

First Pres News

monthly

A note from pastor...

The month of April begins with Easter the first Sunday. We will be in full Eastertide throughout the month. I am including the lyrics for the song "Outside the Lines" by Gordon Light. On Easter we heard that Jesus goes with us as we move out into the world to make disciples. The song speaks of faith and transformation.

My love colours outside the lines,
Exploring paths that few could ever find;
And takes me into places where I've never been before,
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,
Turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
And takes me into places where I've never been before
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
Body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
And realize there's a world outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

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First Presbyterian Church

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Prayer of Jesus

Holy One,
our only Home,
blessed be your name,
may your day dawn,
your will be done,
here, as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory,
the power,
and the mercy
are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

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Holy Wisdom Monastery*

Happy Anniversary

Carrie Massey & Kathi Wilson
April 4, 2015

Happy Birthday

8 Jared Smith
9 Pam Simpson
13 David Humphreys
15 Jillian Humphreys
16 Elaine Jacobson
23 Louisa Daniels
24 Peggy Taylor
30 Nancy Reeser

Greeters

5 Bev and Ginny
12 Bud and Katie
19 Nancy and Linda
26 Jerry and Nancy

Ushers

5 John and Linnea
12 Larry and Sharon
19 Steve and Ken
26 Dave and Alan

Liturgists

5 Shelley Maurer
12 Ken Schacht
19 Cecilia Andersson
26 Larry Dickerson

Fellowship

5 Dave & Ginny
12 Deb & Bev
19 Dave & Ginny
26 Jeff & Georgia



Music & More - Celebrating our 33rd Year!

Music & More kicks off its 2026 season with a special concert on Saturday, May 9 at 7 PM. "Spring Sampler" will offer a taste of what makes M&M a unique program. Performers: "Caritas" - Greg & Kathy Berg, Kate Potter Barrow - vocal & piano; Jesse Gomez & Heather Lopp - violin & piano; and Mark Paffrath & Zachary Scot Johnson - vocal, guitar & piano. Early Bird Tickets are \$15 through May 2; \$20 after May 2.

Many of your favorite musicians are returning to play at the 10 FREE noontime concerts which will run on Thursdays from June 4 - August 6, noon to 1:00^{PM}.

And, we are excited to announce 11 new acts on the schedule:

- ◆ Riley Saenim - poetry
- ◆ The Prairie School Jazz Combo - trumpets & saxophones
- ◆ Pianist Jim Sodke
- ◆ Elizabeth Steffensen - vocal
- ◆ Dean Gunnarson - piano
- ◆ Vocalist Lucy Garrigan
- ◆ Charlotte Bush - vocal
- ◆ Vocalist Leila Mayew
- ◆ Alexander VanDeLoo - vocal
- ◆ Cecilia Andersson - vocal
- ◆ The Jelly Rolls Ragtime Band - 10 musicians - trumpets, trombone, cello, violins bass, flute, clarinet, and percussion (August 14 evening concert)

Some highlights to note: Randy Bush and Charlotte Bush will perform on July 2; Wisconsin's Poetry Out Loud competition winner Riley Saenim will perform on June 4; Liz Steffensen will join Mark Paffrath on June 18; three flute choirs are combining to perform on July 23; organists will play our newly renovated organ on July 23 and August 6; and pianist Mary Skop will lead a fun audience sing-along on August 6 to close out the series.

Typically, two or three young musicians receive awards from our scholarship funds each year, but for the first time in our history, seven talented youth will receive \$500 awards! These will be presented at the August 14 concert. Early Bird Tickets for the Finale are \$15 through August 7; \$20 after 8/7.

Please consider making a donation to support this outstanding program. Donations may be given IN HONOR or IN MEMORY of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Donations in any amount are needed to pay for performers and advertising. Donors will be acknowledged in our printed concert programs that are updated weekly. Thank you!

- ◆ Platinum \$1,000 and above
- ◆ Sustainers \$500 to \$999
- ◆ Patrons \$301 to \$499
- ◆ Sponsors \$300
- ◆ Supporters \$100 to \$299
- ◆ Friends \$1 to \$99

It's easy to donate securely online at firstpresracine.org/donate Click on the PayPal link and select *Music & More* from the drop-down menu. Or send a check to First Presbyterian Church, for Music & More. Thank you!

Volunteers are needed throughout the season! Please contact Georgia Hall for information about ways you can be involved ghall33@yahoo.com.

Music & MORE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spring Sampler

SATURDAY, MAY 9 – 7:00 P.M.

Early Bird Tickets – \$15 • Tickets After May 2 – \$20



"Caritas"
Greg & Kathy Berg
Kate Potter-Barrow



Jesse Gomez
Heather Lopp



Mark Paffrath &
Zachary Scot Johnson



FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

(262) 632-1686 | 716 College Avenue – Racine, WI | www.firstpresracine.org

Mission Initiative Updates

The joint First Presbyterian and Olympia Brown Unitarian Church Cuban Sandwich Fundraiser was a big success. A huge thank you to both churches and all the volunteers. It takes a tremendous amount of effort to raise over \$2,000 to send this gift from our churches to our partnership church in Matanzas Cuba. This gift of money will be presented to Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada Central de Matanzas (*Central Reformed Presbyterian Church of Matanzas*) by Pastor Darren, Deb and Josh next week. We are grateful to everyone that has made this gift possible. We are also extremely grateful to Pastor Darren and his family for having the courage and desire to travel to Cuba. It is a challenging time for any travel to Cuba. We keep you in our prayers. Upon the return of the Utley family I hope they will host us all and share their experiences and pictures. We need the motivation to keep our partnership with Central church in Matanzas alive and thriving.

