

On Sunday morning, the “Booking Thru the Bible” study group grappled with how we understand the Holy Spirit. Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church give all of us, young and old, a place to deepen the faith that feeds us, and feeds others. Thank you for giving.

Your giving to First Presbyterian Church supports our presbytery’s partnership with Urabá Presbytery in Colombia — where it’s dangerous to be Presbyterian. You uphold our shared faith with your gifts. Thank you!

What a joy it was to learn from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine on Sunday! Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church make our congregation's exceptional Christian education program possible. Thank you for giving.

Those of you who attended the 10:15 service on Sunday had the joy of seeing a smiling baptismal candidate literally splish-splashing in the font. Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church leave children and adults like her awash in the Holy Spirit. Thank you for living your baptismal promise through your giving.

When you give to First Presbyterian Church, you invest in discipleship, love, connection, joy and comfort. Thank you for following Christ’s call to be salt for the earth and light for the world.

Your giving to First Presbyterian makes our shared ministry possible. Come learn more at this Sunday’s congregational meeting at 11:15 a.m.!

At the Community Table last Saturday, after learning that First Presbyterian was the serving group, a guest approached one of our volunteers to thank her and us. He told her that the Christmas dinner he had here at First Presbyterian was the best meal he ever had in his life. Thank you to all who helped with that meal; you are appreciated. Way to go, First Presbyterian!

Have you ever seen the lamb on the center stained glass window in the Nave balcony? It’s hidden behind a pew back – and it’s beautiful! The 4th and 5th grade Sunday school “disciples” found it this weekend on a

hunt for lambs and doves as they studied the Gospel reading from John – “Behold the Lamb of God” and “The Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove.” You make young disciples with your financial support of First Presbyterian Church. *Thank you!*

Nothing makes a house a home like love. You have poured lots of love into a new Habitat for Humanity home this winter through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for giving to First Presbyterian and for believing in the power of love!

Your gifts to First Presbyterian help make a joyful noise unto the Lord. From Cherub Choir singers to adult ringers, a thriving music program takes your commitment, energy and money. Thank you for giving (I'd sing it if I could!).

Happy 2013! Here's to another year of faith-fostering community made possible by your gifts to First Presbyterian.

Consider the Lilies: It is easy to take for granted countless gifts. These abundant blessings and material benefits are everywhere, yet fear and anxiety for things stand in the way of spiritual growth. Only faith can correct this undue concern for material needs. *Words Eternal*

Are you 70½ or older? Did you know that the fiscal cliff deal included an "IRA to Charity" clause that lets you distribute up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity through Jan. 31, 2013, and count it on your 2012 tax return? Contact your financial advisor or finance manager Laurie Stafford (725-4391) for details.

The sunflower from any position, and at any time of day, turns its face toward the sun; admonishing all people to focus attention upon God. This will then be a life of love which can make true neighbors of all people. *Words Eternal*

For I Am Persuaded: Paul was a man of power, a pillar of strength. His was a colorful personality. His faith was a living thing, growing

stronger as he reached upward and outward. He spent his life teaching and giving of his energies. Through this, the heart of the man is revealed. Words Eternal

Where there's a will, there's a way. (Pun intended.) But please do remember First Presbyterian.

Do something heartfelt: sign up to volunteer at the "Volunteer from the Heart" table. You'll find it every Sunday to the left of the Church Parlor entrance.

Compliments to the chef(s)! First Pres has the best of all! The Progressive Dinner and Wonderful Wednesdays attest to that. Huge thanks to all who help make the delicious meals happen.

As we continue our observance of Lent, may we ponder what we, as individuals, can contribute to the Body of Christ, His church.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

On a recent Wednesday I walked toward the back door of the church, through the courtyard, with my daughters. Three steps in the door I felt a great wave of thankfulness wash over me as I felt the warmth of the building, smelled the delicious dinner cooking in the kitchen, and heard the bustle of young and old alike getting ready to spend time in fellowship and learning. First Presbyterian Church has nurtured me and my whole family, and I am so very grateful to call this church home.

Sarah Moore-Nokes

Let's be good stewards of the earth. Here in Neenah, God has blessed us with the stark beauty of the frozen lake and the bald eagles gliding powerfully around Kimberly Point. Let's protect this. Purchase Fair

Trade coffee here at church. Share a ride. Reduce landfills by donating items to charity. Just like prayers, all the little things add up to much!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church make it possible for generations of people to experience the miracle of the resurrection. Thank you for giving.

