

Central Wisconsin Peace Conference

“Welcoming as Peacemaking”

Rev. John Fife – Keynote Speaker

October 21-22, 2006

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church

200 S Lincoln

715-384-2484

Marshfield, Wisconsin

fpcm@verizon.net

Why are we holding this event?

In the Fall of 2004 several Hispanic families visited and then joined First Presbyterian Church of Marshfield. Our ministry was blessed by presence of these families as they joined our families. Through their lives and stories we became increasingly aware of the issue of immigration. In the Spring of 2006, 13 of us traveled to Tucson to participate in a BorderLinks experience to help us understand the complex issues of immigration. In response to our experience and with a deep commitment to both Christian hospitality and peacemaking, we have chosen to make the theme of our annual Peace Conference around the issue of just immigration. We are pleased to have as our keynote speaker the Rev. John Fife. In addition to Rev. Fife, we will have as our guest international peacemaker Rev. Vilma Yanez-Ogaza, an ordained minister and current moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Columbia. We welcome all to join us for this important, timely and exciting peace conference.

Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church:

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.

“Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.”

Luke 9:48

Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. John Fife

Pastor emeritus – Southside Presbyterian Church, Tucson, Arizona

In the 1980's the Rev. John Fife, pastor at Southside Presbyterian Church, was instrumental in forming what became known as the "Sanctuary Movement" providing aid and shelter to Central American refugees who were fleeing the political and military turmoil in their countries. For this act of Christian compassion and welcome, Rev. Fife, along with 6 others, was arrested by the United States Government for smuggling illegal aliens. Tried in a Federal Court, the six were convicted and paroled, and they continued their ministry. In 1992, Rev. Fife was elected Moderator of the 204th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He continues his ministry today working with Humane Borders, a non-profit group that seeks to provide medical and humanitarian aid to migrants crossing the desert in Arizona. Rev. Fife will be keynoting the conference on Saturday and preaching at the Sunday morning worship service at First Presbyterian Church in Marshfield.

Registration Information:

Saturday Conference:

\$5 – Conference

\$2 – Lunch

\$8 – Mexican Feast (dinner)

Saturday Concert – Ticket information and costs pending.

Sunday Worship and Forum – Free

Advance reservations are helpful for our meal planning.

To Register Contact:

First Presbyterian Church

200 South Lincoln Ave.

Marshfield, Wisconsin

fpcm@verizon.net or pastor.scott@verizon.net

(715)384-2484

Name _____

Group or Church _____

Address: City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone # _____

e-mail address _____

Conference fee enclosed: _____

Directions: www.mapquest.com (please type church address for correct directions).

Housing Information: A block of rooms has been reserved at Amerihost Inn at the special rate of \$60 (tax not included). Reservations may be made by calling (715)384-5240. To receive the special rate you must mention that you are attending the Central Wisconsin Peace Conference. Amerihost Inn and Suites offers an indoor pool and jacuzzi, coffee makers in every room, wireless internet services, and free breakfast. There are additional housing options in Marshfield.

In addition, we will have a book table with resources on immigration, a 10,000 villages store along with Fair Trade coffee, teas, and chocolates for sale.

Conference Schedule

October 21 – Saturday

9-10 am – registration, refreshments, welcome.

10-11:30 am – Rev. John Fife

11:30 am – 12 noon – break

12-1 pm – lunch (a simple meal of rice and beans)

1-2:30 pm – Rev. John Fife

2:30-3 pm – break

3-5 pm – Break-out sessions

a. Cooking with Carmen Ramirez: learn and share in the preparation of some traditional Mexican dishes.

b. AHORA: learn about the services provided to the growing Central Wisconsin Hispanic population through the networking and coordination of more than 40 agencies and organizations.

c. The Stewardship of Water: Will the next great war be for water? Learn about current water rights issues in Mexico and Central America and our own need for responsible stewardship of this precious gift.

d. Peacemaking on the Playground: How can we help our children learn about becoming peacemakers in their own lives? Join us as we learn about peacemaking techniques for the playground, school and everyday life.

e. The Ban on Civil Unions and Marriage: Join us in a discussion of the proposed amendment to the Wisconsin State Constitution and the effects it could have on relationships, marriage, and families.

5 pm – Mexican Feast

7:30 pm – Concert (arrangements and artist pending)

October 22, Sunday

9:30 am: Worship with the Rev. John Fife preaching.

Special music

10:40-11 am: Refreshments

11am - 12 noon: Session 3 – Rev. John Fife on providing “Sanctuary” as an act of welcome and peacemaking.

12:15 – Conference ends.