
First ✠ Press

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church – Marshfield, WI

NOVEMBER 2011



Dear Friends,

During the Christian Education Committee last evening, we had a brief discussion on prayer. At one point, I noted that, for me, an essential basic to remember on prayer is the word 'ACTS.' In this case, the word is an acronym for: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Then I said something I hadn't really thought about before, "The order is important." The order reflects the typical

order of worship in the Reformed tradition, which in turn, that order is derived from Isaiah's call in Isaiah 6:1-9a.

Isaiah has a vision of God's appearance in the Holy of Holies in the Temple. In this vision God is so huge that Isaiah can only see the hem of God's robe which fills the Temple. For some reason, Isaiah doesn't tell us the color! Isaiah does see seraphs, angelic creatures with six wings. The seraphs call to one another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." [Adoration] Isaiah is so awestruck that he falls on his knees and admits that he is a sinful man living among sinful people. [Confession] One of the seraphs touches his lips with a burning coal and Isaiah is absolved of his sin. Then Isaiah hears God say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" to which Isaiah responds, "Here I am, send me." [Thanksgiving] God then sends Isaiah out, "Go." Only supplication is missing in this story; I assume Isaiah offered plenty of those kinds of prayer as he dealt with the people of Judah.

We often reverse the sequence creating a strange acronym 'STCA' which sounds like a society to do something. We like to ask God for things even when those things might not be for ourselves such as praying for healing or comfort for someone else. I don't think God objects to us asking but I hope we can keep in mind that prayer is not just a one way conversation. Rather prayer implies a loving relationship with God. Such a relationship means that we share connection with the other. Prayer, then, must involve more than asking.

Perhaps another way to think of prayer is in the relationship you have (had) with a Beloved. How long would a Beloved remain so if all you ever did was to ask him/her to do things for you and the rest of your family and circle of friends? We know that we need to tell our Beloved how much we adore and love him/her, that we need to admit when we are in the wrong in order to repair and restore the relationship—and isn't it amazing how often we find that our Beloved has already forgiven us?—and of course, who doesn't like to be thanked for the things she/he has done, even those things not requested or expected? God is the ultimate Beloved; our creator, our sustainer, and the one who redeems us in all ways. Our prayers speak of our relationship with this ultimate Beloved, so wouldn't it be good for prayer involve more than requests? Shouldn't this be a relationship that also responds to good gifts and gracious actions?

Actually, the discussion is all a roundabout way to think about the holiday of Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving, we do focus on thanks for the good things we have in our lives. As we hear from Isaiah, though, thanksgiving is not simply a response of gratitude; it is also an action in response to God's gracious love. Thanksgiving can be a call to action in order to mimic God's grace: "Well, God gave us all this stuff, what are going to do with it? Is it really just for us, or does God intend us to share it in some way with all God's Beloveds?"

Happy praying, not just on November 24th, but each day.

In Christ's love,
Kevin

A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We are grateful for God calling us to work with our gifts, grateful that we can be of service and use our talents in a responsible and just way.

We are grateful that we have the basic necessities of life, that we have the means and the ability to hear the cries of the poor and to respond with our abundance.

We are grateful for the miracle of life, for the green of our earth, for the amazing grace of our history; we are grateful that we still have time to decide the fate of the world by our choices and our actions, grateful that we have it within our power to bring a divided world to peace.

We are grateful for the messengers of God -- people, events, written or spoken words -- that came to us at just the right time and helped us to grow.

We are grateful for the treasure of loved ones whose hearts of openness and acceptance have encouraged us to be who we are. We are grateful for their faithfulness, for standing by us when our weaknesses stood out glaringly, for being there when we were most in need and for delighting with us in our good days and our joyful seasons.

We are grateful for the ongoing process of becoming who we are, for the seasons within, for the great adventure of life that challenges and comforts us at one and the same time.

- Joyce Rupp

Thank you to ALL!...There is nothing like the feeling of warmth and love you get when surgery or illness hits and so many people of the congregation remember you in prayers, with cards, visits and flowers. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness of so many of you and wish to thank you for the good wishes, great advice, and prayers that I know have and are making a difference in the rehabilitation process. Now if I would just be given a good dose of patience, all would be well!!

