



First News Monthly

JANUARY

Dear Friends,

*“A door is truly an amazing thing.
Closed, it is an agent of separation
But swing it open and
It becomes an invitation,
Uniting what before was separate.”
~ Drew Leder*

Doors are a part of our daily life. We use them often throughout the day and probably give little thought to how many times we pass through them. But doors are the means by which we move from one place to another. They invite us to a new place, or they offer us privacy where we are. Doors are entrances, passageways, a means of admittance. When we talk of standing at the door to a new year, we are recognizing that we are stepping into a new place. For many this can be an exciting time of new beginnings, but for others stepping over the threshold of a new year can be frightening and intimidating.

Whether we like it or not, the door of the new year swings open and we are invited to step forward in faith, trusting that God will be with us. In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we read: *“Behold ! I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.” (Rev 3:20)*

In Holman Hunt’s beautiful painting, *The Light of the World*, this scene from Revelation is depicted. What is noteworthy is that there is no handle on the door except in the inside, symbolizing that it is up to us to open the door to

God. It is God who wants to come and be with us, but we need to be open to allowing God to enter our lives.

As we step into a new year, with all that it might bring, let us open our hearts to God and allow God to lead us and walk with us through all our days.

Blessings and peace for 2017,

Pastor Gilman



WHAT’S NEW?!

The 2016 Annual Report will be available for distribution on Sun., Jan. 15, 2017.

Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sun., Jan. 29, 2017—after worship.

The meeting will be followed by our Chili Cook-off.



JANUARY REHEARSALS

HANDBELL CHOIR

Wednesday Evenings — 7:00 p.m.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Thursday, January 19th — 7:00 p.m.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

716 COLLEGE AVENUE
RACINE, WI 53403
262.632.1686

SENIOR PASTOR
REV. GILLIAN WEIGHTON
PASTORGILLIAN@FIRSTPRESRACINE.ORG

VISITATION PASTOR
REV. STEVE FRINGER
SCFRINGER@HOTMAIL.COM

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NOTE: PASTOR GILLIAN WILL
NOT BE AVAILABLE FROM MON.,
JAN. 9 THRU FRI., JAN. 20,
AS SHE WILL BE DOING HER
CONTINUING EDUCATION OUT
OF STATE.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE
CONTACT PASTOR STEVE.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Ellen Cardwell
January 1, 1983
Les & Anna Lucareli
January 9, 1953
James & Cathy Yonker
January 16, 1982
Myron & Mary Ann Stahl
January 28, 1967

MISSION

Thank you to all who participated in the Alternative Christmas Market this year. All of the organizations were happy to be there and enjoyed talking with you all. I would like to thank the following people for helping to make it a success: Debbie Yale—for inviting all the organizations; Ben Neal—for handling the monies; Georgia Herrera, Nicole Higgs, Bruce Armstrong and Jennifer & Jillian Humphreys—for offering crafts in our Craft Corner; and Dennis Reeser, Bud Eastman and Steve Simpson—for setting up and taking down the tables and chairs.

Our next event will be our Chili Cook Off on Sun., Jan. 29, immediately following the congregational meeting in the Dining Room downstairs. Please start thinking about what kind of chili you would like to bring. There will be a sign up in Ihrman Hall soon for chili and desserts. A goodwill offering will be taken which will be used for our Mission trip to Cuba this spring or summer. There will be a meeting soon for all those interested in going on this trip or learning more about it.

Martha Fusco,
Mission Committee Chair
and the Mission Committee

WINTER RECIPE—WHITE CHILI

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cooked, boneless chicken breast half, chopped
- 3 (14.5 ounce) cans chicken broth
- 2 (4 ounce) cans diced green chili peppers
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1½ teaspoons cayenne pepper
- 5 (14.5 ounce) cans great Northern beans, undrained
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Directions:

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onions and garlic and sauté for ten minutes, or until onions are tender. Add the chicken, chicken broth, green chili peppers, cumin, oregano and cayenne pepper and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to low and add the beans. Simmer for 20 to 30 minutes, or until heated thoroughly. Pour into individual bowls and top with the cheese.



