

# First Things First

November 2021

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With the help of Elder Erika Margis, during our Fall Sermon Series, we have been exploring what it means to “**Join with Jesus**” following him on “The Way”. Joining with Jesus means opening ourselves to new experiences and being surprised by grace. As Eder Margis made a coil pot, I was reminded of the many twists and turns in my own life. I also reflected on the many twists and turns this church has gone through. I was reminded that God is the Potter. God is the one forming us especially now.

Our church is at a crossroads. We have been such a vibrant church for most of our history. But no longer. What does it mean to “Join with Jesus” at this juncture of our church life? How will we be surprised by grace? What new experiences await us? Here is part of what I had to say.....

*When we begin life, most of us are greeted by love. As we grow, we learn all sorts of things like how to speak, how to read, how to argue, what is funny, how to relate to one another. Our families form us as we grow- as children, as teens, and as adults- with all its wonders and its wounds.*

*If we are blessed, our family takes us to church which then widens our family ties. For when we are baptized, our church family agrees to help us grow into becoming Christ followers in the hopes that we will confirm that formation later in our teen years like Callan and Quentin did this year.*

*Then a moment occurs when our childhood faith, the faith we learned from our parents and church folks, just does not work for us any longer and, for the first time, we begin to question what life is all about.*

- *Maybe a friend of ours dies. Such a good person. Their death just does not make sense. Where is God anyway?*
- *Maybe someone close to us becomes addicted to drugs or alcohol or something else and they swerve off and the friendship dies. Why them, not us?*
- *Maybe the realization comes that we live quite a privileged life compared to others and we see for the first time the great social divide. Why me, not them?*
- *Maybe we talk to someone panhandling for money on the street. As we look them in the eye, we see their humanity and stumble into a conversation. Are we both children of God? Are we our brother/sister's keeper?*
- *Maybe suddenly we realize how much harm has been done in our world, is being done to our world, in the name of Christ by good church people?*

**First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha**  
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*Whenever this happens, we begin to walk down our own path, making sense out of life through our own eyes and not the eyes of our parents or our church. We begin to grope our own way through the darkened woods of our messed-up world.*

*Yes, we have been formed by our parents and, if we are lucky, by some faith-filled Christ followers, but it is now our time to figure out how we will live with integrity.*

*We can never undo the formation of our childhood, but we can explore it, toss out what does not work, forgive our parents for the harm that they did, bless them for the good they instilled in us, affirm what makes sense and move on - making our own way with life's many twists and turns, bringing with us our wounds and wonder.*

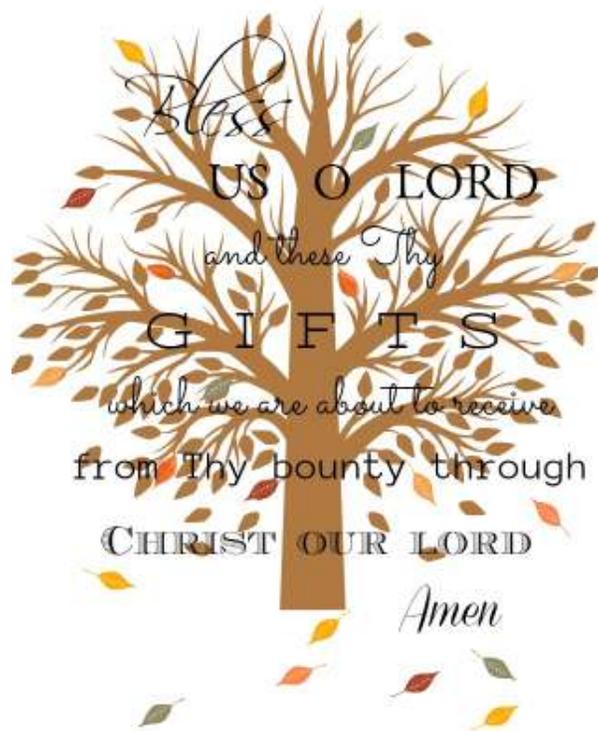
*We make our way by walking this path we call life.*

*Two surprises as we begin:*

- *First, we discover that others are on the road with us.*
- *Second, when we are ready, our eyes are opened, and we discover that we have been walking with Jesus all along.*

Our church, our lives have always been joined with Jesus which makes all the difference in the world. God is not done with us yet. Let's keep our eyes open to God's grace and to the possible pathways that God wishes us to explore. We will do this together because we are church.

~Pastor Glen



# November



## NOVEMBER 1

6:00 PM Session Meeting

## NOVEMBER 7

2:00 AM Daylight Saving Time Ends\*

9:30 AM Worship

Communion Sunday

## NOVEMBER 10

6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting

Oak Room

## NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day

## NOVEMBER 14

9:30 AM Worship

Sanctuary

10:30 AM Annual Congregational Meeting\*

Sanctuary

## NOVEMBER 16

9:00 AM Women's Breakfast

The Coop

## NOVEMBER 18

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast

Dady-Oh's

## NOVEMBER 21

9:30 AM Worship

## NOVEMBER 25

(Thanksgiving)

Office Closed



## NOVEMBER 28

9:30 AM Worship

Sanctuary

\*see article

## Looking Ahead

Hanging of the Greenery:

To be announced in upcoming bulletin

## DECEMBER 24

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service\*

## DECEMBER 25

Christmas

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

11/23 Paul Vrakas

11/25 Duane Jacobson

11/27 Zaine Radcliff



Please note office hours are Monday,  
Tuesday and Thursday,  
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Office will be closed November 25

## Daylight Saving Time Ends!



Daylight saving time ends on **Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 2:00 AM**. Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to sleep Saturday!

