

EV First Press

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CEDAR GROVE, WISCONSIN

Loving the Lord our God with all our heart... Loving our neighbors as ourselves...
And introducing the world to Jesus Christ; Son of God and Savior of all mankind.

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From the Pastor's Desk...

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. Revelation 1:1-3 (ESV)

Revelation. Just the mere mention of the name of the last book of the Bible brings out a multitude of feelings in people, not least of who are Christians. Feelings range from fear, misunderstanding, and a shrugging of the shoulders, as if to say, "Who knows what Revelation is even saying?"

Some take a confident position by coolly explaining what all of the symbolism within the book entails. Some have centered their whole ministries on just this one book of God's Word. To sum up the responses to Revelation, we have fear and neglect of the Book on one side and over-confidence on the other.

I believe there is a middle ground. I believe that Revelation is a book that is full of prophecy (some fulfilled, some yet to be fulfilled), but that it is also a letter of warning and encouragement to the 1st Century churches addressed in Chapters 2-3 as well as a warning and encouragement to the church today. Revelation is full of mystery and full of hope. We would do well to embrace the hope where it is obvious and ask for the Lord's wisdom as we ponder the mystery.

One thing is sure, as is stated in Revelation 1:3: *"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near."*

These opening lines to John's most infamous writing encourage us as believers to Read, to Hear, and to Keep God's Word. With that in mind, let us open Revelation together each Sunday and pray for the Lord's understanding of His Holy Word.

Grace upon Grace,

Justin

Sunday Morning Services:

Sunday School – for all ages..... 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship..... 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service..... 10:00 a.m.
Prayer Fellowship..... 11:30 a.m.

Meetings and Programs:

Tuesday, May 1 Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Friday, May 4 Pine Haven Women’s Auxiliary Craft & Bake Sale 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 17 Old Fashioned Hymn Sing 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 19 Mother-Daughter Luncheon (see details inside) 11:00 a.m.
Monday, May 21 Pine Haven Auxiliary Fund Raiser – Pizza Ranch, Oostburg 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 27 Communion Worship 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 29 Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, June 1 Evangelical Presbyterian Church Explorer Class 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 2 Evangelical Presbyterian Church Explorer Class (part 2) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 3 Informational Congregational Meeting following the morning service 11:15 a.m.
Saturday, June 9 Women’s Fellowship – Visit to the Wreath Factory and Lunch 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 10 Fellowship Lunch and Kickball game – see details inside 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, June 16 Father-Son Breakfast (see details inside) 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 19 Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic at Amsterdam Park – more details to follow

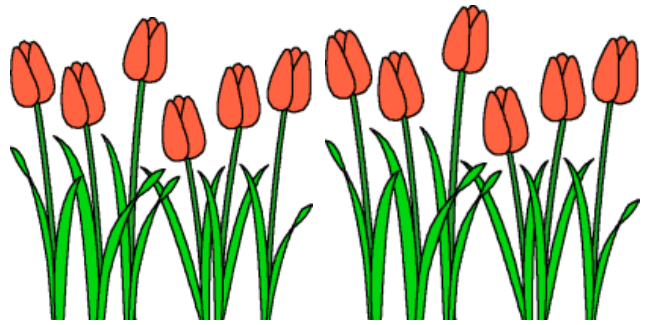
Prayer Requests:

Pam (Huenink) Steffens – had surgery April 30th

Ernie Dietrich

Jerry Brassler

Barbara Roth



Thank You!

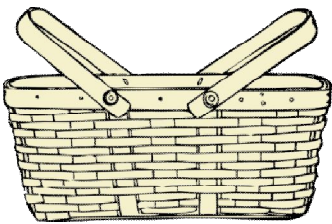
Thank you to everyone that took part in the Ken Ten Haken Appreciation Luncheon. Special thanks to those who helped in the kitchen and brought desserts in.

