



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# FirstNews Monthly

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Dear Friends,

### **A Blessing of Solitude**

*May you recognize in your life the presence, power and light of your soul.*

*May you realize that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.*

*May you have respect for your own individuality and difference.*

*May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique,  
that you have a special destiny here,*

*that behind the façade of your life there is something beautiful, good and eternal happening.*

*May you learn to see your self with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.*

The closing line in this beautiful Celtic blessing by John O' Donohue speaks to our souls and reminds us, lest we forget, that God delights in us. We are all unique and our individuality is a blessing from God. But we betray our individuality when we try to repeat what others have done or force ourselves to be what others expect us to be.

It is a wonderful truth that God delights in us, is proud of us but also has expectations of us.

What God expects is that we become the person we were created to be and that we realize our full, wonderful potential. Each of us has a part to play, a contribution to make, a calling to live into and a path to follow which is uniquely ours, given to us by God.

When we listen to the many other voices that clamor for our attention we may hear among them voices that criticize, judge, undermine and destroy our sense of selfhood and render us unable to fully grow into who we are created to be. But the voice of God is clear and must be heard above all others:

*"Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;*

*I have called you by name, you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters I will be with you;*

*And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you....*

*Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.*

*Isaiah 43.*

May we all truly learn to see ourselves as God sees us and know that whoever we are God delights in us every moment of our lives.

Blessings and peace—

Pastor Gilman



## Attention

Parents of those planning to attend the Summer mission trip: There will be an informational meeting held on Saturday, May 9 at 3521 Main Street at 5 p.m.

## RENT-A-YOUTH

YOU HELP US WHILE WE HELP YOU

So much to do...So little time? Too heavy, too big, too overwhelming, too high? Help is



available! We do yard work, painting, organizing, cleaning, computers and more for a donation to the Summer Youth Mission Trips! Contact Ben Neal for info and appointments. You can email him at [beneal@hotmail.com](mailto:beneal@hotmail.com) or call Ben at 262-497-6545.

Thanks!

# YOUTH MISSIONS



Join Us! Libana Concer: Friday, May 1  
at 7:30 p.m. at the Prairie School

Join us for a celebratory evening of planetary rhythm and harmony, and lift your spirits toward summer's light! Interweaving worldly music, dance and story from various cultures, the Racine, and Prairie community will enjoy an unforgettable performance.

Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the John Mitchell Theatre Tickets price \$10 (\$15 at the door) Order tickets online at [www.prairieschool.com/shows](http://www.prairieschool.com/shows) or by phone: 752.2597.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

716 COLLEGE AVENUE  
RACINE, WI 53403  
262.632.1686

**Pastor**

Gillian Weighton

**Visitation Pastor**

Steven C. Fringer

**Choir Director**

Alejandro Alumbrosos

**Handbell Choir Director**

Nancy Buck

**Music Leader**

Mark Paffrath

**Office Administrator**

Julie Nondorf

**Financial Secretary**

Doris Deschler

**Sexton**

Leneen Schrieffer

**Nursery Worker**

Angela Martini

**E-mail the Office:**

[julie@firstpresracine.org](mailto:julie@firstpresracine.org)

**Web Site:**

[www.FirstPresRacine.org](http://www.FirstPresRacine.org)



PLEASE RECYCLE

## FINANCIAL AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



April showers bring May flowers? Let's hope! For March, total income was only \$34,030 compared to the previous March of \$48,197. For the year, we are now at \$83,534 compared to \$93,508 last year at this time. We are almost (\$10,000), or - 10.7%, behind last year through March.

Costs for March 2015 were (\$2,889) lower than prior year. Costs were \$34,529 resulting in a small net loss of (\$499) for the month. In March 2014, costs were higher at \$37,418 for a net gain of \$12,206. Costs were higher last year primarily due to the purchase of office equipment. Year-to-date costs this year now stand at \$108,803 or almost the same compared to \$108,388 last year.

Our budgeted loss for this year is (\$6,806). Based on our current prorated income our projected loss increases to (\$34,627). Let's hope those May flowers will be in full bloom!

