

First United Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020



February is best known for **Valentine's Day** and **Leap Year**, but it's also the month for **Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (2/1)**, **Love Makes the World Go**

Round, But Laughter Keeps Us from Getting Dizzy Week (2/8-14), and **Love Your Pet Day (2/20)**. Here are a few more important dates you might want to mark on your calendar:



Agape Dinner
& St John's presentation
Wednesday, 2/5, 5:45 pm



9th Annual Chili Cook-off
Saturday, 2/8, 5:30 pm



Family Valentine Party
Wednesday, 2/12, 5:45 pm



Fat Tuesday Pancake & Porkies Dinner
Tuesday, 2/25, 5:30 pm



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, 2/26, 7 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!

In celebration of **Pastor Luke's 7th anniversary**, the Leadership Ministry would like to recognize some highlights of his 2019 achievements that went beyond his normal duties:



- > Served on the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing Board and chaired the Church Relations Committee
- > Met with college students at St. Norbert College and supported their Protestant Worship Service
- > Created the monthly Woe-Be-Gone Group
- > Provided pastoral leadership to First Presbyterian Church of Green Bay serving as their interim Session moderator
- > Created the Worship Visioning Team - a group tasked with creating and planning new and different worship series
- > Planned and led the monthly Protestant Communion Service at the Bellevue Retirement Community
- > Created and led new worship services that emphasized thematic preaching and music, such as "First United Goes to Broadway"
- > Served on the Winnebago Presbytery's Committee on Ministry
- > Provided pastoral support to several Presbyterian congregations during the Triennial Visit
- > Collaborated with the Spiritual Care Department at St. Norbert College
- > Participated in the "Faith Matters" panel discussion at St. Norbert Abbey engaging in conversation with other faith leaders in the community
- > Participated in Presbytery's Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations, which focused on the financial stability of ministers
- > Participated in the Presbyterian Foundation's educational workshop that talked about how congregations can more effectively use technology to increase giving

We're proud of all your hard work Pastor Luke!



A church mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is being planned for the week of July 25. This opportunity would include 9th graders through adults. An **informational meeting** will be held **Sunday, February 2 after worship** in the Gathering Area. Find out more from Pastor Luke and see if you'd like to get involved.

Session Report

by Dawn Picard, Clerk



The **Session** welcomed Co-Pastor Rev. Meggan Farwell to the January meeting. She and Pastor Luke will both attend the meetings and will decide who is moderating. A very healthy financial report was shared. Expenses were less than income in 2019 allowing for a carryover of funds. The Finance Ministry will determine the best use for these funds. Both co-pastors reported on the many activities that kept them busy this month such as pastoral calls, leading worship, meetings, youth activities, and office visits. Discussion was held on convening the Nominating Committee to contact candidates for the next class of Elders and Deacons. The Leadership Ministry explained a new idea for SPARK grants which will be introduced to the congregation next month. The date for the installation of Rev. Meggan Farwell will be February 23 at 3pm in our sanctuary. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow. Commissioners were named for the Presbytery meeting on February 8 in Fond du Lac. A discussion was held on the issues of building rental, church safety, financial reporting, and topics for the upcoming Session retreat.



Dust off your recipe books because our **9th Annual Chili Cook-off** is returning on **Saturday, February 8 at 5:30pm**. We've had six different champs in the past eight years. Are you next? Bring a crock pot of your "secret recipe" or just enjoy judging all the entries. Come and be a part of this fun and flavorful annual tradition!

Presbyterian Women Calendar



All women are invited to join us for our group activities and opportunities!

- 2/6 - **Mission Sewing @ 9:30am**
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 2/13 - **P.W.C.T. @ 8:30am (Room 11)**
& **Talbot Circle @ 12pm (Koinonia Lounge)**
- 2/16 - **Gifts of Women Service @ 9:45am**
(Sanctuary)
- 2/19 - **Esther Circle Bible Study @ 9:30am (Koinonia Lounge)**
- 2/20 - **Mission Sewing II @ 9:30am**
(Koinonia Lounge)
- 2/21-23 - **Papercrafting Retreat (off site)**
- 2/25 - **4th Tues. Readers Group @ 1pm**
(Koinonia Lounge)



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 23 at 3pm**. That's when we'll host the very special **Installation Service** for Rev. Meggan Farwell. Ministers and Ruling Elders from throughout our Winnebago Presbytery will gather to officially complete and celebrate Pastor Meggan's installation as our new co-pastor of First United Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow the service. Everyone's welcome to join the celebration.

