

To Members and Friends of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,

September 26, 2017



**A “Whoville Church” created by our Sunday School Children!**

**World Communion is this Sunday, October 1!**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING...** The Session has called for a meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, October 8** following worship in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the recommendation of the Session to consider a change to the Bylaws around the size of the Board of Deacons and the Session, moving each board size from 7 to 5. The rationale is that for the size of our congregation (64 members) and as we age, the number of members available to serve is shrinking. The second purpose of our meeting is to hear the recommendation of the Session concerning the repaving our current parking lot by May 2018. An estimated cost of this project is around \$32,000. This includes tearing up the old blacktop, increasing the base, new blacktop, and then painting parking stalls.

For your review, here is the wording of our bylaws with the proposed changes to paragraphs 12 and 15. (The paragraphs are identical EXCEPT that #12 deals with ruling elders, and #15 with deacons.):

There shall be ~~seven (7)~~ **five (5)** ruling elders (deacons) divided into three classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at a congregational meeting for a three-year term. Each year, two (2) elders (deacons) shall be elected while every third year ~~a third~~ **only one** ruling elder (deacon) shall be elected, so that the total number of elders (deacons) is ~~seven~~ **five**. No ruling elder (deacon) shall serve on the Session for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years but shall be ineligible to be elected to a new term until one year has elapsed.

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT...** Our own Matthew Mandli is performing in the cast of Sun Prairie's Civic Theatre's production of Joseph. He plays Jacob's son, Gad (and an Egyptian Dancer). A group from church is planning on going to the October 1, 2pm performance. You can purchase tickets at this link: <http://tkassist.com/Tix/?u=SPCT> Ticket cost is \$16 for Adults, \$15 for Seniors (55 & Older) and \$12 for students (18 & younger). Directions to the Sun Prairie Civic Theatre: 550 S. Bird Street, Sun Prairie:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/dir//Sun+Prairie+Civic+Theatre,+550+S+Bird+St,+Sun+Prairie,+WI+53590/@43.1747219,-89.2289916,17z/data=!4m15!1m6!3m5!1s0x8806f7f6f4d5f7d9:0x3db014b4c1f6ec95!2sSun+Prairie+Civic+Theatre!8m2!3d43.174718!4d-89.2268029!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x8806f7f6f4d5f7d9:0x3db014b4c1f6ec95!2m2!1d-89.2268029!2d43.174718>

**HURRICANE RELIEF SPECIAL OFFERING...**With Hurricanes Harvey and Irma recently hitting our coastal areas in several states and now with Hurricanes Jose and Maria following, there is a growing need for relief assistance. While there are many ways to help, and the need is great, at this time, after doing some research, the best way we as a congregation can help is by making a financial donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund. We will be taking up a special offering over the next couple of weeks. **Please make your checks out to OCPC, designating them to Hurricane Relief.** We will then send one check from the church to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund. The Session is challenging our congregation to give up to \$3,000 to this offering. You can also give with a credit card by visiting <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000194/> or by phone at 800-872-3283. Designate gifts to DR000194-Atlantic Regional Hurricanes.

**NEW SANCTUARY STORMS...** Hopefully, everyone has had the opportunity to admire our new windows – far more efficient, easier to use, easier to clean, allowing fresh air into our church. We are thrilled with the results.

We would now like to turn our attention to the storm windows in the sanctuary. Our current aluminum storms have held up well enough for thirty years or more. However, we are interested in replacing the storms with new glass – preferably without the divider that mars the beauty of our stained glass. Our current storms are drafty and rather ugly. The new storms would be sealed and inoperable, so that they would provide greater efficiency. They would be of stronger glass surrounded by durable white PVC. Next time you look at our stained glass windows, think of how we could make them more attractive while conserving more energy.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*.

**LAKE RIPLEY CEMETERY CLEANUP...** Beginning the first week of October, the caretakers of Lake Ripley Cemetery will begin getting the cemetery ready for winter. Before then, please remove any grave decorations you wish to save for next year!

**OCPC MISSION GIVING...** At a recent Session meeting, Session discussed our cash donations to various causes, including: Presbytery, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Heifer International, Presbyterian Women, and local charities. (Note: this is only cash donations, and does not include material gifts to the food pantry, the school supplies drive, etc.) It was noted that twelve years ago we donated over \$6,000 in cash to various causes, and this year we anticipate that total to be closer to \$1,500. Session is wrestling with how we can more Christian and giving in monetary support of others while at the same time being sure to provide for the needs of our church. Session wrestles with this dilemma over its dual missions, and is sure open to suggestions from the congregation!

