



First Press Magazine

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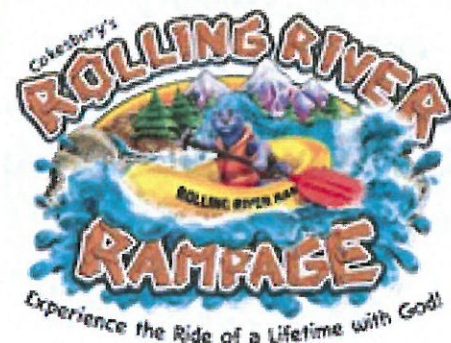
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From Pastor Laurie



When will we get a good soaking rain? My first Wisconsin summer has shined with so many bright days; it's hard to stay inside. Yet our grass and trees are thirsty and dry. We need rain. While we wait, take a plunge right now into the Living Water springing forth from the pages of our summer issue. Feel the refreshment of our young confirmands expressing their faith; see how we are working to "let justice roll down like waters," through the work of our Immigration Action Team and Pentecost Special Offering. And just maybe our "Rolling River Rampage" VBS will start the thunder rolling and the heavens will let loose.



Vacation Bible School Begins Soon

Rolling River Rampage runs **July 30-Aug. 2** from 8:30 a.m. to noon with a special kick off Sunday, July 29, during the church service. It's not too late to register your child or grandchild at:

<https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/fpcmarshfield>

Volunteers from youth entering 6th grade to adults are also needed. Contact the church office for more information.

First



Press

The Magazine of First Presbyterian Church — Marshfield, WI

Summer 2018



*Confirmands make
their mark*

Beginnings



Meet our new treasurer! Originally from the Unity area, Angela Edblom has moved to Colby to live near her daughter and two grandsons. Angela has a strong background in accounting and will fill our position very well. She appreciates the flexibility that comes with working part-time. If you see her in the office, please give her a warm welcome.



The 2021 class of Ruling Elders and Deacons was installed June 24.



We celebrated the baptism of Milly Bredemann on June 17, daughter of Cale & Kelly, little sister of Keller and Colby.



Introducing Mr. & Mrs. Christian and Courtney (Schulz) Neumann, married on June 16.



Introducing Mr. & Mrs. Jorge, Jr. and Laken (Walicki) Ramirez, married June 30.



Pastor Laurie and Bob's daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Matt Badillo, celebrated the birth of their first child, Isabel Rae, on March 27.

Sing a New Song to the Lord!

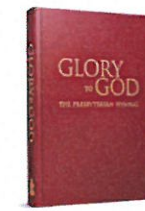
Music has always been a powerful witness in this congregation's life of faith. This has never proven more true than when we celebrated Music Sunday on May 6th. Musical offerings ran the gamut from the children's choir's introit to the soaring anthem "When in Our Music God is Glorified" performed by the combined Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and brass provided by Kathy Philips, trombone, and Katelyn Gauerke, trumpet.

Beth Walsh read quotes from church members of all ages who earlier had submitted their thoughts on how music draws us to worship. "Familiar melodies magnify Christ." "When I am singing, I am only focused on the Lord." "Music brings me peace." "I feel the music in my whole body." "I like to clap with the music." Coming from so many church members, it was a

wonderful expression of how deeply music contributes to how we know to God.

This Music Sunday was made even more special with the dedication of the new hymnal, "Glory to God." It offers most of the songs that the other two offered along with many beloved old hymns as well as new sounds from other parts of Christ's diverse global body. The Psalmist directs us to "Sing to the Lord a new song!" Now, we can.

Remember



You can memorialize your loved one(s) with a bookplate by covering the cost of one hymnal (\$20). See the display in the narthex or the church secretary during office hours.

Faith Stories Cari Martin



Cari cannot remember a time when Jesus was not in her life. Since moving to Marshfield when she was 3, her mother took her to Sunday School every Sunday. A nagging question haunted her as an emerging young adult. "Am I attending church only because my family makes me?" Faced with other priorities in college, she concluded that church had become irrelevant.

Even so, her belief that an unseen God on which she could always rely stayed in the background. God was her assurance that every step was a step forward.

The time came to start a family and Cari realized the foundation she needed was missing. Visiting FPC in 2013, Cari had no idea what a Presbyterian was, but, "It felt like me," she says. Cari brings her three boys, Oliver, Cooper,

and Deacon, to church every Sunday in the hope that their lives of faith will be easier than hers has been.

Cari struggles with the fact that some people only seem to care for themselves. She observes, "I don't understand, but it happens for a reason. Maybe they are too overwhelmed with their own problems to see others' problems." Evangelism means helping when people hit hard times, and living in the faith that, no matter what happens, everything will be okay.

