



First Presbyterian Church of Baraboo **Newsletter**

Volume 5, 2023



*Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good;
his love endures forever.*

1 Chronicles 16:34

Presbyterian Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00

Rev. Gilmore will lead the service.

Cookies & Cider in the Narthex after the service.



Advent Sunday - December 3

Church Service at 9:00 am - then please help:

- **Outside Decorations including the Nativity**
- **Sanctuary - Tree, Garland, other decorations**
 - **Narthex, wreaths and other decorations**
- **Christmas Cards and Cookies downstairs**
 - **Subway Sandwich Lunch provided**
- **Many hands make light work - please join us!**

GRIEF SUPPORT - When a loved one passes we receive support from family, friends and church family. We all grieve differently and at our own pace and sometimes a grief support group can help. Groups are offered in our area throughout the year and they usually meet once-a-week for six weeks. For info about when groups meet in Baraboo, call Agrace at 608-327-7118 or the downtown First Methodist Church at 608-356-3991.

Building and Equipment Ministry:

It takes a congregation to maintain, repair and improve our church building. Without maintenance, any building will decompose. Thank you to all the folks that saw projects needing attention and brought those concerns to the attention of Building and Equipment Ministry, and often helped do the work or found contractors who would do the work. Thanks and blessings to you all.

Church member projects accomplished:

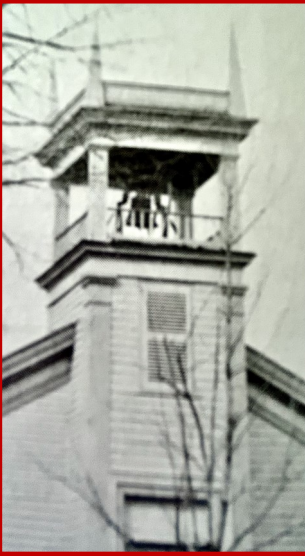
- Gene Larsen & Al Schroeder replaced the large stones in the planting along the alley.
- Al Schroeder installed a digital timer for the outdoor sign and lights.
- Elgin Bulin and Al Schroeder installed a grab bar for the choir loft..
- Paula Palemo repaired torn fabric on pew seats.
- Al Schroeder & Jean Wendt pulled weeds.
- Elgin Bulin and Al Schroeder edged the grass along our sidewalks.
- Micki and Gene Rau, our faithful custodians.

Businesses:

- ABBS Paving and Seal Coating, LCC of Baraboo filled large cracks then sealed the entire parking lot, and returned to stripe the lot.
- John Eccles of Eccles Home Improvement, Baraboo replaced missing shingles on ridge-line.
- Amos Miler of Twin River Gutters, La Valle installed new gutters on the eaves around the entrances facing the parking lot. They also painted lower outside window frames where paint was missing, noticed by Elgin Bulin.
- Andy Mistele of Andy's Painting, Baraboo cleaned and painted the cornerstone which was also noticed by Elgin Bulin.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and we thank the Building and Equipment Ministry: Liz Nevers, Elgin Bulin, Tom Otto and Al Schroeder for their work. The building is our first impression to the community and says a lot about our congregation. The building is also an indication to pastoral candidates that we care.

Presbyterian Blasts from the Past...



It was a happy day when First Presbyterian purchased the first church bell in Baraboo. It was hung outside the wooden building on 2nd Street. Soon after, the Methodists purchased a bell. And both bells rang long and hard for the July 4th celebration of 1854. Within a short time, according to the Baraboo newspaper, "some roguish boys procured cow bells and commenced opposition in good earnest. Together with the firing of fire-crackers they kept up a din

and clatter until about 11:00 o'clock."

The photo above shows the steeple of our first church building, located about where the brick house next to the American Legion on Second Street is located. The German Methodist Church bought our original church building; later buying property adjacent to it and erecting a brick church. When the new brick church was completed, the old wooden church was demolished, and a brick parsonage was erected on the site of our original church.

