

First Things First

February 2020

Sensing

In her recent preaching at First Pres, Rev. Nicole Melara has reminded us how important it is for God's people to sense what God is doing in relationship to creation, including understanding how God works in us and through us. She has called our attention to stories in scripture about people of faith who seek to know God, and then look for God's presence and listen for God's intentions.

At times, we sense God while praying in private, and other times we enjoy a breath of the divine in worship or through music. Some of the most clear feelings we get of knowing Jesus are when we walk in his path, meeting new and old friends through service in our neighborhood at The Hope Center and the Hebron House, or by volunteering with Feed My Starving Children or Habitat for Humanity. Participating in such missions makes us aware of the humanity around us, and brings us into a profound alignment with Jesus' call to love our neighbors and welcome strangers.

As we move through this new year, I'd like to encourage everyone to sense—to look, listen, and feel—God's leading and yearning for us. And then to trust in the God who not only promises a great future, but draws us into that future by showing us ways to step across our lines of comfort into a world that hungers to live under the kingship of Jesus and the authority of God. Just as God has been a help to all believers in ages past, God is truly our hope for years to come.

The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

-Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session

February Calendar



FEBRUARY 2

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

Sanctuary

Souper Bowl of Caring*

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**

Nursery

11:15 AM **Adult Education***

Oak Room

FEBRUARY 3

6:00 PM **Session Meeting**

Office

FEBRUARY 4

4:00 PM **Presbytery Meeting***

Registration

Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 9

10:00 AM **Worship**

Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**

Nursery

11:00 AM **Sweet Scrumptious Fellowship***

Dining Room

FEBRUARY 12

5:30 PM **Deacons' Meeting**

Oak Room

FEBRUARY 16

10:00 AM **Worship**

Sanctuary

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**

Nursery

11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**

Oak Room

FEBRUARY 20

8:00 AM **Men's Breakfast**

Dady-Oh's

FEBRUARY 23

10:00 AM **Worship**

10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**

Nursery

11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**

Oak Room

FEBRUARY 26

7:00 PM **Worship**

Lent begins

Ash Wednesday Service*

Sanctuary

*see article

Looking Ahead

March 8 **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

2/22 Sharon Pugh

2/24 Edith Granatella

2/24 Gavin Schultz

2/28 Gladys Manke

2/28 Maxwell Pugh



Please note office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

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

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by Tuesday, March 17, 2020 to have it included. Any items received after the 17th 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 2**, (the day of that other, similar sounding event.).

Adult Education

The Adult Ed class on **Sunday, February 2** will be **Session 6** of the Being Reformed study on The Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Presbytery Meeting

4:00PM - 8:00PM

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church

8605 E County Road A

Janesville, WI 53546

(608)752-172

office@rockprairiechurch.org

The Presbytery of Milwaukee is pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), as our keynote speaker and worship leader at the **Presbytery Gathering at Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church**.

Dr. Nelson is convinced that we are engaging in one of the most exciting times of ministry in the history of the world, as he will discuss the work to which the church is called in this time, particularly how pastors, elders, deacons, and others should work together for God's service at the congregational level. At this time of change in the life of the church, he will call us again to remain faithful to the ministry and mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

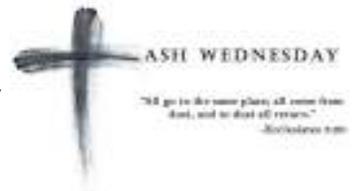
Sweet Scrumptious Fellowship



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 9**, 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!

Ash Wednesday Services



This year Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26. 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 22, 2020**.

First Presbyterian will purchase and prepare the food for March 22nd.

Southminster will provide and cook food for August 2nd. 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

Session Recap

In December the annual joint Session and Deacons meeting was held at the church. 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 new officers, David Schultz (new Elder for Worship) and JoRae Schultz (new Deacon).

In January Sara Winkelmann was commissioned to attend the forthcoming Presbytery meeting.

The Session approved a change to our wedding policy to include a section on Handicap Access.

The Session reviewed both Elder responsibilities (are the current roles the correct roles) and how we provide pastoral care in the absence of a pastor.

Finally, the Presbytery of Milwaukee approved the job description for a Bridge Pastor. The position was announced in the latest Presbytery newsletter. We have received three applications so far and are currently interviewing them.

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.

2020 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2020 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$38.25. 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.

Dear First Family,

We have entered a NEW YEAR and I wanted to pause and take a moment to once again thank ALL of you for your efforts in 2019, throughout the year, and especially during the Holidays.

For me the festive look of the Oldest Church in Waukesha that everyone works so hard at prior to Christ's Birth is just the icing on his cake. You people really know how to get ready to honor the Holy Father in a way that just has to make you proud! After worship on January 19th, during Andrews bible study class, Kathryn Herman made the comment that she couldn't believe how big Christmas had become and covered so much time. Andrea Bryant added that she felt that gift giving had really gotten out of hand and her immediate family was initiating a reduced commitment by everyone. I think that their comments were spot on because I think that it's true. We are losing the true meaning of Christmas.....We shouldn't be worried about giving the newest electronic gadget or Apple phone to honor the Baby Jesus should we???

As Christians we need to keep ourselves tuned into giving to others in any way that we can. The way Jesus did for us. Not just at Christmas, but throughout every day of our lives. We know that it's not easy to do but if we continue to work at it our everyday living becomes more fulfilling and enjoyable by committing ourselves to the lessons we read in the Bible and that he taught us. There I go again.....talking like a Minister.....I'm sorry.

