



First Presbyterian Church of Baraboo **Newsletter**



Searching for Our New Pastor

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began meeting on January 23rd and have continued meeting every Monday evening since. Committee members are Luke Kramer, Janet Fritsch, Kathleen Thurow, Glenn Deedon, Jean Wendt, Cheryl Anderson, Cliff Nieuwenhuis and David SaLoutos.

The Reverend Mark Hughey serves as advisor from the John Knox Presbytery and joins the committee at nearly every meeting, as well as offering support by phone and email. The PNC has created a survey which was presented and discussed with our church family after service on Sunday, March 12. The form can also be sent by snail mail, in Gracenotes and can also be picked up in person at church or emailed. We would like to get input from any member with an opinion... and that is most of us! This will inform the committee about what characteristics we want to see in a new pastor.

The PNC is open to any and all ideas from every member of the First Presbyterian Church of Baraboo. It will be the PNC's work to take these ideas and form them into a "call" document. The Pastor Nominating Committee will also compose a document informing potential pastor applicants about our church family, our organization and how we function. They will also inform any interested candidates about our city, the amenities it has to offer, and the many assets that abound in our area.

Anyone with questions or suggestions for the PNC should contact one of the committee members. Phone numbers and email addresses may be obtained by calling the church office at 608-356-5945.

The very detailed process of finding a new pastor will probably take at least six months, or more. Please pray for the PNC members, the work they are doing and our church family.

Congregational Life Ministry Please put any donation to help with the lily display in the envelope provided in the bulletin. Mark "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" and who you are honoring. You may also mail or drop a check by the church... put Lily in the memo.



Maundy Thursday service is **April 6** at **7:00 pm** at the **UCC Church** in conjunction with First Presbyterian and First United Methodist churches.

Good Friday service is **April 7** at **7:00 pm** at the **First Presbyterian Church** in conjunction with the First United Methodist Church and the UCC Church.

Saturday, April 8 the Congregational Life Ministry Committee will meet at church to set up the Lily display and do the prep for Easter Breakfast.

Easter Sunday a continental breakfast is served from **7:30 to 8:45**, with service to follow at **9:00 am**.



Presbyterian Women presented thank you bags to Baraboo Police Department including treats for the Canine unit as a thank you for keeping Baraboo a safe place to live. Pictured Kim, Mickey & Dar.

A Blast from the Past...

Green Eggs and Bacon?

From the 1950s to the early 2000s the youth of our church led the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. Following the service there was a sunrise breakfast with a special scrambled egg recipe. We aren't sure who developed the recipe, but the eggs were ultra-creamy with bacon crumbled in it. Vaughn Conway Sr., (Kathleen Thurow's Dad) was a cook in WWII and he is the first one we remember preparing this breakfast. In the 1960s, Vaughn passed the egg recipe along to Harry SaLoutos (David's Dad), who had also been a cook in WWII. Harry prepared the egg recipe from the 1960s to the 1990s, then passed the egg recipe along to Chris Anderson, who prepared it for several more years.

The eggs were purchased fresh from local farmers and the youth brought coffeecakes on Saturday and then cracked several dozen eggs into a 5 gallon container, before practicing the service.

The cooks had everything timed and would arrive at church around 4:00 am Easter morning. The bacon was cut into one inch squares and placed in big pans in the oven. Water was poured into a couple big pots with a couple slightly smaller pots containing the eggs inside, making two big double boilers. The cooks keep stirring the bacon in the oven and the eggs in the large pots so things would cook evenly. The timing on the service was critical because the pots were aluminum. If the eggs sat too long they'd have a chemical reaction with the aluminum and turn a pale green. This happened once in the 1960s when the service ran long, and Harry SaLoutos fixed it by sprinkling extra bacon on top to disguise their unique green color.

Following service, the youth served the eggs and bacon, platters of coffeecakes, orange juice, milk, and coffee. David SaLoutos helped his Dad, but also was involved in the sunrise services, so Bud Bechmann (Mona Larsen's Dad) jumped in to help Harry with the breakfast. It was a tasty Presbyterian Easter tradition enjoyed for at least 50 years.



Easter morning in 1991 found Harry making the Easter Sunrise breakfast and he later passed the recipe along to Chris

Your Building and Grounds Ministry has made recent building improvements with the installation of updated safety/security systems. Due to the increased gun violence, drug-related theft and vandalism in the country, we felt this was necessary. We continue to pray about these issues, but this ministry also follows the motto "Trust in God, but tie up your camel."

Last summer, the camera and intercom system was no longer functioning properly. The front and lower level entrance doors are locked during business hours; the cameras and intercoms allow our pastor and office assistant to see who was at either door through a computer monitor in each office.

Session agreed we should update these security devices and sought bids for improved, hard wired cameras with an intercom at each entry along with the ability to remotely open a designed front and back door from the offices. To help address a number of issues related to people relieving themselves by the air conditioner, or loitering in the parking lot at night, or homeless people sleeping in doorways, three exterior cameras were also installed on the outside of the building. In addition, the locks were re-keyed. If you require a key, please contact Tom Otto (608-393-4470). If you have any concerns about the church or grounds, please contact: Tom Otto 608- 393-4470 (Cell), Liz Nevers 608-355-7993 (Land line), or Al Schroeder 608 -356-8280 (Land line)

Presbyterian Anniversaries

April 8, 1961 - Shirley & Elgin Bulin - 62 years
April 12, 1991 - Steve & Holly Stoffels - 32 years
May 14, 1966 - Glen & Marybeth Deedon - 57 years
May 24, 1986 - Jim & Shirley Kieffer - 37 years
May 27, 1989 - Mary-Jane & Bob Foote - 34 years
May 31, 2008 - Bridget & Mark Wozniak - 15 years



First Presbyterian is a Certified Earth Care Congregation!

