

Library News

Books are being checked out from a variety of topic areas: books on the 155.9 shelf on grieving, caring for dying, etc., 230's have numerous books out and 285.1 about Presbyterianism, and 813.54 fiction books by Janette Oke also see activity. A complete inventory of the library has been taken by Sharon Bailey and Mary Sperduto, and the updated book list can be found in the green binder on the library desk. There are listings by catalog number, author and title.

Max Lucado's books are placed separately on a shelf.

Noted theologians' books have been placed on shelves under their names on the "clock wall."

Book collections have been placed on the north wall near the reference books.

Youth books are to the right of the door leading into the coat room.

Most children's books are on the second floor off the elevator. Some are placed in the library.

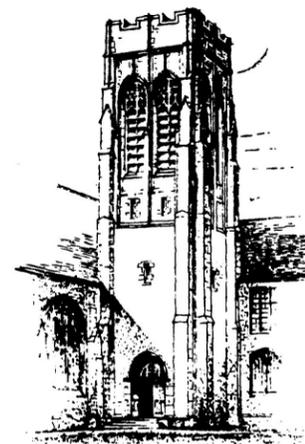
DVD's and videos have been moved to the shelves near the theologians' collections.

We are grateful for the many books and DVD's donated to the library this year by Ruth and Glenn Dettinger, Marilyn Paulson, Jann Slayton, Sally Schell, Helen Roberts, Jackie Johnson and Beth LeClair.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The Beam FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 406 GRANT ST WAUSAU WI 54403



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Staff

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Rachel A. Wann pastor@firstpreswausau.org

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OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY 9:00A.M.-3:00 P.M.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.



The Beam

First Presbyterian Church, Wausau, is a family of believers, called by God, taught by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. We are committed to continuing Christ's ministry within our congregation, community and world.

Thoughts from Rev. Rachel

I remember when the Black Friday phenomenon started – about 15 years or so ago. Back then I don't think it was even called Black Friday. A few stores simply decided to open early the day after Thanksgiving and offered goody bags to entice their earliest shoppers. A few popular items would be on sale, but nothing overly exciting – VHS tapes for \$5, perhaps.

I enjoyed getting up early and heading out to the stores before sunrise. The parking lots were empty as were the stores, and I could do my gift shopping thoughtfully and in relative peace, before everyone else arrived. This was a perfect time for reflection in the quiet of the pre-dawn morning. But then Black Friday caught on, and what started as a relaxing time quickly turned into major chaos, with stores opening earlier and earlier with great deals as enticement. I haven't shopped on Black Friday since.

It can be hard to find quiet moments during the holiday season. From traveling and visiting family, attending parties and school concerts, rehearsing music and volunteering, and shopping for the perfect gift, it seems like our stress levels reach their peak from mid-November and through December.

But quiet moments are important for us and our spiritual well-being, especially during Advent. The season of Advent, which means "coming," is a time of waiting and preparation. It is a time of introspection as we consider the meaning of the coming of God into our world – a world filled with chaos, violence, hatred, and want. When we step back from the busyness of the season and look, really look, at the world around us, we see a world in desperate need of God's coming. We wrestle with the paradox caused by knowing that God has already come to us in Jesus Christ, yet waiting for the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption for the entire world.

In these moments of waiting, we join in solidarity with all the voices who cry out to the heavens, "O come, o come, Emmanuel," who are longing for God's peace, love, joy, and hope. Let us all seek to find these moments of quiet as we prepare ourselves for Christ's Advent.

Winnebago Presbytery Report

The quarterly Winnebago Presbytery Meeting was held at Memorial Presbyterian Church, adjacent to the Lawrence University Campus, in Appleton on Saturday, November 14, 2015. Attending from Wausau First were; Rachel Wann, Joy Nelson-Jeffers, Ted and Mary Sperduto, Marilyn Paulson, Jeff Todd and Gene Davis.

It is frequently noted the support to Presbytery that is offered by Wausau First in recognizing the active roles in which our members participate, as this meeting was chaired by Marilyn Paulson, current Moderator of Winnebago Presbytery; the Leadership Commission Report was given by Commission Chairperson Mary Sperduto; Ted Sperduto was introduced as one of two Winnebago Presbytery Synod Commissioners, and Jeff Todd gave a report on a recent advocacy trip to Washington D.C on behalf of our Presbyterian friends in Columbia.

