



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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)

406 Grant Street
Wausau, WI 54403-4788

715-842-2116

www.firstpreswausau.org
[facebook.com/firstpreswausau](https://www.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 lriehele.christian.education@gmail.com

Administrative Secretary/ Bookkeeper

Kathy DeYarman

financemgr@firstpreswausau.org

Maintenance Custodian

Neal Gavinski

Beam Editor/Social Media

Coordinator

Ginny Sauer

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY

9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

WORSHIP AND
CHURCH SCHOOL

SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.

Advent Schedule

Saturday, December 6, 3:00-5:00 pm, St. Nick's Party.

Sunday, December 7, Afternoon communion service at 2:00 pm followed by a time of fellowship.

**Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 am
Children's Christmas Program "Advent A-Z".**

**Thursday, December 18 at 5:00 pm Soup Supper
and Christmas Caroling.**

**Sunday, December 21 at 10:00 am "Celebration in Song"
with the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir.**

Service of the Longest Night at 5:30 pm.

**Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve
service with candle-lighting.**

**Wednesday, December 24 at 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service
with Communion and candle-lighting.**

"O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord"

Reflections from Reverend Rachel

I've always been struck by the dichotomy of December.

The holiday season has arrived and the anticipation of festivity and frivolity is all around us. There are parties to attend, cookies to bake, presents to wrap, family and friends to welcome, and halls to deck. The expectation is one of joy and celebration, good times and laughter. So much so, that we're dubbed a Scrooge if we don't get into the Christmas spirit.

The gods of materialism and consumerism stand mockingly against the Incarnate Babe born in poverty and obscurity. Cheery carols blast from shopping mall speakers in contrast to the quiet hymn tones of Advent's promise. Jolly Santas embrace girls and boys who dream of gold-wrapped toys while a paranoid King Herod plots violence against toddlers in search of his rival. And throughout the month, Facebook preachers scream about the "Reason

for the Season" and bemoan "the War against Christmas."

It is a season of contradictions.

We try to make sense of it all. Seeking clarity in the jumble. Listening for the still, small voice of God through the noise. The cries of the hurting are lost in the gaiety and buried under the garland.

For those seeking a place to acknowledge the struggles of hurt and pain during the holidays, we are offering a **Service of the Longest Night on the evening of December 21**. On this day, known as the winter solstice, we experience the least amount of light. This is a fitting time to recognize the darkness we face in our lives, while expressing our longing for the One true Light who is coming into the world.

May we all remember those in our midst for whom the holidays are anything but jolly and bright.

Rachel A. Wann

**ADULT
EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITY**

*November 30 through
December 21*

Advent Bible Study

An Advent Bible Study: The Messiah. Sunday mornings from 11:15 am to noon beginning November 30th. This 4 week study was developed by Rev. Dr. Walter Bruegemann, Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary. It is based on Isaiah 9:2-7. Each session will examine one of the four liturgical designations for the anticipated Messiah (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace). Christians claim that Jesus was the Messiah as foretold in the Hebrew

Scriptures. This study will explore the context of these expectations in Isaiah's time, and will ask whether or not Jesus fulfilled them. Handouts for the first class are available on the counter in the Library. Contact Marilyn Paulson for more information.

Mission Team

Women from FPC met November 13 to learn of ways to preserve and care for family memorabilia and to contribute to Presbyterian Women Thank Offering. \$100 has been sent to support 2015 grants made to projects related to health ministries domestically and internationally. The grants for 2014 totaled \$689,125.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the 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 21. You may make contributions at any time throughout the month.

Thank you for your compassionate and generous giving of your time, talents, and treasures 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. You are a blessing.

Mission Opportunities are always available. To find your "**Piece of the Mission Puzzle**" contact Chuck Schlitz, Mission Team or Gail Smith, Deacons.

MISSION

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received December 21.

Small Group Activities

Men's Study Group meets every Thursday morning at 8:30 am in the church Library. All men are welcome.

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

Join us for coffee and conversation at Vino Latte in Wausau at 2:00 pm on December 18, **Just Because...!**

Pathfinders is a group of women finding a new path after the death of a spouse. Please contact Bitsy Hoffmann if you are interested.

Moms On a Mission are doing a book study on The Best Yes, by Lysa TerKeurst. If you would like to be a part of this book study, please respond to Lindy Phelps at lindy-phelps@gmail.com or 715-370-5881.

Creative Sewing will not meet in December.

