
DREAM ACRES



Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Omro

March 2011

From the desk of Pastor Sara

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The journey toward Easter begins first at the contemplation of our death. As ash is smudged upon our faces we remember that from dust we came, and to dust we shall return. We begin this journey with a form of anointing. We take last year's charred palms and mix them with oil to anoint our foreheads. This practice is an ancient reminder of the fragility of our lives and our eventual death.

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Pastor's letter**
- 2 **Prayer chain**
- 3 **News**
- 4 **More news**
- 5 **Synod school**
- 6 **Living garden order form**
- 7 **OGHS**
- 8 **March calendar**



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

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday worship and communion

March 9, 2011 at 7 p.m.

(Communion will be served by intinction)

Movie Night at church

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Movie Night at church

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Palm Sunday Worship

April 17, 2011 at 9 a.m.

(Alleluia Family Choir to practice at 8 a.m.)

Maundy Thursday

April 21, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Tenebrae service with communion
"Remembering the Death of Jesus"

Easter / Resurrection Sunday

Sunrise Breakfast at 7:45 a.m.

Continued from page 1

What we are called to experience throughout this time is the “paschal mystery.” That is that we can only get to Easter through death. In order to have eternal life, the physical life must end. So, with Christ, in Christ, and through Christ we die and are born again into new life. “The church’s peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the “old self.” In dying, we live.” (Companion to the Book of Common Worship, pg 110)

The journey of Lent is often a difficult journey, but without death, there can be no resurrection. No matter if you choose to give something up, or take on a new spiritual discipline, honor these forty days in your heart, and challenge yourself to appreciate the journey until we gather together in celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning.
Pastor Sara

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, Patty Fauk

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

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

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.

SESSION NEWS

- Established a goal of \$500 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Will celebrate Compassion Sunday in worship, Sunday, April 10th
- Will not continue our relationship with E.S.T.H.E.R. and Pax Christi
- Confirmation Sunday will be May 22nd and Confirmation dinner May 21st
- Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service will be different from what we have done in the past. There will be NO Good Friday service.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP NEWS

March 16 – YMCA

April 6 – Making Easter cards

April 20 – Bowhunters' Club

May 11 – Pizza Party at Christianos

May 25 – Bike Ride and Picnic

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. Meetings will be announced in church and will be placed in bulletins and newsletters.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP MEETS

The Men's Group meets on the **first** Saturday of each month from September through May 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, March 5th at 8:00 a.m. at Horan's on Main.

PRESBYTERY INFORMATION

Presbyters had a full day at Covenant Community Presbyterian Church in Schofield on Saturday, February 12. (*Helen Jepsen and Pastor Sara attended from our church.*)

Two Elders, Jessica Harrison (Winneconne) and Rosangela Berbert (Oshkosh) were certified as Trained Lay Pastors.

Members of the delegation that traveled to Medellin in November reported on the joint educational/cultural experience they had with members of the Presbyterian Church in Colombia. The event was co-sponsored by

Urabá and Winnebago Presbyteries and included representatives from Centrale Presbytery (Bogotá) and North Coast (Barranquilla) in attendance.

Presbytery Moderator, Jeanne Nymoen, received the symbols of her office, including a beaded cross necklace presented as a gift from our partners in Urabá Presbytery. Ms. Nymoen reported on leadership activities that have been instituted since the departure of Executive Presbyter. Associate EP, the Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes, has been meeting weekly with the Committee on Ministry (COM) Moderator Bette Hoytink and communicating regularly with the Rev. Gregg Neel, Milwaukee Presbytery EP, who is serving as our COM consultant.

A leadership team (fondly referred to as oo7) meets once a month to keep abreast of activities within the presbytery. The team consists of Moderator Jeanne Nymoen (Appleton), Vice Moderator Ted Sperduto (Wausau), Immediate Pastor Moderator Marcia Thomas (Abbotsford), Stated Clerk Michael Lukens, Associate EP Sarah Moore- Nokes, COM Moderator Bette Hoytink (Winneconne) and Associate for Administration Nancy Barczak.

