

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

At the end of May, I will be traveling in a tour group to the United Kingdom – Northern Ireland and Scotland. I have never been there, so I am looking forward to the trip. For me, the hardest part of any trip, whether for an overnight or for a couple weeks, is knowing what to pack.

I tend to overpack. It's not because I like to change clothes multiple times a day. Rather, I overpack because I want to be prepared for any contingency. I admire those people who can pack only a small carry-on for an entire trip and trust that that is enough.

Of course, the UK has stores where I could buy anything I could possibly need on my trip. I don't have to bring it all with me. The problem is control. I feel the need to be in control of every aspect, leaving nothing to chance.

For many of us, this is how we live our lives. Preparing ourselves and making sure we are covered for any contingency. Yet when we try to live rigidly inside a self-made structure we miss out on opportunities to trust in God and rely on the community of faith of which we are a part.

We don't like to feel vulnerable. So, when we are hurting or struggling or lacking in fulfilling some need, we can be afraid to open ourselves to outside help. We like to give to others, but we don't like to receive from others, because it makes us seem weak. We try to take care of our own needs and not feel indebted to anyone else.

The good news is this – we don't have to do it all ourselves. Being always in control is overrated. There is grace in receiving from others. There is grace in asking for help. It is a blessing to allow someone else to minister to us in our need. Sometimes we just need to be reminded - You don't have to do it all.



**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.

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This and That...

Coming Soon - GENTLY USED SALE!! In conjunction with Green SATURDAY, May 20th, we will hold a "Gently Used" sale of household items, small furniture, and books. **We need YOUR help with the following:**

* **Donations** of items for the sale - small enough to be easily moved (no big furniture please!). Household items, small furniture and small working electronics, books . . . but no clothing, please.

* Donations may be brought to church during normal business hours beginning May 8th. They will be stored in B2

* **Set up** Friday, May 19th, 9:00 - 2:00 (or earlier!)

* **Sale** Saturday, May 20th, 8:30- 2:00

If you can help with set up or sale, talk to or email Jann Slayton (jannsleyton1102@gmail.com) or Ann Wicklund (annew923@gmail.com) All remaining items will be donated to Saint Vincent dePaul or Neighbor's Place.

New Knitting Group!

If you are interested in knitting, please feel free to join us. We will be meeting the next couple of weeks on Wednesday at 1:00 and then decide how often and when we would like future meetings. We will be knitting baby hats for stillborns, preemies, and newborns for hospitals. The pattern will be available in the class (and from Sue Westergaard), and uses size 2 or 3 double pointed needles and baby yarn. Any pattern that you may have can also be used. If you would like a brush up on your knitting skills or just want to come and knit with us, feel free to do so. All are welcome, and help available ! The hospitals are also in need of very lightweight blankets (flannel or VERY lightweight knitted or crocheted are suggested) for the preemies – anywhere from 12” square to 18” square, but mostly the smaller size. We will be discussing these in class, and may include them in the program. Any ideas are also appreciated.

Sue Westergaard 715 675-6092



Creative Sewing Group will not meet until the fall.

News of Our Members

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

We our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of **Art Kimbel**, who died unexpectedly on Friday, April 7, 2017. A Memorial Service was held Wednesday, April 19, 2017 followed by interment at the Veterans Memorial Cemetary in Union Grove, WI on April 20, 2017. He will be missed.

Graduating this spring? Please let the church office know. Thank you.

If you have moved or changed your phone number or email address, please contact the church office as soon as possible so our records can be updated. Thank you for your time.

Discipleship Team—Christian Education

A reflection on the last 9 months: If you have been attending church, you know that our children have been staying in the worship service longer than they have in the past. This change was implemented in September, at the beginning of the school year. When this change was suggested, there was some concerned feedback. I'm happy to report that things have gone quite well! The new "quiet area" for children in the sanctuary has been well-used and the children seem to understand that they need to whisper, and that the area is designed for them.

