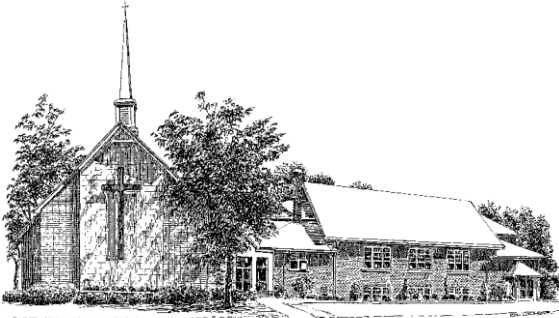


First Presbyterian Church of West Seneca

2085 Union Rd.
West Seneca, NY 14224
716-668-1115



The CELEBRATE September/October 2011

*“We humbly yet boldly step into the future, following
in the footsteps of Jesus on our journey of faith.”*

September Highlights

September 11th

8:30am – Pancake Breakfast * 10am – Kick-Off Sunday Worship Service

September 12th – 7pm

Common Meeting Night

September 15th – 6:30pm

Choir Practice begins

September 19th – 7pm

Session Meeting

September 21st – 12pm

Young at Heart Luncheon

September 23rd – 7pm

PosiPalooza Concert

October Highlights

October 3rd – 7pm

Common Meeting Night

October 5th & 19th – 12pm

Young at Heart Luncheon

October 17th – 7pm

Session Meeting

October 22nd – 8:45am

Presbytery Day

October 23rd – 1pm

CROP Walk

PASTOR'S PLACE



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Around ten years ago, I helped lead an effort to bring Rev. Dr. Tom Bandy to Buffalo. Tom is still active as a church consultant to churches around the world, living near Toronto, Canada. You can check out some of his articles and resources at <http://thrivingchurch.com/>.

Tom is more centered on Biblical and Evangelical ideology than I but non-the-less, I believe he still offers sound suggestions and ideas for dying congregations and denominations. (He once spoke at the Louisville Headquarters of the Presbyterian Church. Some thought he was too “extreme!”) Most of his ideas, however, can be applied to many religious groups. I sought to apply some of them in my past leadership at Wayside.

In one of his books, “Kicking Habits: Welcome Relief for Addicted Churches,” he summarized thirty “addictions” or “punctured preconceptions” which can close once vibrant churches. One is, “The youth are not the future of the church!” Another is, “Every dying church in North America is a friendly congregation!” Another is, “Sunday school is no longer the cornerstone of Christian Education.” He answers these statements by stating that “transformed adults” are the future of the church; that rather than being a “friendly church,” the public wants a place with multiple opportunities for safe, healthy intimacy. And rather than seeing Sunday schools as cornerstones he teaches small groups as these, meeting weekly in the church but especially in homes to promote spiritual growth.

His point is that spiritual growth is the key in what he calls the “post-Christian” era of the world, a period which has broken much from the Orthodox central church controls of the 4th Century. My son’s partner returned a few days ago from three weeks teaching and visiting in her home country, the Czech Republic. She wrote me telling how small spiritual, meditation, “Zen” like groups have sprung up all over the country, a country once called “The Vatican North” and in later times, “The number one Atheist country.” Most of these groups take place in homes where people study religious writings and meditate together on the Transcendent but immanent Spirit.

I would ask leaders to begin groups with a time of spiritual sharing which helped lead in this direction. I asked leaders to read a few verses of sacred scripture, share ideas together, and then concerns before a time of prayer and meditation proceeding meetings. It helps move a busy religious group beyond just being friendly to a deeper level which many people crave in our times.

I will share some of these ideas with the Session at our next meeting. Meanwhile, may each of us spend time each day in reflection and prayer, in what some used to call a “quiet time.” If possible, share such times with family members, or even neighbors. We can move beyond the common world notion of winners and losers into the experience of a Holy Oneness that undergirds and sustains us all.

