
DREAM ACRES



Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Omro

November 2010

From The Desk of Pastor Ed:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

November is Thanksgiving month and November 7th is Consecration Sunday. I'm writing about something very important to me, and I am sure it is important to you also. How can we show our thanks to God in 2011?

I am very grateful to have been your pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Omro these past 24 years. I thank you for the privilege and honor of serving Jesus Christ with you. There have been many joyous and beautiful times. There have been sad and difficult times too. That's what life is like. When my mother died in 1997 you reached out to us with the love of Christ that gave us comfort. When our children completed Confirmation Class and became members of Christ's church we rejoiced in God's faithfulness

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the desk of Pastor Ed
- 2 Prayer chain, Presbyterian Men
- 3 Church membership rules
- 4 Presbytery news
- 5 Session and Women's association news
- 6 Poinsettia order form
- 7 November calendar



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

3rd SUNDAY - ALLELUIA FAMILY CHOIR

Let us exalt our loving God!
Let us reach out to others to
share Christ's love.

*"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his;
praise his holy name." (Psalm 30:4)*

Join the "Alleluia Family Choir" to lead worship services on 3rd Sunday of each month. Express your faith and share your testimony through creative music. All ages are encouraged to join.

Continued from page 1

together. As we have lived here with you in Christian fellowship to serve Christ and do His mission, we've all been fed and strengthened by our common faith and His presence with us.

In short, this church means a lot to all of us. The Presbyterian Church means a great deal to our family. My Dad was an elder and taught Sunday school in another Presbyterian Church when I was young. My mom sang in that church's choir and was President of the Women Association for years. She visited our church in Omro for worship and joined our Wednesday Bible Study many times. This church is the place where we have come to experience Christ's presence in His Word, worship and fellowship.

What does this church mean to you? What activities have blessed you and your family? What service and mission have helped you grow spiritually? How and when has Christ met you here? We will have the chance to show our gratitude for all Christ's church means to us on Consecration Sunday November 7th when we make financial commitments in the morning worship service and then enjoy a wonderful brunch together.

With thanksgiving, let's challenge ourselves to produce an increase in giving in 2011. I pray that you and other members of our church will attend Consecration Sunday Worship and Brunch on November 7th. I'll look forward to seeing you in worship. We will rejoice together as we begin to see what God has in store for the church's ministry in 2011.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Ed



PRAYER CHAIN

Let us keep the following members and friends in prayer:

FOR HEALING: Tricia Wright, Lori Jackson, Catherine Hoeft, Bobbie Jo Fink, Dave Collier, Rich Steif, Rozanne Werzinske
FOR STRENGTH AND SAFETY: Members of the military and their families
HOMEBOUND: Addie Keller, Joan Moon, Marge Hellwig, Bettie Nipko.

To place someone's name on the prayer chain, call Pastor Ed at 379-7692 or the church at 685-2610. If no answer, you may call Rozanne Werzinske at 685-6074.

Please call prayer requests for the Sunday bulletin into the office by Wednesday noon. Prayer requests will be placed in the bulletin for two weeks. If you want a name included longer, please indicate how long or call it in again. Access God's help through the power of prayer each week.

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. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, November 12th at 8:00 a.m. at church.

OMRO AREA CLERGY ASSOCIATION (OACA)

Member churches of the Omro Area Clergy Association (OACA) are St. Mary's Catholic, Eureka Methodist, Waukau Methodist, Allenville Community, First Presbyterian Winneconne, and First Presbyterian Omro. Our next meeting will be at the Waukau Methodist Church, Thursday November 4, 2010 at 8:45 a.m.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Session spent a great deal of time at its October meeting talking about membership. Every year we are faced with the issue of members who have not met the requirements for active membership.

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is very clear on what active membership means. According to our denominational *Book of Order*, an active member is one who

- has made a profession of faith in Christ
- has been baptized
- has been received into membership of the church
- has voluntarily submitted to the government of the church,

AND

- participates in the work and worship of the church.

Session believes that the following are suitable minimal standards for maintaining “active” membership in our church:

1) Attend worship four (4) times a year,

2) Receive communion two (2) times a year, AND

3) Give something to the offering each year

For every rule there are possible exceptions. Our home bound members probably will not be able to attend worship four times a year, and so are exempt from that requirement. Most of our home bound members regularly receive communion in their residence from the pastor and a deacon. Attendance may also be difficult for students attending school away from home, or working weekends. If you fall into the latter category, please notify the church office of the situation that makes it impossible for you to meet these standards.