You are a great group of people. I am very proud and blessed to know you.

Nadene Lautenschlager

INNER CITY CIRCLE

WILL MEET

NOVEMBER 10

AT 9:30 A.M.

IN THE PARLOR AT FPC.

MARGY FORNEFELT AND

LOIS MYERS

ARE CO-HOSTESSES

The DARK Side of Chocolate

The Green Team invites you to an Adult Forum on Sunday, November 13th, after worship. We will view and discuss the powerful film, *The Dark Side of Chocolate*, which exposes the ongoing use of child, forced, and trafficked labor in the West African cocoa industry. Warning: watching this expose may leave a bitter taste in your mouth. You can remedy that by joining us, at the forum, in sampling Fair Trade Chocolate bars offered for sale by the Board of Deacons. You may even wish to follow up by sending a postcard to the Hershey Company's CEO as part of the "*Raise the Bar, Hershey!*" Campaign. We look forward to seeing you at this "edible adult forum".

- Barb Gillespie

LOOKING FOR STUDENT MUSICIANS

Kathy Phillips has volunteered to line up student musicians for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If you are interested in playing your favorite sacred Christmas selection as a part of the service, start practicing! Questions? Please contact Kathy Phillips at pkphillips88@charter.net or 715.387.0591

- Kathy Phillips

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

*Indicates Scriptures that will most likely be preached on.

November 6

21st Sunday after Pentecost

*Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25;

*Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;

Matthew 25:1-13

November 13

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*Matthew 25:14-30

November 20

Christ the King/ Reign of Christ

*Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

*Matthew 25:31-46

November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

I Corinthians 1:3-9

*Mark 13:24-27



October 4, 2011

The Marshfield Area Crop Walk Committee would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for participating in this year's Crop Walk. Despite the moist fall weather, walkers warmed up with chili and hot cider before starting their walk. Within two weeks, all pledges and donations will have been collected and tallied. I will let you know at that time what your parish has contributed for the 2011 Crop Walk.

Funds raised here in Marshfield and in Crop Walks across the U.S. will make a difference in the lives of people around the world—from helping families in Haiti, Ethiopia, Guatemala, and in famine-stricken Africa, and even assisting families across the U.S. whose homes and communities were flooded (or worse) by storms and hurricanes. Crop Walks truly are Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.

God bless everyone who helped make this event a success. With the current economic downturn, our local pantries are experiencing greater than usual requests for food. That makes all Crop Walk donations more important than ever!

If you miss your chance to contribute, you can still send me a check to push us farther over last year's totals.

September 30th has been set for our 2012 walk. Put it on your calendars and we will see you all at the Crop Walk next year. Thank you for being such a generous and caring community!

Sincerely,

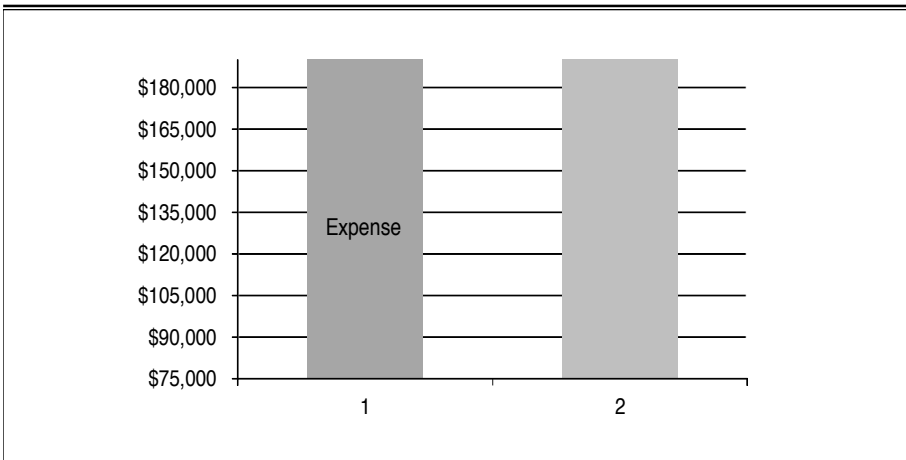
Rev. Georgeanne Cusic
Treasurer, Crop Walk 2011
1510 N Broadway Ave
Marshfield, WI 54449