December, 2014 - First Presbyterian Church

1	11:00 am Yoga Class 1:00 pm Set-up Sanctuary Christmas Tree 5:30 pm Hops and the Heavens	2 Noon "Soup's On" 1:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Church Decorating Party	3 ** Wednesday Schedule	4 8:30 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Mobile Meals Christmas Reception 4:30 pm Mission Team 5:30 pm Yoga Classes	5 Building Closed	6 3:00 pm St. Nick's Party
7	*Sunday Schedule 11:15 am Adult Ed 2:00 pm Afternoon Communion Service and Fellowship Time	9 5:30 am Yoga Class in the Parlor 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Deacons 6:30 pm Discipleship Team	10 **Wednesday Schedule	11 8:30 am Men's Group 5:30 pm Yoga Classes 6:00 Treatment Instead of Prison (TIP)	12 Building Closed 4:00 pm Youth ring bells at Younker's	13 9:00 am Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
14	*Sunday Schedule Children's Christmas Program, Advent A-Z 11:15 am Adult Ed	16 Noon "Soup's On" 1:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Support Team 6:30 pm In-Focus	17 ** Wednesday Schedule	18 8:30 am Men's Group 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Christmas Caroling	19 Building Closed	20
21	*Sunday Schedule "Celebration in Song" Handbells and Chancel Choir 11:15 am Adult Ed 5:30 Service of the Longest Night	23 5:30 am Yoga Class in the Parlor 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	24 Noon Office Closes 5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 10:00 pm Communion Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas! Building Closed	26 Building Closed	27
28	* Sunday Schedule No Sunday School	30 5:30 am Yoga Class in the Parlor 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	31 No Wednesday Evening Rehearsals NOON Final time to bring contributions in for 2014	1 Happy New Year! Building Closed	2 Building Closed	

*Sunday Schedule 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Sunday School	11:15 am New Creation Singers 4:00 pm Community Supper 4:00 pm Footstep Fellowship	**Wednesday Schedule 4:30 pm SonLights choir 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm Closed on Friday
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Support Team

Your Contribution envelopes will be available to pick up in the Coatroom on December 21.

The yellow envelope in your box is for your **Initial Offering** which helps cover the cost of the contribution envelopes. The blue envelope is for your Per Capita. For 2015 your **Per Capita** is \$31.50 per active member.

Just a reminder that if you want a **tax deduction** on any year end money given to the church, it must be in the church office by NOON on December 31. If you are mailing your check, it must be postmarked by December 31. IRS rules do not permit us to allow any late contributions.

Thanks to all who have turned in their pledge for 2015. To-date we have received 113 pledges for a total of \$329,762. Last year we received 145 pledges for a total of \$373,015.

December Birthdays

01 - John Hansen
03 - Pandora Green, Jim Grinsel,
Donna Staples, Ashley Rubright
06 - Melissa Cosci Pagel, Jackson
Pagel
08 - Levi Austin
09 - Jamie Reimer
10 - Jenneane Smith
11 - Jane Freitag, Judy Viegut
13 - Caroline Maahs
14 - Katherine Wright
16 - Lexi Prasnicky

There are a number of folks who have not yet pledged and we would really appreciate your card, indicating your commitment to your church for 2015, as soon as possible. At this point we will not have a balanced budget so please drop off your pledge card today.

The Property Committee is evaluating a number of exterior building needs to possibly be addressed in 2015.

The new chairperson for the Personnel Committee is **Gene Davis**. Judy Viegut, the former chair, has moved out of the area so Gene has agreed to take this position. Thank you Gene.

Our new church Treasurer is **Gary Alexander**. Thank you Gary for your willingness to do this job.

The newly formed **Communications Committee** will now be a part of the Support Team.

SUPPORT TEAM

Month-to-Date

Income: \$24,702

Expenses: \$21,622

Year-To-Date

Income: \$409,182

Expenses: \$400,453

***Did you know
you have some-
one to call if you
need prayer?***

To activate a chain
of people who
will pray for your
concern, call
Pandora Green
(715-848-4132)
or
Renata Sittler
(715-675-6211).

17- Chris Maahs
19 - Emaline Burnett
20 - Jason Zeinert
21 - James Slayton, Gunnard Antell
22 - Nicolas (Nick) Arambel
23 - Jackie Bethel
24 - Madeline Mudler
27 - Bonnie Neitzel
29 - Christy Powell-Stengl
30 - Payton Duberstein, Lisa Maahs

WORSHIP

Bring your family and a treat to share on Tuesday, December 2 for our decorating party!

Music Notes from Susan

Thanks to our Handbell Choir and to all the volunteers who helped make our November 8 Handbell Festival and Concert a big success. The audience loved the setting in our Sanctuary, and the movable chairs allowed us to set up for five full bell choirs. Many volunteered to bring treats for and serve the reception and to help with the bell-ringers' lunch. Thanks to everyone for an inspiring day!

