

**The Newsletter  
of First Presbyterian  
Church**



## Passing the Baton

We've often heard of our faith journey described as a race. The author of Hebrews encourages us to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1-2) The apostle Paul tells us to "run in such a way as to get the prize." (I Corinthians 9:24)

There are many ways that this race is individual. Each runner has his or her course to follow. At the same time I look at our congregation as a kind of relay team. In a relay the first runners take off at full speed, focused on what is ahead, hoping to lay the groundwork for the rest of the team to be successful. They sprint to the transition zone or exchange zone, maintain pace, then pass the baton to the next runner. This crew continues on, purposefully carrying the baton, while the first runners slow down. A relay race is often won in the exchange zones. Baton-passing efficiency is vital to success

The race of faith that we run does not begin and end with us. It begins with the generations before us -- and we trust that it will carry on into the future as we disciple/train/mentor/coach and invest in those coming behind us. We have our portion of the race to run but then there is a time when we pass the baton off to the next generation. This is how God has chosen to sustain the church throughout the generations.

As we move toward the transition zone, or the exchange zone, we must have "runners" who are prepared to carry the baton. Let us prayerfully consider how we can do this together. How can we pass on the baton of leadership in the Church to the next generation? How can we educate and encourage those whose giving will sustain FPC into the future? What can you and I do to help cast a vision for growing the Kingdom? These are key questions for our congregation.

*He (God) decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,  
so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born,  
and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and  
would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands Psalm 78 v 5-7*

## Text to Give

You can now make a contribution with text!

Simply send a text message to **608-305-8095** with the amount you would like to give (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and debit or card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation. Give+Text is one of the fastest and easiest ways to give.

We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity! Thank you for supporting the ministries of First Pres.

## 3MF in February: Floating Gardens...Food of the Future

3MF will meet Monday, **February 12th** to learn more about food production in the future. Floating Gardens Aquaponics is a family-run aquaponic business owned and operated by Tim and Bonny Goodenough and their 4 kids. They grow lettuces and other leafy greens on water year round in a climate controlled greenhouse, located near Mindoro, WI.

Following the program, a catered lunch will be served (\$7). Please sign up in the Gathering Area or call the church office (784-4248) to make a lunch reservation by Friday, **February 9th**, 2018.



## Wednesday Worship Held on February 14th



Join us for **Ash Wednesday Worship** service on Wednesday, **February 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30pm. A Lasagna Supper, with both classic lasagna and vegetable lasagna, salad, bread and dessert will be served from 5:30 – 6:15pm.

Please note: We will not offer our first Wednesday of the month worship service on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry team has been hard at work making hats for the Hospitality Center, Children and Family Center, the Oncology Department at Gunderson, and Hope Academy. They have also been making baby blankets for Hope Academy and our church families with newborns. They continue to make prayer shawls and lap blankets for those who are in need of support and comfort. Those items are distributed by Pastor Taylor and the Deacons. If you know someone who could use the comfort of one of our shawls or blankets, please contact the church and we will make sure to get one to you. The team has also made warm hats to be given to those folks who stop by our church for assistant.



## Opportunities for Study and Service

### Volunteer Opportunity

Tuesday, **Feb. 13th** is First Pres' night to help with the free meal at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. If you would like to help serve this free meal, please come at 4:30pm. Stay to eat and help with the clean-up. Call Jan at 788-5884 to help.

### Men's Morning Bible Study

The men's Bible study plans to meet from 6:00 to 7:00 am in the work room on Wed., **Feb. 7** and Wed. **Feb. 21**, continuing their study of Romans. Contact Don (788-8012) for additional information.

### Morning Circle

Morning Circle will meet Wednesday, **February 21<sup>st</sup>** at 9:00am in the Gathering Area. If you would like to join in the fellowship and study, please come. We will continue our study of Hebrews. Please read Lessons 5 and 6. Elsie Patterson will be our discussion leaders and Betty Daschler will be our hostess.