Administrative News

Financial Report

General Fund as of September, 2011

	Sept 2011	Sept 2010	YTD 2011	YTD 2010	YTD Difference
Income	21,815	18,180	202,545	210,292	-7,747
Expenses	16,526	13,778	199,376	145,076	54,299
Income Less Expenses	5,289	4,403	3,169	65,215	-62,046



☐ Circle of Love Fund: This fund was established as a perpetual fund so that we can provide assistance to members of our church family and friends through interest free loans. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this type of assistance, please have them contact Ellen Leick, business manager at 715-384-2484 or eleick@frontier.com for an application. All information is kept confidential.

☐ Estimate of Giving card: Commitment Sunday is November 6 and you should have received a letter with an estimate of giving card enclosed. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on completing the card. Even if at this point in time you do not feel that you can make a commitment, we would still appreciate it if you could sign the card and return it.

☐ Contribution Statements: Please be sure to pick up your 2011 contribution statement from on the table in the narthex. If you would like your statement mailed, please email me at eleick@frontier.com or call 715-384-2484.

**Serving our church
2011-2012**

✕ Session

*Marilyn Graham, Josh Olson
Gayle Strand
Don Zais, Clerk of Session
Jim Aue, Patty Faber
Mary Miech, Carolyn Opitz
Bruce Lautenschlager
Phil Phillips, Nancy Popp
Dot Shields*

✕ Deacons

*Dolores Aue,
Clay & Terry Bernick
Adele Heller
Ron Rank, Janet Singer
Janet Crossley, Mary Mabeus
Tracy Olson, Chair
Kathy Phillips
Mary Jo Siebenaler
Beth Albee, Jan Clouse
Betty Pratt, Beth Walsh
Kerri Wichlacz, John Wing*

First ✕ Press

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Parish Nurse.....Carolyn Opitz
Confirmation Coordinator.....
Deb Murrell
Children's Ministries Coordinator
Denise Sonnemann
Youth Ministries Coordinator.....
Cornelia Krahn
Adult Forum Coordinator.....
Nadene Lautenschlager
Nursery Attendant.....Therese Brooks
Business Manager Ellen Leick
Admin. Secretary.....Harriet Brandt
Custodian.....Mike Ress

ADULT FORUM

Being somewhat out of commission the past few weeks has put me behind on making arrangements for Adult Forum speakers. By the time the newsletter is out, Patty Faber will have spoken on two different parts of Genesis and I would like to thank her very much for being willing to present on such short notice. Rev. Janet Wolfe will be giving a presentation on hymns used in the worship service on October 30th. There will be no Adult Forum November 6 due to the potluck dinner to celebrate the stewardship campaign. November 13, the Green Team will be presenting a film "The Dark Side of Chocolate" that touches on the misuse of child labor in harvesting cocoa beans, and the benefit of using Fair Trade products over using chocolate products found in the store. Please see the Green Team note in the newsletter for more information.

November 20 is the annual "Hanging of the Greens" complete with a soup lunch and fellowship while helping decorate the church for Christmas. There will be cookies to be frosted for our shut-ins and ornaments to be made for the giving tree sponsored by Outreach and CE. There will be no Adult Forum offered that day.

November 27 we will also not have an Adult Forum due to the Sunday after Thanksgiving being a "low Sunday" historically. Join us again December 4th for a topic yet to be determined. Please watch the bulletin and weekly e-newsletter notices for topics to be presented.

If you have wishes for a particular subject, please notify Nadene Lautenschlager at nabrlaut@hotmail.com or call 384-5217 after 6 p.m.

Thank You
Nadene Lautenschlager

CE NEWS...Mark your calendars for upcoming events for CE.

The Annual Advent Festival will be on November 20, 2011. Scheduled activities include hanging of the greens, soup lunch, Christmas cookie decorating for the shut-ins, and a craft project.

Volunteer opportunities include bringing cookies to be decorated, supervising the cookie decorating and craft project, bringing soup, hanging the greens etc.

