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**From Pastor Laurie**

*'Tis the Spring of souls today, Christ has burst his prison,  
And from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen.*



Spring is at last in the air! The Canadian Geese are returning and we can see the pavement again. Well, most of it. Neither Spring nor the transformation of souls happen overnight. Jesus came to this earth to heal us and mend us and renew us. Yes, to save us all. You will see this theme of renewal and resurrection blowing throughout our Spring issue. Two faith stories of members, our redesigned web site, our new Pictorial Directory, the REUNIR project to reunite fractured families and the Session visioning retreat are just a few highlights which all contribute to the "Spring of souls" springing forth from FPC. On Palm Sunday, we look forward to recognizing several new members who range in age from a senior in high school to an enthusiastic new recruit to the ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) group.

We know we are not alone. Nor do we stand on our own, but rather on the shoulders of our spiritual ancestors, saints of the church from generation upon generation. As it is written in Ephesians, "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:18) As you read this Spring issue, marvel at the seedlings of Love this winter has wrought.

# First



# Press

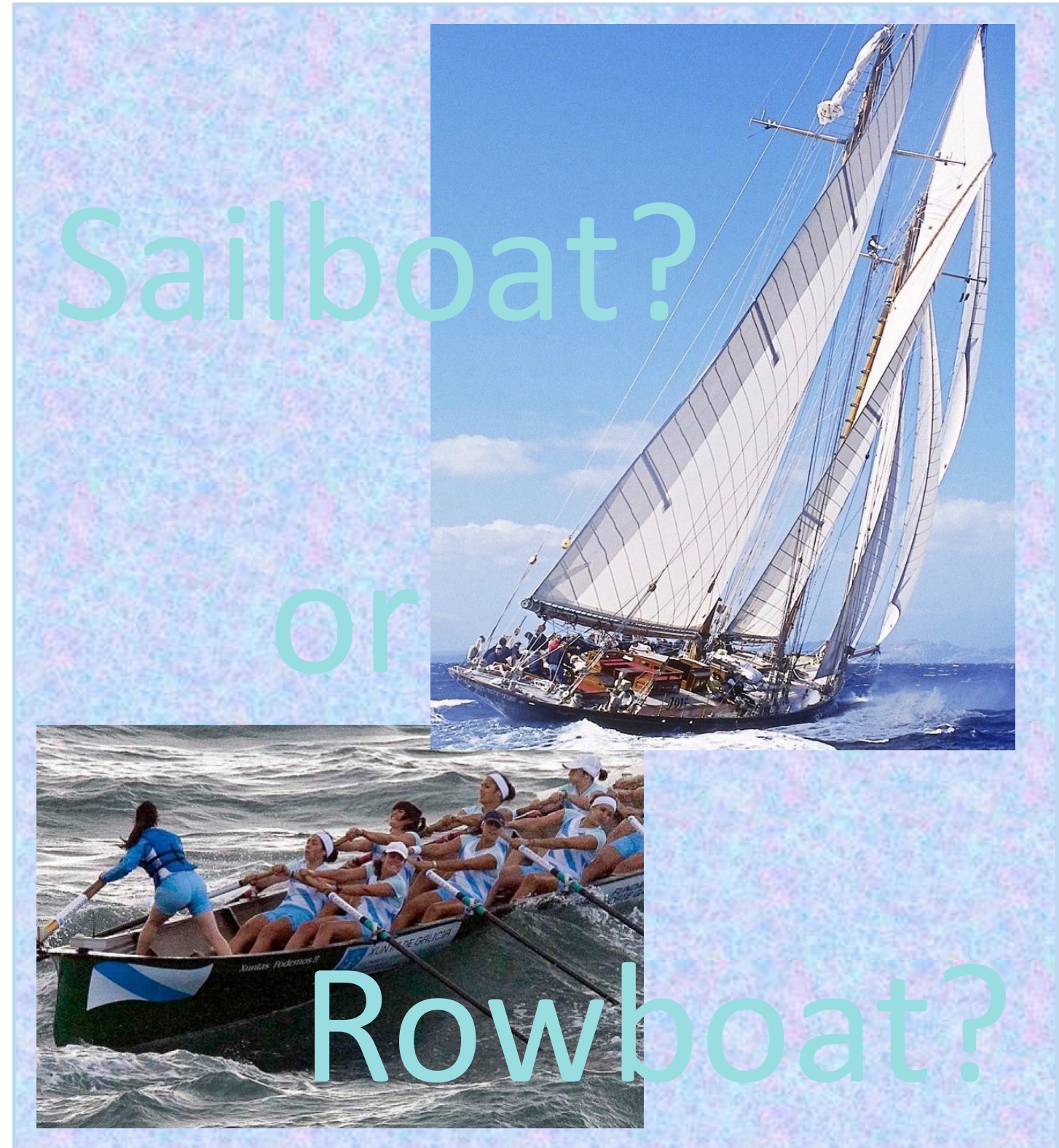
The Magazine of First Presbyterian Church — Marshfield

