



January, 2018

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 Pastor Rachel

It is a few days before Christmas as I am writing this article. I read a variety of daily devotional messages, and today's message from the priest at St John's Abbey in Minnesota struck me. He opened with this line "Note on a restaurant menu: 'Cell phones in use will be confiscated and turned into soup.'" His message was about how having our smart phones and tablets readily available at all times may seem to increase our ability to communicate, but they detract us from living in the present moment. With our eyes concentrated on the little illuminated screens, we miss out on what is going on around us, and we ignore the people currently in our spaces.

Several years ago, I read a book by Eckhart Tolle entitled *The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment*. This book changed my life for the better in that it encouraged me to focus on living in the present moment. This included not dwelling on the past and not worrying about the future, but deliberately living in the now. As simple as this may sound, it is actually quite difficult to do. (Try it for a day or two, and you'll understand.) However, when I intentionally worked on living in the present moment, I experienced a deep peace and connection to God that I had never experienced before.

While the technology we have, literally at our fingertips, is amazing, it can easily become a major distraction to present-moment living. I remember how reluctant I was to trade in my little flip phone for my first iPhone. I held out for several years, because I knew how hard it would be for me to resist the impulse to always be plugged in. I was right. And since that time, I have struggled with limiting my time on my various "devices." The more time spent plugged in, the less I felt connected to the present moment.

One of my resolutions for the New Year is to spend less time staring at my phone or my computer screen and more time focused on right here, right now. When we are distracted by the interruptions technology brings, we miss out on the real life happenings of the present moment. We only have one chance to live in the present moment. Let us not waste that chance.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)

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OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY
9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.

The Beam

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WAUSAU WI 54403

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This and That...

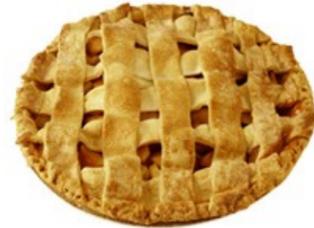
If you are like most people, it seems the years just keep going by faster and faster! One minute it is almost January and you're wondering where the year went and it seems the next minute it's almost January again!

The New Year brings change; like learning to write a new year on the date line of your checks; Like transferring all those birthdays and anniversaries from the old calendar to the new years calendar and realizing when you're done, the old calendar is on December but your nice, clean new calendar is still on October. (Where is that erasable ink when you need it?) And there are many new/different things happening at the church as well. Once a year, preferably in January, you are asked to pay your Per Capita...\$35.43 for 2018. And once a year you'll pick up your contribution envelopes if you've requested them. There are new schedules and lists of volunteers for the many opportunities to serve, etc.



But there is a tradition of the church that happens once each New Year that we can look forward too...our Annual Meeting. This year will feature our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest. If you've never joined us, you are missing out. Before the fun of the meal, the usually brief meeting will fill you in on the highlights of the church year, as well as some always well-deserved thank-yous and a chance to vote on the pastors terms-of-call. Your presence is requested. We hope you'll take the time to join us and if you don't like

chili (and there are some really creative and delicious kinds) you can always fill up at the dessert table...lots of homemade goodies!



So when you get out that clean new 2018 calendar, be sure to add the **Annual Meeting and Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, January 28, 2018**, immediately following worship. Anyone can make and enter their chili and there are prizes for the winners! See you there!

If you have news items regarding your family, let Kathy know by the Beam deadline. The office number is 715-842-2116 or use the mail address located on the front page .

News of Our Members

Our sympathies and prayers are with the family of **Marjorie Tatman** who died Friday, December 1, 2017. The family had a private service on December 10, 2017.

Mark Staples died on December 5, 2015. His Memorial Service was held on Monday, December 11, 2017. We ask that you keep Donna and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Please remember the family of **Roderick "Bob" Morange**, who died on Sunday, December 10, 2017. His funeral was held on Thursday, December 14, 2017. We have many families grieving this holiday season. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Discipleship Team—Christian Education



As I write this article, we are preparing to leave to rehearse the Children's Christmas program at church. December was full of activity and cheer for our First Presbyterian families.

Last Friday a few families went to Mountain Terrace Senior Living and made some Christmas crafts with some of the residents. It was a wonderful way to spend a Friday evening.



FAF for January will be on January 7th, and Sunday School will resume on January 14th. I am hoping for a fun mini-mission for January; be on the lookout for information on that coming soon. If you have any ideas for mini-missions, please contact me! Andrea Ingvalson



Planning Ahead for Long Term Care Sunday, January 21, 2018, following worship

We look forward this month to the fourth in our series of Planning Ahead which will be presented by **Zoey Vecellio**, Director of Operations, Hougum Law Firm, LLC. Topics will include: incapacitation and guardianship, facility options (R.C.A.C./C.B.R.F./Skilled Nursing Care), how to pay for care, Medicaid crisis planning, and State guidelines for Medicaid. You are welcome to bring a friend who might be interested.

