



The Bell

April, 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

WHAT IS OUR CHURCH?

When the Session and Deacons met in February, they had several goals in mind for our future. One of them had to do with dreaming and writing about God's plan for our church. This is certainly an Easter plan, for Easter is a time in which we celebrate new life in Christ. Looking into the future what elements would you like to see our church embody? Here are some from your church leaders:

We are a welcoming, inclusive, committed group of believers who are active in the community through our care of those in need, and who strive to live life as Jesus would have us.

We are traditional in worship, telling the stories of God and God's relationship with His people as expressed in the life of Jesus. We enjoy listening to the choir sing sacred music, singing traditional and fresh hymns, hearing the scriptures interpreted through preaching, following the Christian year, participating in the sacraments and meaningful participation of all generations and of all people.

We are open, accepting and interested in others' thoughts and interpretation. The passing of the peace is important to us not only in worship but in our life together. We enjoy fellowship through meals, activities and involvement in the life of our community.

We value generational participation in all aspects of the church and are democratic in governance. We are guided by the scriptures, the teachings and connection with our denomination yet value our ecumenical ties with other denominations.

We enjoy including others and finding a place where each person's gifts are used. This includes those who have old ties as well as new connections, and we strive to connect with those who are younger and have families.

We are not afraid to change, even regularly challenging long-held traditions, in order to listen to the Spirit, to pursue our mission and serve one another in the family of Christ, communicating within and with others through personal communication using old and new technologies.

We are known for our passion for mission, desire joy, excitement and inclusivity in our community of faith, and are cohesive and democratic in our life together.

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We are laser-focused in our mission as we hear God's call, excited with our present, unafraid of our future, and committed to each other as believers in Christ.

May we continue pray about, listen to and embody the mission and ministry God has given us.

Blessings

Pastor Karel.

NEW MEMBERS

Mavis and Don Babbitt joined the church on March 4 by reaffirmation of faith. Mavis and her husband, Dale, had been members FPC dating back many decades. Mavis was member 47 on our rolls.

SERVICE FOR ELLEN DEVINE

Just a reminder that there will be a memorial service for long-time member Ellen Devine on April 8. The service, which will begin at 2:00, will be followed by a reception at the Heyde Center.

MISSION TEAM COMPILES CALENDAR FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Mission Team has developed a calendar of mission-related events for 2018 including

- April 29 – Noisy Sunday collection for the Food for Kidz event
- May 5 - Food for Kidz
- April 2 to May 20 - Pentecost Offering
- June 3 - Brunch with the proceeds to CareLink
- July 29 - Noisy Sunday collection for the Backpack project
- August - Backpack Giveaway
- September - Feed My People Match Challenge for the Food Pantry
- September 2 to October 7 - Peace and Global Witness Offering
- December 2 to 23 - Christmas Joy Offering
- December 16 - Alternate Gift Sunday

Watch the Bell and bulletin for more information on these activities.

FPC JOINS THE CHIPPEWA FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Many years ago, FPC decided the cost of membership in the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce wasn't justified by what we would receive from being a member. Since that is no longer the case, the Session has decided that the church would benefit from joining the Chamber.

For a membership fee of \$95 per year FPC will be listed on the Chamber website and in their printed directory. Their website will have a link to our website and at any time they can tell us how many hits our site gets from theirs. The Chamber website receives over 12,300 visitors per month.

Both the FPC and FPC food pantry brochures will be placed in the Chamber visitor center. The Chamber staff will monitor brochure usage and notify us when restocking is needed.

The FPC brochures will be included in the Chamber "welcome packet" given to all new residents who stop by the center for information on the community.

FPC will be listed prominently as a "new member" on the Chamber Facebook page. We will also be listed in the separate "non-profits" section of the Chamber website.

The Chamber offers many more marketing opportunities that we will explore in coming months.

This is just one of the ways the Session is exploring to increase our visibility in the community.

NEW BUSINESS CARDS PROMOTE OUR CHURCH

The Communications Team has developed a new business card to promote our church. You can find the cards at the Welcome Table.

Since the initial supply is limited, we will only be giving the new cards out to visitors and the Chamber but once a larger supply arrives, they will be distributed to anyone who would like to hand them out.

SPRING ORGAN CONCERT

Well known organist Sean Vogt has been working with Joe Shakal, an organ student from Chippewa Falls, using our organ because of its rather unique tracker mechanism.

To highlight the work Joe has done as well as thank FPC for allowing them to use the organ, Sean and Joe will present an organ concert on May 12.

The concert will be preceded by a luncheon featuring Todd Teske's spaghetti and meatballs.

Be sure to put this date on your calendar because you won't want to miss either the lunch or the music. Watch the May Bell for more information on this event.

MANY BLESSINGS

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

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| 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 |

APRIL BRINGS STUDY OF ISLAM

Sunday morning adult Bible study will start a new program in April as the study of Comparative Religions is completed in March.

Starting April 8 at 9:00, the group will begin their look at Islam. Gene Peissig will lecture on the culture of pre-Islamic Arabia, the life and revelations of Muhammad, the struggle to form a new religion, the conflict between Mecca and Medina which led to the separation of the Shi'ah and Sunni sects, and finally the formation of radical extremism within Islam.

In his book "No god but God", author Reza Aslan wrote this classic quote: "Fifteen hundred years after the birth of Christianity that religion went through a civil war known as the Reformation. It was a bloody battle that took several decades to resolve, and it had to be resolved within itself. We are now into our 1500th year of Islam, and Islam is now in its own civil war."

While Gene admits he is not an expert on Islam, he has found the more he learns about Arabian culture and Islam, the more questions he has. He is eager to share what he has learned. He will try to limit his lectures to 1/2 hour to be followed by discussion time.

