

First Things First

October 2020

We are heading into Stewardship Season. At the end of this month, on Sunday October 25th, as an act of worship, we ask those present to place their pledge for the coming year in the offering plate at the back of the church. Others will send their pledges in by mail.

Suffice it to say that giving to the church is about time, talent and treasures.

However, let's be clear about the treasure part. As we grow in our Christian faith, giving comes more and more from our hearts in gratitude for what God has provided to us, how God has provided for us. If you are giving out of obligation or out of a sense that you "should" give to the church, then we don't want your money.

We are not another not-for-profit organization that is soliciting your donation.

We are not The Caring Place, Hebron House or Hope Center.

Those are worthy organizations that do good work, but they are not the church.

The church is where we are the needy ones; the church is where God opens us more fully to meet God, where we get reoriented to life and how to live an authentic life- a life not full of how much we make, what status we might enjoy, or what glamour or glitz we have obtained. We are entirely too needy for all of that to satisfy us. Church is the place where we get to become more human and humane, where we get to tell others and God about the wonders and the hardships that have come our way and find support. Church is where we are accepted for who we are, where we know true love and where we are on equal footing with everyone.

Jesus Christ is the great leveler. We are accepted for our joys as well as our concerns. Church is the place where we can be real- delighting in our gifts and acknowledging our brokenness and our broken world. In other words, church reminds us that Jesus the Christ is at the center of our world and our life.

There is nothing that will ever separate us from Jesus; there is nothing we can do to repay Jesus for his sacrifice on the cross except give back to the Christ our hearts, our lives, our gratitude.

This is the reason we give to the church. Not out of a sense of "have-to", but out of a sense of "get-to", of gratitude. We "get to" give our first fruits, our tithe. From a heart that wants to know Jesus more, that wants to become like Jesus more, that wants to love this world like Jesus does.

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

This church, this place of worship, is at a crucial juncture. We have gotten more honest and clearer about who we are and in what direction we are going.

I am not here asking for money. I am asking each of us to search our hearts and reorient our finances so that our gratitude to God is shown by how our finances and our worship rhyme.

Church is not just another not for profit organization. It is more- so much more. It signifies our life in Christ who has given his life for us.

What shall we return to God who has given us everything? See you on the 25th.

Peace, Pastor Glen



October Calendar



OCTOBER 4

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
World Communion Sunday
Sanctuary
Peace & Global Witness Offering*
- 11:00 AM **Congregational Meeting***
Sanctuary

OCTOBER 5

- 6:00 PM **Session Meeting**
Via Zoom

OCTOBER 11

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

OCTOBER 14

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

OCTOBER 14 /15

Committee Annual Reports Due*
November Newsletter Deadline*

OCTOBER 15

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

OCTOBER 18

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

OCTOBER 25

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Stewardship Sunday*
Reformation Sunday
Sanctuary

OCTOBER 31

Halloween



*see article

Looking Ahead

NOVEMBER 1

Mitten tree goes up*

NOVEMBER 8

11:00 AM Annual Meeting of the Congregation

NOVEMBER 29

11:00 AM Hangin' of the Greenery

PLEASE NOTE:

Rev. Glen will be out of the office Oct. 7-14
Therese will be out of the office Oct. 7 and 8

October Birthdays



10/16 Bob Winchell
10/16 Pete Loberg
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
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.**

Have something for the **November** newsletter? Please send it to
presby1@sbcglobal.net
or drop it in Therese's mailbox by
Wednesday, October 14 to have it included.
Any items received after the 14th might not
make it into the November newsletter.

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



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 4.**

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Please be sure to attend the **Congregational Meeting at the close of worship on Sunday, October 4**, when we will take one quick action. We will elect the officers of the 2020 Nominating Committee, in advance of the Committee providing a slate of candidates to serve the Church beginning in 2021.

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 **Wed./Thurs., October 14/15**. 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.

The Session at Work

In September the Session discussed the upcoming Meeting of the Congregation on October 4th, 2020. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the Ruling Elder and member of the Deacon Board to serve on the Nominating Committee. Russ Volmar agreed to serve as the Ruling Elder and was unanimously elected. Andrew Byshenk agreed to continue to serve as an Elder past his current term. His continued service will need to be approved by the Presbytery of Milwaukee. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is November 8th, 2020. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the slate of candidates for officer positions.

The Session continues to prayerfully discern the future of the congregation. The September meeting was the first time Pastor Glen was able to discuss this with the Session. There is a much better understanding of where the church is and where we hope to go. It is our continued desire to remain a presence in downtown Waukesha, whether that is aging in place or combining with another congregation. Pastor Glen provided his feedback of the meetings he had with the five potential churches currently identified.

A report was presented to the Session about best practices for resuming worship services. As a result we have adjusted how the sanctuary will be cooled and heated. We also decided to implement special music through a soloist and the bell choir. It was decided not to make any further changes to the worship service. The beginning of the church programming year was Sunday, September 13th. The Blessing of the Backpacks was held during this service.