Save the date: Tuesday, December 2! Decorating party for the Sanctuary and first floor for Advent and Christmas. Come at **5:30 pm** and bring the family and a treat to share. This is always a fun event.

The Worship Team is offering **Advent Devotional Booklets** this year. "Wait for the Lord" by Henri Nouwen is available on the wooden table in front

of the Sanctuary.

December Worship and Music happenings at First Presbyterian:

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2:00: Afternoon communion service in the Sanctuary with fellowship time afterward.

Sunday, Dec. 14 during 10:00 worship: Children's Program "Advent A to Z" presented by our Sunday School.

Thursday, Dec. 18 Christmas Caroling to members. **5:00 Soup supper** in Fellowship Hall with **6:00 departure** to homebound members. Soup cookers and singers should contact Susan so plans can be made. Anyone of any age (or vocal ability) is welcome for this important Christmas ministry!

News of Our Members

Words cannot express my appreciation for your generosity in support of The Friend's Thanksgiving Dinner.

Your commitment to the community is incredible and allowed us to reach many people in the Wausau area. Your assistance means so much to me. Your continued support of our project touches my heart.

For each of you who were part of this year's dinner or perhaps a dinner in the past 45 years, may God bless you for being an important piece in the puzzle that makes up this project.

Joan Kuehl

We are saddened at the deaths of two of our members. **Marilyn Kernosky** died on November 4, 2014.

Lois Drott died on November 21, 2014. There will be a small service for family only in Minnesota where the Drotts have been living.

Please keep the families of those experiencing loss in your prayers during this holiday season.

Discipleship Team—Christian Education

Saturday, December 6 - St Nick Celebration (3:00 pm to 5:00 pm) A multigenerational afternoon of crafts, games, and treats, storytelling, and caroling. Children will be involved in a mission project to benefit other church members. Bring your favorite appetizer/snack.

The Sunday School Program will be launching the **Heifer Project** on November 30. The Heifer table will be in the parlor November 30, December 7, 14 and 21.

Tuesday, December 9 youth to help with evening food pantry. Come at 4:30 or at 5:30 to help with preparations or distribution.

Friday, December 12 youth and families to ring for The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle campaign. Bell ringing will be from 4 pm to 5

pm at the Younker's parking garage entrance.

Our annual **Children's Christmas Program** will be presented on December 14 at the 10:00 am worship service. Children will be assigned parts and will learn the music during Sunday school, Son Lights and New Creation practice. There are only two rehearsal dates: **Wednesday, December 10** from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm (practice in Sanctuary; 5:30 pm pizza in Fellowship Hall). **Saturday, December 13** 9:00 am to 10:30 am preparation and final rehearsal.

December 14 A to Z Advent Children's Christmas Program at 10 am . Cast members arrive at 9:00 am.

December 28— No Sunday School

January 4— Sunday School Classes Resume

From the Deacons

Advent Communion Service — Come worship with us at **2:00 pm, Sunday, December 7** in our sanctuary freshly adorned with greens and poinsettias. This 30-40 minute service will be followed by a time of refreshments around tables in the coatrium area. Deacons have volunteers to provide transportation. **Call Joy Nelson-Jeffers (715-573-9420) if you need a ride** and plan to join us for this special service.

If you are a cookie baker, **the Deacons would welcome some Christmas cookies** to add to the boxes we pack for Christmas deliv-

ery. Cookies that are smaller or medium sized, on the softer side, and colorful but not too aromatic (strong flavors blend when packed together) are especially well received. We need them **by Tuesday evening, December 9, no later than 5:30 PM. Thank you!**

Home Communion Opportunity
If you would like communion brought to you in your home and we have not done so in the past, please let Joy Nelson-Jeffers know at 715-573-9420. Deacons and Elders who would like to join in this ministry before Christmas, give Joy a call. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school children will head the Heifer Project this year.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Advent Communion service to be held on December 7.

Advent Season Poinsettias

We invite you to make a special donation to the First Presbyterian Church

in loving memory of, in special honor of,
or in joyful celebration of your loved ones.

All donations will be used to purchase the beautiful Christmas poinsettias and decorations that will be displayed in our Sanctuary during the Advent Season.

Gifts must be received by **Monday, December 8**

to be included in the December 21 and Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please send your gift with a check made out to First Presbyterian Church and **list the name or names** your donation is for, as well as whether it is **in memory of, in honor of, or in joyful celebration of your recipient(s).**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Beam