I also urge you to get your tickets and keep telling others about the PasiPalooza concert to be conducted in First Presbyterian on September 23. It will be a blessed event for all, I'm sure. Gifted artists will share a new kind of inclusive music that speaks to the hearts of all, composed and shared by themselves. It is a music born out of a sense of God's presence in their lives, a Presence of love for themselves and for all peoples of the world. Don't miss it!

Peace and Love to you all,
Pastor Dave

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

September 2011

<i>September 4th</i>	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	<i>September 18th</i>	Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philemon 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
<i>September 11th</i>	Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	<i>September 25th</i>	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philemon 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

October 2011

<i>October 2nd</i>	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philemon 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	<i>October 23rd</i>	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46
<i>October 9th</i>	Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philemon 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	<i>October 30th</i>	Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12
<i>October 16th</i>	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22		

WORSHIP & MUSIC

I hope by now you have heard Rev. David Persons speak from the pulpit. I welcome your feelings and comments about how worship is going. I know we have made changes to the worship order and would like to hear how you like or dislike it. You can put a note in my mail box at the church. If you want to be contacted back please leave your name and phone number.

David will be away on September 11. We will welcome Deb Wright back to the pulpit. This is a special date in our national history but it also is a special date for our church. Deb Wright started

her ministry 10 years ago in our church as our minister. We will also be having communion on this day too.

Choir is starting up again. So get your voices ready and talk to Sue Maciejewski if you are interested in joining the choir.

We are in desperate need for ushers so if you can help usher please see Don or me. We are always looking for greeters so if you want to greet please let Don know.

On October 2 we will be celebrating World Wide Communion. What does that mean? "World Communion Sunday – celebrated the first Sunday in October – is one of the most venerable of "special Sundays." The day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice – and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God's earth. On this day we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve – a world ever more in need of peacemaking. World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church (USA). In 1936, for the first time, the first Sunday in October was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and, after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church. The Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) was first associated with World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940 when the department's executive secretary, Jesse Bader, led in its extension to a number of churches throughout the world." Taken from <http://www.nccusa.org/unity/worldcommunionssunday.html>.

We also collect the Peacemaking Offering, remember the peacemakers of years past – in your congregation, presbytery, synod and the denomination as a whole.

Thanks,
Tim Miller

YOUNG AT HEART

Where oh where has the summer gone. It seems like yesterday that we were having our picnic. It is time to start our luncheons again. We will be meeting on September 21st for our first luncheon. In October we will meet on the 5th and 19th. So please mark your calendars and join us for food and fellowship. We hope to see you all on the 21st of September.

YOUR HAPPY COOKS DICK & EDIE

KICK-OFF SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join us for breakfast before service on Kick-Off Sunday, September 12th. We will begin serving at 8:30 AM, breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Please join us as we kick our new church season for some delicious food and most importantly, some fellowship. We are excited about the upcoming year here at First Presbyterian, please come and join in the excitement. See you at breakfast!

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Hey! It's a
PosiPalooza!
The Concert Tour of
Posi Award Winning Artists



"In the Round"
A musical conversation!



7:00 pm
Friday,
September 23
The 1st
Presbyterian
Church of West
Seneca
2085 Union Rd.
West Seneca, NY
716.668.1115
In Partnership with
Unity Center Of
Practical Christianity



Jana Stanfield
"Queen of Heavy
Mental"
JanaStanfield.com



Daniel Nahmod
Posi Award Winner
danielnahmod.com



Richard Mekdeci
emPower M&A
Artist/Songwriter



Sue Riley
emPower M&A
Artist/Songwriter

Tickets \$20
Available at

1st Presbyterian Church
or online at www.empowerma.com

Presented by
emPOWER)))
MUSIC & ARTS
"emPowering You, emPowering the World!"

Don't forget to get your tickets for this engaging night of music and "spiritual talk". Tickets are \$20 each and may be purchased after worship on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office 668-1115. Hope to see you at the concert!

