

First United Monthly Update

NOVEMBER 2015

First United Presbyterian Church

*"Changing Lives through
God's Love in Christ"*

605 N Webster Ave
De Pere, WI 54115
(920) 336-1446

info@firstunitedpc.org

www.firstunitedpc.org

[facebook.com/
First.United.Pres](https://www.facebook.com/First.United.Pres)



**Christian
Education Hour**
8:30am

Worship Service
9:45am

Coffee Fellowship
10:45am



Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9am - 1pm
Friday
Closed



**2016
Changing
Lives**

November 1st is Pledge Sunday. The Bible teaches that those that practice generosity give with intent, discipline, joy, energy, and passion. We are asked to consider stepping outside of our comfort zone when making this year's pledge and consider sharing an increase in the proportion of your earnings you give to support the work of First United Presbyterian Church.

During 2016, each Ministry has new initiatives planned, as well as continuing our existing programs in Christian Education, Connecting, Worship & Music, Building & Grounds, and Leadership & Stewardship.

We are thankful that our members are so generous in giving of their time, talents and money to support the ministries and mission of First United. You can continue to make a difference and change lives by sharing the blessings God has given us.

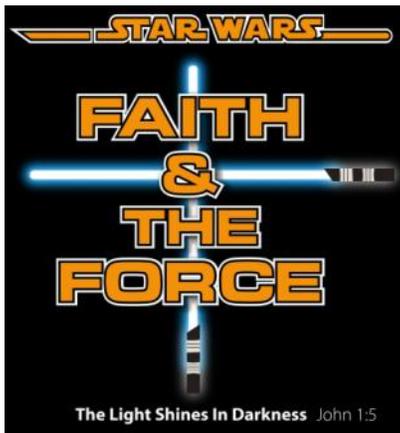
Please bring your completed pledge card for 2016 to worship and place in the offering plate or mail it to the church office to the attention of our Secretary/Treasurer, Sue Planert.

Our annual **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service** is coming soon. This holiday tradition returns on **Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7pm** when we'll join with our friends from First Presbyterian, Green Bay. This year's gathering will be at their church (200 S. Ashland Avenue). There will be a sermon by our own Pastor Luke Farwell, music from a combined choir of singers, and treats after worship. We'll also be collecting nonperishable food items for the Presbyterian Pantry.



**October
Session
Report**
by Dawn Picard
Clerk

This past month, Session prayed; accepted reports from the Ministries and standing committees; heard a presentation from Leadership and Stewardship Ministry Chair Lora Warner; accepted the resignation of Tom Paulson; voted to enroll FUPC as an institutional member of JOSHUA; discussed capital improvements; voted to work with vendors providing roofing and siding; laughed a lot; planned; questioned; and worked to advance God's Kingdom on Earth. The meeting ended with a prayer of gratitude for the gifts of this congregation and the many blessings bestowed upon our church family at FUPC.



Star Wars: Faith and the Force - it's almost here! On **Friday, Nov. 13** enjoy a free showing of the movie that started it all: **Star Wars, Episode IV: A New Hope**. Bring your favorite snuggly blanket, wear your jammies, or dress as

your favorite character while being (re)introduced to a galaxy far, far away. Popcorn and soda will be available.

On **Saturday, November 14**, F.U.P.C. will transform into that galaxy as we explore Biblical stories and principles through the pop culture icon of the Star Wars universe. This futuristic story follows the adventures of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia and others as they work to defeat the evil empire and restore peace to the galaxy. **Faith and the Force** will draw comparisons between these characters and David and Goliath, Saul and Paul, and Jesus and his disciples. If you are a Star Wars fan, come and learn the ways of the Jedi, make your own Ewok, and visit with other fans of this futuristic world. Other workshops include "Use the Force to Be a Buddy, Not a Bully," "Princess in Training," and "Glow in the Galaxy" beaded bracelets.

Don't know anything about Star Wars? This event is for you, too! **Rev. Luke Farwell's**



keynote address will explore how Christianity and Star Wars share similar strategies for helping young people discover, connect, and abide in God (and the Force). The **Rev. Dr. Wil Tabb** will discuss using meditation as a tool to

center ourselves in a chaotic world. The **Rev. Dr. Matthew Sauer** from First Presbyterian Church in Manitowoc will lead a discussion on the ways of the Jedi (they are the good guys). Master Yoda - a short, 900-year-old, green-skinned Jedi Knight - must have studied Christ, as their teachings run parallel. **Ruling Elder Bob Bivins** will lead a discussion about which Biblical characters are

portrayed in the Star Wars stories. And, if you need some quiet reflection, visit the "Journey of the Jedi" to walk the labyrinth and focus your thoughts on your place in the universe.

