



WESTERN SPIRE

August & September 2015

The Pastoral Transition Process

The Session has begun in earnest the process that leads to the calling of a new Western Presbyterian Church pastor. The Rev. Tim Johnson agreed to act as the Session's Moderator, to guide us until an interim pastor is hired. Elsie DeMeyers, a member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, and a member of the Park Presbyterian Church in Newark, now meets with the Session as our liaison with the Presbytery.

A number of steps must take place prior to the hiring of a new pastor. It isn't as simple as placing an ad and interviewing prospective candidates. Fortunately, our process will be shorter this time around. That is due to our association with the Ad Council in Rochester under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell, and due to our having been through this transition less than ten years ago.

The Session has been meeting with greater frequency to expedite the process. Two tasks are taking place simultaneously at this time:

1. The creation of a lengthy mission study that Presbytery requires of us. This step precedes the selection of a pastor nominating committee, which will eventually reach out to pastor candidates.
2. The process of calling an interim pastor to serve us full time, as the Rev. Dr. Farrell did, and our eventual called pastor will.

It's important that an interim pastor be in place soon, in order that he/she can minister to the day to day life of our church. At this time, a task force within the Session is in the process of interviewing interim pastor candidates.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback you are encouraged to speak with a Session member. It's important to your Session that this evolution in our church be as transparent as possible.

As the process unfolds, be assured that it is business as usual for the WPC ministry teams (formerly known as committees), and in the church office, that's in the very capable hands of Kathy Barr. Sue Leonard and the Worship Team have worked hard to fill our pulpit for worship into September.

Preaching and Worship

August & September 2015

August 2, 2015 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Linda Brebner, preaching
Maxine & Logan Babcock- trumpet/baritone duet

Elder/Reader: Don Dantz
Toddler Room: Jan Taylor

Ushers: Wes & Janet Barager

August 9, 2015 Communion Sunday

Reverend David Kilgore, preaching
Vacation Bible School Kids

Elder/Reader: Bill Bush
Toddler Room: Katie Mitchell

Ushers: Wes & Janet Barager

Communion Elders: Cim McFarlane, Mary Beth LaBerge & Randy Kennard

August 16, 2015 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sister Barbara Moore, preaching
Andrea Spencer- voice

Elder/Reader: Eleanor Giles
Toddler Room: Ruth Dantz

Ushers: Peter & Irene Fadden

August 23, 2015 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Linda Brebner, preaching
Jack Moak, organ

Elder/Reader: Irene Fadden
Toddler Room: Janet Manktelow

Ushers: Peter & Irene Fadden

August 30, 2015 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Linda Brebner, preaching
Shelby Hutton- voice

Elder/Reader: Philip Opdycke
Toddler Room: Meghan & Jenn Leiter

Ushers: Peter & Irene Fadden

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Calling all keys!

Do you have a church key that you have little need for?
We have exhausted our inventory and would welcome home any stray keys. Please turn them into the church office with our gratitude.
Your Property Team

Fellowship's Upcoming Events

September- Fellowship will host coffee hour on September 13th.

October- Pot Luck Luncheon for Western Horizon Sunday

November- Game Night

December- Cookie exchange

Women of Faith Picnic:

When: Wednesday August 19th at 6:00 pm

Where: LDS Church Temple Rd. Palmyra at the picnic shelter

Bring: a salad to share
dessert provided



Deadline for the next SPIRE is Tuesday, September 22nd, 2015. Thank you!

Thank you so much!

What a wonderful thoughtful good-bye gift; one I will treasure forever! This is where the rocker will sit in my office. If you look closely, you may find your name!

Thank you for the wonderful send off and great pie, and for your greetings and expressions of appreciation.

Also, I am grateful for the collection of funds for a charity of my choice. I considered many options and decided to donate to

the Ad Council of Rochester's Community Impact Campaign for Lead Poisoning Prevention. As a chaplain, early in my ministry, I was present with a family whose beautiful eighteen month old child had contracted lead poisoning from eating lead based paint chips. It was a heartbreaking experience as we removed life support. Beyond the possibility of death, childhood lead poisoning has life-changing impacts on both children and their families.

Studies suggest that childhood exposure may damage a part of the brain linked to aggression control and 'executive functions.' Serious long term effects of lead poisoning include higher adult arrest rates for violent crime. And yet, lead poisoning is preventable.

After the Ad Council's Let's Make Lead History Partnership launched, the City of Rochester successfully passed an ordinance to improve lead poisoning prevention in homes. Since the campaign's launch in 2006, there has been an 84% decrease in childhood lead poisoning in Monroe County. Sad to say, the need is ongoing and not limited to one county. Together, we gave a thousand dollars to assist in the continuing efforts to eliminate lead poisoning. I am so very grateful for your contributions and honored by your love.

