

# First United Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017

When we think of **December**, we all think of **Christmas** and **New Year's Eve**. However, you don't want to overlook other holidays like **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day** (12/16) and **Short Girl Appreciation Day** (12/21 - *shortest day of the year*). Here are a few more important dates to keep in mind:



## P.W. Christmas Tea

*Sunday, 12/3, 3pm*



## Agape Dinner & Advent Night Event

*Wednesday, 12/6, 5:45pm*



## Friday Family Flix "Polar Express"

*Friday, 12/8, 6pm*



## Children's Pageant

*Sunday, 12/17, 9:45am*



## Christmas Caroling

*Wednesday, 12/20, 6:30pm*



## Christmas Eve Worship

*Sunday, 12/24, 6:30pm*

You can always find the most up-to-date church information in our **"Weekly Newsletter"** in your Sunday bulletin. You can also find all our information and the official church calendar of events on our website at [www.firstunitedpc.org](http://www.firstunitedpc.org). Don't miss a thing!

Our church family has begun our holiday efforts to help ten De Pere families in need. To join the annual **Giving Tree** campaign, just take a tag (or two) from the tree, purchase the listed item, and return it by **December 10** with the original tag attached. Gift cards (with the original tag) can be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the office.



Our **Food Basket** fundraising goes toward food items, food gift cards, and hygiene items. These donations need to be returned by **December 10** so there's time to purchase the items.

There are also tags for **Socks for the NEW Community Shelter** included on our Giving Tree. We give several pairs of socks to each person we serve at our December shelter meal, so please take a tag and return some unwrapped socks by **December 17**. Thank you all very much for giving!



Our next **Agape Dinner** is coming **Wednesday, December 6** at **5:45pm**. Our menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and dessert. Thanks to those who have committed to

providing supplies or helping with the evening.

After dinner, stay for **Advent Night** with Christmas crafts for all ages. There will also be a cookie exchange where you can bring a couple dozen and then exchange them for more variety. We'll wrap up the evening with a special Christmas carol/hymn sing. Please note that we're looking for empty toilet paper and paper towel roll for craft projects. Can you drop off any?



## Oh, come, all ye faithful!

Our church family and friends from First Presbyterian in Green Bay, are planning to get together on **Wednesday, Dec. 20,**

**at 6:30pm** for some Christmas caroling through our De Pere neighborhood. Music books and refreshments will be provided, but we suggest that you bring a flashlight. Contact Julie Mackey at 217-8341 with any questions.

The **61st Annual Men's Club Fruitcake Sale** has been an amazing success! Those famous fruitcakes sold out by Thanksgiving, and Chef Mike's gourmet breads



are going fast. Thanks to everyone for your support of this great tradition that raises funds for our youth programs, our NEW Community Shelter meals, the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing, and other mission projects of the Men's Club.

## N.E.W. Community Shelter Update...

On **November 21**, our team served 209 meals at the shelter. The food was prepared by Bruce Kilmer, Dennis Hibray, Joe Williams, Lee Richardson, and Mike Kettner. Cakes were provided by Diane Betz, Debbie Cordova, Sue Renier, Vernon Pahl, Sandy Steffen, Marilyn Knuth, Anne Motquin, Jan Pomprowitz, Mike Kettner, and Rita Kilmer.

Dinner was served by family and friends of Don England in honor of his many years of involvement with our church's shelter meals. Servers included Judy & Tori England, Lois & Joe Vanidestine, Nancy & Ken Rosenthal, and Mike Kettner. In addition, Lee Richardson and Lois Pelishek delivered meals to Freedom House.



Our next date at the shelter will be **December 19** from 5pm to 6:15pm. If you'd like to donate a cake, sign up in the Family Life Center or contact **Diane Betz** at 336-5054. If you would like to help at the shelter, please contact **Cindi Barnett** at 737-5376 or [cindi.barnett@snc.edu](mailto:cindi.barnett@snc.edu).

