

A Happy and Blessed New Year to You All!

Make 2016 your best year ever!

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
406 GRANT ST
WAUSAU WI 54403

The Beam



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)

406 Grant Street
Wausau, WI 54403-4788

715-842-2116
www.firstpreswausau.org
facebook.com/firstpreswausau

Staff

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

Pastoral Associate
Joy M. Nelson-Jeffers
JoyMNJ@outlook.com

Music Director
Susan J. Schaefer
susan@firstpreswausau.org

**Sunday School/
Youth Coordinator**
Lisa Riehle
ssoordinator@firstpreswausau.org

Business Manager
Kathy DeYarman
fnancemgr@firstpreswausau.org

Maintenance Custodian
Neal Gavinski

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

Epiphany

Long before I understood the word “epiphany” to mean a sudden manifestation of the divine, or the capitalized “Epiphany” to refer to a holy day on the Christian calendar (specifically January 6) that celebrates the arrival of the Magi into the presence of the Christ child (the first appearance of Christ to the Gentiles), to me, the word epiphany simply referred to an “a-ha moment.” In this usage, Webster’s online dictionary describes it as “the usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.”

Often symbolized by the image of a brightly lit light bulb over one’s head, an epiphany is the moment of clarity – the revelation of something profound previously unknown. A-ha moments are rare. When they do occur, they can almost seem surreal – providing a glimpse of lucidity so genuine, one wonders how one could have missed seeing it before.

The Season of Epiphany rightly follows and culminates the short 12-day season of Christmas. For in Christ, God has given us a true glimpse of God’s essence, a love so immense, no force on this earth or beyond could ever shatter its hold on us.

As the New Year dawns, my hope and prayer for each of you is for you to experience God’s love in its fullness. May the light of Christ dawn in each of you, and may you know his presence.

Grace and peace to you all in the New Year.

Pastor Rachel

This and That...

A BIG thank you to **George Houghton** for creating and donating the beautiful coffee table in the parlor. George shared not only his time but considerable woodworking talent in making this table from sapele mahogany. Be sure to stop in and admire his work. Thank you, George!

*This and That...
Important tidbits
that you should
know about!*

Marilyn Paulson has completed training as a team leader for the Catholic Charities warming shelter and would like to **invite 6 to 12 people for a team to work with her at the shelter** twice a month from January through April. Six people are needed for a 6:30 to 9:00 pm shift doing intake or dinner service. Two people are needed for each of 3 other shifts...9pm to 2am, 2am to 8am, or 6am to 8am. Training is provided, rewards are eternal! A schedule will be worked out with the shelter staff. It will probably be a Monday or Thursday night. If you're interested or want more information please call Marilyn at 715-359-0804.

Around Sunday, November 22nd, one of our members believes her coat was mistaken for another. **Missing is a size 10 or 12 black wool coat**, knee length or a little longer. What our members now has is a black wool knee length size 14, with a brand name of Kristen Blake. Call the office if you have the wrong black wool coat. Thanks!

A sincere thank you to Jan Felker who has retired after many years of being a "Counter" on Monday mornings, helping insure an accurate and timely deposit of the Sunday offering. We will miss your smile and your positive attitude Jan. Our best to you!

News of our Members

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of **Marcella Olson** who died November 29, 2015.

Congratulations to **Andy and Sally Schell** who celebrated 55 years of marriage this December.

Congratulations to Charles Ehrhardt who recently retired after 45 years and over seven million miles of safe truck driving.

*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**Annual Congregational Meeting
and Chili Cook-off**

As I sit at my desk, looking outside at the fresh blanket of snow waiting to be shoveled and plowed, it is safe to say - winter has finally arrived here in Central Wisconsin. And what is the best way to stave off the wintertime blues? A frolicsome meeting of the congregation, of course - accompanied by a steaming bowl of chili. This annual event will take place on **Sunday, January 31**, following the worship service. (Don't worry – there won't be a playoff game on that Sunday.) And this year we are going to spice things up!

We're challenging the creative cooks in our congregation to submit their favorite chili for judging by an

esteemed panel of discerning palettes. Criteria for judging the chili will include categories such as flavor, aroma, consistency, spiciness, and uniqueness. Special categories may include best vegetarian chili, hottest chili, and most flavorful chili. Additionally we are encouraging our bakers in the congregation to submit a sampling of their favorite cornbread recipe.