WE WANT ALL OF OUR MEMBERS TO FEEL A PART OF A WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITY. We want everyone to experience the joy of worshiping with other members of their church family. We want to pray and sing praises with them. We want to talk and laugh ... and eat together. But at some point we ask ourselves if these feelings are reciprocal.

Does everyone want to be a part of a welcoming faith community? Does everyone want to experience the joy of worshiping with other members of their church family? Do they want to pray with us and sing praises to the Lord? Do they want to talk, laugh, and eat with us? Although we hope not, perhaps the answer is “NO.”

Our annual journey to Bethlehem will begin in a few weeks ... Sunday, November 28th. We invite you to join us in worship and communion during November and December. Communion will be celebrated in worship Sunday, November 7th, Sunday, December 5th, and Christmas Eve, December 24th. *(Please be sure to sign the “red” notebook in worship and place your name on your offering envelope.)*

Session will review attendance records (*according to the “red” notebooks*) at the end of December and transfer those who have not met the requirements for active membership to the inactive roll. **An inactive member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of an active member except the right to speak at meetings of the congregation, and to vote and hold office.** Persons on the inactive roll may be restore

the active roll within two years by addressing a request to the session to do so. Those remaining on the inactive roll at the end of two years may be dropped from membership without further notice.

NEWS AND EVENTS AROUND PRESBYTERY

The next meeting of Winnebago Presbytery will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Neenah and will begin Friday evening, November 12th. Cindy Doughty has been elected commissioner to this meeting. The meeting was called for Friday evening to discuss and vote on some items tabled at the September Presbytery meeting, and will be continued to Saturday, November 13th. Following the business portion of the meeting will be a **Service of Evening Prayers** and **Recognition of Honorably Retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament** within Winnebago Presbytery, including Pastor Ed Slusser. Brian Butkiewicz and Cindy Doughty will speak briefly as to Pastor Ed's time in Omro. A dessert reception will follow. Any member who would like to attend the evening service and reception is welcome to do so. Please contact the office for the times. Terri Groth has been elected commissioner to the meeting November 13 meeting.

Saturday, **October 30**, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. is the time for the **Arpin First Church** Mini-Fair. The event will include a craft sale, bake sale, and rummage sale. Breakfast and lunch will be served all day!

Pioneer Church, 1947 Riverside Avenue, **Marinette** will hold its Holiday Sale on **November 6** from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The sale will include crafts and bake sale items. There will be a food court and raffles.

Congratulations to the Rev. Nelson Craig (Honorably Retired) on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the ministry. A celebration of this milestone will be held during the 9 a.m. worship service, Sunday, October 31 at First Church, Winneconne. Nelson served as the pastor of that congregation from 1985 to 1999.

PLAN TO ATTEND the November 13 Presbytery Meeting. If you would like to learn a little more about the wider church, sign up for the **PIE (Presbyterians In Education)** event happening during the meeting.

There are two tracks available:

- 9:30am - 3:30 pm (Geared for adults, but anyone is welcome)
- 11:45am - 3:30 pm (Geared for Confirmation Classes)

There will be opportunity to attend a portion of the presbytery meeting, learn about mission projects throughout northeast Wisconsin supported by the Presbytery and much more.

You are encouraged to attend if you are a(n):

- Confirmation Class Teacher
- Youth in Confirmation Class
- Volunteer
- Christian Educator
- New Members' Class Teacher
- Elder
- Deacon
- Elder/Deacon Training Leader

SESSION NEWS

- There will be a Special Congregational Meeting following worship, Sunday, October 31, 2010, to discuss an item relative to Pastor Slusser's retirement. Pastor Tom Willadsen from First-Oshkosh will be guest preacher that day and will moderate the meeting.
- A live nativity scene is tentatively being planned for the evening of December 18 and the morning of December 19
- Still looking for volunteers to light the Advent candle Sunday, November 28 and Sunday, December 5. Please contact Ginger Selle if interested.
- Also looking for 1-2 people to take over teaching the confirmation class beginning in January. The curriculum has been prepared and Pastor Slusser will go over it with you. Please contact Pastor Ed or Ginger Selle if you can help.
- Jessie Piper has volunteered to teach the Middle School Sunday school class with Cheri Potratz. Thanks, Jessie!
- Sunday School Christmas program scheduled for Sunday, December 19. Practices will be December 5 and 12 after church and Saturday morning, December 18 (*with lunch provided*)
- Senior High Youth Group is planning a bake sale at the end of November or early December with proceeds going to the food pantry.
- Hearing Loop System will be dedicated in worship, Sunday, November 28th.
- Set goal of \$400 each for the Christmas Joy Offering and Christmas 'Green' Offering.
- Designate Thanksgiving Offering for Omro Food Pantry.
- Designate the Christmas 'Green' Offering for the general fund.
- Collect Advent Gifts as follows
 - November 28 – Winnebago Mental Health Institute
 - December 5 – Christine Anne Domestic Abuse Center
 - December 12 – Omro Care Center
 - December 19 – 2011 calendars for Oshkosh Correctional Institute inmates*(please watch bulletins and bulletin boards for gift suggestions in the next couple weeks)*
- Session met with Executive Presbyter Lucy Rupe to continue discussions for pastoral options beginning in January 2011. A committee consisting of Terri Groth, Sue Walther, and Lisa Baltes was formed to work with Presbytery to undergo a search and interview process with clergy who might be interested in serving this church as an interim pastor.

