

The Bell

April, 2017

As we approach Easter, we must think about how this important Christian holiday traces its roots to Judaism. What we know as the Last Supper, celebrated by Jesus and his disciples, began as a Seder. It was a celebration of the mighty hand of God who freed the Jews from the bondage of the Egyptians. (Exodus Chapter 7 – 12)

It is called Passover as the angel of death on the night of their being freed, passed over the houses of all those who had spread the blood of a lamb over their doorposts. The Jewish people still celebrate the Passover (Seder) to this day in their homes.

This year, we will be commemorating and learning about the Seder on Maundy Thursday, when the disciples gathered with Jesus in the upper room to celebrate Passover and begin our Christian tradition of the Last Supper and communion. (Matthew 26:1-29)

On Maundy Thursday this year worshippers from Trinity United Methodist Church will join with us in our Fellowship Hall to actually participate in a Seder. This Seder will differ from a true Jewish Seder in many ways including that it will be conducted in English rather than Hebrew and it will be a real teaching experience for us all rather than a religious rite.

A true Jewish Seder would not take place in a synagogue but in the home where the family and often some selected Gentile guests would commemorate the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and all the hardships they suffered there under the yoke of Pharaoh.

Although our Seder will contain the elements of a traditional Seder, it will be more of a learning experience for us than an actual commemoration.

These elements will include drinking of wine (in our case grape juice), washing hands as a sign of cleansing and a reminder that we are God's people.

Every place setting will include the traditional foods associated with a true Seder each of which has meaning in the Jewish faith. They will include among other things parsley, signifying the springtime when the earth is becoming green again and matzah reminding us that the Israelites had to flee Egypt before their traditional leaven bread could rise. Also included in the Seder will be bitter herbs reminding us how bitter life was for the children of Israel when they were in Egypt. All of these symbols will be explained to us during the evening so we can appreciate their significance.

The evening will end with the Christian sacrament of Communion which was first celebrated the night that Jesus was betrayed.

The Seder is meant to remind us of how the Jewish traditions led to many of the Christian traditions we practice today.

Although the Seder is a "meal" in a traditional Jewish home, it would be followed by a feast, which we will not do.

OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM IS GROWING

One of the most important aspects of Presbyterian life is the spiritual education of our children. For that reason, the Session is focusing on strengthening our Christian Education Program.

The stated purpose of the Christian Ed Team is to support our education teachers and programs and to initiate and implement new programming.

The team meets quarterly to support our various Christian Ed ministries; recruit, support, and encourage teachers in our church school and adult education programs; implement our Child Protection Policy; encourage children age 3 to 6th grade to participate in children's church, youth in 7th and 8th grade to take confirmation class, and adults to continue their lifelong learning in Bible studies and Christian education.

In order to do this, the team encourages the use of Lectionary-based curriculum, such as “Seasons of the Spirit,” as it connects with worship and the accompanying home devotionals; chooses materials that are Biblically grounded in the reformed tradition, which are historically informed, ecumenically involved, and socially engaging for classroom activities; and initiates and implements new programs which offer continuity with current programs.

Would you be interested in participating in this very important part of our church’s ministry? If so, please contact Pastor Karel or Kevin Litten.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA AND WHY SHOULD I PAY IT?

Every year our church pays what is referred to as a Per Capita fee for every member. This year our payment is \$30.00 per member.

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)’s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

The first-known mention of per capita dates back to 1734 so it’s not something new to our church.

Congregations pay an annual amount of money per church member — per capita apportionment — to their respective presbyteries and this may vary from presbytery to presbytery. This payment is over and above the money pledged by members. And the per capita **MUST** be paid by the church for every member even if that member does not choose to pay the allotment.

Each presbytery begins with the General Assembly per capita rate and adds the amount needed to support its specific mission and administrative functions.

If you have not paid your per capita fee yet, you can do so by check showing “Per Capita” on the memo line. This fee is very important to the overall operation of our church nationwide and its mission programs and administration.

HE MAY BE GONE BUT HE'S STILL VERY MUCH WITH US

FPC lost a very special friend on March 23 in Joe Mandelert. Over the years Joe became a fixture in our church as well as in our community.

Joe sang tenor in the choir and loved music and particularly our music very much. Not only was the choir music part of his life but he played the piano at home and even in Fellowship Hall for special occasions. Joe was instrumental in the restoration of our organ and served our church in so many ways.

Joe brought so much joy to all of us who knew him. For that we can be thankful. Goodbye, dear and faithful friend.

MORE SPECIAL NEWS ABOUT KEION TWYMAN

Last month we introduced you to the hoop-shooting prowess of Keion Twyman, great-grandson of members David and Patricia Gutknecht.

To top it all off, Keion has been selected for a roster spot on the 7th grade boys' basketball team - Wisconsin City Hoops - YMCA - AAU Basketball. Congratulations Keion !