It was announced that in 2016 all meetings will be held on Saturdays.

A key Policy issue was presented by Michael Lukens, Stated Clerk, detailing and emphasizing the importance of Child Protection Policy Updates.

The afternoon workshops were well planned and will provide real benefits to areas of service in our congregations.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Davis, Session Commissioner

Wausau Lyric Choir Lessons and Carols, Two performances at The First Presbyterian Church: Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3:00 pm. No cost tickets are required; a free-will offering will be taken to support the choir. See a choir member to get a ticket (Susan Schaefer, Ginny Sauer or Jason Zell) or you can get a ticket at the door.

Wausau Pro Musica's Annual Christmas Program will be held Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 pm at the Wesley United Methodist Church. This auditioned women's choir has a 50-year history with our church; please support them. This year's concert is titled "Holiday Favorites." Tickets at the door: \$12 adults; \$10, students/seniors

You are cordially invited to the Ordination of Julie Marie Goranson.

It is being held at Grace UCC on Sunday, December 6th at 3:30 p.m. A supper will follow in the Fellowship Hall and you are invited to remain for the the food and fellowship. We do ask that you RSVP no later than December 3rd by calling or emailing the church office at 715-845-7051 or graceucc@frontier.com.

News of our Members

Our sympathies are extended to **John and Cheryl Jones** on the death of John's mother, LaVonne, on November 4th. She was the grandmother of Jennifer Schmitt, (Chris) and great-grandmother of Parker, Cooper, and Macie.

Happy Birthday to **Patricia Morse** who was 90 years young on November 25!

If you have news items regarding your family and would like to share them, please let Kathy know by the Beam deadline. The office number is 715-842-2116 or email her at the address found on page one. Thank you.

Discipleship Team—Christian Education

Oops! We've included the survey form that did not get to you last month. Copies are also available in the sanctuary. We really would like to have correct phone numbers and emails for all members. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Please put in a copy of the survey

Advent Adult Education: For the four Sundays of Advent, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, Marilyn Paulson will be leading the study Rejoicing in Hope; a study of the gospels of Luke 1:5-2:38 and Matthew 1:18 -2:23. This study is an invitation to explore what God did through the lives of ordinary people who became central to the Christmas story, and it will encourage us to explore how we can work to fulfill what calls us in our world today.

Please notify the church office at 715-842-2116 if you will be attending but need childcare.

Christian Education News

Our Dew Inspirations youth group will be offering baby sitting services on Friday December 4 and 11 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is

for all church families with infants, children or grand- children! Take this opportunity for a time to get your Christmas shopping done or go out for a nice dinner. Along with the youth, there will be adults to help with childcare. A meal will be provided and your child(ren) will be involved in many activities to keep busy. Please sign up on the Christian education bulletin board or send a message to Lisa Riehle at sscoordinator@firstpreswauau.org

December 6 will be our next 9:15 FAF Service. (Families at First). This 30 minute worship service is geared towards young children and youth, but anyone is welcome. During FAF children/youth learn the Presbyterian worship tradition through gathering, song, liturgy and communion. Each month a FAF family is chosen to bring the host, read scripture and serve communion. Come see what this is all about!

Advent Families - During the four weeks of advent there will be a different family chosen to read a scripture and light the Advent wreath. It is a wonderful way to share the tradition of Advent to all in our worship service.



December 13 will be the children/youth Advent play. Our play is about John the Baptist. Mark this on the calendar and invite family members to this service. **After worship at 11:30, the Dew Inspirations youth group** will be getting together for a **"White Elephant" Christmas party.** Youth are to bring a White Elephant gift appropriate for a boy or girl. A "White Elephant Gift" is an unusual or fun gift. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend and their gift to the exchange. We will meet in Cafe Grace.

Sunday school will be held December December 6 and 20. There will be no Sunday school on December 13 and December 27th. Sunday school resumes January 10.

Discipleship Team

*Rejoicing in Hope;
a study of the gospels of
Luke 1:5-2:38 and
Matthew 1:18-2:23...
what God did through the
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who became central to the
Christmas story*

Christian Education
DEW youth group will be offering baby sitting services on Friday December 4 and 11 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for all church families with infants, children or grand-children!

