



Winnebago Presbytery

Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ, Strengthening and Connecting Congregations

Your Bi-Weekly News & Updates

June 5, 2023

Upcoming Presbytery Meeting Dates

Thursday, September 28th

Thursday, November 9th

Presbytery News

Due to the irregular subject heading of last week's News & Notes, we realize many of you may have missed the opportunity to respond to our previous poll... We still want to hear from you!

As summer approaches, which of these does your church do:

Change worship service time

Offer additional summer-themed sermon series or Bible studies for children

Host additional outdoor worship services or events

Use summer as a planning period for community outreach programs and volunteer initiatives

Encourage members to attend camps, retreats, and other outdoor fellowship opportunities

Reduce programs altogether

Pastor Mirek's Visit to Melnik



It was a short 24-hour visit to Melnik this week with Pastor Miroslav Pfann, Protestant minister of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Libiř, řkolní, Czech Republic. It is about ten kilometers south of Mělník, the Bohemian region from which the founders of Melnik Presbyterian Church immigrated in the mid-1800s



Pastor Warren Kraft and the members of Melnik PC hosted him at a church dinner Tuesday night. Part of his tour included a cemetery walk-through to become acquainted with the Czech-ethnic names who were members. Several years ago, they discovered a Czech language Bible in the "memory" boxes. It is now prominently displayed near the altar and Pastor Mirek read a passage from it. Their organist, Peter, also played music on the church's original pump organ, rescued about a dozen years ago from an extended family member of the congregation.

They then started their Wednesday adventures at High Cliff State Park: climbing the tower, walking some trails, touring the campground area, and sharing information about the Chief Red Bird statue and the Winnebago, Menomonee and Stockbridge-Munsee who originally populated this Fox Valley area. They spent the rest of the day visiting three church families before Pastor Mirek left for Milwaukee. He began his three-month tour in the states back in April to study the Czech influence on Protestant Church development in the United States. (Before the pandemic, he did a shorter, but similar excursion to Scotland and England.) Pastor Mirek began in Texas, traveled northward to South Dakota and Minnesota, then stayed at Stevens Point and Melnik. He continued his journey to Milwaukee and the Racine area with plans to visit a Libiř church friend in southern Michigan, and beyond!



Updates from the Commission on Ministry

COM supports the congregations and pastoral leaders in the Presbytery in a variety of ways. One visible way is making sure that a moderator is in place for each session, during seasons of transition, of sabbatical or medical leave. And, where a Ruling Elder has been commissioned to pastoral service, including moderating the Session, we provide moderator training. A big thank you to Ministers and Ruling Elders who are filling the role of Session moderator:

- Greg Braatz, CRE
- Katie Estes, MoWS
- Mike Goodwin, MoWS
- Alyson Janke, CRE
- Warren Kraft, CRE
- Matt Sauer, MoWS
- Jess Wakefield, CRE

Comings & Goings:

First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac said good-bye to interim pastor Ken Locke, MoWS, on his last Sunday, April 9, 2023.

As a commission, COM connects with every congregation, session, and pastoral leader. Through phone calls, visits, attending worship, special events, or session meetings, COM members get to know leaders and members in the churches in Winnebago Presbytery. Please contact your COM liaison or COM Coordinator, Leslie Gunter, (leslie@winnebagopresbytery.org) if you have any questions or comments.

Board of Pensions Announces Season of Rebuilding



The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is embarking on the next generation of Benefits Plan redesign — an exploration focused on flexibility, choice, and cost control for local churches. Over the next two years, the Board, one of six agencies of the PC(USA), will carry out a season of rebuilding — a transformative effort taken in collaboration with the Church to assess and redesign the current Benefits Plan structure to better meet the needs of local congregations.

As part of the season of rebuilding initiative, the Board plans to host a series of national conversations with agency heads, mid council presbytery leaders, and plan members to discuss the challenges and to begin to evaluate the Benefits Plan and dues structure within the context of the diverse and evolving needs of the Church.

For more information about the season of rebuilding initiative or to share feedback, visit <https://seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org/>. If you're interested in attending one of our virtual public town halls, register your interest [here](#).

Presbyterian Summer Camp Scholarships Available



Winnebago Presbytery is happy to announce that the Presbyterian Summer Camp Scholarship application cycle is now open and accepting submissions. We encourage anyone who wishes to attend a church camp to do so! Not sure where to start? We recommend checking out our partners at United Church Camps. You can view their 2023 camp offerings by checking out their events page [here](#). The scholarship application form can be accessed [here](#). Please, complete the form and return it to the presbytery office as soon as possible so that scholarship awards have ample time to be mailed directly to the camp you plan to attend.

