
DREAM ACRES



Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Omro

December 2011

The Perfect Child!

It is the prayer of all parents to give birth to the “perfect child.” They check the toes, the fingers, the eyes, looking for physical blemishes and dreading finding any. Mary and Joseph were no exception. But they knew in their hearts that this child was indeed perfect.

This perfect child broke into a world made imperfect by evil expressed in injustice, war, and illness mixed with the forces of love, peace, and justice. He came “to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim the release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18).

This perfect child chose to be born in a Jewish stable within the context of the Roman Empire. His genealogy included Canaanites and Moabites – some of the ethnic groups prevalent in Palestine at this time. He spoke Aramaic, Hebrew, and probably even Greek. He ministered to Samaritans and Romans, as well as to his own Jewish people. His teachings are universal in concept and application. He died for the world and sent his followers to “go into all the nations” (Matt. 28:19).

This perfect child lived, died, and was resurrected for those who are not perfect. Through this child, God’s love is capable of touching every heart, regardless of ethnicity, language, nationality, or social status. Through this child, God’s grace transcends space and time. The perfect child. God’s perfection incarnated in the son of Mary and Joseph. Lucky parents, indeed!

*Rev. Antonio Aja, associate director,
People in Mutual mission, Worldwide Ministries*

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Interim Pastor Sara Ver Burg

Worship/Sunday School: 9:00 am

Contact us at: 1stpresomro@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Sara’s email: queenverburg@gmail.com

In case of emergency: call the office at 920-685-2610

Check our website at: omropres.com

Or the Presbytery at: winnebagopresbytery.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP

All are welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. to knit, crochet, and tie prayer shawls and lap robes. We have delivered items to several people, but we still have many more to share. If you have a suggestion for someone who would enjoy the comfort of a prayer shawl, please contact the office.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting will be Saturday, December 3rd – we will meet at Horan's for breakfast at 8 a.m.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

Kids - Invite your friends and meet at the church after school for snacks and to go caroling. We will return to church later for supper. Sign up at church by 1:00, Tuesday, December 13th so we know how many to plan for! WWYG is open to all 3rd thru 8th graders.

THANK YOU

"Thank you for all the flowers, food, cards, and phone calls and for everything else everybody has done for me while I've been laid up. I've thoroughly enjoyed everything. I don't know when I'll be back, but look forward to returning on a regular basis as soon as I'm able." Ethel Benjamin

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Do you need a ride to church for worship on Sunday? Do transportation problems keep you from worship? Are you homebound? Shut in? Call the church office if you would like a ride to church for worship. On the other hand, would you be willing to give someone a ride to church for worship? Call the office to be put on the Deacon's Transportation list. Thank you

PRAYER CHAIN (last names are not shown due to privacy concerns on the web) Let us keep the following members and friends in prayer:

FOR HEALING: Tricia W., Patty F., Penny K., Ethel B., Rachael B., Ron B. Joe C.

FOR STRENGTH AND SAFETY: Members of the military and their families, victims and survivors of floods, tornadoes, and other natural disasters.

HOMEBOUND: Marge H., Joan M., Catherine H.

If you'd like to include a prayer request for the weekly bulletin, please call it to the office by Wednesday noon. Let us access God through the power of prayer each week. Names will remain on the list for two weeks, unless we are notified otherwise.

If you would like to place someone's name on the prayer chain, you may call the church at 685-2610 or Rozanne Werzinske at 685-6074.

ATTENTION:

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically and are not currently doing so, please email a request to Sandy King (gking5@new.rr.com) or to the church (1stpresomro@sbcglobal.net). Note: It will arrive in your mailbox from the "Kings" ... not from the church. The newsletter will also be available for viewing and download on our website – www.omropres.com.

The **deadline** for submitting newsletter articles is the **20th of each month**. Articles can be dropped off in the office or emailed to Sandy at the above address

SESSION NEWS (November 21, 2011 meeting)

- Sunday School Christmas program rehearsals will be held Sundays, December 4 and December 11 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. and Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be provided. The children will present their Christmas program to the congregation during worship Sunday, December 18th.
- Thanks to David Morrison and Bob Walther for installing rain gutters on the storage shed.
- Thank you also to Jim Tritt for moving dirt to the garden area and smoothing out the “hill”.
- Approved budget for 2012.
- The handbell choir will present its Christmas program during worship December 11th and the Chancel Choir will present its annual cantata on Christmas Eve.
- Worship on Christmas Day will be an abbreviated service of hymns and readings.
- Letters will be sent to members who have not attended worship in 2012, asking them to let us know if they wish to remain members of the church.
- The Nurture Committee will prepare and recommend a Sex Offender Policy to the Session in the coming months.
- Approved a Letter of Transfer request for Mike and Kari Nigl to the Lord of the Lakes Church in Winneconne.
- The Winneconne Presbyterian Church has extended an invitation to our Deacons to attend a presentation by Affinity Health System on Palliative Care and Hospice on January 4th.
- The Christmas “green” offering has been designated for the general fund.

