

THE PRESBYTERIAN BRIDGE

Celebrating our uniqueness

Coming together in Christ



INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MENOMINEE

PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2018

ADVENT SCHEDULE | 2018

December 2

Stewardship Sunday

Pioneer Presbyterian Church | 9:00 am
First Pres. Church of Menominee | 10:30 am

Outreach Potluck

Pioneer Presbyterian Church | 10:00 am

December 9

Pioneer Presbyterian Church | 9:00 am
First Pres. Church of Menominee | 10:30 am

December 16

Children's Program

Pioneer Presbyterian Church | 9:00 am
Bell Choir Performance

First Pres. Church of Menominee | 10:30 am

December 23

Pioneer Presbyterian Church | 9:00 am
First Pres. Church of Menominee | 10:30 am

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Pioneer Presbyterian Church | 5:00 pm
First Pres. Church of Menominee | 9:00 pm



Holiday Express

Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 8th
9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
of Menominee



We need Your Help!

Please bring any baked goods or craft items for our sale to the church on **Friday, December 8th** from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** or **4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Your treats and crafts will help make our sale a big success.

Thank you for your donations!

2018 Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on **December 23rd**. The offering is used for Assistance Programs of the Board of Pensions and Racial Ethnic Education at PC (USA) related schools and colleges. Your mission committee thanks you for your support.

COME LORD JESUS!

Christmas is often a season of hopeful expectation. Children are buoyant with enthusiasm for Santa to come. Their mirth often overflows to those around them as they look forward to Christmas. Adults often look forward to spending time with family and friends during the holidays. Many of us also enjoy the music, decorations, and spirit of kindness that accompanies Christmas. Christmas can be an exciting time.

In the Church, we celebrate the season of Advent - our hopeful expectation of the coming Lord. Advent is a time to remember when Christ was born and also to look forward to when Christ shall return. Advent readings remind us of our hope in Christ and encourage us to remain faithful as we await the time that heaven and earth shall be forever reunited in faith and peace under God. This is our hope and promise that we have received from God.

The Church's and World's expectations of Christmas are different. This does not mean that as Christians we cannot also enjoy the secular fun of the season. We get to celebrate the joy of the season along with receiving a deeper understanding of Christmas. We can then be more involved in the Spirit of Christmas.

Sometimes I think that as Christians, we do not always present the best message of Christmas. We might feel compelled to point out to non-church attenders that "Jesus is the reason for the season," but this can come across as judgmental or disapproving. It can create a sense that Christians don't enjoy fun and merriment of the season. We know that this isn't the case and probably isn't our intention, but we should be cautious of the message we send to others.

Perhaps we should take our cue from God who arranged Christ's birth with more subtlety and humility: A young virgin betrothed to a working man from the line of David, both of who were content to have their child born in a lowly stable and placed in a food trough. This event was easily overlooked by those around them, but to those who were made aware, it was a sign of great joy and hope for the world.

We can hopefully remember that Christmas is a gift to the whole world whether the world understands its deeper meaning or not. It is a gift of love not of our own making, but God's, and it is given freely to whomever wishes to receive it. For those of us who have accepted this gift, we can excitedly pass it on with the same sense of love that it was given to us. Therefore, let us pass it on just as humbly as God and with the same hope of benefit for the world.

One of my favorite names is Christopher, which in Greek means "bearer of Christ." I hope that we can all be "bearers of Christ" this Christmas season because as Christians we are bearers of the greatest gift of love given to the world. In Jesus Christ, God gave us the gift of his only begotten Son so that he would die for our sins and that we might be given new life. This is our hope and it is in this hope that we await expectantly for his return and cry out with all the saints "Maranatha - Come Lord!"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Pastor Jon



DEADLINE for the January 2019 Issue of The Presbyterian Bridge is **DECEMBER 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, December 6th at 10:00 am** in the church library. The final preparations for the Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 8th will be discussed.

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.

Book Club

The Book Club will not meet in December due to the Holidays. Wishing each one of our Book Club friends a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in January 2019!!!

Deacon's Doings - October and November

- The Deacons met on Oct. 2nd.
- Oct. 14th Coffee Hour - Helen Thibodeau baked and Ann Schultz and Janet Smith served.
- Nov. 11th Coffee Hour - Helen baked and Mary Ann Langill and Sue Plautz served.
- Oct. 18th - 197 Halloween bags were filled with candy by Helen Thibodeau, Ann Schultz, Carol Symyneshen, Anita Draska, and Karen Menard.
- Oct. 25th - Ann Schultz and Karen Menard handed out candy bags in front of FPC.
- Oct. 7th Communion was set up by Sue Plautz and Carol Symyneshen.
- Nov. 4th Communion was set up by Sue Plautz and Janet Smith Harbors Communion Oct 4. set up by Anita Draska and Karen Menard.
- Nov. 1st set up by Sue Plautz Homebound Communion.
- Nov. 4th set up by Sue Plautz
- Helen Thibodeau and Ann Schultz shopped for Christmas gifts for shut-ins.
- Mary Nelson did cards for the gifts. The gifts will be distributed in December.
- Nov. 6th - Karen Fehrenbach and Linda Majkrzak were helpers at the funeral for Evert Ramstrum.
- Helen Thibodeau sent cards and a \$10 gift card from Subway to students who graduated last year.
- Our next meeting will be Dec. 4th at 5:15 p.m.

