

# First Things First

November 2017

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## Blessings

For the past several years, Susan and I have hosted Thanksgiving for our extended family. We chop and mince and prep; we bake and boil and braise; we scald and whip and fold. (Susan makes the best cheesecakes!) A few dishes change year-to-year and each year everyone is just a little older (and a little “bigger”), but every year as we shop and cook, we can’t help repeating:

**God has blessed us abundantly.**

Within our church this year, some of us are feeling a little anxious about the future; we’re wondering what our Wise God is trying to teach us or where our Dynamic God is leading us. Some members are concerned that we may be just too small for the Lord of All Creation to care about. (And believe me, the pictures of deep space taken by the Hubble space telescope have revealed that “All Creation” is much, much bigger than any of us has ever comprehended!) But if you look around our corner of the sky, you can’t miss God’s overwhelming love for us: we worship freely every week, we fellowship every month, we preach the gospel and baptize in name of the Triune God, we have music and food and teaching and joy. Our God has prepared a table for us and our cups overflow.

During this Thanksgiving season, take a few moments to **feel** the abundance of God’s blessings. When Jesus declared “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10), the gospel records that many listeners did not understand. But when Jesus followed that with “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” we realize he is instructing us how love and care and sacrifice turn into blessings. When we are identified as the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand (Psalm 95), it is a reminder that our love and service can turn into blessings for others too. God has blessed us to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

-Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session

# November Calendar

## NOVEMBER 1

5:30 PM Session Meeting  
Office

## NOVEMBER 5

2:00 AM Daylight Saving Time Ends\*  
10:00 AM Worship  
All Saints' Sunday  
Communion Sunday  
Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School  
Nursery  
11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship  
Oak Room  
11:15 AM Adult Education\*  
Oak Room

## NOVEMBER 12

10:00 AM Worship  
Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School  
Nursery  
11:00 AM Annual Meeting\*  
Sanctuary

## NOVEMBER 14

4:00 PM Presbytery Meeting\*  
Grace Presbyterian, Beaver Dam

## NOVEMBER 15

6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting [rescheduled]  
Oak Room

## NOVEMBER 16

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast  
Dady-Oh's

## NOVEMBER 19

10:00 AM Worship  
Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School  
Nursery

NOVEMBER 22, 23 and 27  
Office Closed

## NOVEMBER 26

10:00 AM Worship  
Christ the King  
Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Preschool Sunday School  
Nursery  
11:00 AM Hanging of the Greenery & Fellowship\*  
Sanctuary

### Staff Time Off

NOVEMBER 22 and 27: Carol off

### Looking Ahead

## DECEMBER 17

11:00 AM Christmas Tea Fellowship

## DECEMBER 24

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

## DECEMBER 25

No Worship at First Presbyterian

## November Birthdays

11/01 Dennis Balzer  
11/02 Charlotte Smith  
11/10 Lois Jacobson  
11/19 Dean Larson  
11/21 Andrew Byshenk  
11/25 Duane Jacobson  
11/27 Zaine Radcliff



Please note office hours are  
Monday through Thursday,  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.  
Office will be closed  
November 22, 23, and 27

## Pancake Breakfast

Come enjoy a pancake breakfast to benefit **Habitat for Humanity**. Partake in tasty pancakes for a good cause! The Carroll University chapter of Habitat for Humanity is hosting a pancake breakfast on **Saturday, November 4, between 8:00 AM and noon in the First Presbyterian Church dining room**. Tickets are only \$5!

## Daylight Saving Time Ends!

Daylight saving time ends on **Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:00 AM**. Don't forget to set **your clocks back 1 hour** before you go to sleep Saturday!



## It Gave Me Goosebumps!

Many people say that their lives are enhanced by music, but for many Christians, hearing and singing hymns is even more profound: it shapes our spirits. Simple hymns can feel like being folded into God's arms; passionate hymns can drive us to weep; ecstatic hymns can lift us to glimpse God's transcendence.

**Want to know more about some of our best-loved hymns?**

Join your First Pres family in the Oak Room after worship on **Sunday, November 5**, for a closer look at 4 great hymns:

- Be Thou My Vision (~500)
- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (1529)
- Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (1749)
- Lift High the Cross (~1900)

## Bell Ringers Needed!

The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to ring bells on Friday afternoons at the downtown Waukesha State Bank location beginning on **November 10**. If you can help with this, please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the Oak Room. For further information, please contact Earl Davison.



## Annual Meeting

We will have our annual meeting on **Sunday, November 12**, for the purpose of electing officers, receiving committee reports and the 2018 budget, and for reviewing and voting regarding the acceptance of the minutes of congregational meetings which have occurred since the last annual meeting. Please plan on being present to voice your vote.

## Operation Christmas Child

We are joining the folks at Avalon Square in their participation in the **Operation Christmas Child** project, providing gifts to children who might not otherwise receive any. If you picked up a box or two, please remember that they are due back by **Monday, November 13**. Thanks for your generosity!

Have something for the **combined December 2017/January 2018 newsletter**? Please send it to

[presby1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:presby1@sbcglobal.net)

or drop it in Carol's mailbox by **Monday, November 13** to have it included. Any items received after the 13th will be included in the February newsletter.