Spring 2019

Sailboat?

or

Rowboat?



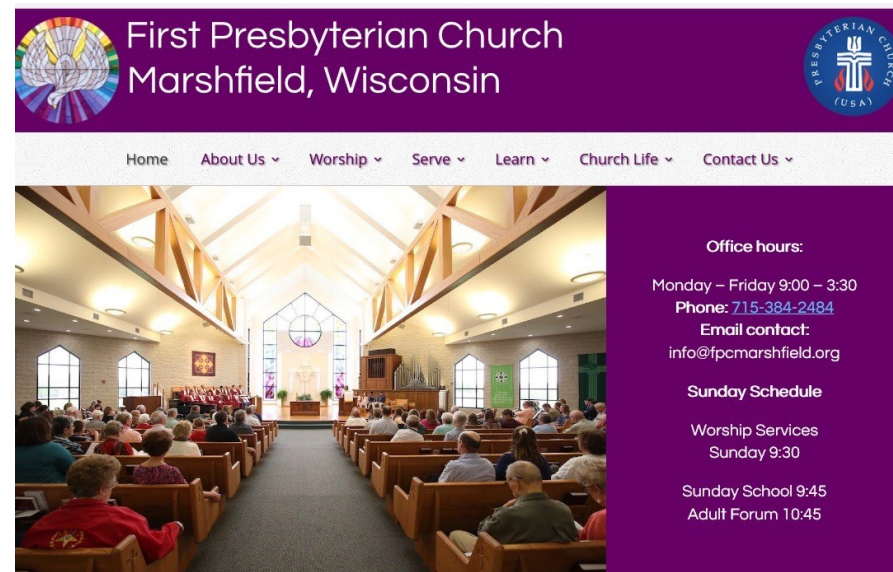
# Beginnings



The Investigating Church Membership class has been meeting after Sunday worship for many weeks now. We look forward to welcoming a wonderful group of people into our church family on Palm Sunday, April 14th. Please plan to attend to celebrate this joy.

[www.fpcmarshfield.org](http://www.fpcmarshfield.org)  
is Brand New!

Check it out!



The all new FPC webpage, a project started a year ago, was launched on March 11th. With updated content and pictures, the new page is not only a resource for our congregation but a first point of contact for prospective visitors. This project would not have been possible without many eyes reading, researching, and reviewing. Thank you to all who helped bring this new page to life. Please visit the all new FPC webpage at [www.fpcmarshfield.org](http://www.fpcmarshfield.org).

## Youth lead Ash Wednesday Service



The 2019 season of Lent was kicked off with the Ash Wednesday service led by our youth. Antonio Koehn and Richard Gui led with music. Henry Johnson, Henry Hoerneman, Jake Schilling, Davis Rens, Carlos Koehn, Owen Hoerneman and Keller Bredemann serves as lectors. The worship featured Peyton Daul, Olivia Anderson, Charlotte Johnson and Kyle Krohn in the scripture drama, **A Reasonable Man**, the story of Jesus' temptation in the



## Faith Stories Jan Clouse



Having been born into a military family, Jan Clouse and her family moved every three years. Home never meant a building to Jan, rather it was the group of people she lived with. Within two or three weeks of every move, Jan's parents had found a Church of God congregation. Although Jan does not recall any church conflicts ever coming up, her father was not the type to change churches when conflicts arose. The church was family and like any family, you work through the tough times.

