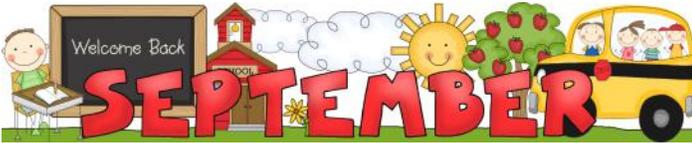


First United Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2019



September's best known for Labor Day, back to school, and football. However, it's also the time for **Be Late for Something Day** (9/5), **Wonderful Weirdos Day** (9/9), and **Sea Otter Awareness Week** (9/22-28). Here are a few more important dates to keep in mind:



AGAPE Dinner

Wednesday, 9/4, 5:45 pm



God's Gardeners & Choir Kickoff Rehearsal

Wednesday, 9/4, 6:30 pm



Rally Day 2019

Sunday School, Choir Returns,
Congregational Mtg., Potluck,
& Youth Groups
Sunday, 9/8, starts 8:30 am



Sunday Bike Rides

Every Sunday at 4pm



Presbyterian Golf Outing

Saturday, 9/28, 2 pm

You can always find the most up-to-date church information in our **Weekly Newsletter** insert in your Sunday bulletin, in the "Weekend Preview" email each Friday, on our Facebook page, and on our church website at www.firstunitedpc.org. You'll also find the official church calendar of events on the website too. We have a lot going on, so be sure you don't miss a thing!

Rally Day 2019

Coming Sunday,
September 8!



Join us as we celebrate the kick-off of a brand new program year for our church family. It will all begin at **8:30am** with the return of **Sunday School** classes for all ages. Everyone should gather first in the Family Life Center for a quick snack and orientation. Adults will then head to the Koinonia Lounge to learn more information about their two class options for the year. Younger students will have a little more fun and activities before splitting into their class groups.

On Rally Day our **9:45** worship service will feature a Sunday School teacher dedication, the return of our **Chancel Choir**, and a special distribution of Bibles to some of our children. A **Congregational Meeting** will follow worship to take care of some officer nominations and other church business.

This special day will continue with our annual **Rally Day Potluck Lunch** at around **11:30am**. Everyone is encouraged to bring a main dish, a salad, or a dessert to share with all our church family on this special day.

Finally, Rally Day 2019 will wrap up with the return of our **JAM** and **CORE** youth groups at **5:30pm**. A parent is requested to attend with their youth to fill out some necessary forms and learn about plans for the year.

We hope you join us as our church celebrates a great new season of activities together!



Come and share our free September **Agape Dinner** on **Wednesday, September 4 at 5:45pm**. We'll enjoy a menu of tater tot casserole, fresh veggies & dip, bread, and desserts. If you'd like to offer your financial support at any time, drop your

donation into the wooden box in front of that bulletin board. Bring your family and invite your friends to come enjoy a free dinner with our church family and help us share the love with our community!

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

On **Tuesday, August 20**, our team served 188 people at the shelter. The meal was prepared by Bruce Kilmer, Dennis Hibray, Joe Williams, Lois Pelishek, and Lee Richardson. Cakes were provided by Diane Betz, Debbie Cordova, Sue Renier, Jane Grocholski, Sandy Steffen, Mike Kettner, and Anne Motquin.



Dinner was served by Tim Toepel, Corday Goddard, Mike Kettner, and Cindi Barnett. Lee Richardson and Lois Pelishek also delivered meals to Freedom House.

Our next shelter will be **September 17** from 5-6:15pm. 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 prep or serve the meal, please contact **Cindi Barnett** at 737-5376 or cindi.barnett@snc.edu.

Meet our new Treasurer - John Eggers.



John began his duties as Treasurer for our church in August. He's an accountant by education and experience serving as a C.P.A., C.F.O. for a bank holding company, a compliance specialist for Northwestern Mutual, controller for several small businesses, and treasurer for two other area churches. John and his family have lived in De Pere for more than 20 years. You can contact John at treasurer@firstunitedpc.org.

Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk



At the August Session Meeting,

the Ruling Elders spent a lot of time with all things financial - preparing the ministries for the upcoming program year and setting the 2020 budget. A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, September 8 following worship to share details with our membership. The difficult part of the meeting was saying "goodbye" and "thank you" to those Elders who were completing their term: **Patricia Cobos-Welle, Ted Huebbe, Scott McPherson, and Bill Picard**. Pastor Luke expounded on their service to the church, their willingness to lead, their dedication to their duties, and the fun they brought to ministry and Session meetings. When asked what they might share, they responded that serving was more fun than expected, the time went quickly, there are exciting things ahead, and they want to stay involved in their ministries. We are grateful for their time on Session and truly appreciate the work they have done. "Well done, thy good and faithful servant!"



Monthly Financial Update

(as of July 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	\$221,800	\$226,300
Expenses	\$219,600	\$221,400

Upcoming Special Offerings:

Deacons Fund Offering - September 1
Special Offering - September 8-22

> Ministries' use of funds highlights for August and September include tent and chair rental for Worship in the Garden, Agape Dinner, Christian Education curriculum for 2019-20, kitchen license, repair of water line, building maintenance, and monthly payments for building loans.



Thanks to everyone who provided special music during worship all through the summer! Now it's time for the return of our wonderful church music groups. **Tuesday, September 3 at 6:30pm**, the **Handbell Choir** will begin weekly rehearsals in the Music Room. Our **Chancel Choir** will hold a special kickoff rehearsal on **Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30pm** (following the Agape Dinner). Their regular weekly practices will begin on **Sunday, September 8 at 8:30am**. Finally, our contemporary Christian music group, the **Church Steps String Band**, will hold its first rehearsal on **Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30pm**. Whether you've done it before or want to check things out for the first time, all musicians are welcome! Come and help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Presbyterian Women Updates



Join them for some of their group opportunities and activities!

- 9/5 - **Mission Sewing @ 9:30am**
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 9/12 - **P.W.C.T. Mtg. @ 9am (Room 11)**
& **Talbot Circle @ 12pm ("K" Lounge)**
- 9/18 - **Esther Circle Bible Study @ 9:30am**
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 9/24 - **4th Tues. Readers @ 1pm (Koinonia Lounge)**
- 9/27-29 - **Papercrafting Retreat (off site)**

Looking Ahead...

P.W. is still collecting items for "Blessing Bags" to be assembled at the **Presbyterian Women Mission Explosion** event at our church on **Saturday, October 5**. Please donate sample sizes of personal toiletries like soap, shampoo, lotion, shower gel, or toothpaste by dropping them off in the labeled container in the Family Life Center. There's also a need for some rocking chairs to borrow for another project. Helpers are also needed for one to six hours to assist with eight "hands on" Mission projects for women from throughout the Presbytery. Find out more on the P.W. bulletin board or by contacting Jan Nelson or Julie Mackey.

2019-20 Christian Education Update



Sunday School for all ages returns on Rally Day! Adults and families with kids are invited to meet in the Family Life Center on **Sunday, September 8, at 8:30am** for a brief orientation before heading into their individual classes. We sincerely thank this year's scheduled teachers - Mark DeCleene, Brenda Duncanson, Meggan Farwell, Scott McPherson, Beth Paulson, and Barb Williams - for their dedication and service.

After the first orientation week, adults will once again have two choices for their Christian Education. One class will meet in the **Koinonia Lounge** and feature monthly topics and leaders through the year. The first will be led by Pastor Luke Farwell exploring Islam and Christianity in ways that will help participants better understand our faith practices. The second adult class will be offered in the **Gathering Area** with Lynnee Schmidt leading a variety of video-based discussion beginning with *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way* by Lysa TerKerust. Join us for a wonderful Christian Education year!

We're having another great season with our **Judy Allan Memorial Garden** producing more than 250 pounds of fresh vegetables for local food pantries so far!



It's getting into the final harvest time so we need more helping hands than ever. If you'd like to get involved, come join our **God's Gardeners** volunteers **every other Wednesday**

at 6pm (September 4 & 18). You can also check out the **Sign-Up Calendar** in the Family Life Center to select other dates that you are available to help. Instructions are located in the kiosk by the garden. Contact Lynn Huebbe at lynn_huebbe@new.rr.com for more information. Many hands are needed to help our garden grow and to deliver to area shelters. Can you help?

