

THE CHURCH'S LIFE  
News of the First Presbyterian Church  
Oregon, Wisconsin

Interim Pastor: Douglas R. Loving

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## NOVEMBER 2009

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### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

With the beautiful leaves changing before us, it is evident that a new season is underway. At First Presbyterian Church a new season begins in November with the arrival of the Interim Pastor. The last few months of being your bridging pastor have been a joy for me. Thank you to everyone for such a gracious and warm welcome to the ministry here. I felt at home from day one. It is obvious how many gifts are present within the congregation and it is inspiring to see how readily people share their time and talents. I sincerely appreciate having had the opportunity to serve here.

Grace and Peace,

Dan

### Interim Pastor Search Update

The Interim Pastor Search Committee interviewed six candidates for the position of Interim Pastor. The committee is pleased to announce Reverend Douglas R. Loving will serve in that capacity beginning November 2.

Doug received his BA from Yale University; his Master's of Divinity from Princeton Seminary and Doctorate of Divinity from Bethany Seminary. He is a retired Presbyterian minister, having served Crystal Lake (IL) Presbyterian Church for 30 years. After retirement, Doug felt called to serve in the capacity of interim minister at several churches since 2002. He has extensive training and experience as an interim pastor, providing a steady presence for congregations during times of transition and change.

His task is to help FPC say goodbye to Clara and prepare us to move forward with a new called and installed minister. Doug will also guide us through the new building transition.

Doug and his wife live in Middleton. Traveling, biking, birding, hiking and reading are just a few of his hobbies.

We welcome Reverend Loving to our ministry and church family.

## **ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER!**

**Sunday, November 8**

It's time to come and give thanks with your church family! Join us November 8<sup>th</sup> for a turkey dinner right after church services in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Invite a friend! There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer for volunteers to bring turkey, potatoes, gravy and a few other items. Everything else will be potluck. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share. We are also looking for people to help with set-up and clean-up.

If you are physically unable to attend the dinner but would like a meal delivered to your home, please contact the church office at 835-3082.

## **TURKEY DINNER DELIVERIES!**

If you are homebound and would like to have a Turkey Dinner brought to you on Sunday, November 8, please call the church office (835-3082) by Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be pleased to deliver your meal in the early afternoon.

## **DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER**

In order to allow you to plan ahead, and the church office to avoid the Christmas rush, next month we will be providing a two month newsletter as we have done in the past few years. All articles for the December-January Newsletter must be turned in by **Thursday, November 12**. Please be punctual with your articles so as not to over burden the church office during a busy time for us all. You may email your articles to [karenfpc@verizon.net](mailto:karenfpc@verizon.net). Thank you for your kind consideration.

## **THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP**

The Oregon community is again invited to participate in a long standing Thanksgiving tradition ... worshipping together on Thanksgiving Eve. This year's community worship will take place at Holy Mother of Consolation Church (651 N. Main St., Oregon) on Wednesday evening, November 25 at 7:00 PM.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The past couple of months have seen a lot of variety in the Adult Sunday School Class, and the upcoming months promise even more. Plan now to join in the stimulating conversation and good fellowship of the Adult Class, every Sunday morning from 9:15 – 10:00 AM.

Nov 1 Spiritual Gift of "Gentleness" led by Steven Johnson

Nov 8 Discussion on changing denominations led by Sue McGuigan and Steve Johnson

Nov 15 Technology, facebook, twitter, what's next? led by George Jura

Nov 22 Communication across generations led by George Jura (combined with high school class)

Nov 29 Oral histories, life review led by Jenny Fiore

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE – September 30, 2009**

### **GENERAL FUND**

Amount pledged year to date:	\$102,470.75
Pledges received year to date:	\$100,754.00
Per Capita bill:	\$6,215.75
Received to date:	\$2,259.50

### **BUILDING APPEAL**

Amount committed:	\$809,252.00
Pledges received to date:	\$638,800.79

*Can you help by meeting your financial commitment?*

**ALL ARTICLES FOR THE  
DECEMBER-JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER MUST BE TURNED IN  
BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

## **CHRISTMAS at CHURCH**

... for those who plan ahead!

