

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

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OCTOBER 2009

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“COME VISIT OUR CHURCH” is an important invitation to share with our friends and neighbors. As we enter our fall routines, I would encourage each one of us to do something out of the ordinary and invite someone to worship. (Remember that Presbyterians invite someone to church on average of once in 27 years! We can be so much more than average.) Along with inviting someone to service, try to think of someone who might like to join in one of the youth activities or the adult education series or our bible study. A personal invitation is the most effective way to introduce someone new to our family of faith.

One of the great joys of Sunday morning at First Presbyterian Church is the variety of ways our children are involved in worship. Youth are joining in all aspects of service as greeters, ushers and worship leaders. (People still speak so highly of the youth-led Montreat Service). During worship, one of the most delightful times is having young people come forward for the children's time. The Spirit is present in the spontaneity and honest observations of our youth! In September, FPC made promises to our young children as we welcomed first graders to worship and presented bibles to third graders. It is our privilege and calling as church adults to be involved with and concerned about the spiritual development of our church kids. We all grow and change through our lifetimes, but sometimes it is easier to see the dramatic changes in a child's life. When our young people grow up in church and learn about God's love from an early age, they have a foundation for a lifetime. The children and youth of this church are great. They are a wonderful presence now and reminder of the future to come.

Our Stewardship theme this year involves “U”. Look for more in and around the sanctuary in the coming weeks. After commitments are made on Consecration Sunday, Session will prepare a budget for 2010 at FPC. The gifts we make will support the people, programs and the building that enable our ministry. These commitments serve to help us and others grow through the years.

See You Sunday,
Grace and Peace,

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Consecration Sunday
October 18
Join us for worship at 10:30 AM
and for the
Celebration Luncheon following worship!
Be sure to make your reservation for the Luncheon
(a catered meal, not a potluck dinner).
Sign up during Worship or call the Church office at 835-3082
by Sunday, October 11.
See you there!

OCTOBER 4th!

Christians of all denominations, from all around the world, will gather at the Lord's Table on World Communion Sunday, October 4th. The Worship Committee is planning a very special service for this annual event. Please join us in worship on October 4th. *It's a great Sunday to bring a friend!*

**PEACEMAKING OFFERING
to be received on October 4th!**

Enclosed in this Newsletter is information on the Peacemaking Offering, one of two denominational offerings that our congregation participates in each year. The 25% of the Peacemaking Offering is retained by our congregation for use locally.

OCTOBER IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

Everyone is encouraged to bring their calendars to church with them during the month of October. Posted on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office will be schedules for Ushers, Coffee Fellowship Hosts/Hostesses, and Communion Stewards for January – May.

This is YOUR chance to sign up for the jobs YOU would like to do most, on the dates that are most convenient for you. You are encouraged to sign-up as an individual or as a family...just sign-up!

Thank you!

**FRIENDSHIP DINNERS -
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th
AT 6:00 PM**

**"Make new friends, but keep the old,
One is silver and the other gold."**

Saturday, October 17th will be Friendship Dinner evening. This will be an opportunity for you to have a meal and fellowship with other members of our church family. Groups of 8-12 people will gather for a meal at someone's house at 6:00 PM. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!!

The goal is to expand your current circle of friends at church, so you will be mingling with people you may not know very well. If you are interested in attending, the Fellowship Committee will assign you and the rest of your party to a group for that evening. While there will be a host, everyone will be asked to contribute to the meal in some way.

If you are interested in attending, please fill out the enclosed RSVP form and return to church by October 4th. There will be a box in the foyer as well as extra forms. If you have any questions or prefer to RSVP by e-mail, please contact Renee Martell at mikeandrenee@charter.net or at 835-8557. You can also contact the church office at 835-3082. Invite a friend! We hope you are able to attend!

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

November 8, 2009

Plan to come and bring friends.

Volunteers will bring turkey,
potatoes, or gravy.

(A sign up sheet will be
in the church foyer)

Everything else will be potluck.

Bring your favorite

Thanksgiving dish and appetite. Remember
the 4 F's...