The PCUSA has a special offering for their Peace & Global Witness initiative. This will be collected October 4th. There are several ongoing maintenance projects throughout the church. Russ is working with several contractors for this. In order to enhance the sound on Sunday morning, a new microphone was purchased. The church continues to do well financially. There has not been any further update on unclaimed property belonging to a trust of which FPCW is a beneficiary.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



Stewardship Sunday

On **Sunday, October 25**, 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.

Entering 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 25.

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 25, 2020** and turning in your pledge.

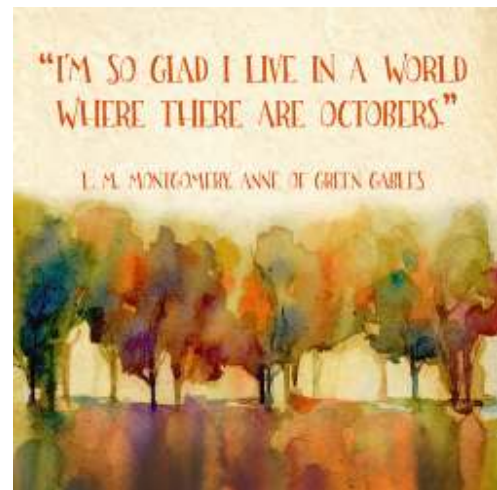
Thank you! Sara Winkelmann, Elder for Finance

Sunday Sermons

Did you know you can listen to any previous Sunday sermon and in some cases the scripture readings that were chosen for that service???



Go to our website, www.firstpreswaukesha.org and from the homepage select Sermons/Podcast; select the MP3 audio link from the sermon you wish to listen to - it should download automatically and on the bottom left of your screen select Open file and it should start playing. You can also scroll down for past sermons.



Christ Church Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree goes up on November 1 and will stay up until the first Sunday in Advent.

This year, items needed include:

- Reading books
- Stuffed animals
- Toys
- Crafts
- Crayons and coloring books
- Winter accessories (hats, mittens, scarves, boots)
- Board games



Items should be appropriate for children between the ages of 1 and 12.

Cash donations can also be made, which will be used to purchase items as needed. Please note on your check or envelope that the donation is for the Christmas Toy Store.



It's Not What You Think

August 26, 2020

Rachel Yates

This past week, I helped my in-laws move to a senior living center and put their home up for sale. We hired movers to pack and gently transport decades of belonging from one home to another. My mother-in-law was careful to write notes and provide information to my husband and me that we would need for the sale of their home. She carefully set aside papers that she didn't want to get lost in a box. The day before the movers arrived, she showed me a plastic sandwich bag in which she'd placed a labeled carpet sample for matching purposes and a syringe/tube combination needed for the water dispenser. Like me, she worried these would get lost in the shuffle. In a moment of inspiration, she put them where she thought the movers would not be packing: the refrigerator.

As it turned out, the movers did pack and, at the new home, unpack the refrigerator. They carefully placed the baggie of carpet and syringe on the second shelf below the milk. The family had a good laugh as we wondered what the movers must have thought. There was a perfectly good explanation, but on the surface, the refrigerated bag seemed outlandish.

As we head into election season, we will have plenty of opportunity to view actions and statements from an outsider's perspective. We will hear truncated sound bytes and see abbreviated video clips. We will be challenged by policy decisions, when no rationale is attached. What we think from the limited evidence before us might give us good insight, or it might not tell the full, or real, story.

Sometimes not having the full story is innocent. Movers end a job believing their clients were kooky. Other times, not having the fully story leads us to accuse falsely or, on the flip side, to believe naively. Before assuming we know the full story, we should do some digging. Check our sources. Consider multiple perspectives. Situations are complex and often defy easy labels.

And yet.... and yet, we cannot ignore patterns. When something happens time and again, we lose the import of the pattern by insisting that each situation be examined and explained on its own facts.

This reflection isn't particularly biblical. I don't have a Scripture quotation to tie everything up neatly. My words are simply coming from the heart because I'm dismayed by what I see. A negative remark or situation might not be what I think, or it might be. I need to do some digging, but I can't lose the forest for the trees.

In our love for one another, out of respect for one another, recognizing the inherent dignity of one another, take time to seek the full story. Ask questions and demand transparency. Most important, don't overlook the patterns that signal something is wrong at a deeper level. Those patterns will call us to action and, in some cases, admission of our own complicity. With the gospel as our plumb line, we can seek a truth that sees all people as children of God and demonstrates love without exception.



OCTOBER

gave a party; the LEAVES by hundreds came~ The

CHESTNUTS

OAKS, *and* MAPLES,

And leaves of every name.

The SUNSHINE spread

a carpet, And everything was

grand, Miss WEATHER led

the dancing, Professor

~George Cooper

WIND the band.