



# 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

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

### WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL

SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.

## January Highlights

Join us for **Reverend Rachel Wann's Installation Service** on Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 pm. A reception will follow.

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**Team Reports are due** by January 5, 2015. The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 18, 2015.

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Mark your calendars and plan to attend the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25**, immediately following worship.

We'll begin with a **potluck luncheon** which is always a time of great food and fellowship. Table service and beverages will be provided.

Please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share.

We will also be having the 2nd Annual **"Men Who Bake"** auction to raise funds for a project to be announced before the auction.

We define baking loosely, as anything that can be cooked at some point in an oven or microwave!

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### 2015 Communion Schedule

January 11	July 12
February 18	August 2
March 8	September 13
April 2	October 4
April 5	November 1
May 10	December 6
June (TBD)	December 24

*Notes from Reverend Rachel***New Year, Fresh Start**

We've made it through the hectic holiday season. As the winter settles in and the pace begins to slow, the new year appears before us ; a fresh canvas awaiting our colorful brush strokes.

Many people use the new year as a reason to make resolutions for change. Examples include doing more exercise and adjusting one's diet for weight loss. But often, no matter how well-intentioned we are, those resolutions are forgotten before month's end.

I can imagine why. Perhaps the goal is too big or we try to do too many goals at once. Maybe we're too specific. Whatever the reason, giving up and its accompanying guilt tend to be the result. Resolutions to change take work, and sometimes staying with the status quo feels more comfortable.

Instead of focusing on specific tasks, I think we can use the new year to be more holistic in our approach, i.e. work on changing our attitude or outlook. Is there some part of our lives

that is keeping us from living completely into our Christian identity?

Last year a pastor friend of mine decided she wanted to "purge" from her life those things that were interfering with her spiritual growth. I decided that was a great concept for me as well. So my resolution was to actively "purge."

The beauty of this conceptual way of doing resolutions is that it allows for multiple interpretations of the chosen concept. It invites adaptability. It is dynamic and changeable for a variety of situations. For example, as I was preparing to move to Wausau, I was able to purge many material items that had cluttered my home. But I could also let go of stagnant habits as I prepared for a new phase of my life.

During this time of resolution making, is there something you'd like to change in your life? Rather than choosing a narrow focus or goal, consider adopting a theme for the year, allowing it to guide you along the way.

*Highlight: Men's Study Group*

Our church men's group has been meeting for about 25 years and is still going strong.

It was organized to help adult men to understand a bit more of what it means to be a Christian in today's world. We meet at 8:30 on Thursday mornings in the church for an hour.

Usually we start by watching a video on some religious aspect— Bible interpretation and history, ways to practice and build faith. We move on to discuss how it affects us individually.

To give an example of what we have recently studied, we have been looking

at Marcus Borg as he reflects on God, Jesus, salvation, religious practices, and community.

Our men's group is made up of men from different back grounds and experiences. We are not hesitant to express our ideas, but respect each other and understand opposing viewpoints.

Over the years we have developed a deep fellowship. The men's study group welcomes others. Being part of the group can lead to increased meaning in one's life.

Please join us Thursday mornings!

Duane Patterson

## *From the Mission Team*

The church calendar highlights the seasons of the church year, seasons that revolve around the birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promised return of Jesus.

There is a season not on the calendar, and that is the season of need. Need does not wait until a special date. It isn't able to be planned for. It happens when it does. There is no special day of celebration. It is not circled on the calendar and looked forward to with anticipation.

When you and I turn our calendars to the New Year, there is a lot of empty space which will soon be filled with appointments, meetings, celebrations, reminders, etc.

As you fill up your new calendar, help us by filling some of that empty space with helping to meet the needs of so many in this coming year!

**Thank you** for supporting the Salvation Army Bell Ringing, the Heifer Project, and the Joy Offering in December.

**There are many mission opportunities here at First Presbyterian Church.** Contact Chuck Schlitz, Mission Team Leader; or Gail Smith, Deacon Moderator, to explore your **“Piece of the Mission Puzzle.”**

## MISSION

*Find your piece  
in our mission  
puzzle!*

## *Small Group Activities*

**The 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.

**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](mailto:lindy-phelps@gmail.com) or 715-370-5881.

**Presbyterian Women** will be holding an event in November focusing on mission projects supported by the Thank Offering. Watch for details in First Notes.