A baby is baptized. The baby grows into a 10-year-old Sunday school student. The 10-year-old grows into a SPY mission trip participant. The mission trip participant grows into a SPY advisor. The SPY advisor marries in the church. The young married person has a baby who is baptized in the church. The cycle begins anew. Lives change. The world is changed. This is what your gifts to First Presbyterian do. Thank you for giving!

In Wee Worship on Sunday, 22 kids ages 3 to 7 were spellbound by two wooden figures making their way down the road to Emmaus, unwittingly in the company of the risen Christ. Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church let young and old alike be spellbound again and again by the miracles, large and small, of our Christian faith. Thank you for giving!

How you use your money says a lot about what you value. When you remember First Presbyterian Church in your will, you tell your children, your grandchildren and your church family that your faith made a difference in your life.

First Presbyterian Church is a sacred gift given to us by the saints who came before us here. Your financial support of the church ensures that their steadfast faith is remembered and their priceless legacy lives on. Thank you for giving.

God is a giver. When you give, you grow to be more like God. Thank you for being a divine presence in our church and in our world.

Beloved priest and author Henri Nouwen eschews the world's scarcity mentality to embrace an abundance mentality: "When we live with this mind-set, we will see the miracle that what we give away multiplies: food, knowledge, love ... everything. There will even be

many leftovers.” Thank you for multiplying God's gifts to you through your giving.

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:5 (NLT)*

Summer is fast approaching and all you dedicated Sunday School teachers can take a much deserved breather. And the rest of us say “thank you” for a job well done and much appreciated.

Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you. Lynn A. Miller, author

It's never too early to teach your children about the tool of money. Teach them how to work for it and they learn pride and self-respect. Teach them how to save it and they learn security and self-worth. Teach them how to be generous with it and they learn love. *Judith Jamison (1943-), African-American dancer and choreographer*

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. *Martin Luther*

Real charity doesn't care if it's tax deductible or not. Anonymous

For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of sound mind. 1 Timothy 1:1-7

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

What wonderful music our organist, Daniel, played on Sunday, his second-to-last weekend with us. Your gifts to First Presbyterian enrich our worship with soul-stirring music. Thank you for giving . . . and don't miss this Sunday, your last chance to enjoy Daniel's talent.

Pierce Huxtable, who grew up in this church, gave a phenomenal sermon on Sunday. Thank you to all of you for your giving, which fosters strong faith in young people like him -- faith that in turn inspires us!

Thanks to your financial support of First Presbyterian Church, 10 souls from our congregation were able to serve in Hortonville on Friday, helping clean up after the devastating tornados in that community. (They left the church at 6:30 a.m. with the Mission Response Trailer in tow!) Your giving to the church makes a difference in the broader community.

Sunday school teachers, youth group advisors and Bible study leaders are happily preparing for the 2013-14 church year. Thanks to your gifts to First Presbyterian Church, people of all ages are learning what it means to love God and to live as Jesus taught us to do. You are shaping lives for the better with your giving!

As summer winds down and the academic year begins, our congregation's young people will head back to school with kind, caring hearts thanks to the faith formation they receive at First Presbyterian Church. Your financial gifts to the church make their faith formation possible. Thank you for giving!

Your church family loves you! And you love your church family. When you give to First Presbyterian Church, you invest in love for those within our walls and those outside them. Thank you!

Have you signed up for this fall's Habitat build? Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church help house those in need of a place to call home. Thank you for giving.

Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church help low-income students at Neenah's Wilson Elementary School stay energetic and ready to learn through the Snack Pack Program. Thank you for giving!

JOY and SPY junior and senior high youth groups kicked off last weekend. Your financial support of First Presbyterian Church helps young people come together to find their identity as Christians. Thank you for giving!

Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church helped make it possible for our congregation to give nearly \$100,000 in competitive grants to local, regional and worldwide nonprofits in 2013. Read more about the recipients in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall. Thank you for giving!

Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church create a loving space in which we can gather as we learn to live, work, walk and minister as the living Body of Christ. Thank you for your financial support.

When one person is thoughtful to another, the thoughtfulness gets carried on and on. It is like a river of kindness, once blocked by rocks, that is suddenly opened by a single person's kind thought or act. The river runs freely again, and continues to flow, moving more rocks and reaching the hearts of others. *Mattie Stepanek, author*

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I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. *Martin Luther*

When one person is thoughtful to another, the thoughtfulness gets carried on and on. Soon, we could have a whole ocean of friendships, and that's how the world was created, and how it should always be. *Mattie Stepanek, author*

Our pastors and session members have pledged more than \$55,000 to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian in 2014 — an 8% increase over last year. Will you join them in taking a leap of faith with your giving? Bring your commitment card to worship at 10:15 a.m. this Sunday, then rejoice with your church family at the Celebration Lunch immediately following the service.