Mother-Daughter Luncheon

The annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon will be Saturday, May 19th at 11:00 a.m. in the Dining Room. After a delicious lunch, we are happy to welcome Kate Belval in the sanctuary. All mothers, daughters, granddaughters, nieces, neighbors are welcome. Make your reservations with Tina Bahr. Cost is: Adults: \$7, ages 4 -10: \$5, 3 and under free.

Membership/Explorer Class

Do you desire to learn more about 1st EPC and what it means to be Presbyterian? On Friday, June 1st from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, June 2nd from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., an exploratory class will be offered for those desiring to know more about us. This will also be an avenue to becoming a member of 1st EPC. Please contact Pastor Justin for more details.



Fellowship Lunch and Kick Ball Game

On Sunday, June 10th we invite everyone to pack a picnic lunch and enjoy it on the lawn after the morning worship service. Pack your picnic basket, cooler or brown bag, we will provide the beverages (lemonade and water) and dessert. Bring a blanket or your lawn chairs for an afternoon of fellowship including a family friendly game of kick ball for all ages (or sit on the sideline and cheer them on).

Summer Time Story Time

This summer on Wednesday evenings, beginning June 13th at 6:30 p.m. we will have an evening story time on our front lawn. Each week, Wendy Sembler, plans to share of her favorite stories and few fun songs with the children. Some weeks may include a game or a craft too. This will be open to the community, so bring your blanket or lawn chair and invite a few neighborhood children for an evening of connecting with others from the community.

Father-Son Breakfast

Save the date: Saturday, June 16th at 8:00 a.m. and bring your sons, father, grandsons, friends, neighbors to have a delicious breakfast in the Dining Room. Jim Green from Campus Life will share some interesting stories. Cost is: Adults: \$7, ages 4- 10: \$5, 3 and under free.

Save the Date!

On Friday, April 26th and Saturday, April 27th 2013, our church will host the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery Meeting. We are very excited for the opportunity for the brothers and sisters of our growing EPC family to come to Cedar Grove. There will be many volunteer opportunities involved with the weekend and we hope that everyone will take part. **Can you help us with the planning?** Please contact an Elder if this outreach is for you.

Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship Service

On Sunday, August 19th, we will have our annual Outdoor Worship Service at Amsterdam Park followed by our church picnic. Plans will soon be underway. **Can we count on you to help?** Please contact Gary Dunn or Shelly Burns if you are interested in being on the Picnic Planning Team.



Campus Life Food Pantry Item for May - Snacks

THANK YOU for your support of Campus Life Food Pantry. Your response to the "Item of the Month" has been outstanding. In May we will be collecting non-perishable snack items – including crackers, cookies, pudding, Jello, popcorn, nuts. The collection box is under the coat rack in the front foyer. Please continue to support this ministry in our backyard.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is June 25 – 29, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Faith Reformed Church. Anyone who has completed sixth grade through 10⁶ (and beyond) is invited to help out. There are volunteer forms in the Fellowship Room for the volunteers needed to make VBS a success. Volunteers are needed for Teachers/Bible Leaders, Game Leaders, Helpers/Guides-escort groups of children between stages and Nursery. Any questions, please contact Jen Meerdink.

Activity Bags for Children

We have activity bags for children to occupy them as they sit in the Sunday morning service. They are located in the Fellowship Room and include coloring sheets, crayons, books, and squeeze toys. Please feel free to grab one for your child before the service begins.

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

The Pine Haven Auxiliary will sponsor a fund raiser at the Oostburg Pizza Ranch on Monday, May 21st, from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. All proceeds will go to benefit the residents at the three Pine Haven Communities. Please support this benefit and enjoy good food.

Facebook

Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook. Check out the church's page: **1st Evangelical Presbyterian Church**. Watch for messages, events and reminders!



Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

Please join us on Thursday, May 17th at 1:00 p.m. for hymn singing by request followed by a time of desserts and fellowship. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Per Member Asking

What is it, besides the blue envelope in your offering envelope box? Per Member Asking is the support each congregation is requested to contribute to our local Presbytery and General Assembly. The Per Member Asking funds the operations of the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery and General Assembly, including the Office of the Stated Clerk, National Outreach, Student and College Ministries, Women's Ministries, World Outreach, Financial Assistance for Small Churches (we're included) for travel to distant Presbytery meetings, as well as day to day office expenses. Each year, our church pays our allocation based on the number of active members. We ask that each member contribute their portion (\$40 - \$17 for Rivers and Lakes Presbytery, \$23 for General Assembly) in order to eliminate the expense from our budget. Per Member Asking can be contributed at any time throughout the year. If your blue envelope is missing, please label your payment clearly.

Main Floor Restroom Update

Construction has begun! We are thankful for the generous donation by the Kohler Company. They have donated the sinks, fixtures and toilet for our remodeling project. Be sure to stop by and see the progress that has been made.

Cedar Grove Senior Center Meals

Held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at First Reformed Church

Please note – May 14 program will begin at **10:15**.

May 7 - Cedar Grove-Belgium Forensics students

May 14 - K-5 Kindergarten Music **beginning at 10:15**. Rocket Choir to follow.

May 21 - Third grade music. Dietician – Mary Huenink

May 28 - Site closed.

June 4 - Jane Brill – Pine Haven

June 11 - Gerald Hendrickson – VP of sales at Willman Industries

June 18 - Music with William & Mary Hughes

June 25 - Birthday Party and games.

Call 668-6863 by Thursday for meal reservations

Rivers and Lakes Presbytery Update

A delegation from our church recently attended the Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Aurora, Illinois. There is a lot happening in our presbytery and a lot to pray for. Please keep these needs in your prayers.

- We received Presbyterian Church, Alexis, Illinois as a transfer from the PCUSA.
- Five churches have been received pending their dismissal from the PCUSA. They include: Hogarty Community Church of Aniwa, WI, United Presbyterian Church of Amberg, WI, First Presbyterian Church of Pembine, WI, Faith Presbyterian Church of Crivitz, WI and First Presbyterian Church of Waukegan, IL. They are all in different phases of talks with the PCUSA.
- Paul Heidebrecht will be moving to serve a church in Canada. Paul was very instrumental in our transition to the EPC and has been in a leadership role in our presbytery. We will be greatly missed!
- Kevin and Esther Wilson, continue to serve as our church planters in Champaign, Illinois. They are seeing growth in their church, but their financial support has decreased by 50%.

June Newsletter

The deadline for the June newsletter is Sunday, May 27th. Items and articles for the newsletter can be placed in the newsletter mailbox or emailed to Shelly Burns at shelly.burns@wi.rr.com.

Mission and Outreach

The EPC churches been challenged by the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery to become more missional. There is a lot of need in the world, both locally and internationally, and even as a church in Cedar Grove, we can make a difference. Internationally, we will continue to focus on collecting items for the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a Franklin Graham and Samaritan Purse ministry. We also plan to continue to reach out locally within our county and even in our backyard with our school district. Below is a list of what will be collected through out 2012. This way as opportunities or bargains arise, you will know what to stock up with.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Cedar Grove Belgium Elementary School has a need for adult volunteers to serve as Lunch Buddies. There are students in the elementary school that could use an adult to eat lunch with and hang out with. The time commitment is only an hour a week. While this quality time with an adult is very helpful to the students, you will find that as the volunteer, you will benefit from it too. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, contact Sally Ketterhagen, School Counselor, at 668-8518, extension 335 or by email at sketterh@cgbbsd.com.