Cari's motto might be, "Life is all about priorities." It is difficult to say no when a service opportunity aligns with her core beliefs. "No" is easy, however, if a task prevents her need to recharge, or most importantly, impacts her responsibility to her boys. We are honored that FPC plays a part in fulfilling that responsibility.

Faith in Action: Green Team Highlights



The 13th Annual Rummage Sale on June 1st provided a terrific way to transform trash into treasure. Members of the Green Team worked with Christian Education and many volunteers to set up, sell, and tear down in one short week, bringing in \$3,321.32 for church programs. Thirty-five people waited in line at 5:55 am to shop our terrific bargains. We received many thanks for opening well before normal work hours. It was a busy day!

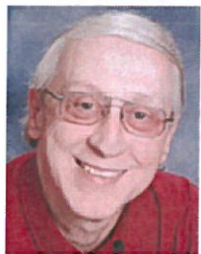
The FPC Community Garden site was visited by hundreds of people on Sunday, June 24th, as part of the 2018 Respite Center Garden Tour. In its tenth year, our 36 beds form the largest community garden in Marshfield.

The Butterfly Garden was given a spring cleaning on Summer Kick-off Sunday. Team members weeded and mulched to bring it back into shape. The hard work was rewarded with acceptance into the National Pollinator Garden Network which hopes to register ONE MILLION gardens in 2018 to help restore habitat for pollinators.



Close-up

Ron Rank



A third generation Marshfielder, Ron's grandparents moved here from a farm in Chili, WI, and began attending First Presbyterian shortly after. Ron was born at St. Joseph's Hospital, raised in a house that still stands on Arnold Street. He attended Grant and Lincoln grade schools, Purdy Junior High and the Senior High. He has seen a lot of changes to his home town, but driving around brings back precious memories like the time his two older brothers got in trouble for taking a short cut home that he told them they shouldn't do.

Ron was confirmed by Rev. Douglas Oyan. Class met Wednesday nights and he faithfully attended. The confirmation Bible with his name in gold letters on the cover is a treasured

possession. He remembers the scripture given to him when he was confirmed, Matthew 13:44-46, the parable of the merchant and the pearl of great value.

The church sound system has been in Ron's capable hands since the church met on Chestnut Avenue. He monitors the levels, adjusting them so that everyone who steps up to speak can be clearly heard. Ron likes to joke that he has the final say so in what is heard in church.

Ron gets very serious, though, when he speaks of his faith. It links him with lost loved ones and connects him to a tradition that is much bigger than himself. Surely, it is why he feels he can take all that life brings his way, confident that everything is in God's hands.

Confirmation Class of 2018 runs the course!



Back row: Carmen Lawler, Hannah Halle, Lucas Paulman, Kathryn Schilling, Pastor Laurie Brubaker Davis

Front row: Lexia Daul, Alexis Mushel, Delany Wichlacz, Isaac Eberl

Lexi Daul, Isaac Eberl, Hannah Halle, Alexis Mushel, Lucas Paulman, Kate Schilling, and Delaney Wichlacz. Our graduating confirmation class of 2018! Bonds were formed over the course of the year through the sharing of questions and concerns. The bonds grew during the mission trip to Urban Immersion in Minneapolis, as well, where the kids made themselves available, not just to people in need, but to each other.

Our Christian Education Coordinator, Carmen Lawler, created a program that led the kids on an exploration into the questions behind our doctrines. Hopefully, this foundation of faith, built on questions rather than answers, will bend with the winds of change and weather the storms of doubt sustaining these confirmands into adulthood and beyond.

The statements of faith, written by each of our confirmands, are testimony to her success. Here are some excerpts:

Lexi: "Being confirmed does not mean that my learning is over; I am just beginning my lifelong journey of exploring my faith."

Isaac: "I am perfect to [God], if not to anyone else. I know He is with me when I succeed and fail at trials in life."

Hannah: "There are times I am closer to God than other times, but I know He is with me every step of the way."

Alexis: "Everything in the world happens for a reason even if we don't like it and it all turns out okay."

Lucas: "God wants us to make mistakes, so we can learn from them, in hopes that we will achieve that higher purpose he has set out for us."

Kate: "The confirmation journey has delivered more questions than answers. I've been thinking of it as a vast room full of spirit, wonder, and trust."

Delaney: "We would never be influenced to pray if it weren't for the Holy Spirit filling our hearts."

Thanks to Pastor Laurie for her wisdom and leadership. And thanks to our mentors, Jim and Dolores Aue, Dan Crump, Sue Ferguson, Mary Kay Mabeus, Tracy Olson, Kathy Philips, and Jamie Siorek, for modeling what a sustained life of faith looks like.

Our confirmands have only begun to make their mark on us and on the world. We thank God for them.