Great worship, great preaching, great food and great company all made Commitment Sunday and the Celebration Lunch a wonderful time – and

testament to the abundant gratitude, generosity and joy at First Presbyterian Church.

A heartfelt thanks to the Stewardship Committee for making it happen: Laura Gallaher for organizing a delicious meal, Judy Angermeyer for setting the scene with beautiful center-pieces, Chris Mings for keeping the buffet stocked, and Harvey Lorenz for dish-drying prowess. We're also grateful to those who helped clean up, especially Mick Horswill, Linda Gomez, the Westphal, Zickler and Gallaher families, Deb Paul-Speech, Sue Mings and Paul Huxtable.

At this time of thanksgiving, First Presbyterian Church is grateful for YOU! You have given of your time, talent and treasure all year, and many of you

have pledged your support for the year to come. Thank you!

If you'd like a convenient way to meet your pledge or would like to make a special gift before the end of 2013, you can give online or via electronic funds transfer. For more information on the latter, call Finance & HR Coordinator Laurie Stafford (725-4391).

“This country cannot afford to be materially rich and spiritually poor.”

John F. Kennedy

The goodness of lunch and brunch and cookies . . . The magnificence of singing and ringing and music . . . The beauty of lights and sights and greens. Many talents, joyfully shared. THANK YOU ALL!

Christmas: a time to celebrate the joy of giving. We are blessed.

Rejoice!

Pledge! Pledge! Pledge! It's more than furniture polish. If you haven't already, please do!

Happy New Year! In 2014, we mark the 60th anniversary of worship in the nave. Your financial support of First Presbyterian helps others find God, follow Christ and encounter the Holy Spirit in a sacred space that's shaped faith for generations. Thank you for upholding our storied past and bringing about our faithful future.

Got five seconds? That's all it takes to get a dose of stewardship. Watch this space each week for inspiring words on giving!

The fragrance always remains on the hand that gives the rose. --Mahatma Gandhi

Your gifts to First Presbyterian teach kids about mission. The Fellowship Hall was abuzz last Wednesday as Youth Alive made 15 fleece blankets for Harbor House residents. Thank you for giving!

Your gifts connect the generations in faith. Our K – 5th grade Sunday school class recently decorated and illustrated scripture books that the Deacons will deliver to homebound church members this month. Thank you for giving!

TO GIVE: *by Mother Maria de Jesus Ortiz Balderas*

I can give.

I was born to give.

I realize it.

I have much to give from what is inside of me.

Read more of this poem at www.santajulia.org.

Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine: the creation of a community of love in this world and beyond this world; because wherever love grows, it is stronger than death. – *Henry Nouwen*

Giving to the church through your will is the most common way to continue your support beyond your lifetime. When you prepare your estate, please consider a gift to the church.

Lent is a time to reflect on our relationship with God. We are called to focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in our Lenten stewardship.

“Your light must shine before all so that they may see goodness in your acts.” *Matthew 5:16*

“Do not neglect good deeds and generosity. God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.” *Hebrews 13:16*

During Holy Week, as we reflect upon our own faith and relationship with God, let us also ponder what we can do to give back.

AWESOME! Our celebration of Easter was magnificent because so many of us shared our God-given gifts. THANK YOU!

When planning your estate, add this question to your list of decisions you need to make: “What shall I return to the Lord for all the Lord has given to me?”

Stewardship opens an avenue of thought that allows us to give without always questioning what we will get in return.

Every one of us is talented in some way. Stewardship encourages us to use any talent we have to benefit an individual, the Church, or the community.

“Helping others is a healthy habit to develop, no matter what circumstances you may be going through. While your focus is on blessing other people, you’ll find that God blesses you in a wide variety of ways.”

Whitney Hopley, crosswalk.com, writer

“We have become, by the power of a glorious evolutionary accident called intelligence, the stewards of life’s continuity on earth. We did not

ask for this role, but we cannot abjure it. We may not be suited to it, but here we are.” *Steven Jay Gould, paleontologist*

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.” *Iroquois*

“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.” *Maya Angelou*

“It’s amazing what you can accomplish when you don’t care who gets the credit.” *Harry Truman*

“Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do.” *Kahlil Gibran*

Your financial support throughout the year made it possible for 25 high school students to learn the meaning of service during this week’s SPY mission trip to Winnipeg. Thank you for your giving!

