

THE PRESBYTERIAN BRIDGE

Celebrating our uniqueness

Coming together in Christ



INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MENOMINEE

PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2018

First Presbyterian Church of Menominee
and Pioneer Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY BRUNCH

October 21, 2018

9:00 a.m. Brunch at FPC

10:00 a.m. Church Service at FPC

FPC members will bring a breakfast dish to
pass and Pioneer will provide desserts.
All are welcome.



Saturday, October 6

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Menominee
Fellowship Room

Music News

First Presbyterian Church of Menominee

Thank you to those who filled out the sheet of requested hymns in the Gathering Room. Pastor Jon has placed the following requested hymns in the song schedule for the next month:

- Oct 7 - God of Our Fathers
- Oct 14 - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- Oct 21 - Be Still, My Soul
- Oct 28 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Pioneer Presbyterian Church

The new Glory to God hymnal is a wonderful hymnal. Therefore, Worship and Music wants to introduce some of these inspiring newer songs within our worship repertoire. Please let us know what you think of these songs and also any favorite songs that you would like us to sing during worship.

Peacemaking Offering

The next special mission offering is the Peacemaking Offering on Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 7th. 50% will go to our own local peacemaking and 50% will go to the Presbyterian peacemaking ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council.

Pastor's Bible Study

We are studying Paul's Prison Letters (Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, Philippians, 1 Timothy, Titus, & 2 Timothy). We meet each Wednesday, 10am at Pioneer and 6:30pm at First Presbyterian. Newcomers are always welcome.

RHYTHMS AND SEASONS

Now that Fall is officially upon us and the weather has turned a bit cooler, our minds start to turn towards preparing for winter. Boats must be prepped and stored. Lawns winterized. Hoses put away. If you are like me, Fall becomes a mad dash to finish my preparations before winter sets in.

Growing up in Southern California, Fall was marked by the Santa Ana winds blowing from the west. These gusty wind storms were a welcome sign that the heat of summer was finally over, but that was pretty much the only real natural marker of Fall. Because it is temperate during the winter, there wasn't much to winterize. There weren't many leaves to pick up. The grass was mowed all year long. (In fact, it grew better in the winter.) We didn't have to have our sprinklers blown out nor call the furnace technician for an annual service. Now that we live in the Mid-west, I have grown to appreciate these seasonal chores as a part of the natural rhythm of life.

Just as God has given us the seasons to appreciate the cycles of creation, the Church celebrates annual seasons which help us appreciate God's salvation and redemption. The Church calendar begins with the first Sunday of Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday. We are coming into the final stretch of the Church calendar.

It is during this last stretch that we celebrate All-Hallows Eve (Halloween) followed by All-Saints Sunday where we honor the faithful who have died. For this reason Halloween is connected with death. All Hallows-Eve is a recognition of the death we must first transverse before celebrating the new life the faithful have received through Christ.

Most of us don't plan our lives around the Church calendar. Our lives are typically more impacted by the events of other calendars such as the school calendar and the calendar that holds all our extra-curricular activities. This is not bad or wrong, but the church calendar offers us another alternative that helps us to prepare for our life-after-death.

By following the rhythms and seasons of the Church calendar, we move from anticipation and prophecy to the birth of a Savior, into Jesus'

life and miracles, to preparation for his death on a cross, to Christ's resurrection, to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the celebration of Trinity, All-Saints Day, and finally, Christ the King Sunday. This movement through salvation history strengthens us for our journey with Christ in this life, but it also prepares us for our journey in the next life as we become more like Jesus.

So how are you to know and celebrate these holidays? Come to church and we will lead you through the Seasons of the Church calendar. On Sunday October 6th, we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday. We will be united with millions of Christians across the world receiving Christ's holy feast together as one body. On this day, we will also be receiving the Peacemaking offering which is used by our denomination to promote peace within our local communities and the world. As individuals and as a holy communion, God calls us to love one another as he has loved us. Celebrating World Communion Sunday and giving to the Peacemaking offering is a tangible way that we prepare ourselves to live as Christ's followers.

