
DREAM ACRES



Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Omro

December 2010

From The Desk of Pastor Ed:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

December is here! The word comes from the Latin “decem” meaning 10. This is because the early Romans started counting months of the year in March, which made December the 10th month of the year. Julius Caesar changed all that with the Julian calendar in 46 B.C. when he said the ordinary year had 365 days and every fourth year had 366 days (the leap year). The Gregorian calendar was a corrected form of the Julian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 and is used in most countries now.

The year is determined in reference to the birth of Jesus. A.D. refers to Anno Domini, “the year of the Lord” and B.C. refers to the time “Before Christ.” To complicate things further, the secular

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Rev. Edward Slusser, Pastor

Worship/Sunday School: 9:00 am

Contact us at: 1stpresomro@sbcglobal.net

Contact Pastor Slusser at:
pastorslusser@sbcglobal.net

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

Check our website at: omropres.com

Or the Presbytery at:
winnebagopresbytery.org

ANNUAL SMORGASBORD DINNER

Our annual fundraiser and community fellowship meal will again be served on December 4th from 5-7 p.m. at church. Bring your friends and family and join the fellowship!

The Smorgasbord Committee has decided to hold a **Christmas cookie sale** in conjunction with the December 4th Smorgasbord. We will be taking pre-orders for **Frosted Cutout Sugar Cookies** (\$5 for a Baker's Dozen) and **Spritz Butter Cookies** (\$5 for 1-1/2 dozen) now through Sunday, December 5th. Payment must accompany orders. Cookies will be available for pick-up at the church Friday, December 17th.

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calendar uses the abbreviation B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) to reference the years.

In addition to all this, we all think of time as it relates to important dates in our own personal lives. I know the benchmarks of my life as 1945 birth, 1954 Baptism, 1959 Confirmation and Grade School graduation, 1963 high school graduation, 1967 college graduation, and 1971 seminary graduation. Now should I think in terms of retirement at the end of this year as B.R and A.R.? We count anniversaries by date and year and inscribe those event dates on rings and trophies, our bodies with tattoos and retirement forms.

We are all bound by time and interested in what fills it.

But now for us Christians, December reminds us of the most important date in history. We think of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th.

For our faith, His birth, life, death and resurrection are the central events of history. In fact, Oscar Cullman, the great Theologian said Christ's cross and resurrection was D-Day in human history. The war of sin still rages as in World War II after D-Day, but the outcome is sure. God has won the victory in Christ for all of the world in the end. And so now as we approach Christmas again in 2010, let us remember that Jesus Christ is the central meaning of life, time and history. All that came before Him yearned for salvation. All that has come after Him rejoices in the Good News that salvation has come in Him and He is God's Savior of the world. Let us rejoice in Him. "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers, And let your lights appear..."

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Ed

PRAYER CHAIN

Let us keep the following members and friends in prayer:

FOR HEALING: Tricia Wright, Catherine Hoeft, Dave Collier, Rich Steif, Darwin Lovell, Debbie Schilder

FOR STRENGTH AND SAFETY: Members of the military and their families

HOMEBOUND: Addie Keller, Marge Hellwig, Bettie Nipko, Joan Moon

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 Pastor Ed on his cell at 379-7692 or at church at 685-2610. If you are unable to reach him, you may call Rozanne Werzinske at 685-6074.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through our denominational Christmas Joy offering in Advent each year, we support the unmet needs of families who have answered God's call by giving their lives to the mission of Jesus Christ through the Presbyterian Church USA. The offering is shared equally between the Board of Pensions assistance program and Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. The offering will be received during Advent and dedicated Christmas Eve. Thank you for participating in this offering.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP MEETS

Presbyterian Men meet the second Saturday of each month for breakfast and fellowship. All men of the church are invited to attend. Come be part of the fellowship pm Saturday December 11th at 8:00 a.m.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 5th **Worship** and **Sunday School** at 9 a.m. **Congregational Meeting** at the close of worship to receive the 2011 Session-approved budget, elect officers, elect one person to the Audit Committee, and dissolve the pastoral relationship with Pastor Slusser effective December 31, 2010. **Sunday school program rehearsal** from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

December 12th **Worship** and **Sunday School** at 9 a.m. The **Chancel Handbell Choir** will lead worship.

December 18th **sunday school program rehearsal** from 9:30 to noon. **Lunch** will be served during this time.

December 19th The Sunday School will present their annual **Christmas pageant** during 9 a.m. worship.

