

A note from pastor...

November is full of special Sundays this year. We begin on November 1st with All Saints Sunday. A time to remember and honor those saints who have gone before us and been a part of our development in faith. November 22nd will be Stewardship Sunday this year and we will have some time the previous Sundays to celebrate some of the amazing things going on here at First Racine. The final Sunday of the month is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Christian Year.

The texts for the Stewardship Season this year are best summarized by one of the texts, Amos 5:24, *"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."* We will spend some time remembering the enduring call to be people of God's love and justice in the world. The current Christian Year ends with famous verses from Matthew 25 which has been a focus text for the Presbyterian Church USA for a number of years. Below are the three pillars of the PCUSA Matthew 25 campaign.

Building congregational vitality by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.

Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color. Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans, and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Finally, this Advent and Christmas season we will focus on the theme, "Until the Dawn," looking at the work of Advent. The folks from A Sanctified Art have this to say: *"Just as surely as the sun rises, God's steadfast love and mercy are made new every morning. As we move toward the horizon, we will cry out, start somewhere, speak up, take courage, build up, and choose joy. These actions will help us resist despair and put our prayers in motion. Until the day when God's love reigns and all the earth echoes shalom, let us keep moving, singing, resisting, and rejoicing– trusting that God joins us in the work of Advent."*

Peace,
Darren

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Greeters

Nov. 1 Bev Eifert, Ginny Holle
8 Bud Eastman, Katie Humphrey
15 Nancy Reeser, Linda Schubert
22 Joe & Jean Boticki
29 Joe & Jean Boticki

Ushers

Nov. 1 John & Linnea Brooke
8 Larry Dickerson, Sharon Campbell
15 Steve Simpson, Ken Schacht
22 Dave Easley, Alan Galle
29 Dave Easley, Alan Galle

Liturgists

Nov. 1 Jeff Leavell
8 Ken Schacht
15 Katie Humphrey
22 Ko Kryger
29 Shelley Maurer

Fellowship

Nov. 1 Royce Earnest, Ginny Holle
8 Jen Seversen, Ken Schacht
15 Georgia Herrera, Jeff Leavell
22 Deb Yale, Bev Eifert
29 Dave & Ginny Holle

Poetry Reading

Nov. 29 Pat Badger

Candlelighting

Nov. 29 TBD

Mission Initiative and Deacons

Again this year, we are collecting for two initiatives to help support the children and families of Julian Thomas Elementary School. Donations can be made through Sunday, December 6th.

Holiday Food Cards

The Deacons are collecting donations for holiday food cards. The selected recipient families will each receive a gift card for ALDI so they can purchase the food items that their family needs to celebrate the holidays. Donations in any amount are appreciated. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian. Write JT Gift Card on the memo line. Or you can make a secure donation by visiting firstpresracine.org/donate and click on SECURE GIVING THRU PAYPAL. From the dropdown list, please select Julian Thomas Gift Card.

Christmas Toy Drive

We are also collecting toys, crafts and gift items for Julian Thomas School. There is a decorated box in Ihrman Hall for the donations. Every year, the teachers and staff identify students whose families may be in distress and could benefit from having a brighter holiday. They then put together Santa Bags for all of the children in the selected families. Our target gift price range is $10-$30 per item.

With joy and gratitude for your generosity,

Georgia Herrera and Kathi Wilson - on behalf of the Mission Initiatives Committee
Mary Bernstein and Ken Nakayama - on behalf of the Deacons Committee



Mission Initiative Update

Thanks to all that supported our Homecoming Apple Fundraiser, benefiting our Food Pantry. The apples from Ela's orchard were delicious this year and we sold out! First Pres and OBUUC donated a total of $467!

Pastor Darren and Deb attended the Cuban Partnership Network, hosted in Matanzas Cuba at the seminary. The Network meets in Cuba every three years, so this was a special meeting and we are glad that Pastor Darren and Deb were able to attend.

Please see the letter announcing our joint holiday mission work with the Deacons to benefit Julian Thomas School.

Again, thanks for all your support of mission at First. We are all grateful.

Georgia L. Herrera and Kathi Wilson Co-Chairs Mission Initiative.



A Morning Prayer

Dear God,
Speak gently in my silence.
When the loud outer noises
of my surroundings,
and the loud inner noises
of my fears
keep pulling me away from you,
help me to trust
that you are still there
even when I am unable
to hear you.
"*Come to me, all you who are overburdened,*
and I will give you rest... for I am gentle and humble of heart."
Let that loving voice be my guide.
Amen.

- Henri Nouwen

Sept 19, 2026

Hello from Scotland!