**ARE YOU MISSING A SERVING DISH?** Thank you to everyone who has supported our potluck meals and fund raisers this past year. We have enjoyed a number of delicious meals!

However, our kitchen has now accumulated a number of unclaimed serving dishes and pans. They are currently in a box on the south kitchen counter. Please check them out and remove any that belong to you. **After Sunday, October 22, we will be sending unclaimed dishes to St. Vincent’s.**

September 19, 2017



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “The Third Reich raises in the most acute form the possibilities and consequences of the human hatred and destructiveness that exist, even if only in a small way, within all of us. It demonstrates with terrible clarity the ultimate potential consequences of racism, militarism, and authoritarianism. It shows what can happen if some people are treated as less human than others. It poses in the most extreme possible form the moral dilemmas we all face at one time or another in our lives, of conformity or resistance, action or inaction in the particular situations with which we are confronted. That is why the Third Reich will not go away, but continues to command the attention of thinking people throughout the world long after it has passed into history.”  
The Coming of the Third Reich, Richard J. Evans You can read the entire article that this quote was taken from at this link to the Christian Century magazine:  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/how-can-we-fell-demons-hatred>

**KUDOS:** Thank you to **Kay Lund** for cleaning and organizing the kitchen. Our countertops are now an inviting workspace again! (With the exception mentioned above!)

September 12, 2017



**OUTDOOR WORSHIP WITH THE PROMISED BAND...** Thank you to the members of the Promised Band for providing our special music during our annual outdoor worship service and tailgate potluck! It was a beautiful morning filled with great music, a few yo-yo tricks by our liturgist, Matthew Mandli, and some delicious food!

**NEW WINDOWS...** I can see clearly now the new windows have come! If you haven't done so already, check out the new windows in the kitchen, Fellowship Hall, and church offices!

**LOAN:** Eight years ago, our church was faced with a financial crisis. Session borrowed almost \$20,000. The money was just to keep the doors open –the money was needed just to pay bills.

Since then Session has annually created a “balanced” budget, hoping to have annual income cover annual spending. Fortunately, Session did not need to borrow more money. But Session never included paying off the debt in the annual budget, in part because the money was simply not there. Session never addressed how to pay off the debt.

But there is another reason why Session did not address the debt – we did not have to! We were blessed with members who worked at erasing that debt on their own. Some did it anonymously. One did it with monthly contributions for years. Another gave larger sums over a period of time. Clyde Heberlein's estate provided a large sum. And the debt gradually shrank away.

The loan came due this August. The last payment, around \$3,000, was covered with money from the Bernice Gillingham estate.

A huge thank you to those who paid off this loan for us!

**KUDOS:** Thank you to **Renee and Randy Johnson** for cleaning the church this past week, preparing us for the start of the school year. And all the construction dust from the window replacement has disappeared!

September 6, 2017

**THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: Outdoor Worship & Tailgate Party!** We will worship outside with music provided by The Promised Band, then join together for a Wisconsin tradition - a Tailgate Party! We will provide the brats and hot dogs, buns, condiments and paper products. Please bring a dish to share and lawn chairs. In case of inclement weather, we will be inside. You can also wear your favorite team jersey.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10!** Children will join us for worship and following their time with Pastor Scott, will join their teachers for the opening of Sunday School activities.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE:** People have been asking how they can help with the cleanup following Hurricane Harvey. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Program offers us one way we can help. You can join in the response and encourage those in need by standing in the “**GAP**” — **Give. Act. Pray.**

**GIVE:** Support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. (By Sunday, there may be need for assistance on the East Coast depending on the path of Hurricane Irma). There are several ways to offer assistance. You can give with a credit card by visiting [presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-HARVEY](http://presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-HARVEY) or by phone at 800-872-3283. Designate gifts to DR000169-Harvey or by following this link for financial donations:

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/?appeal=PDA&package=HH17-Ind> You may also give cash or write a check to OCPC designated for hurricane relief and we will forward it to PDA.

**ACT:** We as a congregation could also act by—

- Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to [pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/](http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/).
- Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities. Call 866-732-6121 or email [pda.callcenter@pcusa.org](mailto:pda.callcenter@pcusa.org).

**PRAY:** God, our Shelter, Be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty and weary days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

For more information, visit [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org).

