



Voices of Faith

From Deb's Desk

You have or should have received a letter from me announcing my resignation and retirement effective December 31, 2017. Several of you have asked, "Why?" I could give some crazy and wild answers but the simplest and most honest answer is because I believe God is calling me to retire from full time ministry in the church and to do other types of ministry. I believe right now that the new ministry I'm being called to is substitute teaching. God may have other things in mind as well but for now, that's what I see in the foreseeable future.

I have been serving in ordained ministry since 1983 — as long as our denomination has been in existence. In fact, I was ordained the same day the two main branches of our denomination came back together. And I have

been serving in ministry in the church longer than that.

What all this means is that as of December 31, I will cease to be your pastor. I will not be able to officiate at weddings, funerals/memorial services, baptisms, etc. that are held here at Faith without the invitation of the Pastor and/or Session.

Tom and I will begin searching for a new congregation with whom to worship and Tom will be transferring his membership at some point in the future when we have decided where to land.

There is always some anxiety that swarms around when a pastor leaves (or arrives, for that matter). What will we do? How will we survive? Who will do this? Who will do that? You will be in the hands of very capable people on the Commis-

sion on Ministry who will help you journey forward. Sarah Rand, our Congregational Care Coordinator will be meeting with the Session in September to talk about the Holy Cow assessment which I would guess the Session will agree to participate in with the entire congregation. I believe it will help you as you move forward in ministry and mission.

This can be an exciting time for this congregation and for Tom and me. We are praying for you and hope you will do the same for us. While there will be a few Sundays when I am not here — finishing out vacation time, I look forward to our time remaining and pray that God will continue to bless the ministry and mission we have together.

Faith Presbyterian Church

September 2017



Inside this issue:

Hygiene Kits	2
Sunday School	2
Worship Time Change & Choirs	2
Save the Date	3
Co-Moderator	3
Thursday Study	4
Cell Tower	4

Personal Hygiene Kits

Our youth group is collecting items for Personal Hygiene Kits to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. PDA then sends the kits for distribution to various cities, states, and countries following natural disasters or those caused by human hands.

Each hygiene kit contains:

- 1—hand towel approximately 16"x28" — no finger tip or bath towels, please
- 1—wash cloth
- 1—wide tooth comb (out of

- package)
- 1—nail clipper (out of package)
- 1—bar of soap — bath size
- 1—toothbrush — left in package
- 6—band-aids or other brand
- Gallon size zip lock bags to hold all these items
- Toothpaste is not necessary — they have it and put it into the



kits before they are distributed. If you can help the youth with any or all of these items, please bring them to the church during September. The youth will complete the bags and get them shipped off the first part of October.

Sunday School Resumes for All — September 10

Sunday school will resume on Sunday, September 10, for all ages — 2 through adult.

Jodee Plazek will again be with the littlest students and they meet in the nursery.



Our multi-age class will meet in the north end of fellowship hall, taught by Chelsea Zurawski.

Our youth meet in the south end of fellow-

ship hall and are led by Rich Hudy.

The adult group continues to meet in the lounge. To begin the fall, they will be studying the Ten (10) Commandments.

All are welcome!! Contact Jodee Plazek for more information!

Worship Moves to 10:30 am Choirs Resume

On Sunday, September 10, we will again be worshipping at 10:30 am. Our 'school year' schedule continues through Memorial Day week-end.

Mark your calendars now so you aren't late for worship on

September 10. This also means that we will begin our choir schedule (copies are available on the table in the hallway). Our praise choir will sing on September 10. Our chancel choir will rehearse on Sundays, September 17 and 24 and will sing during worship on the 24th.

All are welcome to join our choirs — no experience is nec-

essary. Also, parents, be on the watch for a youth choir. We have several children who love to sing (as is witnessed by the Christmas play and VBS) and we want them to be sharing in a great choir experience too.



Save the Dates

Be sure to mark your calendars now for these upcoming events!



The Deacons' annual Spaghetti Supper will be held on **Saturday, October 7, 4:30-7 pm.**

This annual event provides income for the Deacons and their many mission projects. Tickets

will be available shortly from any Deacon following worship. They are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 and under.

The Deacons will appreciate

your help on Sunday, October 1, to reset the sanctuary for the supper.