**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 January 22. **Just Because...!**

## SMALL GROUPS

# *January, 2015 - First Presbyterian Church*

						1 Happy New Year! Building Closed	2 Building Closed	3
4 *Sunday Schedule De-decorate after worship	5 Team/Committee reports due for Annual Report 11:00 am Yoga Class	6 5:30 am Yoga Class 11:30 am Soup's On 1:00 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Worship Team	7 6:00 pm Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 am Men's Study Group 4:30 pm Mission Team 6:00 pm Deacons	9 1:00 pm Pro Musica Rehearsal	10		
11 * Sunday Schedule Communion 11:15 am New Creation Singers	12 11:00 am Yoga Class	13 5:30 am Yoga Class 4:00 pm Support Team	14 ** Wednesday Schedule	15 5:30 am Yoga Class 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:30 pm Yoga Classes	16 1:00 pm Pro Musica Rehearsal	17		
18 *Sunday Schedule 11:15 am Adult Ed 3:00 pm Rev. Rachel Wann Installation Service	19 BEAM Deadline 11:00 pm Yoga Class	20 5:30 am Yoga Class 11:30 am Soup's On 1:00 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Session	21 ** Wednesday Schedule	22 5:30 am Yoga Class 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:30 pm Yoga Classes	23 1:00 pm Pro Musica Rehearsal	24		
25 *Sunday Schedule 11:15 Potluck Luncheon and Annual Meeting	26 11:00 am Yoga Class	27	28 ** Wednesday Schedule	29 5:30 am Yoga Class 8:30 am Men's Study Group 5:30 pm Yoga Classes	30 1:00 pm Pro Musica Rehearsal	31		
<b>*Sunday Schedule</b> 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	<b>**Wednesday Evening Schedule</b> 4:30 pm SonLights Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal		<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm Closed on Friday				

## Support Team

We have come to the end of the year and there are a few financial items we need to make you aware of.

The Per Capita for 2015 is \$31.50 and should be paid as soon as possible after January 1, 2015. We need to send our portion to Presbytery by March so your help in getting this paid in a timely matter is appreciated. It is only paid on active members.

Contribution statements will be published and mailed to you in mid-January. Please review your statement when you receive it. Contact Kathy in the church office if you have any questions.

Many of you pay your bills each month electronically. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is a safe and easy way to pay your pledge without ever writ-

ing a check. If you would like to take advantage of this convenient service, please contact Kathy in the church office. We currently have over 25 families taking advantage of EFT.

The Session approved the proposed budget of \$457,372. We received 119 pledge cards for a total of \$350,462 in pledges for 2015. We have some income from investment funds as well as team or committee revenue and other offerings so we are close to having a balanced budget for 2015. We thank all of you that returned your pledge card and are willing to support the work of the church.

We will end the year in the positive. This is a great thing to report!

## SUPPORT TEAM

Month-to-Date

Income:\$39,218

Expenses: \$38,727

Year-To-Date

Income:\$459,308

Expenses:\$447,713

## January Birthdays

1-Peter Hessert

4-Denis Burgess

5-Brenton Peters, Barbara Hoff

6-Chuck Schlitz, Karen Yankouski,

7-Shawn Kosterman, James Riley

8-Pudge Kimbel, Richard Minnihan,  
Pete Stanke, Ann Steele

9-Bill McLay, Charles Staples

10-Edward Steele

11-Gary Alexander

12-Kay Kettner, Robert Kuehl

13-Kaius Gierman, Katie Dively

14-Bear Schira

18-Steve Scott

19-Vivian Kuehl, Anna Wright

22-Michelle Rosentreter,  
Claira Neitzel

23-Virginia Davis, Ardis McCann

24-Mary Aughenbaugh,  
Landon Neitzel, Joan Schmitz

25-Dawn Seibert

26-Doris Fehlandt, Sally Schell,  
Loretta Schultz,  
Cayden Klemp-North

27-Ryan Kernosky, Cheryl Martin-  
son, Stephanie Smith

28-Korrin Black

29-Cooper Schmitt,  
Jennalynn Riley, Alex Viestra

30 Rick Builer, Elaine Hertz

***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).

## WORSHIP

*FPC Chamber music series continues with a concert on February 13*

*A special Thank You to Tom and Barb Gwidt for the beautiful Christmas tree that decorated our sanctuary this year.*

### *From the Worship Team*

Many, many hours of work from our musicians, children and youth provided the wonderful worship and music experiences we had in December. **Thank you** to all who shared their various talents and made time for extra rehearsals. Extra special thanks to the parent volunteers who “shepherded” back-stage for the children’s program Advent A to Z on Dec. 14! You created order out of chaos!

Thanks for your help in decorating the church for Christmas We will **“Decorate” on Sunday January 4 following worship.** “Many hands make light work”!

Choirs resume rehearsals after a much-needed break.

**Chancel Choir** meets Sunday, January 4, at 9:15 to sing for worship at 10:00. Wednesday rehearsals begin January 7 at 7:00 pm.

