

THE CHURCH'S LIFE

News of the First Presbyterian Church Oregon, Wisconsin

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LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

For those who like to plan ahead, the following special services of worship will be held during Holy Week:

<u>April 1</u>	Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM	Worship at First Presbyterian Church Sacrament of Holy Communion
<u>April 2</u>	Good Friday
7:00 PM	Worship at People's United Methodist Church
<u>April 4</u>	Easter Sunday
8:00 AM	Family-oriented Worship Sacrament of Holy Communion
9:00 AM	Easter Breakfast
10:30 AM	Worship

SENIOR RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The Senior Recognition Luncheon will be held on Friday, March 26th from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. If you consider yourself a "senior", plan to spend an afternoon mingling with old friends, making new friends, and enjoying a good meal. If you haven't already, please RSVP to your deacon

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you can help with the Spring Recognition Dinner on Friday, March 26 (11:30 AM – 1:30 PM), please sign up at church. Volunteers are needed to help provide transportation, help set up on Thursday evening at 7:00 PM, waiter/waitress the tables beginning at 11:00 AM on Friday, and to help with dishwashing and clean-up. Thank you!

YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday February 14th, eleven youth along with leaders Wendy and Mark McNall conducted an inspirational and touching service entitled "Reaching Out". Our youth shared personal and courageous stories, sang a beautiful duet and enthralled the children with a touching story during children's time. They led responses, announcements and a poignant and personal "Prayers of the People" where each joy and concern voiced by the congregation was included. Their faith, leadership and talents made our church very proud and touched many hearts. The youth participating in the service were: Luke Belanus, Heather Edgren, Melissa Eyers, David, Brian and Lisa Johnson, Brandon Jones, Grace Ledin, Katie McGuigan, Eva Meyer and Sam Pavel.

The Children's Choir under the direction of Char Hanson added another highlight to the youth service. The Choir sang two energetic songs and even invited the congregation to join them and sing and sign a refrain. We quickly realized the children make it look much easier than it really is! The joy and fun that radiates from the children during their songs makes them a blessing to watch. Thanks Char for your enthusiasm and love in conducting.

HOSPITALIZED

Jo Gregory has been in the hospital recently. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

For the first three Sundays in March (7th, 14th, 21st), the Adult Class will discuss the book entitled "Three Cups of Tea". This book is about Greg Mortenson, the American mountain climber who lost his way coming down from some of the highest mountains in the world, and stumbled into a village where children did their school lessons writing on slate out in the cold open air. He resolved to build a school for that village and has been building schools in Pakistan ever since. We will be having tea at each of these classes to commemorate the "Three Cups of Tea" concept: "The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honored guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family, and for our family, we are prepared to do anything, even die."

The Adult Class continues to provide variety and thought-provoking conversation on Sunday mornings from 9:15 – 10:00 AM. Join us in the lounge, adjacent to the sanctuary, and stretch your mind!

HELP FOR HAITI

Through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program we have an opportunity to make and send hygiene kits to Haiti. The kits consist of: 1 hand towel (approx 16" x 28"), 1 wash cloth, 1 wide-tooth hair comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 bath size bar soap in its original wrapper, 1 toothbrush in its original packaging, small container of Band-aids, and a plastic one-gallon zippered bag.

You may help by purchasing individual items, donating completed kits or contributing money and we will shop for you! A box will be provided for items in the Narthex of the church. For further information or questions, please contact Nancy Nelson at 608-876-6928.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On March 28, we will receive the OGHS offering. More than sixty years ago, American Christians joined together to respond to the worldwide devastation caused by World War II. Recognizing what a difference we can make when we work together in Christ's name, Presbyterians have continued to support OGHS ever since. In response to Jesus' call, "Feed my sheep," our gifts to the offering support the ministries of Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. One Great Hour of Sharing continues to offer hope for those most hopeless: we walk toward recovery and wholeness with those whose lives have been shattered by disaster, and we stand with communities facing the slower crises of hunger, disease, unemployment, and environmental degradation that make them vulnerable even before disasters strike. In sharing resources with people in need around the world, we not only witness God's love in action in their lives: we feel it moving in our own. We practice what God preached – Feed my sheep.

Envelopes for making a contribution to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be available in the church pews. You can also mail contributions directly to church.

BILL'S RECEIPTS

You all are doing a fantastic job turning in your Bill's Receipts with stickers and it is paying off. Thus far since last September, we have received \$430.50 just for shopping at Bill's. What a great deal!

FROM THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Highlights of the January 24th

Annual Meeting! For those of us who were present at the meeting, below are some good reminders of both the highlights of 2009 and the dreams/visions for 2010. For those who were unable to attend, you'll perhaps be interested in some of the creative ideas that were developed.