**PARKING LOT:** In recent years we have made progress in many “problem” areas of our property. Our roof issues are hopefully behind us. Our new windows will make our building more efficient and more comfortable. We removed pews to open up the sanctuary. We are (slowly) moving forward with improvements in the basement Thronson room.

However, one glaring problem remains – our parking lot. (We have taken some small steps, repaving from the highway to the side door, and replacing the South St. apron.) At some point, we will need to address the issue. A ballpark estimate of repaving the rest of the lot is approximately \$32,000. That is a lot of money.

Please talk to friends, Session members, etc. Should we do this? If so, when? Ideally, what would our new parking lot look like? How might we raise money? Session needs to hear from the congregation.

**NEW WINDOWS...** are currently being installed in the offices, stairway, kitchen, and fellowship hall. (Note: This does not include the small upper windows in the fellowship hall or any of the storm windows in the sanctuary.)

Our old windows were not in good shape. Many did not work. When we remodeled in 1999 nothing was done to improve the windows – meaning they are old and inefficient. Our new windows will be very energy efficient, and easy to clean. This is a major step forward!

The entire cost of the project is covered by the investments of Bernice Gillingham and Hazel Main. Their gifts are greatly appreciated.

## **OUR CHURCH CALENDAR:**

- **Sunday, October 1** – World Communion Sunday  
**10:00 a.m.** Worship and communion  
Communion Servers: Cheryl Stitz  
Liturgist: Joe Leto  
Ushers/Greeters: Cheryl & Mike Stitz  
Fellowship Hosts: Deacons Trent Bettenhausen & Nancy Kristiansen
  
- **Sunday, October 8**  
**10:00 a.m.** Worship and Sunday School  
Liturgist: Margaret Hawkins  
Ushers/Greeters: Leto Family  
Fellowship Hosts: Linda Porter  
**11:00 a.m.** Meeting of the Congregation.
  
- **Wednesday, October 11**  
**6:00 p.m.** Session
  
- **Sunday, October 15**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Children's Library open.  
**10:00 a.m.** Worship and Sunday School  
Special music by Mare Stewart and Cheryl Spore  
Liturgist: Roman Leto  
Ushers/Greeters: Renee & Randy Johnson  
Fellowship Hosts: Ann & Dale Febock  
**11:00 a.m.** Children's Library open.  
**11:00 a.m.** Deacons
  
- **Sunday, October 22**  
**10:00 a.m.** Worship and Sunday School  
Liturgist: OPEN

Ushers/Greeters: OPEN

Fellowship Hosts: Cheryl & Al Bettenhausen

**MILESTONES**

**Birthdays**

- John Fieser .....September 30
- Rachel Kelter ..... October 2
- Dalton Yeadon-Stark..... October 4
- Eva Wurtz..... October 5
- Nic Bowe ..... October 7
- Trent Bettenhausen ..... October 12
- Kelly Homann..... October 13
- Lindsey Vanderbilt ..... October 13
- Scott Marrese-Wheeler ..... October 21
- Abby Porter..... October 23
- Debra Cade ..... October 26
- Kay Lund..... October 26
- Sue Bettenhausen ..... October 27
- Cheryl Spore ..... October 28
- Maggie Porter ..... October 29

**Anniversaries**

- Harry & Debra Cade..... Sept 26
- William-Patricia Strobusch ..... Sept 27
- Bob & Cheryl Spore..... October 26
- Peter & Wendy Stark ..... October 26

**PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —**

- Ken Bilstad
- Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strobusch)
- Jim Fergusson (Nancy Kristiansen’s brother in Edinburg, Scotland)
- Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret)
- Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)
- Scott Kramer family (friends of Charlie Porter)
- Egil Kristiansen (Jan Kristiansen’s brother in Oslo, Norway)
- Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
- Richard Nye (son-in-law of Ann & Dale Febock, Tara’s husband, deploying to Iraq)
- Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
- Mary Trailer

The family of Elizabeth Gates (mother of Melanie Rumpf); Corinne Hommen (mother of Kris Runge) and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

**STANDING DATES – These are regularly scheduled events**

- Pastoral Office Hours – Generally 9:00 a.m. to Noon Tuesdays
- Business Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. to Noon Monday through Thursday
- Sundays – 10:00 a.m. Worship;  
    Communion first Sunday of each month  
    Sunday School 10:00 a.m. from September through May  
    Fellowship & Refreshment following worship service each week.
- Monday and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. – OA
- Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. – AA
- Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at noon – Community Activities Program  
    Senior Meal

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