If you'd like to enter your chili or cornbread or serve on our illustrious panel of impartial judges, please let the church office know, and you will receive more information. We will be limiting the number of entrants, so sign up soon! I am also looking for a few people to help plan and organize the event, so let me (Pastor Rachel) know if you're available to help.

For our non-chili eaters, kid-friendly simple alternatives will be provided.

Christian Education News

Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 10, 2016. There will be no Sunday School on January 3rd due to the holiday break.

Dew Inspirations will meet at Pastor Rachel Wann's house on January 10, 2016. Please plan to meet at her house at 12:30 pm for lunch and an afternoon of fun. Please contact Lisa at lriehle.christian.education@gmail.com or sscordinator@firstpreswausau.org.

FAF resumes at 9:15 on January 10, 2016 in the chapel. FAF (Families @ First) is a 30 minute worship service designed for families of children. This worship service provides families with children the opportunity to experience the Presbyterian worship service of music, praise, and communion.

With the coming of a new year, a blessed and sincere thank you to all who have volunteered to help with the Sunday School and nursery programs. The staff at First Presbyterian Church look forward to working with you in 2016. Happy New Year!

Discipleship Team

*A frolicsome meeting
of the congregation...
accompanied by a
steaming bowl
of chili...
Sunday, January 31,
following the worship
service...
enter your chili or
cornbread...sign up soon
in the office!*

Christian Education

*"...thank you to all who
have volunteered to help
with the Sunday School
and Nursery programs."*

From the Worship Team

As we start a new year, we hope our musicians and pastors come back from their “Christmas break” refreshed and re-invigorated for worship. December was busy, and we thank all of them for their hard work to bring us good music and good messages throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

Thanks, too, to those who decorated the sanctuary, put up the tree and donated poinsettias. Everyone appreciates the beauty of our church at Christmas time. We’ll need to start taking down the decorations on January 3, so stay for a few moments after worship and help us put everything away.

****Our communion Sunday for January will be on January 10th.** This is also a **Families at First Sunday**. Parents, bring your whole family to the Chapel at 9:15 for this family-oriented service.

****Chancel Choir** will meet on **January 3 at 9:15** to prepare an anthem for our first Sunday back. Those six ringers of the **Handbell Ensemble** who will play on January 10 will meet on **Wednesday, January 6 at 7:30 pm**. The full choir will resume on Wednesday, January 13.

****Worship Troupe** will start handbell rehearsals on **Sunday, Jan. 10** after worship.

****New Creation Singers** will resume on **January 13 at 4:30**. If your child has turned 5 since the fall, encourage them to join this group!

****January 31** is the Fifth Sunday of the month, so it’s another opportunity for **Fifth Sunday Singers!** Any singer of any age can join this gathering of musicians of all ages. Come to the choir loft at 9:15 and we’ll learn something simple that we can sing during worship.

All months come and go quickly, and with Easter so early this year, we’re looking at an early **Ash Wednesday on February 10** at First United Methodist. Start making plans to attend this service; too many of you miss it, and it’s an inspiring way to start the Lenten season.

The Deacons

The Caring Arms Team of the Deacons extends a heartfelt thank you to all who helped make our Christmas Angel Ministry a huge success. It is our congregation’s way to help make Christmas morning more special for at least a few. This year we were able to assist 14 families (46 people) with gifts, food baskets and or household baskets, thanks to your caring. It will be another year before we are visited by our “older angel cherub” and our new “King Elf” Bless you and thank you!

We also thank many of you for baking an abundance of beautiful cookies, even in this busy time of year. We filled over 60 boxes to brighten the tables of some of our members. They were also given a small gift and a

poinsettia. (These poinsettias were grown by Marathon High School students, some with special needs, under the supervision of Colleen Geurink, daughter-in-law of Roger and Betty Geurink.)

Thank you to all who baked, all who packed, all who delivered the goodies and especially to Ruth Griswold and Pastor Joy for coordinating the project.

“Happy New Year,” from the Deacons!

From the Mission Team

Our congregation has a great tradition of supporting mission work, whether it’s the little green Deacon fund envelopes, the brown Food Pantry ones or our Special offerings. A percentage of some special offerings stays local - most recently The Bridge Street Clinic’s Child Dental Sealant Program and the Women’s Community Human Trafficking Program, and the list goes on. Your financial support has always been there for the needs we seek to meet. On behalf of all of those involved in our mission work, we thank you. More importantly on behalf of all of those whose lives you have touched, thank you for your generosity.

Even if we had unlimited resources to do our mission work, we wouldn’t be able to meet those needs without YOU. We believe that you are the biggest piece of the Mission Puzzle.