Session has called a
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
following worship, Sunday, December 11, 2011
for the following purposes:

- 1) to elect elders and deacons for 2012
- 2) to receive the session-approved 2012 budget
- 3) to authorize the sale of a 5.0 acre parcel and a 2.5 acre parcel of vacant land adjacent to, and south and west of, the manse to the City of Omro

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!!

CHRISTMAS JOY

Excerpts from a letter from the Presbyterian Church Board of Pensions ...

*“The **Christmas Joy Offering** of the PC(USA) is a long-standing tradition that embodies our commitment to our faith and compassion for others. It enables the Presbyterian community to join together during the season of Advent and Christmas to deeply reflect not only on our great blessings, but on others’ great needs. The Board of Pensions encourages your congregation to support this tradition and all of those Presbyterians whose lives are touched by it.*

The Christmas Joy Offering is distributed equally to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The portion given to the Assistance

Program helps to assist pastors and other church workers, both active and retired, who find themselves in a position of financial need

We are grateful for our pastors and church workers who commit their lives to the service of others, and who must often make personal sacrifices for the ministry of the Church. Each year, contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering express that gratitude and help to make a profound and positive impact in the lives of many of these selfless servants of the Church, often when they need it most. Consider these stories

- *A pastor serving a small congregation in the rural Midwest had learned to make ends meet with a limited income. But when his wife was stricken with a rare form of cancer and required costly treatments, including multiple surgeries, the resulting monetary demands far outweighed his modest savings. The pastor's financial and emotional stresses were overwhelming – until his congregation and presbytery provided assistance, which the Board of Pensions matched with a shared grant. This financial relief allowed him to refocus and devote renewed energy to the care of his wife. The following year, he shared that his wife had been pronounced cancer-free. “This gift made all the difference,” he said.*
- *Sometimes unforeseen circumstances arise that can lead to a sudden, unexpected financial burden. Natural disasters can be particularly devastating. When a hurricane tore through a pastor's southern hometown and caused extensive damage to his family home, he found himself facing significant costs to repair the damage. The Assistance Program literally helped to put a roof over his and his family's heads with an emergency assistance grant. This much-needed assistance offset some of the costs of necessary repairs to restore the pastor's home to a livable condition.*
- *Retirement many times can lead to periods of financial instability, especially when medical expenses accrue. Through an emergency assistance grant and a monthly housing supplement from the Assistance Program, a 101-year-old retired church worker was able to purchase new hearing aids and continue to live comfortably and receive proper care at a retirement community. Her children expressed an outpouring of gratitude to the Assistance Program and those who support it for saving their mother from financial failure and helping her to maintain a decent quality of life in her final years. “She never expected to outlive her lifelong thriftiness,” her son said.*

.... On behalf of the Board of Pensions and all of those whose lives are blessed by the Christmas Joy Offering, we wish you the gifts of peace and abundant joy this Christmas season.”

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION COOKIE PACK
COOKIE PACK – DECEMBER 12 – 9:00AM

The Women's Association is packing cookies for shut-in members and friends on Monday morning December 12th at 9:00am. Please bring your cookies to the church on Sunday, December 11th or bring them to the kitchen on the day of the pack by 8:30 SHARP. Please mark them “cookie pack” along with your name on them. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IF THE COOKIES HAVE NUTS IN THEM as some of our people have problems with nuts. If you unable to donate cookies and would like to feel a part of this project, a cash donation would be appreciated and the money will be used to purchase fruit for those who cannot have cookies. We would names submitted of those who should be added to our current list. Please let Marsha or Donna Matulle know by December 11th. You may also put suggestions in the Women's Association mailbox or in the offering plate. If a person has a health issue please make note of that next to their name. We would welcome any volunteers to deliver the cookies and also to pack them. Come for the fellowship and help pack cookies for our shut-in church members and friends....oh yes, the best part we get to eat the broken ones but are very scarce. Please contact Marsha at 685-2938 if you have any questions. Thank you.....Marsha Stiller



December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bells-6 Choir-7	2	3 Presbyterian Men@Horans-8 Smorgasbord- 5-7
4 Wor/SS-9 SS practice- 10:30-11:15	5 Celebration-6 *Chuck Stiller	6 Deacons- 9	7 Prayer shawl-10	8 Bells-6 Choir-7	9	10
11 Wor/SS-9 Handbell Concert Congregation meet after worship SS practice-10:30- 11:15	12 Cookie pack-9 Administration- 6	13	14 WWYG caroling- 3:30	15 No bells Choir-6	16	17 Nurture-10 SS practice w/lunch-10- 12
18 Wor/Children's Program-9 Mission-10:15	19 Session-6	20	21	22 No bells Choir-6	23	24 Christmas Eve Carol sing- 6:40 Wor/Cantata-7
25 Christmas Day Hymn sing & abbreviated service-9	26	27	28 *Gordon & Marsha Stiller-43 yrs	29 No bells or choir	30	31 New Year's Eve