Have something for the **combined December 2021/January 2022 newsletter**? Please send it to:

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Tuesday, November 23** to have it included. Any items received after the 23rd will be included in the February newsletter.

## Christ Church Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree went up on October 31! and will stay up until the first Sunday in Advent.

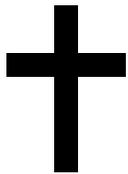
This year, items needed include:

- Reading books
- Stuffed animals
- Toys
- Crafts
- Crayons and coloring books
- Winter accessories (hats, mittens, scarves, boots)
- Board games



Items should be appropriate for children between the ages of 1 and 12.

Cash donations can also be made, which will be used to purchase items as needed. Please note on your check or envelope that the donation is for **The Christmas Toy Store**.



*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."  
~Thessalonians*

## Hebron House of Hospitality Gala

Mark your calendars for **Hebron Housing Services' Annual Gala on Saturday, November 13**.

Each year, our gala raises funds to provide safe shelter and a brighter future for families and individuals in need. Join us for an in-person gala at **The Legend at Brandybrook, 1 Legend Way, Wales, WI** to help end homelessness in our community, and celebrate another year of restoring hope and dignity to those in need. You can change a life!

For information about sponsorships or gifts, please email [gala@hebronhouse.org](mailto:gala@hebronhouse.org) or contact us at 262-549-8722

## Annual Meeting

We will have our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** on **Sunday, November 14** after service in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of electing officers, receiving committee reports and the 2022 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.

## Women's Breakfast

Come join us for fellowship and good food as the women of First Presbyterian Church join for breakfast. **We will meet at 9:00 at the Coop in Waukesha, 350 Delafield St., on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is on November 16.**

## Men's Breakfast

Come join us for breakfast **November 18** as the men of First Presbyterian Church continue their fellowship meetings. **Breakfast starts at 8:00 AM at Dady-Oh's, 250 West Broadway, Waukesha. We meet the third Thursday of every month. Hope to see you there!**

## Presbytery Meeting

**Thursday, November 18, 2021**

Go to: <https://www.pbymilwaukee.org> for details.



# Annual HOPE CENTER

## *Denim and Diamonds*

### Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction

Thursday, November 18, 2020

5:00 PM - 9:30PM

Brookfield Conference Center  
325 South Moorland Road  
Brookfield, WI 53005

Attire: Your favorite denim and best bling!

RSVP Today!

(262) 549-8726 or **online: [hopecenterwi.org](http://hopecenterwi.org)**

Donations welcomed.

## Christmas Joy Offering

The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering, running from **November 28th - December 19th**, distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Envelopes will be on the entry table.



CHRISTMAS JOY  
OFFERING  
SINCE 1930



## Advent is Coming!

### Hangin' of the Greenery

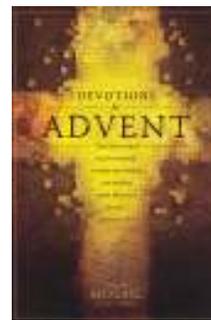
Stay tuned! Details will be announced in the upcoming Sunday bulletins.

### Christmas Eve Service

**Tuesday, December 24**

Details to be determined and will be provided when available.

**Christmas Poinsettia and Giving Catalog orders are due Tuesday, November 30.** Please see the attached order form for more details. All ordered poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. Please contact Therese in the office if you have any questions.



## Advent Devotionals

Advent Devotionals booklets, "**Devotions for Advent**" will be available on the entry table as soon as we receive them.

## Christmas Eve Readers

As part of our Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols on **Thursday, 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 David Schultz via email: [david@theschultzfamily.us](mailto:david@theschultzfamily.us) or cell: (262)441-6109 by December 9** so he can get you your reading. Thank you!

# The Session at Work

The Session held its October meeting on the last Monday of September due to conflicts. At this meeting, the Session continued its discussion regarding the sale of the building. After much deliberation, the Session agreed on a sale price of \$450,000.

There will be a Meeting of the Congregation on October 3, 2021, to elect the members of the Nominating Committee for 2021. The nominating committee will provide candidates to serve as FPCW officers for 2022. The committee to draft a Ministry Plan has not yet met.

As the Session continues to discern the future of FPCW, there are two church that remain favorites with which to connect. These are St. Matthias and St. Luke's. It was suggested we might have further information by the Annual Meeting in November.

Led by the Deacons, FPCW served 25 guests through the Loaves & Fishes distribution at the Hope Center on September 19, 2021. There were also several members of FPCW who worked at a Feed My Starving Children mobile event on September 25, 2021.

At the recent Back-to-School bash, bragging rights for Things You Should Have Learned in School went to the players at the Green Table. The next Fellowship Event will be the Harvest Festival on October 17, 2021. The Adult Education series will continue through the end of October.

The Session reviewed an issue regarding insurance for the Milwaukee Mandolin Orchestra that will be using the building. The Personnel Committee will meet to develop recommendations for severance packages for current staff members. The church continues to be in strong financial condition. The Session will develop a budget for 2022, which will be approved at the November meeting.





## Remembering Others

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.

*~Author Unknown*

## ***Thank You, Lord, for Everything***

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for the breath to say  
Thank you for another day*

*Thank you for the eyes to see the world of beauty surrounding me  
Thank you for the ears to hear your message of hope loud and clear*

*Thank you for the hands to serve and far more blessings than I deserve  
Thank you for the legs to run the race of life until it's won*

*Thank you for the voice to sing  
Thank you, Lord, for everything*

*Amen*

*~Author unknown*