A more conservative, fundamentalist type of church, the Church of God gave its members a stable, uncomplicated, but narrow basis for belonging. When Jan's father was stationed in Turkey, however, where the only opportunity for Christian worship was the chapel on base, Jan had an epiphany. Suddenly, there were not only multiple ways of approaching God within Christianity, but multiple ways

outside of Christianity, as well. The comfort of certainty that the Church of God had provided in the past would never again be the same.

Now as a Presbyterian, Jan finds a measure of that comfort in the ritual and consistency of worship, but there is no comfort in easy answers or uniform beliefs. Now, just knowing the questions she faces along with the magic possibility of seeing an occasional glimpse is enough. There is comfort in being in a safe place to explore those questions, a place that is founded on love and acceptance for difference and diversity for whatever path you are on.

Jan wonders that our church attracts so many who did not grow up Presbyterian. She imagines this as the roots of a tree which gather from every direction, then, gathering together in the trunk, ultimately spread in branch and blossom to touch the sky, each in their own unique way.

## Green Team - Remembering Kristi Huebschen

Confident. Creative. Friendly. Inquisitive. Faithful. Eager to help. Reluctantly and quietly leading the team. Ever ready to move us in new directions. Conscientiously checking and double-checking each and every detail. Curious to know more about God's world and our part in protecting creation. Concerned about bees, butterflies, trees, and her dogs. Proud mother of Nathaniel and Heath. Generous and passionate about helping others above and beyond the call of duty. Pulling her clothing ensembles together with just the perfect piece of jewelry as the finishing touch.

Born on March 8th, 1961, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Byron and Nancy Huebschen, Kristi graduated from Bayview High School in Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. As an educator for Marshfield Clinic, she guided people through career changes and life's challenges. She advanced the causes of New Visions Art Gallery and hosted Marshfield Cable Access's "It's Happening!", a show profiling interesting events and notable residents of the Marshfield area.



Kristi felt the spark for travel from a young age. Her journeys took her across oceans and continents to Europe, Turkey, Canada, and Hawaii. She adored the historic architecture and the serene beauty of her surroundings. When Kristi wasn't traveling, she enjoyed reading, traveling the world through the words of others.

Incredibly loved. Tremendously missed. This is Kristi Huebschen.



### Close-up

### Sarah Beighley

Church life began very early for Sarah. Sundays found her worshipping with her grandparents at the catholic church in Thorp, WI. Her grandmother was very involved in all the aspects of church that Sarah loved, volunteering in the kitchen and being with her church friends. Sarah's mother and father, in stark contrast to her grandparents, held the view that religion was a weakness and church life was stifling, a view that only intensified as they grew older.

Sarah married and moved to Milwaukee. The marriage dissolved, however, and in the years that followed, she was to welcome her son, Jonathan, into her life. Jonathan, now in the fourth grade, has become a resilient and honest young man. Sarah credits him with keeping her on the straight and narrow which for her means being honest even when it hurts, not taking the easy route, and not avoiding the

tough questions.

First Presbyterian Church is the first church which Sarah has formally joined. She and Jonathan visited several area churches during the interim period after Pastor Kevin left, but it was Jonathan who keep asking, "When are we going to go back to 'real church'?"

After spending so much time and energy trying to control her life and fix her troubles, Sarah is grateful for the "massive" perspective her faith provides. There is "a deeper purpose beside your own circle of crazy." For Sarah, "easy" faith just isn't faith. Faith is born of trying everything only to realize that "you are not in charge, you are not alone." The Bible is a beautiful, horrific, violent, wonderful story that shows her that the concerns and troubles of this world are not the whole story. "We need people in our lives we can trust and we need God, too."

# Session Visioning Retreat

## Are we a SAILBOAT church or a ROWBOAT church?

Marshfield, as we all know, is miles from any navigable body of water. How in the world is the question of WHAT KIND OF BOAT WE ARE relevant? Yet this question proved useful in shaping the conversation at a recent Session Visioning Retreat led by Dr. Sharol Hayner. The retreat was called to help Session with the task of discerning God's will in the decisions it is tasked to make on behalf of this congregation.

The question was inspired by a book by former PCUSA moderator, the Rev. Dr. Joan Gray, titled Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice.

