

A note from the pastor ...

This July I will have been here at First Racine for two years. I am grateful for everyone who helped me celebrate my installation at the end of June. One of the traditions of the church that has been mentioned to me many times and that I have always thought I would like to experiment with is Howard Stanton's Talk It Over style sermons. So I am going to make the plea from this newsletter article for folks to send me topics that they would like for me to address. I am asking for these now with the intention of taking three weeks in August to offer a Biblical understanding of the topic. I am asking in July so that I will have some time to research the topic and prepare as best I can. I hope you will either email me or slip a note under the office door with an issue or topic. Perhaps we will be able to have some time for discussion after the service as well.

July 9th is our worship in the park and luncheon together. I look forward to enjoying the outdoors as we worship together and share a time of food and fellowship. The last three weeks of July we will be looking at the 8th chapter of the book of Romans. This chapter has been celebrated throughout church history one of the most theologically rich, reassuring, inspiring and beautiful chapters in all the scriptures.

I will be on vacation at the beginning and very end of the month, so I ask for prayers as I get some things done around the house and we go to Philadelphia to visit Deb's family. July is a big month for us as we celebrate David and Deb's birthday as well as Deb and my anniversary.

Peace,
Darren

P.S. I would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making my installation such a wonderful event. I don't want to start naming names because I will forget someone. It was a wonderful day even if delayed in its arrival. Thank you for the generous installation gift and thank you for all of your love and support over these last two years. I look forward to our continued ministry together.



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Archives / History Committee

A Walk/Ride in Mound Cemetery—

Meet Early Members of First Presbyterian Church and Others

Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., Mound Cemetery. Dave Holle will be your Tour Guide.

Enter from West Boulevard, go over the bridge and park on the first road to the right (south). Block 9 is to your right and Block 10 is to your left. A map will be provided at the start of the tour.

The tour starts at Block 9. Members of the Presbyterian Church include the first Mayor of Racine (Norton), signers of a communication to the U.S. Congress promoting a strong stand against slavery (Durand) and the first Pastor of the church (Nichols). Block 9 also includes Racine's Underground Railroad Conductor (Dutton), the founder of Racine (Knapp) and a one-four owner of J. I. Case company (Bull).

2nd Stop includes another one fourth owner of J. I. Case (Baker), whose wife's family were members of the church (Carswell). Members of the Northrop and Porter families are also here.

3rd Stop we meet the Wells/Peck families, who were charter members of the church and Sylvester B. Peck, a known abolitionist. Colonel William Utley's gravesite is also here. He did not return a fleeing slave to a slaveholder. Current Pastor Darren Utley is a distant cousin of Colonel Utley.

4th Stop we meet the Carys, who also were charter members of the church, and the Carswell and Walker families.

5th stop drive by the Hamilton gravesite to the final stop at the gravesites of the families of Lucas Bradley, Joel Sage, Alvin Upham, M. B. Erskine, Munroe, Thompson, and Lathrop.

Only a brief description will be provided at each gravesite. More material is available at the First Presbyterian Church Archives. Preservation Racine has also been invited on this tour.



Our Sexton, Gloria, is starting to clean all of the cupboards and is finding all kinds of goodies! She has placed her findings on a table in the first floor hallway near the offices. Please check out the table to see if you have something that was lost and now found! After a couple of weeks, we will probably send the balance to a thrift store.

July Fellowship

2nd	Dennis & Nancy
9th	Royce & Barbara E., Steve & Pam S.
16th	Jerry & Nancy R., Deb Y.
23rd	John & Linnea B., Bev. E.
30th	Dave & Ginny H., Sharon C.

July Liturgists

2nd	Royce Earnest
9th	Georgia Herrera
16th	Ken Schacht
23rd	Larry Dickerson
30th	Sharon Campbell

July Birthdays

5	David Utley
6	Ben Neal
	Todd Seversen
7	Lucas Alumbreros
10	Kai Nakayama
13	Anne Tredwell
15	Deb Utley
16	Shelley Lawrence
17	Pat Badger
22	Ellen Myers
25	James Muir
31	Georgia Herrera
	Jerry Ritter

July Anniversaries

David & Beth Nichols
July 14, 1979
Dave & Jenny Humphreys
July 16, 1994
John & Meg Daniels
July 25, 1987
Steve & LuAnn Hansen
July 26, 1980
Dave & Ginny Holle
July 31, 1965



Celebrating our 30-Year Anniversary Season!