Knowing that some of you are already thinking of Christmas, we share these highlights of the Advent and Christmas season at church. Further information will be available in the December-January Newsletter.

- November 29 First Sunday of Advent  
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar  
9:15 AM Church School  
10:30 AM Worship Service
- December 6 Second Sunday of Advent  
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar  
9:15 AM Church School  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- December 13 Third Sunday of Advent  
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar  
9:15 AM Church School  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
Children's Christmas Program
- December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar  
9:15 AM Church School  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
Cantata Sunday  
11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship  
4:00 PM Blue Christmas Service
- December 24 Christmas Eve  
4:30 PM A Service of Lessons and Carols, including the candle lighting ceremony  
5:30 PM Soup and Finger Foods  
Christmas Eve potluck  
7:10 PM Christmas Carol Sing-Along in the Sanctuary  
7:30 PM Traditional Christmas Eve worship, including the candle lighting ceremony
- December 27  
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar  
9:15 AM All Sunday School classes will be on vacation  
10:30 AM Worship Service
- January 3  
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar  
9:15 AM All Sunday School classes will be on vacation  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
Sacrament of Holy Communion

We hope this helps those who are already beginning to plan their celebrations of Christmas!

## **POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY...**

Traditionally, the chancel area has been decorated with red Poinsettias during the Christmas season. They will decorate the church from December 20<sup>th</sup> through December 24<sup>th</sup>. After the 7:30 PM Christmas Eve service, the plants may be taken home.

Orders can be taken from those wishing to purchase a poinsettia during the first half of November. Order forms will be in the Sunday morning bulletins or you can phone the church office @ 835-3082.

## **YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS**

Hello everyone. The youth group has been busy this fall. We collected many coats and hats for kids for the Madison Coats for Kids drive. Many children will be warmer this winter thanks to your efforts.

The youth group also had a really fun hike at Magnolia Park (just South of Brooklyn). We managed to use the GPS unit to discover a "geo-cache". Inside the treasure box was a log book and a variety of "treasures" that you could take with you. The Johnson family was savvy enough to bring more treasures to leave for the next treasure hunter.

At the end of October we will be raking leaves for people who need help with their fall clean up.

In November we will be heading out to the horse farm to ride/pet Jen's horses. Also in November we will be making some meals for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Madison. Look for the new signup sheets for the upcoming youth group events. The sheets will be posted on the pastor's door. Or you can RSVP to Jen at 608-835-0501 or [hydrokid1@yahoo.com](mailto:hydrokid1@yahoo.com).

Cheers,  
Jen and Scot

## **BILL'S CENTER RECEIPTS**

So far in the very short time, one month, we have been collecting Bill's Center Receipts we have been reimbursed \$170.00 for our efforts. Keep up this good work, it's simple, painless and greatly benefits our church's mission. Thank you all for making it a habit to ask for a Bill's Food Center orange sticker from the cashier. The red striped canister will remain on the coffee table in the back of the sanctuary for your receipts at any time.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP MONTREAT YOUTH?**

The Montreat youth are going to attempt to use can recycling as one of their "fundraisers".



Since space at church is limited, if you are interested in contributing to this fundraiser, please call the Matt Meyer Family at 835-9831.

After we have an idea how much interest there is, we will make a plan for collection.

Thanks for your support.

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Looking to be get more involved in your church family? The Fellowship Committee is looking to add a few more members. Help plan activities that promote community within our congregation. We meet the second Thursday each month for about an hour. If you are interested or for more information, contact Renee Martell at 835-8557 or Eva Meyer at 835-9831.

## **FELLOWSHIP AUCTION ITEMS**

I know February is a long way off, but now is the time to start thinking about what items you might like to contribute to the auction this year. Remember that it is a fellowship auction because fellowship is exactly the item we are hoping people will buy. We are again looking for items mainly of the intangible kind. We are looking for ideas for services, social gatherings, and hobbies that you might be willing to donate

to the auction. The event last year was a success due to the creativity and generosity of this congregation. Think outside the box again. If you can dream it, we can auction it off!