Retirement is great! Abi and Tank love having me home. Please honk if you go by and see me in the garden. You all remain in my prayers as we embrace the future!

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell



Sunday School News

Sunday School will begin September 27th, the week after Canal Town Days. Our first morning will be sharing breakfast during the Sunday School time. Classes will be held for kids and adults using the Seasons of the Spirit Curriculum which follows the lectionary and church calendar.

Classes meet from 9:00-9:45. Classes are for 3 year olds – kindergarteners; first graders – fifth graders, sixth graders – eighth graders; and all older persons are invited to participate in the **Every Body Welcome Class** that meets in the fellowship hall. Anyone who would like to participate as a leader or teacher of one of these groups, please call Cim McFarlane @ 597-1496.

Christian Education Ministry Team Project

During August we will collect school supplies to be sent to Gifts of the Heart sponsored by Church World Service and PCUSA. During VBS, kids will be encouraged to bring in materials for the kits. The congregation may also bring in materials below for the school kits. Thanks in advance for your participation.

School Kit

- 1 — pair of blunt scissors (rounded)
 - 3 — 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks
(no loose-leaf or filler paper.)
 - 1 — 30-centimeter ruler (12")
 - 1 — hand-held pencil sharpener
 - 6 — new pencils with erasers
 - 1 — large eraser
 - 1 — box of 24 crayons
 - 1 — *cloth bag, 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size, cotton or lightweight canvas, cloth handles*
- Pack all items in the cloth bag. *Value: \$15*



Session Considers Offering Video Resources To Enrich The Worship Experience

Recognizing the heritage of our Sanctuary's beautifully simple interior design which follows the form of the Reformed Tradition, Session is beginning to grapple with the question of offering video resources in some form as a way of enriching the worship experience of our congregation. Research on the topic as well as recommendations are being put forward by the Audio-Visual Task Force led by Terry Goodwin.

Question #1: "Why?"

Are there really benefits to be gained by adding the capacity to present visual displays (slides, pictures, videos) in the Sanctuary? Some of the "pros" identified so far include:

- Enriching the worship experience with relevant images, texts, and videos would better convey the meaning and background of the lesson.
- Updated audio/visual capabilities will be used to bring the worship experience to older and/or infirm members who are unable to attend in person. Similarly, memorial services and funerals can be shared with friends and family members who are unable to attend.
- Our young people are now more accustomed to information uptake through audio-visual aids in school and through use of electronic devices.
- It is expected that a more stimulating worship experience will be more attractive to those looking for a church home. Also since video facilities are now becoming deployed in more churches, having online video resources will help WPC "keep pace" with current trends.
- Having video resources will make our Sanctuary more useful for events outside of worship:
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Music performances and concerts
 - "TED" talk kinds of presentations
 - And as a specific example, those who attended Jack's organ recital recall his use of video to show the organ keyboard as he played.
- Up-to-date audio and video equipment will help the entire congregation see and hear worship and other presentations more clearly.

Question #2: "Can Audio-Visual aides be installed in the Sanctuary with minimal cosmetic intrusion?"

In order to get an idea about implementation options, several members of the Audio-Visual Task Force have made a field trip to a church in Fairport that has already installed video equipment. ***Please see Irene's detailed account of her experience on the next page.*** While video equipment is not invisible, colors and mounting options can be chosen in a way to blend-in with the existing décor.

Of course, as we're all aware, we have already been presenting computer slides and videos from time to time for VBS and other purposes. Unfortunately on those occasions our only available method of display has been with an ugly pull-up screen on a tripod placed in front of the alter. Having a system professionally installed with conscious respect for the architectural heritage of our Sanctuary would clearly be a vast improvement over the tripod-screen approach.

Question #3: "How far along are we with this idea?"

The Audio-Visual Task Force has been researching options for substantially increasing the audio quality of recordings in the Sanctuary for quite some time and while interest in having *video* capability has been expressed by some for a several years, the Task Force is just beginning the process of gathering ideas, inputs and feedback, and defining video requirements to subsequently present to Session. The need to proceed thoughtfully, with a very deliberate approach is well-understood.

Feedback

All the members of Session eagerly invite your thoughts on this topic. The Audio-Visual Task Force is continuing their work and welcomes your input – if this project is interesting to you, please let Terry Goodwin know you'd be interested in contributing.

We recognize that this is a consideration not to be taken lightly and that there will be many diverse points of view.