The Presbyterian's first bell probably went into the new tower of the brick church, but the tower has been removed and the bell was probably sold. Martha Lange, who played organ for First Presbyterian for many years, grew up in the German Methodist Church and began playing for services there.

**German Methodist Church
with steeple, circa 1918.**



American Legion Hall.



AN UPDATE FROM THE Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues the search for a new full time solo pastor. It has been almost 10 months since the PNC began meeting. We met to receive feedback from the congregation in order to put together an application (known as an MDP), for candidates to reference. We received candidates that matched what our church was looking for in a pastor. During these months, the PNC met weekly on Monday nights.

Throughout the summer, the PNC worked diligently to review applicants and even interviewed a few who seemed like a good fit for our community and congregation. Unfortunately, these candidates did not work out.

Since summer, the PNC communicates weekly but does not hold formal weekly in-person meetings. The reason the PNC is not meeting in-person is because there have not been candidates applying. This is not unique to our church, as many churches are having similar experiences with a small pool of applicants and candidates coming out of seminary.

Although we have yet to find the person God has chosen for us, the PNC has begun brainstorming and thinking outside the box on how we might locate the next pastor of our church. This includes thinking of innovative ways to find candidates beyond the traditional system used for searching for candidates. If you or someone you know is aware of anybody looking for a call, please reach out to a PNC member. PNC members contact info can be attained by calling the Church mornings Tuesday - Friday at (608) 356-5945 and speaking with Kristin.

Keep praying for the PNC and if you can help in the search for our next pastor... that will be appreciated.

Thank You—celebrating 150 years

A BIG Thank You to Elsie and David Gilmore for the wonderful service celebrating the sesquicentennial of our Church building. Thanks too for the work Cliff Nieuwenhuis and the Drinkwater ladies put into scanning photographs for the A/V program allowing us to share images from our collective past. Another BIG Thank You to the Building and Equipment Ministry for painting the cornerstone above the steeple window that was the front door to our church for 90 years. Now all can read the inscription and date found on that stone.



Presbyterian Birthdays

11/03 - Cliff Nieuwenhuis	12/01 - John Grady
11/10 - Gene Larsen	12/02 - Avis Roessler
11/12 - Bridget Wozniak	12/08 - Jim Allen
11/13 - Robert Schmiedlin	12/11 - Gail Schmiedlin
11/18 - Paige Kramer	12/13 - Pat Burkhamer
11/24 - Ray Skwor	12/18 - Tammy Bates
11/25 - Steve Wilson	12/19 - Eliza Wozniak
11/27 - Alida Valk	12/24 - Marybeth Deedon
11/30 - Zac Stoffels	12/24 - Steve Stoffel

Soup for the Soul - Mental Health Series

We will hold our informative series again this winter at 5:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of January, February and March. We have some interesting speakers planned and, of course, some delicious soup. Watch for details soon.

Our friends at Reedsburg United Methodist Church have invited us to their final Soup for the Soul on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 5:00. They will have a panel of child and youth mental health experts speaking that evening. Their church is located at 833 3rd Street, Reedsburg.

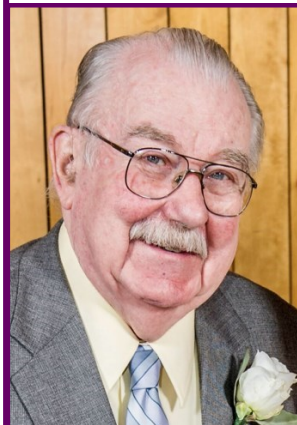
All Saints' Day

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death — his or her "birthday" as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give all of them their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

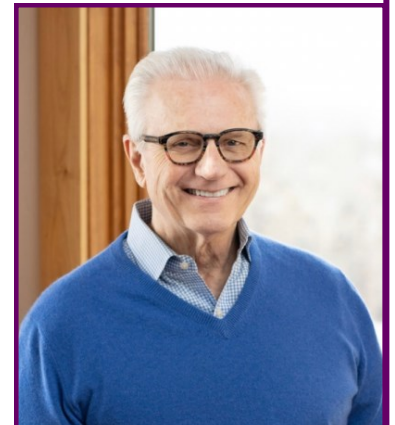
All Saints' Day has been celebrated on November 1 since the year 835. Previously it had been connected with the Easter season as a feast of all martyrs.