Won't You Be My Neighbor? The Practice of Being Good Neighbors in Today's World

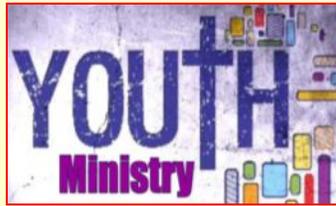
Join us for a special six-week worship series coming in October and discover how a



Presbyterian Minister, Fred Rogers, taught a generation of children what it means to be a good neighbor. In today's world many of us struggle finding ways to live out Jesus'

command to love our neighbor as ourselves. What biblical truths can we discover from the world's most beloved neighbor, Mister Rogers? How does being a good neighbor have the power to transform society? Be part of our neighborhood as we engage in this exciting worship series. Watch for more details!

Our 2019 Rally Day celebration will wrap up with the return of our youth groups! **Sunday, September 8 at 5:30pm**, the **CORE** (Middle High) and **JAM** (Senior High) groups will kick off another great season. Please



note that a parent is requested to attend with their youth that evening to talk about the whole year, fill out some necessary forms, and - most importantly - have some fun! The adult leaders are Mark DeCleene, Meggan Farwell, Scott McPherson, Dawn Picard, Lynnee Schmidt, and Gary Williams. Thanks for your guidance.



From Pastor Luke...

On behalf of the entire congregation, I would like to thank **Lynnee Schmidt** for her time of service as **Youth Administrator**. Her shared gifts for youth ministry have brought a new spirit of collaboration and passion for spiritual growth in our church. We appreciate her "can-do" attitude and inspiring faith. The relationships she has developed and nurtured with the youth will be a blessing as they continue their faith journeys. Lynnee will continue to be an active youth volunteer. We look forward to our future discipleship together as we seek to change lives through God's love in Christ.



September 15 is the deadline to register for the **Fourth Annual Presbyterian Golf Outing**. It's set for **Saturday, September 28** at the Ledgeview Golf Course. Men and women of any skill level are invited. It's only \$30 for nine holes, a cart, and food (*payable on the day of outing*). To register, just submit your name, phone number, and email address to the church office or to **Ken Nyberg**.

Meet our Newest Church Officers

Ruling Elders - Class of 2022



Anne Motquin



Loren Porretto



Kevin Speigel



Gary Williams

Deacons - Class of 2022



Linda Allen



Cassie Griffin



Melissa Rusk



Sandy & Tom Steffen

The Story of Our Family Life Center...

Today we have a great, multi-use **Family Life Center** (plus other improvements) because of the vision and generosity of our leaders and membership beginning in **2004**. That year, a congregational meeting was held to discuss moving ahead to explore future growth and needs. A "Building Exploratory Report" recommended the construction of a multi-purpose facility on the north side of the church



property plus modification of the Sanctuary and other remodeling to improve our church. A Capital Campaign Committee and a Building Committee were formed.

After a professional feasibility study and architectural planning, our Session approved the project in

August 2005. A campaign to establish a building fund was conducted in 2006. The Selmer Company was hired in June as the contractors/construction company for our building expansion project at an estimated cost of \$1,554,416 (a total of \$2,049,000 when including planning, appeal costs, and interest). Session and the congregation approved the project!

The groundbreaking was on **July 16, 2006**, and construction took almost a year. Once completed, the new Family Life Center hosted our worship service for about two months while the Sanctuary was remodeled. On **September 9, 2007**, a special dedication was held to celebrate all the amazing new construction and improvements.



Since the beginning, our church family has generously supported this project and other improvements. A second finance appeal was completed in 2009. Better interest rates and additional improvement project needs (roofing and siding) brought loan refinancing in 2012 and again in 2016. The total project cost and interest paid on loans has been almost \$2,000,000 over the last 15 years (as originally estimated). The remaining principle balance will be down to approximately \$60,000 by the end of 2019.



The vision and support of this amazing construction project are examples of how First United has been able to work together to help change lives through God's love in Christ.

Church Photo Directory



We're making plans for a new church photo directory. Free photos will be taken in October with options to purchase copies. Watch for sign-up details and photo dates coming soon!

First United Presbyterian Church

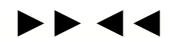
"Changing Lives through God's Love in Christ"

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Sunday School
Sunday 8:30 am

Worship Service
Sunday 9:45 am

Coffee Fellowship
Sunday 10:45 am



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9 am - 1 pm

Friday - closed