

First United Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2018

We know **June** brings us **Father's Day** (17) and the **first day of summer** (21), but did you know it's also the month for the **Festival of Popular Delusions Day** (5), **Duct Tape Days** (14-16) and **Watermelon Seed Spitting Week** (24-30)? Here are a few more important things for you to be aware of during this month...



It's that special time of year when we offer our love and congratulations to each of this year's graduates from our church family. Whether it's high school, tech school, or college, we salute all their hard work and dedication.

We especially want to congratulate the **Reverend Doctor Luke Farwell!** On Friday, June 1, he officially graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree. Pastor Luke's primary focus was in Reformed Theology, and his culminating project was based on the role of narrative theology in providing spiritual care to suicide survivors. Again, we congratulate Luke and all of our church family's graduates on their important accomplishments!



Everyone's invited to help maintain our **Judy Allan Memorial Garden**. Our "**God's Gardeners**" group meets every other Wednesday for weeding and upkeep, and our church ministry groups do work on assigned weeks, but everyone is welcome to join in. Whether you have a green thumb or just like playing in the dirt, we'd be glad to have you! For more details, contact Lynn Huebbe at lynn_huebbe@new.rr.com.

Stop monkeying around and join our **Sunday Afternoon Bike Rides**. The group meets each **Sunday at 4pm** at an announced location to ride the Fox River Trail, the East River Trail, the Baird Creek Trail, or Mountain Bay Trail. Contact Becky Nyberg at (920) 606-6438 for all the details. You can also find the full schedule at www.firstunitedpc.org. All ages are welcome, so let's get things rolling!



Time to start planning for **VBS 2018!** Our adventure will begin on **Sunday July 22** for kids from pre-school through those entering 6th grade. Please register your child soon to help with our planning. Visit our website at firstunitedpc.org and click on the VBS logo to link to the registration site. As a bonus, the first ten families to register will win a free CD including all the great VBS music. Sign up today and consider registering yourself or your teen as a volunteer. The little ones shouldn't get to have all the fun!

We're working to get our church kitchen licensed by the health inspector. If you or your group uses the kitchen, please join us on **Sunday, June 24** in the Koinonia Lounge right after church for a brief informational meeting. There will be some small changes needed to make sure that we are up to code in our kitchen. If you have questions or concerns, contact Abby Malcolm at abigail.z.malcolm@gmail.com.

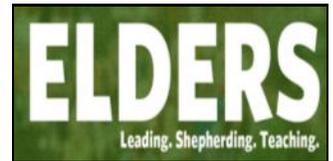




Our regular music groups are taking a summer break which means it's your chance to share your gift of music. If you'd like to enhance our worship by providing special music one week, contact **Andy Parks** or **Julie Mackey** to reserve a date. Don't delay - there are only a few open dates left. You can find the master list on the white board in our Music Room.

Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk



At the May Session meeting, the Session welcomed a visitor, Michael Vinson. As a leader in the LGBTQ community, Michael shared insights on belonging to a welcoming church and how his church, First United Church of Christ, reached out to a diverse population. The Presbyterian Church (USA) also welcomes everyone, and this discussion reaffirmed our commitment to welcome all people within our walls.

The Elders reviewed the financial report and the report from the Triennial visit made last December by representatives of Presbytery. There was also a report on the latest Presbytery meeting held in May.

Session also accepted the resignation of Brenda Gauger from Session with sadness and much appreciation for her work. Brenda has served selflessly for many years on Session and numerous committees but finds demands on her time do not allow her to continue on Session at this time. Thank you, Brenda. Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

Monthly Financial Update

(as of April 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	\$106,700	\$125,400
Expenses	\$100,700	\$109,600
Building Fund		
Income	\$15,900	\$21,000

Special Upcoming Offering:

Deacons Fund Offering - June 3

"Remember the Blizzard" Offering - June 17

**A special fundraiser to help recover the cost of the extra snow removal and the lost offerings when our service had to be cancelled.*



Synod School 2018 is coming **July 22-27** at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. It's a learning and personal enrichment experience for adults, youth, and

children. This year they're celebrating 65 years of Synod School with the theme *"Dance Joyfully Where'er You May Be."* If you'd like more information about how to get involved or if you want to get registered for this year's event, visit www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool.