Our popular 10-week summer concert series continues on Thursdays through August 10. There's no charge for the noontime concerts which feature excellent musicians and vocalists performing in a variety of musical styles such as classical, jazz, folk, and contemporary. A freewill offering is encouraged and will be divided at the end of the series between Health Care Network, Racine Arts Council, and Racine Vocational Ministry. For more information, check out the Music & More pages on the church website at *firstpresracine.org/music-more*

Donations

- ◊ It's not too late to make a donation to Music & More! Donations are welcome at any time. As our program grows, our expenses increase, and your financial support is needed to pay for musicians, advertising, and other concert expenses.
- ◊ Donations also can be made to the Randy Bush, Mearl Mahl, and Mia Guion Youth Music Scholarship Funds. We will award $500 from each fund to three young people at the Season Finale Concert. Donations can be made using a credit card at the church website, or by check.

Thank you for your support!

July Schedule

July 6
Wayne Wildman (organ & piano)
Suzanne Geoffrey & Lydia Morency (oboes)
Carolyn Wehner (vocal & piano)

July 13
Zachary Scot Johnson (vocal & guitar)
Nancy Maio & Gare Hofstad (violin & guitar)
Mike Bishop – Elvis entertainer

July 20
Ann Heide & Darlene Rivest (violins) & Terri Seitz (piano)
Dolce Consonant Flute Choir
Rocky Rose – band

July 27
Alexandra Nechyporenko (piano)
Sharon Adel, Kimberly Chapman & Kristina Beier (organ, vocal, flute & piano)
Amy Maack & Doug Clum (vocal & piano)

Music & More
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LAWN CONCERTS ON 7th

716 College Avenue – Racine, WI

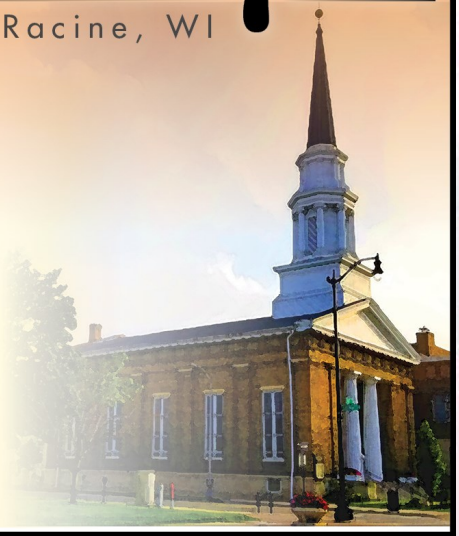


FRIDAY, JULY 7
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Mark Paffrath

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS

– Should there be inclement weather, concerts will be moved indoors –

FOR INFORMATION,
CONTACT (262) 632-1686



716 College Avenue – Racine, WI | www.firstpresracine.org



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Meet the Galles!

About Susan: "Currently, I work in direct sales and I have my own biz as a Health and Wellness Coach. My coarse of study is to constantly learn. We don't have any children (not by choice) but have a dog we adore—Tinker. My hobbies are reading, tracking my Miata track car, working out, and just being busy. We used to belong to a Presbyterian Church in Glen Ellyn, IL. I used to work/feed the homeless and still do. I'd like to find other ways First Pres is helping outside as well.

About Alan: "I'm a Manufacturing Engineer in Sturtevant for a large medical company. I like anything aviation related, and have been flying an RC Aircraft for 47 years. I am also an instrument rated pilot. I am a decent handyman and like fixing and tinkering with things!



We are responsible for the dinner on July 18th for the Community Meal. We will need casseroles, bags of fresh fruit, loaves of white bread and volunteers to serve and prep the meal. Please see the sign-up poster in Ihrman Hall.

Questions? Call Deb Yale 262-498-8753

THANK YOU!



We began our 8th year on June 3rd. The Food Pantry has been very busy. In May we served 169 families and 355 people. We continue to see an increase in new families registering for food. We still allow people to come only one Wednesday a month as our food cupboard doesn't have enough food to allow clients to come more than that. We have some new volunteers from Goodwill. Their workers are now required to do community service. This has helped us out.

It is important to get a church member to help with the paperwork and computer data entry. Can you help? It is not a need every Wednesday, but I could use the help with this. I cannot continue to do this on my own, yet the pantry is a necessity in our area of the city.

Christian Formation Initiative

The Christian Formation team is looking for members to be a part of the team. Can you help? We are meeting by Zoom.

Plans are in the works for the fall programs for Christian Formation:

We will have Sunday School for the youth both high school and preschool. We will need teachers. We have curriculum for both grades already, so we just need the adults to help lead. We hope to have *Journey to Bethlehem* in December. We will need people to take part and to help behind the scenes.

Movies on Sunday will again be offered on the third Sunday every other month. What movies would you want to see? Let Pam Simpson or LuAnn Hansen know your thoughts.

CHURCH PICNIC – July 9th at the DeKoven Center. 10:00 am service followed by lunch. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Deacons will provide meat and drink.



Deacons Huddle

The Deacons are continuing to be in contact with church members. DO you need help? Could you use a phone call? Do you need a ride to church or the doctor? DO you want home communion? We can help with that.