Presbyters voted to concur with all proposed amendments to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Constitution except two. Actions were taken not to concur with Amendment 10- I regarding prayer added to Ordination and Installation Services and 10-M regarding the extension of the time limit for filing charges from the time of an allegation.

Moderator Nymoen announced the continuation of the Healthy Practices for Healthy Congregations theme this year with a focus on the "Nuts and Bolts." Presbyters were asked to share topics they would like to see addressed and produced a lengthy list which included: elder, deacon, and clerk training, a variety insurance issues, safe church policies, web sites and technology, personnel evaluation tools, church software and hardware.



SUMMER IS COMING ...

and it's time to start thinking about church camps and Synod School.

A wide variety of camps and events are being held again this year at **Pilgrim Center** and **Moon Beach** – children and youth camps, family camps, work camps, adult retreats and events. Pick up a catalog in the office or visit ucci.org.

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of **all** ages. **Synod School 2011**, will be held July 24-29, at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa. You can choose from an eclectic array of courses – from “Spirituality 101” to “Cake Decorating”; from “Bible Study for Dummies” to “A History of Rock and Roll”; from “Religion and Star Trek” to “Writing Your Family’s History” and many, many more. Pastor Mara Rivera from First Presbyterian, Winneconne, will be one of the worship leaders this year. Click on the “Synod School” link at lakesandprairies.org to learn more and to download a catalog.

Winnebago Presbytery is offering camper scholarships to Presbyterian or Presbyterian affiliated camps and Synod School scholarships. Application forms can be downloaded from www.winnebagopresbytery.org/forms. Applications for camper scholarships are due in the Presbytery office by Friday, April 15th; and Synod School scholarship requests are due by June 1st.

NOTE: FPC-Omro also has campership/synod school funds available.

Contact the office for an application.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD REASON TO COME TO SYNOD SCHOOL?

Here are some course suggestions that might persuade you if you . . .

Want to Study the Bible...

- Scripture Meets Desperate Housewives: Tough Stories about Women among God's People
- Horizon's Bible Study: Confessing the Beatitudes
- Bible Study for Dummies
- The Art of Proverbs
- Gospels Not Included in the New Testament

Seek to Nurture Spirituality...

- Guided Spiritual Retreat
- What's in a Dream?
- Toward a Prairie Spirituality
- Spirituality 101: Spirituality for Busy People
- Spirituality 201: Your Church – Deep Change or Slow Death?

Need Some Creative Spirituality or Sabbath...

- Spirited Kites
- Introduction to Drawing Techniques
- Beginning Wheat Weaving
- Creative Paper
- Basket Weaving 101 and Pine Needle Baskets
- Ukrainian Egg Decorating
- Cake Decorating
- Christmas in July through Quilling II
- Card Weaving
- Artist Trading Cards 2 – Return to the Studio

Plan, Lead, or Love Worship and Music...

- African Style Drumming
- Acoustic Music Jam and Song Share
- Teamed Up and Teeming
- Synod School Choir
- A History of Rock & Roll
- How to Start a Children's Chime Choir
- Preaching without Notes

Want Help in Balancing Your Life...

- The Pastor's Spouse
- Writing Your Family's History
- The Fast and the Furious 2
- The Need to Knead: The Whys and Hows of Breadmaking

Enjoy Theological Reflection...

- The Power of Story
- Inviting Jesus for Dinner: Rethinking Communion
- God at the Box Office
- Conversations on *The Shack*
- An Introduction to Dante's *Divine Comedy*
- Visiting the Early Church
- You, Too! Making Meaning of the Music of U2
- The Gospel According to the Simpsons

Want to Do Something Physical...

- Belly Dance
- Ultimate Sports
- Yoga: Vacation Style
- An Introduction to Tai Chi

Want to Enhance Your Ministry...

- Wonderful Websites
- The Spiritual Lives of Children
- Church and Stage
- Confirmation
- Using Social Media for Church – It's Not Just a Fad

Are Leading a Congregation...

- Your Church Family's Emotional System
- Preparing Church Officers for the 21st Century
- Beyond Survival: What Is God's Vision for the Small Church?
- A New Church – A New Day
- Newly Ordained Clergy Seminars
- I'm Scared! The Church I Love Is Changing
- What Is the Church – After the Coffee Hour?