The Green Team recently had an energy audit of the church building performed by a specialist from Focus on Energy. After the inspection, we received a list of suggestions to improve our energy efficiency, which will benefit both the climate and our bank account. These recommendations have been passed along to the Building and Equipment ministry who have started implementing the recommendations.

Join the Green Team on Sunday, April 16 as we celebrate Earth Day Sunday together.

Later this spring (dates and times tbd), we will host a study series using *"Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table."* It is a seven-session curriculum for congregations that explores the relationship between the way we eat and the way we live, published by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The study uses scripture, prayer and stories from local and global communities to explore our relationship with food:

- The health of our bodies
- The challenge of hunger
- The health of the earth that provides our food
- The ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships
- The opportunities for action, renewal and transformation in our eating practices as individuals and as faith communities.

Watch the bulletin and Grace notes for updates on this upcoming study group!



The John Knox Presbytery's **Giving Tuesday** ministry recently sent our partners at RIP Medical debt \$14,245.25 for medical debt relief. That organization turned it into a grand total of \$1,925,734.76. This erased medical debt for 2,594 families. That would be a stack

of one dollar bills sixty feet taller than the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, or stack one statue of Liberty on top of a second one and go up 80 feet more. God accepts what we offer and makes it amazing!



Outreach Ministry there were 47 in attendance for the February 19 session of "Soup for the Soul" and several positive comments from guests. Thank you to everyone that helped with this event.

The March 19th session will include resource staff and handouts, in addition to our guest speakers Jill Ellinwood as moderator, Judy Ellington on Grief and loss, Amanda Anderson on how the community, peers and family can identify symptoms and help suicidal teens. We will have a panel for questions following the speakers and resources available by professionals.

Anne and Kim are working on an evaluation sheet for our guests. David Gilmore expressed that he would like to see us continue this outreach, so we will be discussing the series, the evaluations, and the input we're received from people. There are 32 people signed up for March 19th. Soups provided by Jean Wendt & Al Schroeder, as well as Kim & Tom, Cheese Plate by Steve, Bread provided by Anne & Dar; Desert by Cheryl A., Mickey & Dar.

March 19 – Soup for the Soul - Women & Depression; as well as Grief Depression. The program starts at 5pm with a light meal.



Period Project -

This has been a successful ministry and is a blessing to many young ladies in the Baraboo school system. We will continue the project.

Circus Parade - Tom Otto and Elgin Bulin will supervise the Parking Lot, accepting good will donations for the parking spaces. We will have a sign up at church for folks wishing to use these spots to park their cars. Darlene will be in the Narthex during the parade and she would appreciate some additional help. Please talk to Darlene if you can help out.

Our Mission for 2023 remains the same, but we will add Mental Health Awareness to the list and continue looking for ways First Presbyterian can help the community with Outreach Ministry.

The Next meeting will be April 4 at 6:30 pm at Kim and Ollie's home.

Do you sing? There is room for you in the choir! We have lost a few good members recently, and would like additional voices. Please talk to Melisa Skwor.

Presbyterian Women thank you to Sandy Edwards for hosting the March meeting at her home. The meeting opened with prayer for Presbyterian Women's Day. Delicious treats and coffee were enjoyed by all.

Treasurer's Report – Cyndy reported that we have \$4,244.08 at this time. We have earmarked \$500 for the Period Project in the fall. Cyndy reported that we will sell candy bars, pecans, and clusters before and after church until they are sold out. We sold over \$100 at the blood drive and will also sell items at the final March 19th Soup for the Soul program on March 19.

A huge thank you to Cyndy for being our treasurer for the last several years along with Mickey. Kim will share the treasurer responsibilities with Mickey going forward. We thank everyone for their help as this helps provide support to many local charities.



Dar, Cyndy, and Kim delivered 24 new pillows to Deb Bauer at Hope House and 24 new pillows to Angela Witczak at the homeless shelter. Each resident will get

a brand new pillow they can take with them. PW also delivered treats to all the First Responders in Baraboo, and Mickey brought treats for the Dog Police Officer.



A huge shoutout to all the Blood Drive volunteers and the soup makers. The blood drive collected 50 units of blood that will help save 150 lives. The next Blood Drive is May 2nd. If you are interested in making soup or helping at the drive, please let Darlene Otto know. A sign up sheet will be coming soon.

Thank you to Jean Brockley for volunteering to host the April Meeting to be held on April 12, in Fellowship Hall at 9am.

Presbyterian Women are working on a potluck event for fellowship following church on Sunday, May 21. We would like to make recipes from some of the PW Cookbooks of the past. Thank you Sandy for the interesting stories about our church cook books and recipes by several Presbyterian Women. Elsie shared some history and stories about the ladies in our church, and we all enjoyed reminiscing! More to follow!

Presbyterian Birthdays for March, April & May

March 12 - Marilyn Parkinson - our oldest member
March 26 - Bob Greenwood
March 30 - Janet Fritsch
April 21 - Jean Brockley
April 22 - Darlene Otto
April 25 - Elsie Gilmore
April 26 - Bob Zweifel
May 4 - Kathy Teasdale
May 8 - Mary-Jane Foote
May 17—Dave SaLoutos
May 18 - Deb Nieuwenhuis
May 19 - Kip Nieuwenhuis
May 24 - Mary Collins
May 31 - Sandy Greenwood



Kim and Darlene deliver thank you gifts to the Baraboo Ambulance & Fire Departments from PW.

UNDIE SUNDAY – MAY 21st!

All sizes of underwear from kids to adults will be collected. There will be a container in the Narthex to accept these donations.