



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

WORSHIP AND
CHURCH SCHOOL

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 Reverend Rachel

If we were to take a poll of a large sampling of Christians, asking them to name their favorite church holiday, I could, with a high degree of accuracy, guarantee that not one of them would say Ash Wednesday. Christmas? Yes. Very popular. With Easter a close second. Now suppose we eliminate Christmas and Easter as choices, focusing on the other holidays (holy-days). Still, I think others would top the list - Pentecost and Maundy Thursday, perhaps Palm Sunday, and maybe for some even Good Friday due to its grave significance. But Ash Wednesday would receive few if any votes.

I think there are a few reasons for this. First, many of us who are Protestants aren't really sure of the purpose of Ash Wednesday. If we have some Catholic ties, we may know that it's somehow related to Mardi Gras, and it has to do with giving up something for Lent. Perhaps we've wondered about the smudge of ashes on the foreheads of people we see out in public – and we're not so sure we want to have our faith on display in such a way.

Additionally, even if we do have an idea of the purpose of Ash Wednesday, its function of reminding us Christians of our sinfulness and mortality isn't the most uplifting thing we can think of to do on a midweek evening. Who wants to come to church to be told that we're all sinners who are going to die someday?

Let me assuage any reservations you might have. Regarding the ashes, you can choose to have the ash placed on your hand instead of your head. Or even not at all. The use of ash is tied in with the Jewish custom of ashes symbolizing repentance and/or grief. But the symbol has a deeper meaning as well. Yes, we humans are sinful and mortal. This is our shared humanity. We are told "remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We are linked to the earth, we are tied to creation. Yet we believe that out of the earth, into the dust, God breathed life. It is this same creator God who loves us and offers us mercy and grace. The sign of the cross reminds us of our redemption in Christ. The Season of Lent provides opportunity for spiritual reflection and growth. On Ash Wednesday we begin that journey.

On February 18, First Presbyterian will be hosting the joint Ash Wednesday service with two other congregations. I hope you will consider participating in this service of worship as we acknowledge our humanness and move toward the wholeness that God desires for all of us.

Winnebago Presbytery to Vote on Amendments from PCUSA

At the Stated meeting of the Winnebago Presbytery, Saturday, February 14, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church, Shawano, commissioners and members of Presbytery will be voting on amendments to the Constitution of the PCUSA. These were proposed at the 221st General Assembly this past summer. Those that are affirmed by 2/3 of PCUSA's 172 presbyteries will be implemented at the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. One amendment proposes adding the Confession of Belhar to the Book of Confessions, and several others propose making changes in some of the language of the Book of Order.

An Amendments Booklet and an Analysis of the Amendments by Stated Clerks is available in the church office. They can also be found on-line at www.pcusa.org. Click on resources and proposed amendments to learn more.

The following is what is being considered:

The Confession of Belhar was written by Dutch Reformed Churches in South Africa in protest to apartheid after the 1964 massacre when Nelson Mandela was jailed. It addresses reconciliation and racism and was adopted by the Dutch Reformed Churches in South Africa in 1986, and by the Reformed Churches of America in 2002. PCUSA began to study it in 2004, and when brought to General Assembly in 2012 and 2014 it passed by a huge margin and has been sent out for Presbytery votes.

Several amendments are related to

changing language in the Book of Order Form of Government section.

One amendment is related to Teaching Elders who are in a formal judicial process regarding their working or volunteering in the church.

Two amendments address ordination examinations and the preparation for ministry process.

There is an amendment that proposes to mandate the adoption and implementation of child protection policies for all councils at all levels of the denomination.

One amendment to addresses the minimum number of churches needed to constitute a Presbytery.

And there is an amendment regarding the language of a policy statement about the interreligious stance of the PCUSA.

There is also an amendment that proposes changes in the narrative text in the Book of Order Directory for Worship about Christian marriage, and sets the circumstances under which Teaching Elders and Sessions be authorized, but not required, to act as agents in civil marriages based on a state's marriage laws.

Please take the opportunity to learn about these upcoming amendments and talk with our church's pastors or commissioner who will be voting on them in February.

From the Mission Team



Even if your team isn't in the Super Bowl, you can **HELP TACKLE HUNGER** right here in Wausau.

Sack Food Insecurity with a donation to the FPC Food Pantry on "Souper Bowl" Sunday, February 1. Donations of canned soup and monetary gifts will be collected by the Mission Team.

