
DREAM ACRES



Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Omro

February 2011



reetings! My name is Sara Ver Burg, and I have been called to serve as your part-time interim minister. I am a desert-rat born and raised in Tucson, and will always have sunshine in my veins. I received my undergraduate education from Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and seminary education at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. A life-long Presbyterian, I have served churches in Michigan, Georgia, and Wisconsin with an emphasis on youth and children's ministries, and am excited to join with you during the transitional period. Currently, I reside in Appleton. My husband, Karl, works for Oshkosh Co. on second shift at South Plant. We have a four-year-old daughter, Adriana "Ani" who is the apple of our eyes.

Over the course of our time together, there will be a lot of reflection on transitional or interim ministries. Interim ministry seeks to serve as a bridge between the old and new. While this

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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

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group has changed their meeting date to the **first** Saturday of each month. They meet from September through May at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast, spiritual growth, fellowship and service to the church. The group offers another way for men to connect and fulfill their Christian calling in the church. All men of our church and community are welcome to attend. Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 5th at 8:00 a.m.

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process is a part of many denominations, it is something that we as Presbyterians honor as vital to the health of the Body of Faith. We draw on Biblical example to guide us through these times. From a theological perspective transitional times are primarily wilderness times. The great story of Moses and the people of Israel in the wilderness is a well-used example for the congregation in transition. In the wilderness, faced with uncertainty, the people grieve for what they have left behind, even if it was a life of hardship. They may grumble and seek to hold fast to temporal realities and forget the God who has liberated and sustained them. Yet in the midst of the wilderness the people encounter God anew and find a new identity that it is not limited by the past. And Moses, the one who has led the people through the wilderness to this new understanding, does not get to enter the promised land.

The other great transitional ministry in the Bible also took place in the wilderness and was that of John the Baptist. He stood between the Old and New. He prepared a way for the new by calling the people to repentance, to make a heartfelt change in the way they perceived themselves and God. Like Moses he did not get to see the fruits of his labor but saw that it was necessary for himself to diminish that Christ may increase.

These two stories capture some of the essence of interim ministry. It is a time of calling a people to leave behind the known of the past, to examine who they are and the direction they are going, and to prepare for the future. Like John the Baptist interim ministers serve to assist in the transition of leadership rather than establish themselves as leaders. I invite you to feel the challenge and call of transition and to actively engage in ministry of the wilderness as this community of faith seeks the next installed pastor.

PASTOR'S HOURS

Pastor Sara's hours will vary, but typically will be:

Monday and Wednesday 8:30-4:30

Sunday Morning

Home phone (920)574-3854, Cell phone (616)990-5036

Email queenverburg@gmail.com, or on Facebook

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, Patty Fauk, Jean Koon, Dan Pistohl

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

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

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.

When you call the prayer chain, we will assume that it's okay to print the name in the bulletin and newsletter unless you say otherwise.

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION CLASS STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS: We'd like your help in taping our worship services. If you'd like to learn how, please talk to Mr. Huebner or Erin Baltes.



WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT

If a decision is made to cancel worship due to snow or ice, an announcement will be placed on the church answering machine by 8 a.m. and will be communicated to WFRV (5), WBAY (2), and WLUK (11) as soon as possible. It will also be posted on the church's Facebook page. Please check one of these sources before heading for church if we have questionable weather.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP NEWS

- February 9** – Making Valentine cards
- February 23** – Movie night
- March 16** – to be announced
- April 6** – Making Easter cards (tentative)
- April 20** – to be announced
- May 11** – Bike ride and picnic (tentative)

A second adult is required to help Jessie with the meetings. **If no one signs up to help for a particular meeting, that 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.**

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. Thankyou.

SESSION NEWS

- As you see from Pastor Sara's newsletter article, we have completed our search for an interim. On her first day – a snowy January 17th – she moderated our January session meeting.
- Cindy Doughty was elected Clerk and Treasurer for 2011.
- Helen Jepsen was elected commissioner to the February 12 Presbytery meeting in Scofield. Pastor Sara will also attend.
- Committee assignments for 2011 were finalized. Administration: Terri Groth, Sue Walther, Jenni Keenan. Celebration: Lisa Baltes, Helen Jepsen, Bryon Huebner. Mission: Eva Rausch, Cindy Doughty, Natalie Ellis. Nurture: Ginger Selle, Jennifer Longworth.
- A committee is being formed to investigate the best use of the manse property and will prepare a recommendation for session as to whether to keep or dispose of the property.
- Approved membership rolls as of December 31, 2010.
- Lisa Baltes, Bob Walther, and Jessie Piper were authorized to charge to our account at Piggly-Wiggly.
- Blue recycling containers have been 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.

PER CAPITA “101”

If you’ve been in the Presbyterian denomination for any length of time, you’ve no doubt seen or heard the phrase - **PER CAPITA** –many times.

When you open your box of offering envelopes at the beginning of the year, you see a per capita envelope right in the front. You’ve probably seen a note in the bulletin or newsletter that the per capita for 2011 is \$29.65. Or, you may have asked, “What is my per capita this year?”

But, just what is per capita? **Per Capita** is a means of sharing financial support for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) governing bodies – the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. It is a “fair share” means of providing support for the structures of the church.

Per Capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Each of us is asked to help pay the cost of being a connected church. We realize benefits from our relationship with General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery and it is only fair that we help support them. **Per Capita** funding is how we, as members of the Presbyterian Church, mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Holy Spirit’s leading for the future.

What is the money used for? **Per Capita** helps pay for the cost of running the wider church’s governing bodies that plan, oversee, and evaluate the mission and programs of the PC(USA). Some of these important ministries are:

- *Mission personnel who serve on our behalf around the world;*
- *Sunday school and Vacation Bible School curriculum;*
- *Leadership training for church leaders and newly-ordained clergy;*
- *Presbyterian Homes providing nursing care, senior housing, and assisted care facilities;*
- *Giving grants to local mission (for example, grants received from Presbytery for the Omro Thrift Store, the Community Center, and our church’s Before-School Program);*
- *Assisting local congregations in transition*

Why should I pay my per capita?

Our church – First Presbyterian, Omro – must pay the **per capita** for each of its members, whether or not everyone has paid their fair share. If you have already paid your **per capita** for the new year, **THANK YOU!** If not, please do so by using the **per capita** envelope in your box of offering envelopes, or including the additional money with your regular offering. Your payment will help efforts to improve our budget shortfall.

THANK YOU

Our family would like to thank you all for your prayers and well wishes. We also wanted to let everyone know that Amber is doing good and getting stronger every day. Thank you and God bless! Eddie, Julie, Courtney and Amber Jahr

Thank you to the Women’s Association for the Christmas fruit basket. Bev Ginnow