

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

BARABOO, WISCONSIN

November, 2024

We are a congregation of friendly and caring people
dedicated to our involvement with church, community, and world projects.

THOUGHTS FROM THE MODERATOR

The beginning of the church year starts with the season of Advent from December 1 to Christmas. We have a Thanksgiving service on the evening of November 26, followed by two important events, Advent Sunday, and the Giving Tree.

Advent Sunday, December 8, is our own celebration of Advent/Christmas, decorating the sanctuary in a festive manner with a tree, garlands and more, as well as participating in crafts and conversation with others in our church family. All this follows worship on December 8.

The Giving Tree is our opportunity to reach out to our community with gifts for those who need our help in this time of sharing and giving. We also share our facility with a group of hard-working volunteers who need the space to

organize such a massive undertaking (225 families last year) for our surrounding area. The session regularly has approved the use of our building for this project, since it is such an important outreach in which we participate. We make room for each other.

The combination of Advent Sunday and Giving Tree helps us witness to the fullness of God's gift in the birth of Jesus Christ. One part is our own celebrative joy in receiving the gift. The second part is reaching out to others in love, as God has reached out to us in love. In both, we are representing what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, receiving and giving. Welcome each other on December 8 and welcome the Giving Tree's hard workers with joy and an open heart. In so doing we give glory to God. This is our witness to the good news of Christmas!

I thought it would be helpful to give a quick note concerning our pastoral search. Our session and Reedsburg's have finished the necessary paperwork to move on to the pastoral search. We have been laying groundwork so that we might have a good basis for conversation when we have a pastor together. Our information is now online for candidates to see and make inquiries. Both sessions have representatives working on this.

Peace and love,
David Gilmore



PECAN ANNOUNCEMENT!

Pecans have arrived and are processed. If you haven't already, you may pick up your orders, or buy more, in Fellowship Hall after church. Thank you for your orders and thank you for supporting 1st Presbyterian Women!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our Thanksgiving Worship Service will be on Tuesday, November 26 at 7pm. There will be cookies and cider following service. Plan on attending if you're able, and bring family and friends!

YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart was held in Fellowship Hall on Thursday September 19. A social hour was enjoyed at 11am, with lunch at noon. Everyone enjoyed a Supperclub Dinner experience, complete with cracker and cheese appetizers, beef roast, baked potato bar, green beans, salad and dinner roll, cheesecake, and mocktails. Thank you to everyone that contributed their time, cooking, and decorating skills to made this an event to remember!



PERIOD PROJECT

The period project is funded in part by a Healthy Community Partnership Grant from the SSM Health St. Clare Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to provide feminine hygiene products to girls and young women in the Baraboo area, mainly through the Baraboo public schools. This year we assembled 151 bags of products for middle and high school students and 29 bags for elementary aged students. These were given to the Backpack Project to be distributed. We also provide products to the schools as needed throughout the school year.

Thank you for your donations of the cosmetic bags. Please know they are put to good use! Please continue to save bags throughout the year and leave in the narthex.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Today, in most churches, November is the month for Stewardship campaigns as well as national election campaigns. Over the years, “stewardship” has taken on various complexions. Our stewardship emphasis this year, 2024, is fashioned after Baraboo’s famous circus lore. Its unofficial title is the “Big Colossal.” Each Sunday, one member or chairperson of one ministry tells the congregation about what “big colossal” activities or services that ministry has been involved in during the past year. The Finance Ministry also reminds us that “big colossal” can be in tiny, seemingly



miniscule actions, such as in Jesus’ story of the “widow’s mite.” The purpose, of course, is to encourage the congregation members to prayerfully and generously give.

Pie Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, October 27. Many congregants enjoyed homemade pie and cheesecake after worship in

recognition of sharing “a piece of the pie” this Stewardship Season. Thank you to our Finance Ministry for sharing stories with us every Sunday morning, for baking and donating delicious pies, and for hosting a lovely Fellowship!



BARABOO ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

This is an annual event held at the Baraboo First United Methodist church. They are looking for volunteers from the area churches. For details about volunteering and donations visit their website www.baraboomc.org/ChristmasDinner. Reservations are required for the dinner and will be taken November 30, 2024 thru December 18, 2024. Space is limited. Call 608-448-6673.