December Birthdays

1	Karen Fehrenbach
3	Brandon Meisner
7	Sue Stripling
11	Becky Stepniak
12	Mary Kay Boyce
16	Tonya Meisner
19	Carole Hoskin
23	Rev. Ron Helgerson
26	Carol Mick
27	Sue Polito
28	Helen Hoffman
30	Rebecca Wellens



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
TO ORDER**

Please place my order for the Christmas poinsettias.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

The Flower Gallery has made Red poinsettias available to us for \$12.00 (single), \$23.00 (double). Please return this form and payment to the First Presbyterian Church of Menominee office before December 12th. You may also call the office at 906-863-3889 or use the form from the website to place your order but payment must be received by December 12th.

This is a great opportunity to remember and/or honor a loved one.

Please circle the size: Single (\$12.00)
Double (\$23.00)

1. Honor Memory

2. Honor Memory

3. Honor Memory



Time to Hang Up the Kitchen Towel

After many years, our chief cook, bottle washer and coffee hour hostess extraordinaire, Betty Kabatek, has decided to retire at the end of this year. Her last official day will be December 30th. If anyone wishes to take over the coffee hour duties – please contact Betty Kabatek. Betty will be missed but deserves to step back after many, many years. Thank you, Betty.

Christmas Shoebox 2018 Project

Thank you to all who participated in this year’s Christmas Shoebox project. There were 32 shoeboxes in this year’s final tally. We can generously donate because of your assistance and for that we are very thankful. It will make some children happy this holiday season.

Reminders

The first Sunday of each month is the Food Pantry Collection. One of the Deacons gather up the donations and distribute to the local food pantries.

The loose coin offering is collected the third Sunday of each month. All dollar bills and coin are donated to a special mission of our choice.

Anyone wishing to sign up for Flowers or Coffee Hour can do so on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. The sign-up sheets are for a three-month period but if there is a special date that isn’t there and you would like to reserve it, please contact the church office and it will be reserved on the calendar.

If you know of someone who would like to be added to our current homebound church list, please contact the church office as we update it frequently at 906-863-3889. A Deacon will be contacting the individual to setup home visits and discuss their needs.

December ~

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Rich Ulrich
- 5 Mary Kronauer
- 13 Wayne Kopish
- 14 Jean Twining
- 17 Tom Jessel
- 31 Gayle Gomez

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Lloyd and Gayle Gomez
- 27 Peter and Sarah Austad

LITURGISTS

- 2 Gene Davenport
- 9 Cindy Bailey
- 16 Henry Bailey
- 23 Brookelyn Peterson
- 30 Open

GUEST MUSICIANS

- 2 The Lovetts
- 9 Marilyn Schoen
- 16 Joan Campbell
- 23 Nicole Stripling
- 24 Jennifer Flatt
- 30 Mary Meyer

GREETERS

- 2 Tom & Julie Skrzypinski
- 9 Nancy Ulrich & Karen Hipwell
- 16 Mark Franzen
- 23 Dennis & Jo Anne Nipple
- 24 The Bailey family
- 30 Barb Kopish

Presbyterian Women Christmas Party

Please join us at Schloegels on **Tuesday, December 4th at 5:30 p.m.** Entertainment will be provided by violin and cello. First Presbyterian Church of Menominee women are invited. Please join us for a fun evening! RSVP to Liz Murphy at 906-864-2328 or Pat Pottratz at 715-735-3258.

Pioneer Christmas Party for Adults

We will be having our Christmas party on **Sunday, Dec 9th** at Little River Country Club. The Packer game is currently at noon. Social hour at 5:00, dinner at 6:00. Dinner will be served family style and will be similar to last year but we don't have a final price yet.

The traditional white elephant gift exchange will follow the meal. White elephant gifts can be anything from a "not so nice" Christmas item to a "nice" item. "Nice" items that have been popular in the past have been candy, nuts, candles, and Christmas decorations.

A signup sheet will be available by the Church entrance as we get closer to the date. The cost will be \$18.50 per person. Please join us for this delicious meal and fun event.

Poinsettias for Purchase

There are order forms included in this newsletter for Christmas poinsettias – if you are interested in ordering your flower in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form and drop it off in the church office or call the office at 715-735-3025.