Keion is also a member of our 2017 confirmation class.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SEARCH BEGINS

Our search has begun for part time administrative assistant. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday.

We are looking for a computer proficient person with experience in Word and Excel. Other duties will include answering the phone and reception.

We are asking for resumes to be submitted by April 14 to First Presbyterian Church, 130 W Central St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; or email to: fpc1pastor@sbcglobal.net

If you know of a possible candidate, please pass along this information.

Save. The. Date.



The Chippewa Area Mentor Program is excited about partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Chippewa Falls again for **SpringFest 2017**. Both programs will receive proceeds from the **SpringFest** run/walk. **Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 29th @ 9:00 a.m.!!!** Online registration has already begun at www.springfestchippewafalls.com/events

TIME TO CLEAN OUR ROADWAY

The Spring highway beautification of our 2-mile stretch on County Highway 178 will be May 20 beginning at 10:30 am. We'll meet in front of Margie & Vance Kohls' house. For those who have helped in the past you know the 'drill'. Walk, Talk, be outside. Pick up trash. Sit, Talk, Eat hotdogs.

A wise man I know frequently asked, "What the hell have you done for mankind today?" If you pick up trash or donate blood or put a few extra coins in the offering basket, you can answer "I did it. "

Life demands participation ! So be alive !

For those new. Here's the pitch. Become a friend of the earth by picking up that empty Marlboro pack or beer cans. Vests, pokers & bags will be supplied. Hotdogs & chips will be available after the clean-up. Bring your own beverage.

I need to know by Tuesday, May 16, who's coming so I have enough hotdogs.

Chuck Norseng, Senior Highwayman

EASTER BRINGS LILIES

As reported last month and in the Sunday bulletins, we have ordered Easter lilies again this year. They will be used to decorate the Chancel on Easter morning.

If you would like to contribute to the lily purchase, each plant is \$8.00. After the service on Easter, you may take your lily home to enjoy. Any flowers which haven't been sponsored or which are left after that service will be donated to shut-ins or remain to decorate the church following Sunday.

You can still order your lilies by using the order form in this issue or obtaining one from the office or at the Welcome Desk.

SCRIP CARDS BRING IN ADDED REVENUE

Sales of scrip cards are going very well, but we do have some cards left over. If you would like to adopt one for \$25, \$50, or \$100, we would be able to help you.

The cards are available on Sunday, (before and after services), Wednesday nights, and during office hours. (Corine is in the office Monday mornings from 9-10:45).

Please see Corine, Margi, Kathi, or Barb Shorrel to purchase a card.

Thanks again to all who have been supporting this program, we are making a difference!

MANY THANKS FROM THE BOYERS FOR THE RETIREMENT GIFT

We saved your generous 2012 retirement gift for a big trip and it has finally happened. We have added to it through the years and just got back from the Florida Keys and Cuba. This fulfills a lifelong dream of Barry's.

Our traveling companions were Charlie and Mary Arntson. Charlie is a sailor. He arranged for a small charter and we sailed from Key West to Havana adding considerably to the sense of adventure. We slept aboard while docked for six days at the Hemingway Marina just west of Havana.

With day trips we checked out the city, Hemingway sites, museums, cathedrals, Presbyterian and Lutheran churches and wonderful beaches. The people, food and music were super. A trip to the countryside included a bed and breakfast amidst tobacco and sugar cane. It's a big island and this was just a taste, but very satisfying!

Thanks to your gift, we were able to turn the dream into reality. It means a lot to Barry and Susan and the trip is a great way savor the 25 years as your pastor.

LEARN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AT PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

Four times a year, the churches in the Presbytery of Northern Waters gather to discuss topics of interest to our members and the church in general. Each church is invited to send its pastor and one voting representative. In the past Bob Denman and Larry Annett have served as our representatives.

This month, we have a first in what we hope will be regular reports on these meetings.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be May 4 at the First Presbyterian Church in Rice Lake. These meetings move around to accommodate the travel needed because our Presbytery covers such a wide geographic area.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

The following members and friends of FPC are celebrating in April:

April 1	Jennifer Radke
April 2	Isabelle Harmon
April 3	James Drace
April 5	Marge Nichols
April 7	Derek Cooley
April 8	David Blair and Terry Wiedenhoef
April 19	Hannah Koepke, Lauren Koepke and Karolynne Duffenbach
April 20	Eric Haglund
April 27	Bill and Deb McDougall

LOTS OF WORK BUT WE MADE MONEY

The annual Presbyterian Men's Fish Fry before the Ash Wednesday service attracted 65 diners and brought in over \$300 in profit.

This year we played host to people from our own congregation, Trinity United Methodist Church as well as other areas churches.

This year's Presbyterian Women's thrift sale was another success netting over \$1100.