*"The dominant attitude in the ROWBOAT church is either "We can do this." or "We can't do this." The church focuses on circumstances like the money it has or can raise, the available volunteers, the charisma and skill of the leaders, and the demographics of its community."*

Dr. Gray suggests that churches examine whether they are one or the other, but our Session found the matter more complex than that. A sailboat seems to glide effortlessly letting the wind do all the work. A rowboat seems dependent on the skill and strength of the rowers only.

*"Sailors in a SAILBOAT church do not assume they know the Lord's agenda. Rather they ask, 'What is God leading us to be and do now in the place where we find ourselves?'"*

But a sailboat is not at the mercy of the wind to determine its direction as if it were a dandelion fluff. The course must be carefully plotted and replotted as conditions change. The sails and knots must be carefully tended. Provisions must be stored and maintained to sustain

the crew on the journey. A rowboat is available to the external forces of wind and water no less than a sailboat.

Finally, a sailboat and a rowboat both have to risk rough seas and potential destruction. Yes, a sailboat can travel much farther distances, but both a sailboat and rowboat go nowhere if they never leave the safety of the harbor or the dock.

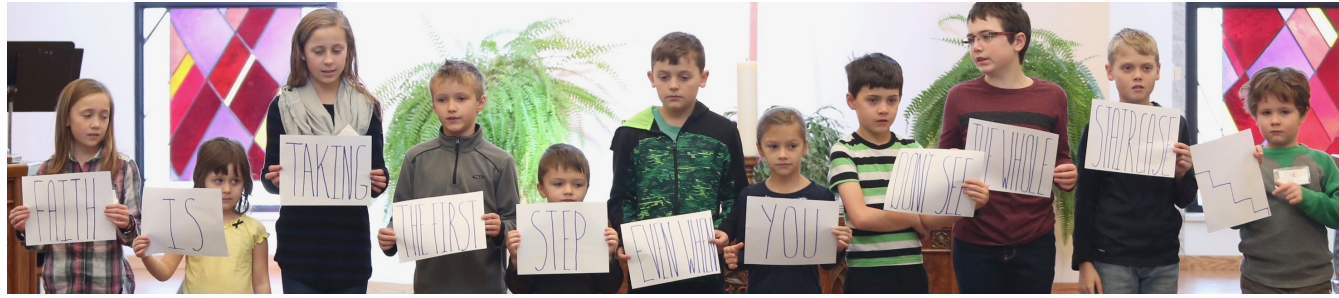
The truth is, sometimes we are borne on the powerful winds of God's spirit, blown on the very winds that issue from God's kingdom. And sometimes the wind . . . is just the wind, blowing us off the course God has set us upon. Sometimes the wind doesn't blow at all, and each of us must dip the oar as we are able. In fact, we must function as both a sailboat and a rowboat if we are to live into the following scripture:

**Ephesians 3:20-21** — "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Amen.

The retreat was not limited to exploring how we discern and work to manifest God's will, however. There was a specific task at hand, as well.

A delegation from Session has been in conversation with delegations from the churches in Abbotsford and Arpin. Pastor Marcia Thomas, who currently serves both of the other churches will retire on October 1st of this year leaving both churches without pastoral leadership. The question was whether pastoral leadership could be split among all three churches and how that might be carried out.

The Session Visioning Retreat provided the insight needed to discern whether partner-



ing with these other churches at this time would circumvent the denominationally-prescribed transitional leadership process. Although the churches have shared the same pastoral pool in the past, there has never been a focused effort to find common theological ground in any but the most superficial senses.

The Marshfield delegation met with the other churches after the retreat and it was decided that the other two churches would pursue pastoral leadership between them, leaving the interests and concerns of the Marshfield congregation out of the equation.

On a brighter note, however, it was agreed upon by all present that the three

churches could work together in the following areas: youth programs, education, Bible study, and special services. The churches look forward to working together in these areas, hopefully establishing a firm and lasting foundation of faith and trust upon which some form of shared pastoral leadership, essential to the survival of all three churches, can be built.

Please pray that as we hoist anchor, furl the sails, and point our ship toward God's horizon, the winds of God's spirit will fill our sails and our hearts. Amen.