The Children's Christmas program will be December 18, 2011. More information to follow.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kirk Baldauf
- 2 Lance Christopher
Lois Myers
Delores Rinehart
- 3 Heather Zais
- 4 Elizabeth Knabe
Maria Prebble
- 5 Brian Ewert, Don Mueller
- 6 Wendy Gray
- 7 Paul Mitchell
James Przychocki
- 10 Joanne Kissner
- 11 Bill Ferge, Shawana Lilienthal
Troy Rens, Jill Schulz
- 12 Paul Schneider
- 13 Rob Schulz
- 14 Sue Nelson, Owen Soehl
- 16 Suzanne Burt
Samantha Halle
Don Miech, Peter Thorne
- 18 Dawn Gennett
- 19 Lawrence Schubert
Jaki Winch
- 20 Devin Grant
- 22 Nancy Johnson
- 23 Sarah Crump, Darrel Johnson
Alex Reeser
- 24 Doug Reding, Michael Reeser
- 26 Damin Escudero
- 27 Marilyn Graham
- 28 Matt Reding
- 30 Jake Mitchell, Kevin Mitchell

LIBRARY UPDATE

A huge amount of progress has been made by our Library Ladies, Meda Heywood, Kristie Huebschen and Joey Mulholland with support on decision making by Dot Shields. The donation made earlier in the summer has been reviewed and a number of pieces offered for sale on the weekends in October. Word has it they have found a number of other items of interest which have been unknown to the membership of the congregation for a number of years. These ladies have a herculean task before them and your patience with their progress is appreciated. Please make sure to review items that are set aside periodically for browsing by the congregation to see if there is something of interest to you. Items which are determined not be of future use for the congregation will be offered on the Rummage Sale in the spring or the Marshfield Public Library’s book sale. Direct questions you may have to any one of these ladies, Pastor Kevin, or myself, and please refrain from bringing in new donations until they are done with the review of what is presently in the library, and have determined what, if any, types of books may be of interest, and have advertise for the same to be donated. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Nadene Lautenschlager, CE Chairperson

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING HERE!

A special community appreciation open house at Marshfield Public Library Sunday, November 13, 2011 1:00-4:00 P.M.

This event is planned as a thanksgiving celebration of all the things, people, and events that make our community a great place to live, learn, work, and play. We all know how good a sincere, personal thank you feels. Our community is blessed with numerous organizations that formed to fill specific needs. That is one of the reasons that Great Things Are Happening Here! Often, efforts to improve our community often go unrecognized or unacknowledged. This is an opportunity for parents and children to meet with, talk to, and thank those individuals in person. So rather than a formal event with a list of speakers, we’ve planned a casual affair with just people thanking people. There will be entertainment, snacks, fun.

Marshfield Public Library has invited community organizations to be on hand to tell you about what they are doing and how they are accomplishing great things for our community. These are our everyday Heroes. This event honors their efforts. Please join us to thank them.

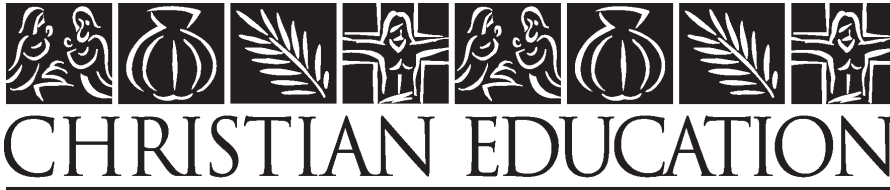
Lori Belongia
Library Director

Financial Report Continued

Memorial / Building Fund as of September 2011

Cash and Investments	82,735		
Designated Funds:			
Bldg Items	35,500	Bldg Fund/Parking	20,683
Parish Nurse Program	202	BF Mission	6,207
Music/Worship	1,276	CE Prog./Library	17,294
Youth Programs	701	Audio Tapes	155
H. Scidmore Mem Garden	716		
Line of Credit		0	
Notes Program Loan Payable	187,519.11		
Notes Program Interest Payable	51,618.90		
Building Fund Total Debt	239,138.01		

- Current rates for the Notes are 2.00% for \$10,000 or more and 1.50% for under \$10,000.
- Please call or e-mail me (eleick@frontier.com) if you have any questions or comments ~ Ellen Leick, Business Manager



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is off and running for our ninth and tenth graders. We meet the second and third Sundays of the month following worship, from 10:45 until Noon. Mentors, journaling, participation in the life of the church, and service projects are important facets of our two-year program. Tenth graders will conclude this part of their faith journey with the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 13, 2012.

