

DREAM ACRES



Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Omro

October 2010

From The Desk of Pastor Ed:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

October 3 is World Communion Sunday, the day that Presbyterian churches receive the Peacemaking Offering. As we celebrate this simple meal with Christians around the world, we remember that Christ is our peace, the one who broke down barriers and united us all. As we celebrate what a special day this is in the life of the church, join us for worship and fellowship as we rejoice together at Christ's peace giving work.

As we gather together around the Lord's Table on this Sunday with Christians around the world, ask yourself what you see. What kind of table is it? What are we doing at this table?

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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

Be a Star!



The Celebration Committee would like to organize an intergenerational drama group to present drama skits in worship on "3rd Sundays". Middle-school age through adults will be welcome. Please contact Lisa Baltes if interested. You may call her at 203-6066.

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On World Communion Sunday, we break bread and share the cup in remembrance of Jesus' life and ministry, and we are also celebrating Jesus, the true peacemaker, who forgives all our sins and broke down barriers to bring all people together.

Every church does things a little bit differently from every other church. If we think about churches in our town, state, country, and the world, sometimes all we see are the differences. World Communion Sunday is the day we forget about our differences and focus on what we have in common as God's family. It is the day that Christians all over the world, regardless of denomination, come to the table to partake in the simple meal of bread and wine to remember Christ who continues to bring us all together.

One church sanctuary isn't large enough for all of the Christian family to gather. Nowhere is there a building big enough for all the Christians of the world. So, we gather in our own churches around the Communion Table remembering that our family, our brothers and sisters in Christ, are also gathering around the Communion Table in their sanctuaries. We are all sharing the same meal at God's Table as Jesus instructed us to do.

I look forward to seeing you at the Lord's Table in worship on World Communion Sunday October 3rd to celebrate the gifts of reconciliation and peace Jesus has given to the world.

Blessings and Peace in Him,

Pastor Ed

PRAYER CHAIN

Let us keep the following members and friends in prayer:

FOR HEALING: Tricia Wright, Lori Jackson

FOR STRENGTH AND SAFETY: Members of the military and their families
HOMEBOUND: Addie Keller, Joan Moon, Marge Hellwig, Bettie Nipko.

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, October 9th at 8:00 a.m. at church. Bob Walther will provide breakfast, and our program will be putting up the snow fences with joking, laughing and friendship.

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 First Presbyterian Winneconne on Thursday October 7th at 8:45 a.m. Pastor Mara Rivera will lead the program on "*Transforming Our Congregations*".



SESSION NEWS

- Pastor Ed's Sabbatical Journal (Part II) featuring his worship experiences while on sabbatical is available in the church office for you to read. Stop in the church office to sign it out.
- Purchased four \$25 Pig cards (*with money from Pennies from Heaven*) to have available in the office for emergency food or gasoline requests.
- We will receive the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 3, 2010. (*see article elsewhere*)
- Bell Choir Christmas program scheduled for Sunday, December 12; Sunday School Christmas program Sunday, December 19; and Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve.
- Floors in the classrooms, bathrooms, and hallway will be stripped and waxed during the last week of September.
- Approved changing payment type for the church secretary/treasurer from hourly wage to salaried.
- Approved purchase of a flat screen LCD for the nursery. Jennie Longworth will seek out a deal on "Black Friday".
- Administration Committee will meet with a representative from the Presbyterian Foundation/New Covenant Funds to talk about investment options for our endowment funds.
- Appointed Lucy Rupe moderator of a special session meeting, Monday, September 27, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss opportunities for pastoral leadership after December 31st.
- Janine King will lead a "family choir" and provide music for worship the 3rd Sunday of each month. (*see article elsewhere*)
- Proceeds from Apple Fest will be divided as follows: 10% to the Omro Food Pantry, 45% to the general fund, and 45% to reduce our loan balance
- Consecration Sunday will be November 7, 2010.
- Eva Rausch and Helen Jepsen were elected to represent session on the Nominating Committee.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

The Peacemaking Offering is one of four special offerings designated by our General Assembly. It was created to support the peacemaking efforts of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

This year the offering will be collected on October 3, which is World Communion Sunday. The offering is split between the presbyteries and synods, which keep 25%, the General Assembly, which keeps 50%, and the last 25% is kept by our congregation to be used locally.

This year the General Assembly has asked that all or part of our 25% go to help the Presbyterian Church's AIDS Ministries in Africa. However, session has decided to keep our portion local. We will purchase food for the Omro Food Pantry with our 25% of the amount received on October 3rd.

If anyone is interested in making a personal donation to help with the AIDS effort or to help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) with its efforts to help flood victims in Pakistan, you can go to the Presbyterian Church (USA) website - www.pcusa.org.

