

Interfaith Laughter Night in Oshkosh benefits community service organization

Have you ever wondered what happens when a priest a rabbi and a minister walk into a bar? If you're in or near Oshkosh, Wis., you can find out April Fools' Day.

Interfaith Laughter Night is scheduled Friday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at the New Moon Café, 401 N. Main Street, Oshkosh.

Representatives of many different faith traditions will gather and tell jokes about themselves. The event is a fundraiser for The Hub, a collaborative group of nonprofit organizations and government-funded agencies in Oshkosh that are committed to moving individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Interfaith Laughter Night will be one of the first public events The Hub will hold to get word out about their work.

The Rev. Tom Willadsen, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Oshkosh, has led classes on humor and faith at Synod School, and last summer presented "Laughter's Healing Art" to the national Presbyterian Women's Gathering in Minneapolis.

"[Noted author] Anne Lamott calls laughter 'carbonated holiness,' and we'll uncork a lot of laughter on April Fools' Day," Willadsen observed. "One sign of spiritual health and maturity is the ability to laugh at oneself. People who attend Laughter Night will be encouraged to laugh at their own faith traditions."

Here's are two modest examples:

How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb?

Seventeen. Five to form a committee to find and nominate nine people to a committee which shall then discuss the issues of light bulb changing, from which that committee shall appoint three other people to carry out the final resolution of the second committee — which is that one person shall supervise while one changes the bulb and one will

follow up in one month's time to investigate the performance of the bulb.

And one more:

Why did the Presbyterian cross the road?

You're confusing us with pedestrians — it's a common misunderstanding.

Questions concerning the event can be directed to Willadsen by calling his office, 920.235.6180, or by sending an e-mail to him at pastor@oshkoshpresbyterians.org.