Pastor Rachel's 2018 Reading Challenge! Many of you are aware of and perhaps participate in an annual reading challenge that encourages you to read a variety of books throughout the calendar year. These challenges often force you to read books you might never have thought to pick up, because they cause you to look outside your normal reading genres. Hopping on the reading challenge bandwagon, I am offering my own challenge to you. I have prepared a list of 12 types of books, one per month, that relate to religion or spirituality. Additionally I am happy to offer some suggestions in case you're not sure what to read. You may read these in any order, and you don't have to read a book each month, so don't be discouraged if you fall behind. But don't wait until next October to cram in all 12. The task will be easier if you spread your reading throughout the year. Of course, summer is a great time to catch up. If you agree to take on the challenge, sign up so we can hold each other accountable. We will meet a few times during the year to discuss what we've been reading, and if you read all 12, you'll get a small prize at the end. Any kids or youth are interested, let me know, and I will create a list more appropriate for your/their age levels. Grab a checklist, sign your name to the challenge sheet, and start reading!



From the Worship Team

A New Year of our Faith Journey began with Advent 2017. With the new calendar year, we feel a sense of something new on the horizon. But as the song goes, “everything old is new again”! Once more we experience the seasons of Christ’s life through our worship services. This month we celebrate the season of Epiphany, acknowledging the coming of the Light of Christ into the world. Expect to see white and lights on this Sunday and the whole season of Epiphany.



Upcoming worship in January:

Sunday January 7:

- 9:15 am: FAF (Families at First) Service with Communion in the Chapel
- 10:00 am: Worship with Communion and Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary

Sunday January 14: 10:00 am: Worship with Handbell Choir

Sunday, January 21: 10:00 am: Worship with Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 28: 10:00 am Worship with Chancel Choir. Annual Meeting and lunch to follow.

The Music Director and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church want to thank our musicians for the inspiring music of Advent and Christmas time! Your voices and harmonies truly enhanced our worship. Thank you for your commitment and the many hours of rehearsal! Also thanks to the Worship Team for decorating for the season. We will de-decorate after worship on Dec. 31.

Many folks were impressed to see all our children together for their Christmas program on Dec. 17. We have a thriving Sunday School for children and students of all ages. They are watching and learning to sing and pray alongside all of us. Do not overlook this important aspect of our church’s ministry! We are growing young Christians on the second floor, and in the Sanctuary!

BOLO: (a word from cop shows: “Be on the Lookout for...”) Chamber Music Concert this winter! We are still negotiating dates with some of our musicians, but we’re hoping to host a variety of wind solos and ensembles in February. BOLO.

The Wisconsin Choral Director’s Association will again be using our church for their state convention on January 12-13. Stop in to hear some of the concerts by specially chosen groups from around the state.

Deacons

MANY “THANK YOUS” FROM THE DEACONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Thank you to the entire congregation for your generous support of the Deacon Ministries. The Deacons would not be able to function without the numerous “retired” deacons who continue to graciously donate time and talents, mentor new deacons, and spearhead/streamline annual Christmas projects. There are too many people to list, but we would like to thank all those who: baked Christmas cookies for annual delivery; purchased gifts for the Christmas Angel Ministry; organized, packed food boxes and delivered Christmas Angel gifts. Though extra busy during the holidays, the congregation works throughout the year by cooking Meals of Love, providing transportation, visiting in homes and hospitals, bringing

home communion through Extending the Table, transporting members, sending greeting cards, knitting prayer shawls and baby afghans, helping members complete small home projects, and providing emergency assistance. Our quarterly afternoon services rely heavily on volunteers and our wonderful musicians—thanks to Mike DeSciscio, Susan Schaefer, and the Bell Choir! Thank you to all who have participated in the deacon ministries this year! The Deacons couldn’t do all that we do without you!



Mission



Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Thank you to all those folks, from First Presbyterian Church, that rang bells and sang for this year’s Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Thank you Barb & Bill Jones, Mary & Dick Albright, Mary & Dave Augenbaugh, Jann Slayton, Bitsy Hoffman, Ann & Rick Wicklund, Rudy Poznecki, Patty Stueber, Karen Martinson, John Johnkowski, Denis Burgess, Amanda Burgess, Ted & Mary Sperduto. You all continue to amaze us with your dedication to such a worthy cause. Thank you again for your warm hearts.

Mission Team Work

Our congregation has a great tradition of supporting mission work. Whether it’s the green Deacon fund envelopes, the brown Food Pantry ones, or our Special Offerings with a percent staying local - Your financial support has always been there for the needs we attempt 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. Many of you are involved in our Mission work, so many in fact that some may feel there isn’t a need to get involved. In the coming year, look for new opportunities for you to become involved for the first time or to explore a new focus of your giving spirit. Mission Opportunities are always available. Contact Chuck Schlitz, Mission Team.