You may also make a donation through the mail by sending a check to:

Presbyterian Church USA

PO BOX 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-37

OR by calling: 1-800-728-7228. If making a donation to the flood relief in Pakistan, please use the account number #DR00



HEARING LOOP UPDATE

The installation of our Hearing Loop System has been completed. The installation is being financed primarily by funds given to the church by the estate of former member Gordon Chase and by a generous donation from Dorothy Beebe. If you would like to make a donation toward the hearing loop system, just make a note on your check or envelope and include with your regular offering. You may also mail a check to the church office.

What is a hearing loop and how does it work? Hearing Loops allow people who wear hearing aids to directly receive the sound from the church's PA system in their own hearing aids without having to pick up a separate listening device. Europe has thousands of hearing loops including one in Westminster Abbey. Many churches in the Fox Valley area now too have hearing loops.

Do you use hearing aids? If you wear hearing instruments you will need to find out if your hearing aids have a wireless receiver called a T-coil or Telecoil built in, in order to benefit from the hearing loop in our church. The T-coil program is accessed by pushing a button on a hearing aid. This T-coil program has to be activated by your audiologist.

Hearing loops improve hearing aids!! Digital hearing aids have significantly improved in the last decade, but they do not restore hearing to normal. Difficulties often remain when in challenging listening situations. Hearing loops help hearing aid users overcome this problem by broadcasting sound without background noise or reverberation.

For more information, go to www.hearing-loop.com.

For questions about your hearing aids, visit your audiologist.

Or email audiologist Dr. Juliette Sterkens: jsterkens@new.rr.com

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.

- meet from 8:00-8:40 Sunday morning to practice the songs to be sung that day
 - songs that are easy to learn in 40 minutes will be taught
 - instrumental ensembles will be encouraged
 - traditional music, blue grass style, folk music, original compositions, and other music that praises our Jesus Christ
 - poetry of Christian expression set to music will be encouraged
 - no set formalities or rules that can hinder your Christian sharing of faith
 - this is a month-to-month opportunity
 - call Janine King at 920-685-5072 or email kingsmusicstudio@sbcglobal.net if any questions
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SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

Advent Candle Lighting: Please call the church office if you/your family are interested in lighting one of the Advent candles November 28, December 5, December 12, or December 19.

New Sunday School Teachers Needed: We will need 1-2 new teachers for the Middle School class beginning January 2011. More than one teacher would allow for a rotating teaching schedule. Please let Amy Funnell or Ginger Selle know if you are interested.

Confirmation Class Teacher Needed: A teacher(s) will be needed January-May 2011. Pastor has the curriculum done and would meet with new teacher(s) prior to the end of the year. Please contact Pastor Slusser if you are interested. The class meets from 10:30 am to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Annex classroom. This year the students are reading the Gospel of John to learn who Jesus is in addition to their weekly lessons, memory work and service to the church. Adult members are welcome to visit and sit in our class.

WMBS

Our **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** resumed meeting on Wednesday September 29th. We will meet on October 13th and 20th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at church. This year we are discussing "*Couples of the Old Testament*". Come and join the discussion and fellowship.

PRESBYTERY NEWS from "News and Notes" by Nancy Barzack

Presbyters gathered for the fall meeting at First Church, Fond du Lac, on Tuesday, September 14. There was a full day of business and fellowship.

Some of the highlights of the day included:

- A Healthy Congregations presentation from Cathleen Starck Wille of the Samaritan Center focusing on adaptive change.
- Consideration of the report from the Directional Task Force regarding the future of the Presbytery. Following a healthy debate, action regarding the recommendation was postponed until the November Presbytery meeting.
- Approval of the hiring of a 3/4 time Interim Executive Presbyter for a one year period, with a projected beginning date of January 2, 2010.
- Approval of a unique shared ministry agreement between First Presbyterian Church, Menominee, MI and Pioneer Presbyterian Church, Marinette, WI. Unique in that it involves 2 states, 2 cities, 2 presbyteries and 2 synods as well as 2 congregations.
- A lively recap from General Assembly Commissioner, the Rev. Susan Zencka. The Elder Commissioner Mary Ellen Keller and Youth Advisory Delegate Mariana Berbert were not able to be present, but shared their reports in writing.
- Approval of a schedule for Presbytery's consideration of actions forwarded from the 219th General Assembly.
 - November 2010 Meeting - The Belhar Confession

- o February 2011 Meeting - Constitutional Amendments [to present *Book of Order*]
- o May 2011 Meeting - New *Form of Government*

Study sessions for these items will be scheduled.

Our next Presbytery meeting will be Friday evening and Saturday on November 12 and 13 at the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, WI.

FROM OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

DIVINE DEPOSITS

By Gradye Parsons

Michael Fisher was my great grandfather to the fifth power. The Fishers were German. To show you how German, I can only point to Michael's birth in Heidelberg, Penn., and his wife's in Germantown, Penn.

Michael enlisted with the Pennsylvania Troops when he was fifteen. He fought in several battles, including Yorktown where Hessian (German) troops fought on the British side. Afterward, he migrated to Tennessee where he and Christina had many children and descendants like me.

Lots of Germans came to Pennsylvania. It was not always a warm welcome they received, as the following quote illustrates:

"In short unless the stream of their importation could be turned from this to other colonies, as you very judiciously propose, they will soon so out number us, that all the advantages we have will not in My Opinion be able to preserve our language, and even our Government will become precarious."

Now, it may surprise you to know that the quote is from Benjamin Franklin, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, inventor, ambassador, and so forth. That quote does not square with the Benjamin Franklin I read about in history books.

We all continue to need to hone the skills of sharing and accepting the other. To quote the great John Calvin: "All the blessings we enjoy are Divine deposits, committed to our trust on this condition, that they should be dispensed for the benefit of our neighbors."

In Calvin's formula, the "advantages" that Franklin and his circle enjoyed were given for the purpose of sharing with neighbors - even German neighbors like the Fishers.

We are in a rough economic period. Much abounds that frightens us, causing us to be defensive and anxious. People and religions from other countries push us when we are the most fearful of being pushed. But the gospel calls us to be good stewards of our hearts where the love of God dwells. It's a love that should be dispensed for the benefit of our new neighbors.

The Reverend Gradye Parsons is Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR PRESBYTERY YOUTH CAMP

(Grades 6-12)

October 27th at 7 p.m. – October 30th at 2 p.m.

BUILDING UP and TEARING DOWN

ACTIVITIES: Large group and small group learning, music, games, crafts, outdoor activities, camp fire, movies and ... back by popular demand a

HABITAT SHED BUILD

COST: \$125/Camper

Location: Wisconsin Lions Camp, Rosholt, WI

Dates: 10/27/10-10/30/10

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2010

All the details @ www.winnebagopresbytery.org

Come for the Fun. Come to learn. Come to make new friends!'

**First Presbyterian Church, Omro
Nominating Committee Interest Form**

The Nominating Committee will soon begin its search for members willing to serve on Session and the Board of Deacons. Please indicate below if you are interested in serving in either capacity in 2011.

_____ *Session (3 year term)*

_____ *Board of Deacons (3 year term)*

I would also like to serve the church in the following ways:

_____ *Administration Committee (1 year)*

_____ *Celebration Committee (1 year)*

_____ *Mission Committee (1 year)*

_____ *Nurture Committee (1 year)*

_____ *Building and Grounds Committee*

_____ *Sunday school*

_____ *Youth Groups*

_____ *Chancel Choir*

_____ *Bell Choir*

_____ *Alleluia Family Choir*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____

[Please return completed form to the church office.]

With Thanks.....

I would like to send my upmost gratitude to the Nurture Committee and members of church for your generous gift. It will greatly assist me in my future schooling. Sincerely, Eve Funnell

Deacons of the church,

Thank you for the card and the plant to grow with Kenden. It is much appreciated.

Thank you again,

Audrey and Kenden Wilson

Pastor Ed, Nurture, and Session members,

I want to thank you so much for awarding me with the scholarships. The money was used to buy all of my books and supplies. It does cost a lot to further your education but it is all worth it. I will always remember you being a part of my future and with your help, I will achieve that.

God bless,

Michael Stiller

First Presbyterian Church - October 2010



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						2
						9
						16
						23
						30
3 Wor/Comm/SS-9 DVD/Nuclear Disarmament Pax Christi-4-6 *Ashley Koon	4 *Jim & Sue Allen-47 yrs	5	6	7 Admin-6 Bells-6 Choir-7	8	9 Presbyterian Men-8
10 Wor/SS-9 *Bob Wing *Wayne Zimmer *Nathan Piper	11 Colombus Day WM&OCC Comm-9 Celebration-6 PE Retirement Party Planning-7	12	13 Mission-6	14 Bells-6 Choir-7	15	16 *Janice Allen *Marv & Donna Matulle-28 yrs
17 Wor/SS-9 Alleluia Family Choir Practice-8 Nurture-10:15	18 Home Comm-9 Session-6 *Gordon Stiller	19	20 BBBE-6:30	21 Retired Teachers' Luncheon-11-3 Bells-6 Choir-7 *Ray & Catherine Hoeft-15 yrs	22	23
24 Wor/SS-9 *Kristin Jackson	25 Pastor Ed on vacation thru 31st	26	27	28 Bells-6	29	30
31 Halloween Wor/SS-9 Pastor Willardsen guest preacher						

