



The Church Bell

Volume 64, Number 6
February 7, 2012

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First Presbyterian Church
200 Church Street, PO Box 100

Neenah, Wisconsin

Chartered in 1848
920-725-4391

This Sunday, February 12, 2012

Coffee Sale

Ordination/Installation of Elders and Deacons

8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Chapel

9:00 a.m. – Christian Education

10:15 a.m. – Worship in the Nave

Fair Trade Coffee Cart Sunday

The Fair Trade Coffee Cart will be selling coffee, tea, cocoa, olive oil and those delicious chocolate bars this Sunday after both services (Don't forget Valentine's Day!). Fair Trade products help small farmers around the world compete with major producers through Co-ops that guarantee a minimum price to the farmers and help to make their communities better places to live. Someone has said that buying Fair Trade products is, **“one of the simplest ways to impact a family other than your own, and one of the simplest missions we can do as Christians to better the world.”** We couldn't agree more. See you at the Coffee Cart this Sunday! ■



Upcoming Events

Couple's Night Out

Attention parents of young children! Hoping for a night out? Without the kids? Without hiring a babysitter? SPY (Senior Presbyterian Youth) can help you out! This Friday, February 10, SPY members and advisors will be in the Church Nursery to provide free childcare, 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., while you enjoy an evening out!

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity or have any questions, contact Tanya Schroeder (284-6820 or starshine42@gmail.com) to let us know the number and ages of the children you will be dropping off. ■

Knitting for Peace

Join other knitters for the annual Knitting for Peace on Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Room 206. Bring poems, stories, songs, and prayers of peace. You can bring a project you're working on or we have patterns and yarn for many charity projects. ALL are welcome. **NOTE:** There will be NO knitting the morning of February 15. However, we will be knitting on the 5th Wednesday, February 29, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., as usual. ■

SPY Polar Plunge

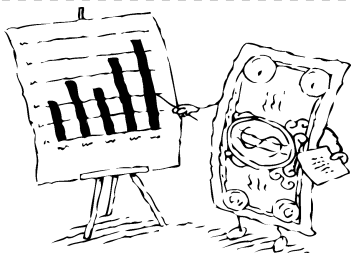
Jump in Lake Winnebago in the middle of February?! Who would want to do that?? Brave SPY members and friends... that's who! They will be "Freezin' For A Reason" on February 18 in order to support the Special Olympics. Money raised in the Polar Plunge will provide funding for nearly 10,000 athletes with cognitive disabilities to participate in Special Olympic sporting events.



Please consider supporting our jumpers by purchasing a paper Polar Bear. SPY members will be selling paper bears after each service on Sunday. The amount you pay for a bear is up to you. Write your name on the bear and we will hang it in the hall... let's line the hall with polar bears! The money will be divided up to support all of our Plungers and all proceeds go to the Special Olympics. ■

The Five-Second Steward

Your gifts to First Presbyterian teach kids about mission. The Fellowship Hall was abuzz last Wednesday as Youth Alive made 15 fleece blankets for Harbor House residents. Thank you for giving!



Christian Education.....

Adult Christian Education

Please join us 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.:

February 12 Goods Made Good: Good for the Planet. Good for the Maker. Good for You. (Meeting Room)

Led by Mary Haller, Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin

Ever wonder what happens to the items that get donated to Goodwill, but are not able to be sold in the Goodwill store? The latest program of Goodwill here in north central Wisconsin takes those items with small rips or stains or fashion quirks and uses them as material to employ and train persons with barriers to independence, how to sort, cut and sew trendy items! These items are then sold to pay these workers, as well as others who are learning new skills.

It is a triple win: training and employment opportunities are created, donated items get one more use and are kept out of landfills, and shoppers enjoy fashion forward, eco-friendly, socially-responsible clothing, accessories and home décor items made right here in Wisconsin.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS (LTQ) SERIES

The Christian Education Task Force is offering a seven part series in the Meeting Room that will expose you to ideas and concepts that have been taught and discussed for generations in seminaries, but not in churches. It encourages questions and sparks open dialogue. It is our hope that LTQ will play a part in your discovering the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century and what a meaningful faith can look like today.

February 19 Living the Questions (Session 1 of 7): A Kingdom Without Walls

The good news of the gospel tells of a radical hospitality where boundaries, barriers, and walls are overcome by a grace that knows no bounds.

February 26 Living the Questions (Session 2 of 7): Social Justice-Realizing God's Vision

Being a person of faith demands balancing spiritual pursuits with action. In a society which is often unjust, inequitable, and whose very structures are responsible for generations of untold suffering and poverty, we are compelled to pursue social justice as an expression of hope in realizing a better world.

March 4 Living the Questions (Session 3 of 7): Incarnation-Divinely Human

The meaning of the incarnation has been debated since the beginning of Christianity. Although often associated with Jesus alone, the notion of incarnation can be understood most fully when it also includes Jesus' followers, called, like Jesus, to en flesh the Spirit in divinely human ways. ■

The Back Page

You've probably heard me talk about this before, but I don't think it hurts to be reminded of how Presbyterians look at leadership. Back when the Reformer, John Calvin, was working on a form of governance for the Presbyterian Church, he took seriously the passages in Scripture that uphold the priesthood of all believers.

For Calvin, the priesthood of all believers meant that all persons were on a level plane. In the church that Calvin envisioned, there would be no hierarchies with varying degrees of importance and authority. That's why the terms, clergy and layperson, were unacceptable to Calvin for distinguishing between ministers and church members. For Calvin, all are ministers in one way or another. And as far as leaders were concerned, Calvin preferred speaking of them as officers and members.

And officers are not only the pastors, but also the elders and deacons. In fact, pastors are officially designated in the Book of Order (PCUSA) as "teaching elders," whereas the others who serve on the session are to be known as "ruling elders."

This coming Sunday, we will be ordaining and installing new elders and deacons at the 10:15 service. These persons will serve actively on the session and board of deacons for three year terms. But something that's always worth pointing out is that even after your term of service as an active church officer expires, your ordination never ends. You are ordained for life!

Grace and peace to you,



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Visit our website:
www.firstpresneenah.org

Sunday Worship:
8:00 a.m. in the Chapel
10:15 a.m. in the Nave

7:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Nursery Care Available

Thursday Worship:
4:00 p.m. in the Chapel
First Thursday of Each Month