Find your "piece of the Mission puzzle".... Volunteer opportunities abound at First Pres. Hours are flexible, the only job requirement is a willingness to help. If you would like to give a few

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.

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.

hours a month, Contact Chuck Schlitz, Mission Team. Thank you for your continued support of local schools as you drop your **Campbell's labels and General Mills box tops** in the **Little Red School House** in the library.

Thinking Spring! A few "spring" meal provider dates are still available on the sign up sheets outside the Parlor. A current **NEEDS** list is also available, and we will collect items in the Warming Center basket in the coat room.

Presbyterian Women Meets throughout the year. Contact Mary Sperduto for more information.

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

Join us for coffee and conversation at Vino Latte in Wausau at 2:00 pm on February 19, **Just Because...!**

MISSION

Volunteers are always needed. Contact Chuck Schlitz to find out how you can help.

SMALL GROUPS

Activities for the month of February.

February 2015 - First Presbyterian Church

1 *Sunday Schedule "Souper Bowl Sunday"	2 11:00 am Yoga Class 5:30 pm Hops and the Heavens at Vino Latte	3 5:30 am Yoga Class Noon Soup's On 1:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Worship Team	4 ** Wednesday Schedule	5 5:30 am Yoga Class 8:30 am Men's Study Group 4:30 pm Mission Team 5:30 pm Yoga Classes 6:00 pm Deacons	6 Building Closed 1:00 pm Pro Musica	7
8 *Sunday Schedule CWS Blanket Sunday Promotion begins	9 11:00 am Yoga Class	10 5:30 am Yoga Class 5:30 pm Evening Food Pantry 6:30 pm Discipleship Team	11 ** Wednesday Schedule	12 8:30 am Men's Study Group	13 1:00 pm Pro Musica Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chamber Music Concert: BITS	14 9:00 am Presbytery Mtg. Shawano
15 * Sunday Schedule	16 11:00 am Yoga Class Noon BEAM Deadline 5:30 pm Hops and the Heavens	17 5:30 am Yoga Class Noon Soup's On 1:00 pm Food Pantry 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Support Team	18 No scheduled Wednesday Evening Activities 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service at First Presbyterian	19 5:30 am Yoga Class 8:30 am Men's Study Group 2:00 pm Just Because... 5:30 pm Yoga Classes	20 1:00 pm Pro Musica Rehearsal 7:00 pm Schaefer Studio Piano Recital	21
22 *Sunday Schedule Final CWS Blanket Sunday	23 11:00 pm Yoga Class	24 5:30 am Yoga Class 7:00 pm Session	25 ** Wednesday Schedule 8:30 am BEAM Assembly	26 5:30 am Yoga Class 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:30 pm Yoga Classes	27 1:00 pm Pro Musica Rehearsal	28

***Sunday Schedule**
10: 00 am Worship
10:20 am Sunday School
11:00 am Fellowship Time

11:15 am New Creation Singers
4:00 pm Community Supper
4:00 pm Footstep Fellowship

****Wednesday Evening Schedule**
4:30 pm SonLights Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Closed on Friday

Support Team

Congratulations and THANK YOU to all who pledged to support their church in 2015. We had fewer pledges than in the past years yet you pledged to give in a big way! The 123 who pledged for 2015, pledged \$357,822. These pledges combined with investment income and other offerings of approximately \$104,341 should help us end the year in the black. That is good news for all of us!

Thanks to all who have paid their per capita for 2015. To-date we have received \$2,379 of the \$11,686 we need to pay by March. Please take care of this responsibility as soon as possible. Thank you.

We hope you picked up an Annual Report. It's a good read! Many

activities and the evidence of much hard work fill the pages. You will be proud of your church and the many volunteers that helped the staff make it all happen. If you need a copy of the report, please let the church office know.

If you have questions for the Support Team, the following people can assist you:

- Bitsy Hoffmann, Team Chair
- John Johnkoski, Property Chair
- Gene Davis, Personnel Chair
- Alissa Burnett, Communications
- Other team members: Darlene Loy, Beth LeClair, Will Hsu, Duane Patterson, Dave Indermuehle, Peter Hessert.
- Staff: Rev. Rachel Wann, Kathy DeYarman

SUPPORT TEAM

Month-to-Date

Year-To-Date

Income:\$28,187

Expenses:\$20,781

February Birthdays

- 3— Helen Brenton, Haley Houghton
- 7—Jean Heisler, Phyllis Sann
- 8—Peg Allen, Virginia Schlitz, Elaine Younger
- 9—Peggie Zepplin
- 11—Rudy Poznecki, Melissa Quintanilla
- 12—Ellen Tietz
- 13—Burton Flagel
- 14—John Webb

- 16—William Jones
- 17—Susan Schaefer
- 18—Mia Kluever
- 19—Amanda Burgess
- 20—Nick Smith
- 21—Jesse Bueno
- 23—Betty Jo Klingberg
- 24—Karen Martinson
- 25—Doug Klingberg
- 28—Ann Lovell

Did you know you have someone 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).

WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Chamber music series continues on Friday, February 13.

From the Worship Team

Ash Wednesday service: Wednesday, February 18: 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian this year.

Come to prepare for your Lenten journey as we join with Grace UCC and First United Methodist. The service is one of contemplation, communion, prayer, sermon, music, and ashes.

Friday, February 13, 7:00 pm – BITS! A recital of musical bits by Shelly Bitner, Karmen Teigen and Susan Schaefer. Second in the Chamber Music Series for this year, come and enjoy the variety of music these three musicians can provide:

music for flute, voice, clarinet, piano, organ and handbell solo. A little BIT of everything! Bring a friend and stay for refreshments afterward. If you'd like to help with the new Arts Events Committee, talk to Susan.

Worship Team continues to evaluate our worship services and plan for upcoming seasons. This team covers a multitude of tasks that keeps our worship vibrant: visual, aural, and spiritual. We are fine-tuning our organization, team rosters, and calendar. Lenten, Holy Week and Easter planning is underway.

News of Our Members

Have you been in the parlor recently? The ad hoc parlor committee met with our own Polly Day, an award winning artist, and requested that she paint a landscape to be hung above the mantle. Polly presented several sketches/ideas; the committee gave the go ahead for the painting you now enjoy. Please join us in giving thanks to POLLY DAY for her gift of this beautiful painting representing Sunrise.

Mary Aughenbaugh, Sarah Miller, Judy North, Jann Slayton, Parlor Committee

Hospitality Teams

As we begin a new year we want to THANK retiring Hospitality team members, Pat Corbin-Conn, Mary Ellen Martin, Joe Metz, Bob and Jane

Kluever, Dennis Maxon, and Jeff Schaefer, and WELCOME new team members Jeff Todd, Sharon Hsu, Gary Alexander and Patty Terevich. If you "do the math" you will see that we could use two additional team members. We have 5 teams, so each is "on duty" every five weeks. Hospitality team members greet, collect offering, prepare coffee, and are in the parlor after service with treats. We are ALL part of making our church hospitable—but a big THANK YOU to those who lead teams: Andy Bethel, Peggy & Lee Olbrantz, Linda Metz, Ruth Griswold, and Chuck Schlitz, to the team members, and to our great group of available substitutes.

Discipleship Team—Christian Education

Blanket Facts: For thousands, a blanket is shelter, privacy, a tote in which to gather a few salvaged belongings. Please consider a monetary gift toward this special project.

The Sunday School program will be promoting the **Blanket Project** and accepting monetary donations from February 8 through February 22.

New or gently used blankets, including comforters and quilts, will also be accepted.

Presbyterian 101 continues through March 8. There are two copies of "The Presbyterian Handbook" available in the library.

Scholarship applications and criteria will be available in the church office on February 15. They are due by May 15, and recipients will be announced July 15.

Hot Coffee: This informative video tells the story of the woman who was said to have received a large court settlement after spilling hot coffee on herself. This video is being shown at the First Presbyterian Church in room 201 on Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 pm.

Save the date for these upcoming church activities....

April 5: Easter Breakfast

April 18: Progressive Dinner

April 21-25: Church Directory photos

June 7: Worship and picnic at Riverside Park.

DISCIPLESHIP

*What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?
...class continues through March 8.*

From the Deacons

As you read the Deacon portion of the Annual Report for 2014, you will note the many ministries of the Deacons. They are made possible by the generosity of the whole congregation and able leadership of the Deacons. Each of our ministries is staffed by congregational volunteers in addition to deacons. Our budget is supported by your gifts—the little green envelopes. Thank you!

support, the deacons are here for you with caring arms, a safety net, visitation, transportation and community resources.

The Deacons are finalizing an **"Extending the Table"** schedule for 2015. If you are a deacon or elder and would like to be part of a team that brings communion to our members following worship on Communion Sundays, contact Ruth Griswold or Joy Nelson-Jeffers.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Help us Extend the Table to our homebound members.

Whether you are looking for a place to volunteer or need a little
