

# First United Presbyterian Church

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Suzanne Gorhau

Secretary/Treasurer: Dianna Essington

**December 2016**

## Upcoming Events:

### Midshipmen

Sun. Dec 4

@ 6pm Oinkers

bring \$2 gift

### Advent Study

Wed. Dec 7 & 14

Dinner @ 6:15pm

Youth & Adult Study

@ 6:45pm

### Children's

#### Program &

#### Confirmation

Sun. Dec 11

during worship

### Presbyterian

#### Women

Mon. Dec. 19

@ 1:30pm

### Session

Mon. Dec. 19

@ 7pm

### Christmas Eve

#### Service

Sat. Dec 24

@ 7pm



## Saying Goodbye and Saying Hello

by Pastor Suzanne

Saying goodbye to people you love is hard. Of course I've known I was going to leave this church for quite a while. I'm an interim pastor. That's what interim pastors do. But it really hit me when Brad May was giving the Pastor Nominating Committee report at session several months ago. He said the PNC was going to be interviewing a candidate soon. I realized I needed to be looking for another job. I told my husband Frank, and he said, "That's what you signed up for." Well, yes, but it's one thing to know it in theory, and another to experience it. As Brad and MaryJo and I discussed, being an interim pastor is kind of like being a foster parent. (And I have found another job. Starting January 2, I'll be the interim pastor for the Oakland-Sharon and the Carson Presbyterian Churches.)

**Christmas Day Service**  
Sun. Dec 25  
@ 10am fellowship hall  
(Suzanne's last Sunday)

**January 1 Service**  
Sun. Jan 1  
@ 10am Methodist Church

**Taking Down Decorations**  
@ Presbyterian Church

Sun. Jan 1  
after worship at Methodist Church  
(pizza for lunch!)

**Rachelle's first Sunday!** January 8

- Wear your nametags! New pastors want to learn your names, but most of us can't remember everybody's name the first time we hear it.
- Know that Rachelle will do things differently than I did and differently than Holly did. Give her grace.
- When my home church was welcoming a new intern, we gave her a coupon for a meal with us. That way she knew we wanted to take her to lunch (or have her over for dinner), but she was able to "redeem the coupon" when it worked for her schedule.
- I would like to make a welcome video (if I can learn how to use the microphone for my camera) for Rachelle and her family. I can record you saying your name and saying welcome. That way she can watch it and it will help her get to know you.
- Pray for them. It's hard to move, to say goodbye to friends and familiar surroundings, and come to a new place. Especially the kids. Pray that the move will go well, and the whole family will adjust to their new lives.

So it's time to say goodbye. Healthy churches do a good job of saying goodbye and a good job of saying hello. And interim pastors get to help with that. Saying goodbye means looking at this past year and being thankful for all we've done together. Saying goodbye is realizing that my role is changing. I will no longer be your pastor, so I can't come back to do weddings or funerals, pastoral care, or help with the youth group. Rachelle will be your pastor, and she needs the space to develop that relationship with you. But saying goodbye means we'll still be friends, we'll still be brothers and sisters in Christ, and we'll still have a place in each other's heart.

And it's time to say hello to Rachelle and her family. I'm sure the PNC is planning ways to welcome them to Atlantic and to the church. But I'll suggest a few.

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## Taking Down the Decorations

Midshipmen will meet at the United Presbyterian Church on Sunday, January 1, at 11:00 a.m. after the combined church service at the Methodist Church that morning. We will take down the Christmas decorations and purge decorations that need to be replaced. Presbyterian Women has offered to purchase new decorations at post Christmas sales after we make recommendations as to what is needed. We invite other church members interested in helping to join us. Hosts Bev and Gaylord Schelling will provide pizza lunch for those helping with the project. Hope to see you there!



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## The Quilters

The Quilting group of the United Presbyterian Church has been an entity since 1972. We have met at the loft in the basement twice a week since then. That is a lot of stitches and a lot of quilts. We have had joy in preserving antique quilts, in making baby quilts, in completing works of art and in knowing even the most ordinary quilt will keep someone warm. And with the money we earned, we have had joy in providing things for our church such as office equipment and the three stoves in the kitchen, helping teens with scholarships for travel/study and perhaps a warm coat. Right now we are saving to help with the expense of the new front doors.

For many years there were 8 to 15 people working on quilts and they have all passed on. Over 40 years later there are 1 to 3, and we have been torn with questions. Should we call it quits or are there people within our church that could help keep this craft alive? It is not a hard skill to learn to make the stitches and there is always conversation, the fellowship of working together and having teatime afterwards.

More quilters are needed if we are to continue.



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## Prayer List

### Heritage House:

Nelda Teague  
Louise Hunt  
Barb Drake  
Don Andersen  
Dick Cook  
Don Deter  
Phil & Trena Chinitz  
Maxine Lyon

### Atlantic Nursing and Rehab:

Calvin & Mary Ellen Knop

### At Home:

Jane Schwartz  
Colleen Rhodes  
Dwight Will  
Debbie Hunt Repp (MS)  
Ashley Bisson (Cindy Will's  
granddaughter)  
Richard Smith (Linda Robinson's father)  
Paul McAfee (friend of the Spillers) Mike  
Schmid (Megan Magill Schmid's father-in-  
law)  
Rev. Tom Wheeler (First Baptist minister)  
Sarah Highfill (Jan and David Highfill's  
daughter)  
Bruce Teague (Nelda Teague's son)  
Amanda Shouse (Spillers' daughter-in-law)

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

8 Sally Rosales  
12 Tanya Essington  
13 Deb Church  
21 Lisa Ward Sontag  
24 Brad May  
28 Brian Church  
Jennifer Simonton  
29 Barry Joseph Robinson

### Anniversaries

1 Jim & Mary Sue Shannon  
20 Floyd & Anne Williams  
23 Mike & Kathy Henningsen  
28 Roger & Sharon Herring

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## Committees

**Mission and Outreach:** Alan Robinson (co-chair), Bettie Siggins (co-chair) Dave Best, Kerry Barrett

**Worship and Music:** Dwight Grantham (chair), Bev Moffatt, Brad May, Dianna Essington, Virginia Conklin, Ramona Knop, Lloyd Reeder

**Christian Ed:** Merrie Ann Sloth (chair), Margo Magill, Deb Church, Connor Church, Matt Westphalen, Paige Williams

**Fellowship and Membership:** Brad May (chair), Cindy Will, Mary Jo May, Rachel Merkel

**Stewardship and Finance:** Mike Henningsen, Alan Robinson

**Property/Safety & Security:** Fred Kay (chair), Brad May, Delbert Westphalen, Mike Henningsen, Norm Templeman

**Personnel:** Sherry Templeman (chair), Bev Schelling (at-large member), Cindy Will, Scott Robinson, Merrie Ann Sloth

**Nominating:** Bev Moffatt, Alan Robinson, Dave Best, Margo Magill (at-large member), Jane Kay (at-large member)

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## November Session Highlights

- The Mission Committee will be doing the Mitten Tree and Adopt-A-Family in December.
- We'll receive the Christmas Joy Offering the Sunday before Christmas, and the Christmas Eve offering will go the McKean Rehabilitation Hospital in Thailand.
- We'll be worshipping with the United Methodist Church on Sunday, January 1.
- The Christian Education Committee is working on the Children's Christmas Program for Sunday, December 11.
- Bev Moffatt gave a report on the Presbytery meeting. She was also elected commissioner for the February Presbytery meeting.
- Vacation was approved for Pastor Suzanne the last week of December.