

First United Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

December

When we think of **December**, we all think of **Christmas** and **New Year's Eve**. However, you don't want to forget **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day (12/16)**, **Answer the Telephone like Buddy the Elf Day (12/18)**, or **Short Girl Appreciation Day (12/21)**. Here are a few more dates to keep in mind:



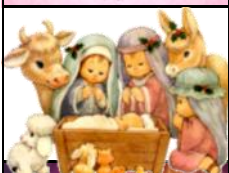
**Our Church's
170th Birthday!!!**
Sunday, 12/1



Agape Dinner
Wednesday, 12/4, 5:45 pm



"Favorite Things" Party
Tuesday, 12/10, 6:30 pm



Children's Pageant
Sunday, 12/15, 9:45 am



Christmas Eve Services
*Tuesday, 12/24,
6:30 & 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 church family is joining other founding members of the **De Pere Christian Outreach** to



collect items for the 2nd annual **Christmas Store** to be held again in our Family Life Center on **December 10 & 11**. 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 sharing can instill a bit of pride and dignity to the families who are helped.

The deadline for donations is **December 6**, 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 (firstunitedpc.org) and click on the tabs to sign up for times you can participate. Help us make Christmas a little more special for some of our De Pere neighbors. Thank you!



Our 63rd Annual Men's Club Fruitcake Sale is going great and will continue until they're sold out. Those famous fruitcakes (\$13) and a

limited supply of "Chef Mike" gourmet breads (\$10) are available after church and in the church office during normal office hours. Call the office (920-336-1446) Monday through Thursday from 9am-1pm to get yours! Proceeds from the sale support several of our church ministry and youth activities. Thanks for your support!



Now that you're done with the turkey, get ready for some holiday ham and cheesy potatoes at our next **Agape Dinner**. It's planned for **Wednesday, December 4 at 5:45pm**. Be sure to bring your family and invite your friends

and neighbors because we'll be open and free for the whole community. Come, enjoy, and help us spread the love!



Our 2019 **Children's Christmas Pageant** is scheduled for **December 15**. It's always a holiday highlight with the combination of the Nativity story, great music, classic 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 traditional candlelight worship service



on **Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30pm** or our special musical reflection service later that night at **11pm**. Share them with us and help us all celebrate the real reason for the season.

An Advent Idea

Beginning December 1, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening. There are 24 chapters. By Christmas Eve you will have read the whole account of Jesus' life and can wake up on Christmas morning knowing exactly why we celebrate!



Presbyterian Women Calendar



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

- 12/5 - **Mission Sewing @ 9:30am** (Koinonia Lounge)
- 12/12 - **P.W.C.T. @ 8:30am** ("K" Lounge)
- 12/13 - **Talbot Circle @ 11:30am** (lunch off site - RSVP to Barb Kraus)
- 12/14 - **Papercrafting** (lunch off site)
- 12/18 - **Esther Circle Bible Study @ 9:30am** (Koinonia Lounge)

*4th Tues. Readers will return in January...

> Our **Presbyterian Women** wish to thank everyone who enlarged their libraries by purchasing books during the recent **Used Book Sale** and all those who donated books to support the mission fundraiser!



The **2020 Grow Stewardship Campaign** is in its final stages. Thank you to all who participated in the relay by returning

your 2020 "Estimate of Giving" cards. Our goal was \$303,000. As of November 27, there had been \$290,300 pledged for next year. Your estimates of giving are important because they are used by our Ministries to confidently plan, budget, and carry out the mission and vision of First United. If you have not turned yours in or would like to increase your prior estimate, you can find additional forms in the Narthex. Thanks again to everyone who pledged!

Elder of the Month Deacons of the Month



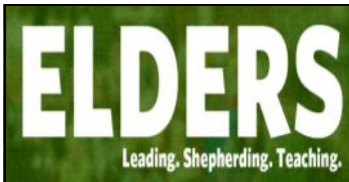
Ken Nyberg



Judy England



Melissa Rusk



Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk

At the **November Session Meeting**, the Ruling Elders determined the start date of our new Co-Pastor organization model to be January 1, 2020. They also approved the budget for next year. Expenses are expected to be \$378,695. Income is expected to be about \$8,000 short of that amount. Session feels we should go forward with faith that God will provide as we do His work. Ken Nyberg reported the “Burn the Mortgage” Campaign has reached the goal, and the Stewardship Campaign is within reach with some pledges not yet returned. Thank you for all your work Ken and the committees!

