

Dear Friends,

"How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10)

What is this good news that we are called to bring to the world? It is the news that God loves this world. That's it in a nutshell – God loves. What is so good about this news is that God loves the whole world, not just some of the world, but every last one of us, without exception. Sadly, too often when we say, "God loves," we then continue, by our words and action, to limit this love.

The good news is that no one is left out, left behind, neglected or ignored when it comes to the reach of the love of God. This is good news and it is up to us, by the way we live and act, to make sure this message is heard, loudly and clearly.

These last ten days I have been back at school in Austin Seminary, studying a class in Narrative Theology and Homiletics – this is the fancy way of saying, "Storytelling and Preaching." It was challenging to be back at school and to begin formal studies after a break of nearly 26 years. In one of the classes I had to preach before my peers, always a daunting task. This brought to mind a story of another preaching class where it was the custom for students to preach for their peers. The story goes that one student was extremely nervous about this assignment. They stood before the class and began, "Does anyone know what I am going to say?" The class replied, "No!". The student then said, "Neither do I!". And sat down. The professor was furious and so asked the student to preach the following day. The student stood before the class and asked, "Does anyone know what I am going to say?" The class replied, "Yes!" The student sighed with relief, "Good, then I don't need to tell you." The professor was once more enraged by this behaviour and told the student they had one last chance.

The next day the student, standing before his peers, said, "Do you know what I am going to say?" Half the class shouted, "Yes!" And the other half shouted, "No!" "Great!" Said the student, "Those of you who know, tell those who don't."

Perhaps this story has a deeper truth to it and this student spoke wisdom into the class. Those of us who know about God's love for the whole world are required to tell those who do not yet know of God's love.

This is the challenge for the people of God, especially as we live through these troubling days of hatred and division. We stand as God's people, called to show God's love to others by word and by action. We love because God first loved us and God now calls us to be God's love poured into the lives of others.

Blessings and peace

Pastor Gilman





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

716 COLLEGE AVENUE
RACINE, WI 53403
262.632.1686

Senior Pastor

Rev. Gillian Weighton
PastorGillian@FirstPresRacine.org

Visitation Pastor

Rev. Steve Fringer
SCFringer@Hotmail.com

Organist and Choir Director

Alejandro Alumbrosos
Piano3842@yahoo.com

Handbell Choir Director

Nancy Buck
NancyBelleBuck@yahoo.com

Financial Secretary

Doris Deschler
Doris@FirstPresRacine.org

Sexton

Val Klass

Church Secretary

Shelley Maurer
Office@FirstPresRacine.org

Music Leader

Mark Paffrath
Mark@MarkPaffrath.com

Parish Nurse

Peggy Taylor
PeggyParishNurse@yahoo.com

[www. FirstPresRacine.org](http://www.FirstPresRacine.org)

HISTORY NOOK

How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light-bulb? Quite a few when it is the chandelier in our sanctuary. According to a brief history of our church written by Georgia Hall in 2008, the chandelier was presented as a memorial gift in 1914. "There are 48 bulbs and to change them the chandelier is lowered from above the ceiling. A person goes up steps into the attic area and proceeds out a long narrow catwalk to unwind a cable winch. It is quite an undertaking so it's done only when the number of burned out bulbs annoys enough people".



It was last cleaned and bulbs replaced in the Spring of 2008. This time the chandelier bulbs will be changed when the scaffolding is in place to repaint the ceiling where there is water damage.

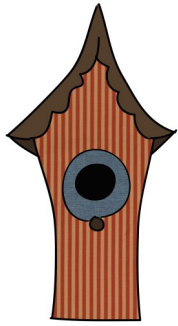
Finally, I would like to thank Steve Simpson, chair of Building & Grounds Committee and his team of dedicated volunteers for all the behind the scenes work they do to keep our historical church beautiful and well maintained. Bravo!

Nancy Reeser
Archive Committee



Begin the journey to the cross

March 1, 2017



THE SANCTUARY

Our Sanctuary will be closed Mon., Feb. 20 thru Fri., Mar. 10. This will allow the contractors adequate time to put up the scaffolding, paint the ceiling and remove the scaffolding while keeping everyone safe.