News from the Denomination

Stated Synod Meeting Summary Available



**Synod of
Lakes & Prairies**

April 30 - May 2, 2023 the Synod of Lakes and Prairies held its Spring stated and annual meeting in-person for the first time since Fall 2019. You can find the meeting summary [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Prouty,

National Conference of Presbyterians for Earth Care



“The Climate Crisis & Empowering Hope” is the theme for the 2023 national conference. The conference will deal with the greatest moral issue of the day and practical ways that our faith can guide us to act for creation care. Attendees will gather in person in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and at three satellite locations (California, Arkansas and Minnesota), with all presentations also being streamed online. Attending this event will give you the opportunity to learn from top church leaders, gifted biblical and theological teachers, activists, pastors, and one another. This important conference will make a difference for God’s

creation and the Church. Click [here](#) for conference information and registration!

Get to Know the Presbyterian Historical Society!



Wondering what kinds of items and records the Presbyterian Historical Society has in its collections? Click [here](#) to learn about their archival holdings and how they stay focused on intentional collecting!

Synod School Registration & School Bus Poll



Registration for the 2023 summer Synod School has opened! Go to Synod School - Synod of Lakes and Prairies for more information. This annual event will take place from July 23 - 28 on the campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Visit [here](#) to learn more!

We want to learn if you are going to Synod School! In the past, Winnebago Presbytery has helped arrange transportation to Iowa. The Leadership Commission would like to learn about those who are going or are interested in attending. Please let us know about your interest by replying directly to this email with answers to the following questions:

- What is your church planning re: Synod School?
- How many participants?
- How will participants want to travel to/from Iowa?
- What, if anything, would be helpful?
- What, if anything, is unhelpful in transportation arrangements?
- Anything else we should know?

FPC Oshkosh Outdoor Concert

June 10th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.



**OUTDOOR
CONCERT**

Saturday, June 10, 2023: Noon - 1 p.m.

featuring Pegasus!
with their funk, jazz, latin,
and pop sounds

First Presbyterian Church - 110 Church Avenue, Oshkosh

A FREE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!

Bring yourself, bring your family, bring your friends - and bring a lawn chair!

The graphic features a purple box with the text 'OUTDOOR CONCERT' in a stylized font. To the right is a circular inset photo of a family sitting on a couch in a living room. The background is a light blue and green bokeh pattern.

Melnik PC Outdoor Worship

June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 10th



Weather permitting, Melnik PC plans to gather on the south lawn once a month from June through September. Please bring your own comfortable chairs, and there will be several hymnals and bulletins available.

FPC Green Bay Outdoor Worship & Potluck

June 18th, 10:00 a.m.



Please join them on Sunday, June 18th for a special outdoor worship service at 10am on their front lawn followed by a potluck picnic. **BYOC:** Bring Your Own Chair! and claim a spot on the front lawn ready to sing, pray, clap, and laugh without the screen, bulletins, or organ! This is an opportunity to get the church out of the building and enjoy the beautiful summer weather while we can. Bring your own camp chairs as well as a picnic side dish for our potluck lunch. Hotdogs on the grill, condiments, plates and plasticware and beverages will be provided by their Deacons. All are welcome—this is a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and relatives to come to church with you.

CCPC Father's Day Car Show

June 18th, 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



Covenant Community Presbyterian Church of Schofield welcomes all to enter their car alongside the WI Road Knights Auto Club on Sunday, June 18th. Registration begins a 9:00 a.m. and is FREE. Trophies and prizes are available for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners as voted the visitors. Grilled food, ice cream, and free popcorn will also be available, so be sure to stop out!

LeaderWise Flourishing in Retirement Workshop

Begins June 21st, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Join this cohort experience to develop a holistic plan to flourish in your retirement. Cut through the overwhelming clutter of retirement planning advice to identify what you need to be fully alive in your retirement years. Over the course of six 90-minute sessions, participants will apply a framework for thinking about retirement, understand questions to ask themselves, discern what “call” and purpose mean during retirement years, and, most importantly, learn from colleagues. If you’re approaching retirement and choose to go it alone, you may miss opportunities to flourish in this season of life. You can make the most of your retirement years by learning best practices from others who have managed this transition well. Click [here](#) for registration and more information.

