

First United Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2019

March is the month best known for **St. Patrick's Day** and the **beginning of Spring**. However, it's also the time for **National Procrastination Week** (3/3-9...*maybe*), **International Day of Awesomeness** (3/10), and **Make Up Your Own Holiday Day** (3/26). Here are a few more important things to keep in mind...



Lenten Preview

by Pastor Luke

The season of Lent begins on **March 6** with Ash Wednesday. This year's theme will be **"Repairers of the Breach: Being a Missional Church at First United."** During the five Sundays of Lent, we'll discover and explore how we're called as individuals and as a church to be missionaries to the world, addressing such questions as "How is God calling you to serve?"...



"What does the Bible tell us about the church's mission and purpose?"... "How can we bring about positive change in a desperate and hurting world?" We will address these and other questions by focusing on five missional themes each Sunday including Building Trust, Laboring for Justice, Feeding God's Children, Action through Education, and Renewing Hope.

Also, as part of our series you will have the opportunity to learn more about how Presbyterians throughout the world are serving God through life-changing mission. You'll get the chance to support them through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) **"One Great Hour of Sharing"** Offering on **Palm Sunday, April 14**. In addition, you will have a unique opportunity to share your vision for mission at First United by partnering with our Connecting Ministry following the Sunday worship services. So, are you ready for the mission God is calling you to? Let's roll up our sleeves. It's time for all of us to get to work!



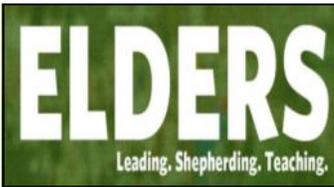
Our next **Agape Dinner** is coming **Wednesday, March 6 at 5:45pm**, and it will be followed by our **Ash Wednesday** worship service at **6:30pm**. The menu for the dinner will include a baked potato bar plus mac and cheese and

desserts. If you'd like to give your financial support at any time, simply drop your cash donations into the wooden box by the F.L.C. bulletin board.

Be sure to invite your friends to join us for a good dinner and a special worship service to begin the season of Lent leading to Easter.



Remember that 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, newsletters, and official church calendar of events on our website at www.firstunitedpc.org. Be sure you don't miss a thing!



Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk

At the **February Session** meeting, the Ruling Elders took care of some required business authorizing our Pastor to serve communion here on the first Sunday of the month, plus on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, at leadership training sessions, at the Bellevue Retirement Community each month, and at the Pastor's discretion during the year. They also heard from the Building & Grounds Ministry that our insurance coverage was reviewed and is deemed satisfactory. Both these actions must be cited in the minutes and verified at the yearly records review for Presbytery.

Income for the month of January was less than expected, but greater than the expenses, so we are healthy. The Elders will meet on Saturday, March 2 for a work session to review the goals set at Vision Quest and to look toward the future. Elders were assigned to provide a list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to begin their discussions. Chris Bivins, Ted Huebbe, Amy Cassidy, and Pastor Luke reported on the February 10 Presbytery meeting in Stevens Point. The March Session meeting will be moved to March 11 due to Pastor Luke's vacation the following week.



For the second year in a row, our Session will award a **SPARK Grant** to one or more recipients who submit the most innovative ideas for projects to further the goals of our church.

Application forms are available around the church. You can also download one from the church website (www.firstunitedpc.org - under the "What's Happening" tab). All applications must be submitted to the church office or to Tom Bayer (tomert@sbcglobal.net) by **Saturday, March 16**. The maximum award will be \$1,000, and the project must be completed within 2019. The Session will review all the submissions, and the selected proposal(s) will be announced in April. What's your interesting idea for our church?



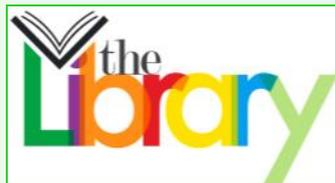
Monthly Financial Update

(as of January, 2019)

"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by preserving produce a good crop"

Luke 8:15

Newest Additions to Our Church Library



Connections - Year C, Volume 2

(A Lectionary commentary for preaching and worship)

Our God is Undocumented: Biblical Faith & Immigrant Justice

by Ched Myers & Matthew Colwell

Seven Questions Jesus Asked

by R. Benjamin Garrison

The Christmas Sweater

by Glenn Beck

	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Operating Fund		
Income	\$47,500	\$52,700
Expenses	\$29,100	\$30,000

Special Upcoming Offering:

Deacons Fund Offering - March 3

*As a member or friend, we encourage you to make an offering of \$40 per family member during March as your share of First United's Per Capita apportionment (which is approximately \$12,800). Please identify your gift as "Per Capita" and place it in the offering plate or make an online offering using our website at www.firstunitedpc.org.