CHOIR

New Choir members are always welcome to join! Rehearsals are typically held every Thursday at 5:45pm, and at 8am on the Sundays they sing. Choir sings every Sunday, **except** for the third Sunday of each month. Please see Choir Director Melisa Skwor if you have any questions.

LEAD USHERS MEETING

All current and future Lead Ushers are invited to their annual meeting on Sunday February 2 following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the upstairs meeting room. New Lead Ushers are needed and welcome!

OLD-FASHIONED STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The three articles on the right of this page illustrate the early "stewardship" campaigns of the 1850s and years following. There were "concerts," primarily for enjoyment but also for the purpose of raising funds. Notice that in the "Simoneands Concert," there is a four-year old drummer and that the price is 25 cents.

Following the concert article there is a "NOTICE" for "renting the slips." This is the term used for "pew" rental. The way a family supported the church was by renting a place to sit. Just think, you could choose a place to sit in the front or in the back. In the 1850s this would have been in the small wooden church building on 2nd Street across from what is now the Civic Center. Of course, visitors were always welcome without a pew charge. Do you think our tendency to sit in the same place or our concern about sitting in someone else's place is left over from this pew renting custom?

Funds from both the concert and the pew rentals most likely went to support the building and the various functions of the church. The third article indicates the method for raising the funds for the pastor's salary. From a pastor's point of view, just imagine opening your home to "friends" to give you a "donation" for your salary or having to attend an honorary afternoon "tea" where monetary "gifts" were being solicited in your behalf? Both methods were practiced.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles and announcements appropriate for this newsletter are welcome! The next deadline is February 14, 2025. Please submit articles and pictures to the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday School at 10am every Sunday in a downstairs classroom.

POINSETTIAS

Envelopes will be provided in the Sunday bulletin beginning on Nov. 26 for those wishing to donate towards a Christmas Poinsettia. Please place your donation in the provided envelope and mark "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" and whom it is that you are honoring. Completed envelopes may be placed in the offering plate, or turned in to the office.

THE SIMONEANDS.
Beg leave to inform their friends and the public in general, that they will give a
GRAND CONCERT
in BARABOO, on Tuesday evening, July 18, at the Presbyterian Church. And in Reedsburg on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, July 19th and 20th.

Prof. R. D. Simonds,
The Popular Ballad-Vocalist & Musical Director

Miss Mary Anna Simonds,
The Musical Phenomenon, who sings the songs of Jenny Lind, Madame Sontag, Catherine Hayes, Alboni and Madame Bishop, exactly as composed for them, with incredible ease and perfection, and professor of the Piano Forte and Spanish Guitar.

Miss Harriet Louisa Simonds,
Soprano and Master of the Violincello.

Miss Sarah Simonds,
Aged 7 on the bass drum and petite tambour.

Master Mozart Simonds.
The infant drummer, 4 years old, who performs the most critical music and time to perfection.

Admittance 25 cts. Children half price. Doors open at 7½—performance will commence at 8½ o'clock. Tickets can be had at this office.
(July 12, 1854.)

NOTICE.
THERE will be a meeting at the Presbyterian Church on Saturday, the 22d inst., at 3 o'clock p. m. for renting the slips of the sumo for the ensuing year. By Order of the Trustees.
Baraboo, July 12, 1854.

Annual Visit.
The friends of the Rev. J. H. Kasson, propose giving him a donation visit on Thursday evening the 27th, inst. at his residence. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.
By order of Committee.
Baraboo, Jan 18th, 1853

FEETS AND SEATS

In October, our faith community gathered socks and underwear for children through adults for the Neighborly Store. We had a clothesline on our bulletin board in the Narthex. We cut out socks and underwear and hung them on the clothesline for parishioners to take a tag, buy the item, and return it to the church.

We had a colossal number of items brought in for our community in need. The last Sunday in October Becky and Jim Hovde from the Neighborly Store joined us after church to be presented with our items. We were told that our collection provided socks and underwear for at least 100 needy people in this community.