ATTENTION ALL COOKS AND BAKERS: We will be serving light refreshments after the concert. If you are able to contribute something to our reception please sign up on the sheet in the entryway at church.

Presbytery of Western New York's

Presbytery Day



Saturday, October 22, 2011

Registration: 8:45AM Worship: 9:30AM

Workshops 10:30AM & 11:55AM

North Presbyterian Church

300 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

In The Life of The Church

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

September	2 nd	Joanne Bengert
	4 th	Linda Barrows
		Bert Evans
	17 th	Marsha Barnhart
	20 th	John Lindak
	21 st	Ryan Fiegl
	24 th	Joey Molnar
	25 th	Erik Rowe
	30 th	Kathy Saeli

October	1 st	Amy Wilson
	2 nd	Judy Chrynowicz
		Edie Fischer
	12 th	Katelyn Gutowski
	18 th	Jean Bengert
		Kenny Colligan
	21 st	Brendan Wilson
	25 th	Sharon Rowe
	28 th	Debbie Ball

NEW ADDRESS

John Christmann has moved into the Glenwell DePaul assisted living facility. His son-in-law Mark reports that John is doing well and making a few friends. His new address is:

John Christmann
Glenwell A. DePaul
2248 Old Union Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
668-5810

NOTES OF THANKS

To The Congregation, Our Church Family!

Thank you for remembering Paul with your generous memorial gift. I will treasure forever.
He will be in our hearts forever.

Thank you,
Betty Rasp

Did you notice that the front gardens of the church were weeded and mulched over the summer? The task was taken on by Joe Shriver. Joe spent many hours in the hot sun cleaning up and weeding the gardens and hauling and spreading the mulch. Joe's grandfather John Christmann used to take care of the outdoor gardens for many years and this year Joe continued the tradition. Thanks Joe for a job well done!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members of our congregation

John Christmann

Family & Friends of our congregation

Elaine Bergman (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Donna Burns (Sue Piersa) ♦ Kathy Miller Colmerauer (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dan & Judy Cravotta (Janice Jones) ♦ Pauline Deletti (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Linda Dories (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Gildo Ferracini (Fatima Martins) ♦ Cathy Folaron (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ Rosanne Folaron (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ Joy Gordon (Debbie Ball) ♦ Ed & Dorothy Gutowski (Ed Gutowski) ♦ Carolyn Halley (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Sandy Hoffmann (Kathy Doll) ♦ Jill Miller-Kisker (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dee Dee Labby (Cheryl Labby) ♦ Aaron Miechurski (The Halligan's) ♦ Donald Mohr (Sandy Perillo) ♦ Mary Orofino (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Reinaldo Paschoal (Fatima Martins) ♦ Maureen Patti (Helen Somer) ♦ Jodi Rustski (The Fischers) ♦ Elizabeth Shaffer (George Shaffer) ♦ Angie Yelich (Cheryl Wilczak)

OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Russell Molnar ♦ Pat McCullough ♦ Zachery Goggins ♦ Alison Lankes ♦ Erik Brown ♦ James Schmidt ♦ Matthew Jones ♦ Kyle Ernst ♦ Mike Barnum ♦ Chris Kalinowski

The Celebrate
is published by
First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church

2085 Union Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224

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Email: office@wspres.org

Web address: www.wspres.org

Rev. Dave Persons.....Pastor
George Shaffer.....Clerk of Session
Donna Cieslinski.....Church Treasurer
Edie Fischer.....Financial Secretary
Dick Fischer.....Property Manager
Corinne Northem.....Secretary
Sue Maciejewski.....Organist/Choir Director

Elders

Class of 2012

Sue Piersa
Don Schmid
Tim Miller

Class of 2013

Debbie Wilson
Bob Barnhart
Bob Doll

Class of 2014

Kathy Saeli
Dick Fischer

Deacons

Class of 2012

Cheryl Wilczak
Dennis Fiegl

Class of 2013

Marilyn Mohr
Sandy Perillo

Class of 2014

Edie Fischer
Janice Jones