I am thankful for all of your prayers over these past weeks. I arrived safely in the UK almost 2 weeks ago and I am so happy with my choice to study at St Andrews. I am living in a great city centre university house with 3 roomates, 2 other girls from the U.S. and one from Germany. My courses are intense but manageable, I take 2 classes that switch every 5 weeks, so it's a lot of content in a short amount of time. I auditioned to sing in a choir and won a scholarship to sing in the St Leonards Chapel Choir, we meet on Thursday evenings at 10pm for a religious Compline service singing traditional chant music. People take music very seriously here and the music is quite challenging. The invitation to sing with them includes free weekly voice lessons. I have also met my teacher and she is very nice! I have also joined a local church and was accepted to join their Sunday morning choir. The church predates the university by several hundred years. And even had John Knox as a preacher in 1559. The church is called Holy Trinity and you can find pictures of the organ, churchyard, and structure online. In my free time I am trying to find a job, I'm sure I will find one in the next few weeks. I have also joined a gardening club and a wild swimming club. I went for my first swim in the North Sea yesterday, and even though it was very cold, it was enjoyable to be there with other young people who love the water. I will be staying in St Andrews for winter break, and will submit my dissertation proposal in February. I will begin writing it full time in April. I am looking forward to exploring Scotland more over the coming months and I will do my best to keep you updated. I would appreciate any prayers, letters, or emails throughout the next year, or feel free to visit! Thank you for the support!

Much appreciation, Angela Arnold



No. 2408 "Heart" Original painting by ADRIANA MISOVCOVÁ Mouth Painter

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21st-27 September 2026

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WE HAVE SEVERAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

At 9:00^{AM} on Saturday, November 28th, we need volunteers to help decorate the church for the Advent season.

In addition, we need liturgists, poetry readers and candlelighters. If you are willing to help, please let Shelley know, so you can be added to the list.

Liturgists are needed for:

- *Sunday, December 13*
- *Sunday, December 20*
- *Sunday, December 27*
- *Sunday, January 3*

Poetry readers are needed for:

- *Sunday, December 27*
- *Sunday, January 3*

Families are needed for candle lighting:

- *Sunday, November 29*
- *Sunday, December 6*
- *Sunday, December 13*
- *Sunday, December 20*

Shelley Maurer * 262.914.8066 * *shelley@firstpresracine.org*



The Wild Geese by Wendell Berry

Horseback on Sunday morning,
harvest over, we taste persimmon
and wild grape, sharp sweet
of summer's end. In time's maze
over fall fields, we name names
that went west from here, names
that rest on graves. We open
a persimmon seed to find the tree
that stands in promise,
pale, in the seed's marrow.
Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye,
clear. What we need is here.



Here is one of two recipes* from my childhood made by my mom, Mary Gillett. She was a member of First Presbyterian from 1928 to 1992. The Hunters' Filled Cookies were sent with my dad Lyman Gillett and his buddies when they went deer hunting at our cabin in Northern Wisconsin. My dad always said the cookies brought him good luck.

Submitted by Nancy Gillett Reeser
Member since 1960

**The second recipe will be included in the December newsletter*

Hunters' Filled Cookies

1/2 c. shortening
1 c. sugar
1 egg, beaten
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. milk
3-1/2 c. cake flour
3 tsp. baking soda
1/2 t. salt

Cream shortening, add sugar, and cream well. Add vanilla and beaten egg. Sift dry ingredients together and add alternately with milk. Beat until well blended.

Chill very well. Roll out to about 1/8" thickness. Put a teaspoon of any favorite filling in center of cookie and cover with another cookie.

Press edges together. Brush with egg or milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 375 degrees, about 12 minutes. Makes about 3 dozen.

Have you heard through the grapevine that Susan Galle is a racecar driver? It's true! Carrie and I took the time to visit her at Blackhawk Farms Raceway to experience for ourselves Susan's excitement for this sport! Were we ever in for an adventure!! Carrie took a passenger Advanced Session Ride around turns and curves at speeds of 80 – 100 mph. I took a passenger Parade Ride going up to 50mph … it still felt like we were going 80!!
Her license plate says, "It's not just a Passion, It's a Hobby!"
Thank you, Susan, for an amazing afternoon sharing your "Need for Speed!"





WANTED!

CLEAN, GENTLY USED WINTER OUTERWEAR

Help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

We are collecting warm clothing in good condition for Food Pantry Guests.

Most Wanted Items

Coats • Jackets • Hats
Gloves • Mittens • Scarves • Boots

Please donate items that are:
Clean • Gently used • Have Working Zippers

• Free of stains, tears, and strong odors

Men's items are in demand

Your donation can make a warm difference!



For questions contact Meg Daniels: 262-497-0610