Our Saints for 2023



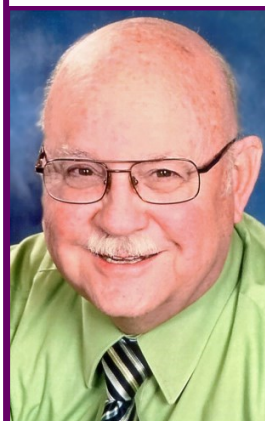
Albert Dippel Jr. - 93

Jim Kieffer - 79



Tim Teelin - 74

Penny Holum - 64



Presbyterian Anniversaries

November 20 - Haesun and Chris Roberts

December 27 - Lynne and Dan Hansen

December 28 - Alice and John Grady

GREEN TEAM NEWS!!

Two years ago, the Green Team received a grant from the Presbyterian Mission Agency to conduct environmental advocacy in our community. We chose to use the money to raise awareness of the environmental harm caused by single-use disposable plastic water bottles.

Bottled water in single-use plastic containers has become ubiquitous in our society during the past few decades. In addition to its convenience and availability, it is inexpensive, and nonprofit groups often purchase it in bulk and resell it at concession stands to raise funds.



Unfortunately, single-use plastics are not sustainable: most plastic bottles do not get recycled; energy cost in manufacturing and transporting the bottles contributes to climate change; and many bottled water companies have been accused of exploiting the communities from which they draw their water.

Additionally, microplastics that leach from the bottles may be harmful to human/animal health. All of these facts stand in contrast to what the PCUSA teaches about caring for God's earth. We also acknowledge that many nonprofits depend on the proceeds from sales of bottled water at concession stands to support their activities.

Our goal was to encourage nonprofits to switch to using more environmentally-friendly cartons of water at their events. Our grant allowed us to purchase 2 pallets (3,600 cartons) of drinking water cartons from "Just Water."



Just Water is a certified B-corp focused on sustainability and responsible stewardship. Unlike water sold in conventional plastic bottles, which are made from petroleum-based plastics, the cartons used by Just Water are made from 88% plant-based materials and other renewable resources, and have a 74% lower carbon footprint than similarly-sized plastic bottles.

GREEN TEAM - continued!

During 2022 and 2023, these 3,600 cartons of water were distributed throughout the community to various nonprofit groups, at no cost to them. The groups were free to sell or give away the water as they wished. The cartons contain messaging about why Just Water is better for the environment than conventional single-use plastic bottles. We also added "First Presbyterian Church Green Team" labels to many of the bottles, to serve as a witness to the community.

A few of the many local organizations that benefited from our donation of Just Water include: The Baraboo Acts Coalition, Powered Up Baraboo, Sauk County Queers and Allies, Baraboo Education Association, The Red Cross, Baraboo Riptide Swim Team, Baraboo Area Senior Center, Baraboo High School Athletics & Activities, Sauk County Historical Society, and the Lake Wisconsin Alliance. We hope that the groups that received our donation of water, as well as the 3,600 individuals who drank it, will consider alternatives to single-use plastic water bottles in the future.

Unfortunately, even water sold in cartons made of plant-based materials are not a perfect solution to reduce pollution. The **best** choice for the environment is to **carry your own reusable water bottle** and refill it from local sources of drinking water. Bottle-filling stations are beginning to spring up in many public spaces including schools, libraries, churches, and parks. At events, **serve water in jugs or pitchers with reusable or paper cups**, instead of bottled water. Our lifestyle choices can add up to create a better future for God's creation!



FALL VACCINATION TIME

Do you know how to access your personal vaccination record? You can look up your personal record by Googling "Wisconsin Immunization Registry". You can also contact your Doctor's office staff, who will be happy to assist.