THE DEACONS DIGEST

The Deacon's Food Basket project was a great success this year. We delivered a total of 45 baskets. Despite the cold weather, the Congregation came out in full force to get the baskets delivered. It was the feeling of the Deacons that a Sunday delivery worked well. We are leaning towards doing that again this year. If you have strong feelings about this one way or another, please let the Deacons know. We heard feedback about how appreciative our recipients were. We will temporarily suspend collecting for the Deacons Fund because your generosity has left us in fairly good financial shape. Thank you for your support.

We will start planning the Church picnic by securing a date and place in the next month. Again, pass along any suggestions you may have. We will get the date published as soon as we have secured the park permit. Finally, we will be working on more clearly defining our role as Deacons in the coming meetings.

Karin Roach
Deacon Moderator

Reminder: The deadline for newsletter articles is listed on the "Calendar of Events" included with each month's newsletter mailing. March's deadline will be Mon., Feb. 20 at 12:30 p.m. and the Prep Party is scheduled for Thurs., Feb. 23 at noon. Thank you!

BOOK CLUB

You're invited to join us for the First Presbyterian Book Club meeting on Fri., Mar. 3 at Linnea & John Brooke's home. We gather at 7pm for discussion of the book "Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. After reading "Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People," we were intrigued by this very unconventional pastor and wanted to learn more.

We bring snacks to enjoy while we have as much conversation as an hour or so can accommodate. Everyone is welcome. Please call Linnea to let her know that you are joining us so she can put out enough plates.

Linda Schubert
Book Club



FEBRUARY SCHEDULES

HANDBELL CHOIR

Wed., Feb. 1, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Wed., Feb. 8, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Wed., Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Sun., Feb. 19, 9:30 a.m.- Performance
Wed., Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal

CHANCEL CHOIR

Thurs., Feb. 2, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Sun., Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m.- Performance
Thurs., Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Sun., Feb. 26, 9:30 a.m.- Performance

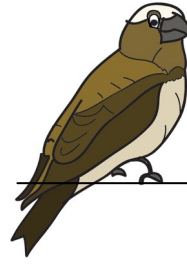
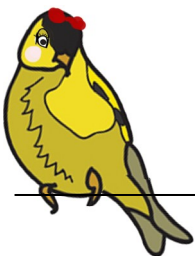
NEWS FROM DEBORAH CIRCLE AND SENIOR GEMS

Thank you to those who joined us in January for brunch at Meli's Café and shared their ideas for programs for 2017. Suggestions included outings, service events for our congregation and community, meeting for brunch or lunch at local restaurants.

The Senior Gems have assisted with getting newsletters ready for mailing which is usually done later in the month, and Deborah Circle members have provided food and help with one community meal each year. We plan to continue with these, if you are interested in helping out anytime that would be much appreciated!

Our event for February will be getting together on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 1:00 p.m. at church to make valentines to go to shut-ins and food pantry recipients. If you wish to help by donating ready-made valentines or supplies to assemble hand-made ones, they can be left on the back table in Ihrman Hall labeled Valentine materials. We look forward to being together for a time of friendship and fellowship and invite anyone to join us!

Ginny Holle
Deborah Circle Committee



1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now, we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

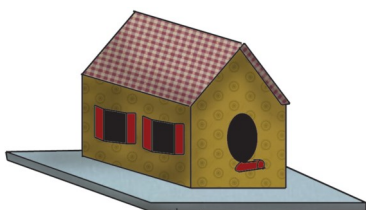


IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

In 1960: The average annual income was \$5,620. The average new home cost \$16,500. A dozen eggs were \$0.57, and a gallon of milk cost \$0.49.

In 1980: The average annual income was \$17,710. The average new house cost \$76,400. A dozen eggs were \$0.91, and a gallon of milk cost \$2.16.

In 2016: The average annual income was \$55,775. The average new house cost \$300,000+, while a dozen eggs were \$1.68, and a gallon of milk cost \$3.06.



FEBRUARY FIRSTS

Many firsts happened in February. Here are a few:

2004 – Facebook first launches.

1968 – “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood” debuts.

1965 – First Polaroid “Land” camera introduced.

1962 – John Glenn is first American to orbit Earth.

1959 – First Barbie doll for sale in stores.

1937 – Nylon material patented by DuPont.

1935 – Monopoly board game goes on sale in stores.

1930 – Former planet Pluto discovered.

1923 – King Tut’s burial chamber opened.

1920 – The Royal Canadian Mounted Police formed.

1910 – Boy Scouts founded.

1892 – Bottle cap patented.

1878 – Phonograph patented by Thomas Edison.

1849 – Gold seekers arrive in San Francisco.

