

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BARABOO WISCONSIN

Newsletter Volume 8, 2024

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

THOUGHTS FROM THE MODERATOR

I thought it would be a good idea to share with you what is happening in our search for a new pastor. You know we dissolved the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), the main reason being that we did not have enough money in our budget to support one by ourselves. This was a result of the minimum salary going up and a change in how the church provided medical insurance. These changes added to our proposed budget, which was already over our income. With the aid and advice of the Committee on Ministry of John Knox Presbytery, we checked the possibilities of several other churches in our area with whom we might consider shared ministry.

After diligent search, we found that the Reedsburg Presbyterian Church was a possibility. We had already shared ministry with Reedsburg while Rev. Newberry was here. The Session of each church agreed to meet with each other to discern the interest of each body in pursuing the matter. Reedsburg had earlier mentioned that they were interested in talking. We met together at Reedsburg and had an informative "heart to heart" discussion about the matter. By each Session's separate action, we both agreed to continue our search for a new pastor to serve both congregations.

We also discovered, through Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, that there were two ways to have a pastor. One is "called and installed" which we were pursuing through our PNC elected by the congregation, the other is "contracted" through the action of Session (in this case, the two sessions). By proceeding on the "contracted" track, there might also be a reduction in overall monetary expectations.

Two representatives of our Session were appointed to meet with two representatives of the Reedsburg Session to discuss further the monetary expectations from each church, as well as other technical matters. We already have our church information for approved and online from the previous

work of the Session and the PNC. Reedsburg must complete that piece of work. When it is finished, both churches will be in the system which gives names of people interested in coming to our congregations. With the larger offering of both churches, we hope to attract a new pastor for our church. This process will take a while. How can you help? 1) We need your good work to keep our congregation vibrant as it is already; 2) we need your insight which can be shared with members of session; 3) we need your patience; and most of all, 3) we need your prayers.

I believe we will continue to be a vital and strong presence for each other and for our community. Most important of all, we will be able to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, and to God will belong the glory!

- Rev. David Gilmore



SPECIAL FELLOWSHIPS

Congregational Life hosted a special “Charcuterie Board” style Fellowship on July 7th, where we also celebrated the 4th of July.



On July 16, we celebrated Sharon McArthur and Anne Crane, and wished them “Farewell for now” as they embarked on new journeys.

The McArthur family membership at First Presbyterian dates back to the 1800's, with Sharon having

71 years of membership herself. She has been involved with Presbyterian Women for over 50 years, and sang in the choir for many years. Sharon moved in to the All Saints Memory Care facility in Madison to be closer to her family. There, she enjoys exercise classes, movies, delicious food, attentive care, and an abundance of attention.

Dave & Anne Crane both retired and moved to Ohio to be closer to their grandkids. Anne has been very involved as an Elder, and member of the Outreach and Green Team Ministries, session, choir, and Presbyterian COM committee. Anne also founded the Period Project at our church for

Baraboo youth and helped with the Summer Lunch Program.

Sharon & Anne were presented with prayer shawls to remind them that our prayers are wrapped around them every day.



Gail & Bob Schmiedlin hosted a special “Back to School” Fellowship on Sunday, August 18th. They are donated school supplies to teachers in Baraboo to have on hand for kids that need supplies.

YOUNG AT HEART

The 2024 Young at Heart luncheon is right around the corner! It will be held in Fellowship Hall on Thursday September 19. A social hour will begin at 11am, with lunch to follow at noon.

This year everyone that attends will enjoy a Supperclub Dinner experience, complete with cracker and cheese appetizers, beef roast, baked potato bar, green beans, salad and dinner roll, cheesecake, and mocktails.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for those who would like to attend.



PRAYER SHAWLS

Kristin updated our prayer shawl notes recently, so if you're grabbing a prayer shawl for someone, you can now pick up a printed "Prayer Shawl Note" to go with it.

You can find them in the Narthex, on the table under the TV. They are in a manila envelope marked "Prayer shawl notes". There are also envelopes to use if you wish. The letter includes a poem written by Cathleen O'Meara Murtha, which reads:



*As you wrap yourself in the
prayer shawl of comfort...*

*May the Mother of Mercy, the Father of
Faithfulness and the Spirit of Compassion wrap you
in their all-encompassing love this day.*

*May you find comfort
from all that appears too much to bear at this
moment
from all that feels as if it might be the breaking
point
from all that seems to threaten your peace of
heart.*

*May this prayer shawl be
a shelter for time of overwhelming grief
a shade in times of sorrow too deep for words
a shield from times of unimaginable loss.*

*May you be comforted
by the presence of those who love and support you
by faith in the eternal Loving One
by the memories of what you hold most dear.*

*May you be strengthened
in your daily comings and goings
in your tentative new beginnings
in your unfolding new memories.*

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles and announcements appropriate for this newsletter are welcome! The next deadline is November 15. Submit articles to the church office.

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. Thank you, Cheryl, for over-seeing our Lead Usher schedule!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

❤️ 😊 THEY WANT YOU 😊 ❤️

The children of the Church are looking for a few good men and/or women to help teach Sunday school this fall. The goal is to have enough teachers to teach once a month with at least one substitute. Sunday school will resume on September 15th. If interested please email Mary Steberl at masteberl@hotmail.com or text to (608) 434-2417.

UNDIE SUNDAY and SOCKTOBER

Coming soon! We will be collecting underwear and socks for our friends at the Neighborly Free Clothing Store during the month of October. Tags of items the store is requesting will be posted on our bulletin board in the Narthex and they will be delivered to the store at First United Methodist Church after October 27th.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



First Presbyterian Church Team Members

What a blessing the Summer Lunch Project was! We averaged 50 – 60 guests every day, with half being adults, and half children. The total number of meals served as of August 27 was 1,746, and that was with three more days to go! We are so thankful for every single person, group, and organization that donated their time, food, and skill to this project. It has grown exponentially since it's humble beginnings, and blessed many in our community.