I look forward to hearing about your Fall preparations and seasonal fun as we gather together in worship and fellowship on Sunday. I also look forward to participating in the seasons of the Church calendar as we are guided together into another year of celebrating Christ's reconciliation and redeeming love. Take it from a Southern Californian, enjoy each season as it comes because each is a special time for reflection and hope.

Sincerely in Christ,



Jon

DEADLINE for the November 2018 Issue of The Presbyterian Bridge is **OCTOBER 20th**. To ensure that your article will be included, **please submit your typed article and materials to your church office on time!**

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will meet on **Thursday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m.** in the church library. We will be preparing for the Fall Rummage Sale that will be held on Saturday, October 6th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in the Fellowship room.

Mission News

We will continue to collect personal items for men, women, and teens. These items will be donated to The Abundant Life Mission (the homeless shelter). Please place your donations in the basket in the Gathering Room.

The loose coin offering will be collected every third Sunday in our offering plates. We will announce the designation at the end of November. Thank You.

Deacon's Doings - August & Sept.

On August 20th, a birthday party was done for Marion Bergstrom who turned 100. We sent flowers and five Deacons attended wearing FPC 150th anniversary t-shirts.

FPC Communion - Sept. 2 was set up by Carol Symeneshen and Mary Ann Langill.

Harbors Communion - August 2 set up by Carol Symeneshen. Sept. 6 set up by Karen Menard

Harbors Service - Aug. 16 aided by Sue Plautz

Homebound Communion - Sept. 2 set up by Mary Ann Langill

Coffee Hour - Sept. 9 coordinated by Helen Thibodeau

Food Donations - August and Sept. distributed by Sue Plautz

Book Club

The next meeting for the Book Club will be **October 25 at 6:30 p.m.** We meet at Harbors in the fourth-floor library. This month's selection is "George Washington's Secret Six" by Brian Kilmeade. This is a story of the Culper Spy Ring that operated between New York City and Setauket, bringing information about British plans and troop movements across Long Island Sound to Connecticut and on to General Washington.

We enjoy reading new books as well as classics and would love to have your suggestions for fun and interesting reading material. As always, we welcome new members and would love to have you join us to share your favorite books with us. If you need a ride please call Janet Johnson at 906-863-7496.

October Birthdays

8	Jon Nelson
12	Bill Fernstrum
13	Danielle Squires
14	Pam Maye
15	Jennifer Blair
18	Richard Estebo
21	Jim Stang
27	Cheryl Hoffman
27	Linda Majkrzak
27	Glenn Squires
29	Evert Ramstrum
30	Carol Hoida