But one of the things we (Presbyterians) do well is engage in respectful discourse.

The Session

Pete and I attended Fairport United Methodist Church to view first-hand how they use audio visuals during worship. It was certainly not what I was expecting. I thought they would be constantly changing and flashing pictures and images throughout the sermon. Instead the picture below was shown throughout the sermon and even after 3 weeks, I can remember the service.



I am sure visuals could increase our understanding and remembering of the worship service message. If you would like to see the use of visuals in person, I invite you to attend the Fairport United Methodist worship service.

Irene Fadden



To the folks at Western Presbyterian,

Thank you for your many boxes of cereal donated to those who are in need. Your generosity is well noted and helps us to serve our brothers and sisters in our neighborhood.

Sincerely, Jean Van Scott
Pal-Mac Food Pantry

News from the Audio-Visual Task Force

With approval from the Session, there will be audio upgrades taking place in our church soon, accompanied by the installation of video capabilities. This exercise began as an effort to improve upon our audio CD recordings of worship services and funeral/memorial services that are shared with shut-ins and others. The project grew from there, as we realized a need for more upgrades to serve the future needs of the congregation, and to greet and welcome visitors. It proposes an exciting multi-faceted approach that will enhance the worship experience and activities taking place in Fellowship hall, as well as to address other needs within the church.

Earlier this year, an audio-visual consultant offered his recommendations, in addition to those of the music dept., based on our anticipated needs. He drafted a letter of recommended upgrades that would fulfill those needs. This letter was presented to three audio-visual vendors who visited our church during the week of July 19. They were given a tour of our facility, and they offered their thoughts as we visited targeted areas. Proposals (quotes) are expected from them within a few weeks of their visits.

Keeping in mind that any improvements will require the approval of the Session first, the following will be addressed by vendors:

1. Improve upon the ability to record the audio of all aspects of worship services and other events taking place in the sanctuary. Microphones will be strategically placed to better record the congregation in the pews, the choir and those providing special music. An additional remote microphone is proposed too.
2. Add a video capability in the sanctuary, with a camera to be located on the rear wall, and video projectors that will project onto the front walls under the balconies. The purpose is to record worship and events, and to enhance them as they take place.
3. The addition of a small control console area either in the current controls location in the rear of the sanctuary, or in the rear of the west side balcony.
4. Installation of a standalone audio-visual capability in Fellowship Hall for activities and events. Live video from the sanctuary will be available here as well.
5. Replacement of the audio speakers in the kitchen, toddler room and nursery, which may include cabling for the future installation of flat screen TV's.
6. Replace the bulletin board in the rear entrance foyer with a flat screen TV that will greet our members and visitors with pertinent video and slide show imagery. This will be in addition to improvements that another task force will address in this area.

The above is proposed with the heritage and architecture of our edifice in mind, and any specific items are subject to change. All efforts would be taken to make any installations/improvements as unobtrusive as possible.

As you can see, this is an ambitious project that will serve us into the future, and its improvements will serve as amenities to attract new members. The project form for this endeavor will be accessible in the 3-ring binder outside the office. Team members will be listed on it. You can approach any of them with your questions and constructive comments.

Deacons Ministry Team

The Deacons are actively praying for those on the prayer lists you see in our Sunday bulletin, as well as for those who wish to remain anonymous. This is especially important during this period of transition from one pastor to another. Since there is no pastor at the moment to offer pastoral care, we will ramp up our activity to visit and pray for anyone you feel is in need. You can fill out a prayer card located in the pews, contact any Deacon, or call/email the church office with your request. We are honored and pleased to serve in this capacity. The Deacons also donate funds to individuals and non-profits in need on occasion. We add notes of inspiration in cards that are sent to those on our special care list monthly. And, you'll find birthday, anniversary and get well cards in your mail box that are sent out on a continuing basis.

Please remember that we do not have a budget supported by your pledges. The Deacons Ministry Team is funded entirely by free will donations. There are small Deacons envelopes located in the pews for this purpose that you can place in the offering plate. Our account is blessed to be well funded at this time, due to a couple of recent substantial donations. But, the balance will fluctuate over time and the need for operating funds will again present itself.

Do you know of someone whose circumstances may benefit from our prayers?
Please let us know.

Notes From The Choir Loft

"Who do you want to be and how do you want to get here?" These are words that were spoken to our middle schoolers this past year by Abby Wambach.

"What can you do and how are you being called?" These are words that were spoken by our guest preacher Reverend David Kilgore.