We would like to say a very special "Thank You!" to Darlene Otto, who spent countless hours seeing this through. We couldn't have done it as well as we did without you, Dar!

We also want to thank all our wonderful hosts: Emmanuel Methodist, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist, New Life Community Advent Christian, St. Joseph's Catholic, St. Paul's Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, and United Church of Christ. Other supporting partners, donors, and/or sponsors were: Baraboo Children's Museum, Dental Associates, IAM Dairy, Las Milpas, Lion's Club, Mary's Book Club, Oak Street Antiques, Pulse Fitness, Sauk County Nutritionist, Sauk County Public Health Department, Saint Clare Hospital Foundation, Pizza Ranch, Pathway Home, The Back Pack Project, Sugar Rush Ice Cream Truck, Peach Pops, Mike's Italian Restaurant, and William Bebbler.



Emmanuel Methodist Team Members



United Church of Christ Team Members

*St. Paul's
Lutheran
Church
Team
Members*



*St. Joseph's
Catholic
Church
provided
desserts
every Friday.*



New Life Advent Christian Church Team Members

*First United
Methodist
Team
Members and
the Sugar Rush
Ice Cream
Truck*



SOUP FOR THE SOUL

Our friends at Reedsburg United Methodist Church will be holding their Soup for the Soul Mental Health Series this autumn and have invited us to attend. Their sessions will be Sundays: Sept. 22nd, Oct. 20th, and Nov. 17th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. They are moving it to the Reedsburg Recreation Center this year instead of at their church. The Rec. Center is located below Reedsburg City Hall at 134 S. Locust Street near downtown Reedsburg. Topics and speakers have not been finalized yet, but they will let us know soon.

MEALS ON WHEELS

This is a program in Baraboo that provides lunches to people in our community. First Presbyterian Church provides volunteers for one month in the summer each year. We will provide volunteers this year in September.

We have four volunteers each week that pick-up lunches from Baraboo's Hospital and deliver the lunches to people on the East and West Route. Two volunteers cover each route. The coordinator for this program is Kristin Shimon who gives us the names and addresses for lunch deliveries.

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

Glen and Marybeth Deedon, Cyndy Croft, Elgin & Shirley Bulin, Cheryl Anderson, David & Elsie Gilmore, Tom and Darlene Otto, Joe & Paula Palermo, Gene & Mickey Rau, Mike & Deb Steinhorst, and Tom & Joan Kaul.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

September Birthdays

9/9 - Dave Hatz
9/10 – David Gilmore
9/14 – Paula Palermo
9/23 – Mary Steberl

October Birthdays

10/15 - Holly Stoffels
10/17 - Everett Wozniak
10/20 – Mike Steinhorst

November Birthdays

11/3 - Cliff Nieuwenhuis
11/10 – Gene Larsen
11/12 – Dale Loomis
11/12 - Bridget Wozniak
11/13 - Robert Schmiedlin
11/18 – Paige Kramer
11/24 – Ray Skwor
11/25 – Steve Willson
11/27 - Alida Valk

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

A special celebration –
Guy and Mary Reynolds celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 31!

September Anniversaries

9/4 – Darlene and Kirby Rodger
9/5 – Paula and Joe Palermo
9/8 – Tracy and Steven Drinkwater
9/21 – Joan and Tom Kaul
9/22 – Mary and John Steberl

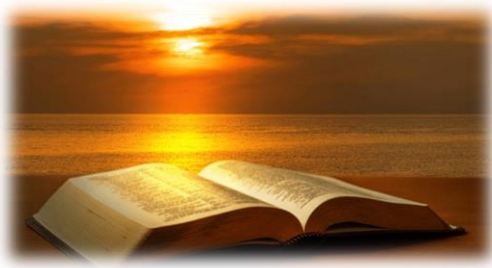
October Anniversaries

10/5 – Mickey and Gene Rau
10/20 – Deb and Cliff Nieuwenhuis
10/30 – Darlene and Tom Otto

November Anniversaries

11/20 – Haesun and Chris Roberts

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



Life Eternal

Sandra Edwards
March 23, 2024

Olive Kearney
May 15, 2024

Matteo Alcauter
May 29, 2024

Fridtjof "Fridge" Nolte
July 7, 2024

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

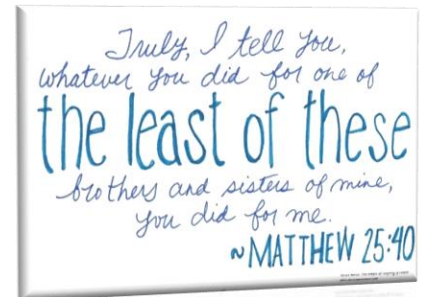
LOOKING AHEAD

As summer activities end, school begins, and fall draws near, we look forward to welcoming back:

- The Choir, along with its dedicated Director - Melisa Skwor, and Accompanist - David SaLoutos.
- Sunday school children and teachers. Classes start back up on September 15.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

It's almost fall and that means Stewardship Season is upon us. The past couple years have undoubtedly presented challenges, but



we continue to work together to move forward. As you have read in this newsletter, and those previously published, our congregation has continued to serve God by serving those around us in various ways. As we look forward to hearing more about the ways our Ministries have cared for not only our own congregation, but for those in our community, may we also be in prayer of how we can continue to support the work we are called to do, and the fellowship we are blessed to share.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 26th at 7pm.

Daylight Saving Ends
Sunday, Nov. 3