## JOSHUA Update...



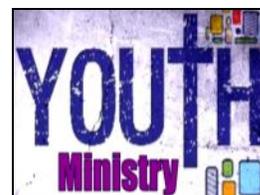
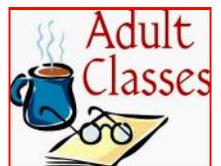
**JOSHUA**

You can help support JOSHUA by eating at **Qdoba Mexican Eats** (only at the 2450 E. Mason location) on **Tuesday,**

**December 12** between 5 and 9pm. When you present a JOSHUA flyer, Qdoba will donate a portion of your purchase. Flyers are available in the church office and from Anneliese Waggoner.

Also, our own **JOSHUA Core Team** will hold an update meeting on **Sunday, December 17** after church in the Koinonia Lounge.

Our Adult Christian Ed. classes meet **Sunday mornings at 8:30am**. This month, the **"Faith In Action"** class ("K" Lounge) is focusing on **"Names for the Messiah."** The **"Believe"** class (Gathering Area) is continuing a weekly journey through the Bible exploring beliefs, practices, and virtues every Christian should know.



## JAM & CORE Plans

**12/4 - Salvation Army Bell Ringing - meet at church @ 5:30pm**

**12/9 - Mission Trip Meeting @ 9am plus Cookie Baking & Delivery - from 9:30am until noon**

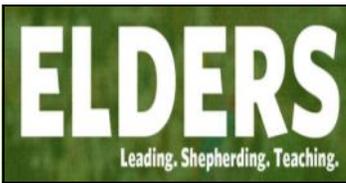
**12/17 - Youth Christmas Party @ 6pm (more details coming soon...)**



Our **Christmas Pageant** is set for **December 17**.

Parents please note that there will be a mandatory rehearsal for

3rd - 5th graders and narrators on **Saturday, December 16 at 9:30am** plus our final rehearsal at **8:30am** on the morning of the pageant.



## Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk

Ms. Laurie McCulloch and the Rev. Mike Goodwin, both from Memorial Presbyterian Church in Appleton, attended the November Session meeting for our Presbytery triennial visit. Their task was to question the Session about the highlights of the past three to four years at FUPC, the relationship between the Pastor and the Session, and the relationship between the Pastor and the congregation. It is safe to say we knocked their socks off! After about 20 minutes of explaining such activities as Faith and the Force, CE programming, VBS, worship series, Men's Club, Vision Quest, Presby Seekers, and more, Rev. Goodwin decided, in the interest of time, to move on to the next question. An hour later their closing comments were, "The Spirit is certainly moving through this church, and it will be exciting to see what comes next!" It was a great way to start a meeting!

The Elders also received a positive financial update - revenue and expenses were even for the month of October. The new SPARK initiative was explained, and the application form was distributed. SPARK will allow an individual, group, or ministry to apply for funding to launch a new program to impact our church or community. More information will be coming soon. Reports were given concerning the recent Presbytery meeting (where Susan Zencka was sworn in as moderator), the Pledge Campaign (going well), the Nominating Committee (beginning their work), and the Pastor Review Committee (beginning the review process). Assignments were given for future Presbytery meetings, and the calendar for December was reviewed.

### SERVE 2018 Update

Members and friends, thank you for your pledge to **SERVE** in 2018. If you haven't pledged yet, please do. It's important and will make a significant difference in our church's work through our Ministry groups next year.



(as of Nov. 28)	PLEDGES	GOALS
<b>Operating Fund</b>	\$218,555	\$277,000
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$52,144	\$59,000
<b>Pledges Received</b>	107	140

## Our Story

Monthly Financial Update  
(as of October, 2017)

"For where your treasure is there your heart will also be." **Matthew 6:21**



	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
<b>Operating Fund</b>		
Income	\$259,820	\$262,900
Expenses	\$252,700	\$260,300
<b>Building Fund</b>		
Income	\$54,100	\$47,500

### Special Upcoming Dates:

- Deacons Fund Offering - December 3**
- Giving Tree & Food Basket Donations - through December 10**
- NEW Community Shelter Sock collection - through December 17**
- Christmas Joy Offering - December 24**
- 2018 Per Capita - December 31**

## Presbyterian Women Calendar



Our Presbyterian Women's group is a community of women who are hardworking, faithful, curious, welcoming, prayerful, creative, and giving. They are YOU! Why not join us for some of our group opportunities and activities?