Employment Opportunities

Looking to temporarily fill the pulpit for worship services? Check out the [Winnebago Presbytery's Pulpit Supply List](#), or our partners at the [Presbytery of Milwaukee](#) and [John Knox Presbytery](#).

Open Searches for Pastoral Leadership:

- First Presbyterian Church, Abbotsford – [MORE INFORMATION](#)
- First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega – [MORE INFORMATION](#)
- First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne – [MORE INFORMATION](#)
- Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stevens Point – [MORE INFORMATION](#)
- First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac – [MORE INFORMATION](#)

Congregational Leadership Opportunities:

Lawrence University – Assistant Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life

The Assistant Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life will work with and report to the Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life and chaplain to the university to support the spiritual and religious life of Lawrence’s diverse community. The Assistant Dean’s focus will be primarily on student spiritual and religious life and coordination and mentorship of spiritual-based student organizations and religious holiday observances. The Assistant Dean will be a member of the Student Life Division. This is a full-time, 12-month position requiring evening and regular weekend availability during the academic year. For the full job description and instructions for how to apply, visit [here](#).

Memorial Presbyterian Church Appleton – Part-Time Custodian

The custodian is responsible for maintaining church building and grounds, for making minor repairs, and coordinating repairs with staff and service providers. To view the full job description and requirements, click [here](#). To send a resume and cover letter or for questions contact MPC at info@mpcappleton.org.

First Presbyterian Church Oconto – Weekly Accompanist

The First Presbyterian Church of Oconto is looking for individuals with a musical background to assist as an accompanist during their weekly service. Organ, piano, guitar, or other instrument; individual or group; if you are willing to share your talent with their church family on one Sunday morning or several, they can use your help. Their services are currently held every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m., and you will be compensated for your time and talent both monetarily and with their sincere thanks. For more information, please contact Polly or Stacy at office@fpcocoonto.org.

First Presbyterian Church Oshkosh – Part-Time Worship Technology Coordinator

The Worship Technology Coordinator is responsible for the technical aspect of worship ensuring that those function as seamlessly as possible. They will be expected to setup, test, operate, and troubleshoot when needed the A/V equipment, software, livestream, and projection during the worship service, and identify opportunities to improve/innovate and collaborate with team to implement. An ideal candidate would relate well to people and create a friendly environment, be able to work independently, but also cooperatively with others, possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. To view more job-specific qualifications and benefits, read their complete job posting [here](#). If interested, email a resume to personnel@oshkoshpresbyterians.org or apply [here](#).

First Presbyterian Church Green Bay - Pianist/Accompanist & Choir/Music Director

FPC Green Bay is seeking an organist/accompanist and choir/music director. Both positions report to the pastor and could potentially be combined. These staff positions offer competitive pay and a great work environment. Interested persons should submit a resume and compensation requirements to Pastor Katie Estes at kestes@firstpresgreenbay.org. To view the full responsibilities for each position, visit [here](#).

St. Episcopal Church Menasha – Part-Time Administrative Assistant

St. Episcopal Church in Menasha is seeking an organized and experienced Administrative Assistant to support both clergy and lay leaders of the church. Skills required of a successful candidate include ability to perform clerical tasks, hospitality to visitors, phone etiquette, file and record maintenance, ability to operate general office equipment, strong writing skills, email, knowledge of Microsoft Office. Liturgical familiarity is preferred but not necessary. This is an hourly part time position with benefits. To send a resume and cover letter or for details/questions contact Anne Peterson at eannep524@gmail.com.

Wisconsin Council of Churches Employment Database

Wisconsin Council of Churches has an employment database for searching for opportunities or submitting open positions. Find it on their website [here](#).

If your church has an employment opportunity, pastoral or church staff, you'd like to put in the newsletter, send information to miranda@winnebago-presbytery.org.

Links To Winnebago Presbytery

Presbytery Calendar



Presbytery Website



Presbytery Facebook



Links To Our Partners

To find out more information about our various partnerships at both the

national and local levels, click on the links below.

***Synod of Lakes
and Prairies***

**Synod of Lakes and
Prairies Website**

**Presbyterian Women
Synod of Lakes and
Prairies**

PC(USA)

PC(USA) Website

Board of Pensions

**Presbyterian Women
National**

Mission Partners

**United Church Camps,
Inc.**

**Samaritan Counseling
Center**

**Wisconsin Council of
Churches**

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