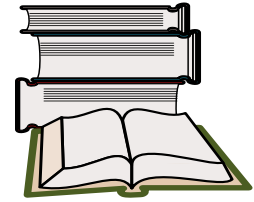
Classes began this fall with getting to know one another and writing a covenant for our year of learning together. We used our Bibles to help discuss how Christians live, learn, and grow together; plus, we walked the labyrinth. In November we will begin our discussions of "Who is Jesus?" Parents and members of the congregation, be aware there might be questions the confirmands will ask you as part of their journaling assignments.

Students, remember to pick up a Worship Report outside our classroom as you head into church. You can return the completed form to the same place after worship.

Ninth graders, if you haven't done so already, please turn in your mentor names to Deb ASAP. At the same time, we would ask adult members of the congregation to consider mentoring one of our youth during this journey of faith. Please contact Deb Murrell if you are interested or have questions.

YOUTH GROUPS...Both Youth Groups had fun starting the new school year by tie-dying T-shirts together on 9/21. This was followed by a meeting of the Senior Highs to plan activities for the year. Both groups met again to carve pumpkins into Jack-o-Lanterns. It takes a lot of faith, and nerves of steel, to give knives to 17 teenagers but the results were very successful and can be viewed at the front door of the church. The middle school group meets on 10/19. Both groups are looking forward to attending the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra concert on Dec. 4th where they will hear a classmate play.

- Cornelia Krahn



OPEN BOOK GROUP

**Date: Thursday,
November 17**

9 a.m. refreshments

9:30 discussion

**Hostess: Janet Wolfe,
Wyndham Senior
Villas, 1309 N. Hinman
Ave., Apt. 404.**

**(Turn east off Peach
behind the mall on
Kalsched. Go to end, turn
right, follow curve to
last building. Park
across the street.)**

715-486-9307

Facilitator:

Esther Dehn

**Book: Pastor Don
Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted
Falcon, and Sheikh Jamal
Rahman, "Getting to the
Heart of Interfaith: The
Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled
Friendship of a Pastor,
a Rabbi, and a Sheikh"
Skylight Paths, 2009.**

"The book is a deeply personal journey to interfaith collaboration that offers hope for an inclusive and healing way of being together in the world.

"Too often religion seems to fuel more hatred than love, more conflict than collaboration.

Open Book Group continued

Interfaith Talk Radio's "interfaith amigos" – a pastor, a rabbi, and a sheikh – provide a rich understanding of the road to interfaith collaboration by sharing their stories, challenges, and the inner spiritual work necessary to go beyond tolerance to a vital, inclusive spirituality.

"From their deep commitment and lived experience, they present ways we can work together to transcend the differences that have divided us historically. Together they explore: (1) the five stages of the interfaith journey, (2) the power of our stories, (3) the core of our traditions, (4) the promises and problems of our traditions, (5) new dimensions of spiritual identity, and much more."

Pastor Don Mackenzie is a minister in the United Church of Christ, recently retired from University Congregational United Church of Christ in Seattle.

Rabbi Ted Falcon is founder of Makom Ohr Shalom, a synagogue focusing on Jewish spirituality in Los Angeles.

Sheikh Jamal Rahman is co-founder and Muslim Sufi Minister at Interfaith Community Church and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. He recently shared a retreat weekend with a Franciscan nun at Christine Center in Willard.

The book is available from Amazon, and is \$16.99 retail (paperback) All are welcome to the group, even if you haven't read the book.