- 12/3 - **P.W. Christmas Tea @ 3pm**  
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 12/7 - **P.W.C.T. @ 9am (Room 11)**  
& **Mission Sewing @ 9:30am**  
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 12/14 - **Talbot Circle @ 12pm (K Lounge)**
- TBD - **Papercrafting**
- 12/20 - **Esther Circle Bible Study @ 9:30am**  
(Koinonia Lounge)

**Plan Ahead!** The national **Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering** is set for next **August 2-5** in Louisville, Kentucky. Scholarships are available. Contact Jan Nelson, Susan Leiber, or Julie Mackey for more details or visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).

# December

## Elder of the Month

Patricia Cobos-Welle

## Deacons of the Month

Lynnee Schmidt & Mike Kettner

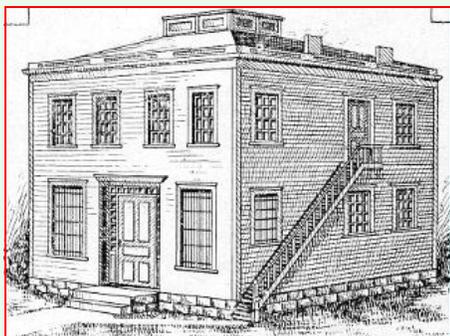


- 1 - Jennifer Buchholz, John Herber, & Dan Thorpe
- 3 - Maxine Gaber & Lora Warner
- 4 - Megan Hintz, Beverly Rondeau, & Barb Ryan
- 6 - Jamie Tank & Jennifer Wirtanen

- 7 - Carol Pointer
- 8 - Colin Driscoll & Cassie Griffin
- 9 - Jackson Gray
- 11 - Adam Longton
- 12 - Evan Baumgartner & Deb Hibray
- 13 - Rebecca Dzekute & Jamie Tyrrell
- 14 - Natalie Schnitzler
- 15- Dave Campbell, Kathy Gutzman, Nick Gutzman & Tom Renier
- 17 - Troy Cornell & Sydney Goddard
- 21 - Brenda Duncanson
- 22 - Cole Griffin & Bob Knuth
- 24 - Christine Lenhart
- 29 - Betsy Koltz
- 30 - Phillip Bredael & Dave Griffin

## *Our History Corner...*

This month our church celebrates it's **168th birthday!** Back in the mid 1800's, the Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions sent Rev. John Stewart, a young Princeton Seminary graduate, to the frontier river area of De Pere, Wisconsin to start a church. It was a growing community of roughly 200 people. The **First Presbyterian Church of De Pere** became the first organized church in this area on **December 1, 1849**. The original ten members began meeting in the second floor courtroom of the **Brown County Courthouse** (the first floor was the jail). It's said that, as the church began to grow, the choir would sit in



the courtroom's prisoner box. That was our home until our first church building was built in 1854. A monument was erected in 1930 on the original courthouse location at the corner of George and Wisconsin Streets, and you can still see it there today.

***If you have any photos, films, or other church memories you'd be willing to share, please contact Mark Young at [mark@firstunitedpc.org](mailto:mark@firstunitedpc.org) or contact the church office. Thank you!***



## 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](mailto:info@firstunitedpc.org)

[www.firstunitedpc.org](http://www.firstunitedpc.org)

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



**Sunday School**  
*Sunday 8:30am*

**Worship Service**  
*Sunday 9:45am*

**Coffee Fellowship**  
*Sunday 10:45am*



## Office Hours

**Monday - Thursday**  
*9am - 1pm*

**Friday - closed**



**Do you have info to submit or corrections to share?**

Please send your info to **Mark Young** at [mark@firstunitedpc.org](mailto:mark@firstunitedpc.org) or to the church office at [info@firstunitedpc.org](mailto:info@firstunitedpc.org). We always appreciate your input and feedback!