

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BARABOO WISCONSIN

Newsletter #4-----2023

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

Our Worship Services are on Sundays at 9am.

Our website is <https://www.presbybaraboo.com>

ANNUAL PW PECAN SALE

It's time to order fresh new crop pecans and chocolate covered caramel and pecan candy clusters! Sale proceeds will support PW church projects as well as charity organizations in our community. Order forms are in the church Narthex and will be accepted from Sep. 3 thru Oct 8. Orders can also be emailed to Marybeth Deedon at glenndeed@yahoo.com or mailed to Marybeth at 1614 Pleasant View Dr., Wis Dells 53965. Order pickups will be in early Nov.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

A five-week Summer Lunch Program was organized by our Outreach Ministry for the month of August. An average of 28 children and adults were served lunch every weekday for an average of 140 per week. Over 1049 meals were served in 6 weeks! Our church hosted the lunches and donated and served on Mondays. Four area churches volunteered one day per week to donate and serve lunch. They were First United Methodist, United Church of Christ, St. Paul's Lutheran, and St. Joseph's Catholic.



PRAYER SHAWLS

Pastor Gilmore dedicated our current supply of prayer shawls on July 23. Church family members who love to knit/crochet create prayer shawls using donated yarn. Each stitch represents a prayer by our members. Finished shawls are offered in a basket in our Narthex to anyone wanting to give a shawl to people going through difficult times. The shawls are given along with a note telling the recipient that our church is praying for them.

BLAST FROM THE PAST!!

The Sunday School movement began in the 1780s in England. At that time, it taught reading, writing, cyphering, and a knowledge of the Bible to working children. In the succeeding years, it has provided biblical education for children and adults alike. In the late 1800s, our own church's Sunday School attendees outnumbered the church's membership. In addition to the Baraboo Sunday School, we even offered separate Sunday Schools in the Fairfield and Greenfield sections of Sauk County.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

9/9 - Dave Hatz

9/10 - David Gilmore

9/11 - Anne Crane

9/14 - Paula Palermo

9/22 - Scott Stoffels

9/22 - Sandy Edwards

9/23 - Mary Steberl

9/26 - Ollie Kearney

10/2 - Bob Foote

10/15 - Holly Stoffels

10/17 - Everett Wozniak

10/20 - Mike Steinhorst

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

MENTAL HEALTH MEETINGS IN REEDSBURG

Soup For the Soul meetings will be held this fall at the Reedsburg United Methodist Church at 833 Third Street. The meetings are on Sundays from 5pm to 6:30pm - September 17---October 15---November 19. Enjoy a free light supper and time to recharge while learning how to help those having mental health disorders, life stressors and crises. All are welcome!

PERIOD PROJECT

We collect gently used cosmetic bags to donate to a project which provides free hygiene products to local school students. There is a collection bin located in the church Narthex. Thank you for donating bags!

SUMMER MUSIC

Thank you to everyone who offered Special Music during worship in the summer months! We enjoyed all the talented musicians and singers!

SESSION AND MINISTRIES

There are 10 church members who meet once a month in a church governing group called the Session. There are also committees called ministries which meet once a month to propose events, projects and procedures to the Session. They are Buildings and Equipment, Personnel, Finance, Outreach and Congregational Life. Any church family member is welcome to offer ideas to the Session or Ministries. Call the church Administrative Assistant for names and numbers.

PREBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW meets monthly on the second Wednesdays at 9am. They usually meet at church. All are welcome! On Saturday September 23, our PW will host the John Knox PW Fall Workshop from 9:30am to 2pm. The program theme is "Carrying Each Other's Burdens." Interested members of our church family are welcome to attend. The lunch cost is \$8. You can register by signing up in the church Narthex or by calling the church office, 608-356-5945. Registration is due by September 16.

WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH

Our congregation follows Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31-46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world. As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace these areas of focus:

- ****Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- ****Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people.
- ****Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Our church Administrative Assistant is Kristin Johnson. She can be reached in the church office Tue thru Fri between 8:00am and 1:00pm. Her phone number is 608-356-5945 and her email address is office@presbybaraboo.com

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

After worship on Sundays, we offer refreshments in our fellowship hall to all who wish to attend. This is an ideal time for us to get to know each other better as well as to welcome visitors to our church. Church members volunteer to provide and serve snacks and beverages. If you would like to volunteer to serve fellowship, please sign up on the clipboard table in the church Narthex.

PASTOR NOMINATING UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly since January. They are working diligently on the detailed process of calling a new pastor to our church. The first phase of the process is completed and now they are entering a phase of conducting interviews. They have received resumes from over 20 applicants, and they are sifting through all the details to find the right match for us. The process also includes a computerized matching process between our church's needs and desires and the needs and desires of the applicants. This is a challenging and deliberate process that takes time.

What can you do to render assistance to the PNC? The answer is to PRAY WITH ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM! Pray for the PNC and give the members your suggestions if you have any. Pray for all the applicants. Pray for the one applicant who will end up being a match for our church. Pray for all the current and future members of our church family who will welcome a new pastor. Pray for patience, encouragement, discernment, wisdom, spiritual wellness and especially God's Grace. If you wish to contact a PNC member, their names and numbers are available by calling the church Administrative Assistant at 608-356-5945.