WOMENS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Mark you calendar: Nov 29th 9:00am Tree Set up/brunch to follow
 Dec 4th 5:00 - 7:00pm Smorgasbord
 Dec 13th 9:00am Cookie Pack

More information on the cookie pack will follow in the December newsletter.

Officers for 2010-2011: President: Marsha Stiller 685-2938
 Vice President: Sue Walther 685-2779
 Kitchen Coordinator: Helen Wentzel 685-5039
 Coordinator: JoAn Kolodzik 685-6630
 Sunshine Chairperson: Grace Gosseck 685-5075

If the kitchen is need of any supplies please contact Marsha.

Christmas Smorgasbord 2010



Plans are underway for this year's Christmas Smorgasbord. We had our first meeting on Tuesday October 12. We had only 3 people in attendance. The committee definitely needs more help if we want to have a successful fellowship and fundraising event this year. Please contact Lisa Baltes if you are interested in being part of the planning committee.

Here is a brief summary of our discussion: **Smorgasbord will be on Saturday December 4th**. We will be serving food from 5-7pm. Ticket prices will be the same as last year (\$8.⁰⁰ adults and \$4.⁰⁰ kids 12 and under). We will be asking for hot dishes to be brought to the church hot and ready to serve same as last year. A sign up sheet for food will be coming out early November. We will also be serving the food for our guests this year. We have several raffle prizes lined up but we will be accepting gifts for raffles or door prizes until **November 22**. Please let Lisa Baltes or Marsha Stiller know if you have a donation for the raffles. We also had a brief discussion of games. Our next meeting is Monday October 25th at 6pm and another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 9th at 6pm.

Please contact me by email or telephone with questions or suggestions!
baltesgwn@aol.com or 920-203-6066. Submitted by Lisa Baltes



Poinsettia Order Form

The Deacons will again be purchasing poinsettia plants to use in the poinsettia tree this Christmas. To order a plant, please fill in the form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, November 28**. Orders received after that date cannot be accepted.

Please place my order for _____ poinsettia(s) at \$11.00 each. My check/cash for \$_____ is enclosed.

Check One:

_____ It is my desire to personally remove the plant(s) following the Christmas Eve service.

_____ It is my desire that the plant(s) be used by the Deacons in their ministry.

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.

First Presbyterian Church - November 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 Election Day Deacons-9	3 ABS-9:30 WYVG Swim@YMCA Mission-6	4 Administration-6 Bells-6 Choir-7	5 *JoAn Kolodzik *Ed & Jan Slusser	6 *Cody Albright
Consecration Sunday Wor/SS-9 Brunch after worship	8 Comm@WM & OCC-9 Celebration-9 *Doris Strehlow	9 Smorgasbord meeting-6	10	11 Veterans Day Bells-6 Choir-7	12 Presbytery in Neenah *Carol Butkiewicz	13 Presbyterian Men-8 Presbytery in Neenah
Wor/SS-9 Nurture-10:15	15 Home Comm-9 Session-6 *Rick Baltes	16	17 Brown Bag Bib Exploration w/Pastor Willadsen-6:30 *Jeanne Faust	18 Bells-6 Choir-7	19 *Austin Verwieel	20
Thanksgiving Worship/SS-9 Alleluia choir practice-8	22 Pastor Ed on vacation thru 30th	23 *Mary Allen	24 *Jerry Allen	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
Wor/SS-9 Pastor Willadsen guest preacher Dedicate hearing loop	29 Women's Assoc set up tree & lunch-9 Smorgasbord meeting-6	30				