Our church is joining hundreds of churches and businesses around Wisconsin to support the Family Radio Network's **Help for the Homeless Drive**. Hygiene and cleaning items are being collected **through March 10** to help local shelters and crisis programs. All donations stay in the area where they're collected. Our church's donation box is located in the Gathering Area. For more details, go to www.thefamily.net.

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

On **February 19** our team of volunteers served 171 meals prepared by Lee Richardson, Dennis Hibray, Joe Williams, and Lois Pelishek. Cakes were provided by Sue Renier, Debbie Cordova, Lynn Huebbe, Mike Kettner, Jane Grocholski, and Cindi Barnett.

Dinner was served by Lynn Huebbe, Pat Schock, Anneliese Waggoner, Mike



Kettner, and Cindi Barnett. In addition, Lee Richardson and Lois Pelishek delivered meals to Freedom House.

Our next date at the shelter will be **March 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, contact **Cindi Barnett** at cindi.barnett@snc.edu or at 737-5376.

Presbyterian Women Calendar



Our Presbyterian Women's group is a community of women who are hardworking, faithful, curious, welcoming, prayerful, creative, and giving. They are **YOU!** Why not join us for some of our group opportunities and activities?

- 3/7 - **Mission Sewing @ 9:30am**
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 3/14 - **P.W.C.T. @ 9am** (Room 11)
- 3/14 - **Talbot Circle @ 12pm** ("K" Lounge)
- 3/16 - **Papercrafting @ 10am** (Room 11)
- 3/20 - **Esther Circle Bible Study @ 9:30am**
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 3/26 - **4th Tuesday Readers @ 1pm**
(Library, book - Two Steps Forward)

Looking ahead...

- * **Election Bake Sale - Tuesday, April 2**
Baked donations will be appreciated...
- * **Lenten Brunch - Saturday, April 6, 10am**
Fellowship for men, women, and children...
- * **PW Rummage Sale - Saturday, April 27**
Be finding your "treasures" to donate...
- * **Christmas in July - Saturday, July 13**
You can design and decorate a table for six, eat a catered lunch, share fellowship, share a program, and enjoy the Christmas Boutique. Table design registration forms are on the Presbyterian Women's Bulletin Board in the Family Life Center.



On **Tuesday, March 26**, you're invited to join JOSHUA and more than 1,000 people in Madison to visit our Senators and

Assembly Representatives to advocate for social justice issues including prison reform, better transportation, and better mental health care. Registration is due by **March 5**, and the cost for the trip with lunch is \$40. A bus will leave the West Side Moravian Church at 6am. Contact Anneliese Waggoner at 360-1569 or akwaggoner@att.net for registration forms.



The **Contemporary Readers Group** will be meeting **Sunday, March 3 at 5:30pm** in the Koinonia Lounge. The book of the month for March is Jonathon Merritt's *Learning to Speak God From Scratch: Why Sacred Words Are Vanishing - and How We Can Revive Them.* Everyone's invited to join the discussion.

Our **Presby Seekers** group for retired folks and friends plan to relive an amazing trip through France on **Tuesday, March 12 at 10am**. Special guest Shirley Winnes will share her stories and pictures from her trek through some of the major gardens in Paris, the Provence area, and the French Riviera. Escape the winter blahs with some highlights from an amazing trip!



HuTerra Rewards
Do Good. Support Local.

You've probably heard that many area businesses will share 2 to 5% of your purchase amount with our church through **HuTerra**. All you have to do is drop off your recent receipts (no more than 45 days old) in the container in our Family Life Center. Elder Tori England will sort through them and submit all that are eligible. If you'd like more details, contact Tori England or Ken Nyberg.

Our History Corner...

One important figure in our church history is **Rev. Dr. Howard Talbot**. He was educated at Yale College (before it was a university) and at Union Theological Seminary. Rev. Talbot and his wife first came to De Pere in **1889**, serving our church for 21 years. His next seven years were spent writing and occasionally preaching around the Green Bay and Fond du Lac areas.



Dr. Talbot returned as our pastor in **1918** and stayed until he retired at age 81 in **1929**. He served our church for a total of 32 years! One of his unique contributions was the introduction of "illustrated services" on Sunday nights when he offered "stereopticon slides" as a part of the evening worship. It's safe to say that our Dr. Talbot was a bit of a pioneer in today's use of projection to enhance the worship experience for everyone!

**Do you have any church memories, stories, or photos to share?
Please contact Mark Young at mark@firstunitedpc.org
or contact the church office. Thank you!*

First United Presbyterian Church

"Changing Lives through God's Love in Christ"

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(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



Do you have info to submit or corrections to share?

Please send your info to **Mark Young** at mark@firstunitedpc.org or to the church office at info@firstunitedpc.org. We always appreciate your input and feedback!