Did You Know?

The paintings on the cover of this issue were done by our confirmation class. They are part of an on-going mural in the Youth Room featuring the paintings of confirmands going back to 2003. This colorful legacy was kicked off by the youth leaders at the time, Jan Clouse and Brian Ewert. Stop in sometime and see if you can find these new additions.



We Choose Welcome



On May 19th, the Immigration Action Team hosted the second “Know Your Rights” Workshop. These workshops aim to connect undocumented immigrants with experts who can answer their countless questions and help them to prepare for the worst. Usually, the first time for anything is the hardest. With repetition, any process gets easier the more it is done. Right? Well, not always.

The team had diligently passed out hundreds of flyers. Word of mouth about the last workshop was in play. Some of the team went to Walmart to put flyers into the hands of people who showed interest. There was every reason to expect a good turnout.

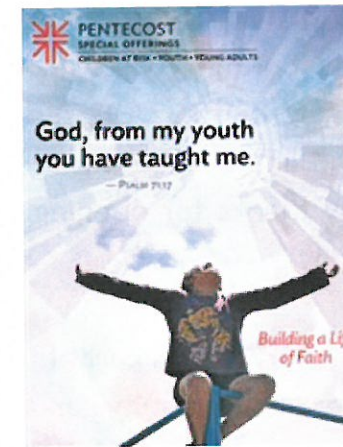
At 8:30 am, on the day of the event, Mark Nelson received a single text that the presenter from Voces de la Frontera had been in a minor car accident and, along with two other presenters, would not be able to make it. With a crowd of concerned immigrants due to show in less than five hours, and with the hope that we could offer them assistance threatening to fly out the window, Mark quickly reached out to the team with the terrible news that, as things stood, the entire show was a “no show.”

The rest of the story plays like a Netflix docudrama. Some of the team tracked down informative online videos to present. Some located brochures left over from the previous workshop and made copies to hand out. Others made sure the internet and the sound system worked. Darlene Berry worked up a presentation to go with the videos. Mark contacted Marshfield native, Lindsay Wunrow, an immigration attorney from Chicago who happened to be vacationing at her family cottage up north. Lindsay agreed to conduct a Q&A by phone. Someone even made time to pick up sandwiches. Finally, Mark emailed everyone, “See everyone at church, as planned.” As planned?

At one o’clock, over twenty people showed up. Carmen and Jorge Ramirez and others greeted folks as they entered. Darlene Berry opened with the video followed by discussion. Lindsay offered specific answers to worried questioners. Patty Brink attended to the nursery. When translation proved difficult, Marya Navarro, a woman with excellent translation skills who happened to be in attendance, volunteered to help.

When the event was over, it was clear that the ones who needed help, got it, the ones who needed to know someone cared for them, knew it, and the ones who needed to feel safe, felt it, if only for a little while. It was also clear that the people who pulled this event off, Mark Nelson, Darlene Berry, Rika Schmelzer, Carmen and Jorge Ramirez, Jessica Tucker, Colin Webster, Pastor Laurie, Patty Brink, and Barb Gillespie are world class. Their ingenuity and tenacity, and their desire to help people in need, are unparalleled. Thanks to them the immigration crisis looks a lot less hopeless.

Pentecost Offering Fills the Gap



A few weeks before kicking off the Pentecost Special Offering, forty percent of which is designated for the local needs of children, the Outreach Committee learned of just such a local need.

Five years ago, Nutrition on Weekends (NOW) was formed in response to teachers’ concerns that kids receiving free or reduced lunches at school were going hungry on the weekends. A survey of Soup or Socks (SOS) clients conducted this past May revealed that 85% of these children’s families are forced to skip meals in order to make ends meet. Seventy-seven percent reported that even with SOS assistance, they did not have enough food to feed their children during summer break.

In the short time between the survey and summer recess, “Summer NOW” was quickly instituted to augment the standard SOS family provision replacing the meals lost during the

break with food easily prepared by the children themselves.

The Outreach Committee, upon hearing of this opportunity to serve, was moved to dedicate all of the local portion of the Pentecost Offering to Summer NOW and to bring FPCM’s total contribution to \$500 by withdrawing the remainder from its annual budget. At final count, however, the local portion of the special offering alone came to within two dollars of the total amount the committee had pledged! The generosity of this congregation is to be lifted up along with God’s affirmation of our faithful commitment to help these families.

Remember



Drop off your continuing contributions of peanut butter, jam, fruit cups, and large bags of pretzels in the yellow box in the entryway to sustain this important program.



Did You Know?

On a hot day in July, our Youth Group volunteered to wash windows and pick weeds at the PDC Orenda Center. They look forward to more opportunities to help.