From the Worship Team

December brings a time for reflection during Advent and our most festive worship services (until Easter, that is!) Here's what is coming up:

- December 1—Tuesday evening, 5:30: **Deck the Halls!** Bring your family and friends and a snack to share while we put up decorations for the Christmas season. (Beverages provided)
- December 6—Worship at 10:00 and Worship at 2:00, **the Afternoon Communion Service**. Come to both services!
- December 9—Special rehearsal at 4:30 for children in the Advent Program. Pizza afterwards.
- December 12—Dress rehearsal for Children's Advent Program, 9:00-11:00.
- December 13—Worship at 10:00 – **Children's Advent Program: Getting Ready for Jesus**.
- December 17—**Christmas Caroling** to our members. Families and people of all ages, even if you're not a great singer! Soup supper in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 pm; Caroling Teams leave at 5:45. Let Susan know if you're coming so we can have five teams to carol this year!
- December 20—Worship at 10:00: **Christmas Cantata: Kneeling in Bethlehem** by Michael Burkhardt, with poetry by Ann Weems. If you've read her poetry, you'll want to hear the music.
- December 21—6:00 pm: **Service of the Longest Night**, a service of reflection and prayer for the winter solstice.
- December 24—5:00 pm. **Family Christmas Eve service** with candlelighting. If children have a Christmas piece they'd like to sing or play before or during the service, let Susan know.
- December 24—10:00 pm. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with communion.

The Deacons

The Deacon Angel Ministry is flying high with your help! Wrapped gifts (with gift receipt enclosed) need to be back at church no later than December 9th. Remember to tape one end of the green gift slip on the outside of the box. We will be sorting and packing gifts on the morning of Saturday, December 12th. We will be delivering gifts Monday, December 14th in the afternoon. Contact Tammy Johnkoski or Jann Slayton if you are able to help on either these dates.

Thank you for helping to make the Christmas season a bit brighter for others.

The deacons will be **packing cookie boxes on Tuesday, December 8th** at 5:30, for some of our church family members who could use a little Christmas Joy. Colorful cookies that are not too aromatic, are most appreciated. A batch of your favorites, delivered to church by the 8th, will make all very happy. Thank you, thank you!

We realize we are asking a lot at this busy time of year, but it is a great way to warm hearts. In gratitude, you are invited to join us for a **communion service at 2:00 on December 6**. We will join with some of our members who can't always join us for worship on Sunday morning. A reception will follow.

Here's to a very Merry Christmas to one and all from the Deacons!

From the Mission Team

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

Fifty percent of undesignated receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

We will receive our Joy Offering on December 20. You may make contributions at any time throughout the month.

There are still Mission Team **"Where Do You Fit In?"** Piece of the Puzzle **T-shirts** available! \$15 for adult sizes, \$10 for youth.

Small Group Activities

The Men's Study Group meets every Thursday morning at 8:30 am in room 201. All men are welcome.

Hops and The Heavens meets at Vino Latte in Wausau every first and third Monday at 5:30 pm.

Women's Study If you would like to be a part of this book study, "Stuck," please respond to Lindy Phelps at lindyphelps@gmail.com or 715-370-5881.

Thank you for your compassionate and generous giving in the support of the mission work of FPC . You support the work of over twenty different areas of mission and affect the lives of countless individuals. Watch **"First Notes"** for opportunities to serve the needs of many.

We all have **gifts to share** – time, talent, connections, insights, experience, skills, resources, hospitality. The Mission Team hopes that we are able to **help you** find an opportunity to use your gifts in ways you may not have realized were available for you. **Mission Opportunities** are always available. To find your **"Piece of the Mission Puzzle"**, contact Chuck Schlitz, Mission Team cschlitz@charter.net or 715-573-8565.

MISSIONS

We will receive our Joy Offering on December 20. You may make contributions at any time throughout the month.

**SMALL GROUPS**

Activities for the month of December

Creative Sewing Creative Sewing decided to continue making pillow case dresses. We would appreciate any **donations of good, useable pillow cases**. They may be brought to the church office. Contact Karen Martinson with questions.