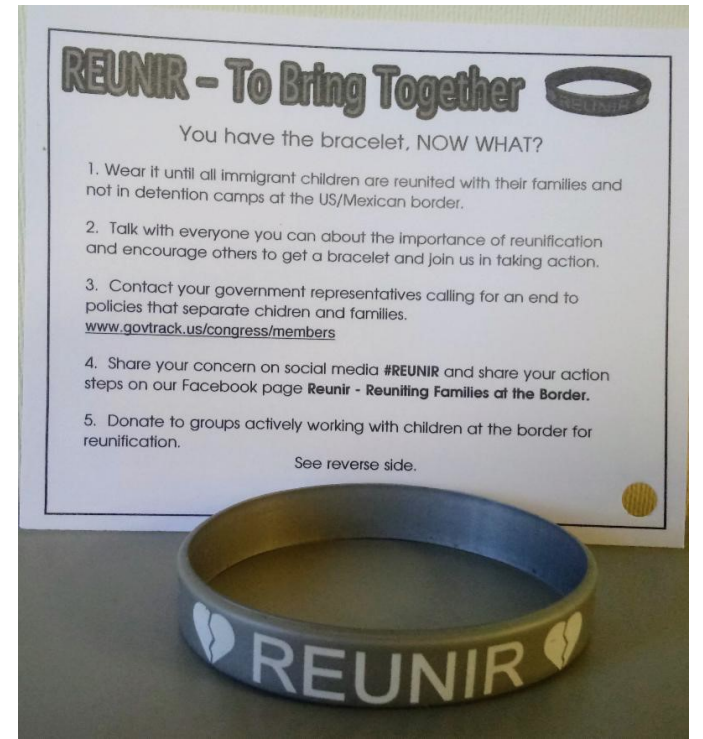
# REUNIR



The Vietnam War era was perhaps the only time in living memory that our country was as politically divided as it is now. However, the images of our young men, suffering at the hand of their captors in the POW camps of North Vietnam, was enough to unite six million Americans across all political divides to wear metal bracelets bearing the name of one of those captive soldiers.

Now, as our legislators argue and ultimately fail to fix our broken immigration system, the images of terrified children separated from their parents in the roadside glare of headlights once again call us to pay attention to those who pay the price for our division.

The Immigration Action Team (IAT) of First Presbyterian Church in Marshfield, WI, has developed the REUNIR bracelet program, patterned after the POW bracelets of years ago, to keep the plight of these separated families in our aware-



## Did you know?

### Pictorial Church Directory coming soon!

A new Church Pictorial Directory is coming soon! Mark your calendars for **April 23rd- 27th**. There will be a photographer from Lifetouch here to take fabulous pictures of you and your loved ones right here at church. You will receive a free 8x10 just for smiling pretty! Is one of your loved ones a pet? Well-behaved leashed or crated pets are welcome to join you for your sitting. Please use this link to sign up for a sitting time, <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yvx06xxy/>

Volunteers are needed for 2 - 2 1/2 hour shifts during the photography sessions to check people in and keep things moving. Sign up with a friend (or spouse) and catch up while helping out! The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

### Spring Cleanup

Building and Grounds has scheduled a pre-Easter spruce-up of the interior spaces of our building on **Saturday, April 20 from 8 am until about noon** (treats will be provided!). The sanctuary, parlor, library, business office, kitchen and fellowship hall will receive special attention. Please plan to help out, and bring along your favorite cleaning supplies for window cleaning, dusting, and vacuuming. Many hands will make this project go as quick as a bunny!



ness until each family is reunited. "Reunir" is the Spanish word for "reunite" or "bring together." It is our hope that not only will these families be "reunited" but that compassion for the suffering of these children and families might bring us together across our partisan beliefs and political identities.

The team has already passed out close to one thousand bracelets. There are bracelets in Green Bay, Appleton, Madison, and Wausau and in at least six states. There is even one in Colombia in South America. And we have our first celebrity endorsements, Kristina Wagner and Genie Francis of the soap opera, General Hospital. Kristina wore her bracelet on the show that will air April 1st. Tune in and see if you can spot it!

Stay up on these and other exciting developments at [REUNIR-Reuniting Families at the Border](#) on Facebook and on Twitter [@REUNIR12](#)



General Hospital co-stars Kristina Wagner (Felicia) and Genie Francis (Laura) have endorsed the REUNIR bracelet program on their social media platforms.