

# The Pres

Ministry from the heart of Oshkosh serving with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Vol.39 No. 23 December 1, 2015

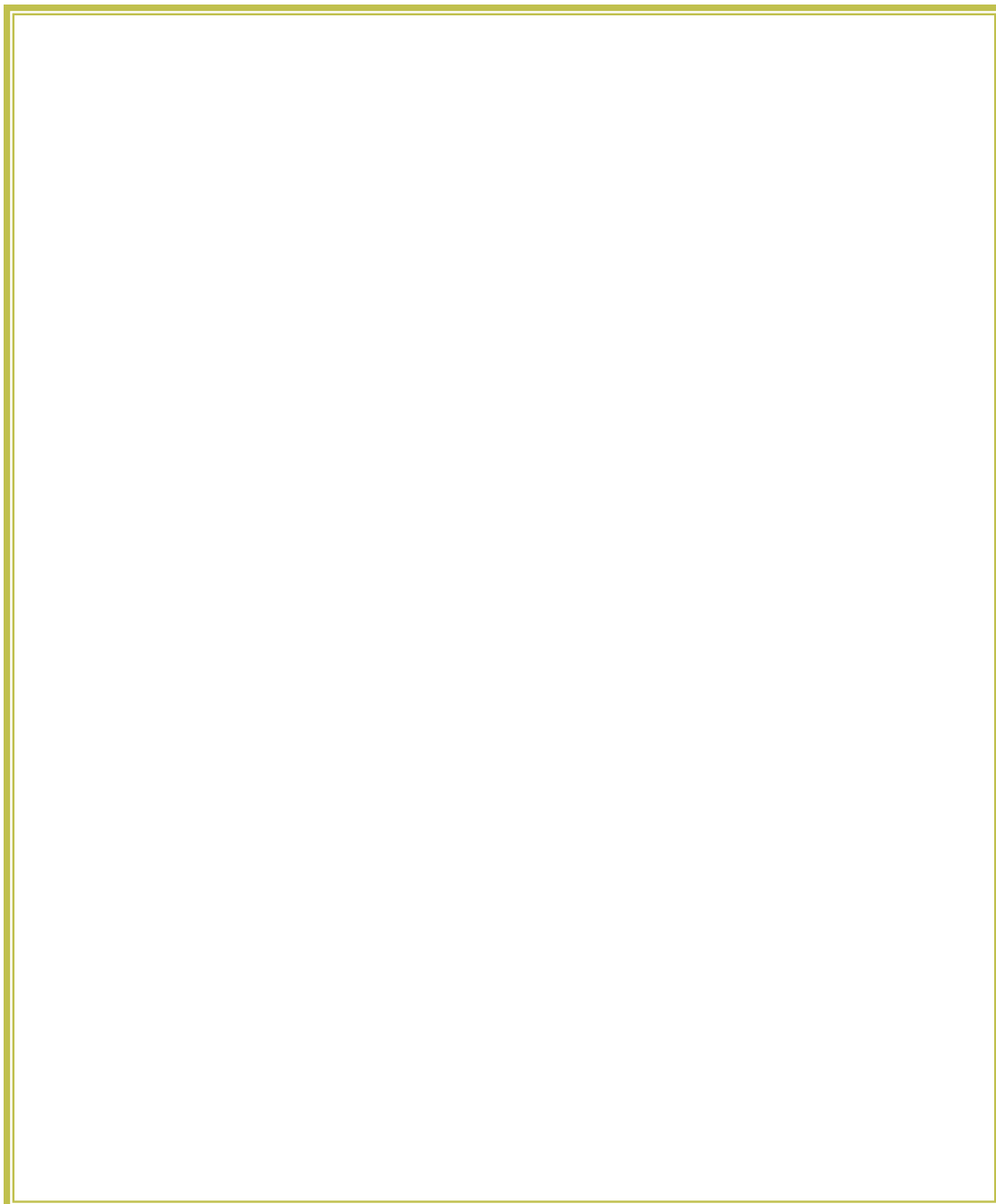
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## From the Desk of Pastor Tom



## 2015 CROP Walk

Seven walkers from First Presbyterian joined nearly 100 other walkers. Here's a report on the walk from its coordinator, Pastor John Hobbins.

I am pleased to report that this year's Crop Walk saw a very high level of participation and will distribute \$8,011.79 to fight hunger around the world and here in Oshkosh.