Ed Holle  
Treasurer

## SESSION NEWS



The Session would like to invite you to attend a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 10 immediately following worship. A letter will be coming to you with more details. Please watch for this communication and plan to attend on May 10 for this important meeting.

## MISSION CORNERSTONE



The Hand of Hope/ OGHS Drive this year will raise funds for The Food Bank that will begin at First Presbyterian in the coming months. Karin Roach and Luann Hansen will be communicating to us the need and how this will work at First. They will be at the service in "A Minute for Mission" on the first two Sundays in May. Please come and hear about how we can give our support in our own community.

Kathi Wilson

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

<i>Brian &amp; Susan Stahl</i>	<i>May 5th</i>	<i>14 years</i>
<i>Daniel &amp; Tricia Eifert</i>	<i>May 11th</i>	<i>24 years</i>
<i>Sean &amp; Marcia Rosenmarkel</i>	<i>May 15th</i>	<i>16 years</i>
<i>Edward &amp; Eleanor Hunt</i>	<i>May 16th</i>	<i>56 years</i>
<i>Alejandro Alumbrosos &amp; Ami Bouterse</i>	<i>May 19th</i>	<i>17 years</i>
<i>Patrick &amp; Denise Harris</i>	<i>May 19th</i>	<i>19 years</i>
<i>Ken &amp; Fumi Nakayama</i>	<i>May 24th</i>	<i>18 years</i>
<i>David &amp; Dana Griffith</i>	<i>May 25th</i>	<i>19 years</i>
<i>Royce &amp; Barbara Earnest</i>	<i>May 26th</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Michael &amp; Pamela Wahlen</i>	<i>May 26th</i>	<i>31 years</i>
<i>Jeffrey Leavell &amp; Georgia Herrera</i>	<i>May 27th</i>	<i>26 years</i>
<i>Russell &amp; Katherine Wortley</i>	<i>May 27th</i>	<i>26 years</i>
<i>Patrick &amp; Elizabeth Tews</i>	<i>May 30th</i>	<i>8 years</i>
<i>David Wright &amp; Kristin Holmberg-Wright</i>	<i>May 30th</i>	<i>35 years</i>





### Music & More

Plan to join us on **Thursday, June 4 at Noon** as we kick off our 22<sup>nd</sup> season! We've planned a full schedule: 10 weeks, every Thursday, noon to 1:00 p.m. through August 6. The concerts are FREE, fun and fast-paced, so plan to bring a friend or two. As always, the weekly offerings will benefit three local service agencies.

We welcome several new acts in June: Michael Mueller and Nick Barootian performing vocal solos and duets and a variation of the Corelli Ensemble featuring Irish & Scottish tunes with violins, bodhran (drum), and guitar.

Please consider making a donation to support Music & More. We depend on contributions from individuals and businesses which allow us to give an honorarium to the musicians, pay for advertising and other expenses, add to the Randy Bush and Mearl Mahl youth scholarships, and set aside some funds for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Some donors choose to make a monthly donation and these small amounts add up to make a significant difference! For example, if you usually contribute \$25, perhaps you could donate \$5 each month. All donations are tax-deductible and can be made to First Presbyterian Church, for Music & More. Donations may be given *in honor* or *in memory* of someone or to mark a special occasion. In appreciation, you will receive two complimentary tickets to the Season Finale concert on August 14 and you will be recognized as a series contributor in our weekly concert programs. Thank you!

### June Line-Up

#### June 4

Mary Anna Salo – solo piano  
Michael Mueller – vocal – solo & duet  
Nick Barootian – vocal – solo & duet

#### June 11

Suzanne Geoffrey & Friends  
Darlene Rivest & Ann Heide – violin duo  
Jeanne Scherkenbach & Anne Van Deusen – vocal & piano

#### June 18

The Corelli Ensemble – violins, drum, & guitar  
Curt Hanrahan – saxophone  
Mark Paffrath – vocal & guitar

#### June 25

Eric Carlson – solo piano  
Jill Jensen & Jack Grassel – vocal & guitar

## FIRST PRES READERS

The First Pres Book Group will next read *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, by Bruce Feiler, author and PBS personality. Our meeting will take place Friday, **May 8 at 7 p.m.** at Linda Schubert's condominium, 333 Lake Avenue, #802, 53403. *Abraham* tells the powerful story of one man's search for the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. With characters traveling through war zones, braving violence at religious sites, and seeking out faith leaders, Bruce Feiler uncovers the defining yet divisive role that Abraham plays for half the world's believers. The First Pres book group is open to everyone who enjoys reading and discussion. For more information please contact Deb Capener.



If you are at least thirteen years old, you are able to travel to Braxton County, West Virginia this year for the Summer Mission Trip, which will take place July 19–26. It's a great opportunity to make friends, help others, and grow in faith and love. For more information, please contact Pastor Gillian (632-1686) or Amanda Hansen (902-7254).



## Our Jerry: A Tribute In Honor of His 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

His gruffness, off-the-cuffness, his lemme-tell-ya'-whatness. His wry, dry humor, somehow like a torpedo travelling inexorably toward the center of its mark. His brilliant and oftentimes stunning musicianship, his love of tradition, his quiet and subtly affectionate ways—these are all sides of Jerry Buck that we as his family, friends, and colleagues knew well.

There's another thing we, his cheerleaders and partners in crime knew. Something some of you may not have recalled: Jerry—or “Gerald E. Buck” as he went by “for short,” he once told me— would have reached a special milestone this coming May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jerry had planned, far back, and told me in January, what he intended to play for us and for God that May morning, which would have been the first Sunday of his 45<sup>th</sup> year as our organist here at First Presbyterian Church. Hands on the keys and feet on the pedals, he'd have played the same prelude as his very first Sunday here—Janet Linker's variations on “Lift High the Cross”—as we called our last hellos and slipped into pews and pulpit.

The resplendently elegant notes of Jerry's interpretation of Linker's Meditation on the same would have summoned the offertory.

And as it always does, the postlude, for this particular Sunday—an exaltation combining Linker's famed alterations with Jerry's devotedly practiced playing—would have accompanied us out of our seats, down the aisle, and into our fellowship in Ihrman Hall. “But not with so much fanfare,” he'd chuckled, referring to the fact that these were “the same songs played on May 3, 1970, his very first Sunday here at First Pres.” Handing over his carefully formatted notes so I could put his music into the bulletin, he explained further, “Yes... not so much fanfare as on that first Sunday, nor with so much drama as I played it on my 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.” It took me a moment to realize that he was making a joke of himself. Sweet, dry-humored man.

I am sure that, as Pastor Steve said at Jerry's funeral, our organist is playing, but now on his sax, in that “small, smoky club down the alley, two blocks from God's throne.” And I'm also sure that come May 3, we will not only remember, but also celebrate what a great blessing Jerry's legacy of song remains.



May 1	Linda Schubert	May 11	Alejandro Alumbrosos	May 22	Benjamin Rangel
May 2	Victoria Vollman		Samuel Leipold	May 24	Austin Eifert
May 3	Ken Schacht		Aliya Pitts	May 25	Jennifer Humphreys
May 4	Jody Holle	May 12	Meredith Ford	May 26	Jennings Leavell
May 5	Monica Neal		Steven Relaz	May 27	Michael Earnest
	Zoë Tews	May 13	Ken Nakayama		Michael Wahlen
	Betsy Walton	May 14	Frederick Lawrence		Deborah Yale
May 6	Royce Earnest	May 15	David Griffith	May 28	Justin Nichols
May 7	William Blandford	May 16	Virginia Devens		Brian Stahl
	Claire Hendee		Carrie Massey		Katherine Pirtle
	Logan Humphreys		Austin Moulds		Elizabeth Stevenson
	Edward Rowe	May 19	Stephanie Shelton	May 30	Kay Flynn
May 9	Paul Hable	May 20	Megan Humphreys		Les Lucareli
May 10	Warren DeKraay		Robert Lee		Linda Shankster
	Darrel Sutton		Elizabeth Rose	May 31	Harold Ralston
	Tyler Willing	May 22	Martha Fusco		



The Sonfire group will be meeting twice this month: the first of these two meetings is on Friday, May 15. the second will be at the Color Run. See below for more info.



20-25 volunteers are needed on **Saturday, May 23**, from 7:30-11:30 a. m. to serve in Color Zone #3 (located in the same place as last year). Please join us in this great mission trip fundraiser!

NOTE: You must be at least 16

Calling all **grads!** Calling all High School **grads!** College **grads!** Community College **grads!** Trade School **grads!** University **grads!** Well, you get the picture who we' re calling, but do you know why? Our annual **Graduation Sunday** event will take place the last Sunday in May! We' d like to make sure you, your spouse, your son, or your daughter is recognized for their accomplishments! Please contact the office at [julie@firstpresracine.org](mailto:julie@firstpresracine.org) or 632-1686 and let her know the name, school, and program of graduation, and what' s next for the grad.  
**Notification deadline: Monday, 5-25.**

## Memorial Flowers

**Flowers** can be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one until May 17th. Please look for the insert in the Sunday bulletins or contact the office. We will be planting **flowers** around the church on Monday, May 25th—Memorial Day—beginning at 8:00 am. Please join us—this is always a great time of simple service. Bring your own gloves, a small shovel, and a smile.



## Communion & Food Collection Sunday

# MAY 3RD

Sunday, May 3 is Food Collection Sunday. Please bring unexpired, non-perishable food items to service. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in this way!



### ADDRESS UPDATE:

Vivian Shufelt/ 1916 Wisconsin Avenue #308/ Racine, WI 53403

# HISTORY CORNER

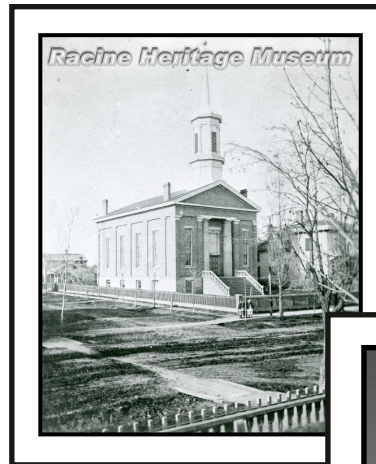
When the First Presbyterian Church was founded on February 13, 1839, a motion was made to form either a Presbyterian or a Congregational church. The vote was 15 for a Presbyterian church and 7 for a Congregational church.

On March 10, 1850 Rev. T. M. Hopkins and 27 members were released from the First Presbyterian church to form the First Congregational church. Their first church building was built in 1850 at the northwest corner of Main and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, the present location of St. Luke's Episcopal Church since 1866. This first building was dedicated on Feb. 5, 1851 and nine months later, on Nov. 2, 1851 was totally destroyed by fire.

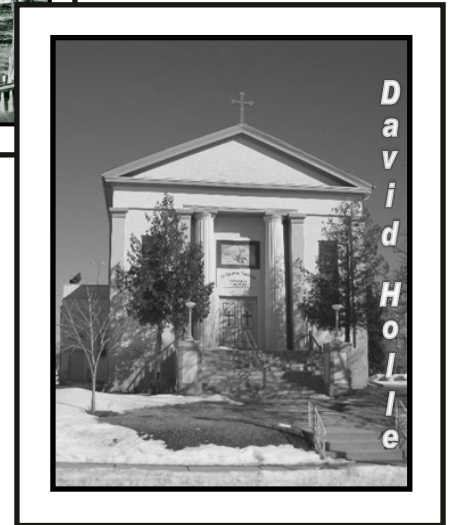
Stephen H. Sage, son of Joel Sage, donated property at the corner of State and Superior Streets on which to build the second permanent church building. The foundation for the second permanent building was finished in the fall of 1852 when the cornerstone was placed. The brick work was started in March, 1853, the walls were nearly ready for the roof timbers when strong winds blew them down, smashing sills, windows sill caps and frames - a total ruin.

The church building was rebuilt and completed about a year later. Originally the church building had a steeple but it was struck by lightning in July 1912 which caused a fire and it was decided not to rebuild the steeple.

Old and new pictures of the First Congregational Church building on Superior and State streets.



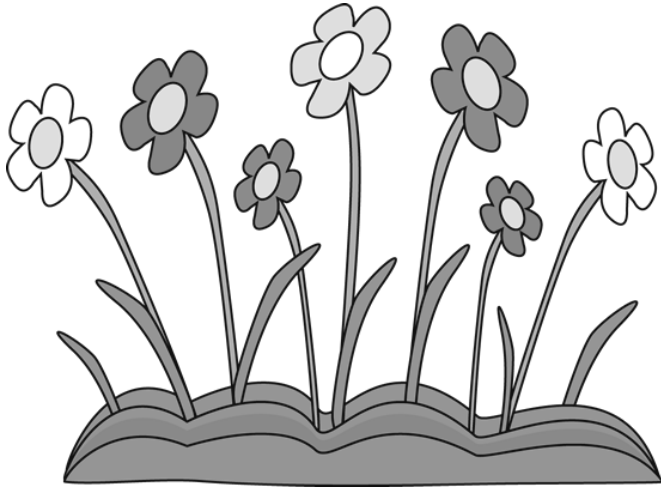
Now occupied by the Serbian Orthodox Church, note the similarities between this building, shown left and below, and our First Presbyterian church. Both were designed by Lucas Bradley.



**Our Fourth Annual Pentecost Birthday Celebration is Sunday, May 24th, and Deborah Circle—which is spearheading the event this year, would love to involve you!** Simply sign up on the sheet, which will be posted in Ihrman Hall soon, to bring a cake, help set up, or coordinate one of those two areas. We will also need help with clean up after the party. Questions? Ideas? Please call Ginny at 884-0230. Thanks!

# CHAPEL ART NEWS: SPRING UPDATE

## Chapel Art News - Dates Have Changed



In order to give everyone, including the artists, time to see their artwork—and you to perhaps buy something gorgeous in the current Chapel Art Exhibit—*Longing for Spring's Resurrection* the closing date has been **extended to Sunday, May 17th**. We have mounted a beautiful show with stunning artwork by Don Tobias, young Ben Nondorf, Kelly Marie Seitz, Suzanne Schackelman, Janet Hoffman, Ellen and Larry Cardwell, and others. Come into the Chapel during Coffee Hour and see painting, photography, drawings, batik and even a lovely, intricate charm necklace. The current show will remain on view until Sunday, May 17th and will be followed by a late spring exhibit, *From Dawn to Dusk*, which will be hung the week of May 17 and remain on view until Sunday, July 12. Please contact Ellen Cardwell at [ERCardwell@aol.com](mailto:ERCardwell@aol.com) or (262) 456-6336 with questions.

**We're here to help....**Deborah Circle's activity for May is to assist with the Pentecost Celebration on Sunday, May 24. We will get together on Saturday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m. to decorate and set tables in the downstairs dining room and also will assist on Sunday with hosting and clean-up. Thank you to all who can participate in this service project for our church! Sign up in Ihrman Hall.

**Save the date....**The June event for Deborah Circle will be a cook-out at Ginny and Dave Holle's on Thursday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. Senior Gems are invited to join us—we'd love to have you attend!



From our May trip to the Domes. From left to right, Elaine Jacobson, Nancy Reeser, Ginny Holle, and Vi Shufelt



**communitymeal**

The Community Meal is coming up again on Tuesday May 19! March's Meal was a huge success, with Deborah's Circle members providing many casseroles, plus milk, bread, and fruit. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

In May we will not have a church group providing the bulk of the food, so if you have ever wanted to get involved, now is the time. A sign up poster will be posted in Ihrman Hall. We will need casseroles, milk, fruit, lettuce, and bread; PLUS workers to help prepare and serve the food. Please consider signing up & giving this ministry a try!

Questions? Call Debbie Yale: 498-8753 (cell); 639-5004 (home).