Studies show that children who stay in worship and understand the components of worship will grow to be young adults who continue to attend church. The recent phenomena of young adults not attending church can in part be linked to the fact that these individuals were pulled from regular worship to attend "children's church" or Sunday School. As young adults, they do not know how to worship because they have never attended a full worship service! It is a foreign concept to them since they have spent their youth in classrooms playing games.

My little ones are not always paying attention during worship, any of you can clearly see that if you just look to the front of the sanctuary. BUT- any parent can tell you just because a child does not appear to be paying attention does not mean that they are not hearing the message. Even if Ingrid does not stand up and sing, or say a prayer, she is still witnessing the ceremony, and she is still hearing the words. I often wonder to myself: "when did I learn the words to the Gloria Patri?" The answer is: I was never taught the words or the tune, I just learned them by attending church and by hearing it every Sunday.

I am so happy to report that change is good. There is still work to be done, as there always is, but for now, I believe we are on the right path. If you are reading this and haven't been to church in a while, please come and check out all of the wonderful things we have going on. You won't be disappointed.

**High School graduates and college students:**

The Discipleship Team is offering a scholarship opportunity to all First Presbyterian members. Applications are available in the church office. Completed applications are due by May 15. Time is short! Get your application today so it can be submitted on time.

Camp Scholarships are also available. Please contact Judy north for more information.

Calling All Graduates!

Discipleship Team would like to know who in our congregation has students **who will be graduating High School, College or continuing education this school year.** We would like honor them and to wish them well on their journey. Please contact the church office and let us know so we are sure to include all in **our recognition on May 21st during worship.** We would also like to ask that if you haven't updated your information for the church directory, that you do so by contacting the church office with any changes to email or phone numbers.

The Woodchucks baseball game is coming up!

The date is Friday, June 19 at 7:05 pm.

We have reserved the tickets which include a hotdog and soda. The seats all have backs and are undercover. The "deck" is accessible. Sign-up for the tickets begins in May and payment is due when you pick up your tickets. Cost is \$10.50 for adults and youth ages 2-18 are \$7.00. Ages 2 and under are free.



From the Worship Team

At this writing, we have just celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord, and what a wonderful Holy Week it was! Many, many thanks to the Worship Team for their hard work in enhancing the worship spaces for all our Holy Week services. Thanks to the soup-makers for Maundy Thursday, the readers for the special services, the Chancel Choir, the Handbells and Brass Ensemble for Easter Sunday, the organizers and chefs for the Easter Breakfast. Also thanks to the Deacons for providing the Easter egg hunt for our young ones.

But we also need to thank our pastors, who adapt the liturgy and write the messages that make each service so meaningful. It's not easy to pump out four very different services in four days! Also, they provide Holy Communion for our worship services and for our members who are homebound. Next time you see your pastors, be sure to thank them for all the work they do.

New Creation Singers finished their 2016-17 season last week with their Annual Treasure Hunt. To find their clues, they had to know the different parts of the Sanctuary and other rooms in the church. They received a prize and a pizza dinner! We have appreciated their voices in worship throughout the year.

When you get this Beam, we will also have had our first meeting of a new unnamed Choir and Coffee group. This will be a "musical fellowship group" for people who are free during the day to sing. If you want to join us, contact Susan, our Music Director, for updates about how this group will be forming in the weeks to come.

FAF (Families at First): Sunday May 7, 9:15 am in the Chapel. This will be the final FAF service for children and families until fall. Be sure to come and share this experience, no matter what your age is!

New Faces in our Music Ministry: Chancel Choir welcomes **Shauna Zell**, wife of our primo basso Jason Zell, into the alto section. Handbell Choir welcomes **Amanda Coldren**, who is here in Wausau for a year's residency at Walkabout Orthotics, and sought us out as a place to use her handbell skills! On Palm Sunday you saw two new faces in the New Creation Singers, two local children who were looking for a children's choir to sing in. We hope you will find a chance to welcome all of these musicians to our church.