### Koinonia Circle

Join us for the Bible study, *Twelve Women of the Bible*. Each study stands alone – so even if you can't make every meeting, it's an easy study to slip into. Koinonia will meet Wednesday, **February 21<sup>st</sup>** at 6:00pm. We'll enjoy a simple supper, catching up with each other and study.

## Holy C.O.W.

**HOLY** Children's **Only** **Worship**...every first Sunday of month during Children's Church time at the 10:30 service, our children get to sing, praise, laugh and worship together in the chapel. The Holy Cows band (Alex and youth students) will lead the worship time and there will be quirky skits and videos that will enhance the worship experience for the children.

Youth and children will then rejoin the congregation after the sermon to be a part of communion with their families. These first Sundays will be a special time for youth and children... so we hope you will make this Sunday a part of your regular Sunday mornings routine. Holy COW will be on **February 4th**.



## Shiver Saturday

### Winter Camp for 4th & 5th graders at Camp Sprain in West Salem

Join us for an ALL-DAY winter camp just for 4th & 5th graders at the Sprain's cabin in West Salem on **Saturday, February 10th, 8 am-8 pm**. All 4th & 5th graders are welcome and it's a great time to bring a friend.



## Girls' Day In on January 22nd

It was super fun and a great time to for the 5th & 6th grade girls to connect!!



## Soup & Ice Skating at Onalaska Omni Center

Date: Sunday, March 11

Time: 5:00 pm– 7:00 pm

Place: Omni Ice Skating Center, 255 Riders Club Road

Join us as we have an evening of skating inside the Omni Center ice-skating rink. We will have homemade soup to enjoy in a private room right off the rink. It's a great time to visit and catch up with church family and have fun with your own family too. You don't have to be a skater to enjoy the evening.... If you just like soup and good conversation, join us for that in our warm, comfy room.



Cost for skating is \$3 for kids, \$4 for adults. No costs for just coming to watch the skaters and eat soup. Skate rental available for \$3.00. Sign-up ahead of time so we know how much soup to bring. You can also sign-up to bring sides dishes or desserts. Both sign-ups will be in the Gathering Area and Sunday school area soon. You can also contact Cindi at 784-4248 or [cindi@firstpreslax.org](mailto:cindi@firstpreslax.org) to make a reservation.

## Vacation Bible School Dates Set

Vacation Bible School will take place **June 11th-15th**.

We will meet in the afternoons from 12:45 pm to 3:30 pm.

Please get the dates on your summer calendars now and look for more information to come in the next couple months. Registration will begin April 15th.



## First Presbyterian Church

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### **A Great Day at Bowling Extravaganza !!**

We had a wonderful time bowling together on Sunday, Jan. 14th at Pla-Mor Lanes! Congratulations to all our bowlers!!

## **Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction 2018 – Sunday, March 4, 12:00-1:30PM**

We have 40 students signed up for our 2018 summer trips! These trips make a difference in the lives of our students and the Spaghetti Dinner makes them possible, as our students work to earn your financial support. Will you save the date (*and your dollars*) for this wonderful fundraiser? You'll be helping our next generation strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ, while learning how to live out their faith.

### **Spaghetti Dinner Tickets:**

**\*\*\*Purchase tickets early for the best price: Feb. 18 & 25 (Gathering Area)**

Adult (ages 13+) = \$8 ahead of time, \$10 at the door

Child (ages 6-12) = \$5 ahead of time, \$7 at the door

Small Child (ages 5 & under) = Free

Takeout Meal = \$8 ahead of time, \$10 at the door

### **2018 Youth Summer Trips:**

**Red Lake Mission Trip:** In early July, our high school students and adult leaders will travel to the Red Lake Nation Reservation in northern Minnesota for a week of Christian service and cultural immersion with its native population

**Surf City 2018:** In late July, a large group of middle schoolers and adults will travel to western Michigan for a fun-packed week of camp. At Surf City, students have a wonderful time, all-the-while strengthening their faith in Christ.

