

Community

*Presbyterian Church
of
Lac du Flambeau*

Community Press

Vol. XIX Issue I January 2021

To: All the good and faithful folk at Community Presbyterian Church in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin.

GREETINGS AND A HAPPY AND HOPEFUL 2021 TO YOU ALL!

Let me begin this Newsletter with a reference to one of the "Thoughts for the Week." I am referring here to the comment made by Anne Frank when she said: "What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't happened yet." Why this strikes me so is simply that Anne Frank experienced some of the worst times in human history during World War II and is well-known for her "Diary" in which she shared them with us. At the same time she did not allow this to discourage her life and has long been a positive influence. Indeed, as we enter the 2021, we all need an attitude like that of Anne Frank. Each day is a "new" creation open to all sorts of possibilities.

As I reflect on 2020, although it has been difficult - - we have not had a normal service of worship in more than 10 months which has made our small church think creatively. All things considered we have made progress in our adaptations month by month and have reached out, as best we can, to as many people - - members and non-members - - as we can and, I believe, got better as we moved along. However, no matter how creative, it will not replace the beauty, joy, wonder and love that we share as a congregation when we are gathered together as people of God. That day will return - - hopefully sooner than later.

In spite of all the difficulties, we have managed to continue our mission support and the other facets of our church budget. Although, in the process, we have had to draw on some of our reserves to do so. We could use some extra help in these areas, but I am grateful we have been able to do what we have

accomplished in these times. One interesting event that occurred a short time ago was a Christmas Carol Singalong in the parking lot of the church around a campfire with music and audio for all to share. We were expecting a small turnout of about 12 to 15, but had double the amount and I saw folks I haven't seen in months (picture below). It was a remarkable experience and I believe we have established a new tradition. In large measure we owe a debt of gratitude for this to Pam and her husband Mike (and their crew). It was great and gave us all a wonderful boost, a boost we really needed.

I am hopeful for 2021. Everything is new including not only the church, but many secular, governmental institutions as well. We are turning the page and need to be as supportive as we can in order to turn things around. We have, as a people, done this before and we will do it again. One thing we should keep in mind is that we are all immigrants; this country was built with immigrants and will continue to grow with the insights and good works of us all. Our congregation has, as I said above, been doing well, but we can always do more and do it better. We all need each other.

I pray for all of us as we undertake this incredible task. But remember, we are created in God's image, God is always with us - - even in the most disastrous of times - - and we shall overcome!

May God's peace, joy and love overtake us all and may we share it with all.

As always,

Pax et Caritas,

Bill Anderson

SESSION NOTES from December 2020

After determining there was a quorum, the moderator, Dr. Anderson called the December 2020 meeting to order at 10:02 am with an opening prayer.

Pastor's Report:

Presbytery continues to recommend congregations go slowly in holding in-person services due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
A 10 person limit is suggested here, currently. We have been having 10 or less attend, including those conducting the services.
Pastor's daughter Janice has worked with our congregation providing Zoom virtual services for more than 10 months. The Session and Congregation greatly appreciates Janice's support and expertise.

Treasurer's Report:

Mission funds have been sent out as planned. Website shows to whom funds have been given.
Letter about Giving is planned to members and associate members. Will consider sending out Pledge Cards with letter for efficiency.
There has been an impact to offerings due to lack of summer visitors which usually large income source in more normal years.

Worship and Music:

Rebecca Wright has been a tremendous asset in providing music for our services. She is also planning Christmas Music interlude during Service on Dec. 20.
An Outdoor Christmas Carol Campfire Sign-Along is planned for Dec. 17 at 3:45 with Mike and Pam Fraboni providing the warming fire and public address system. Pastor will kick off the event and close the evening with prayers. There are hopes next year, we can encourage this to be a community gathering with broader invitations to all.

Session update:

The Session membership will be changing in January with Pam Fraboni, Bob Schneider and Sam Sugar wrapping up there service to the group and Glenn, Dick Rosenthal, and Steve Schunk will be serving on the Session.
Session received the Deacons' Report for 2020.
Website updates continue. If anyone has suggestions, please let Ralph Kerler, Steve Schunk or Mary Jane Stevens know.

With no further business to be brought before the Session, a motion was made to adjourn. Meeting was closed at 11:05 AM.

The next meeting will be conducted on Friday, Jan. 22, at 10 AM. This is different from the regular meeting time as it will NOT be on the second Friday of the Month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Schunk, for Kathy LaBarge, Clerk of Session

SPECIAL DATES for JANUARY 2021

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| New Years Day | Jan. 1 |
| Epiphany | Jan. 6 |
| Baptism of the Lord | Jan. 10 |
| Religious Freedom Day | Jan. 16 |
| Martin Luther King Day | Jan. 18 |
| Inauguration Day | Jan. 20 |
| Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Jan. 18 - 25 |

Truth + Love

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become reality.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Martin Luther King Jr.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Billie Miller | Jan. 7 |
| Sue Gathmann | Jan. 8 |
| Ruth Ann Kamerad | Jan. 8 |
| Ron Wilke | Jan. 14 |
| Mark Mayeau | Jan. 17 |
| Kelly Wheeler | Jan. 19 |

Anniversaries

No Known Anniversaries this Month

JANUARY 2021 SCRIPTURE READINGS

SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 3, 2021

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Communion Sunday

Jer. 31: 7-14 and Ps. 147: 12-20; Eph. 1: 3-14;

John 1: (1-9) 10-18

January 6, 2021

Epiphany of the Lord

Isa. 60: 1-6; Ps. 72: 1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3: 1-12;

Luke 2: 1-12

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord

Gen. 1:1-5 and Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7;

Mark 1: 4-11

January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Sam. 3: 1-10(11-20); Ps. 139: 1-6, 13-18;

1 Cor. 6: 12-20; John 1: 43-51

January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5; Ps. 62: 5-12; 1 Cor. 7: 29-31

Mark 1: 21-28

January 31, 2021

Deut. 18: 15-20, 10; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8: 1-13;

Mark 1: 21-28

These readings are suggested by the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be changed depending on the topic of the sermon.

As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors".



Our Christmas Caroling Group (fire pit is in the middle – unable to see).