Presbyterian Women Calendar

Join us for some of our group opportunities and activities!

- 6/7 - **P.W.C.T. Mtg. @ 8am (off site) & Mission Sewing Group @ 9:30am ("K" Lounge)**
- 6/14 - **Talbot Circle @ 11:30am (off site)**
- 6/16 - **Papercrafting @ 10am (Room 11)**
- 6/26 - **4th Tuesday Readers @ 1pm (Library)**

And Don't Forget...

*P.W.'s **Triennial Churchwide Gathering** is coming **August 2-5** in Louisville, KY. Scholarship money is available. See **Jan Nelson** for further information.

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

On **May 15** our team of volunteers served meals to **196** people. The meal was prepared by Bruce Kilmer, Dennis Hibray, Mike Kettner, and Lee Richardson. Cakes were provided by Marilyn Knuth, Debbie Renier, Vernon Pahl, Diane Betz, Sandy Steffen, Debbie Cordova, and Cindi Barnett. Rita Kilmer provided brownies for the Freedom House.



Dinner was served by Pat Schock, Lynn Huebbe, Mike Kettner, Bruce Kilmer, and Dennis Hibray, plus Mackenzie, Sydney, and

Sally Lindow. In addition, Lois Pelishek and Lee Richardson delivered meals to Freedom House.

Our next date at the shelter will be **June 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 mdbetz@att.net. If you would like to help prepare a meal or serve at the shelter, please contact **Cindi Barnett** at 737-5376 or at cindi.barnett@snc.edu.

Welcome Our Church Family's Newest Members!



Andy & Debbie Geurts



Sany & Mary Khabbaz

Learn more about each of them in recent **Weekly Newsletters** on our church website at www.firstunitedpc.org.

Want to help make a difference? Our church is a supporting member of **De Pere Christian Outreach**, and their **Thrift Store** (506 Butler St., West De Pere) needs adult volunteers to help in the areas of jewelry, framed art, and sporting goods. If you can offer as little as two or three hours a few days a week, contact Barb at (920) 339-1060 for more details.



P. W. Mission Sewing Update...

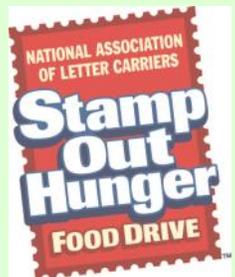
As a result of some of their recent Mission Sewing projects, Deb Hibray, Susan Leiber, and Sue Hutchison got to deliver some beautiful handmade quilts to the NEW



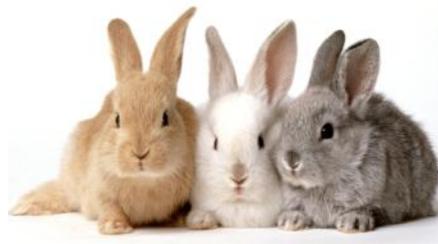
Community Shelter, the Salvation Army, and Family Services of Green Bay during May. You can join them on the **first Thursday each month at 9:30am** in the Koinonia Lounge.

Presbyterian Pantry Update...

The **Presbyterian Food Pantry** wants to thank everyone who supported the recent Letter Carriers' "**Stamp Out Hunger**" Food Drive. The pantry received 9,100 pounds of food from that important drive which will help them keep their shelves stocked for much of the summer.



The **Presbyterian Pantry** "*Item of the Month*" for June is **toilet paper**. Did you know volunteers from our church go to the Presbyterian Pantry twice a month to help pack grocery bags for families in need? If you'd like to help, contact Julie Mackey at 337-0890 or Susan Leiber at 337-0979. For more information about the Presbyterian Pantry, visit www.firstpresgreenbay.org/presbyterianpantry.