As you are sitting in church enjoying the special summer music, know that we couldn't do it without you. Somewhere in a pew near you or a house near you is someone who could contribute to our worship through music. Reach out and encourage them to come to choir or even just come to church with you to hear our service.

As Reverend Kilgore said, it is an important time in our church for all of us to work together and maybe try something new. Together we are stronger! Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

First Choir rehearsal is Thursday, September 24th at 7 pm.

Mark your calendars and come join in the fun!



SPUDTACULAR

**Western Presbyterian Church
Canal Town Celebration 2015**

We proposed (and the Session approved) that the Ox Roast be replaced by a “Spudtacular” as an event to foster fellowship, fame (spreading the Word as well as the word about WPC) and raise funds during the Canal Town 2015 Celebration.

Proposal:

Baked potato with toppings to be sold during the lunch (11 AM) through dinner (6:30 PM) hours on Saturday. Additional offerings of desserts (cookies, cupcakes) and drinks (water, lemonade, iced tea). Coffee and muffins offered in the morning (8 AM-11 AM)

Toppings:

Chili, sour cream/chives, broccoli/cheese, bacon/cheese, onion/pepper, taco meat/salsa, butter. Or any combination.

Items we hope to have donated where possible (Look for signup sheets to be posted soon):

potatoes, chili (2 crockpots), sour cream, chives, broccoli, cheese, cheese sauce, bacon, onion, pepper, taco meat, salsa, oil, pepper, salt, butter, sporks, napkins, potato dish (to hold each potato for the consumer), desserts, gloves, baggies, coffee, muffins.

Currently Planned Pricing:

\$5.00/ potato w/2 toppings. Additional toppings .50. Desserts \$1.00, drinks \$1.00. To be adjusted based on cost. Anticipate 300-600 sales?

Rationale for the change from the Ox Roast:

The last several years it has been difficult to find leadership and volunteers for the Ox Roast. The cost/work ratio is negative (a great deal of work for small actual dollar return based on sales). Currently there is no leadership for the Ox Roast following a 4 month period of repeated requests to the congregation. The cost of meat has continued to increase (last year we were unable to lock in a price due to the volatility of the pricing); it is anticipated that the cost will be even higher this year thus necessitating higher prices for our dinners and/or smaller profit percentage.

A spudtacular will have little overhead and require less work.

Speaking of “work”, we should have a work schedule posted in Fellowship Hall near the end of July for those that are willing and able to assist with this new event.

Please look to the other postings outside the church office for more information and for contact info as it becomes available.

Message from the Mission and Social Concerns Team

The Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team meets monthly to discuss the various programs we support. It was in this context that we had an interesting discussion about individual giving. One person in our church has committed to giving a thousand boxes of cereal to the food pantry in a 12 month period. Another committed on her 70th birthday to give away \$70.00 each month until she turned 75 when it would be increased. I have read that setting and accomplishing a goal is a surefire way to improve your mood. The woman who donates cereal said that she has to set strict limits for herself or she can spend more than she can afford. As Christians we have always heard that it is better to give than receive. Recent brain imaging studies have shown that charitable giving can activate the same pleasure centers of the brain as other addictive behaviors such as drugs and gambling. This seems to only be true for half of the people tested. The other half seem to get more pleasure from receiving than giving. It is not known whether this difference is due to nature or nurture but we do hope that the giving projects our Sunday school children participate in will help them learn to love giving.

Our church is full of caring giving members and friends. I am sure that if we had broader discussions about giving, we would discover many different styles and patterns of sharing with those in need. The lesson from the examples we have shared illustrate the value of planning and setting goals for meaningful giving.

The WPC contributes to a number of worthwhile projects including the Pal-Mac Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, the Good Neighbor Fund, the Victim Resource Center and others. Over the last year, the Mission Team identified the need for a summer lunch program, identified community resources and helped implement the program that is now feeding grateful children at Palmyra Community Library. The positive energy and timing that led so many community resources to work together seemed Spirit led to many of us. If you would like to improve your mood by regular planned giving and would like some suggestions, please feel free to contact any member of the mission team. During your prayer and meditation time, invite the Holy Spirit to guide your search for meaningful giving opportunities. Remember giving may be addictive and pleasurable.



SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
Operating and Mission Funds
May 1, 2015 Through May 31, 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Operating Pledges/Offerings	\$10,661.00
Per Capita	\$138.00
Other Donations	\$525.00
Income from Investments	<u>\$2,684.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,008.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Session Committees	\$1,470.00
Personnel	\$8,542.00
Mission	\$68.00
Per Capita	<u>\$1,364.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,444.00
NET INCOME (EXPENSES)	\$2,564.00



SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
Operating and Mission Funds
June 1, 2015 Through June 30, 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Operating Pledges/Offerings	\$7,066.00
Per Capita	\$46.00
Other Donations	\$25.00
Income from Investments	<u>\$3,911.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,048.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Session Committees	\$3,089.00
Personnel	\$12,458.00
Mission	\$3,000.00
Per Capita	<u>\$682.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,229.00
NET INCOME (EXPENSES)	(\$8,181.00)

TODDLER SCHEDULE

Below is the Schedule for staffing of the Toddler Room during the 10:00 AM Sunday morning service. Thank you in advance for your extremely important mission of providing infant and toddler care. Please arrive about 10-15 minutes early. Many thanks!

P.S. Snack is in the closet. Let Irene know when we need more. Thanks again.

08/02/15	Jan Taylor	597-4293
08/09/15	Katie Mitchell	597-5653
08/16/15	Ruth Dantz	597-2143
08/23/15	Janet Manktelow	597-4314
08/30/15	Meghan & Jenn Leiter	315-538-9625
09/06/15	Rena Haigh	597-5971
09/13/15	Maxine & Kelly Babcock	986-0926
09/20/15	Sue Pringle	597-9533
09/27/15	Carol & Andy Sloan	597-5182
10/04/15	Irene Fadden	585-802-7594
10/11/15	Sue Leonard	597-6616
10/18/15	Jody Pruitt	315-331-3211
10/25/15	Nancy Talma	597-5003
11/01/15	Edie Chapman	597-6119



Always say "Thank You" to
the church nursery workers.

~ ~ ~

They are serving our most
important guests each week.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 2	Virginia Palmer
August 2	Donna Kadlecik
August 3	Betsy Goodwin
August 4	Samantha Teeter
August 7	Janet Barager
August 16	James DeBrine
August 21	John Kadlecik
August 21	Anita Adams
August 21	Sharon Marr
August 23	Zachary Leiter
August 23	Rena Haigh
August 23	Beverly Koeberle
August 25	Patti Squier
August 28	Lois Pratt
August 31	Patricia Nash
August 31	Jerry Kelly

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 1	Morris & Tricia Owen
August 2	Cory & Heather Trapiss
August 4	Michael & Jan Semans
August 26	Raymond & Sharon Marr
August 28	William & Sara Bush
August 31	Michael & Elisabeth Pinkney

If you are an active member and we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time. If your anniversary or birthday is missing, it means it was not in the Data Base, which is where we get the list.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 4	Barbara Bucknam
September 5	Bronwen Lawrence
September 5	Laurie Pipitone
September 7	Gary Haigh
September 8	Elaine Hassler
September 10	Andy Sloan
September 13	Kathryn Hutton
September 16	Shirley Bassage
September 18	Alicia Lynch
September 20	Patricia Pinkney
September 28	David Koeberle

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 3	David & Sheila Koeberle
September 5	Ray & Martha Beato
September 6	James & Susan Bush
September 20	Tony & Amie Fabrizio
September 21	Wesley & Janet Barager

If you are an active member and we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time. If your anniversary or birthday is missing, it means it was not in the Data Base, which is where we get the list.



AUGUST 2015

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
						1
2	3 9-11:30 am Vacation Bible School	4 9-11:30 am Vacation Bible School	5 9-11:30 am Vacation Bible School 7 pm Mission/Social Concerns	6 9-11:30 am Vacation Bible School	7 6-8 pm Rehearsal for wedding	8 3 pm Wedding Tami Lehr & Kevin Kelly
9 9 am Session Communion Sunday	10 5 pm CTNS Board	11 6:30 pm Property	12	13	14	15
16 Father's Day 1:30 pm Red Wing's Game	17	18	19 7 pm Finance	20	21	22
23	24	25 7 pm Session	26	27	28	29
30	31					



SEPTEMBER 2015

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 2 pm Deacons	2 6-7:30 pm CTNS Open House 7 pm Mission/Social Concerns	3	4 10 am Inspection of church	5
6	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed	8 5-8:30 pm King's Daughter's FH & Kit. 6:30 pm Property 7 pm Worship	9	10	11	12
13 Fellowship Coffee Hour	14 5 pm CTNS Board 7 pm Fellowship	15	16 7 pm Finance 7 pm Christian Ed.	17	18 Set Up Canaltown Days Spudtacular	19 Canaltown Days Spudtacular
20 Canaltown Days Spudtacular Hymn Sing	21	22 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Session	23	24 7 pm Choir	25	26
27 First Choir Sunday Sunday School Starts	28	29	30			