

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

BARABOO, WISCONSIN

March, 2025

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

THOUGHTS FROM THE MODERATOR

Lent comes a little later than usual this year. Its beginning is based on the date of Easter. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. This year Easter is late, April 20. This makes Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, fall on March 5th. By using the above calculation, the latest Easter can come is April 25th, so this year Easter comes about as late as possible.

Lent, in the Reformed tradition, is understood as a season of preparation for the renewal that takes place in us in the resurrection. There is also the practice of “giving up something for Lent.” Part of this came from the old idea of penance which was a kind of “paying up” for past sin. Since God, out of love, came to us in Jesus Christ to live and die and rise again on our behalf, this sort of “paying up” is no longer necessary. Jesus’ work of love takes care of that. For us as reformed the “giving up” practice is to be a reminder of what we’re about this season. For instance, if a person chewed gum a lot, every time that person would get a hankering for gum, that person would be reminded of faith in Jesus Christ, his birth, life, death, resurrection on our behalf as a gift of God. So, if you are a practitioner of this tradition, what is given up needs to be a frequent reminder. This practice mirrors Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness in preparation for his own ministry. It was a period of deprivation and concentration, sharp thinking about who he was called to be and what he was called to do.

I believe Lent is an important time for our own sharp thinking about who we are to be and what we are to do as disciples of Jesus Christ both as individuals and as a church community.

Instead of “giving up,” we might consider “adding to” our lives some sort of practice that will go beyond Lent and remind us of who we are as God's people. It is said that Martin Luther upon washing his face each morning, would use a bit of water and splash himself to remind him of his baptism and who he was as he went out the door for a new day. The Jewish people often wore something that reminded them of who they were. Elsie has put a hidden scripture on the doorpost of our house that's obvious enough for us to be reminded of who we are every time we go in and out of the house. Beginning or improving our discipline of Bible reading and prayer can also be very helpful. There will be a devotional for you to use during Lent. It is most important not to do these things in a rote manner, but with a concentration on who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ, a momentary or, if possible, a bit longer time to raise our consciousness about our identity as followers of Jesus Christ.

We will also have an Ash Wednesday service, a Maundy Thursday service, and a Good Friday service, all at 7 PM, as well as regular Sunday services as anchors for Lenten practices. Welcome to Lent. David G.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March Birthdays

3/1 – Sherry Baldwin
3/5 – Deb Steinhorst
3/11 – Colton Richard
3/12 – Marilyn Parkinson
3/13 - Jean Wendt
3/20 – Ava John
3/24 - Liz Nevers
3/26 - Amy Beisbier
3/26 – Luke Kramer
3/26 - Bob Greenwood
3/30 - Janet Fritsch

April Birthdays

4/12 – Mary Reynolds
4/14 – Guy Reynolds
4/16 – Anne Calkins
4/21 - Jean Brockley
4/22 - Darlene Otto
4/25 – Elsie Gilmore
4/25 – Lynn Hansen
4/26 - Bob Zweifel

May Birthdays

5/4 - Kathryn Teasdale
5/4 – Cyndy Croft
5/8 - Mary-Jane Foote
5/9 – Dan Hansen
5/15 – Kirby Rodger
5/17 - Dave SaLoutos
5/18 - Deb Nieuwenhuis
5/19 - Kip Nieuwenhuis
5/23 – Darlene Rodger
5/24 – Mary Collins
5/28 – Gene Rau
5/29 – Pat Drescher
5/31 - Sandy Greenwood

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

April Anniversaries

4/8 – Elgin and Shirley Bulin
4/12 – Steve and Holly Stoffels
4/21 – Gene and Mona Larsen

May Anniversaries

5/5 - Al Schroeder and Jean Wendt
5/14 – Glen and Marybeth Deedon
5/27 – Bob and Mary Jane Foote
5/31 – Mark and Bridget Wozniak

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

KIDS IN ACTION!



Our young disciples built a display for our "Hearty" Soup collection for the Souper Bowl. Our goal was 59 cans for the 59th Super Bowl, but in one week we had already collected 79! Thank you to everyone that donated to the

cause. All hearty soups were donated to the Baraboo Food Pantry at the end of February. Thank you to our teachers Janet Fritch & Mary Steberl.





ENTERED INTO LIFE ETERNAL

MEMBERS

Alida Valk – November 23, 2024

Patricia Burkhamer - December 14, 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

LENT

A Season of Renewal

- Lent Devotionals are available in the Narthex.

- March 5, Ash Wednesday
Worship Service at 1st
Presbyterian Church, 7pm

- April 17, Maundy Thursday
Ecumenical Worship Service
at United Church of Christ,
7pm

- April 20, Easter Worship
Service at 1st Presbyterian
Church, 9am



OUTREACH UPDATES



The Outreach Ministry presented a check for \$750 to Wendy Schneider of Pathway Home of South-Central Wisconsin. Pictured: Jeffrey Cleveland, Wendy Schneider, Darlene Otto & Tom Otto (Members of the Outreach Ministry).



