option was to “Combine” with another congregation.
- The other options received significantly less support.

Regardless of the voting method applied, “Age-in-Place” beat the 2nd option significantly (anywhere from 13% to 36%). Even with the most generous method, “Age-in-Place” overwhelmed the 3rd place option by 76%, the 4th option by 90%, and the 5th option by 93%.

Please note that while “Combine” with another congregation was ranked 2nd in the survey, that would likely mean closing First Pres Waukesha as a corporation and transferring our records and assets to another congregation.

The Session is working to plan next steps for the church.

Honor Flight

"A Daughter's Letter"

Earl Davison will be participating on the September 7th, 2019 Honor Flight out of Milwaukee.

Earl is a Korean War Vet and a proud Marine.

He served from 1948-1952.

Earl was part of the second wave at Inchon, Korea.

He also is one of the Chosin Few, from the Chosin Reservoir Battle.

He recently participated in the Veterans Oral History Project.

This is a part of The Bell Tower Memorial Project and St John's Northwestern Military Academy, working together to preserve oral histories of our Vets.

He was one of the participants at the 4th annual Ceremony and Luncheon at St John's Northwestern this past May

This is the link to the site for pictures and video:

<https://www.belltowermemorial.org/programs---events.html>

Earl is also a very active member of Marines who honor other Marines at funerals around the area.

You will also find him marching (not riding) the entire parade route on Memorial Day and Veterans Day in Milwaukee.

One of Earl's grandsons was inspired by his grandfather's service to enlist in the Marines post 9/11, and served in the Middle East.

The church family at First Presbyterian Church Waukesha is very dear to my dad's heart.

Sincerely, Karen Davison

Building and Grounds Thank-you

I hope that everyone has been enjoying our Wisconsin summer season which seems to be winding down after a very rain shortened Spring. That said, I did want to take this opportunity to thank a couple members that offered up some much needed help keeping FPC up to speed and in shape as we head towards Fall.

Session member Russ Volmar took time out of his busy schedule to assist in the replacement of our high pressure sodium light fixture above the main church entrance on the East Side of the building. This project took us a while as we struggled to get replacement parts wired properly so that the warm glow the light puts out could continue for years to come. I know that by doing it ourselves we saved the church valuable funds that would otherwise go to an electrical contractor.

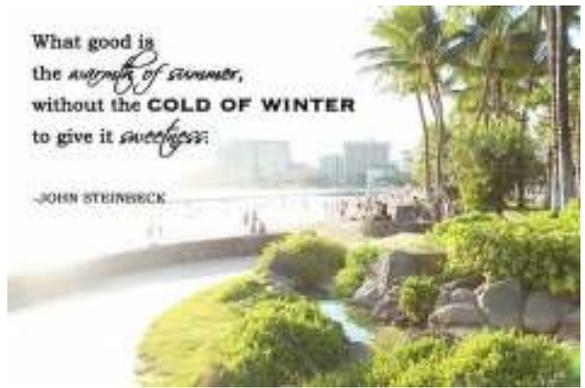
I also need to thank Andy Manke for volunteering his valuable time to haul away the trimmings of the Flowering Crab Tree on the Southwest corner of the church. This tree had really overgrown the entire area it is on at the corner of South and Martin Streets. We had to cut away a lot of limbs and general growth that hadn't been done for quite a few years. The tree still has a notable presence even after Andy hauled away a truckload of brush. It's really a nice tree and it offers a great shady area if you ever want to bring your lawn chair and people watch or ponder the beauty of the oldest church in downtown Waukesha.

Finally I need to always remember Ella Holberg and Gladys Manke for the time that they put in keeping things laundered and beautiful at First Presbyterian!

I also know that I wouldn't want to forget to mention the entire group of loyal attendees at our Church that fill the pews every Sunday and throughout the year. Every ONE of you counts as we continue our search for a Pastor and the valuable Missions that First Presbyterian Church people represent and contribute to! God Bless!

~Bob Pugh-Custodian

end of summer quotes



“To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it. It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall.”

– *Ann Patchett*

“Summer will end soon enough, and childhood as well.” – *George R.R. Martin*

“With all these lovely tokens of September days are here, with summers best of weather and the autumns best of cheer.” – *Helen Hunt Jackson*

“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date.” – *William Shakespeare*

“One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter.”

– *Henry David Thoreau*

“A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer’s wave goodbye.” – *Unknown*

“When summer gathers up her robes of glory, And, like a dream, glides away.”

– *Sarah Helen Whitman*

“Summertime. It was a song. It was a season. I wondered if that season would ever live inside of me.” – *Benjamin Alire Sáenz*

“...and all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” – *Oscar Wilde*

“It’s always summer somewhere.” – *Lilly Pulitzer*

“Summer should get a speeding ticket.” – *unknown*

“August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time.” – *Sylvia Plath*

“Gone are the birds that were our summer guests.” – *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

“Sigh... there goes another summer, Snoopy!” – *Charlie Brown*