A big thank you to the churches, five ELCA, two UMC, one PCUSA,[that's us!] and last but not least, one UCC congregation: St. Paul's UCC raised the most money and brought a joyful team of walkers to the event. Walkers from St. Raphael's also participated.

A big thank you to the many area businesses and Rotary of Oshkosh and Oshkosh SW Rotary for their financial and moral support.

Crop Walk is about raising friends and awareness about the need, not just about raising funds. A big thank you to Samantha Zinth and Tina Haffeman of the Day by Day Warming Shelter, Hope Eike of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, Bob Lang of Father Carr's, and Ritchie Cole of the Lutheran Food Pantry for presenting at West and North and Lourdes High Schools to Rotary clubs and leadership classes about food insecurity.

The 2016 Oshkosh Area Crop Walk is scheduled to take place as always on the first Sunday of October, in 2016 on October 2, once again at the Winnebago County Park.

John Hobbins,

Pastor First United Methodist Church,

Oshkosh Area CROP Walk Coordinator



### Kwik Trip Cards

Kwik Trip cards will be for sale on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. A different person will be selling those cards each time. We will announce well in advance when we plan to have Kwik Trip Card bonanza's (i.e. special extra pressure sales events). The schedule of sale dates until the end of 2015 is as follows:

Date	Seller
Sunday, December 06, 2015	Hillory Davila
Sunday, December 20, 2015	Emma Davila

## 2015 Session Committee Assignments

**Nominating Committee**—Ginny Evans & Hillory Davila

**Preschool**—Harriet Martin & Stephanie Lenz

**Mission Interpretation**—Tim Gaubatz

**Christian Education**—Jennifer Ollanketo & Emma Davila

**Worship**—Jeff Lammers

**Property & Finance**—Jack Starrett

**Membership Enrichment**—Ginny Evans

**Investment Committee**—John Vette

**Community Outreach**—Joanne Cross

**Personnel**—Harriet Martin

## Christian Education News

### Youth Group: Shopping Trip

On Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, members of the Youth Group took to the carts running with glee as we picked out Christmas presents for our adopted family from the Christine Ann Center. Emmeline and Elise Liske, Emma and Eli Davila, Carter and Brinley Norton, Izzy and Lily VandenHeuvel, Grace Lenz, Jamie Glover and Suzette Curtis spent two hours at Target choosing “just the perfect things” for a mother and her three children. We all had a blast splitting up in different directions, and then coming back together to share all of the things that we had found. Despite the fact that we didn’t have a calculator, we came in at \$2.50 under our budget! Each of us was personally blessed by sharing together this wonderful experience, and we are very thankful to our church family for supporting us.

The Youth Group has adopted a family from the Christine Ann Center through their Holiday program. They are asking the congregation to participate by picking an “ornament” from the tree in the Westminster Room to join in the spirit of giving this Christmas season. Each ornament has the name of an item from the Christine Ann Center’s wish lists for people to purchase and donate. The unwrapped item or items can be returned and placed around the Christmas tree by December 13<sup>th</sup>, so that the youth may deliver all of the items on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Kids’ worship bags are getting a new look! The youth have revamped the contents, and the bags themselves are being replaced by the handmade creations of Terri Zillges and Pat Shugars.

The next Youth Group Sunday meeting will be December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### A.S.A.P. (After School Activities Program):

Our after school program is beginning December 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 6:30, and will meet every early release Wednesday in accordance with the Oshkosh Public School District calendar. We will provide snacks, games, activities, crafts, homework help, and dinner. We are still in need of volunteers for this program, so if you are interested, please see Suzette Curtis for information.

### LOL (Living Out Loud):

The 6th grade & up group has a new name. Please join Pastor Tom and Emma Davila in Magnolia Hall, the first two Sundays in December at 11:00am

## **Christian Education News (Continued)**

### **Kids' Power Hour:**

## **Oshkosh Area Community Pantry**

Our church contributed \$644.21 to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry in November. Thank you for your consistent support of this important ministry.

There was 95 food items that were collected and donated to the food pantry as well.