NEWS
for
PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Holiday Potluck Brunch
Sunday, December 2
10:00 am

After the service on December 2 we will have a potluck brunch. In addition to good food and good fellowship we will also be accepting cash donations for homeless high school students in our community.

The Outreach Committee will add to the donations received to make the total donation to the school district of Marinette \$500. Please bring whatever dish you would like to share and join us in fellowship and help young people in need.

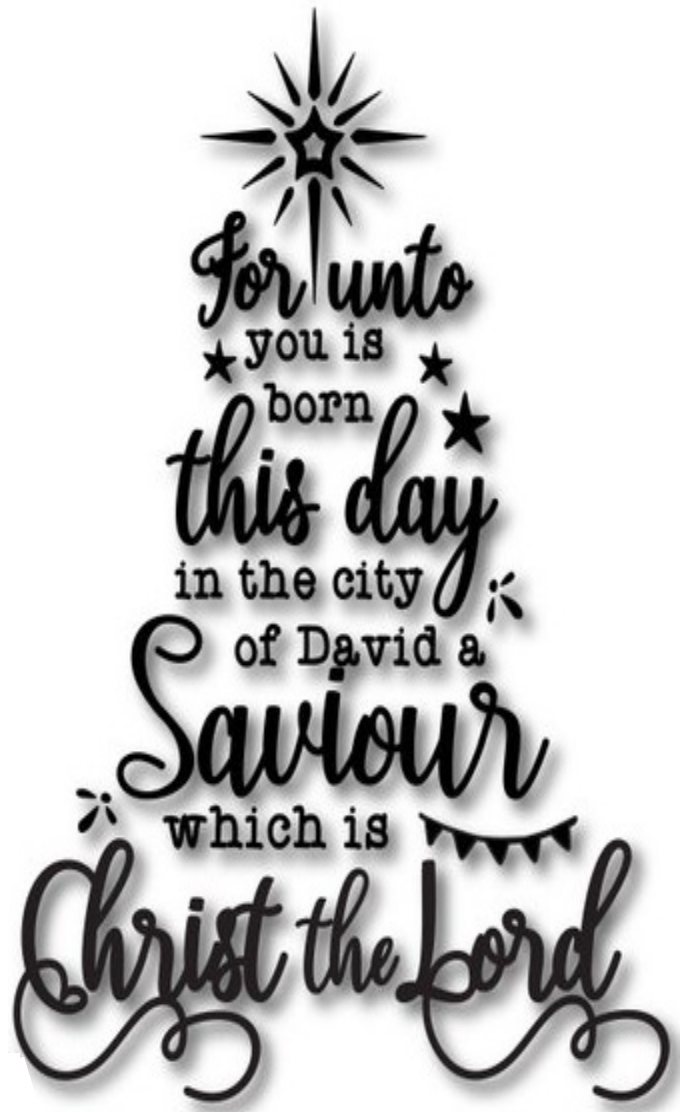
The following is from an e-mail received from Kathy DeWitt, School Social Worker for the school district of Marinette:

"To the Pioneer Presbyterian Church.

Thank you so much for thinking about our students again! The Walmart gift cards you gave us last year were great! We used them to buy snacks to have on hand for hungry students, shoes, socks, undergarments, personal hygiene items and diapers. We even had a senior young man that knew his mom needed a jacket get her a jacket with one of the cards. We would be grateful for you to help our students out in that way again! It is a treat to be able to bless them in that way. Thank you for your generosity!"

Children's Holiday Activity

Kids and parents will meet **Thursday, December 5 from 5-8 pm** at the mall in front of Dunham's. We have picked 2 children from the angel tree (1 boy and 1 girl). If anyone would like to contribute for gifts, please connect with Cindy Bailey before December 5. Several parents and kids will be shopping while the others ring.





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Pastor Jon Nelson • 715-587-8731

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MENOMINEE

923 5th Street
Menominee, MI 49858
906-863-3889
office@fpcmenominee.org
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 • Kay Waypa
Fellowship • Steve Engeldinger
Finance • San Hofer
Mission • Patricia Johnson
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

1947 Riverside Avenue
Marinette, WI 54143
715-735-3025
office@pioneermarinette.org
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 • Wally Hitt
Christian Education • Joy Lapacz
Finance • Bill Lenca
Memorial & Mission • Karen Bickel
Outreach & Fellowship • Ellis Langjhar
Personnel • Karen Buyarski
Evangelism • Wally Hitt
Nominating • Joe Reines
Worship • Joe Reines

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator | Pat Pottratz

Marguerite Braley	Lloyd Gomez
Claudia Campbell	Karen Hipwell
Mark Franzen	Sue Ochs
Gayle Gomez	Pat Pottratz