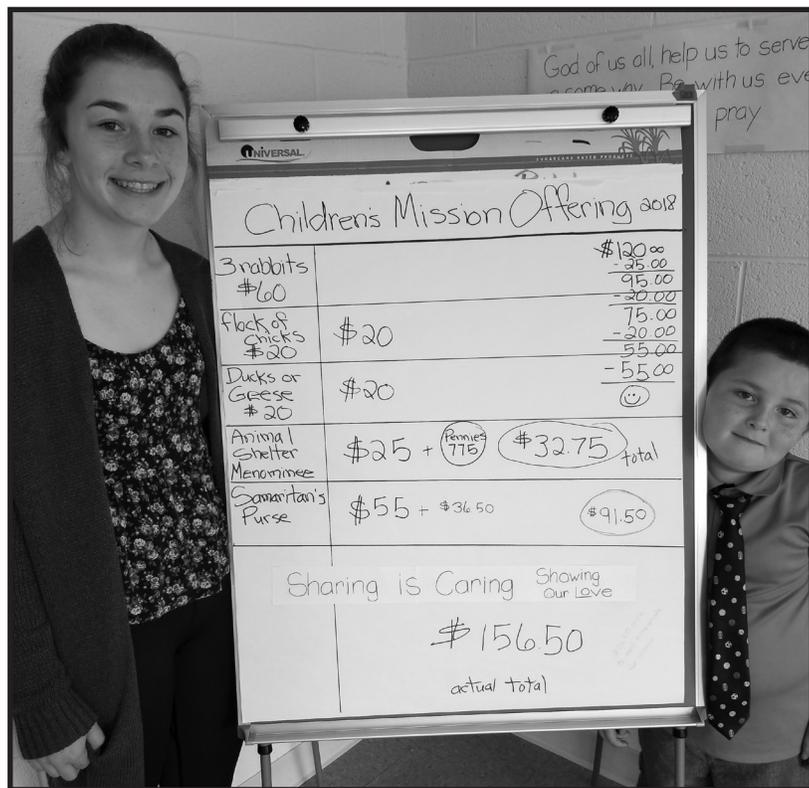
Christmas Shoebox Project

School supplies are still available in the stores. *Would you consider buying a few extra for the annual Christmas Shoebox project?* Backpacks, 2 pocket folders, 3 X 5 index cards, colored pencils, scissors, liquid glue, crayons, pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, notebooks, watercolor paints, glue sticks and small notebooks are just some suggestions. They don't accept scissors or liquid glue for the shoebox project.

As always, MONETARY DONATIONS are excepted if you would prefer us to do the shopping.



Donations can be dropped off at the church office. The **deadline for shoeboxes is November 12th** as the boxes need to be sent out. Thank you – Debbie Hofer and Linda Engeldinger.



Offering Money for Mission

October ~

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Linda Baumler
- 2 Amy Hammer
- 5 Marlene England
- 8 Susan Stang
Jon Nelson
- 10 Lori Hmielewski
- 18 Keith Jung
- 20 Betsy Jaeger
- 23 David Hammer
- 30 Pat Pottratz

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Karen & Leonard Curtis
- 11 Cindy & Tom Bailey
- 18 Morris & Grace Mundt
- 30 Jim & Marlene England

LITURGISTS

- 7 Sarah Austad
- 14 Wally Hitt
- 21 Julie Skrzypinski
- 28 Karen Bickel

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- 7 The Bailey family
- 14
- 21
- 28

GUEST MUSICIANS

- 7 Susan Thornton
- 14 Marilyn Schoen
- 21 Voices of Peace
- 28 Joan Campbell

GREETERS

- 7 Tom & Julie Skrzypinski & Logan Elan
- 14 Bob & Sue Landenberger
- 21 Ellis Langjahr & Ruth Stiemke
- 28 Roy Peterson

Presbyterian Women

PW will start out the new year with a lunch at the Best Western Riverfront Inn on Tuesday, October 9th at 11:30 a.m. We can discuss the upcoming events for our group. Please RSVP to Pat Pottratz, 715-735-3258 or Liz Murphy, 906-864-2328.

New Address

Please note the new address for the Stanley's:

Myrna Stanley
Deery Suites
5301 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

NEWS for PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hello Faithful Prayer Partners-

It's been too long! My mother always told me if I can't say something good, don't say it at all. But if I continue to follow with that advice, how can you pray? So I'm ditching my mom's words.

In February, the Karen church plant I was involved with formally split following a classic Asian conflict that was very destructive. I returned early from my time in Asia to attend to a situation that could not be reconciled. I feared that one of our leaders who was so viciously attacked in all areas of his life would go from depression to suicide. That is the route of most Asian conflicts of this scale. Where we could once say Trinity Karen Baptist Church (TKBC) was 1,200 people now it is 250 people trying to find their legs. Karen churches splitting has become endemic in the USA, Thailand, and Burma.

