

First United Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018

December

When we think of **December**, we all think of **Christmas** and **New Year's Eve**. However, you don't want to forget **Pretend to Be a Time Traveler Day (12/8)**, **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day (12/16)**, and **Answer the Telephone like Buddy the Elf Day (12/18)**. Here are a few more dates to keep in mind:



P.W. Christmas Tea
Sunday, 12/2, 3pm



Agape Dinner
Wednesday, 12/5, 5:45pm



Choir Cantata
Sunday, 12/9, 9:45am



Children's Pageant
Sunday, 12/23, 9:45am



Christmas Eve Services
Monday, 12/24, 6:30 pm
& 11 pm

Remember, you can always find the most up-to-date church event information in our **"Weekly Newsletter"** available in your Sunday bulletin, in the Friday Weekend Preview emails, and on our website at www.firstunitedpc.org. You can also find our official church calendar of events on the website. Don't miss a thing!

Our next **Agape Dinner** is coming **Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 5:45pm**. The menu will include ham, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, fresh carrots, and lots of great desserts. Our choir will sing an opening prayer and Violet Smale will provide some beautiful guitar music all through dinner. Be sure to bring your family and invite your friends and neighbors because we're open and free for the whole community. Come, enjoy, and help us spread the love!



Our church family is joining other members of the **De Pere Christian Outreach** to collect items for a new **Christmas Store** to be held in our Family Life Center on **December 12 & 13**. Each church is collecting new items that will be



sold at a greatly reduced rate to families chosen based on referral and financial hardship. Research has

shown that this model of help can instill a bit of pride and dignity to the families who are helped.

The deadline for donations is **December 2**, so please drop your items in one of the boxes around the church. We're still seeking more volunteers to help set up the store and run it. Please visit our website (www.firstunitedpc.org) and click on the **Christmas Store** logo to sign up. Help us make Christmas a little more special for some of our De Pere neighbors. Thank you!



Our **Chancel Choir** will present a special cantata on **Sunday, December 9** during our 9:45 worship service. **“The Glory of Christmas: Celebrating**

Christ’s Birth” is filled with hope, promise, wonder, majesty, and mystery. It’s a reminder that in life’s darkest moments, the brilliance of the eternal light of Christ has entered our world to guide us on the journey of life and faith. Don’t miss this special Sunday morning event.

It’s a holiday favorite! Our 2018 **Children’s Christmas Pageant** is coming **Sunday, December 23**.



With the combination of the story, great music, those costumes, and our wonderful little ones, it promises to be another classic.



The night before Christmas is always a very special evening. We hope you can join us for our annual candlelight service at **6:30pm** or a special musical reflection at **11pm**. Join us to celebrate the reason for the season.

Our annual **Church Library Christmas Book Display** is now available for everyone in the Family Life Center. If you’d like to borrow something, please sign the card inside of the book cover and leave it in the small box on the table. Special thanks to Marilyn Knuth for her amazing coordination of our church library through the years. Be sure to enjoy these holiday treats with your family.



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

On **Tuesday, November 20** our team served 175 meals at the shelter. The food was prepared by Dennis and Debbie Hibray, Joe Williams, and Lee Richardson. Cakes were provided by Vern Pahl, Diane Betz, Sue Renier, Marilyn Knuth, Debby Cordova, Lynn Huebbe, Jane Grocholski, and Barb LeMense.



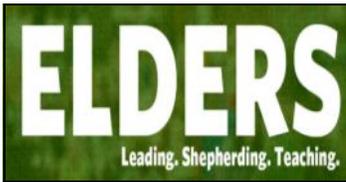
Dinner was served by family and friends of Don England who was a driving force in our shelter meals for years. In addition, Lee Richardson and Lois Pelishek delivered meals to the Freedom House.

Our next date at the shelter will be **December 18** 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 mdbetz@att.net. If you would like to help with serving at the shelter, please contact **Cindi Barnett** at 737-5376 or cindi.barnett@snc.edu.

The Chantelles, led by our own Susan Leiber, will be presenting their annual Christmas Concert - **“A Glad Noel”** - at our church again this year on **Thursday, December 6 at 7pm**. Come enjoy a beautiful evening of classic and modern holiday music. Admission is free, but you’re asked to bring canned food or cash to donate to the De Pere Christian Outreach Pantry. *(The Chantelles will also have concerts at the Kroc Center on December 14 at 7pm and at First Presbyterian Church in Green Bay on December 15 at 2pm.)*



Church Volleyball is back! Co-ed play for adults (and kids aged 15 and older) will return on Friday evenings beginning in January. Games will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Ridge Road near Lambeau Field. Please contact **Steve Warner** at 405-8808 for more information.



Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk

The **November** Session meeting was filled with good news and celebration! Financially we are healthy and expect to finish the year on track with a safe balance to lead into 2019. The Pony Express Pledge Campaign is very close to goal with almost all pledge cards returned. Much appreciation to Patricia Cobos-Welle and Ken Nyberg for their leadership. Preparations for the Christmas Store are on track and anticipation is building. There is still time to sign up to help during the event. Agape dinner served 115 diners in November, and the numbers are growing each month. The classrooms that sustained water damage have been repainted and had new carpeting installed. Thanks to Tom and Daniel Paulsen for the painting and Pastor Luke, Bill Picard, Scott McPherson, and Dennis Hibray for overseeing the clean up and work. The team attending the Presbytery meeting in October reported on that enjoyable experience. The Elders also adopted a revised policy for building and facilities use and a new policy for sanctuary décor. There is much to be thankful for at FUPC!