1790 – First meeting of the U.S. Supreme Court.

WINTER RECIPE—AU GRATIN RANCH POTATOES

Ingredients –

- 32 oz. bag frozen hash brown potatoes, (thawed)
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 1 [10¾ oz.] can cream of onion soup
- 1 [0.4 oz.] pkg. dry buttermilk dressing mix
- 2 chopped green onions
- 6 T. melted butter, divided
- 2 cups grated white cheddar cheese, divided
- 1½ cups crushed ranch flavored potato chips or tortilla
- black pepper to taste

Instructions –

- 1) Preheat the oven to 325°F. Spray a 9 x 13” baking dish with cooking spray.
- 2) In a mixing bowl, mix together the hash browns, cream of onion soup, sour cream, buttermilk dressing mix and chopped green onions. Season with black pepper to taste.
- 3) Stir everything until the ingredients are evenly distributed.
- 4) Add 4 tablespoons of melted butter and 1½ cups of the cheese. Mix well.
- 5) Pour the mixture into the baking dish and drizzle with the remaining two tablespoons of melted butter.
- 6) Sprinkle ½ cup of cheese on top then spread the crushed evenly over it all.
- 7) Bake for 1½ hours – ‘til golden and bubbly.
- 8) Serve hot.



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS—REVISED

1st Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Elaine Jacobson
Pam Wortley
Ken Schacht

2nd Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Reeser
John Brooke
Linnea Brooke
Debbie Yale

3rd Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Mac MacCaughey
Kate Gleason
Julia Reeser

4th Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Linda Schubert
Jenny Humphreys
Megan Humphreys

1st Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Denise Park
Vi Shufelt
Barb Armstrong

2nd Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Steve Simpson
Pam Simpson
Denise Harris

3rd Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Martha Fusco
Judy Rowland
Myrna Kryger

4th Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Ginny Holle
Nancy Hennessey
Mary Ringwalt

Food Receiving Crew

Steve Bernstein
John Brooke
Debbie Yale
Bob Franks
Kerry Franks
Ben Neal
Tony Aiello

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FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

(continued)

Other

Bill Anderson
Amanda Hansen
Jerry Ritter
Nancy Ritter

Subs

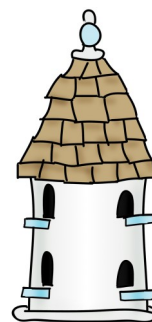
Pat Holub
Randy Holub
Beth Shelton (Thursday sub)
Catherine Neal (back-up evening shifts)
Nancy Moore



Did you know that by volunteering a few hours each month, YOU can make a positive impact on someone else's life? Our Food Pantry is in need of a few more volunteers. It is open Wednesdays from 4:30 to 7:00pm and Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

This would be a great experience for any of those high school students who need to complete community hours for school.

If you'd like to make a difference, meet new people and you're willing to work hard for a few hours each month, please email your contact information to: office@firstpresracine.org



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The **FOOD PANTRY** continues to serve an average of 12 families per session. We are excited to have Tony Aiello take over the responsibility of inventory management.

He's been working on setting up an organized system of inventory rotation and has the shelves meticulously arranged.

We have recently lost several of our volunteers due to illness, travel, moves and inability to perform the expected tasks. We are therefore appealing to everyone to consider volunteering so we can continue the good work we are doing. We ask our volunteers to commit to one session per month. This is a little over 2 hours of your time. It's a great way to serve and enjoy some time with other Church members.



The job involves assembling groceries from a list and packing them in bags and boxes. Depending on how many people we serve, it can be physically demanding work. So, while we want to include everyone, volunteers need to be able to repeatedly lift above five lbs. and be on their feet for at least two hours. If you cannot make a once per month commitment, we can also use more substitutes.

Please let Karin Roach or LuAnn Hansen know if you would like to join this worthwhile initiative.



