

First Things First

September 2018

A Word from Tom, the Stated Supply

To put it in social media language “OMG it’s September!!” Another summer is all but ended and here we are starting another program year, school year, and continuing our faith journey at First Presbyterian of Waukesha. Having been here one whole month, I have had the privilege of sharing with you worship, fellowship, and the warmth of a welcoming congregation!! But I also have heard and sought to answer many of the questions regarding both my tenure as well as the vision I might bring to this congregation. Let me offer some brief thoughts on that.

First, I am here to enable and not to direct. As someone who has spent about ten years doing Interim Ministry, I hope I have learned that my role is to enable congregations to confront their “now” and think honestly, openly, and faith-fully about their “about to be”. That process requires members and friends of 1st Pres to offer their ideas, their fears, and their vision – and I do mean fears!

Fear is not necessarily a bad thing. It enables us to offer a reason for not doing something or for doing something in a different way. AND in a community knowing the fears of others can help the community plan, move forward, and make progress WITH the involvement of all by acknowledging the fears and working around them, re-directing its activities to ameliorate those fears, or even going in a different direction. Knowing the fears of some can enable the community to look at alternatives it might have never considered.

Second, my vision is that on February 1, 2019, this congregation will have begun to set forth a plan for the next steps in their ministries. I don’t know what that plan will be, nor do I expect it to be complete. Like our faith, it will be a floor or a road upon which will continue our journey and not an anchor to which we are tied. It will be a plan which will require compromise, consensus, and cooperation. My metaphor is that it will be like a family planning a vacation. Not every part will please everybody. It will represent a community effort, a truly Presbyterian process!

I look forward to this journey and to listening and learning with you.
See you in church or sometime soon I hope.

September Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2

9:30 AM **Worship at Southminster**
Please note earlier time

SEPTEMBER 3

Labor Day Observed
Office Closed

SEPTEMBER 5

Session Meeting
Office

SEPTEMBER 9

10:00 AM **Worship**
Commissioning of the Teacher
Sanctuary
11:00 AM **Back-to-School Bash Luncheon***
Dining Room

SEPTEMBER 11

3:00 PM **Presbytery Meeting***
Kettle Moraine Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 12

6:30 PM **Deacons' Meeting**
Oak Room

SEPTEMBER 16

10:00 AM **Worship**
Blessing of the Backpack*
Sanctuary
10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

SEPTEMBER 20

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

SEPTEMBER 23

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

*see article

Staff Vacation

Sept. 4 - Sept. 10: Bob vacation

More Shared Worship with Southminster!

We continue our longstanding tradition of joint worship with our daughter church. Over Labor Day weekend, it's Southminster's turn to host us. Note that worship starts half an hour earlier over there! Join us!

Sunday, September 2, 9:30 AM

Worship at Southminster Presbyterian Church
200 Richard Street, Waukesha, WI 53189

September Birthdays

9/1 Jean Sinclair
9/4 Turner Dittrich
9/5 Kaitlyn Lucht
9/7 Hyeyoung Lee (mission co-worker)
9/10 James Ziegler
9/14 Arlene Burdick
9/19 Lawrence Sinclair
9/23 Judie Berthelsen
9/26 Lora Collins



**Church office hours are
Monday through Thursday,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
Office Closed September 3**

Cookies for Carroll

On September 7, First Pres will take part in the **2018 Carroll University Student Involvement Fair**. We will share a table with Southminster, and we'll hand out information about First Pres, as well as cookies.

If you would be willing to bake a dozen cookies for the occasion, please contact Jim Ziegler as soon as possible.

Back-to-School Bash

Who says you're too old to go back to school? Join us after worship on Sunday, **September 9**, in the Dining Room for our **Back-To-School Bash**. We'll partake of some good ol' cream of tomato soup along with grilled cheese and PB&J sandwiches (with some ham, turkey, tuna salad and cheese also available). The church will provide drinks too. Please contribute to the event with salads, chips, and desserts. After lunch, we'll whip up some fun with our **Things-You-Should-Have-Learned-in-School Trivia** game! Save me a seat!

Blessing of Backpacks



Blessing of Backpacks: As we return to the school year rhythm of worship, **Sunday, September 16**, during worship service, we want to send our students into the year with a blessing. From **Day Care to Graduate School**, all students are invited to bring backpacks for us to bless.

smile.amazon.com

You can now designate First Presbyterian as the recipient of 0.5% of all your orders on Amazon through smile.amazon.com.

See Jim Ziegler with questions or to sign up.

Thank you!

The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who has helped out First Pres by ushering, reading, and preparing Coffee Fellowship while we were "between pastors." We extend a special thanks to Andrew Byshenk, Kathryn Hermann, Lisi Du Mez, Alex Du Mez, and Erica Margis for leading worship.

If you would like to read or usher, please sign up in the notebooks in the Oak Room. If you have questions, feel free to ask Jim Ziegler, Elder for Worship.

Session Recap

After many months of slow progress, all the pieces suddenly fell into place, and we were able to hire Rev. Tom Williams as Interim Pastor for a term of 6 months. (Rev. Williams is not available for a longer term, because he is retiring.) Rev. Williams moderated the special Session meeting on August 8. He arranged to meet with the Session in late August so we can bring him up to speed on "where we've been and where we're going."

We have dealt with air conditioning problems and continue to work on the issue of the roof leaks. We are preparing for the annual Peace & Global Witness special offering in October. We discussed our upcoming monthly fellowship events.

Save the Date! HOPE Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction

Thursday, November 15, 2018
5:00 PM Cocktails and Silent Auction
7:00 PM Dinner and Live Auction

Ingleside Hotel
(Formerly Country Spring Hotel)
2810 Golf Road
Pewaukee, WI

RSVP Today!
call: (262) 549-8726
email: info@HopeCenterWi.org
Donations welcomed.

Trivia Bowl Fundraiser For The Hope Center

Saturday September 22, 2018

Buffet meal, soda, domestic beer

Bullwinkle's
20290 W. Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53005

\$50.00/person

\$30.00/team

Register today: <https://hopecenterwi.org/events/>

Next Gathering Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Kettle Moraine Presbyterian Church

Theme: Climate Change and our Responsibilities as
Christians

Speaker: Dr. Calvin B. DeWitt (Professor of
Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-
Madison)

Peace & Global Witness Offering

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Our congregation uses up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils, like presbyteries and synods, retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

This offering is one of the four PC(USA) offerings collected throughout the year for work by the whole denomination, and will be collected on World Communion **Sunday, October 7.**

Have something for the **October** newsletter?
Please send it to:

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Monday, September 17** to have it included. Any items received after the 17th might not make it into the October newsletter. ☺

Looking Ahead to October



The **Christ Church Mitten Tree** will be up in the Oak Room on Sunday October 7, 2018. A list of things needed will be published in the October Newsletter.



2018 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2018 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$34.00. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian can use your share elsewhere. Please note "per capita" in the memo line. -Thank you!