## **Community Breakfast**

The next Community Breakfast will be Saturday, December 19th

## January Deacon Responsibilities

**Flowers:** Sharon Koerner (Christmas Eve) **Coffee Hour:** Derek Lenz & Patti Waldecker

**Communion:** Patti Waldecker (Christmas Eve- Noreen & Romi)

**Deacon Moderator**—Patti Waldecker     **Deacon Treasurer**—Sue Clark

**Thank You for all that you do!**



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Reg Rothenbach
- 5- Joanne Roth
- 6 - Pat Sugars
- 7- Ashley Kozel
- 9- Marian Sullivan
- 12- Kyle Fitzpatrick
- 15- John Cross
- 15- Steve Struensee
- 15- Joanne Roth
- 18- Marie Potterton
- 18- Matthew Brewer
- 18- Michael Tippens
- 19- Caleb Davila
- 20- Cody Peabody
- 23- Noreen Johnson
- 26- Elise Liske
- 26 - Vicky Reany Paulson
- 27- Eric Simon
- 27- Finn Luaders
- 28- Mary Lee
- 28- Ellen Hofeldt
- 30- Wendy Okon
- 31- Connor Hayes

### Ministry Assignments

#### January- Lay Readers

- 6- Gary Galica
- 13-Terri Zillges
- 20-Harriet Martin
- 24-Chuck Seefeldt
- 27-Bethany Rink
- 3- Michael Patton

#### January - Ushers

- Randy & Vicky Paulson- Head of Ushers
- 6th & 13th Gregg Zillges Dennis Sanchez
- Ken Potterton Larry Didlo
- Bobbi Starett (6th only)
- 20th & 27th- Gregg Zillges Dennis Sanchez
- Larry Didlo Bethany Rink
- Nancy Macksam Bill Macksam

#### January - Acolytes

- 6- T.J. Gaubatz Tiana Gaubatz

#### January- Communion Servers

- 6- Harriet Martin Lois Bidwell (from choir)
- Larry Hoefeldt Reg Bidwell
- Terri Zillges Bill Macksam
- Gregg Zillges Nancy Macksam
- Patty Shilling

#### January - Flowers

- 6- Barry & Noreen- Given by Barry and Noreen Johnson
- 13- Patti Waldecker- In Memory of Gordon Gullikson
- 20- Chuck & Barbara Burr-In memory of Llyod & Alildabelle Westby
- 27-



## November Session News

Your Session met on Tuesday, November 15 in the Westminster Room. Pastor Tom read Zephaniah 3:14-20 and the Ruling Elders and guests commented on this very up-beat, positive passage. It will be the basis for the sermon on the third Sunday of Advent, December 13.

The first hour of the meeting was filled by the triennial visit from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. Ruling Elder Sue Buck from Frame Memorial Church in Stevens Point and Teaching Elder Marcia Thomas, pastor in Abbotsford, reminded the Session that Presbyterians are connected to other churches through the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Every three years the Commission on Ministry visits with Pastors and Sessions to see how things are going. Some of the things Session members identified as being objects of pride are the preschool; the Community Breakfasts; the supportive, family atmosphere; that we have lots of people willing to volunteer for church events; and we have fun together. We are also very pleased with the enthusiasm that our Director of Christian Education, Suzette Curtis, brings to us!

Director of Christian Education, Suzette Curtis, shared plans to start "ASAP" After School Activities Program. We'll offer ASAP on early school release Wednesdays starting December 9.

Following the by-law changes, adopted Sunday, November 15. A complete Board of Deacons is in place for 2016. The Session still lacks three Ruling Elders for two-year terms. Those terms will begin in February 2016.

Worship Committee Chair, Jeff Lammers, shared that Bill & Nancy Macksam will stop lining up communion servers in December. We're looking for someone to take over that task. Thank you, Nancy & Bill for taking care of this!

Harriet Martin, chair of the Personnel Committee, reported that some staff reviews have been completed and all be done by mid-December. Pastor Tom's evaluation is scheduled for prior to the December Session meeting.

The Session had a thorough conversation about the church's financial situation. The Mission Interpretation Committee plans a Minute for Mission on December 6 and a mailing will go out to the congregation that week as well. Session has kept a very close eye on expenditures this year. We still need to increase revenue.

So goes the work of your Session.

## New Members

On November 1 we welcomed three new members into the congregation.

Dennis Sanchez has been attending worship for several months. He is a frequent usher and helps with the Community Breakfasts. We elected him to serve as a Deacon on Sunday, November 15.

Dennis Sanchez

642 Broad Street

Oshkosh, WI 54901

(920) 203-4632

Jane Cross and Doug Berge were married here at First Presbyterian in April 2014. Jane grew up in this congregation. Doug is a retired professor at UW-O.

Jane Cross & Doug Berge

276A Wyldewood Dr.