Free Tax Help

AARP Foundation TAX-AIDE volunteers will provide low and moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to age 60 and over, with quality assistance in filing their personal income taxes. Trained volunteers will be available at the following sites:

Racine County

- ♦ **Dr. John Bryant Community Center**, 601 21st Street, Racine, 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m., **Tuesdays and Thursdays only**, starting January 31 through April 6. Daily sign-in sheet, first 25 taken. Walk-ins only, no appointments and no phone calls. ***DAVE HOLLE VOLUNTEERS HERE ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. HE IS IRS-CERTIFIED. DAVE PREPARES AND ELECTRONICALLY FILES NUMEROUS RETURNS FOR SENIORS YEARLY.***
- ♦ **Humble Park Community Center**, 2200 Blaine Avenue, Racine, 9:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, starting February 1 through April 12. By appointment only. Please call (262)886-9612 and specify Humble Park appointment.
- ♦ **Racine Literacy Council**, 734 Lake Avenue, Racine 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Wednesdays starting February 1 through April 12. By appointment only. Call (262) 632-9495 for appointment.
- ♦ **Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park Hall**, 9614 Northwestern Ave. (County K), Franksville, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays (except the week of Feb. 21 and Apr. 4, open Wednesdays Feb. 22 and April 4) and Thursdays starting February 2 through April 6. By appointment only. Call (262)886-9612 and specify Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park Hall appointment.
- ♦ **Sturtevant Village Hall**, 2801 89th Street, Sturtevant, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mondays starting February 6 through March 27. Walk-ins only, no phone calls, no appointments.
- ♦ **Love, Inc.**, 408 S. Pine Street, Burlington, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Thursdays starting February 2 through April 13. By appointment only. Call (262)763-6226 for appointment.
- ♦ **Graham Public Library**, 1215 Main Street, Union Grove, 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Saturdays starting February 4 through April 8. Walk-ins only, no appointments, no phone calls.

Bring **Photo IDs** for taxpayer and spouse and **Social Security cards** for taxpayers and dependents. Bring previous year's (2015) tax return, plus all income and expense documents pertaining to Tax Year 2016 such as Social Security statement, SSI records, wages, pensions, interest, dividends, healthcare coverage, paid property tax bills, etc.

For Wisconsin Homestead Credit, taxpayers must bring their 2016 property tax bill or Rent Certificate signed by their landlord. Maximum income from all sources must be less than \$24,680 to be eligible for Homestead Credit.



“A Healthy Winter Heart”

The winter season may be full of heart-warming celebrations, but cold weather can also pose some unknown risks to your heart.

630,000 Americans die each year from heart disease. The rate of deaths and hospitalizations for heart disease and stroke tend to increase dramatically during the winter. A study in “Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association” discovered that in some cases the number of heart-related deaths increased by more than 50 percent. It looks like winter is hard on the heart for reasons both obvious and obscure. Here’s three as outlined by Life Line Screenings, a provider of health screenings.

Shorter, colder days. Darker days can upset the balance of heart-related hormones, increase the level of stress hormones, like cortisol, and lower the threshold for a cardiovascular event. Cold weather can reduce blood flow to the heart by tightening your arteries. If you must go outdoors, it helps to warm up indoors with some stretches first, as well as dress warmly for the weather.

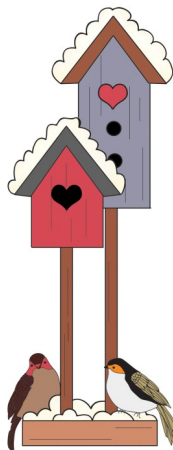
Disrupted routines. From chores to eating and sleeping, many routines are thrown off by winter. For instance, doing something strenuous like shoveling snow in the morning is a time when you are usually inactive, so it raises your blood pressure and increases the risk of a cardiovascular event. So go slow, and do not over exert yourself.

Flu season. As we all know, winter means the flu. The flu usually causes inflammation which can make arterial plaque less stable and trigger a heart attack. The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu shot, especially if you are older than 65 with risk factors for heart disease.

Our lifestyles, our sense of peace and connection with God, and the quality of our relationships help to keep us healthy.

Be Heart Healthy! Blessings,

Peggy Taylor, R.N., Parish Nurse



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 rd	Bill Anderson Kate Gleason
4 th	Maggie Seater
5 th	Gloria Flynn Ed Hunt Jay Yonker
6 th	Jim Hall
8 th	Victoria Barry Kristie Carpenter Bonnie Eastman
9 th	Daniel Eifert Katie Harris
15 th	Christopher Kazanecki
16 th	Bob Johnson
17 th	Beth Elzinga
18 th	Fumi Nakayama Mark Zimmerman
19 th	Nancy Buck Kristin Kraftzenk
20 th	Jaylen Ervin David Higgs
21 st	Megan Griffith Nicholas Hansen
22 nd	Madeline Millin
23 rd	Debora Sorensen
26 th	Marilyn MacCaughey Beth Shelton
27 th	Donald Bruning
28 th	Louise Shapley