Lending much needed help were Kathy Torres, Gwenn Bauman, Margi Kohl, Anne Welke, Lea Dirks, Corine Boos, Marlys Daniels, Kathi Mandelert, Beth Flater, Marilyn and Gerry Jasper, our friend and hard worker, Joyce, Connie Cooley, Mary Flater, Mitch Mandelert, Dick Kemp, Vance Kohl, Joe Teske and David Cooley.

This year, which is the last Thrift Sale we will host, was by far the largest we have had. Lots of work but a job well done.

TINY HOUSE PROJECT HELPS THE HOMELESS IN CHIPPEWA

The Tiny House Project is moving forward with the addition of houses at Trinity United Methodist as reported last month. This project which began over a year ago has grown substantially in the past year. This growth has increased the need for help.

While we don't have space to house one of these homes, that doesn't mean we can't lend a much needed hand in any of several ways.

The project is always in need of funds, building materials and supplies as well as help in building the houses, furnishing and stocking them, cleaning and maintaining the homes as well as helping the guests connect with services. In addition, the Tiny House Board needs help managing the whole project.

Two informational meetings were held in March at our church to acquaint those who might be interested in helping with that is needed. But it's not too late to help. If you are interested, please contact Anne Welke who will put you in touch with the right people to get the job done.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING DONATIONS ENCOURAGED

Easter Sunday is traditionally the day we receive the One Great House of Sharing donations.

Roughly one third of these donations is used for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, one third for the hunger program and one third for self-development of people, which invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates us about the impact of these societal ills on us all. Donation envelopes will be available in the pews through Lent.

The Presbytery of Northern Waters



PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presbytery of Northern Waters held its Winter Stated Meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Duluth on Saturday, February 4, 2017. There were about 64 people in attendance for our meeting on a cold, but clear February day. We were celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Presbytery of Northern Waters which held its first meeting on January 5, 1977.

Vice Moderator Rich Blood revived an old tradition by conducting a brief orientation for first-time commissioners as well as for many who had not been through an orientation.

Ken Green, our new regional representative from the PCUSA Board of Pensions. He stated that the board has undergone quite a few changes in the last few years. A new benefit plan has been created and The Board expressed thanks for all those who have dealt with the changes. Ken passed out a paper called "Theology of Benefits", explained the process for this paper, and suggested that sessions read through this paper as they are making decisions. Also, preliminary reports are that the pension fund is funded at approximately 124% which is a very healthy report. An experience apportionment during 2017 is likely.

Treasurer Jay Wilkinson distributed year-end financial summaries that indicate that 2016 showed a small surplus. While income was down, expenses were up from 2015. We had a budget expecting a deficit of almost \$14,000. We managed a surplus because the Transitional Resource Person position was not filled until mid-May and the Administrative Assistant costs were lower than budgeted because of Jackie Walen's untimely death.

The Presbytery received reports from various committees, including the Presbytery Council, Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. CPM is planning a retreat

for 4 candidates in early March. Training for those wishing to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder continues.

A number of our committees need additional Teaching and Ruling Elders in order to properly conduct their work. Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee by either contacting Matthew Arneson, chair of the Nominating Committee or contacting the Presbytery office.

Sessions and their Clerks are encouraged to report their annual statistics in a timely manner and also to report changes in the terms of call for pastors by the end of March.

The featured speaker at this meeting was Paul Grier from the PCUSA Foundation. He discussed trends in American denominations and in the PCUSA. Many churches, presbyteries, and synods are attempting to "re-invent" themselves to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. The Presbytery of Northern Waters is also studying what we need and want to be as a Presbytery and what staffing needs in the future will be and how best to be able to afford that staff. Your input to the Transitional Presbytery Administrator, Jay Wilkinson, or to any member of the Presbytery Council is appreciated.

Future meetings will include a talk on Stewardship by Diana Barber, retired from the Synod staff at the May meeting, and a visit from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Reverend Dr. J Herbert Nelson, II at the October meeting.

The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church, Rice Lake, WI. We hope to see you there.

EASTER LILIES

We are now taking orders for Easter Lilies that will grace the chancel on Easter morning, April 16. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. Please fill out the order form. Return to the church office with your payment as soon as possible. Submit your order:

- 1) during office hours (9:00 to 2:00 Monday through Thursday)
- 2) by mailing to the church
- 3) or, put order and payment in offering plate on Sunday

(Remember to write "Easter Lily" in memo blank on your check.)

The plants may be picked up after the Easter service. Of the plants not picked up, some will be saved for the following Sunday and others distributed in the community.

I want to purchase (how many) _____ Easter Lilies at \$8.00 each.

I would like designation(s) in the church bulletin to read:

In Memory of:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

In Appreciation for:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

In Celebration of:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

(other title) _____:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

From:

Return to:	First Presbyterian Church	Phone: 723-5717	Amount Paid \$ _____
	130 West Central Street		CK#
	Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729-2345		Cash