Sunday School Update

by Rev. Meggan Farwell, D.C.E.

Each year, half of the weekly offerings from the preschool through youth Sunday School classes go to a cause that the classes decide on. For the third year in a row, our kids chose to support the **Heifer International** project. This year they purchased the following gifts: healthy home, boost of nutrition, two gifts of a trio of rabbits, honeybees, and a goat to help others in need around the world.



SPECIAL MESSAGE

from our Session

This past year our church experienced the blessings of two wonderful reviews. The first was our annual in-house **pastoral review**, conducted by members of the session. This review went wonderfully. Session is elated with the work Pastor Luke has guided us through this past year. The second review was a **Triennial Visit** with a group from the Winnebago Presbytery. The representatives discussed what our church has been doing the past few years with glowing comments and a few great questions. We discussed the building, our church services, the work of our pastor and our joy of coming to worship together as a community of Christians. It was a helpful process for all involved, and we were happy to take part in the visit.

The representatives of the Presbytery then brought up a concept we knew about from both the academic community and among a growing number of private sector groups; the concept of a sabbatical. For us, this would be a pastoral sabbatical. A **Sabbatical Leave** for pastors is a planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. It is an opportunity for the individual to strategically disengage from regular and normal tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective because of a planned time of focus. The representatives at the triennial visit encouraged Session to support this for our Pastor.

Sabbatical Leave is recommended for all full-time pastors serving churches, in the Winnebago Presbytery for five continuous years.

At the November Session meeting, Session enthusiastically and unanimously recommended that Pastor Luke Farwell consider taking a Sabbatical Leave.

In December, Leadership and Stewardship completed the annual review of Pastor Luke's work and incorporated many of the positive findings from the Triennial visit into the review including the need to consider a sabbatical leave. Upon the recommendation of the Presbytery and with the unanimous support of First United Presbyterian Church's Session, Rev. Luke Farwell has requested to take a sabbatical in the summer and early fall of 2018. The 12 week sabbatical will be from July 1 through September 22. During this time Rev. Farwell will intentionally seek to rest, renew, and refill. This will be accomplished by spending time with his family and friends, reading, recreating, and re-connecting. The sabbatical's success will not be assessed by any quantifiable measure but by the degree the participant is able to disengage from the congregation and set healthy boundaries for renewal.



In closing, it is with great joy that this opportunity is possible for both the minister and the church. It is the Session's understanding and belief that this time will be a blessing. It promises to support Luke's sabbatical through its prayers, actions, and words of encouragement.

In Christ,

The Session of First United Presbyterian
Church of De Pere

(Information continues on next page...)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Sabbatical Leave?

Sabbatical Leave for pastors and church educators is a planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. Sabbatical Leave follows precedents in the academic community and among a growing number of private sector groups. This “extended time” is qualitatively different from “vacation” or “days off.” It is an opportunity for the individual to strategically disengage from regular and normal tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective because of a planned time of focus.

Why does the church support a Sabbatical Leave?

Sabbatical Leave is an extension of the Biblical concept of a Sabbath day and a Sabbath year for renewal. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and changed activity and an occasion for recovery and renewal of vital energies.

When is a Sabbatical Leave Recommended?

Sabbatical Leave is recommended for all full-time pastors and educators serving churches, who have served in the Winnebago Presbytery for five continuous years. The recommended length of the Sabbatical Leave is three months. Accrued vacation time and study leave may be attached to the Sabbatical Leave. It is further recommended that this Sabbatical Leave be built into the Call Process. Upon completion of the Sabbatical Leave, the incumbent pastor/educator would normally continue serving the same congregation for a period of at least four times the length of the Sabbatical Leave plus accrued vacation time. In addition, Congregations may limit Sabbatical Leave to one staff person per year, in multiple staff situations.

Does the Winnebago Presbytery fully support a Sabbatical Leave?

