



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem

December 2021

Trusting in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Presbyterian tradition, the vision of the Presbyterian Church of West Salem is to provide a friendly and open environment that encourages spiritual growth for people of all ages.

From the Pastor's Desk....

Whelp, I put it off last time, but now there is no avoiding it... by the time you receive this Lamplighter, we will be officially into the Holiday season.

It's kind of bizarre to consider. I started in August, and now as we approach the end of the year, heading into Advent and preparing to celebrate the birth of our LORD, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all I have been given... but a bit sad, too.

The Holidays can be a difficult time. We know we're SUPPOSED to be happy, but we are also reminded of all we have to grieve. Coping with our second year of a Global Pandemic, still separated from some loved ones, still grieving the loss of others. Still feeling the effects of a nation painfully divided, a divide that can become all the more apparent when sitting around a table to eat during the Holidays.

It's important for us as Christians to remember that we are entering into the season of Advent. Advent isn't the Christmas season, not yet. (Don't worry, that's still coming!) Advent is a time when we remind ourselves why we need a Savior, when we look at our world for how it is, and remind ourselves that something good, something better, is on the way, and pray for God to bring it all the sooner.

This isn't me trying to bum you all out, and I hope you do enjoy the festivities of the year, the food, the gatherings, the decorations, all of it. But if you struggle with that, if it's hard to smile through the pain, I want you to know that is holy as well.

We don't celebrate Advent because things are perfect. In a way, we celebrate Advent because they AREN'T.

Pastor Dan

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition. Each year the offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. As we make our way to the manger celebrating the wondrous birth of the Christ child, please consider a gift to this worthwhile offering once again this year.

This offering will be collected through December 19th.

GLOVES, SOCKS, AND FIDGET SPINNERS NEEDED!

The Stewardship & Mission Committee has partnered with the West Salem School District this Christmas season to provide needed items to children in our schools.

Currently, our schools are in need of warm winter gloves (those that can withstand snow and wet conditions), socks for all ages, and fidget spinners/poppits (which are proven to help children young and old increase concentration and control anxiety).

Donations can be placed in the box in the back of the sanctuary or dropped off with Nick at Le Coulee Cheese Castle and he will get them to church.

This giving opportunity replaces our Angel Tree, which was discontinued a few years ago.

If you have any questions, please see Nick Miller or Shayna Arndt.

Thank you in advance for helping to fulfill needs in our schools this winter!"

Updated Protocols for COVID-19

Session has considered guidance from the CDC on the wearing of masks by vaccinated individuals.

The CDC does leave it up to local jurisdictions, businesses, and venues to set their own rules for COVID protections.

The following guidelines will be followed to ensure a safe experience for in-person worship:

- **Masks are required for all worshipers, regardless of vaccination status.**
- Seating has returned to normal, pre-Covid capacity.
- There are live song leaders and special music. Worshipers are invited to sing along.
- Children are invited to the front of the sanctuary during the Children's Message. There are seating marks to maintain social distance.
- The offering will be collected by the ushers.
- **Nursery services are not currently available.**
The church nursery is available for use by parents.

Tithes and Offerings can be mailed to:

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
PO Box 861
West Salem, WI 54661

Per Capita

Per Capita is an obligation for each member of the Presbyterian Church.
The Per Capita is \$33.70 per member for 2021.



FALL FESTIVAL RAFFLE WINNERS!

Marie Morrell - \$25 Gift Card to LeCoulee Cheese Castle with Gnome
Marilyn Baker – Duck Carving
Jackie Siekert – Hand Braided Rug
Sharon Cullman – Two Casserole Covers
Becky Auna – Cane Carving
Barb Christenson – Precious Moments Figurine
Rose Cooper – Lighted Canvas Art

Kris Seeger – Crystal Bowl
Sherry Bonsall – Honey
Valerie Olson – Packer Quilt
Sharon Shaw – Kwik Trip Car Washes
Joyce Garves – Lego Laser Pegs
Angie Hemker – Glass Candy Bowl
Jane Foner – Great River Popcorn Gift Basket

Because of the generous donated items, \$476 was made to support the missions of the Presbyterian Women. Thank you to all who donated items for the Fall Festival Raffle!

Church Women United

The La Crosse area Church Women United voted to terminate its association with Church Women United of Wisconsin and the National Church Women United organization to be effective December 31, 2021. All remaining money in the treasury (\$800) will be given to Western Technical College for scholarships for women.

Our women have long been associated with CWU by giving money to support organizations to help women, those affected by human trafficking, homelessness, hunger, etc.

We are hoping to continue World Day of Prayer which is not written by CWU but CWU did planning for the event which always takes place on the first Friday in March. This will be a way to continue to connect with friends from other churches in the area.

Thank you for supporting our missions!

Christian Education News!

Students and Leaders Needed for Adult Bible Study

The Christian Education Committee is creating Bible study time for adults on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We invite all to join us, whether you are a novice Bible reader or very well versed in Bible study!

However, we will need some folks to take the lead each Sunday and Wednesdays. We would like to have enough leaders so everyone would lead only once a month. Training is available, so please don't let inexperience keep you from this opportunity to know the Bible better.

Please contact Becca Bohnsack, Sara Oldenburg, or Pastor Dan if you have interest in joining as a student, as a leader, or both!

Confirmation Transition to 8th and 9th Grade

As we welcome our new pastor, we also welcome new experiences and change!