If all this theology is too much, come meet author **John Jackson Miller**, get an autograph, and hear him talk about writing the Star Wars books and graphic comics. F.U.P.C.'s own **Brian Lindow** will talk about "Big Lasers and the Skywalker Ranch." Will light sabers ever become a reality, and where does George Lucas (the man behind Star Wars) live? View the premier of brand new documentary film about the 501 Garrison, a regional group of Star



Wars re-enactors.



Enjoy rousing games of Star Wars trivia led by **Scott McPherson**. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win an R2D2 robot, Star Wars Legos, a "Han Solo frozen in Carbonite" mini-frig, movie passes to the upcoming Star Wars movie, and more. Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$1.00 each or 15 for \$10.00. You must be present to win at the 3pm drawing.

Faith and the Force is suitable for school aged children, teens, adults, aliens, believers, and skeptics. Advanced registration is recommended to reserve a spot in your favorite workshops or events. Boxed lunch (\$7) for the day of the event must be reserved in advance and event T-shirts (\$10) can be ordered through the registration form. To find the complete schedule of events, watch a preview video, or access the registration form, visit the church website at www.firstunitedpc.org.



May the Force Be with You!



Pastor Appreciation Sunday

On **October 11**, we acknowledged our Thanks to all the Pastors with connections to our church family. We were especially blessed to have two recent Interim Pastors - **Rev. Dee Talley** (third from left) and **Rev. Becky Johnston** (third from right) - return for our special day. Our other old friend, **Rev. Ray Larson**, sent the following message to be shared:

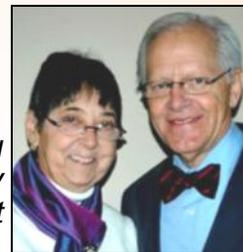
Dear Friends at First United,

I am sorry to not be in attendance at the time of honoring former pastors, but Judie and I will be on a cruise to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

You have been through the fire and been tested, coming out stronger than you were before; God is good. I want you to know that I have not thrown any pumpkins out of airplanes since leaving there, nor have I attempted making fruit cake. I still do cheer for the Packers (when I am not cheering for the Vikings).

Blessings to you all as you continue your faithful journey under the capable leadership of Pastor Luke.

- Ray and Judie Larson



Update on the Haspels

It's been one year since Presbyterian Mission workers (and friends of our church) **John and Gwen**

Haspels were attacked and almost killed in Ethiopia. They are now retired and working to continue their recovery. In a recent email, Gwen said, *"We would like to remember the shooting one year ago with praise and much thanksgiving to God and to all of you who prayed so faithfully for us."* Read more about what happened to them and about their amazing message of hope at this web link: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/10/1/gwen-and-john-haspels-teach-love-and-forgiveness-c/>.

Calendar Change

With this edition, we'll be discontinuing the monthly calendar. It proved to become outdated too quickly. For the latest church information, we encourage you to continue following the weekly calendars in each Sunday's **Weekly Newsletter** and the up-to-date monthly calendar on our website at www.firstunitedpc.org.



adult CHRISTIAN education

During November, our **Adult Christian Education** class will begin a new series examining how the parables of the Bible are relevant in today's world. Corday Goddard and Meggan Farwell will discuss examples from the great storyteller, Jesus.

November 1 - The Mustard Seed

November 8 - The Good Samaritan

November 15 - The Prodigal Son

November 22 - The Bridesmaids

We hope you'll join the group for an enlightening discussion every **Sunday at 8:30am in the Koinonia Lounge.**

We're looking for an artificial Christmas Tree for the family living in the **EPH (Ecumenical Partnership for Housing)** home that our church maintains. Please contact Lori Dill (920-609-3105) if you can help.





The Giving Tree

Monthly Update
(as of September 30)

	<u>Year-to-Date Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>
Operating Fund Income	\$218,200	\$218,500
Operating Fund Expenses	\$214,100	\$221,400
Building Fund Income	\$43,900	\$46,000
Building Fund Payments	\$42,300	\$46,000

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”
Galatians 5:22-23

2016 PLEDGE SUNDAY - November 1

Upcoming Special Offerings:

Deacons Fund Monthly Offering - Nov. 1

Christmas Food Baskets/Flowers - Nov. 22

Presbyterian Women

“Mission Sewing Circle” Donations:

> **House of Hope**

- 4 knitted baby blankets
- 5 knitted baby hats
- 3 child sized quilts
- 2 adult quilts

> **NEW Community Shelter**

- 3 adult quilts
- 2 knitted winter scarves

> **Happily Ever After Animal Shelter**

- 2 fleece cage blankets



Join forces with our mission-minded group. Sew, quilt, or knit from your home to further our mission projects, or join us on the **first Thursday of the month, 10a-2p** (come for lunch). Questions? Call Julie Mackey @ 337-0890 or Susan Leiber @337-0979.