Yes. During the recent Triennial visit with First United Presbyterian Church, the Winnebago Presbytery representatives encouraged Session to support this for our Pastor. At the November Session meeting, Session unanimously recommended that Pastor Luke Farwell consider taking a Sabbatical Leave.

Details of the Sabbatical Leave

Question: When is the Sabbatical Leave for Pastor Luke Farwell scheduled?

Answer: Dates: July 1 to September 22, 2018

Question: Who will cover pastoral care needs?

Answer: Emergency Pastoral Coverage will be provided by Rev. Randall Argall (First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay)

Question: Who will provide congregational care?

Answer: The Deacons and Ruling Elders

Question: Who will preach?

Answer: A combination of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders

Question: How much will this cost the church?

Answer: The cost is estimated to be less than \$2,000. The cost for Sabbatical Leave is in covering the 12 weeks of pulpit supply (\$150 per Sunday) and the cost of moderating the August Session Meeting at \$25 per hour.

Question: Where is Luke going?

Answer: During this time Rev. Farwell will intentionally seek to rest, renew, and refill. He may stay in the area for parts of the Sabbatical but is encouraged to intentional disengage from the work of the church.

Question: Why do this now?

Answer: After the Triennial Winnebago Presbytery visit, Session discussed the Sabbatical leave and unanimously approved the recommendation that Pastor Luke Farwell consider taking a Sabbatical Leave. After receiving this information Pastor Luke prayerfully thought about this and responded that the summer of 2018 would work best for him and his family.



Elder of the Month

Kathy Gutzman

Deacons of the Month

Marilyn Kabat & Anne Motquin



- 2 - Jessica Baumgartner
- 4 - Richard French
- 5 - Bradley Hau
- 7 - Abby Malcolm & Lou Seiler
- 9 - Jeremy Beck & Scott McPherson

- 10 - Jameson O'Brien
- 11 - Mackenzie Lindow & Kim Williams
- 13 - Susan Leiber & Blake Van De Hei
- 15 - Henryk Hamp & Kevin Pajkos
- 18 - Bryson Blahnik
- 21 - Bryce Motquin
- 23 - Anna Smith
- 24 - Gretchen Hamp, Kirsten Larson, & Ellen Stuebs
- 27 - Peggy Barden
- 28 - Michelle Erdmann
- 29 - Joleigh Blahnik, Willard Chadwick, & Jan Pomprowitz
- 30 - Daisy Lester

First United Presbyterian Church

"Changing Lives through God's Love in Christ"

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

Our History Corner...

You've probably heard about our **Judy M. Allan Memorial Garden**, but let's dig a little deeper into its history. The Allan family lived in Greenleaf and became members of our church in the mid 1990s. Judy regularly brought in produce from her garden to share with her church family. Sadly, Judy lost her fight against cancer in 2007.

A few years later, Youth Coordinator **Jenny Kraftcheck**, proposed the idea of a work project to help our community - a church garden in memory of Judy's generosity. Funding began with a grant from our Winnebago Presbytery and donations from our congregation. The design came from an NWTC horticultural student. On **May 1, 2010** ground was broken and our Judy Allan Memorial Garden came to life.



In 2012, the garden was expanded and upgraded through a generous memorial gift in the honor of member **Dawn Van Hoosen**. Stepping stones created by members were installed in the summer of 2014, and it was a very special day when members of the Allan family joined us for our annual Worship in the Garden in July 2016.



From the beginning, avid gardeners **Ted and Lynn Huebbe** have donated their skills and countless hours working and supervising the planting, care, and harvesting. Last year, our team of dedicated volunteers harvested **more than 560 pounds of vegetables** that were shared with Paul's Pantry, the De Pere Christian Outreach Food Pantry, the Aging -Disability Resource Center, the AIDS Resource Center, and a number of neighbors and friends. As we begin another season, we hope Judy would be proud.



If you have photos, films, or church memories to share, please contact Mark Young at mark@firstunitedpc.org.