First, highlights from 2009:

- * The retirement of Rev. Clara Thompson
- * Trip to Montreat by 17 youth
- * New choir director and organist
- * Karen Baker's retirement
- * Variety of ministers filling the pulpit
- * Vacation Bible School
- * Auction
- * The way the congregation has carried on the church's work without a minister
- * The dedication and work by Karen Detra
- * The Texas mission trip by 9 members
- * The special performances done to raise money for a grand piano
- * The mission trips of Dolly Ledin to Costa Rica and Philip Hanson to Guatemala
- * The feeling of being welcomed to the church
- * Continued and increased participation with The Road Home
- * Food Pantry
- * Progress made on plans for the new building
- * Participation in the ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and their recognition of the participation of Rev. Clara Thompson
- * Senior luncheon
- * Appreciation of the leadership provided by Rev. Elwood Carey and the Presbytery
- * Opportunities for fellowship
- * Support of the college students through scholarships and packages
- * Membership participation

And then, Dreams and Visions for 2010 and beyond:

- * Hiring of an interim pastor
- * Hiring of a new pastor
- * Increase in size of the choir
- * Ground breaking of the new church
- * Exploring for a new Sunday School Curriculum
- * Investment in an artificial Christmas tree

- * New pitcher for pouring juice into the chalice for communion service
- * Use of handbells
- * Increased participation in Sunday School
- * More mission opportunities for youth as well as for all ages
- * Continued participation and support by all members
- * Increase in the number of volunteers and contributions for the Food Pantry
- * A good experience for the high school students at the Triennium
- * Church participation in community and local mission efforts
- * Rejuvenation of our enthusiasm regarding ways to raise funds for our new church.

All of these ideas will now be taken to the Session for their discussion and possible action.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – January 31, 2010

GENERAL FUND

Amount pledged year to date:	\$11,516.16
Pledges received year to date:	\$8,757.00
Per Capita bill:	\$6,171.55
Received to date:	\$1,917.75

BUILDING APPEAL

Amount committed:	\$809,252.00
Pledges received to date:	\$696,289.79

Can you help by meeting your financial commitment?

EASTER LILY ORDERS

Look for the Easter Lily forms in the church bulletins during March. Please fill out the forms for the number of plants and the names of the loved ones to be honored or remembered. Place the forms, along with a check made out to First Presbyterian Church, in the box on the table in the foyer. Thank you for helping to make our Easter celebration a beautiful one!

THANK YOU!

The Triennium Youth would like to say a BIG thank you to our Church Family for their support of our Fellowship Auction Luncheon. Because of your generosity, \$302.89 has been added to the Youth Trip Fund. THANK YOU!!

EXTRA SPECIAL PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Our class has been learning about Jesus. After we heard the story of Jesus' baptism we made flying doves. No, they weren't real, but we could make them fly by blowing through a straw. A favorite story was about Jesus calling the fisherman to follow him. We loved that project because we got to paint the bottom of our feet and make our footprints on paper! That paintbrush really tickled our feet so there was plenty of giggling going on that day.

Since Valentine's Day was a Sunday we talked about love. What is love? Well, it is giving and getting hugs and kisses. It is also about getting chocolate. We heard a story about how much God loves us. Then we filled a box with hugs and kisses and closed it up quickly so they wouldn't escape. We gave these boxes to our parents because they also love us so very much!

Until next time...

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are able to walk a short distance and are willing to park at the Hitching Park lot or across the street in Dr. Breitbach's Chiropractor office lot on Sunday mornings, you would be helping folks who need accessible parking at church -- people with mobility issues or small children to carry or "herd". Church Parking is at a premium, especially in winter when several handicap spots in the back parking lot at church are not available due to snow. Many thanks to those who are able to help by leaving the spaces in the church lot and the street parking close to the church, for those who need it most.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

Would you like to remember a loved one, recognize a birthday or anniversary, say thank-you, or simply spread some sunshine in the sanctuary on Sunday morning? Why not say it with flowers? Be creative and think outside the box...or, vase! You will find a sign-up sheet on the table in the church narthex. You can choose the date you will be bringing in your arrangements, plants, etc., and bring them to church before worship service on Sunday morning.

OREGON/BROOKLYN FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry has made it through the holidays without running out of food... *thanks to all of you.*

We will be having another Presbyterian food drive in March. We are featuring the following items: canned fruit, peanut butter, canned meat, adult type soups. AND if each of us would bring a new **toothbrush** or two, we would be well on our way to supplying all our clients with new toothbrushes!!

One more item: the Presbyterians are in charge of Food Pantry on March 25. Contact Joyce Larson if you are available to help sort or distribute food. Thank you again.

HELP THE CHURCH SAVE MONEY

Communicating with you is important, however, the costs associated with producing and sending a paper newsletter and other mailings are very significant, not only in terms of postage but also in terms of supplies and staff time. That's why our goal for 2010 is to use electronic communications as much as possible. Please send your email address to Karen in the church office @ karenfpc@verizon.net to sign up for receiving your newsletter and other mail electronically. Our promise is to never share your email address without permission.