

First United Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2018

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November is best known for **Veterans Day** (11/11) and **Thanksgiving** (11/22), but you won't want to forget **Fill Our Staplers Day** (11/5), **World Kindness Day** (11/13), and of course, **Use Less Stuff Day** (11/15). Here are a few more important dates to keep in mind...



Fall Clean Up Day
Saturday, 11/3, 8am-noon



**Men's Club 62nd Annual
Fruitcake Sale**
Begins Sunday, 11/4



Agape Dinner
Wednesday, 11/7, 5:45pm



**Membership
Informational Meeting**
Monday, 11/12, 6:30pm



Thanksgiving Service
(with First Pres. - Green Bay)
*Tuesday, 11/20, 7 pm
at our church*

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!

The eight member churches of the **De Pere Christian Outreach** are working together this year to create a **Christmas Store** to be held in our Family Life Center in December. Each church will collect 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.

If you'd like to help, find our special Christmas trees, take a tag (or two), purchase the items listed, and drop the items in one of the boxes around the church by **December 2**.



A big project like this will call for lots of helping hands. If you're able to volunteer your help with the **2018 Christmas Store**, please visit our website soon (www.firstunitedpc.org) and click on the tab to sign up on the dates and times you can be available. Help us make Christmas a little more special for some of our De Pere neighbors. Thank you!



Our next **Agape Dinner** is coming **Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 5:45pm**. The Thanksgiving-themed menu will include turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, corn, and lots of great desserts. Be sure to bring your family and invite your friends because we're open to the whole community. Financial donations will be accepted, but are not required. Come and enjoy!

Are you interested in joining our church family?



Come to an informational meeting on **Monday, November 12th from 6:30 - 8pm** to learn more about becoming a member of First United Presbyterian Church. Those who

attend are under no obligation to join, but will be given information about how to do so if interested. Pastor Luke and others will be on hand to answer questions and talk about ways to get involved. Please contact the church office at 336-1446 if you're interested in attending so we can have enough materials prepared.

Our annual **Thanksgiving Worship Service** with our friends from First Presbyterian in Green Bay will be held on



Tuesday, November 20 at 7pm. It was changed it from Thanksgiving Eve so it can be available to more people. Rev. Randy Argall will be presenting the message, and special music will be provided by a combined choir. The evening's offering will be for the Presbyterian Pantry. Everyone's also encouraged to bring peanut butter and/or jelly to donate to the Pantry that evening. Refreshments will follow.

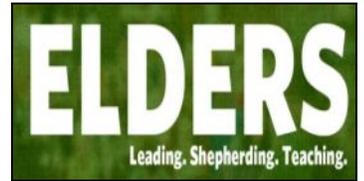


Deck the Halls! Join the Liturgical Arts Committee and friends to decorate the church for Christmas. They will meet **Sunday, November 25** after worship in the Koinonia Lounge to share a light

lunch. Then they'll get busy fluffing garland, decorating Christmas trees, arranging nativity sets, hanging swags, changing decorations, and making our church home look warm and inviting for members and visitors alike. There's a job for everyone, young and old. If you can climb a ladder, hang an ornament, sit in a chair, or laugh and encourage, they need your help! Join in decking the halls - and the Sanctuary, Family Life Center, Gathering Area, and Koinonia Lounge. Hope to see you there!

Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk



Session met on October 15 to hear reports on the water problems in the basement, the stewardship campaign, the Christmas Store, and the Agape Dinner. Bill Picard reported that the insurance company paid a claim for the damage done after the torrential rain in early September. He, Dennis Hibray, and Scott McPherson did a stellar job in drying out the rooms and treating them with mold retardant. The insurance money covered the cost of hiring a professional company to come in and complete the job. The insurance will also cover the cost of replacing the carpeting in those rooms. Pastor Luke and crew have removed the existing carpeting. The new carpets will be in soon. Building & Grounds will assess whether the rooms will be painted and when that might happen. The clean up was a huge task and appreciation was given to all involved in making our church home useable, safe, and welcoming.

The Stewardship Campaign is running well, and there is excitement about the things that can be accomplished in 2019.

Kathy Gutzman, chair of Connecting Ministry, reported on the exciting plans for the Christmas Store. More than 200 families and 450-500 children will see a happier Christmas because of this venture. FUPC will host the event on Dec. 12 and 13. Volunteers can donate items, assist with set up and clean up, act as greeters, and help the shoppers. More information will be shared in worship.

The Agape Dinner has had a increase of participants. Amy Cassidy reported that more community members have found their way to our dinner. This is a free community meal. Donations of food or cash can be given to support this outreach program. Check the board in the Family Life Center to see what is needed each month.



The **P.W. Election Day Bake Sale** is coming **Tuesday, November 6.** A big voter turnout is expected, so we're

asking for your help with baked good donations. Please drop off your tasty treats the Monday before the election. *We're voting for a great bake sale!*



THANK YOU!

Our **Pony Express Run** has ended. A special **thank you** to those who served during the special relay. Positions of Office Manager, Promotion Manager, Treasurer, Pastor, Sunday School Coordinator, Station Agents, Trail Bosses, Bulletin Stuffers, Trail Cook, and General Manager were filled by over 30 volunteers and staff members.

There is still time to be included in this year's Pony Express Stewardship Drive. A mailing will go out to those members we were unable to contact during the relay. If you feel you were missed or have not turned in your estimate of giving for next year, please contact the church office. "Thank you" letters confirming your 2019 estimates will be mailed soon. Join us to celebrate after worship on **November 18** for a cup of chili, treats, and music.

We look forward to 2019 to be able to sow many seeds in fertile soil and change lives in our church community because of your generosity. Thank you!!

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

This month we begin the **62nd Annual Men's Club Fruitcake Sale**, so we thought it might be interesting to take a look back. This amazing tradition began in 1956 when the men of our church started using a "secret" recipe to bake fruitcakes as a fundraiser to support youth programs and other special church projects. As you can see from this newspaper photo from the 1960s, things were a little different back then with the men in their shirts and ties (note the man in the lower right with the fire extinguisher).



Longtime member Don LaRock recalls baking up to 2,500 fruitcakes some years as members helped sell them at their businesses. Some company owners would even buy a bunch to use as employee gifts. Bruce Kilmer has a personal tradition of delivering any unsold fruitcakes to area nursing homes on Christmas Eve.

The main changes over the years appear to be the dropping of real rum in the mix, plus last year's addition of the "Chef Mike" holiday breads as an option. A wonderful Press-Gazette article two years ago really boosted awareness. Local folks have already begun calling to check on fruitcake availability. The lady pictured here (a friend of a friend) was very proud to purchase the first loaves of the season when she attended October's Agape Dinner. What a fun fundraiser and great tradition for our church family!



First United Presbyterian Church

"Changing Lives through God's Love in Christ"

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Sunday School
Sunday 8:30am

Worship Service
Sunday 9:45am

Coffee Fellowship
Sunday 10:45am



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9am - 1pm

Friday - closed