Outreach also presented a check to Dennis Lindsey of the Baraboo Food Pantry for \$205.00. The donations were from reserved parking for the Baraboo Christmas Light Parade downtown Baraboo in November. Pictured: Dennis Lindsey (Baraboo Food Pantry) Tom Otto (Outreach Ministry) Mickey Rau (Volunteer) Darlene Otto (Outreach Ministry) & William Wresch (Volunteer).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.



Presbyterian Women donated \$500 to the Pathway Home for Sponsorship to the Coldest Night of the Year. The walk took place Saturday, February 22. Pictured with Wendy Schneider, director of the Pathway Home are Amy, Dar, Cyndy, Mickey, Annie, and Kim.



Presbyterian Women enjoyed a Bible game at their January meeting led by leader Elsie Gilmore.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



We not only had the three Wisemen, we also had the three wise women. The men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. The

women brought a casserole for the family, diapers for the baby and a broom to help tidy up for visitors.

Thank you to Mike Steinhorst, Steve Stoffels, Jim Allen, Holly Stoffels, Tammy Zimmer & Elsie Gilmore for your participation.



SOUP FOR THE SOUL

We had a wonderful turnout this year for our presentation on Mental Health Awareness. Kurt Goeckerman from Sauk County ADRC, Claudia Bavika, a therapist from Goodman Counseling in Reedsburg, Gaitlin Fenwick of the Blake Tinman Foundation, and Scott Ethun our moderator. Thank you to everyone that participated, attended, and donated soup, bread, and desserts!



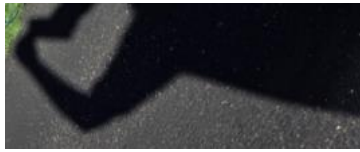
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members from our church participated in the "Coldest Night of the Year" fundraiser walk, which raised funds and awareness of homeless individuals and families in our area.





The only photo of the photographer...Steve's (sideways) shadow, which formed a heart while he was taking pictures.



ADVENT CELEBRATIONS
Garland was hung,
The tree was lit.
Cookies were frosted,
(and eaten a bit).
The church was decorated,
And crafts made together.
But most importantly...
Memories were made to last forever.



BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

The newest energy reduction project of 2025 was to replace old fluorescent lights in the downstairs entry to the elevator with LED tubes. Al Schroeder did this work.

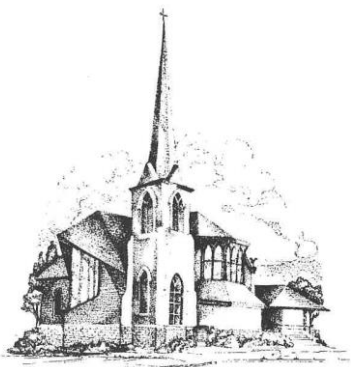
Thank you, Al! Another larger project, which Al supervised in late 2024, was the installation of an ADA handicap door (the left/southside door when entering) with push plates on the outside and inside. This makes it easier for our members using wheelchairs, walkers, and canes to enter and exit the lower level from the parking lot. We are now fully handicap accessible with access to the elevator, our Fellowship Hall, and the Sunday School Rooms. Our dear church member Sandy Edwards initiated this project with B & E before her death and her family has donated the funds to complete it. Bless you Sandy and a special thanks to the Edwards family for their financial support.

An upcoming project is the planned repair and replacement of the deteriorating landscape timbers along the alley. A landscape contractor has been hired and this work will start in the spring.

Thank you, Elgin, Tom, and Al, for your oversight on this project.

Please don't hesitate to let one of our members know if you spot something that needs this Ministry's attention. Sincerely,

Elgin Bulin,
Liz Nevers,
Tom Otto,
and Al
Schroeder.



POETRY CORNER

Out of, In, and Into Eternity
(On Occasion of Ordination)

I have been touched by the Lord:

She formed me with her hands,
Male and female in her image;
She gave me all that is needed,
The garden for our pleasure;
She chose me because of my ordinariness,
Sarai into a strange land;
She blessed me in spite of my lies,
Rebekah in scheming trickery;
She kneaded me through forced labor,
Jochebed in slavery;
She danced with me in anticipation,
Miriam with her tambourine;
She called me to liberation,
Rahab without a country;
She appointed me governor and judge,
Deborah under a palm tree;
She ripped apart my conceit,
Gomer in captivity—

She mended me in Bethlehem,
She taught me with simple stories,
She stood in my way when I wandered,
She washed my feet,
She endured my ridicule and slaughter,
She transcended my most powerful assault;

She claimed me as her own,
Mary Magdalene in the garden;
She scattered me to the ends of the earth,
Priscilla to another city;
She molded me in persecution,
Teresa before her accusers;
She strengthened me in solitude,
Coretta in her aloneness;
She nurtured me in community,
Margaret in the company of God's people;
she laid her hand on my head:

I have been touched by the Lord.

—Elsie Gilmore

Name: _____

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love