December 24th **Christmas Eve Worship** and **Communion** at 7 p.m., preceded by carol singing at 6:40 p.m. The Chancel Choir will present their **Christmas Cantata** "*Carols for the Christ Child*" during worship.

December 26th Pastor Slusser will lead 9 a.m. worship with us for the last time and present his final sermon.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Beginning in January 2011, WWYG will meet once a month. A second adult is required to help Jessie with the meetings. If no one signs up to help for a particular meeting, that month's meeting will be cancelled. This policy must be followed, not only because it is too much for one person, but because it is required by our Congregational Protection Policy. Meetings will be announced in church and will be placed in bulletins and newsletters.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

COOKIE PACK - DEC 13

The Women's Association is packing cookies for shut-in members and friends on Monday morning December 13th at 9:00am. Please bring your cookies to the church on Sunday, December 12th 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 are 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 like names submitted of those who should be on our list. Please let Marsha or Donna Matulle know by December 12th. 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 sometimes they are very scarce. Please contact Marsha at 685-2938 if you have any questions. Thank you...Marsha Stiller, President

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ADDITION

LAST MONTH ALL OF THE OFFICERS WERE LISTED AND SECRETARY DONNA MATULLE WAS NOT INCLUDED.... SECRETARY, DONNA MATULLE 685-2649..

APPLE FEST WRAP-UP

This article is overdue but needs to acknowledge those who worked so hard and diligently to make Apple Fest happen. First of all the weather was a sunny but a cool day but thanks we had no rain. First of all “thanks” to the people who donated to our raffle which brought in \$1,132.00. Here are donors and who was the happy recipient.

Tom & Nancy Jackson – ½ / ½ beef & processing - Dick Ristow, Oshkosh
Doris Strehlow – Picture – Owen Gromme “Moving to Cover” – Pam Salzer, Oshkosh
Mary Allen – Quilt – “Gathering Friends” – our own Tom Faust
Gordon Stiller – Carved Blue Bird – Marion Braasch, Omro

Thank you for your generous donation.

On the guessing game winners:

Salt water taffy (166pc) David Willadsen, Oshkosh guessed 170
Wonka mix (209pc) Pam Salzer, Oshkosh guessed 210
Tootsie Rolls (275pc) Deb Dempsey, Omro guessed 297
Mini Hershey bars (85) our own Brooke Selle guessed 85
Pumpkin was guessed by Melanie Strum, Oshkosh weighed 89#
Owl was won by Darlene Olson, Omro

We had six vendors and they said that they enjoyed the day even if the wind was on the chilly side. And our apple cider demonstrator enjoyed showing how the cider was made. “And it was GOOD”. He is ready to come back to the next Apple Fest. Hopefully we will have more to sell as there is nothing better than fresh squeezed juice. Thank you to Brian Butkiewicz for taking care of the pie contest. Apple pie winners were:

1st and a plaque – Cindy Schuster – 2nd Sue Koon – 3rd Natalie Ellis – 4th Doris Wright and 5th Cindy Schuster.

Thank you to Bob & Sue Walther for taking care of the cookout. And to Cindy Doughty for taking care of the kitchen and all the good food coming from it. The Bake Sale was the place to stop and pick up the goodies to take home and there sure was a good variety. They were busy all day. Thanks Jill for chairing this along with the Thursday before for organizing baking of the pies. On that Thursday there was 140 pies made. And thanks to the men and women that helped that day. The Crafts sale went good. Everyone seemed to get what they wanted from ornaments to hand towels. Thank you JoAn chairing. The balloon pop is always a fun place for the young and the young at heart. You sure heard the balloons a poppin. Thanks Lisa for taking care of the balloon pop along with doing a “great job” with advertising. Makes a difference when you get the word out there. Job well done!! To Tom Faust for the beautiful decorated parking lot..You do a great job and it is appreciated along with taking care of putting up and taking down of the banners along with handing out many, many flyers. Everywhere Tom went the flyers went also. A Big Thanks. And foremost to all of you workers who helped out where ever you were needed and most of you stayed all day... It makes it fun when we all work together especially working for our one goal that some day that we will have our sanctuary. Hope that I have not missed anyone if I have my apology. It was an oversight by all means. After expenses we had a balance of \$3,670.73. Thanks to everyone for all their help. If I asked someone to do something they never turned me down. It is just great to work with so many people ready to help out. My personal “THANKS”. JOB WELL DONE. Chairperson, Marsha Stiller

PRESBYTERY NEWS

I give my deep and sincere thanks to Brian Butkiewicz and Cindy Doughty for speaking so graciously and kindly on my behalf at the retirement recognition at the Presbytery meeting November 12th in Neenah. Thanks also to Pastor Tom Willadsen for his generous words about my ministry in his sermon during Presbytery worship on Saturday. Thank you very much. In Christ, Ed Slusser

Next Presbytery Meeting is Saturday, February 12, 2011 at Covenant Community Church in Schofield, WI.