Sharing Opportunities

May

Operation Candy Man – Last spring, Rev. Bob Price took a step of faith and entered the US Navy as a chaplain. Bob had been serving in the EPC as a pastor in Illinois. Lt. Rev. Robert Price now serves our country at the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conneticut. Recently, Bob shared with us how the Lord is working through him on the base. He is known on base as the “Candy Man” and is amazed by the conversations that can be started by a piece of chocolate. In May, in recgonition of Memorial Day, we will be collecting candy bars for Bob to use in his ministry. (The base favorites are Kit Kats and Twix)



Campus Life Food Pantry – Snack foods including Crackers, cookies, pudding, popcorn, nuts
Operation Christmas Child – Mild Bar Soap, Wash Clothes, Mid-Size cans of Play-Doh

June

Campus Life Food Pantry – Cereal – Hot or Cold
Operation Christmas Child – Toy Jewelry, Match Box Cars, Stickers

July

School Supplies for CGB School District – The Cedar Grove Belgium Elementary School continues to see a need for additional school supplies. We all understand the added expense of sending children to school. For some families it is a decision of food on the table or making sure there child has markers for school. These supplies will be kept by the school counselor for when assistance is needed. Suggested items are: Thick and Thin Washable Markers, Headphones, Dry Erase Markers and Pencils.

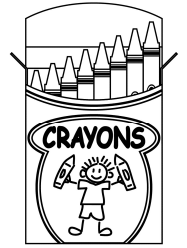
Operation Christmas Child – Pencils, Colored Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners



August

School Supplies for CGB School District – Thin and Thick Washable Markers, Headphones, Dry Erase Markers, Pencils, Notebooks (wide rule)

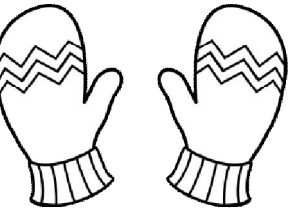
Operation Christmas Child – Crayons, Markers



September

Campus Life Food Pantry – Paper Products – Kleenex, Toilet Paper, Paper Towel

Operation Christmas Child – Pads of Paper and other items needed to complete boxes (see chart in monthly newsletter)



October

CGB Elementary School – Thick Mittens and Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Gift Cards for counselor to purchase boots, coats and snowpants for families in need.

Operation Christmas Child – Hard Candy and Gum

November

CGB Elementary School – Thick Mittens and Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Gift Cards for counselor to purchase boots, coats and snowpants for families in need.

Campus Life Food Pantry - Soup



December

Tree of Hope – Each week of Advent we will be collecting Baby Care items for Mary's Room. Mary's Room is a non-profit Christian organization that supplies the hospitals in Sheboygan with layettes and Bibles for low income families and offers follow up support. Items to be collected will include: New Receiving Blankets, New Sleepers and Onesies (sizes Newborn – 6 months), Diapers, Baby Food and Formula, Wipes, Bath Products.

Operation Christmas Child		
Collection		
	Goal	Collected
Shoe Boxes	25	4
March: Toothpaste	25	30+
Toothbrushes	25	30
April: Combs	25	24
Barrettes/hair ties	13	7
Small Nerf Balls	12	8
May: Mild Bar Soap	25	2
Wash Clothes	25	0
Playdoh - mid size	25	0
June: Toy Jewelry	13	0
Matchbox Cars	12	0
Stickers	25	0
July: Pencils	50	0
Colored Pencils	25	0
Pencil Sharpeners	25	0
August: Crayons	25	0
Markers	25	0
September: Pads of Paper	25	0
Missing Items	25	0
October: Hard Candy	25	0
Gum	25	0



May Schedules

	NURSERY	GREETER	BULLETIN
May 6	Mary Lewis	John & Barb Te Grotenhuis	Dara Ledbeter
May 13	Julie Pinnow	Ken Ten Haken	Amy Yurske
May 20	Connie Dekker	Jan Koput	Dara Ledbeter
May 27	Sharon Huenink	Carl Huenink	Amy Yurske

May Birthdays

- 3 – Barb Te Grotenhuis
- 7 – Riley Sembler
- 18 – Dudley Ramaker
- 22 – Marge Ramaker
- 23 – Olivia Bahr
- 29 – Larry Te Ronde, Marisa Underhill