## Presbytery Meeting

3:15-8:00 PM

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Grace Presbyterian Church

215 Gould Street

Beaver Dam, WI 53916

You are invited to the November 14, 2017, Presbytery Meeting being hosted by our awesome brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace Presbyterian Church, Beaver Dam. The theme for this gathering is Faith, Food, and Farming, celebrating the gifts and ministry of all those working to address issues of hunger, food scarcity, and nutrition in the Greater Milwaukee Area. During the business meeting, we'll introduce our new Exec nominee, Rachel Yates, and I'll be passing the moderator baton to Vice Moderator Lee Tan. Please plan to come early for an opportunity to "Meet the Executive Candidate" prior to the business meeting.

I hope to see you there!

Ann Gibbs, Milwaukee Presbytery Moderator

### The schedule:

**3 pm - Registration and "Meet our Executive Candidate"**

**3:15 pm - First time orientation 4 pm - Business meeting**

**5 pm - Panel Discussion: Food, Faith and Farming**

**6 pm - Dinner**

**7 pm - Worship**

## HOPE Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction

Thursday, November 16, 2017

5:00 PM Cocktails and Silent Auction

7:00 PM Dinner and Live Auction

Country Springs Hotel  
2810 Golf Road  
Pewaukee, WI

RSVP Today!

call: (262) 549-8726

email: [info@HopeCenterWi.org](mailto:info@HopeCenterWi.org)

Donations welcomed.

## Session Recap

The session met on Wednesday, October 4 and again on Sunday, October 15.

At the Oct. 15 meeting, we approved the Baptism of Hailey Ulrich, infant daughter of member Laura Ulrich and friend of the congregation Kevin Ulrich.

At the Oct. 4 meeting, we had a report of the last Presbytery Meeting, began a draft of the 2018 budget, identified a vendor to fix the pulpit microphone, discussed adding some lighting in the alley behind the building, considered a proposal for renting part of our parking lot for special events, decided beneficiaries for some mission funds, did some preparation for Staff Reviews, planned the Open Door meeting, and heard about the Records Review with the Presbytery. We also approved additional funding for Inspired Heights to repair the leaking roof around the steeple. We ensured there is Pastoral Care coverage during October and recognized that the Presbytery had not yet approved our request to search for an Interim Pastor.

## 2017-2018 Calendar

The all-church calendar now through September 2018 is ready and available on the sign-up table in the Oak Room. Look for the light-blue cover. One side is organized by month; flip it over and the other side is organized by group to help you find what you're looking for more easily.





## Advent Is Coming!

Please mark your calendars for upcoming Advent

### Worship during Advent

Rev. Elizabeth McCord will return to First Pres and will lead worship throughout Advent, including for our beautiful, traditional Christmas Eve service. As always, we will cap the Christmas Eve service by singing Silent Night by candlelight. If you're in town, be sure to join us, and bring family and friends!

### Hangin' of the Greenery & Fellowship Sunday, November 26

Stick around after worship for a fun couple of hours decorating the church for the season of Advent. We'll gather together just after **11:00 AM** on Sunday, November 26. We'll share a pizza lunch and wrap up around 1:30 PM, if history is any indicator. Even if you can't make it for the whole time, we would love to have your help for as long as you can offer it!

### Christmas Poinsettia and Giving Catalog orders are due Sunday, December 3

Please see the attached order form for more details. All ordered poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

### Christmas Tea Fellowship Sunday, December 17

Please join us after worship in the Oak Room on **Sunday, December 17** for our annual Christmas Tea. We will share cookies and tea, along with coffee, hot chocolate, cider, and the ever-popular peppermint bark. If you are able, feel free to bring a plate of your Christmas cookies to share.

## Christmas Eve Readers

As part of our Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols on **Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 P.M.**, we are looking for several volunteers. If you would be willing to read one of the lessons, please contact Jim Ziegler by **December 1** so he can get you your reading. Thanks!

## Christmas Mission Outreach

The **Christ Church Mitten Tree** is now up in the Oak Room and is looking bare. The following would be greatly appreciated:

- warm hats
- warm scarves
- warm gloves or mittens
- toys
- puzzles
- children's books
- crayons
- markers
- children's activity books
- large print playing cards

**ERAs** gives Christmas care packages to low income seniors. Our donation basket will be in the Oak Room starting the first Sunday in November. Items in need are:

- books of Forever postage **stamps**
- thin **puzzle books** - Sudoku, crosswords, word search
- thin **gripper socks** (Medline is a good brand)
- **combs**
- individually wrapped **toothbrushes**
- blank Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Valentine, and Christmas **cards**
- **\$10 gift cards** to Walgreens, Pick & Save, or McDonald's (please write the value on the card)
- large print playing cards

The last day to contribute to both will be **Sunday, December 3**.



## ***Poinsettia Order Form***

It is time, once again,  
to order poinsettias  
to beautify the sanctuary

during the Christmas season.

FROM \_\_\_\_\_

# OF PLANTS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one) In honor of / In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one) In honor of / In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

## ***An Alternative to Poinsettias***

Below are options for purchasing gifts  
through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

FROM \_\_\_\_\_

**Can for water**      \$25.00 \_\_\_# donated

in memory / honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Kitchen Kit**      \$25.00 \_\_\_# donated

in memory / honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**School Supplies**      \$30.00 \_\_\_# donated

in memory / honor of \_\_\_\_\_

If needed, please add additional lines on the back.

**Jerry Cans:** Flat-sided metal container for liquids provides a family with an easier method of transporting water.

**Kitchen Kit:** A kitchen kit provides basic preparation tools to people who have lost everything in a disaster.