Some ideas to get you thinking would be hosting a Superbowl party, a pool party, or a game night. If you like to cook, maybe you'd like to host a Mediterranean night or make your own pizza party. Perhaps you'd be willing to share a hobby with a small group by having a stamping party, leading a group hike, or having a Wii party. Or maybe you have a service you'd be willing to do for someone like shoveling sidewalks, babysitting, or giving music lessons. I know there are lots of great ideas out there!

We are also hoping to have some tangible items for sale at the auction. These would include baked goods or hand-made items. If an item would require a significant investment of time or money, please consider auctioning it as a future order. (In other words, consider bringing a sample or idea of what you would like to make, but wait until someone actually orders the item at the auction to begin working on it. We would hate to have someone spend hours making a hand-made item that didn't get purchased!)

Thanks for cooking up your ideas and sharing them with our congregation. If you have any questions at this point, please contact Renee Martell at 835-8557. Also, we would like to form an auction committee to help oversee this event. We plan to meet 3-4 times prior to the auction. Contact Renee if you would be interested in serving on that committee.

## **THANK YOU!!!**

Nancy Freeman Wallace has been so kind to donate the following books and tape:

*SHARE THE CARE* book and VHS tape (How to organize a group to care for someone who is seriously ill) by Cappy Capossela and Sheila Warnock.

*AFTER SHOCK* (What to do when the doctor gives you or someone you love a devastating diagnosis) by Jessie Gruman Ph.D.

They are available to all and located in the Deacons cupboard in room #3.

## **MANY THANKS!!!**

As of September 26, our church has a new Dry Erase Board/Flip Chart Holder. It was used for the first time September 27 in the adult class when Dolly Ledin used the white board as a small projection screen for her Power Point presentation on Costa Rica. So, in addition to holding a flip chart, and being a dry erase board (special markers are provided), this easel can also be used as a screen. What an invention! Thanks to Jo Gregory and Chris Weigt for purchasing this very useful item for our church.

## **FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

The need for Food Pantry keeps growing; in September, we served 122 families, representing 399 family members. That month, we spent \$3,400 for food, since our shelves were almost bare after summer, and would have been worse if the churches had not helped out through their summer drives. Thanks to the teaching staff of Oregon School District, and their drive, the shelves are nicely filled for October.

Our church will have two food drives during the (school) year. The first one is from October 15 to November 15, and features peanut butter, spaghetti sauce and canned fruit.

The Presbyterian Church is in charge of the October 29<sup>th</sup> open Food Pantry. If you care to work on setting up the Food Pantry, or on giving food out on open Food Pantry day, please contact Joyce Larson (222-3399 or joylars1@aol.com).

## **ESPKN**

### **(Extra Special Preschool Kindergarten News)**

We're back and we're busy! We spent the summer growing, losing teeth, growing teeth and having a lot of fun. Some of us started kindergarten and we really like our teachers. When we came back to Sunday School it was fun to have a new room.

Our bridge pastor visited us and explained why he is at church instead of Clara. We learned that retired means stopping your job and not that you are really tired! He also told us some very important things like – we can call him Dan, he is our friend, we can talk to him anytime AND he has a candy jar in his office!!!

We are learning about God's love and the Singing Lady is teaching us new songs and signs. We also got to pull the rope that makes the big church bell ring, but we couldn't hear it! Our teacher promised to take us outside soon so we can hear it.

Sometimes we bring things with us. For example, one of our friends had an extra pair of socks in their pockets. You never know when you might need a pair of socks – something to think about.

Until next time....

## **AND THE WINNER IS...**

Congratulations to Peter Tissot and his group, **Rising Gael**. Their CD, "One More Day" has made it past the first round of cuts for a Grammy nomination in the Contemporary World Music category. Final nominations will be announced December 2. Think positive thoughts for them!

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