A change in Christian Education will involve moving our Confirmation class from 7th-8th grade to 8th-9th grade. This will allow students to have more maturity and understand more fully what it means to become a Presbyterian. To make this transition work, Confirmation class will not be held this school year. Classes will begin again in September of 2022.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact anyone on the Christian Education committee.

Wednesday Night High School Youth Group

**Fun, Connectedness, Music, Involvement, Motion,
Bible, Food, Activities, Mission....**

The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Youth Group will be meeting on Wednesday, December 3 and December 15!

High School Students....don't miss this!

Presbyterian Church Community Dinner

Wednesday, December 22nd

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Please drive under the church canopy
and remain in your vehicle.

Workers will place pre-packaged dinners
in your vehicle for you and your family.

Prayer Chain:

Becky Auna	608.786.0097
Marilyn Bahr	608.786.0315
Rose Cooper	608.369.3848
Sharon Cullmann	608.797.1732
Diana Engel	608.786.1560
Helen Harold	608.786.0856
Vickie Holt	608.786.1659
Sharon Shaw	608.786.0653

Highlights from the November 15, 2021 Session Meeting:

- Session voted to continue the wearing of masks for group gatherings in church.
- Our outdoor church sign will be refurbished by the La Crosse Sign Company this December.
- We hope to open the nursery during the Sunday morning worship services shortly.

ELDERS

Class of 2021	<i>Becca Bohnsac</i>	<i>Barbara Hopkins</i>
	<i>Sherry Bonsall</i>	<i>Greg Meeuwsen</i>
Class of 2022	<i>Shayna Arndt</i>	<i>Kristjan Sells</i>
	<i>Nancy Olson</i>	<i>Mike Siekert</i>
	<i>Anna Bohnsack: Youth Elder</i>	
Class of 2023	<i>Charles Engel</i>	<i>Nick Miller</i>
	<i>Richard Calvetti</i>	<i>Sara Oldenburg</i>

Upcoming Events!

Wed, Dec 1	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	AA & Al-Anon High School Youth Group
Sun, Dec 5	9:00 am 10:15 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Mon, Dec 6	1:00 pm	Tabitha Circle
Wed, Dec 8	7:00 pm	AA & Al-Anon
Sun, Dec 12	9:00 am 10:15 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Mon, Dec 13	5:00 pm	Committee Meetings
Tues, Dec 14	9:00 am	Quilt Group
Wed, Dec 15	12:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	WIC AA & Al-Anon High School Youth Group
Sun, Dec 19	9:00 am 10:15 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Mon, Dec 20	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Tabitha Circle Session Meeting
Wed, Dec 22	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Community Dinner AA & Al-Anon
Fri, Dec 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sun, Dec 26	9:00 am 10:15 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Tue, Dec 28	9:00 am	Quilt Group
Wed, Dec 29	7:00 pm	AA & Al-Anon

DEACONS

Class of 2021	<i>Helen Harold</i>	<i>Diana Swim</i>
	<i>Lois Sanwick</i>	<i>Rose Wolbrink</i>
	<i>Norm Sanwick</i>	
Class of 2022	<i>Becky Auna</i>	<i>Jackie Siekert</i>
	<i>Vickie Holt</i>	<i>Mary Tschida</i>
	<i>Janice Seeger</i>	

Celebrating a Birthday in December!

<p>December 9 <i>Shellee Dunn</i></p> <p>December 2 <i>Tomi Carlson</i></p> <p>December 2 <i>Barb Reynolds</i></p> <p>December 5 <i>Chance DuBois</i></p> <p>December 5 <i>Victoria Holt</i></p> <p>December 6 <i>Parker Chrouser</i></p> <p>December 8 <i>Josiah Wolbrink</i></p> <p>December 10 <i>Kennedy Wolf</i></p> <p>December 11 <i>Kris Buehler</i></p> <p>December 14 <i>Deacon Meyers</i></p>	<p>December 14 <i>Ryan Pfaff</i></p> <p>December 15 <i>Grace Griffin</i></p> <p>December 17 <i>Kevin Lee</i></p> <p>December 18 <i>Char Haverly</i></p> <p>December 19 <i>Dana Hass</i></p> <p>December 23 <i>Lindsay Eggen</i></p> <p>December 27 <i>Shayna Arndt</i></p> <p>December 27 <i>Alexander Carlson</i></p> <p>December 27 <i>William Heeter</i></p> <p>December 27 <i>Melissa Wolf</i></p>
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December 2021 Worship Teams

Liturgists

Sound Room

December 5

Nancy Olson

Ethan Crusan

December 12

Jane Foner

Dane Bohnsack

December 19

Jackie Siekert

Logan Oldenburg

December 24

Barbara Hopkins

Volunteer Needed

December 26

Nick Miller

Ethan Crusan

Music: Julie Baker, Greg Meeuwsen, Sara Oldenburg

Head Usher: Kevin Aleckson

Communion: Greg Meeuwsen, Mike Siekert, Becky Auna, Barb Hopkins,
Jackie Siekert, Sara Oldenburg

Please submit newsletter information
to the office by the 15th of each month:
preschurchws@gmail.com

Stay Connected!

Visit our website: www.presbyterianchurchwestsalem.com



625 W Franklin Street • West Salem, WI • 54669 • 608.786.0910

Sunday School 9:00 am • Sunday Worship 10:15 am

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Dan McCurdy • Monday through Thursday 8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

DanielSMcCurdy@gmail.com • 330.465.4794

Church Office • Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8:30 – 1:30.



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PO Box 861
West Salem, WI 54669