Once upon a time, hundreds of people shared their time, talent and treasure with each other so that together they could bring about the kingdom of God. Thank you for being one of those hundreds of people!

On a perfect 75-degree evening last Thursday, the CE Board met under the crabapple tree while their children played hopscotch in the courtyard. Your gifts to First Pres make our grounds a haven for members, inviting to newcomers, and frolic-friendly for children. Thank you for giving!

While you relax and enjoy the summer, the Adult Ed Task Force is hard at work planning the 2012-13 Sunday school schedule. Your giving helps guide the faith journeys of adults, as well as children. Thanks for your support!

Your financial support of First Presbyterian builds a faith home for nearly 900 church members. Soon your gifts will help build a Habitat home for a family of seven. Your giving makes a difference in many lives.

At the last session meeting, a new church member said that the first time she came to First Pres, she left with her jaw hanging open because the sermon was so good. Your gifts make it possible for us to enjoy jaw-dropping sermons every Sunday – sermons that lead us to live as Christ would have us do. Thank you for your giving.

Who knew powdered sugar donuts held the power to create community? Your gifts to First Pres keep the coffee brewing and the goodies stocked, encouraging all to linger after worship on Sundays. It's Christian fellowship we can carry with us when we go. Thank you for giving.

Community Table: Our time, talent and treasure all at work.

Time: very well spent.

Talent: planning, organizing, preparing.

Treasure: buying ingredients.

We share it all thankfully.

Money is a great treasure that only increases as you give it away.

Lord Francis Bacon

You can give to support the mission of our church and still retain many benefits of thoughtful charitable planning, one of the few discretionary ways to control taxable income.

It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.

Richard Braunstein

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill

What a lively morning Sunday was! Rally Day got kids and adults alike thinking about 4G Faith. Your giving helps all of us grow into our God-

given gifts and full-power discipleship. Thank you for giving.

Your gifts to First Presbyterian Church help provide 50 students at Hoover Elementary a healthy snack pack every Friday so they won't be hungry over the weekend. Learn more at www.neenahsnackpack.org. Thank you for making a difference in our community.

Feeling that morality has nothing to do with the way you use the resources of the world is an idea that can't persist much longer. If it does, then we won't. *Barbara Kingsolver*

Stewardship means being good managers of the resources that we have earned and that life has given us. As good stewards we know that when we choose to spend our time or money there are always opportunities foregone. We consider our choices and we use our resources in keeping with our values and life mission. *Author unknown*

Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship – saying thanks to God, expressing your love and concern for family and showing charity toward others.

Adding First Presbyterian Church as a beneficiary of your retirement plan funds can be as simple as filling out a change-of-address form. It could mean a large gift for First Presbyterian Church without affecting your family's financial security.

Give a gift that keeps on giving. Consider a memorial gift to the First Presbyterian Church endowment.

Since my money is God's money, every spending decision I make is a spiritual decision. *Author John Hagee*

Your gifts to First Presbyterian help children grow in faith so they can

carry on the work of bringing about God's kingdom. Thank you for giving.

The Fellowship Hall was filled with some 250 happy faces during Sunday's Celebration Lunch. What had everyone smiling? The delicious lasagna? Or the joy of giving? Maybe it was a little of both. Thank you for your gifts, which bring us together to bring about God's kingdom.

Your gifts to First Presbyterian create a community of faith, hope and love. On Thanksgiving and always, thank you for giving.

When remembering First Presbyterian Church in your will, you support our shared ministry for generations to come. Thank you for considering a legacy gift.

Your financial gifts to First Presbyterian Church give your church family access to meaningful, moving worship, like the December 5 Taizé service. Thank you for your giving.

When you fulfill your financial pledge to First Presbyterian Church, you keep your promise to support our mission and to educate our youth in faith. Thank you for reviewing your 2012 giving, and for making possible many wonderful ministries in the past 12 months.

Your gifts to First Presbyterian give us and others a place to gather as we struggle to make sense of terrible tragedy. Thank you for your belief in bringing God's love to a world that desperately needs it.

Christ is born! Thanks to your giving to First Presbyterian, we celebrated the birth of Christ with wonderful song, in the glow of candlelight. You make uplifting worship possible with your gifts.