Free portrait sessions for a brand new **Church Family Photo Directory** will be held on **March 4, 5, & 6 (2-9pm) and March 7 (9am-4pm)**. Everyone who comes will get a free 8x10 photo, a directory, and a chance to purchase lots of other great options. Be sure to book your appointment on Sundays after church, online at our website, or by calling the office. We hope everyone gets their free photo taken.

Church Photo Directory





Our annual **Family Valentine Party** is coming **Wednesday, February 12 from 5:45 to 7:15pm**. Families with kids ages pre-K through grade 5 (plus younger or older siblings) are invited to meet in the Family Life Center for dinner, lots of fun, and a special devotion about the one love that will never fail. The cost will be \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Please contact **Pastor Meggan** (meggan@firstunitedpc.org) soon so she can plan for the right number of people.

Monthly Financial Update

(final for 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	\$371,354	\$377,800
Expenses	\$367,972	\$378,550

Special Dates & Reminders:

Deacons Fund - 2/2

***Per Capita is \$40 per member for 2020**

> February highlights for our Ministries' use of funds include the Agape Dinner, snow removal, heating our building, office supplies, staff salaries, and property insurance.

> **What is Per Capita?** Every Presbyterian shares the benefits of the PC(USA) system of government, so every congregation is asked to share the expenses associated with the Presbyterian governing bodies through annual Per Capita payments (70% to the Winnebago Presbytery, 18% to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and 12% to the PC(USA) General Assembly). During February, we encourage you to share our church's responsibility (approximately \$12,400) by making a special offering of \$40 for each confirmed family member. Please identify your gift as **"Per Capita"** and place it in the offering plate. You can also make an online offering using our website (www.firstunitedpc.org). Thank you for your support of our system.

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

On **Tuesday, January 21** our team served 194 meals at the shelter. The food was prepared by Bruce Kilmer, Dennis Hibray, Joe Williams, Lois Pelishek, and Lee Richardson. Cakes were provided by Mike Kettner, Diane Betz, Debbie Cordova, Sue Renier, Barb LeMense, Jane Grocholski and Sandy Steffen.



Our meals were served by Sally and Mackenzie Lindow, Kendra and Violet Smale, Sydney Goddard, Mike Kettner, Joe Williams, and Dennis Hibray. In addition, Lee Richardson and Lois Pelishek delivered meals to the Freedom House.



Our next shelter date will be **February 18** 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.

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 16** following worship to discuss last year's activities and this year's plans. Copies of the 2019 Annual Report with information from all ministries and groups will be available February 9.



Watch for the return of the famous **Men's Club Fat Tuesday Pancake & Porkies Dinner** coming on **Tuesday, February 25 at 5:30pm**.

We'll begin our season of Lent with a special **Ash Wednesday** worship service on **February 26 at 7pm**.



Our History Corner...

In the fall of **2012**, after many months of searching and interviewing, our church's Pastor Nominating Committee became very interested in a young man named Rev. Luke Farwell. He was the Associate Pastor at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. Mutual interest grew, and Luke was invited to preach at another area church as the next step in the process.



Many of us first met Pastor Luke at a reception on **December 1, 2012**. His first sermon was shared with our church family the next day. It became official after a vote on **Sunday, December 2** – Rev. Luke Farwell was approved to become the new Pastor at First United Presbyterian Church in De Pere.

What a great time for the Farwells to be moving to Wisconsin! It was the middle of winter, they had to sell their house in Virginia, they had to find a new home in the Green Bay area, and Elaine was a month old! Pastor Luke officially began serving our church on **February 3, 2013**. Meggan, Ian, and Elaine joined him here about a month later.



During the years since, Pastor Luke has brought us a number of new experiences such as "Blessing of the Animals" services, "Celebrating the Arts in Worship" week, "Blue Christmas" services, "Vision Quest," a U2-Charist service, "Extravagant Generosity" small groups, the "Star Wars: Faith & the Force" event, a "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" service, and many more.



Pastor Luke became the Rev. Dr. Farwell on **June 1, 2018** when he completed his years of study and graduated from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with his Doctor of Ministry degree. The next new chapter of his story began when our congregation approved moving to a new leadership model. In **January**

2020, Pastor Luke joined with Pastor Meggan to become our first co-pastors with exciting plans for our future.

We wish Rev. Dr. Luke (and all the Farwells) a very happy seventh anniversary. We're so glad their family is a part of our church family!

Here's the latest contact information for Lynnee Schmidt's sons:



RYOC

Bo Baxter
683936

North Upper Lake
PO Box 2500
Racine WI 53404

Kaen Schmidt

PO Box 615
Fairchild AFB, WA 99011

First United Presbyterian Church

"Changing Lives through God's Love in Christ"

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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