Let me close my Thank-you message by saying that I'm very blessed to be part of a very giving church family. ALL of you should be proud of yourselves and your families that give so much to keep First Presbyterian percolating in downtown Waukesha.

The doors continue to be open for everyone associated for all of you at FPC. Hopefully this year will bring a NEW face to lead us forward as we continue to give back to this community and support the many missions that we are committed to.

God Bless,
~Bob-custodian


GIVE THANKS
IN EVERYTHING

Thank you!



Thank you goes out to all the members who gave up time on their busy Friday afternoons in November and December. They served

an hour or more on windy, cool days to ring bells for the Salvation Army to help raise money for the many causes supported by the S.A.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Susan Byshenk | Charlotte Smith |
| Katie Ebel | Ann Stove |
| Dean Larson | Jen Van Essen |
| Bob Pugh | Russ Volmar |
| Dan and Donna Pugh | Jim Ziegler |
| Penny and Patty Pugh | |

Thanks again to everyone who rang! ~Earl Davison

Pulpit Supply Schedule

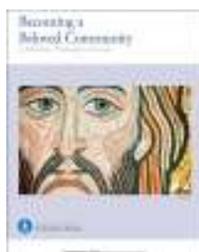
- Feb. 2 - Rev. Beth Patton
- Feb. 9 - Rev. Keith Jones
- Feb. 16 - Rev. Keith Jones
- Feb. 23 - TBA



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”
1 Corinthians 13:4-15

Lenten Devotionals

2020 Lenten Devotionals, **Becoming a Beloved Community** are available by the bulletins.



The Session

Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session

Class of 2020

- Andrew Byshenk
- Sara Winkelmann

Class of 2021

- Erika Margis

Class of 2022

- Joan Schmidt
- David Schultz
- Russ Volmar

The Board of Deacons

Susan Byshenk, Moderator

Class of 2020

- Ella Holberg
- Charlotte Smith
- Jen Van Essen

Class of 2021

- Susan Byshenk
- Ilisia Du Mez

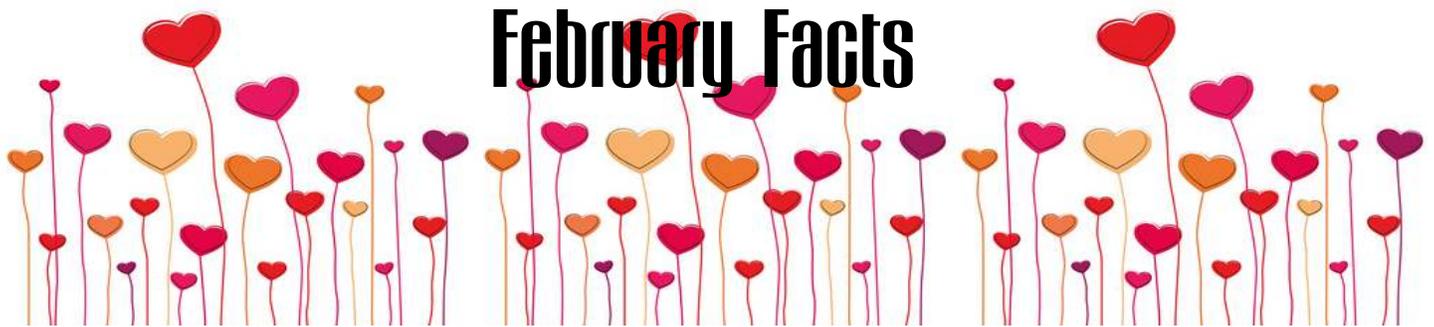
Class of 2022

- JoRae Schultz
- Linda Volmar

More Thanks!

Thank you for your wonderful donations to the Mitten Tree! First Presbyterian Waukesha was able to bring 4 large boxes of hats, mittens, scarves and toys to Christ Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee for their annual Christmas Toy Store. Over 300 children came to the event, and each went home with a toy, hat, mittens, and a book of their very own. This is a ministry that has been going on for over 50 years now, and the community around Christ Presbyterian is grateful for the generous donations from churches like ours that keep it going. Christ Presbyterian itself is a congregation with only 35 members, but they certainly show that with love and dedication, even a small church can make a big difference in sharing the love of Christ. Thank you for being part of making Christmas a happy time for so many.

~The Deacon Board



- February was named after Februa, which was a purification ritual and was considered as an early Rome Spring Cleaning Festival. In this Festival people were ritually washed. Februs, the Roman god was named after this festival.
- According to tradition, the Roman emperor Augustus took one day off February and added it to August, the month named after him.
- There are a few dozen national monthly observances during February, including Black History Month, Bird Feeding Month, Embroidery Month, Grapefruit Month, Haiku Writing Month, and Umbrella Month.
- A person born on February 29 during a leap year (which occurs only every four years) is called a "leapling" and will usually celebrate their birthday on either February 28 or March 1 in all non-leap years.
- Originally, February was made the last month of the calendar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.
- By the early 1600s, handmade Valentine's Day cards were customarily sent from admirers to sweethearts. Around the year 1800, the first commercial cards appeared. Cards were usually sent anonymously.
- In Welsh, February is known as 'y mis bach', which translates to 'the little month'.
- This entire month has been dedicated to chocolate! The month is celebrated as the National Chocolate Lovers Month.
- Even though Valentine's Day doesn't get most of us a day off work, it is still celebrated on February 14, every year, all around the world. In fact, it is the second most celebrated day in the world. The only things that beat it are the annual Christmas and New Year's celebrations.