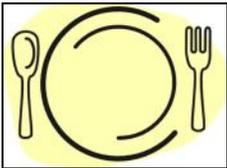


First United Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2019

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! January is best known for **New Year's Day** and **Martin Luther King's Birthday**, but it's also the time for **Someday We'll Laugh About This Week (1/2-8)**, **Penguin Awareness Day (1/20)**, and **Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (1/28)**. Here are a few more important things to make note of:



Agape Dinner

Wednesday, 1/2, 5:45pm



Presby Seekers

Tuesday, 1/10, 10am



Volleyball League

Fridays (details to come)



Family Ski Trip

Friday & Saturday, 1/25-26

You can always find the most up-to-date church information in our **"Weekly Newsletter"** inside your Sunday bulletin. You can also find all our information plus newsletter copies and the official church calendar on our website at www.firstunitedpc.org. Be sure you don't miss a thing!

We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! Our church family was certainly busy. The Chancel Choir practiced for months to prepare a beautiful Christmas Cantata. Our annual children's Christmas Pageant



brightened the morning on December 23. We enjoyed a full house for the early evening Christmas Eve service featuring music from our

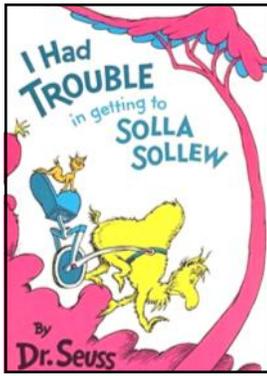


choir and handbells plus the traditional candle lighting during "Silent Night." We finished the evening on a reflective note with our 11pm service including scripture readings, taize music, candle lighting, and silent meditation.

It was also a busy month for special projects. Our CORE youth group baked cookies and rang bells for the Salvation Army. We donated lots of toys to help the Presbyterian Pantry Christmas efforts. Finally, after months of planning, organizing, and collecting, our church hosted the first annual **De Pere Christian Outreach Christmas**



Store. With the help of the other seven churches in the group, we were able to help roughly 100 local families have a brighter Christmas this year. Thanks to everyone who made it all possible!



Dr. Seuss wrote a book titled *I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew*. The book is about how all of us wish that a place existed where troubles were few. Unfortunately, as we learn in the book and experience in our own lives, such a place sadly doesn't exist.

However, there's good news! Through the Church, God provides a place that allows us to find healing and understanding. First United will be hosting a new **Woe-Be-Gone Group** that will begin meeting during the last week in January. The group will be led by Pastor Luke and Barb Williams with the mission to offer support, friendship, and encouragement through the practice of intentional listening, guidance, and prayer. Each meeting will include tea and light refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend. Be sure to watch for further details coming in our Weekly Newsletters. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Luke at luke@firstunitedpc.com or 920-336-1446.

The **Papercrafters** invite you to join them for a day of crafting on **Saturday, January 19**. They'll gather from 10am until around 3pm to make an assortment of greeting cards (8 for \$15). You're also welcome to bring your own project to work on instead. If you are interested, email Amy Nelson at ajb.nelson@gmail.com by **January 11**.



Also, calling all crafters for a weekend retreat from **February 22 through 24**. They have a conference room at a hotel in Appleton - just far enough to get away but not spend the entire weekend traveling. You'll get your own 6' table and hotel room for approximately \$240 (less if you share a room with a friend). For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Amy Nelson by **January 11th**. They welcome those with all interests - scrapbooking, sewing, knitting, painting, or even those who would just like a special weekend away!

Our first **Agape Dinner** of the new year is coming up **Wednesday, January 2 at 5:45pm**. The menu for this winter gathering will focus on a variety of amazing soups. Thanks to everyone who helps our church family share the love each month. As always, our dinner is free, but if you'd like to offer your financial support at any time, please drop your donations into the wooden box in front of the bulletin board in the Family Life Center. Special thanks to Abby Malcolm, Amy Cassidy, and the whole Agape team for all their amazing efforts. We're open to all, so be sure to bring your family and invite your friends on **January 2!**



Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk

The **December** Session meeting was a celebration of the season and sharing of highlights of activities at FUPC. The Board of Deacons were guests. Refreshments were served, and a review of the year took place.

Here are just some of the many highlights of 2018. The Deacons continue their fine work in caring for the congregation by reaching out to those grieving, ill, lonely, far from home, recovering from medical issues, and anyone else in need of a friendly smile, conversation, or prayer. The Session assumed the role of caregivers in granting Pastor Luke a three month sabbatical and stepping into the role of preacher during his absence. Each ministry shared the many things they accomplished in 2018 including the Christmas Store and the growth of our monthly Agape dinners. Much more detail will be available next month in the upcoming annual report. You'd think the Elders would be exhausted from everything that's happening, but instead they are energized and looking ahead to an exciting and busy 2019. Happy New Year to all!



Our **Weekly Prayer Group** will meet off-site on January 3 to celebrate the holidays. They will begin regular weekly meetings at church beginning **January 10 at 10am** in the Prayer Room. Everyone is welcome to join as they pray for the needs of our congregation, our community, and our global family. You may sit quietly or join the communal prayers. The group prays from the cards shared during Sunday worship. Other prayer requests can be made by filling out a prayer concern/celebration card and placing it in the box outside the Prayer Room or by calling the church office.

We're looking for tall, athletic men and women to play volleyball. If we can't find enough of them, we'll accept anyone who likes to have fun! Seriously, our **Church Volleyball League** will begin this month (schedule and details still to come). Games will be on Friday evenings at Calvary Lutheran Church near Lambeau Field. If you have questions or want to get involved, please contact **Steve Warner** at 405-8808 as soon as possible. Join the fun and enjoy some great exercise!



Welcome new members! During December, we officially welcomed several new members to our church family. We'll introduce them in more detail during the coming weeks, but for now



we'll help you put the names with the faces.

Rich & Diane Baston



Joyce Nowack

Dwayne & Nancy Ruggles



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

