

## "I can't!" we claim.

Honestly, though, it's not that we can't...it's that we won't.

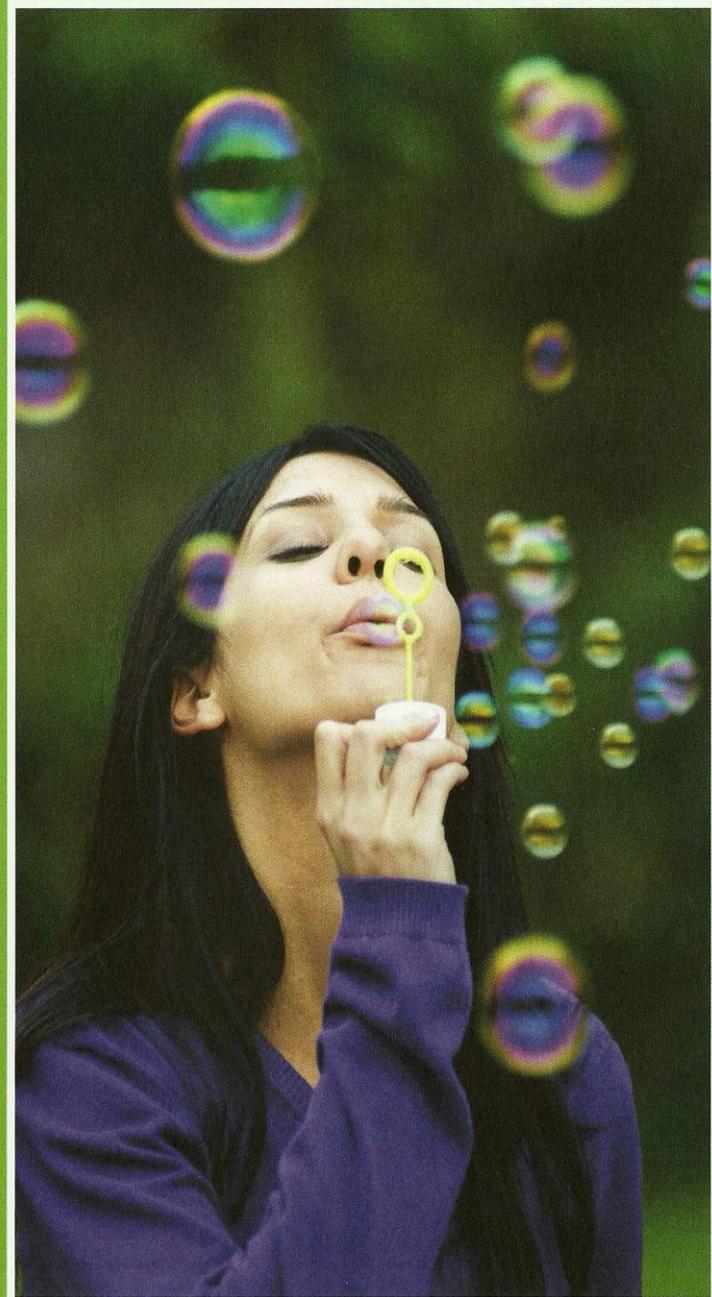
We refuse to forgive, choosing instead to hold on to bitterness and resentment. The problem is, refusing to forgive is like the old saying: "It's like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." When we refuse to forgive, we are the ones who suffer.

Joseph forgives his brothers and says, "What you intended for evil, God has used for good." He is able to forgive because he focuses on God and not on those who have hurt him.

"Forgive and forget" is what we are often told, but it's almost impossible to forget hurtful things that happen to us. Forgiveness isn't about forgetting what has happened. Forgiveness is about *choosing* not to remember the sins others have committed against us. It's about letting go of bitterness and resentment and freeing ourselves from their destructive power.

The choice is ours. Will we focus on those who have hurt us? Or on God who forgives us our sins and asks us to do the same?

The Rev. Paula Hamilton serves in team ministry with her husband,  
The Rev. Dr. Tom Hamilton, at St. Mark's Charlottetown and  
St. Columba, Marshfield, PE.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 14, 2014

14th Sunday after Pentecost / Communion Service

Please stand at items marked \* if you are able.  
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison  
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist - Carol Wehrstedt Music Director- Kendall House

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Introit

\* Entry of the Bible

Call to Worship

\* Hymn: "Follow me, the Master said"

#645

Opening Prayer:

**Holy, wonderful, and loving God: your presence and love fill the universe. You take darkness and give us light. You take our grief and work to bring acceptance. You take our strife and make peace. You take our fatigue and give strength. You take our fear and give courage. We confess the truth of your nature and the nature of our lives. You are joy-filled, but we harbor judgments; you are gracious but we are often grumpy; you are kind but we are often cruel in large and small ways. You are forgiving and yet we are often too fearful to give up the grudges we bear. Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Time

Choir Anthem: "Come to the Water"

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see: open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!



## Prayer Concerns:

Marie Huffman (Roseview)  
and her granddaughter, Bronwyn

Gale Munn

## NOTICE

**TO:** All committees and user groups

**RE:** Preparation of the Annual Operating Budget (Operations Policy Directive BM#2)

To ensure the development and approval of the annual operating budget in a timely and effective manner, all committees and user groups must submit their request for operating budget funding requirements for the year 2015 to the Board of Managers no later than September 30, 2014.

The Presbytery Camp Committee wishes to thank all those who provided support to the summer camp program. Whether it was a gift of your time or talents or a gift of money or supplies, it all help the kids to experience an amazing week. Thank you!