### *News of Our Members*

We welcome **Charlotte Wicklund** to our membership. She transfers from Covenant Community Presbyterian Church in Weston, WI.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of **Victoria (Vicki) Rhyner** who died December 14, 2014. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Our prayers are with **Jim and Diane Grinsel and family** in the death of their 5 ½ year old granddaughter Cora, who valiantly fought cancer since the age of 3. Cora’s parents, Jeff and Danielle Grinsel and brother, Oliver, live in Minneapolis where a service will be held.

**Handbells:** January 7 at 6:00 pm.

**New Creation Singers:** January 11 after worship on the third floor.

**SonLights Choir:** January 14 at 4:30, in the third floor choir room.

The choirs will prepare for Pastor Rachel’s Installation Service on Sunday afternoon, January 18.

**First Presbyterian Chamber Music Series** continues with a concert on **February 13**. A trio of local musicians, Shelly Bitner, Karmen Teigen and Susan Schaefer, will pool their talents on piano, organ, voice and flute, assisted by Dan Maguire on clarinet. Our **Crème de la Crème concert** returns **Friday, April 24**, featuring top high school musicians from all area high schools.

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Welcome to **Erik Fuller Kwasny** born October 15 to Emily and Dan Kwasny and brother Ryan. Proud grandparents are **Mark and Donna Staples** and great grandmother, **Mary Staples**.

Congratulations to **Dave and Mary Aughenbaugh**, on the birth of **Josephine Taliak**, their new granddaughter and daughter of Ben and Sarah Aughenbaugh. Josephine was born on November 28, 2014.

**Olivia May** was born, December 17, to **Mandy and Keith Vlietstra**. She joins big sister, Kendra. Beaming grandparents are Glenn and Nancy Peters and great grandparents, Tom and Barb Gwidt.

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## Discipleship Team—Christian Education

**Melissa Doter** will speak on Drug Free Communities on January 11 during an Adult Education forum.

**Presbyterian 101** starts January 18. We will be using The Presbyterian Handbook, a humorous guide of what we believe. If you plan to attend, please let the office know so we can order enough copies of the book. The cost is expected to be \$11. Child care will be provided as needed.

### Christian Education

We hope to present Bibles sometime in the next few months to children new to Sunday school or transitioning from the Spark Story Book Bible to the Spark NRSV Bible. Families will be contacted if their child will be receiving a Bible. Please email Lisa at [lrh-le.christian.education@gmail.com](mailto:lrh-le.christian.education@gmail.com) if you have questions regarding whether

your child needs a different Bible. Children ages two through second grade are given the Spark Story Bible and children third grade and older are given the Spark NRSV Bible.

A big **Thank You** to all who have helped with nursery and Sunday school in 2014. It has been a blessing to our church to have you use your talents and gifts in this area. The staff looks forward to working with you again in 2015.

### DEW Inspirations Middle School Youth Group Happenings!

The DEW Inspirations middle school youth group will be full of fun opportunities and missions in 2015! Activities being considered include geo caching, Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, a Sunday afternoon of winter sports, a day at the Humane Society, movies, and lock-ins. More information will come soon.

## From the Deacons

### Did you know. . .

**Care packages** were sent to 13 of our young adults for whom we had addresses, working or in school, as a reminder of the loving thoughts of their church family back in Wausau.

**Christmas gifts along with food and household baskets** were delivered to 18 families through the Christmas Angel Project. (Gifts for four of these families were provided by the Mayor's office.)

**65 boxes of cookies** were packed and delivered with a poinsettia and small gift as a TLC gesture to mem-

bers who are homebound, or had a recent loss of a spouse or maybe just had a harder year.

Deacons called, transported and provided warm hospitality for 32 who gathered on the afternoon of December 7, for an **Advent communion service** and fellowship time.

We were also able to help someone with a little rent support and someone else with needed gas to get to work.

You helped in many ways to make all this possible in December alone!

**Thank you** for your generous Deacon support this month and all year long!

## DISCIPLESHIP

*Join Pastor Joy and Pastor Rachel for a six-week study on what Presbyterians believe*

## BOARD OF DEACONS

*Thank you for your generous support of the Deacon ministries this year!*

Library Corner

Have you read the December 2014 issue of **Presbyterians Today?**

If not, it is one FPC readers might want to pick up. Articles include: "The Enduring Church"; "Why People Belong to the Presbyterian Church"; "Rethinking Church" and discussions on the future of PC(USA).

This issue and other periodicals can be found in the church library. Also you may go to [pcusa.org/today](http://pcusa.org/today) or [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) for short video clips on these subjects .

Please remember to check out our library for new books and many periodicals dealing with faith. If interested in doing a book review, please contact Mary Sperduto.

**LIBRARY**

*Be sure to check out our library for books on faith!*



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*The Beam*