A big “Thanks” from the Outreach Ministry to the congregation!



MEALS ON WHEELS

This is a program in Baraboo that provides lunches to people in our community.



David & Elsie Gilmore, Tom and Darlene Otto, Joe & Paula Palermo, Gene & Mickey Rau, Mike & Deb Steinhorst, and Tom & Joan Kaul.

First Presbyterian Church provides volunteers for one month in the summer each year. We provided volunteers this year in September.

A big thank you goes to our volunteers for the time they put in to deliver the lunches. They were:

Glenn and Marybeth Deedon, Cyndy Croft, Elgin & Shirley Bulin, Cheryl Anderson,



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December Birthdays

12/1 – John Grady
12/2 – Avis Roessler
12/2 – Mark Gilmore
12/8 – Jim Allen
12/11 - Gail Schmiedlin
12/13 – Pat Burkhamer
12/18 - Tammy Bates
12/19 - Eliza Wozniak
12/24 - Marybeth Deedon
12/24 – Steve Stoffels

January Birthdays

1/4 – Tracy Drinkwater
1/11/29 – Dolores Mossman
1/16/82 - Mark Wozniak
1/18 – Al Schroeder
1/18 – Elliot Drinkwater
1/21/55 - Sue Wresch
1/23/57 – Peggy Hooks
1/26/41 - Glenn Deedon

February Birthdays

2/1 – Julia Kramer
2/3 – Joe Palermo
2/4 - Shirley Bulin
2/8 – Chris Roberts
2/12 – Andrew Skwor
2/15 – John Steberl
2/18 - Bob Foote
2/19 – Mary Willson
2/26 - Joan Kaul

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December Anniversaries

12/27 – Dan and Lynne Hansen
12/28 – John and Alice Grady

January Anniversaries

1/4 – Andrew and Melisa Skwor

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed
please call in the date to our church office.*

BAPTISM

Chesnee Jean Blosenski (daughter of Wesley Wickus and John Blosenski), born April 22, 2015, was baptized during worship on Sunday, October 6, 2024, Rev. David Gilmore presiding.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW usually meets the second Wednesday of each month. Check for monthly meeting details in Grace Notes and Sunday bulletins. PW organizes projects which benefit our church and the community. Newcomers are welcome!

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

- Christmas has always been a joyful celebration at First Presbyterian. During the 1880s, oyster stew and ice cream were the choice for many of these holiday dinners! Can you imagine?

LOOKING AHEAD

- Thanksgiving Worship service, Tues. Nov. 26, 7pm
- Advent Sunday celebration on December 8
- Christmas Eve Worship Service, Tues. Dec. 24, 7pm
- In December we welcome the Sauk County Giving Tree in support of helping local families provide gifts for their children. This will be our third year hosting them.



ALL SAINTS

All Saints Day was celebrated in Worship on Sunday, November 3.



ENTERED INTO LIFE ETERNAL

MEMBERS

Sandra Gollmar Edwards, March 23, 2024

Kenneth Conway Jr., April 4, 2024

Olive "Ollie" Baker Kearney, May 15, 2024

BAPTIZED MEMBER

Mateo Dwayne Alcauter, May 29, 2024

PART OF THE FAMILY

Fridtjof "Fridge" Nolte, July 7, 2024

DO YOU GET GRACE NOTES?

Grace Notes are weekly updates about our church events and projects. Every week our church Administrative Assistant emails Grace Notes out. If you are not getting Grace Notes by email and you would like to, contact the church Administrative Assistant at 608-356-5945 or email her at office@presbybaraboo.com.

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

You can find Kristin in the office from Tuesday to Friday, from 8am to 1pm. She can be reached by phone at: 608-356-5945 Or by email, at: office@presbybaraboo.com The office will be closed on November 28 and 29, December 6, 13, 25 and 26.

Prayer - Coping with Grief

I am grateful that You are here for me.
Lord, help me find a productive activity which honors the memory of my loved one and glorifies You.

Show me how to minister to others through their own grief. Father, please help me to not make an idol out of my grief and to be consumed by it. Empower me Lord Jesus to get through this period.