Monthly Financial Update

(as of October 2019)

“...the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a good crop.” **Luke 8:15**



	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Operating Fund		
Income	\$294,700	\$306,600
Expenses	\$312,000	\$311,600

Upcoming Special Dates:

Deacons Fund - 12/1

Offering Envelope boxes available - 12/1-24

Final “Burn the Mortgage” offerings - 12/1

D.P.C.O. Christmas Store Giving - by 12/6

Final day for Pledge Cards - 12/10

PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering - 12/22

Final offering date for 2019 - 12/30

> Highlighted use of funds for December include paying off FLC loans, Agape Dinner, fourth quarter Per Capita and Presbytery General Mission Fund payments, furnace maintenance, JAM and CORE youth activities, and the Christmas Store.

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

On **Tuesday, November 19** our team served 192 meals at the shelter. The food was prepared by Bruce Kilmer, Dennis Hibray, Joe Williams, Lois Pelishek, and Lee Richardson. Cakes were provided by our CORE & JAM youth groups and Mike Kettner.



Dinner was served by family and friends of Don England in honor of his years of commitment and service to the meal program at the shelter. Servers included Judy England, Tori England, Gary Hemb, Ann Nader, Joe &



Lois Vanidestine, Cindi Barnett, and Diane Betz. In addition, Lee Richardson and Lois Pelishek delivered meals to the Freedom House.

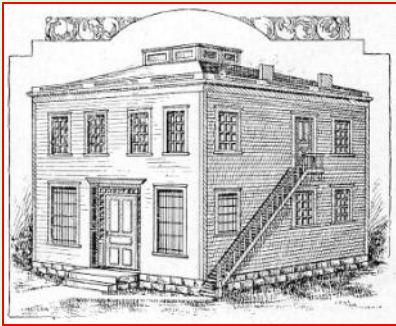
Our next date at the shelter will be **December 17** from 5pm to 6:15pm. If you'd like to donate a cake, sign up in the Family Life Center or contact **Diane Betz** at mdbetz@att.net. If you would like to help with serving at the shelter, please contact **Cindi Barnett** at 737-5376 or cindi.barnett@snc.edu.



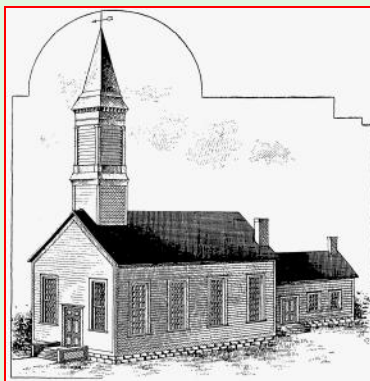
Mark your new 2020 calendar so you don't miss our “**Burn the Mortgage**” **Celebration**. After worship on **Sunday, January 5, 2020**, we will gather in the Family Life Center for a short presentation, great musical entertainment, and a delicious meal of pecan encrusted chicken breast, wild rice, and vegetables. Everyone's invited to join the party, but please call the church office soon to reserve your spot so we can plan properly for the food needed.

Happy Birthday to Us!

This month our church celebrates its **170th 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** which was then located in De Pere.



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



Our second church 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 were baptized and went to Sunday School there when they were young children. It was known as "The Friendly Church on the Corner" and 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 continued to grow with the addition of the Koinonia Lounge, bell tower, and elevator in **1988**. Most recently, we added the Gathering Area and our Family Life Center (dedicated in **September 2007**). We've certainly been blessed with a long, rich, and unique history.



Remembering the thousands of people who've been a part of our church family through the years, we share a very loving wish for a "Happy Birthday!"

Did you ever miss a Sunday and wish you could see what you missed?



Now you can find video of Pastor Luke's recent sermons (including all six weeks of the Mr. Rogers worship series) on our church website at www.firstunitedpc.org. Click on the tab labeled "Sermons."

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

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