Oshkosh, WI 54904

(920) 231-2690

## Congregational Meeting November 15

At the Congregational Meeting November 15 you adopted changes to the church's by-laws. Most of those changes were minor updates to keep our by-laws in harmony with the recently revised Book of Order. The substantial changes, however, were changing terms on Session and the Board of Deacons from three to two years. It is hoped that people will be more willing to serve two year terms. The new by-laws permit serving consecutive terms on both the Board of Deacons and Session.

Following the vote on the by laws, you elected these people.

Deacon Class of 2016 Barb Gusick, Pat Shugars, Debbie Bunker

Deacon Class of 2017 Dennis Sanchez, Buddy Glover

The new deacons will be trained and ordained and installed in January.

Session Class of 2016 Hillory Davila, Bethany Rink

Session Class of 2017 Jamie Glover

Three vacancies remain on the Session. We're looking for three people to fill two year terms.

The new Ruling Elders will be trained and ordained and installed in February.

Dear Group Leaders of First Presbyterian Church,

My name is Johanna Yenter and I am the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Oshkosh's ReStore. Our store sells building materials, furniture, appliances and other household items that were donated by the community and the money from the sales goes toward building homes within Oshkosh.

I'm reaching out to you because we are looking for volunteers. We rely on our volunteers to help keep the store going, whether it is going out on salvage jobs, picking up donations or cashiering. You don't need prior experience in construction or demolition, just a fun-loving attitude and willingness to jump in and we'll teach you the rest. The skills you learn here will have a long lasting effect professionally and personally.

Working in our ReStore is a great opportunity for different church groups to get involved and be a part of the community. Whether your group volunteers for a few hours or on a continuing basis, any help would be appreciated.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at [jyenter@habitatoshkosh.org](mailto: jyenter@habitatoshkosh.org) or call the store at 920-230-3535.

### **Beginner Bells**

Beginner Bells will be starting again after the New Year! I anticipate beginning rehearsals Sunday, January 24, and continuing into February on Sundays from 11 am to noon up in the bell room. We are tentatively scheduled to ring in worship February 14 or February 21.

As usual, no previous experience required. Just an interest in learning about the bells and ability to participate in scheduled rehearsals and when we ring in worship. Anyone from 6th grade and up is welcome. Please contact Mary Willadsen by January 10 if you are interested in ringing. I can be reached at 303-2926, or [mtwilladsen@ntd.net](mailto: mtwilladsen@ntd.net) if you have any questions or are planning on ringing.

### **Volunteer Opportunities Available At Mercy Medical Center**

Reception Desk, Information Desk and Oakwood Desk

Your friendly smile and knowledge would be appreciated by our patients and visitors at the Reception Desk, Information Desk or Oakwood Desk to offer a kind word of greeting or help patients find their destination. Duties may also include computer entry and transport of patients in wheelchairs. Each area has unique benefits and responsibilities for a volunteer. For more information, please contact Mercy Medical Center Volunteer Services at 223-0225 or apply online at [affinityhealth.org/volunteer](http://affinityhealth.org/volunteer)

Spiritual Services volunteer opportunities include: volunteer callers to phone area churches between 8-10 a.m. to inform them of them of patient admissions, Catholic Communion Ministers for Fridays and Weekends and a Lector Sacristan for Tuesday noon Mass. For more information on Volunteer opportunities, please contact Mercy Medical Center Volunteer Services at 223-0225 or apply online at [www.affinityhealth.org/volunteer](http://www.affinityhealth.org/volunteer)



First Presbyterian Church (920) 235-6180

## December 2015

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship *Kids' Power Hour 10:45am	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 Church Bell Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:00 Encore! Bell rehearsal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Kids' Power Hour 11:00 L.O.L 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> BBBE 12-1:30pm	<b>9</b> *12:30pm ASAP Program STARTS *Every early release day Simple Supper 5:00pm 6:30 Church Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:00 Encore! Bell rehearsal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship Power Hour 10:45am L.O.L 11:00am 1:30pm Encore! Bell Concert	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Session	<b>16</b> Simple Supper 5pm 6:15 Preschool Concert 6:30 Church Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal <a href="#">Newsletter Deadline</a>	<b>17</b> 6:00 Encore! Bell rehearsal 6:15 Preschool Concert	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Community Breakfast serving 8:00 - 10:00am
<b>20</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Power Hour 10:45am 11:00 L.O.L 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Learning in Retirement 10:00am	<b>23</b> 6:30 Church Bell Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 3:45pm Christmas Carols 4:30pm Christmas Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship NO KID'S POWER HOUR Or L.O.L	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>