



FIRST PRES NEWS

monthly

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A note from pastor...

October offers some exciting times for the congregation and for me personally. The first weekend of the month Deb and I will be away attending the annual meeting of the Cuba Partner Network. This is a network of all the PCUSA churches across the country that have a partnership with churches in Cuba. This will be the first time we have been able to attend one of these meetings and we look forward to learning from both the other churches in the network and from their sister churches as well. Please pray for us and the people of Cuba.

The second weekend of the month will be our annual Homecoming Sunday and Apple Fundraiser. This is always a great time to gather together and support our Mission Initiative. We will also be celebrating World Communion Sunday a week late but with the same spirit of unity as we remember the Christian communion around the world. The Mission Initiative will have a variety of apples from Ela Orchard with all proceeds from the sale going to support mission efforts.

The weekend of October 18th is one to mark in your calendars right away. Please see the notice latter in the newsletter about the upcoming worship service with Regie Gibson and the other events taking place that weekend. Regie is sure to be inspiring and I want to leave you with some of his words from a poem entitled, "Massachusetts: A Song of Itself."

*"Any path this nation takes is because we helped choose it!
Any tyranny that triumphs in this nation is because we helped excuse it!
Any freedoms this nation loses is because we helped lose it!
And, it is not in our nature to suffer such things -
But to put them up, buckle up, muster up, instead
Then, toss back our heads - fill our lungs with air
And sing - sing - Massachusetts sing!"*

I don't think Regie will mind if I take some liberties and say "sing, Racine, sing!"

First Presbyterian Church

716 College Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
262.632.1686
firstpresracine.org

Pastor

Rev. Darren Utley
PastorDarren@firstpresracine.org

Parish Nurse

Peggy Taylor
PeggyParishNurse@yahoo.com

Organist & Chancel Choir Director

Alejandro Alumbreros
piano3842@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director

Fumi Nakayama
fnakayama@carthage.edu

Worship Music Leader

Mark Paffrath
mark@markpaffrath.com

Media Tech Specialist

Steve Comeau
steve@spliceaudio.com

Sexton

Gloria Zember
gcs.connects@gmail.com

Nursery

Patricia Peterson
triciapeterson13@yahoo.com

Financial Secretary

Theresa Revis
fsoffice@firstpresracine.org

Digital Media Coordinator

Shelley Maurer
shelley@firstpresracine.org

Greeters

- Oct. 4 Bev Eifert, Ginny Holle
11 Bud Eastman, Katie Humphrey
18 Nancy Reeser, Linda Schubert
25 Joe & Jean Boticki

Ushers

- Oct. 4 John & Linnea Brooke
11 Larry Dickerson, Sharon Campbell
18 Steve Simpson, Ken Schacht
25 Dave Easley, Alan Galle

Liturgists

- Oct. 4 Sharon Campbell
11 Mary Bernstein
18 Royce Earnest
25 Debbie Yale

Fellowship

- Oct. 4 Georgia Herrera & Jeff Leavell
11 Debbie Yale & Bev Eifert
18 Dave & Ginny Holle
25 John & Linnea Brooke



Special Worship Service

Coming up on Sunday, October 18th, we welcome Regie Gibson, Poet Laureate of Massachusetts, to our worship service. Regie's poetry encourages everyone to take up anew the call to a sacred citizenship that seeks liberation and justice for all. Regie's readings and reflections promise to be an inspiring addition to this special morning worship service where we will be joined by co-presenter, Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church.

Regie will be in town all weekend for the following special events open to the public:

A poetry reading in Ihrman Hall on Friday, October 16th at 7:00^{PM} (no charge) and the Choral Arts "Honoring 250 Years of America" concert on Saturday at 7:00^{PM}. Regie's poem, "Forge, Shape, Shine," will be one of the concert's highlights.

Sunday's joint worship service at 10:00^{AM} will include some of the traditional elements of our worship service including a performance by the chancel choir. Additionally, we will share in OBUUC's children's time and our congregations will join together in a time of sharing joys and concerns. The service will be followed by a time of food and fellowship in Ihrman Hall. We know that you won't want to miss this unique worship experience, and we also encourage you to take part in the rest of the weekend's activities as well.

Phone message from Mac MacCaughey:

I want to thank you and everybody who was involved in putting together that birthday posting from you. My goodness, that was amazing and then thinking of the thing, that was delightful. I'm always amazed at something like this and totally amazed at this one, so thank you again for everybody who was involved. My goodness, love it, love you all. Thanks!



October 2026 Mission Initiative Update

Please join us on October 11, 2026, for World Communion and Homecoming. After worship the Mission Initiative will host an Apple Fundraiser to help raise money for our Food Bank. We will share apples from our local Ela's Orchard located in Waterford. We hope you can join us for delicious apples to help support our Food Bank. The Food Bank is a vital part of our mission work at First. Year to date we have 1100 families and 2673 individuals. The need for food is great in our community. Thanks to all that have continued this great mission work. On Sunday September 13, 2026, Mission Initiative hosted a Talk it Over in Ihrman Hall. Thanks to all church members that participated. A number of great ideas were shared and questions were asked. A question was raised about who uses our church on a regular basis. Below please find a list of some entities that use our facilities:

1. Restoration Ministries
2. Olympia Brown Unitarian Church
3. Music Makers
4. Choral Arts
5. Kiwanis Youth Symphony
6. PEO

On September 15, 2026, Pastor Darren shared with us his recent trip to Cuba with Pastors for Peace at our Lunch & Learn Series. It was an interesting presentation as we enjoyed Pico's for lunch where 25 people attended.

On the radar is an effort to open more discussions with OBUCC to discuss how we might further partner with OBUCC to do some additional Mission work together. OBUCC has supported our recent school supply drive for the Julian Thomas school. OBUCC has also contributed to our Cuban Mission effort by making monetary donations and by in-kind medical donations. We have appreciated all their interest and dedication to mission. As always, we welcome your participation in Mission. Please prayerfully consider how you might become more involved in Mission at First Presbyterian Church.

With Grateful Hearts

Kathi Wilson & Georgia Herrera, Co-chairs Mission Committee



When I Am Among the Trees

When I am among the trees,
 especially the willows and the honey locust,
 equally beech, the oaks and the pines,
 they give off such hints of gladness.
 I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
 I am so distant from the hope of myself,
 in which I have goodness, and discernment,
 and never hurry through the world
 but walk slowly, and bow often.
 Around me the trees stir in their leaves
 and call out, "Stay awhile."
 The light flows from their branches.
 And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
 "And you too have come
 into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
 with light, and to shine."

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Night Prayer *from The New Zealand Prayerbook*

Lord,
 it is night.
 The night is for stillness.
 Let us be still in the presence of God.
 It is night after a long day.
 What has been done has been done;
 what has not been done has not been
 done;
 let it be.
 The night is dark.
 Let our fears of the darkness of the world
 and of our own lives
 rest in you.
 The night is quiet.
 Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
 all dear to us,
 and all who have no peace.
 The night heralds the dawn.
 Let us look expectantly to a new day,
 new joys,
 new possibilities.
 In your name we pray.
 Amen.