MISSION Initiative

Hand of Hope/One Great Hour of Sharing

The call for help went out and you responded! Thanks to all of the generous donors who helped us reach and surpass our goal of $5,000. The contributions totaled $5,895 enabling us to present each of the below listed organizations a check for $1,473.75. This congregation's consistent commitment to Mission is truly wonderful to see.

Bethany Apartments

Bethany is within arm's reach of our church. The apartments house women and their children that are domestic abuse survivors. The apartments provide safety, security, housing, and other resources that allow these families to rebuild their lives.

Women's Resource Center

The Center provides services to Women and families experiencing domestic violence. This is the only women's shelter in Racine. The center is trauma informed and very sensitive to the needs of women and children that come to the center for safety and comfort.

Restoration Ministries

Currently housed within our own building, this established ministry serves people living in and close to downtown Racine. Providing a bridge between church and community in hopes of re-building spiritual life while helping to connect individuals and families with the physical resources they need.

Presbyterian Church USA/OGHS

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Cuba Mission Update

The week of June 2nd the Pastors Ary and Beidy received a United States VISA to travel to the United States. The Pastors travelled to the Caribbean County of Guyana to apply and interview for a US Visa, an expensive and complicated process. Pastor Beidy sent an email to me informing me that her VISA had arrived, but they were still waiting to receive Pastor Ary's as of June 15, 2023. The Pastors were scheduled to arrive in the United States on June 17, 2023, destination Naples. Pastor Beidy did say it may be possible for the Pastors to travel to Wisconsin in August. We will just have to wait and see if that happens. Luckily Wisconsin is such a great place to be in August with many activities that we can plan.

The Pastors are only able to travel to the United States on their current Visas until the end of September, so their time is very limited.

Thanks to all our church family for supporting our Cuban Mission. The Cuban sandwich fundraiser was a huge success, and we are all very lucky to have so much support for Mission at First Presbyterian.

Gratefully submitted,
Georgia Herrera and Meg Daniels,
on behalf of Mission Initiatives

Poetry corner



Morning Poem | © Mary Oliver

Every morning
the world
is created
Under the orange
sticks of the sun,
the heaped
ashes of the night
turn into leaves again
and fasten themselves to the high branches —and
the ponds appear
like black cloth
on which are painted islands
of summer lilies.

If it is your nature
to be happy
you will swim away along the soft trails
for hours, your imagination
alighting everywhere.

And if your spirit
carries within it
the thorn
that is heavier than lead —
if it's all you can do
to keep on trudging —
there is still
somewhere deep within you
a beast shouting that the earth
is exactly what it wanted —

each pond with its blazing lilies
is a prayer heard and answered
lavishly,
every morning,
whether or not
you have ever dared to be happy,
whether or not
you have ever dared to pray.

Music & Arts INITIATIVE

With summer in full swing, here is the Summer Sunday Special Music Series. The following members of our congregation will be featured during Sunday services:

- July 16 Andrea Nitz, Violin and Mark Paffrath, Guitar
- July 23 Nancy DeKraay, Piano
- July 30 Ruby Seeton, Soprano
- August 6 Well Intended Repenters
- August 13 Ken Nakayama, Bass Fumi Nakayama, Piano
- August 20 Curt Vollman and Mark Paffrath, Vocal/Guitar Duo

-Pat

From Shelley's desk:

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** needs your help! We need knitters and crocheters to make prayer shawls for distribution within our congregation and to our community.

Don't feel like you have the skills to make a shawl? Maybe you'd prefer to help with our new project—Pocket Prayer Patches.

What is a Pocket Prayer Patch? It's a small knitted or crocheted square that a person can hold in their hand while saying a simple prayer. Each square will have a small cross attached to it; along with a prayer card. (See below).

It is our hope to have a couple baskets filled with patches—hoping that individuals will pick one up for personal prayer or to give to someone else who needs one.

We would prefer that these patches are made using a soft, tactile yarn. If you have any yarn that you'd be willing to donate, or are interested in helping with the shawls or the patches, please let Diane Lehmann (*lehmanndiane11@gmail.com*) or me (*shelley@firstpresracine.org*) know.

Have a great month and thank you!





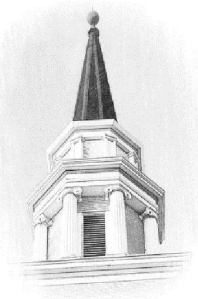
Pocket Prayer Patch

Lay this softly upon your palm,
Feel God's grace, His love, His calm,
Lift your cares and joys in prayer;
Drawing peace from this little square.

May the Lord Bless You!

Made for you by the Prayer Shawl Ministry
of First Presbyterian Church

Front of card ⇦ Back of card ⇨



We invite you to join us on Sundays!
Worship – 9:30AM
Followed by Fellowship in Ihrman Hall

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