Welcoming the Stranger

As you may know, a few months ago FPC applied for a mini-grant from Winnebago Presbytery to support an initiative we call “Welcoming the Stranger.” We are pleased to report we were successful. Matthew 25:34 tells us that when we offer comfort and hospitality to strangers, including immigrants and refugees, we are welcoming Christ. To kick things off, our church hosted a workshop just before Thanksgiving on immigrant rights for area church leaders, advocates and residents. Representatives of Voces de la Frontera, the Mexican Consulate, and an immigration attorney, all from Milwaukee, led the workshop. We plan to coordinate with the Winnebago Presbytery Immigration Task Group, the NAOMI Immigration Task Force and local Hispanic advocacy organizations. As a community of faith, we are called to seek truth and become better educated on immigration issues. We will share what we learn with the congregation. May God bless this initiative.

Wausau Community Warming Center

Watch for a **Needs List** for the Warming Center on the Mission Table in January. A basket for donated items will be available nearby.



First Presbyterian Church January, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year! Office and Building Closed	2 10:00 am Staff meeting 1:00 pm Food Pantry	3 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal	4 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:00 Mission Team 6:00 pm Joint mtg. Elders & Deacons	5 All Day—Building Closed	6	
7 9:15 am Families at First No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship/Communion 11:15 am Fellowship Time 4:00 pm Wausau Symphony Concert 4:00 pm Community Supper	8 10:00 am Staff Meeting	9 4:30 Kids Choirs 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Handbells All Annual Report materials Due	10 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:30 pm Discipleship Team 6:00 pm WI Choral Directors Bd. Mtg.	11 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:30 pm Discipleship Team 6:00 pm WI Choral Directors Bd. Mtg.	12 WI Choral Directors Convention activities here all day Office Closed	13 WI Choral Directors Convention activities here all day
14 10:00 am Worship/Sunday School 11:15 am Fellowship Time in Parlor 4:00 pm Community Supper	15 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Food Pantry 4:00 pm Support 5:30 pm Worship Team	16 4:30 Kids Choirs 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Handbells	17 8:30 am Men's Study Group	18 8:30 am Men's Study Group	19 All Day—Building Closed	20
21 *Sunday Schedule	22 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Session 6:30 pm In-Focus	23 4:30 pm Kids Choirs 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Handbells	24 8:30 am Men's Study Group	25 8:30 am Men's Study Group	26 All Day—Building Closed	27
28 *Sunday Schedule Annual Meeting following Worship; Chili Cook-Off for Lunch	29 10:00 am Staff Meeting	30 4:30 pm Kids Choirs 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Handbells	Please Note: There will not be a February Beam issued the end of January.			

*Sunday Schedule

- 9:45 am Nursery Open and Staffed
- 10:00 am Worship and Sunday School
- 11:15 am Fellowship Time in the Parlor
- 4:00 pm Community Supper



Office Hours:

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

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Support Team

The **deadline** for submitting your article for the 2018 Annual Report is Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Please send it electronically as a Word document to financemgr@firstpreswausau.org.

Per Capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church USA. Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the system of government (General Assembly, Synod, Presbytery) so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of the system. Congregations, through their session, pay an annual amount per church member – their per capita assessment – to their presbyteries.

This year **Per Capita apportionment for FPC is \$35.43 per member** based on our membership enrollment on December 31, 2016. This is a large amount of money to take from our General Fund. Therefore, we are asking, if you are able, to pay your Per Capita amount back to the church. Envelopes are available for use or designate Per Capita on your check. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your Per Capita assessment.

The plaques for the new chairs have been ordered and are ready to be placed on the back of the new chairs. Thank you to all who purchased a chair(s) or donated towards them. They are a wonderful addition to the Sanctuary plus the Chapel is once again equipped to handle smaller services and events.

Early in 2018, we will be replacing the exterior windows in the three classrooms upstairs. They are just some of the windows that badly need replacing and we are pleased that the process has been started.

If you requested contribution envelopes for the new year, they are labeled and in the Coatroom waiting for you. You should receive your 2017 Contribution Tax Statement by mid-January. Please check it over and call Kathy if you have any questions.

Happy New Year!

January Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01—Peter Hessert | 19—Vivian Kuehl |
| 04—Denis Burgess | 22—Michelle Rosentreter; Clairra Neitzel |
| 05—Barbara Hoff | 23—Virginia Davis; Ardis McCain |
| 06—Chuck Schlitz; Karen Yankouski | 24—Mary Aughenbaugh; Landon Neitzel |
| 07—Shawn Kosterman | 26—Doris Fehlandt; Sally Schell; Linda Terwilliger; Loretta Schultz; Cayden Klemp-North; Alexander Janis |
| 08—Pudge Kimbel; Richard Minnihan; Ann Steele; Peter Stanke | 27—Ryan Kernosky |
| 09—Charles Staples | 28—Korrin Black; Cheryl Martinson; Stephanie Smith; Joyce Zastrow |
| 10—Edward Steele | 29—Cooper Schmitt; Alex Vlietstra |
| 11—Gary Alexander | 30—Rick Builer |
| 12—Kay Kettner | |
| 14—Christina Evans; Bear Schira | |
| 18—Stephen Scott | |