Thank You, Jesus, for my friends and family and for the support they continually provide during this difficult time.

Read the full prayer @ christianstt.com

DON'T STRESS IT!

This time of the year can be stressful, and high levels of stress can have a serious impact on your mental and physical health. It's important that you find ways to manage stress. People find different things relaxing, so give some of these a try to see which ones work for you!

- ❖ Watch something funny. Laughter really is the best medicine. It relieves physical tension, reduces stress and increases immunity...so watch your fave comedy and laugh your way to tranquility.
- ❖ Get a Coloring Book. They've exploded in popularity recently and for good reason – colouring in helps you chill out because it's very difficult to focus on other things when you're doing it.
- ❖ Breathe 'Pranayama' style. This yoga method requires you to breathe through one nostril at a time (inhale through the left by blocking the right, exhale through the right by blocking the left, repeat for 3 minutes) to relieve stress. Weird but wonderful!
- ❖ Go Stargazing. Laying down and watching a starry night is not only awesome but it increases your brain's alpha waves which rapidly enables you to relax. Cool, huh?
- ❖ Take a walk in nature. Not only will walking trigger the release of endorphins which can reduce stress hormones, but being out in nature can boost serotonin levels which can also contribute to an improved sense of well-being.
- ❖ Relax your jaw. Release the tension you're carrying in your jaw by opening it wide for a half a minute, breathing through your nose and gently closing it.
- ❖ Write a gratitude list. Unsurprisingly, stressful events can leave us feeling negative and as if we're lacking in some way. But having a greater sense of appreciation for the people and things in your life can really help you gain perspective, feel more positive and enable you to better handle stress. So try writing down 5 things you're thankful for.
- ❖ Don't procrastinate. We've all been there...one minute you're revising, the next minute you're checking out the photos of your friends' mutual friends' friend on facebook (wow, that even sounds as stressful as it is), but all procrastination does is put things off and stops you achieving your goals which only generates more stress!
- ❖ Lower your standards. Setting ridiculously high standards for yourself generates anxiety by putting pressure on you to perform and it can make you particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of emotional stress. Nobody's perfect so try loving and accepting yourself as the great individual you are.
- ❖ Listen to calming music. Oh, the power of music! Research suggests that chilled out tunes slow down our pulses, lower blood pressure and decrease stress hormones. So plug in and relax or if no one's listening sing/shout along to release even more tension!
- ❖ Drink more water. Even slight dehydration can lower our moods and it can increase levels of the stress hormone, cortisol. Dehydration can also cause your body to stop functioning properly which can result in anxiety too...so get sipping!

(<https://www.ditchthelabel.org/101-ultimate-ways-chill-reduce-stress>)