If I'm honest, this has been the hardest season of my life. I discovered I had a misplaced identity. Our identity must come 100% from Christ and not our work. Not successes of work. Not relationships and not cross cultural savvy. So I'm taking care of this business, with a season of realignment. And a season of grief. I had poured into the pastors and leaders and their families for years. And they left, taking the relationships with them. By far the greatest tragedy was that poor preaching and teaching had been taking place in TKBC. I realize that health must begin with me if I'm going to teach it.

I remember once seeing a tall tree in our neighborhood that was struck by lightning. It split right down the middle. Though it looked like a healthy tree from the outside, it was not on the inside. It had a rotten core. I was fascinated how it could look like such a healthy tree on the outside and be so sick on the inside. This parallels TKBC. It was a large robust church with many activities and plans. Yet it was rotten inside. The relationships of the leadership were not strong, nor were they pure. They did not love each other as brothers. They had disunity and hearts that had no problem murdering each other with their words. The love of Christ was absent. The message of Christ wasn't being preached. TKBC was fated to fall.

Something of beauty is just taking form in the heap of ashes.

So now we are rebuilding. We are raising up new leaders and God, in his mercy, is answering our prayers and bringing some highly experienced and skilled people into our church to help lead. I have committed to work with TKBC for 1 year to help them reestablish. I am co-leading the Christian education department and putting those spiritual formation skills to good use. Last Sunday at a table where 10 youth were seated, I taught the creation story. I brought into the lesson John 1:1-2. Christ was present at the beginning. This sparked a conversation where one youth asked, "Is Jesus God? How can Jesus be God?" You see, in the past the children only memorized scripture and didn't have any context or understanding. They never heard the Gospel. But that is changing now. Last Sunday 10 youth heard about how Christ makes everything new!

The preaching in TKBC is now done by our new pastor who has taught in NoPo Bible School. He preaches from the New Testament. This is a significant difference from the preaching of the past three pastors who have left our church. Our people are growing and it's a beautiful thing to witness. God adds to our church a couple of new people each week. But we want to be faithful to the ones who are there. Growing big is not our goal; growing strong in our knowledge and obedience to God is our goal. Faithfully teaching and making disciples is our work.

Please continue to support me in prayer. My prayer requests are:

- For strong leaders to grow in their love and faith in Christ at TKBC
- That we can succeed in leading all who sit in the pews to a saving knowledge in Christ
- That I can be content in this season in the USA (my greatest struggle)
- That I develop a program to care for Karen churches regarding conflict, resolution, and healing.
- for continued good health, strength and walking in step with the grace of God.

Thank you for praying! Blessings,
Joanna P.



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Pastor Jon Nelson • 715-587-8731

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MENOMINEE

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www.fpcmenominee.org

Administrative Hours:

Mon. - Thurs.
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

SESSION

Clerk of Session • Donna Rife
Building & Grounds • Steve Engeldinger
Christian Education •
Fellowship • Steve Engeldinger
Finance •
Mission • Patricia Johnson & Jane Stripling
Personnel • Sam Hofer
Worship • DeeAnne Polhmann
Evangelism/Membership • Sam Hofer

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator • Karen Menard

Anita Draska	Sue Plautz
Karen Fehrenbach	Ann Schultz
MaryAnn Langill	Janet Smith
Linda Majkrzak	Carol Symyneshen
Karen Menard	Helen Thibodeau
Mary Nelson	

PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.pioneermarinette.org

Administrative Hours:

Mon - Wed | 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thurs | 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

SESSION

Clerk of Session • Karen Bickel
Administration • Liz Murphy
Building & Grounds • Joe Reines
Christian Education • Joy Lapacz
Finance • Bill Lenca
Memorial & Mission • Karen Bickel
Outreach & Fellowship • Ellis Langjhar
Personnel • Karen Buyarski
Worship & Music •
Nominating • Joe Reines

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Secretary • Linda Baumler

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Linda Baumler	Karen Hipwell
Marguerite Braley	Barb Kopish
Claudia Campbell	Sue Ochs
Karen Curtis	Myrna Stanley
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