FUN, FOOD, FRIENDS, FELLOWSHIP

THIRD GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLES

The following Third Graders have received a Bible from the church family during morning worship on September 22nd. Jordan Hake, Erin Johnston, Sierra McNall, and Levi Walmer. May each of you grow in faith as you read all of the wonderful stories found in the Bible. Happy reading!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS and YOUTH LEADERS

The Church School staff and Youth Leaders were commissioned during worship on the first Sunday of the program year, September 13. Please take time to say "thank you" to the following people who will be working with our children, youth, and adults this year:

Pre-school and kindergarten:

Judy Belanus

Grades 1 - 3:

Lori Johnson, Wendy Goist Jones,
Connie Jensen, Linda Clark, Renee Martell
and Susan Johnston

Grades 4 - 8:

Laura Cameron, Bev Meyer,
Nadine Krenz and Susan Niebauer

High School:

Doug Brethauer, Dolly Ledin,
Wendy and Mark McNall

Adult Class Planning Co.:

Steve Johnson, chair, Jessica
Barmack, Mike Fahey, Sue McGuigan and
Ralph Stromquist

Singing Lady: Char Hanson

Youth Leaders: Scot and Jen Williams

FINANCIAL UPDATE –

August 31, 2009

Amount pledged year to date: \$90,934.00

Pledges received year to date: \$87,559.00

Per Capita bill: \$6,215.75

Received to date: \$2,559.50

BUILDING APPEAL

Amount committed: \$809,252.00

Pledges received to date: \$635,087.79

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Attention Graduating High School Seniors! If you are a confirmed member of the First Presbyterian Church of Oregon, Wisconsin and will be enrolling for the first time as a full-time student at an accredited institution of higher learning, with the intention of obtaining a bachelors degree, technical degree, associate degree, or equivalent and enroll in that institution either within two years of graduating from secondary school or upon separation under honorable conditions from extended active duty (other than for training) with any branch of the U.S. uniformed services, you are eligible to receive a scholarship from our church's College Scholarship Endowment Fund. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Dave Hanson (835-5934) at the church office.

SYMPATHY

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the following families who have lost loved ones in recent weeks:

Bob and Deb Ray, on the death of
Bob's mother

Matt, Bev and Eva Meyer, on the
death of Bev's mother

Ted, Judy, Jay, Neil and Luke
Belanus, on the death of Ted's father

Bob and Sylvia Wheeler, on the
death of Sylvia's mother

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A variety of interesting topics is in store for the Adult Sunday School class in upcoming weeks.

October 4 "Stem cells: update on promises and pitfalls" led by Jeff Jones

October 11 Update on the status of the new church building led by Steve Jenson and Ted Belanus

October 18 National healthcare initiative and issues led by Carlene Bechen

October 25 Mission work in Africa led by Bisi Adeniyi

The Adult Class meets in the lounge, adjacent to the sanctuary, from 9:15 – 10:00 on Sunday mornings. Join us ... you'll be glad you did!

FROM OUR MAILBAG

THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you for your kind words, written notes, cards, flowers, phone calls and hugs since the passing of my Mom and to those who either attended the visitation or funeral. It has given me more comfort than I can express in words. Your love and support is very much appreciated.

Bev Meyer

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.

AUCTION COMMITTEE

Remember that auction we had back in February? It's time to start planning it again! An Auction Committee is being formed to lay the groundwork for this year's event and to smooth out any wrinkles from last year. We plan to meet 3 - 4 times between October and February. If you would like to help plan this fun event, please contact Renee Martell at mikeandree@charter.net or at 835-8557.

BILLS RECEIPTS

Bill's Food Center continues supporting their customers and giving back to their community. They will reimburse 1% of all receipts turned in with a **"SUPPORTS OREGON"** sticker. Let us join the "shop local" theme and turn in our receipts. All you have to do is request that a **sticker** be placed on your receipt by the cashier at the time of purchase. Place your receipts in the marked canister on the coffee table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are already in the habit of saving your receipts and asking for a sticker for supporting another organization please consider supporting FPC as well in our efforts. Now that you have succeeded in remembering to bring in your reusable shopping bag for a dime credit, try to remember to ask for a **"SUPPORTS OREGON" sticker** before you leave.

WOODEN BOXES

What are those wooden boxes for, you know, the ones in the corner at the right of the entrance to the dining room? Those wooden boxes are there for your convenience, to bring clothing that your family no longer needs. We will take them to Dane County Free Clothing. They do have some stipulations: NO jewelry, NO makeup, NO toys or books, NO dirty or damaged clothes, NO bedding or towels. The things just mentioned can be dropped off at Good Will, and it will save us the

bother of sorting and delivering them, too.

UPDATE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The search for the Interim Pastor is in high gear. The committee has been meeting regularly in recent weeks and good progress is being realized.