As May unfolds, we will be hearing about Jesus in the weeks following his resurrection. These are exciting stories that tell us much about the earliest church and give us insights into what Jesus wants us to do to continue his ministry. Be here to hear and learn and worship!

Deacons

The Deacons are looking forward to hosting the **All Church Picnic, Sunday, June 12**, at Sylvan Hills. Mark your calendar and save the date! Deacons will be grilling and providing the food. It is our way of saying thanks for your support all year round. If you anticipate needing a ride let Nick Smith or Pastor Joy (715 573 9420) know. We would love to help you get there.



Any small spring home project you are not able to do yourself? Call Steve Martinson for the Deacon Home Helpers.



A big **thank you to the Deacons** and all those who attended the Deacon's annual egg hunt. Lots of time goes into putting together and hiding all those treasures for our little ones to discover. Thanks to all the moms, dads, grandparents and others who helped make this a fun experience for all.

Mission

Palliative Care and Hospice Care

Many people are confused about the differences between Palliative care and Hospice. Both offer supportive care for individuals and their families who have chronic illness. Palliative care is for people who wish to pursue curative treatments. Hospice care is for people who desire "comfort" measures only and are no longer seeking curative treatment. Often people who enter Hospice have a life expectancy of 6 months or less.

Things you can expect from Palliative care and Hospice services include relief of symptoms, best quality of life possible, professional support on how to deal with medical treatments (Palliative care), and assistance with planning future needs. Emotional and spiritual support for the patient and family is important. People receiving Palliative Care and Hospice services can live at home, assisted living, or a nursing home. Please talk with your physician or clergy if you have questions.

A gift to the **Pentecost Offering** helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. **40%** of the Pentecost offering is retained by our congregation to make an impact in the lives of young people within our Wausau community. We will be giving our local contribution to **Jo Jo's Jungle**, a unique playground setting where children of any ability can play alongside their friends and families. This playground will enrich social skills, sensory learning, and promote physical fitness in a safe environment for every child in our community. Our Pentecost offering will be taken on **June 4**.

Plant and Garden Sale

Our church will be participating in "**Green Saturday**" the 20th of this month. We request donations of perennial plants, used garden tools, and any garden-related items. All proceeds from our sale will go toward our Ministries of Advocacy Fund. If you would like to help set-up, handle sales, or donate items please contact Jim Slayton (jwslyton1@gmail.com or 715-297-9528).



We will also be selling **Hsu's Leaf Compost** and **Potting Soil**. Pre-orders may be placed the two Sundays prior to Green Saturday, May 7th and 14th, with pick up on the 20th. You may also purchase the compost and potting soil at our sale on the 20th.

Anti-Trafficking and Missing Children Campaign

Together we can make a difference! Covenant Community and First Presbyterian will be leading an awareness campaign on **Saturday, June 24. We need 15-20 volunteers to commit to this campaign.** On the morning of June 24 there will be training by Lisa Sennholz, followed by lunch; after which we will go out into the community to local businesses in groups of 2-3 people to make contact with pre-arranged hotels, motels and convenience stores. Literature and pictures of missing children will be distributed after a short conversation. We will also be in contact with local law enforcement officers. Contact Barb Jones at wiswilly@charter.net with your questions.