This year's inspiring Advent devotions from **Presbyterian Outlook** can be found at our Welcome Center. Each week of Advent focuses on a characteristic of God that we are called to exhibit: patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. As we prepare for our Savior's birth and Second Coming, we are called to do so with eagerness while exhibiting the traits of the one for whom we wait. Please pick up a free copy at the Welcome Center and use it as your guide through the Advent season.



Presbyterian Women Calendar

Why not join us for some of our group opportunities and activities?

- 12/2 - **Christmas Tea @ 3pm**
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 12/6 - **Mission Sewing @ 9:30am** (K Lounge)
- 12/13 - **P.W.C.T. @ 8:30am** (Library)
- 12/14 - **Talbot Circle @ 11:30am** (off site)
- 12/15 - **Papercrafting** (Rooms 12/13)
- 12/19 - **Esther Circle Bible Study @ 9:30am** (Koinonia Lounge)
- TBD - **4th Tues. Readers @ 1pm** (Library)

Celebrate the season with the **Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea**. They'll be "Ring in Christmas" on **Sunday, December 2 at 3pm** in the Koinonia Lounge. Everyone's invited to enjoy some special holiday music from our kids and youth plus some wonderful Christmas refreshments and a great time of fellowship to get you in the mood for the holidays.

Monthly Financial Update

(as of October 31, 2018)

"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to SERVE, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45



	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Operating Fund		
Income	\$273,500	\$273,600
Expenses	\$253,900	\$269,100
Building Fund		
Income	\$47,600	\$45,700

Special Upcoming Dates:

- Deacons Fund Offering - December 2**
- Christmas Joy Offering - December 23**
- Deadline for 2018 Per Capita & offerings - December 30**

12/2 - **Regular mtgs.**
@ 6pm

12/9 - **Cookie Bake**
@ noon - 3pm

12/10 - Meet at church @ 5:45pm for **Salvation Army bell ringing** (parents pick up at Sweet Frog - time TBA)

12/16 - **JAM & CORE Christmas Parties** (held separately... details TBA)



Advent Reflections *from our Thursday Morning Prayer Group*

It's our hope that you'll add these simple devotions to your daily routine during Advent as a quick reminder of the reason for the season. We pray for you, this congregation, and the needs of the world. We also pray that you'll find hope, love, joy, and peace this season.

Week 1, Dec. 2-8: Sing: "O Come All Ye Faithful"
Pray: Lord we come to you in praise and adoration, knowing you are the **hope** of the world and ruler of all. Hear our prayers and have mercy on us.

Week 2, Dec. 9-15: Sing: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
Pray: Lord, we will shout your **love** from the mountaintops and show your love to all! Help us to live in your love always.

Week 3, Dec. 16-22: Sing: "Joy to the World"
Pray: No matter what our circumstances this Christmas, help us find the true **joy** that comes with a constant relationship with you, Lord.

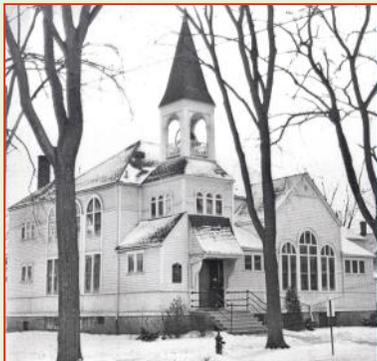
Week 4: Dec. 23-25: Sing: "Silent Night"
Pray: Lord, help us to find your heavenly **peace** this Christmas season, taking time to quiet our minds in prayer.

Happy Birthday to Us!

This month our church celebrates its **169th 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 met in the second floor courtroom of the **Brown County Courthouse** (then located in De Pere).

Our first church building was dedicated on **May 31, 1854**, and remained our house of worship until it burned along with a large part of De Pere in **1884**.

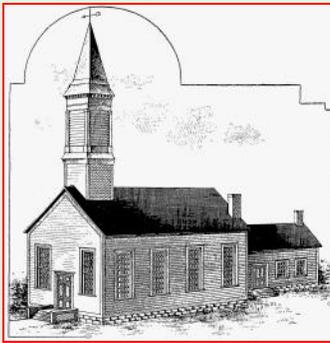
Our second building was built in **1887** near the original location at the



corner of North Michigan and James Streets. Some of our current members who are now grandparents or great grandparents went to Sunday School and were baptized there when they were young children. It was our church home for more than 70 years.

The most recent chapter of our story began with the dedication of our current church building in **1963**. Since then, we've grown with the addition of the Koinonia Lounge, the bell tower, and most recently, the Gathering Area and the Family Life Center. We've been blessed with a long, rich history.

Remembering the thousands of people who've made up our church family through the years, we share a loving "Happy Birthday!"



First United Presbyterian Church

"Changing Lives through God's Love in Christ"

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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