We made and sold 110 Cuban Sandwiches last Sunday. This is the greatest number of sandwiches we have ever made. We have been conducting this fundraiser since 2017, according to my notes and we increase the number of sandwiches each year. A big thanks to all sandwich makers, eaters and donators. We are very fortunate to have a large kitchen space and all the tools we need to make the fundraiser a success.

Our mission work with Cuba is more important than ever. As I pen this note to you all I am reminded of the darkness, the complete lack of electricity in Cuba. Black-outs in Cuba are nothing new to the Cuban people. The extreme shortage of fuel and alternative fuel sources greatly magnify the current black-out situation in Cuba. Cuba is in dire straits and more than ever the people need our prayers and our support.

On behalf of the Mission Initiative Committee gratitude for all your support.

Georgia Herrera and Meg Daniels



Randy Bush to Perform with Choral Arts on April 18!

To wrap up their 39th season, the *Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin (CAS)* will present *Fantasia!* on Saturday, April 18th, 7:00^{PM} at the historic First Presbyterian Church, 716 College Avenue in downtown Racine.

The Choral Arts Society welcomes Guest Artist Randy Bush to the stage in a thrilling performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on the Old 104th*. This program will also feature organist Nick Renkosik on the newly restored First Presbyterian Church organ, performing Bach's mighty Toccata and Fugue in d minor. Randy and Nick will collaborate in playing piano four hands to accompany the chorus in the lovely choral version of Fauré's Pavane.

Artistic Director James Schatzman said of this program, "It is an honor to feature two tremendously gifted artists, concert pianist Randy Bush and nationally recognized organist, Nick Renkosik playing the newly refurbished organ at First Presbyterian Church. *Fantasia on the Old 104th* will highlight these amazing instruments, with Racine's premiere chorus, to fill the air with the dazzling sounds of this incredible composition. This *Fantasia* will showcase the contributions of our guest artists, these remarkable instruments, and the lyric beauty and power of the Choral Arts Society. Rarely does a composition so dramatically feature all three aspects in one piece. This piece will be one of the highlights of all concert presentations in Racine in 2026. You won't want to miss it."

The concert will also include *Nella Fantasia*, featuring the tune, "Gabriel's Oboe," which was the main theme for the 1986 film *The Mission* with Robert de Niro, Jeremy Irons, and Liam Neeson. The theme has been called "unforgettable" and a "celebrated melody."

A special aspect of the concert will be vocal and instrumental performances of Greensleeves in memory of Frank Suetholz, local legendary flutist. Guest Young Artist Addison Kelnhofer of Carthage College will be the flute soloist.

Included with admission is a pre-concert event from 5:45-6:15^{PM}: "Beyond Für Elise," a panel discussion with *Fantasia!* Guest Artists. All concert attendees are welcome.

The Choral Arts Society was established in 1987 by founder and Artistic Director, James Schatzman. Weeks after its founding, the ensemble sang the Wisconsin premiere of Vaughan Williams' *Hodie* with the Racine Symphony Orchestra. Since its beginning, the CAS has partnered with the likes of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, UW-Parkside, The Studio of Classical Dance Arts, The Prairie School, and contemporary composers, including Adrian Snell, Carol Barnett, Margaret Burk, and Glenn Burleigh. "Collaboration is in our DNA," said Schatzman. The Choral Arts Society now makes its home at First Presbyterian Church. In April, the CAS will conclude its 39th season under Maestro Schatzman, continuing to commission new works, perform premieres, outreach to young artists, and seek to be innovative while honoring classic masterworks.

Tickets are \$25 for Adults/Seniors and \$15 for Students. Advance tickets are available for purchase online at www.choralartsonline.org/attend/ or in person at Personal Touch by Julie Florist in Racine - 5445 Spring Street - with cash or check. To contact the Choral Arts Society, email admin@casewi.org or call (262) 634-3250. Advanced ticket purchase is highly recommended.

The Choral Arts Society's 39th season is supported in part by a grant from the Racine Community Foundation, a grant from the Racine Arts Council's ArtSeed Grant Program funded by the Racine Arts Council, and a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the generous support of individual donors and private foundations.

From Shelley's mess - I mean desk!

Beginning this month, you will be able to access the church's monthly calendar two ways.

As in the past, the monthly printed calendar is located on the church's webpage at: firstpresracine.org/connect/first-pres-news-calendar

To access the most up-to-date calendar, you can visit the church's website: firstpresracine.org. At the top of the page, click on **EVENTS**. As events are planned throughout each month, I will try to add them as soon as possible.

If you have an event that needs to be added, or if you have questions/concerns, please let me know: shelley@firstpresracine.org

I wish you & your family a Blessed Easter and a Happy Spring!



Briefly It Enters

I am the blossom pressed in a book,
found again after two hundred years
I am the maker, the lover, and the keeper
When the young girl who starves
sits down to a table
she will sit beside me
I am food on the prisoner's plate
I am water rushing to the wellhead,
filling the pitcher until it spills
I am the patient gardener
of the dry and weedy garden
I am the stone step,
the latch, and the working hinge
I am the heart contracted by joy
the longest hair, white
before the rest
I am there in the basket of fruit
presented to the widow
I am the musk rose opening
unattended, the fern on the boggy summit
I am the one whose love
overcomes you, already with you
when you think to call my name

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