First Presbyterian Church December, 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
6 9:15 am Families at First Service *Sunday Schedule 11:10 am Adult Ed in Rm. 201 2:00 pm Afternoon Communion	7 4:30 pm Personnel 5:30 pm Hops & the Heavens	8 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Deacon's Pack Cookies	9 4:30 pm Children's Program Rehearsal 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Handbells	10 8:30 am Men's Study Group 6:00 pm Discipleship Team 6:00 pm Lyric Choir Dress	11 Building Closed All Day 5:00 pm Youth Free Babysitting Service	12 9:00 am Children's Program Rehearsal 7:30 pm Lyric Choir Concert
13 10:00 am Worship "Preparing for Jesus" Children's Program 11:10 am Adult Ed in Rm 201 DEW Gift Exchange 3:00 pm Lyric Choir Concert 4:00 pm Community Supper	14 6:30 pm Women's Book Study	15 Noon "Soup's On" 1:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Support Team 6:30 In-Focus/Library	16 No New Creation Singers Rehearsal 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Handbells	17 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Choir Christmas Caroling	18 Building Closed All Day	19
20 *Sunday Schedule 10:00 am Worship Chancel Choir Cantata "Kneeling in Bethlehem" 11:10 am Adult Ed in Rm. 201	21 5:30 pm Hops & the Heavens 6:00 pm Longest Night Service	22 8:30 am BEAM Assembly	23 6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal only	24 5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 10:00 pm Communion Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas! Building Closed All Day	26
27 * Sunday Schedule No Sunday School	28 Building Closed Christmas Holiday	29 4:00 pm Community Supper	30	31 9:00-Noon, Last day to make 2015 Contributions	January 1, 2016 Happy New Year!	
*Sunday Schedule 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School 11:15 am Fellowship time in the Parlor 11:15 am Worship Troupe			** Wednesday Schedule 4:30 pm New Creation singers 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Hand-bells Rehearsal			Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm Closed on Friday

The Beam

December, 2015

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Support Team

We hope you are enjoying the new lighting in the Sanctuary! The LED bulbs make the space considerably brighter and they are energy efficient, which helps lower energy costs. The Property Team will also replace the lights in the Coatroom and in the Parlor with the LED lights. We'll be bright for the holiday!

The 2016 Per Capita apportionment is \$31.60 Per active member, a slight increase from last year. You can begin paying yours on January 1, 2016.

Our 2016 Stewardship Campaign is well underway. In fact, by the time you read this, we hope to have all of the pledge cards back. If you haven't returned your 2016 pledge card, please do so. It's important to have the pledges in our computer system when we set up the 2016 budget expenses, so send in or drop off your card soon please.

As of this printing, we have received 104 pledges totaling \$322,633. This is 86% of the \$375,988 we need in pledges to meet the 2016 budget. Our thanks to all who have contributed to the mission of First Presbyterian Church with their time, their talents and their treasures. We would love to hear from the rest of you!

Session approved the 2016 proposed budget of \$476,688 at their October meeting. A copy of the budget is available in the church office for your review.

December Birthdays

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 - John Hansen | 19 - Emaline Burnett |
| 3 - Pandora Green, Jim Grinsel,
Donna Staples, Ashley Rubright | 20 - Jason Zeinert |
| 6 - Melissa Coscio Pagel, Jackson Buege | 21 - James Slayton, Gunnard Antell |
| 8 - Levi Austin, Grace Spangler | 22 - Nicolas (Nick) Arambel |
| 9 - Jamie Reimer | 23 - Jackie Bethel |
| 10 - Jenneane Smith | 24 - Madeline Mudler |
| 11 - Jane Freitag, Judy Viegut | 29 - Christy Powell-Stengl |
| 13 - Caroline Maahs | 30 - James Kernosky, Lisa Maahs |
| 14 - Katherine Wright | |
| 17 - Chris Maahs | |

SUPPORT TEAM

Month-to-Date

Income: \$ 26,223.08

Expenses: \$21,928.49

Year-To-Date

Income: \$315,089.05

Expenses: \$341,659.71

Per Capita (\$31.50)

Y-T-D \$5,296.80

If you haven't paid your per capita for **2015**, please do so today. Thank you.

*"And she brought forth
her firstborn Son
and wrapped Him in
swaddling clothes
and laid Him in a manger
because there was
no room in the inn."
Luke 2:7*