One of the first tasks was to determine the amount of time an interim pastor would be needed to serve our congregation. The committee preferred a "full-time" appointment (40 hours per week). Reverend Sandy Nuernberg (Pastor at Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church and John Knox Presbytery advisor to our committee) reported that interim pastors generally prefer part-time appointments. The search committee felt that 75% (30 hours/week) was the minimum needed to meet our most important needs during the approximately 12-18 months the interim pastor will be with us.

The committee developed a job description and salary package that was submitted to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry on September 10. Upon approval by COM, candidate resumes will be forwarded to the search committee for review. The committee will determine candidates who will be invited for face-to-face interviews in the near future.

The search committee members are Ted Belanus, Dorothy Davidson, Lisa Eyers, Char Hanson, Tom Niebauer, and Deb Ray. Pastor Sandy Nuernberg serves as our COM representative.

The committee welcomes your suggestions, thoughts and prayers as we continue the search for an interim pastor. Thank you.

THE ROAD HOME

Have you wondered how you can get involved in reaching out to others in need? It is really quite simple; and it just got even easier. The Road Home is a non-profit organization serving homeless families with children that partners with 48

local congregations creating an Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of over 1000 volunteers each year to provide shelter, meals, and support for families.

First Presbyterian Church of Oregon has been involved with IHN for the past 3 years and has the opportunity of providing volunteers about four times each year. The next opportunity is during the week of November 15th through November 22nd. We will be in charge of hosting dinner, children's activities and the overnight on TUESDAY, November 17th and breakfast on Wednesday morning, November 18th. We will also need to find volunteers to move luggage onto a U-Haul on Sunday, November 22nd.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this wonderful mission, please contact Wendy McNall by phone at 835-8049 or email wendy.mcnall@yahoo.com

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

On Wednesday, October 21st, the Women's Evening Circle will plan to tour the Road Home day center where these homeless families spend their day time working with a social worker, looking for work, and getting counseling; all in an effort to help these families secure affordable housing and then be able to stay in it. You do not have to be a regular member of the Evening circle, nor do you need to be female. We will meet at the church at 6:30 PM and then carpool to the day center on Olin Drive near the Alliant Energy Center. This tour lasts for 1 hour and then we will be going out for ice cream. Nancy Freeman Wallace will be working on arranging carpooling and the social aspect after the tour. Please look to the church bulletin as October approaches. The more the merrier.

CAN YOU HELP WITH SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE BAR?

The Sunday Morning Coffee Bar has become very popular with our church family, but we need more people to help with it. It's not a difficult task ... just order a couple of pots of coffee from Kwik Trip and bring a treat or two. More specific "helpful hints" will be sent to you. PLEASE SIGN-UP to help with this enjoyable fellowship offering. The sign-up sheet is on the Coffee Bar table. Volunteers may designate where the donations for that morning will go.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

As Christ said, "Feed my lambs." This is a continuing effort, so the Presbyterian Mission Committee scheduled two food drives for this school year. The first drive is October 15 to November 15, and the featured food will be peanut butter, canned meat and tuna, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce and beef stew. You may place your donations in the wooden box in the foyer.

MORE FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Presbyterians host Food Pantry in October. We always need volunteers to help on the last Thursday afternoon of the month when the Food Pantry is open, and also during the month for sorting donations. If you can help, please contact Joyce Larson @ 222-3399.

FOOD PANTRY - THANK YOU

It is my sad duty to report the resignation of Nancy Nelson from the position of Co-chair of the Presbyterian Food Pantry. Nancy is involved in the Orfordville Food Pantry, plus she and Nils live between Orfordville and Janesville, which is a fair distance from Oregon. Many thanks, Nancy, for the service you have so willingly provided to the food pantry.

Tom Niebauer
Mission Committee Chair

FOOD PANTRY OPPORTUNITY

With Nancy leaving as Food Pantry Co-chair, there is an opening for someone to fill that volunteer position as co-chair with Joyce Larson. Following is a job description. Keep in mind that the Presbyterian Church shares food pantry responsibilities with four other churches. Everyone involved is a volunteer.

Wanted: an individual who will work hard for one month out of five. This person will need to be at food pantry the entire afternoon of the open Food Pantry day, the month we are responsible for it. Will work with other volunteers to sort donated food. Will help to inventory food and plan purchases needed for that month. Will cooperate in preparing the report and tidying up after open Food Pantry, before turning it over to the next church. Will attend Food Pantry meetings once every quarter. Occasionally will help out another church when its Food Pantry committee asks for help. If interested, please contact Tom Niebauer or Joyce Larson