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

1st Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Elaine Jacobson
Pam Wortley
Ken Schacht

2nd Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Reeser
John Brooke
Linnea Brooke
Debbie Yale

3rd Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Mac MacCaughey
Marilyn MacCaughey
Kate Gleason
Julia Reeser

4th Wednesday—4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Pat Holub
Randy Holub
Linda Schubert
Jenny Humphreys
Megan Humphreys

1st Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Denise Park
Vi Shufelt
Barb Armstrong

2nd Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Steve Simpson
Pam Simpson
Julie Nigh
Denise Harris

3rd Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Martha Fusco
Judy Rowland
Myrna Kryger

4th Thursday—1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Ginny Holle
Bev Eifert
Nancy Hennessey
Mary Ringwalt

(Continued—next column)



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

(continued)

Food Receiving Crew

Steve Bernstein
John Brooke
Debbie Yale
Bob Franks
Kerry Franks
Ben Neal
Tony Aiello

Other

Bill Anderson
Amanda Hansen
Jerry Ritter
Nancy Ritter

Subs

Beth Shelton (Thursday sub)
Catherine Neal (back-up evening shifts)
Nancy Moore
Tony Aiello

HISTORY NOOK

As we begin a new year, our 178th, it seems appropriate to reflect on the words spoken by Rev. Dr. Francis P Ihrman during his last sermon here on January 15, 1969 entitled "If I Could Preach Just Once."

Dr. Ihrman, who served this church from November 1937 - January 1969, said "God has created the universe and has created man. And he has 'made of one blood all nations on earth.' Does that mean that we can have problems of race, and of color, and of nationality? It doesn't mean either that with one great sweep of the hand that we can do away with all of these problems. There is no patent solution that I know of...but I believe this, 'That if man would study the Word of God and follow his guidance and His teachings, these problems would fade into insignificance.'"

Thank you, Dr. Ihrman. These words are for today as well. Love one another.

Nancy Reeser
Archive Committee

PARISH NURSE CORNER

“Glaucoma ~ the Sneak Thief of Sight”

Currently, 2.7 million people in the United States over the age of 40 have glaucoma. The National Eye Institute projects this number will reach 4.2 million by 2030.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness. Among African Americans and Latino populations, glaucoma is more prevalent - 6 to 8 times more common.

Over 60 million people worldwide have glaucoma. Combined with our aging population, an epidemic of blindness is looming if we do not raise awareness about the importance of regular eye exams to preserve vision.

In the United States, approximately 120,000 are blind from glaucoma, accounting for 9% - 12% of all cases of blindness. Talk to friends and family about glaucoma, do not keep it a secret. Let family members know.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. There are no symptoms, and once vision is lost, it is permanent.

Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. This nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires. It is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain. Vision loss begins with peripheral or side vision, so if you have glaucoma you may not notice anything until significant vision, as much as 40%, is lost.

The best way to protect your sight is a comprehensive eye exam as least once a year. Then, if you have glaucoma, treatment (medication or surgery) can begin at once.

Are you at risk for glaucoma? People over 60, family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics, and people who are severely nearsighted have a significantly increased risk of having glaucoma.

There is no cure for glaucoma - yet. However, early detection and treatment can slow or prevent vision loss.

May God bless ‘all of us’ with His peace
and joy and good health in 2017,

Peggy Taylor, R.N., Parish Nurse



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Isabella Antonneau
Nathan Antonneau
- 3rd Evelyn Alumbremos
Zachary Carpenter
- 4th Kim Plache
- 5th Christopher Mason
Roberta Moulds
- 6th Christopher Shelton
- 9th Susan Barry
Tammy LaMarr
Joshua Nitz
Nancy Tobias
- 10th Madeline Ford
Sylvia Johnston-Krase
Kay Mahl
Sarah Seversen
Jacob Warren
- 12th Logan Lehmann
- 13th Adam Joseph Nielsen
Jean Rowland
- 14th John Daniels
Amanda Hansen
Pamela Wortley
- 15th Molly Hall
Evan Humphreys
- 17th Ross LaMarr
- 18th Harrison Rose
Julie Voigt
- 20th Lissy Blandford
- 22nd Cheryl Nitz
Julie Taggart
- 23rd John Brooke
Janet Hoffman
- 24th Gabrielle Elzinga
Shawna Lehmann
- 26th Dennis Reeser
- 27th Olivia Karls
Lincoln Pitts
- 28th Susanne Doe
Julia Reeser
Jack Rowland
Amy Walton
- 29th Karla Johnson-Krase
- 30th Charles Knoedler
Bethany Nichols
- 31st Benjamin Wahlen