Want to Explore a Serious Issue...

- Sudan: From Slavery to Freedom
- Great Decisions
- The New Israel: Biblical Image and U.S. Identity
- Four Ideas that Changed Everything
- Having the Hard Conversations: Pastoral Care in Difficult Situations

*Don't find yourself here? Check the Synod School Catalog for your own ideas!
Available in print or online at www.lakesandprairies.org*



"Living Garden" Order Form - 2011

The Deacons invite you to order a flowering spring plant for the "Living Garden" Easter Sunday. Please complete the order form and return it with cash or check payable to 1st Presbyterian Church by **Sunday, March 27th**. (Since multiple sizes are available for some plants, please circle the size you wish.) We are ordering the plants from Stein's Garden Center, so if you would like to preview the various plants, feel free to stop in at Stein's. The plants will be labeled with your name and the Deacons will hand them out following the Easter service.

We want everyone to enjoy the beauty of an indoor garden along with the promise of new life through Jesus Christ.

Type of Plant	Price	How Many	Amount Due
Mums 6" pot			\$11
Azalea 6" or 4"	\$25 / \$11	_____	_____
Daffodil 6" or 4"	\$9 / \$5	_____	_____
African Violets 4"	\$4	_____	_____
Cyclamen 6" or 4"	\$11 / \$6	_____	_____
Kalanchoe 6"	\$11	_____	_____
Tulips 6" or 4"	\$9 / \$5	_____	_____

My cash/check for \$_____ is attached.

In Loving Memory of _____

Given by _____

-OR-

In Loving Honor of _____

Given by _____

(Please write or print all names clearly, exactly as you want them to appear in the memorial bulletin.)

THANK YOU

To the Presbyterian Women's Association

"We find comfort, strength and peace just knowing other care. Thank you for your thoughtfulness."

Dear friends,

Thank you for your love and support and providing food for a lunch at Ring.

Helen Wentzel

Deacons,

Thank you so very much for the plant. It was an African violet, one of my favorite plants. I am on the road to recovery. I appreciate all the prayers. I am with my daughter Denise helping her after surgery. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bidwell

One great hour of sharing

We will be participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing again this year during the Lenten and Easter season. **Please give generously!**

For more than 50 years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned by the aftermath of disasters have found relief and help rebuilding; and communities seeking to take control of their future have found partners in development.

The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half-century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly.

After deducting administrative costs (up to 5 percent) and the costs of creating and distributing promotional materials (roughly 5 percent), the remaining undesignated gifts are divided among three programs as follows:

Presbyterian Hunger Program (36 percent)

For ministries working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in LOCALlocal communities, in the nation and throughout the world, as well as ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing. Learn more about the Presbyterian Hunger Program at www.pcusa.org/hunger



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32 percent)

For disaster response and ministries with refugees. Learn more about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at www.pcusa.org/pda

Self-Development of People (32 percent)

For partnerships with groups of people who are oppressed by poverty or social systems, who want to take charge of their own lives, have organized to do something about their own condition, and have decided what they need to do to produce long-term benefits for themselves.

Learn more about Self-Development of People. At www.pcusa.org/sdop



March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Deacons-9	2 Prayer Shawl Group-10	3 Bells-6 Choir-7 *Jim Tritt	4	5 Presbyterian Men-8
6 Wor/SS-9	7 Manse Comm-5 *Greg King	8 *Amy Potratz *Sara Wright	9 Ash Wednesday Wor/Comm- 7	10 Bells-6 Choir-7	11 Bob Walther	12
13 Wor/SS-9 Mission- 10:15	14 Home Comm- 9:30 Celebrat-6	15	16 WWYG- YMCA Admin-6	17 St. Patrick's Day Bells-6 Choir-7 *Zach Allen	18	19
20 Alleluia Family Choir Practice-8 Wor/SS-9 Nurture- 10:15	21 Session-6	22	23 Supper & movie-6 *Megan Kutchenriter	24 Bells-6 Choir-7	25	26
27 Wor/SS-9	28 Ron & Joan Albright- 30yrs	29	30	31 Choir-6 Bells-7 *Barbara Bidwell		