As per the write-up in the Fall Newsletter, the Asante Choir will be performing at 1st Pres. on Saturday, September 27th at 4 pm. Donation offering goes to Choir.



## Upcoming More than Muffin sale

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28th  
after service.



The October Tea is fast approaching. Pending approval from Session I would like it to be on October 18th. It will be a dessert tea from 1:30 to 3:30. Deb Broll is in charge of the Silent Auction, bring your prize finds to her.

Please plan your nice desserts. A Sign-up sheet will be posted the 1st of October in the greeting hall of the church. Thanks again to everyone's help in this fund raiser.

Kathleen Noy, 473-9309



**Thank you this week to:**

**Greeters:** Betty Irwin and Betty Irving  
**Lay Reader:** Leslie Shaw  
**Fellowship Time:** Muriel MacDonald and Leila Pettigrew  
**Elevator Operator:** Laird Morrison  
**Offering Counting:** Ruth George, Betty Ann Burn, Beth Workman  
**Offering Collection:** Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor  
**Phoning/Visiting:**

**Next week's volunteers: Sept. 21st**

**Greeters:** Betty Irwin and Betty Irving  
**Lay Reader:** Evelyn Konrad  
**Fellowship Time:** Val Calder and Isobel Telford  
**Elevator Operator:** Terry Stein  
**Offering Counting:** Joyce Nystrom and Brenda Snowdon-Seabrook  
**Offering Collection:** Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor  
**Phoning/Visiting:**

**Grass Cutting:**

Sept. 8 to Sept. 30 - Terry Casella

**Upcoming Events at First**

Wed., Sept. 17th - Board of Managers - 6:30 pm  
 Thurs., Sept 18th - Choir Practice - 7 pm  
 Fri, Sept. 19th - Presbytery Meeting - 6 pm  
 at Lakeview Presbyterian  
 Sun., Sept. 21st - Question Period/Sack Lunch - noon  
 Mon., Sept. 22nd - Cards afternoon - 1 pm

**Come and celebrate with us and make a difference in Sierra Leone!**

CanSerra Organization (former Friends of Mabureh), is hosting its 5th annual African Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church on Friday, September 26, 2013, at 5:30 pm.  
 Tickets are \$25. Thanks for your support!

**Bible Readings:**

Esther 3: 1-11	P. 446	O.T.
Psalms 91:9-16	P. 548	O.T.
Esther 7: 1-10	P. 448	O.T.

**Gloria Patri:**

594

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

**Sermon: "Big Dummies of the Bible: Part 1"**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**\* Offertory Response**

484

**The church is wherever God's people are helping, caring for neighbours in sickness and need. The church is wherever God's people are sharing the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Patient Lord, you amaze us each day with your ability to forgive our many sins. You display merciful acts and answer our prayers in profound ways. Help us to be stewards of your mercy and grace as these monetary gifts are transformed into active ministries. Multiply the span of these ministries to reach people in new ways. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**\* Hymn: "All who hunger, gather gladly"**

#534

**Affirmation of Faith:**

**"The Lord's Supper is a joyful mystery whereby Jesus takes the bread and wine to represent his atoning sacrifice, deepening our union with himself and with each other, giving us of his life and strength. Here Christ is present in his world pro-**

**Affirmation of Faith cont'd**

**claiming salvation until he comes—a symbol of hope for a troubled age. Those who belong to Christ come gladly to his table to make a memorial of his life and death, to celebrate his presence, and together as his church offer him thanks.”** (*Living Faith 7.7.3; 7.7.5*)

Remembering the Meal with Jesus

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;

**And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts;

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we give you thanks and praise. Through the words of your prophets you gave your people hope by promising them the Redeemer. And now we rejoice that in your Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour has come and will come again in power and glory making all things new. Along with the heavenly choir and the saints of ages past, we lift our voices together, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you he took up his cross and died that we might live.

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again**

(Continued on Page 4)

We come to this, his table, in simple trust, seeking the transforming power of your Spirit: on this assembly of your people, on these words and actions, and on this bread and wine, in order that, by the miracle of your grace, we may be united to Christ and to one another – one in body, one in spirit, one in faith.

Be with us now through your Holy Spirit as we celebrate with great joy the resurrection of our Lord, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity. Amen.

**Sharing the Meal**

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts ....debtors)**

**WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

\* Hymn: **“Help us accept each other”**

**#632**

**Blessing**

**Response:**

**Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow.  
He has washed and made me white as snow.  
I'm redeemed from all my sin and shame.  
Now and forever, praise his holy name.  
Praise his holy name. Praise his holy name.  
To God be the glory now and forever.  
Praise his holy name!**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Mission purpose is to put our faith into action through mission education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad.

Effective October 1, 2014  
Guidelines for Action items

Items of concern are to be submitted on enclosed form. Copies available in the narthex and submitted to the church secretary who will then direct to the appropriate people, ie. minister Elders or Board of Managers.

If a confidential matter, please fold and mark appropriate direction on the outside of an envelope.

The request may be handed to your Elder, placed on the collection plate, put in the church mail box or appropriate box in church office or delivered to the church office in person.

This process is being initiated to streamline and track, repair, and bring forth any concerns within the church family. It will also ensure that the item will not be lost and the requestor can be contacted.

First Presbyterian Church  
Action Item request

Item:

Description:

Reason:

Time frame (please circle):

Urgent

Soon

Immediate

Future

Contact name (optional):

Date requested:

Date completed: