



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# FirstNews Monthly

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Dear Friends,

### **"IT'S FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY'S COMING."**

American sociologist, pastor, and author, Tony Campolo, recalls hearing a sermon where the refrain was, "It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming!" For over ninety minutes the pastor preached. He spoke of Mary at the foot of the cross, of the disciples running in every direction, and of Pilate thinking that he was washing his hands of Jesus, that trouble-maker. Over and over again the pastor shouted, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!" As the sermon proceeded, the congregation became worked up into a frenzy and the pastor himself seemed exhausted by his efforts.

At the end of the sermon the pastor almost yelled, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!" The congregation was so engaged with the sermon that on the final cry of "It's Friday," they shouted back with one voice, "But Sunday's coming!"

Of course the whole sermon was to make the point that we live in a Good Friday world where there is suffering, crying, betrayal, loss, and death. There are many who make their way through this Good Friday world feeling nothing other than despair or dull resignation to what life throws at them. Many struggle to make sense of what they experience and others feel so let down by life that they find it difficult to trust anyone or anything. Those who endure the loss of loved ones find that comfort and hope is elusive—it is indeed a Good Friday world.

Easter comes as a reminder that, although we live in what appears to be a Good Friday world where darkness, despair, and death reign, Sunday is coming. The Sunday of which we speak is Easter Sunday, the day of Resurrection, when we celebrate that despair, death, and darkness do not have the last word.

Easter is a stark and timely reminder that in many ways it is still a Good Friday world; we only need to glance at a newspaper, or sneak a peek at the television, or sit with our grief to know that this is true. But the wonderful, life-affirming, death-defying, hope-inspiring news is this: "Sunday's coming!"

Suffering, death, darkness, and despair do not have the last word.

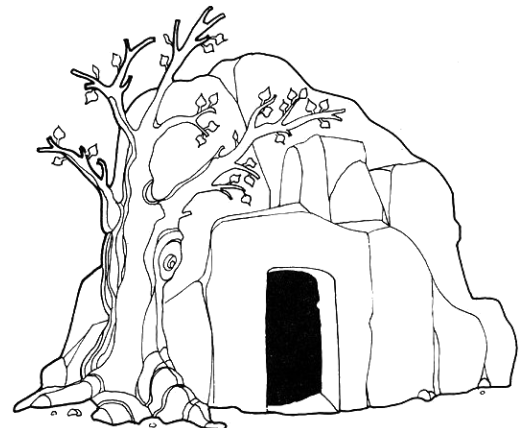
At the top of our voices we ought to declare at Easter: "It's Friday, but Sunday is coming!"

With Easter comes the promise of new life, the reassurance that death is not the end, that hope is alive and well, because Jesus Christ is alive and well.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings and peace—

Pastor Gilman



# YOUTH MISSIONS

Hello All Sonfire Youth and Parents,

It's that time of year again. Time to put on our thinking caps and work out some fundraisers to bring in money to support our youth mission trip. This year we will be going to Braxton County, West Virginia. We need your help if we are going to be able to afford to go this year.

I wanted to let all of you know that there is going to be a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 p.m. and going until 8 p.m. This will be followed by a lock-in at the church. We'll have a silent auction, as well as a 50/50 raffle during the dinner. If you have any items that you would like to be sold in the silent auction, let me know and they will be added to the list. I hope that all of you will be able to help with this.

Don't forget that we are also going to be having Rent-A-Youth as well. Ben Neal is coordinating this and will need lots of help from our youth. Also, save the 23rd of May for the Color Run fundraiser (more details on page 6).

Feel free to contact me on any questions you may have. This mission trip will be lots of fun.

Amanda Hansen  
262-902-7254  
[hansen011490@gmail.com](mailto:hansen011490@gmail.com)

## SESSION NEWS

At the March meeting, Session voted on two important motions. The first was to approve serving as a Food Bank pick up site. Much of the background work has been done thanks to LuAnn Hansen and Karin Roach. The start date is yet to be determined as a few more details, including the recruitment of volunteers, need to be worked out.

Secondly, Session voted to approve a professional review of the church accounts and our business practices. Such a review has not been done for many years and Session hopes that it can show us how we can be more effective in using the resources that your pledges give to us.

Looking at our business practices can show us how to be more efficient and that each expenditure is necessary and approved. One issue that Session is already aware of is the lack of receipts that are turned in when purchases are made. Stay tuned for more information as we receive the results of the review. If you have any questions about either of these decisions, feel free to contact any Session member.

In faith,

Debby Capener  
Clerk of Session

## 2015 Edition; Volume 4



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**  
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PLEASE RECYCLE



# Parish Nurse Notes



## Laughter Really is the Best Medicine

Did you know that when you smile you are on your way to better health? Smiling leads to laughter, and laughter triggers healthy physical changes by strengthening the immune system and boosting energy levels. Laughter relaxes muscles which may be tight from tension and stress, even reducing pain.

Your heart can even benefit from laughter. Studies show that after laughing, a person's heart rate and blood pressure fall below their normal readings. The big gasps of air taken in during a really hearty laugh help improve oxygenation of the blood, making your thoughts sharper.

How do you trigger more laughter? Experts say don't wait to be happy before laughing. Start with a smile. Count your blessings. This focuses your mind away from negative thoughts. Look for humor or the absurd things in your daily challenges. Ask yourself and others what is the funniest thing that happened this week.

Seek out others who share your sense of humor. Make the effort each day to find laughter: watch a comedy, read the comics, share jokes with friends, make funny faces in the mirror. Don't feel silly—just remember it's for your health.

May the Lord bless you with a happy, laughter-filled, and joyful heart,

Peggy Taylor, RN  
Parish Nurse

*Laughter*  
*always the best medicine*

### PER CAPITA

What can you get for \$30.00? A round of golf? Lunch for four at Olde Madrid? A large pepperoni pizza at Infusino's? Maybe. But did you know that you can ALSO pay your 2015 per capita? What's "per capita" you ask? Think of it as each active member's "Presbyterian Dues." Our per capita payments strengthen the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s ability to support vital ministries in our nation and around the world! Please designate your special gift "MY PER CAPITA." Thanks!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



<i>John &amp; Patt Reitsma</i>	<i>April 20th</i>	<i>58 years</i>
<i>Dan &amp; Nancy Bloch</i>	<i>April 24th</i>	<i>50 years</i>
<i>Tim &amp; Julie Taggart</i>	<i>April 30th</i>	<i>32 years</i>



# MONTHLY COLLECTION, APRIL 5TH



## Music & More 2015

We're celebrating our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the Music & More Summer Concert Series and we've scheduled a great line-up of performers to entertain you. Many of your favorite acts will be returning and we've added a few talented newcomers to the calendar.

The noontime concerts will begin on **Thursday, June 4** and run through **August 6**. The season finale concert will be held on **Friday, August 14** at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the evening concert are \$10 or complimentary with a donation to M&M.

As in past years, there is no charge to attend the noon-time concerts, but donations are encouraged and will be divided between three local service organizations at the end of the series. Music & More continues to be a unique and valuable asset in the life of our church and also benefits the larger Racine community.

### *How can you help?*

- **Donate** – We need your support! Donations from individuals and businesses make it possible for us to give an honorarium to the performers and pay for advertising and other expenses. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made to First Presbyterian Church *for Music & More*. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of someone, or to commemorate a special occasion. Your name will be listed as a supporter in the weekly programs and you will receive two tickets to the season finale.
- **Advertise** – Yard signs and posters will be available mid-May. Please take a yard sign to display in your front yard, or place a poster at your place of business. [The yard signs are very sturdy and usually can be used again. Please return yours to church at the end of the season or request pick-up.]
- **Volunteer** – Join the M&M committee and help with the summer concerts. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Georgia Hall for more information at 633-7251.
- **Attend** – Plan to attend the weekly concerts, and bring a friend or two! Word-of-mouth is our best advertising and your enthusiastic support is appreciated.

## 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).



## FINANCIAL AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



Happy Easter everyone! For February total income was only \$16,674 compared to the previous February of \$22,765. For the year, we are now at \$52,798 compared to \$48,023 last year at this time. We are still ahead of prior months, and hope we can keep the momentum going!

Costs for February 2015 were (\$2,630) lower than prior year. Costs were \$31,076 resulting in a net loss of (\$14,402) for the month. In February 2014 costs were higher at \$33,706 for a net loss of (\$10,941). Costs were higher last year primarily due to snow removal and fuel costs. Year-to-date costs this year now stand at \$74,260 compared to \$70,970 last year.

Budgeted increases to compensation are driving the Y.T.D. unfavorably at this point.

Ed Holle  
Treasurer

## DEBORAH CIRCLE

A big thank you goes out to all who helped with the Community Meal in March. For April, Deborah Circle is planning a trip to the Milwaukee Domes. We'll head up on **Tuesday, April 14**. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to the Domes. Please let Ginny Holle know if you are planning on joining us for this excursion to view the beautiful displays there! Call her at 884-0230 or email her at [dholle@wi.rr.com](mailto:dholle@wi.rr.com).



# Happy Birthday, April Babies!

Apr. 1	Kristin Holmberg-Wright	Apr. 16	Elaine Jacobson
Apr. 5	Gillian Weighton		Russell Wortley
Apr. 7	Elizabeth Jakubowski	Apr. 20	Dan Barry
Apr. 8	Jared Smith		Julie Nondorf
Apr. 9	Pam Simpson		James Walton
Apr. 11	Ellen Cardwell	Apr. 23	Louisa Daniels
Apr. 12	Armin Clobes		Elizabeth Morack Tews
	Eve Plache	Apr. 24	Mary Ralston
Apr. 13	Ed Holle	Apr. 27	Sean Rosenmarkel
	David Humphreys	Apr. 29	Leann Mason
Apr. 14	Jessica Rooney		Jeanne Wagner
Apr. 15	Jillian Humphreys	Apr. 30	Nancy Reeser
Apr. 15	Craig Sondergaard		





The Sonfire group will be meeting the first Saturday and the third Friday of every month. This month, we'll see you on Saturday, April 4, and Friday, April 17.

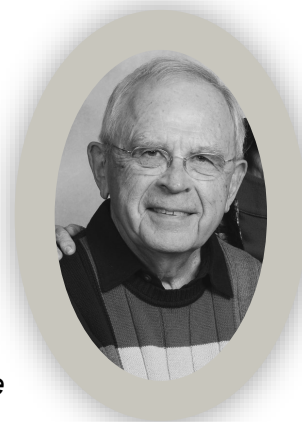


### Save the Date!

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!

## **Mearl Mahl Music & More Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund**

*The deacons have established a Music & More youth scholarship fund in memory of Mearl Mahl. It is hoped that this will be an on-going scholarship, and that each year some Music & More funds can be added to the account, as well as to Randy Bush's Music & More youth scholarship fund. Once we have enough money to give some scholarships, the committee will decide on the selection and awarding process. In the meantime, those interested in donating can make checks payable to First Presbyterian. Please include Mearl Mahl Scholarship in the subject line. Thank you!*



## **Young Women's Gathering**

Join us to share life experiences,  
laugh together, enjoy a glass of wine,  
and explore our faith!

Come as you are to 3521 Main Street  
on Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

No agenda. Just a get-together.

Questions? Call Gillian at 414-581-6919



# HISTORY CORNER

IN LOVING MEMORY

GERALD E. "JERRY" BUCK

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ORGANIST, 1970 – 2015

## 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 [beneal@hotmail.com](mailto:beneal@hotmail.com) or call Ben at 262-497-6545. Thanks!

## MISSION CORNERSTONE



By now the Cuba travelers are back from their amazing trip. Please stop and talk to them about their experiences and the hope they have for a "Sister Church" partnership here at First Pres.

As may have read, Session voted to make First Presbyterian Church the downtown site for the Food Bank. The Mission Committee has voted to put our "**Hand of Hope/ One Great Hour of Sharing**" donations towards funding this new project. LuAnn Hansen and Karin Roach have put in a tremendous effort and will be talking to us on two different Sundays in late April, early May. They will give us the details and how it will work as we go forward. Please be in prayer for the amount you will be able to donate to Hand of Hope/ One Great Hour of Sharing...then watch the fish net fill up as we is put a fish in the net for every \$100 collected.

As always, thank you so much for all you do for the local and global community!

Peace in our Neighborhoods,

Kathi Wilson—Chairperson

Ben Neal, Julia Reeser, Carrie Massey, Georgia Herrera, Debbie Yale, Nancy Borzynski, Beth Shelton, Bruce Armstrong, Martha Fusco, and Pam Simpson—Our Members

# CHAPEL ART NEWS: SPRING UPDATE

Are you aching for spring? Tired of grey skies, brown earth, and chunks of old snow? Then refresh your spirits by visiting our chapel during Perk-n-Pour or whenever you are at First Presbyterian. Come to see our luscious spring exhibit, *Longing for Spring's Resurrection*. Included are vibrant pieces created by artists as young as Ben Nondorf and as venerable as Janet Hoffman. There are several gorgeous paintings by Don Tobias, photos by both Larry and Ellen Cardwell, breathtaking paintings by Karen Mathis, Suzanne Schackelman, and Dina Walker, two springtime pastels on sheets of music paper from the Racine Heritage Museum created by Mary Nelson, two brilliant batiks by Kelly Marie Seitz and even a lovely and interesting charm necklace. Many pieces are for sale so don't miss this exhibit which will remain on view until Sunday, May 3.

Our next Exhibit, opening on May 10<sup>th</sup> and running until early July has the theme *Dawn to Dusk*. So if you have any artwork for that show, plan on bringing it in by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. All artwork must be framed with a wire on the back for hanging and clear identification. For more information please contact Chapel Art Coordinator, Ellen Cardwell, by email at [ERCardwell@aol.com](mailto:ERCardwell@aol.com) or give her a call at 262-456-6336.



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## Celebrate the Risen Lord!

Join us for Easter worship on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>—which also happens to be Pastor Gillian's birthday! We'll celebrate with a cake and punch reception in Ihrman Hall after the service. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids! See you there!



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First Presbyterian Church will take a turn to do the sack lunch on Saturday, April 11. Your help and support of this ministry are appreciated. For questions or to volunteer, contact Deb Capener at 262-930-9713. Thank you!

