

THE CHURCH'S LIFE
News of the First Presbyterian Church
Oregon, Wisconsin
Interim Pastor: Jessica Scholten
Office: 835-3082
www.fpcoregon.org
Email: karenfpc@frontier.com

NOVEMBER 2011

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving!

Tis the season for giving thanks! And this year, First Presbyterian Church has even more reasons to be filled with gratitude—from the top of the top shingle to the bottom of the beautiful floor (it's a one-story building, after all). 2011 marks a historical year in the life of this congregation—moving to a new church home. Can you even believe that it was less than a year ago that we broke ground?! And now here we are finishing up plans for the Open House almost exactly one year later, to celebrate this beautiful new space for worship and fellowship.

Thanks be to God for the grace given to this congregation!

And thanks be to each of you for your hard work, diligence, time, patience, generosity, and vision that has brought this good work to completion. If we gave awards to all who have helped, the presentation would last longer than the Oscars. **Please know all the time and talent that has gone into this new church home is appreciated and noticed**—the Session, the staff, and myself are grateful for each one of you. Also, the Session gives a special thank you to the Celebrations Team, who helped with so many tours and events along the journey, and to the Open House team who are planning a GREAT celebration for November 6. Don't forget: 5—personally invite five friends or neighbors to come share in the Open House.

Happy Thanksgiving! May we be filled with gratitude each day!

Grace and peace,
Jess

**CELEBRATE OUR JOURNEY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011,
1:00PM – 3:00PM**

On November 5, 2010, we gathered to break ground for our new church home. One year and one day later, we are opening our doors to our family, friends and community! The afternoon will include tours of the building, a slideshow, children's activities, food and music. The afternoon music program will feature the adult choir, bell choir, recital performances and we are welcoming guest musicians from the Pres House!

Plan to be a part of the afternoon and extend invitations to your family, friends and neighbors. Fliers about the Open House are available in the Narthex – feel free to take some and consider adding a welcoming note.

See you on the 6th!!

**DECEMBER/JANUARY
NEWSLETTER**

In order to allow you to plan ahead, and the church office to avoid the Christmas rush, next month we will be providing a two month newsletter as we have done in the past few years. All articles for the December-January Newsletter must be turned in by **Friday, November 11**. Please be punctual with your articles so as not to over burden the church office during a busy time for us all. You may email your articles to karenfpc@frontier.com. Thank you for your kind consideration.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

The Oregon community is again invited to participate in a long standing Thanksgiving tradition ... worshipping together on Thanksgiving Eve. This year's community worship will take place at Holy Mother of Consolation Church (651 N. Main St., Oregon) on Wednesday evening, November 23 at 7:00 PM.

**OUR ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER IS
NOVEMBER 13!**

“By the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

Edward Winslow – December, 11, 1621

We will celebrate the good harvest and our many blessings with fellowship and food at our Annual Turkey Dinner on November 13.

We need volunteers to bring specific food items and to help set up and clean up. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in our narthex. We ask everyone else to please bring a dish to pass if they are able.

*Question: Can you name four foods on the menu at the Harvest Festival in 1621? (Turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes, pumpkin pie and apples **were not served** at the first Thanksgiving, which was then called the Harvest Festival.)* The answer can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Dishes may be brought to church on the morning of Nov. 13 before service begins at 10:30. Please use the back entrance to the kitchen, rather than going through the sanctuary, between 10 and 10:30 because the choir rehearses then and we don't want to disturb them.

There are lots of outlets in the kitchen for plugging in crock pots! There may not be time to warm a dish up in the oven, but we do have a really great oven! And there will be refrigerator space available because we have a really big refrigerator!

We will appreciate everyone's cooperation and forbearance as we arrange tables and chairs immediately after worship service.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica at 216-6343.

TURKEY DINNER DELIVERIES!

If you are homebound and would like to have a Turkey Dinner brought to you on Sunday, November 13, please call your Deacon or the church office (835-3082) by Friday, November 11. We will be pleased to deliver your meal in the early afternoon.

NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR

Tom Mielke has graciously volunteered to continue as Interim Choir Director through the fall of 2012. Session decided to not begin the search for a permanent director until the new Pastor is on board and has had an opportunity to get settled. In addition to his duties as Choral Director at Middleton High School, Tom and his wife, Sue also serve as our Youth Leaders.

PRESBYTERIANISM—try to say that five times fast!

That's the November and December Adult Sunday school class theme. We will start out November with an introduction to the Reformation, including pictures of the actual Reformation monument from Jess and Tom's recent trip to Geneva, as well as a Presbyterianism 101 class on November 13. Tom Scholten will present a down-to-earth introduction to Calvinism on the 20th and 27th. We will welcome the Reverend Scott Anderson on December 4 to talk about ecumenism and the Wisconsin Council of Churches, of which our Presbytery is a part. And we'll close the unit with Bob Ray leading us to the present: So you're a Presbyterian, now what? Looking forward to a great unit—hope to see you there!

HOSPITALIZED

Bev Mares, Jim Wallace, and Joyce Larson have been in the hospital recently. The church family is asked to keep them in its prayers.