–Janet Wolfe



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200 S Lincoln Avenue

Marshfield, WI 54449

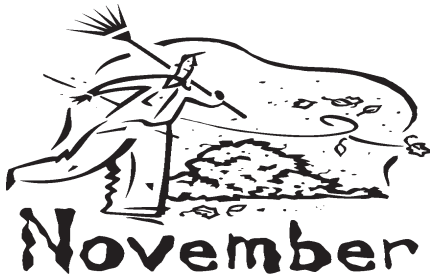
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Marshfield, WI 54449

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**Our Mission**

“First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin, seeks to welcome all to join us on our journey of faith, denying no one, based upon his or her particular human condition, participation in the life of the church. We want to be a safe place, a sanctuary where people are accepted, included, and cared for as they are. We will be agents of God’s transforming power, aligning ourselves with the Holy Spirit as we pray, worship, learn, share fellowship and serve together. By attending to the love of Jesus Christ in our midst, we discover a deepening faith that makes a difference in our lives. As a community based on God’s love, we strive to be of service to our neighbors and to the world.”

Children's Ministry Update



Mid-High (Grades 6-8)

This year's mid-high students (grades 6-8) will be using PC (USA) We Believe® FAQ: Faithfully Asking Questions curriculum. This curriculum connects faith questions collected from Presbyterian youth with questions from *The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*. Young people will bring their questions to the Bible and learn to navigate Scripture as they address issues of life and faith.

Elementary (Kindergarten –Grade 5)



Buzz makes Sunday school fun for kids because they experience Bible truths in ways they enjoy and understand. Buzz is more than a written lesson-it's an interactive experience! Kids will learn in whatever way fits their style-whether that's reading, acting, drawing, listening, singing, playing a game, and more. And kids can't wait to get started because they make choices throughout the lesson.

Merci ☞ Thank You ☞ Gracias

A special THANK YOU to:

Dolores Aue
Kristin Gerndt
Tracy Olson
Katie Olszewski
Cathy Schneider

April Daul
Christy Rens
Danielle Brooks
Josh Olson

We wouldn't be able to have Sunday School without your dedication and time! Thank you!

HELP WANTED

Be an ACTIVE part of Children's Ministry at FPC! We are always looking for teachers for our kindergarten thru 2nd grade and also for our 3rd thru 5th grade classes. If you are interested but still a little nervous about it, come and see what we are all about. You are always welcome to shadow our teachers and review the curriculum prior to teaching. We are always looking for exciting, caring teachers!!!



November Schedule

11/6	Shortened time (10:30-11:00) due to stewardship potluck at 11:00
11/13	Sunday School
11/20	Advent Festival
11/27	No Sunday School

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 8:15 CROP Walk Mtg 10:00 Staff Mtg 1:00 Membership Cmt Mtg	2 9:00 M/M 12:00 Bible Study 4:15 Worship Cmt Mtg 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Chancel Choir	3 7:00 Deacons Mtg	4 4:00-8:00 PEO Pie Making	5
6 9:30 Worship/Comm 11:00 Stewardship Celebration Potluck	7 3-9 Suzuki Lessons 5:30 M/M	8 10:00 Staff Mtg 2:00-5:00 Wood County Flu Shot Clinic	9 9:00 M/M 12:00 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Joint Youth Groups 7:00 Chancel Choir	10 9:30 Inner City Circle at FPC	11	12 PRESBYTERY MEETING IN APPLETON
13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 SS/AF/ Confirmation Class 6:30 Boy Scouts	14 3-9 Suzuki Lessons 5:30 M/M	15 10:00 Staff Mtg 1:00 Outreach Cmt Mtg 6:00 CE Cmt Mtg	16 9:00 M/M 12:00 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Middle School Youth Group 7:00 Chancel Choir	17 9:00 Open Book Group at Janet Wolfe's	18 9:00 PEO Sorting/ Packing	19
20 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Confirmation Class 10:30 Hanging of the Greens/Lunch	21 3-9 Suzuki Lessons 5:30 M/M 5:30 Building/Grounds Cmt Mtg 6:30 Green Team Cmt Mtg	22 10:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Session Mtg	23 No Youth Group Meetings	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	25 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship NO SS/AF 6:30 Boy Scouts	28 3-9 Suzuki Classes 5:30 M/M	29 10:00 Staff Mtg	30 9:00 M/M 12:00 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 6:30 SH Youth Group 7:00 Chancel Choir			

2011