The fall rummage sale will be held on **Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14th**



from 8 am until 2 pm. Ellie Birch is again heading

this up and always does an amazing job. Please bring your items to the church beginning on Sunday, October 8th. If you have items ready but don't have a place to put them, we do have storage available. Contact Ellie for additional information about storage and to

help with the set up, sale, and clean up as well as resetting the sanctuary following the sale.



Our fall Faith-in-Action Sunday is **Sunday, October 15.** We will not

have Sunday school this day but will arrive at the church at 9 am for the opening portion of worship, then go out and help our neighbors, returning to the church about 11:30 pm to conclude worship. Following worship, we invite you to Cousins Subs, highway 100 and Drexel, to support the Worship and Spiritual Nurture Committee in a fund raiser.

Presbytery of Milwaukee Welcomes Co-Moderator

The Presbytery of Milwaukee will hold its September meeting at Waukesha, Southminster Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, September 26. The Rev. Denise Anderson, pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church, Temple Hills, Maryland, is co-moderator of our General Assembly. She will lead a workshop on the intersection of race and poverty and will preach during the evening service of worship. All are invited to attend but you need to register through the Presbytery of Milwaukee's web page —

www.pbymilwaukee.org

Denise, along with co-

moderator, the Rev. Jan Edmiston, are serving our denomination until the 2018 General Assembly.

Please join us as we welcome our co-moderator, Denise, and hear her reflections and insights on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Rev. Denise Anderson

Thursday Study Group — Bad Girls/Boys of the Bible

The Thursday morning study group will resume on Thursday, September 7, 10 am. We will be looking at "Bad Girls of the Bible" and "Bad Boys of the New Testament" using the books, *Bad Girls of the Bible Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue* and *Bad Boys of the New Testament Exploring Men of Questionable Virtue* both by Barbara J. Essex. It is not necessary to purchase the books — we will use excerpts from both books. All men and women are invited to join us in this time of study. We meet weekly in the lounge. Hope to see you on Thursday, September 7 at 10 am.



US Cellular to Build Tower

US Cellular, a nationwide cell phone company, has leased some of our property for the construction of a 120 foot monopole cell phone tower here at Faith.

The church was approached about a year ago with the proposal, and following much conversation with the representative from US Cellular, and among session members along with personal prayer and thought, the Session voted to accept the offer that was presented.

Once the lease was signed, we received \$1,000 and once the tower is up, we will receive \$1,100 per month. The overall lease, is for a 30 year period, is renewable every 5 years. There is a 3% increase every year in our revenue.

Following our approval, soil testing, and passing with an affirmative vote by both the Franklin planning commission and the Franklin city council, permits were obtained and the construction can begin. We are hoping the tower will be up and functional by October.

The State of Wisconsin has a law currently in place that allows for cell towers to be constructed pretty much anywhere and so in spite of some disagreement as to it being placed on church property by others in the Franklin community, the city didn't have any grounds to fight the tower. The city did ask that a wooden fence be built around the base of the tower and the small building that will house any equipment needed and that landscaping around the fence be installed.

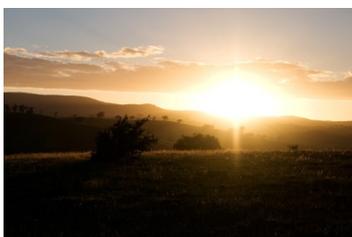
The Session is hopeful that this income will allow us to broaden our mission activities and help us to balance our budget after many, many years of having no balanced budget. And it most certainly hopes that this will not cause members to feel that their financial support is no longer needed.

Currently a large portion of our income (\$18,600) comes from the rental of the manse and this would add an additional \$13,200 a year to our income. However, relying on manse rent and cell tower leasing — 1/3 of our budget for this year — is not a good thing. Your continuing support of this congregation is vital to our future.



Faith Presbyterian
Church

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A Poem by Dongxia Shi from *Gifts in Open Hands*

In the dawn
You walk toward me
When I am confused
You shower me in Love

In the darkness
You bestow light
When I am hesitant
You show me Your Words

In my days
You grant a mission
When I am weak
You lend me Your Power

In sickness
You are by my side
When I am suffering
You offer me the Cure

In conflicts
You increase my strength
When I am in pain
You grace me with Peace

In all my life
You leave your footprints
When I am empty
You give me Your All