CONNECTING...

...to Our Community and the World

New Community Shelter Update: On **Tuesday, October 20**, 230 meals were served at the shelter. The meal of chili, salad, fruit, bread, and cake was prepared by our team of Bruce Kilmer, Joe Williams, Lee Richardson, Dennis Hibray, and Mike Kettner. Cakes were provided by Mike Kettner, Marilyn Knuth, Sandy Steffen, Rita Kilmer, Cindy Finesilver, Ann Motquin, and Vernon Paul.



Dinner was served by Mike Kettner, Bruce & Rita Kilmer, Ann Motquin, and Judy England. Lois Pelishek and

Lee Richardson also prepared and delivered meals to **Freedom House**.

A huge thank you to everyone who supports this ministry by preparing food, baking cakes, donating items, and praying for those involved.

If you would like to help prepare the meal or serve at the Shelter on the **third Tuesday of the month from 5-6:15pm**, please contact Cindi Barnett at 737-5376 or cindi.barnett@snc.edu.

FUPC Needs Your Time & Talents! On **Sunday, November 22**, we'll once again be asking about your time, talents, and interests that might be helpful in building our church community. Please give this some thoughtful prayer and decide what gifts you can offer to help us continue God's work at this church. How can you make our church family stronger?

Peacemaking Dollars: Thanks to all who gave to the churchwide Peacemaking Offering in October. Your total gift was \$622. One way our national Peacemaking dollars work is to help support our church partners in Lebanon who provide a place to learn for refugee children.

Your Mission Dollars: The Connecting Ministry is focusing on offering our financial support to organizations that already have our church family participation. In October, we donated \$600 to the **EPH (Ecumenical Partnership for Housing)**, and \$650 to the **Presbyterian Pantry** organization.

NOVEMBER



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters

- 1 - Jeremy & Amanda Beck
- 8 - Diane Betz
- 15 - TBD
- 22 - TBD
- 29 - TBD

Liturgists

- 1 - Barbara Nixon
- 8 - Tom Bayer
- 15 - Dawn Picard
- 22 - Kevin Nixon
- 29 - Scott Furlong

Acolytes

- 1 - Katie Bivins & Emilie Planert
- 8 - Violet Smale & Sarah McPherson
- 15 - Keely Dorn & Kellyn Pelegrin
- 22 - Mackenzie Lindow & Daisy Lester
- 29 - Ashton Macklem & Rhett Mehlberg

Ushers

- 1 - Dennis, Lisa & Betsy Koltz & Brenda Gauger
- 8 - TBD
- 15 - David, Cassie, & Cole Griffin and Barb Ryan



- 22 - Wally & Laurel Heil, Paul Weis, & Vera Dauffenbach
- 29 - Tom & Eric Renier and Curtis & Melanie Ferrier

Tech Crew

Mark Young, Ted Huebbe, Steve Marks, & Joe Williams

Elder of the Month

Allan Pagel

Deacons of the Month

Alan & Cindy Finesilver and Lynnee Schmidt



- 1 - Danielle Pahl
- 2 - Elaine Farwell
- 4 - Jan Nelson
- 5 - Eric Renier
- 6 - Marilyn Heim, Joan Melcher, & Mark Young
- 7 - Ryan Bredael & Casey Siegler
- 8 - Karen (Foster) Hanold
- 9 - Sue Goral & Sydney Lindow
- 10 - Lavon Scott
- 11 - David Malcolm
- 12 - Robert Delauruelle
- 13 - Seth Merrifield
- 15 - Tyler Bredael
- 23 - Xavier Leis
- 25 - Martha "Mert" Bayer, Craig Cuene, & Abby Renier
- 26 - Elaina Deprez
- 28 - Rita Kilmer



Presbyterian Women News & Notes

- Th 11/5 PWCT meeting @ 9a (Rm 11)
- Th 11/5 Mission Sewing @ 9:30a (K Lounge)
- Th 11/12 Talbot Circle @ noon (K Lounge)
- W 11/18 Esther Circle Bible Study @ 9:30a (K Lounge)
- Sa 11/21 Papercrafting @ 10a (Rms 12/13)
- Tu 11/24 4th Tuesday Readers @ 1p (Library)



- 11/1 - Contemporary Readers @ 5:30p
- 11/4 - Simple Supper @ 5:45p
- 11/5 - Men's Bible Study @ 7p
- 11/7 - Fall Cleanup Day @ 9a
- 11/13 - Star Wars Movie Showing @ 6:30p
- 11/14 - Star Wars: Faith & the Force @ 9a-3p
- 11/19 - Men's Bible Study @ 7p
- 11/25 - Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 7pm (First Pres. Church, message by Pastor Luke)