CIRCUS PARADE EVENT

Parade Parking and Open Church on June 24 was organized by our Outreach Ministry. Over 200 guests used our restrooms. The parking lot was full. \$566 was collected in donations. This amount was used to purchase ground beef for the Baraboo Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help!

OUR DONATIONS!

We collected 182 pairs of new underwear and socks for Undie Sunday and the Neighborly Free Clothing Store.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

9/4 – Darlene and Kirby Rodger

9/5 – Paula and Joe Palermo

9/21 – Joan and Tom Kaul

9/22 – Mary and John Steberl

10/20 – Deb and Cliff Nieuwenhuis

10/30 – Darlene and Tom Otto

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

MEALS ON WHEELS

A huge thank you to those who are delivering meals in September when our church is providing the volunteers: Shirley and Elgin Bulin, Cyndy Croft, Marybeth and Glenn Deedon, Paula and Joe Palermo, Elsie and David Gilmore, Cheryl Anderson, Al Schroeder, Mickey and Gene Rau, Deb, and Mike Steinhorst.

GREEN TEAM NEWS!!

Did you know that our church is Certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church USA? Every year we re-apply for this important certification by filling out an audit questionnaire and listing projects we have accomplished the past year to reduce our carbon footprint and act as faithful servants to God's Earth. We all can be very proud of this certification. Our "GREEN TEAM" meets to brainstorm, plan and follow through on energy saving projects inside our church, on our property and in the community around us. Recently we mentored the downtown Methodist Church about starting their own Green Team! Anyone in our church family is welcome to attend our meetings! Watch for our listing on the church website calendar – we usually meet the fourth Tuesdays at 6pm at church. The Green Team hopes to inspire all church family members to carry energy saving ideas into their homes. Here are a few ways to reduce your carbon footprint and SAVE ENERGY:

Turn off lights when a room is empty

Limit screen time on devices

Set thermostats: 78 in summer, 68 in winter

Limit shower times

BLOOD DRIVE

Our blood drives collected 147 units in 2022! A blood drive was held on July 21 and a total of 38 people gave blood. We appreciate all church members who volunteered to help during the drive. Our church's next Blood Drive hosting date will be February 29.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

Do you know someone who is looking for a church to attend? If so, please invite them to our worship services and events. We are happy to have visitors!

OUR CHOIR

We are happy to welcome our choir back to sing during worship on October 1. They sound awesome! Choir director Melisa Skwor invites anyone interested in joining the choir to talk to her after Sunday worship.

SUNDAY MUSIC

Many thanks to our pianists and organist for their wonderful music during worship services, David SaLoutos and Anne Calkins! We appreciate their many hours of practice, playing and accompanying!

LEAD USHERS

Thank you to all Lead Ushers who have volunteered so far this year! Anyone wishing to become a Lead Usher is welcome. Call Cheryl Anderson at 608-493-2066 to volunteer or email her at cheryla813@gmail.com

TECH TEAM

We are grateful for those who volunteer their time to tape our worship services and project scripture and group responses on our screens! They are Cliff and Deb Nieuwenhuis, Tracy, Lorelie and Kendra Drinkwater.

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

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to save money and conserve energy, the Building and Equipment Ministry has re-programmed all the church thermostats. An energy auditor recommended that we do this when we had an audit in February. Please do not override the programming on the thermostats. We want people to be comfortable when they are at church, so all ministry chairs know how to temporarily adjust the thermostat that controls the part of the church where activities are held. Upcoming projects include additional gutters on the church roof over the back entrance to eliminate icicles and the parking lot is scheduled to be seal coated and restriped.

Contact one of us if you have any building suggestions. Elgin Bulin----Liz Nevers----Tom Otto----Al Schroeder

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children of the church are looking for adults to help teach their Sunday School this fall. Teachers will teach one Sunday each month. Sunday School starts on September 10. If you are interested in helping, call Mary Steberl at 608-434-2417 or email her at masteberl@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBER!

We joyfully welcome Scott Ethun to our Church Family!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles and announcements appropriate for this newsletter are welcome! The next deadline is November 1. Submit articles to the church office.



NEW SESSION MEMBERS

Congratulations to Elgin Bulin, Anne Crane, Holly Stoffels and Terry Loomis for accepting invitations to become new Session members

CHURCH WEBSITE

Check out our church website by searching “First Presbyterian Church of Baraboo Wisconsin.” You will find helpful information there about our church including a monthly calendar of what’s happening. The website also has links to taped Sunday worship services.

[2023 PRESBYTERIANS FOR EARTH CARE CONFERENCE](#)

A “The Climate Crisis and Empowering Hope” conference will be held on Sep 20-23. Through fellowship, worship, study, and in-depth educational opportunities, you will learn more about the current climate crisis and how we as individuals, congregations, and a denomination can make a difference. Join Presbyterians from around the country for an inspiring earth-care focused conference! This is a hybrid conference, so you can attend from the comfort of your own home! More conference details and the registration link can be found at: presbyearthcare.org/2023-conference/

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PECAN/CANDY ORDER FORM

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Number of bags

Extra Large Pecan Halves
1 pound @ \$15/bag _____

Extra Large Pecan Pieces
1 pound @ \$15/bag _____

Pecan Caramel Chocolate
Clusters @ \$10/bag _____

Place your completed order form and payment in the “Presby Women Pecan Sale Orders” envelope located on the bulletin board in the Church Narthex.

Order deadline is Sunday October 8th!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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