Many of you are involved in our Mission work, so many in fact that some of you may feel there isn’t a need for you to get involved. There is always room in the Mission Puzzle for your piece.

Some puzzle pieces are edges and some are corners. Some pieces are large and some are smaller, some pieces don’t seem to have a place at first. But eventually, they all fit together. Find your piece of our mission puzzle.

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, cbschlitz@charter.net or 715-573-8565.

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.

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.

MISSIONS

There is always room in the Mission Puzzle for your piece.

SMALL GROUPS

Activities for the month of January

First Presbyterian Church January, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
3 *Sunday Schedule	4 5:30 pm Hops and the Heavens	5 Noon "Soup's On" 1:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30 pm Pro Musica	6 4:30-6:00 pm Pathfinders Open House at Judy North 6:00 pm Handbells Ensemble 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	7 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:00 pm Mission Team 6:00 pm Deacons Dinner	8 Building closed all day	9 Building closed all day
10 9:15 am Families at First Service *Sunday Schedule - Communion 12:30 pm DEW meet at Pastor	11	12 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	13 ** Wednesday Evening Schedule	14 8:30 am Men's Study Group 6:00 pm Discipleship Team	15 Building Closed All Day	16
17 *Sunday Schedule 11:15 am Worship Troupe	18 5:30 pm Hops and the Heavens	19 Noon "Soup's On" 1:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Support Team	20 ** Wednesday Evening Schedule	21 8:30 am Men's Study Group	22 Building Closed All Day	23
24 *Sunday Schedule 11:15 am Worship Troupe 11:15 am Extending the Table	25	26 6:30 pm In-Focus 7:00 pm Session	27 ** Wednesday Evening Schedule	28 8:30 pm Men's Study Group	29 Building Closed all Day	30
31 * Sunday Schedule 11:15 am Annual Meeting and Chili Cook-Off Contest						
*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

Support Team

It's hard to believe, but it is just about 2016! And with the New Year comes a few items to be aware of.

- The **2016 Per Capita** amount for each active member is **\$31.60**, a 10 cent increase over last year. Why not pay your apportionment as soon as possible and not have to think about it again until next year? That would be appreciated.
- If you requested giving envelopes and haven't gotten yours yet, they are ready to be picked up from the Coatroom. You can discard any envelopes left over from 2015 as your number will probably change for 2016. If you want envelopes for giving but did not receive any, please let Kathy know as soon as possible and some will be prepared for you.
- Your 2015 Contribution Statement for tax purposes will be mailed mid-January. Please review your statement upon receipt and contact Kathy in the church office if you have any questions.
- Just a reminder to all committee and team leaders: your **annual report is due** no later than **January 10, 2016**. Please submit it electronically, but not in a pdf format as reports may need to be edited. Submit your report to Kathy at financemgr@firstpreswausau.org. Thank you for your help in getting those reports in on time so the annual report can also be produced on time. If we all work together, it's a win for everyone.

January Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1-Peter Hessert | 18-Steve Scott |
| 4-Denis Burgess | 19-Vivian Kuehl, Anna Wright |
| 5-Brenton Peters, Barbara Hoff | 22-Michelle Rosentreter, Clairra Neitzel |
| 6-Chuck Schlitz, Karen Yankouski | 23-Virginia Davis, Ardis McCann |
| 7-Shawn Kosterman, James Riley | 24-Mary Aughenbaugh, Landon Neitzel |
| 8-Pudge Kimbel, Richard Minnihan, Pete Stanke, Ann Steele | 25-Dawn Seibert |
| 9-Bill McLay, Charles Staples | 26-Doris Fehlandt, Sally Schell, Loretta Schultz, Cayden Klemp-North, Linda Terwilliger |
| 10-Edward Steele | 27-Ryan Kernosky, Cheryl Martinson, Stephanie Smith, Joyce Zastrow |
| 11-Gary Alexander | 28-Korrin Black |
| 12-Kay Kettner | 29-Cooper Schmitt, Jennalynn Riley, Alex Vlietstra |
| 13-Kaius Gierman, Katie Dively | 30-Rick Builer, Elaine Hertz |
| 14-Bear Schira, Christina Evans | |

SUPPORT TEAM

Stewardship Update:

Pledges needed: \$375,988

Pledges made: 125 for a total of \$363,523

This is 97% of what is needed to make the 2016 budget.

Please pledge today if you have not already done so and help us make our goal of 100%!

Thank you!

*The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make His face
shine upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord turn His face
toward you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26