Everyone is welcome to attend the installation of the Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan of First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, on December 5th at 4:00 p.m. All are invited and a reception will follow the installation.

De Pere Presbyterian Women will host their annual "Christmas Tea" on **Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m.** in the K-Lounge. Come dressed in your favorite holiday clothes and enjoy the Christmas spirit.

Coffee, tea, punch, finger sandwiches and holiday sweets will be served by the women's circles. Advent/Christmas music will be presented by Senior Music Education major (St. Norbert College) Stephanie Pampel. Accompanist will be Julie Mackey. Hostess is Barb Ryan, PWCT Moderator. Thank Offering will be dedicated by Jan Nelson.

"Adopt a Baby Doll" project (recycled baby dolls, all cleaned up, dressed up and ready for adoption by little girls at the Salvation Army & Presbyterian Pantry Christmas parties) will be on display. Men, women and children are invited.

SESSION NEWS:

- Session approved a request from Janine King to use the church for the King Music Studio Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 12th from 4-5:30 p.m.
- Thank you to the Deacons for the beautiful Veterans Day recognition in worship November 14th. Thanks also to the Bell Choir for providing beautiful music for the service.
- Authorized the purchase of 10-\$10 Kwik Trip gift cards from "Pennies from Heaven" to provide assistance for occasional requests for gas money received in the office.
- Approved request from Wonderful Wednesday Youth Group to sell raffle tickets for a gift basket on December 19th.
- Nurture Committee is still looking for a family to light the Advent candle in worship December 12th. Please call the office or talk to Ginger Selle.
- We also need 1 or 2 people to take over teaching the Confirmation class in January. Pastor Ed has prepared the curriculum and will be happy to go over it with you before he leaves. Please talk to Ginger Selle.
- Approved the church budget for 2011. The budget will be presented to the congregation Sunday, December 5th.
- The Nominating Committee reported that they were unable to fill one of the four vacancies for Elder. Session voted to operate with an 11-member session in 2011 and proceed toward the reduction to a 9-member session over the next three years.
- Thank you to Ginger Selle for donating a flat-screen monitor to the office.
- Authorized the purchase of the washer and dryer at the manse from Pastor Ed and Jan. This will add to the rental or sale value of the property.

- Authorized the formation of a committee to investigate options for the sale or rental of the manse. Several names were suggested as members of this committee. Session members will contact these people to determine their willingness to serve on this committee.
- Adopted a policy that no session committee may go over its bottom-line budget without session approval.
- Administration Committee will ask someone to assume the responsibility of seeing that the lights are turned off and building locked on Sunday mornings. Pastor Ed has been doing this, so we'll need someone to take on this responsibility.
- Blue recycling containers will be placed at the door(s) for your worship bulletins if you don't wish to keep them. PLEASE DO NOT use these containers for tissues, plastic, food, plates, etc. or other non-recyclable items.
- Interested in joining the Church? Please talk to Pastor Ed or call the office.

THANK YOU ...

Dear Pastor Slusser and Members of First Presbyterian Church,

The management and staff of the Omro Community Food Pantry Thank You for the very generous donation of monies to purchase the most needed foods for our community families. We believe in providing the very basic, healthy foods for our families in need and we could not do this without the help of caring people like you.

This time of year will see more stress as the Winter months and heating bills start arriving. We here at the Pantry know that you too have the same concerns at heart for people in need. We Thank You once again for your kindness and donation.

We also wish you the Blessings of a Joyous Christmas Season.

With appreciation,
 Tom Faust, Manager
 Omro Community Food Pantry
 November 22, 2010

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.

OMRO AREA CLERGY ASSOCIATION (OACA)

Member churches of Omro Area Clergy Association (OACA) are St. Mary's, Eureka Methodist, Grace Lutheran, and First Presbyterian Omro. Our next meeting will be at Allenville Community Church.