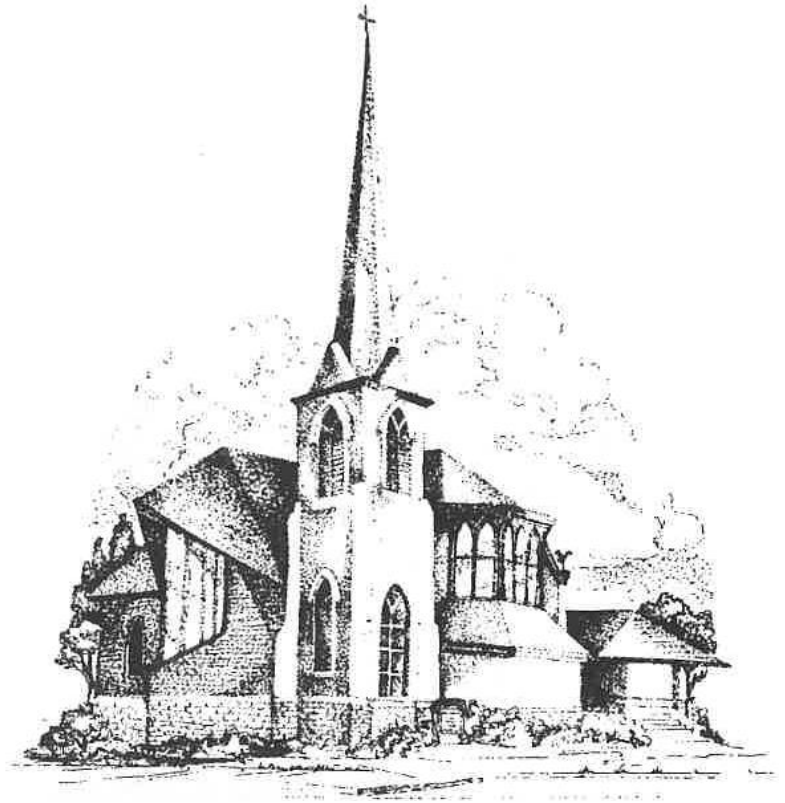


BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

Often the equipment needed to run our church is overlooked or taken for granted such as the furnace and AC, or the phones and the computers. Today we wanted to highlight the video and sound equipment and the people that know how to operate it. This equipment enriches our weekly church services and then extends those services to worshippers outside our building through television and YouTube broadcasts.

The Covid epidemic profoundly changed our own services. YouTube and the local cable TV station allowed us all to continue worship during the lock-down. After returning to our church building, we continued to broadcast our Sunday services through Channel 43, the local cable TV station, and through YouTube. We know that many of our housebound members watch the cable service on Sunday morning at 11:00 am. Other folks also view the YouTube videos. We currently have 70 YouTube channel subscribers and average about 25 to 30 views per video. Holiday services can pull over 200 viewers. We also know that more folks watch the cable station weekly than YouTube.

While we have had microphones for more than 25 years, the large LCD screen monitors in the front of the church were installed 3 years ago. These allow us to read scripture and participate in the service more easily. The minister can even show videos and photos. To broadcast our weekly service requires additional equipment and software.



That equipment includes: microphones with wireless receivers, 2 cameras with controllers, several computers, a video source mixer, a digital recorder, amplifiers, and an MP3 player. The church also needs the software to coordinate all the equipment and then edit and compile the service for broadcast. And none of this comes together without our AV team, those talented church members who handle all these tasks and make it look easy each Sunday. They work before, during and after every Service.

You may not see them but these folks are a very important part of our weekly service. They are Cliff and Deb Nieuwenhuis and Tracy and Kendra Drinkwater. Without their dedication, skill, and knowledge we wouldn't be able to support the sermon or record and broadcast it. They do this as a labor of love, and we are blessed to have them. Please remember to thank them.

Building and Equipment Ministry: Liz Nevers, Elgin Bullin, Tom Otto, and Al Schroeder



The Christmas Story



V B K R A C W U J Z A L P G I W T
 M L B E T H L E H E M N P H M C F
 T C O N V S O V Y E Y V T L M W Y
 E Q R H S V C F P I W E Y P A C M
 U N G L T M S F C E N S U S N D B
 Y I C L A A F R S A C P Y O U C B
 E G M H B G M A K J C Q A O E Z L
 Y G R R L I Y N R O O E N D L I J
 Z O A Y E S R K S S S M G D J V E
 X L R F Q Z R I H E B A E M V R S
 E D N Z H Y H N E P A N L H N A U
 U R S T A R R C P H B G I F I S S
 Y K U P T O T E H I Y E J Z A V Z
 P R O P H E T N E U M R J X M E F
 J X E P N P Q S R S H Y V D A T U
 C J U Z G Z C E D P X E B M R O Z
 G C I Y X S U V C R D S U S Y D B

Myrrh
 Bethlehem
 star
 Mary
 Immanuel
 Frankincense
 manger
 angel
 Jesus
 census
 shepherd
 Joseph
 baby
 gold
 stable
 prophet
 Magi

CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

1. HRCEE _____
2. IDCER _____
3. RGHICN _____
4. ECICLI _____
5. INROBB _____
6. ATREWH _____
7. LSEVE _____
8. ADENLC _____
9. HISGTL _____
10. MWOASNN _____

Snowman, cider, lights, cheer, candle, wreath, elves, ribbon, icicle, grinch