SYMPATHY

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the following families who have lost loved ones in recent weeks:

Dorothy Davidson on the death of her sister-in-law

Harry Hayter on the death of Annette

COFFEE BAR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy the opportunity to have a few refreshments and fellowship each Sunday morning? We hope you do and we also hope you might be willing to help out with the coffee bar once or twice during the year. Each week we need a volunteer or two who can bring treats and make sure that there are beverages. You can sign up for both duties or just one. To make things easier, you can decide if you want to pick up coffee from Kwik Trip (at about \$4.50/pot) or make it at church. To make things even easier, Nancy Cox has generously offered to make the coffee if you would like her to. All you would need to do is let her know ahead of time to fire up the java! We also ask that the volunteers help clean the coffee cups after service which is pretty easy thanks to our brand-new dishwasher.

There is a sign-up sheet on the coffee bar table along with a helpful hints cheat sheet in case you aren't sure of what to do. Thanks for your help with this on-going fellowship activity!

The Fellowship Committee

CHRISTMAS at CHURCH

... for those who plan ahead!

Knowing that some of you are already thinking of Christmas, we share these highlights of the Advent and Christmas season at church. Further information will be available in the December-January Newsletter.

- November 27 First Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar
9:15 AM Church School
10:30 AM Worship Service
- December 4 Second Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar
9:15 AM Church School
10:30 AM Worship Service
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- December 11 Third Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar
9:15 AM Church School
10:30 AM Worship Service
Children's Christmas Program
- December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar
9:15 AM Church School
10:30 AM Worship Service
Cantata Sunday
Christmas Joy Offering Received
- 4:00 PM Blue Christmas Service
- December 24 Christmas Eve
4:30 PM A Service of Lessons and Carols, including the candle lighting ceremony
5:30 PM Soup and Finger Foods
Christmas Eve potluck
7:10 PM Christmas Carol Sing-Along in the Sanctuary
7:30 PM Traditional Christmas Eve worship, including the candle lighting ceremony
- December 25
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar
9:15 AM All Sunday School classes will be on vacation
10:30 AM Worship Service
- January 1
9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Bar
9:15 AM All Sunday School classes will be on vacation
10:30 AM Worship Service
Sacrament of Holy Communion

We hope this helps those who are already beginning to plan their celebrations of Christmas!

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY...

Traditionally, the chancel area has been decorated with red Poinsettias during the Christmas season. They will decorate the church from December 18th through December 24th. After the 7:30 PM Christmas Eve service, the plants may be taken home.

Orders can be taken from those wishing to purchase a poinsettia during the first half of November. Order forms will be in the Sunday morning bulletins or you can phone the church office @ 835-3082.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

Our Church Treasurer, Karen Detra, reports that \$584.40 has been received for this year's Peacemaking Offering. Thank you for your contributions!

BILL'S RECEIPTS

Since we started saving Bill's receipts (Sept. 2009 to now) we have received \$2006.49! What a great way to support our local grocery store and an awesome way they support us in return. Working together is what community is all about. Thank you all for shopping at Bill's and asking for an "orange sticker" at the register and turning them into the red striped container on the coffee table at church. It all adds up!

AUCTION COMMITTEE FORMING

What could possibly be more fun than the Fellowship Auction? Well...planning the Fellowship Auction! The auction committee will meet 3-4 times prior to the auction with the first meeting taking place in mid-late Nov. (No meetings in Dec.) This group helps with much of the pre-planning and helps make sure the event runs smoothly. If interested or if you have questions, please contact Renee Martell at mikeandrene@charter.net or at 835-8557. Thanks!

P.S. Hope you are thinking up some good items this year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Frogs and locusts and flies, oh my!!! Yup, you guessed it, we've been learning about the plagues and how Moses led God's people out of Egypt. We painted the burning bush, learned about hieroglyphics, acted in a play and the Singing Lady even had a song about the mean Pharaoh. Then we had a Seder Meal – when was the last time you ate parsley and horseradish??? We learned a lot about Moses, from when he floated down the river to when he parted the Red Sea, it's an exciting story!

Did you come to church one Sunday and see a big pile of dirty shoes by the door? That's because we were planting that day and you have to wait until spring to see what we planted. Mr. Mitchell and his wife, "Fertilizer Lady", helped us plant and it was A LOT of fun. THEN we got to see a semi truck really close up. THEN planting day became "Sock Sunday". Our shoes were dirty so we got to go to church in our socks! We'll tell you a secret ~ some of us had clean shoes, but we just wore our socks anyway. THEN we got to have Oreos – it was the best day ever!

In case you are wondering – Where do you go to learn to make ice cream treats? Sundae School, of course!!!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Show me a person who donates food or time to the Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry, and I'll show you someone who enjoys a deep sense of connection within their community. So the next time you're at the supermarket, and you see some soup or cereal or Hamburger Helper on sale at the end of the aisle, do yourself a favor and pick up one or two cans or boxes. Bring them to church—there's an OBFPP box in the narthex. It will make you feel warm and happy.

More than ever, we need everyone to help support our neighborhood food pantry.

For more information, go to the **NEW Oregon-Brooklyn Food Pantry website at OBFPP.org**

FINANCIAL UPDATE – September 30, 2011

GENERAL FUND

Amount pledged year to date:	\$98,315.00
Pledges received year to date:	\$88,621.20
2011 Per Capita bill:	\$6,877.00
Received to date:	\$3,186.90

Can you help by meeting your financial commitment?

**ALL ARTICLES FOR THE
DECEMBER-JANUARY
NEWSLETTER MUST BE TURNED IN
BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

FROM THE ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER ARTICLE...

Answer: Fish, lobster, eel, mussels, oysters, corn, parsnips, collards, turnips, spinach, onions, beans, blueberries, grapes, nuts. Eels! Yum!