First Presbyterian Church May, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 5:30 pm Hops and the Heavens (Sconni's) Rehearsal	2 10:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Worship Team 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	3 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Handbells	4 8:30 am Men's Study Group 9:45 am Women's Study Group 5:00 pm Mission Team 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	5 Building Closed	6 9:00 am New Officer Training	
7 Communion Sunday 9:15 am Families at First * Sunday Schedule Installation / Ordination of New Officers	8 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	9 10:00 am Outdoor Church Grounds Clean-up 10:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Deacons 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	10 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	11 8:30 am Men's Group 9:45 am Women's Group 5:30 pm Discipleship Team 5:30 pm Penguin Project rehearsal	12 Building Closed	13 Downtown Open House Event
14 Mother's Day * Sunday Schedule Education Workers Recognition Day	15 5:30 pm Hops and the Heavens (Sconni's) Rehearsal	16 10:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Food Pantry 4:00 pm Support Team 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	17 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	18 8:30 am Men's Group 9:45 am Women's Group 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	19 Building Closed Set up for sales	20 8:00 am Green Saturday Plant Sale 9:00 am Gently Used Items Sale
21 * Sunday Schedule Last day of Sunday School	22 3:00 pm June Beam Deadline 3:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	23 10:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal 6:15 pm Session 6:30 pm In-Focus	24 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	25 8:30 am Men's Group 9:45 am Women's Group 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	26 Building Closed	27
28 * Sunday Schedule No Sunday School	29 Memorial Day Building Closed	30 10:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal	31 5:30 pm Penguin Project Rehearsal			
* Sunday Schedule 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time in the Parlor 4:00 pm Community Supper in the Fellowship Hall						
						
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm Closed on Friday						

The Beam

Support Team

On April 7, when I received the phone call about a dear friend's passing, I was in shock. He had just been in my office that Wednesday, going over a number of plans he had to continue improving the building and grounds at first Pres. He would frequently be working in the building, patching a corner or painting an area that was worn or marked up. He had scrubbed off the downstairs railings and painted them and when someone scratched them a few weeks later, he was back re-doing his work. He and his wife painted and redecorated the downstairs bathrooms; he bleached the walls downstairs that had gotten moldy from all the moisture and wiped them down, more than once. The list is extensive of all the behind the scene work that he was constantly doing. As Property Chairperson and a member of the Support Team, he took his responsibilities seriously and since he loved his church building, he willingly gave and gave and gave to take care of it.

But Art Kimbel was more than a hard worker for and caretaker of the church. Art always had a smile, a big smile and he wanted others to smile too. He went out of his way to talk to people and was always willing to listen. He wanted things to be done right the first time but was never dogmatic about it but would gently suggest what he thought was right and was always open to listening to the other side.

Art is no longer with us and we miss him, but he would want us to keep going with his mission of caring for the church. The next item on his agenda is coming up on **May 9**. He thought it was important to keep the grounds looking nice and had a long list of items he was hoping to accomplish with the help of the congregation on **May 9, the Church Grounds Cleaning Day**.

Please come prepared to trim, rake, weed, spread mulch and fellowship with others as we honor Art's memory. We'll get started around 9:30 am and be done by noon. There will be treats and hot coffee...I had promised him I'd provide the treats. I hope you'll help make it a successful day.

A huge **THANK YOU to Will Hsu and Hsu's Garden Center** for donating 15 yards of mulch to be spread around on the Grounds Cleaning Day. Thank you!!

May Birthdays

- 3-David Aughenbaugh, Annette Jelen,
Emma Lombard
- 4-Bill Zastrow, Katie Spanagler
- 6-Rachel Klemp-North
- 7-Hali Schmidt, Jackson Culver
- 9-Renata Sittler
- 12-Greta Spangler
- 13-Tammy Johnkoski, Holly Bueno
- 14-John Johnkoski
- 15-Patricia Olsen, Sherry Schmidt
Dylan Tackes Wright

- 16- Mary Sperduto
- 18-Suzanne Hinterberg,
- 19-Terry Schultz, Eric Simonson
- 21- Robb Stengl
- 22- Mason Vliestra
- 23-George Houghton III
- 25-Brenda Davis, Sandra DeSciscio
- 26-Jeff Todd
- 28-Virginia Heinemann, Jane Kluever
- 29-Brian Buege
- 30-Lorrie Hansen



Our apologies to Mary Ellen Martin whose birthday on April 18 was missed in the last Beam. Happy Belated Birthday!