If this is something that sounds interesting to you, please join the discussion in the library at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. The coffee will be ready when you get there.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS END

The end of April marks the end of the season for Wednesday night suppers.

In past years we have extended our family meals through May but it has gotten more and more difficult to find people who are willing to cook on those Wednesday nights and we have also found that attendance on Wednesdays in May has fallen off dramatically.

But never fear, Wednesday night suppers will resume in September. In the meantime, we will just have to fend for ourselves.

NOTES FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

James 2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

In March I undertook the leadership of the Mission Team. The Mission Team members are Gwen Bauman, Mitch Mandelert, Jeannette Miller, Anne Welke, and Rev. Karel Hanhart. If you are interested in serving on the Mission Team, please call or email me. (If I have omitted anyone on the Mission Team, please let me know. This is the list of people that I was given.)

It is our goal to promote and inform the congregation about our mission projects. We will serve as a clearing house for ideas from the congregation on matters of mission and forward those to Session with our recommendation. The Session will have final voice on those recommendations.

We reviewed our mission projects for 2018. We will finalize the list at our April meeting. In April, our church will participate in the PC USA's One Great Hour of Sharing. In May, we will participate in the Mission Coalition "Food 4 Kidz" event on May 5. The Noisy Sunday contribution on April 29 will be designated for this event. On May 20 we will contribute to the PC USA Pentecost Offering. We will decide at our April meeting on our recommendation to Session about how to use the local portion (40%) of this offering. (If you have any ideas about this, let me know. This offering is geared toward programs that help youth.)

FOOD 4 KIDZ MAY 5, 2018 Parkview Elementary School

Come help us put together food packages that can be distributed to our community's hungry children. We need a minimum of 10 people to spend one hour making the food packages. Our church's cost will be \$330. We will be using the local portion of last year's Pentecost Offering (\$210.40) and contributions from Noisy Sunday (Apr 29) to fund our participation. We will welcome your contributions to fill the gap.

WE NEED YOU. Call Anne Welke (723-2306) or Bonnie Gullickson (723-2076) to volunteer to be on the team.

REMEMBER: DONATE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

"Join in God's call to share our bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression."

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL BUT YOU MAY NOT ALWAYS SEE IT

By Tiffany Wogahn

On a recent visit, my widowed aunt Mary pulled me aside and handed me a stack of papers.

"They're medical bills and on my fixed income I don't know how I'm going to pay them all and still have money to pay everything else! Can you help me figure it out?", she whispered.

To outsiders, Aunt Mary looks just like everyone else. She's an elderly woman who lost her husband, along with his social security payment. Reeling with grief and feeling overwhelmed with mounting bills, she has found herself in a situation that is not uncommon.

Aunt Mary's story isn't all that different from many we hear every day at the Food Pantry and CareLink. Recently a man came in who had injured his hand at work. He was looking for CareLink because the brochure he had said they were open until 2 pm. Unfortunately, I had to tell them they close at noon. He told me he's called every agency looking for help and no one has any funding left. He keeps his heat at 40 degrees so his pipes don't freeze but sleeps in his clothes to stay warm. He is probably in his 60s and never imagined this is how his elder years would be.

Every Tuesday and Thursday we are inundated by people in poverty on the very edge of being homeless. We get phone calls and walk-ins almost daily, but the days when the Food Pantry and CareLink are open are worse.

The first half of 2016 our Food Pantry served 1,612 individuals. The first half of 2017 alone we gave food to 2,070 people. Unfortunately, the need is growing and not just for food. We do give out any clothing donations we have as well as toiletries. Commodities are given once a month. CareLink's numbers are growing along with ours. They helped about 50 people in January alone.

We are very proud to also have the Open Door Clinic located in our church. Jill Cooper, the new coordinator of the clinic, said that the number of patients has gone down since the Affordable Care Act began but the number of medications given has risen. The reason, she feels, is that they are seeing many more patients with co-morbidities who aren't able to afford their medications. The highest number of patients are between 45-54 years old.

The clinic has over 152 volunteers who have donated 3,459 hours of time to the ODC. These volunteers range from doctors from local hospitals to nurses to technicians to intake personnel who process the patients before they are seen. The value of that donated time is over \$100,000 dollars! Without this much needed resource, nearly 600 people would not have received needed health related services in 2017.

Our location couldn't be more perfect to help people. We are right next to Gordy's and we give out milk vouchers for that store. We are across the street from the Police Station and Trinity Methodist where there are two tiny houses. We are not far from the Chippewa Outreach Office and the courthouse. We are located right downtown near almost any resource people could need.

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Thankfully, we live in a very giving community where we pride ourselves on helping our neighbors. We try to pick up the slack when agencies run out of funding. While we can't help everyone with everything, we can certainly try to ease some of their burdens.

A huge thank you to the wonderfully compassionate people who make up this congregation - the people who never let us down and always give when asked. Truly, without all of you, we'd never be able to do everything we do. THANK YOU!

NOT TIME YET BUT VERY SOON

There is still lots of snow covering our stretch of County Highway 178 but it won't be long before our band of cleaners can do their thing.

Our new Highway Superintendent, Gene Peissig, suspects it will be around Mother's Day when the weather will be right for this rite of spring. Watch the Bell for further updates.

EASTER BRINGS SPRING BONNETS

It's time to pull out your Easter bonnets, Ladies, and spruce them up for Easter Sunday when Gene Peissig is again sponsoring the Easter Bonnet Contest.

As we did last year each lady who enters her hat for consideration will have her name placed in, what else, but the "hat". The winners will be drawn and Gene is donating cash prizes to CareLink for the three hats selected. Prizes are \$30 for first place, \$20 for second and \$10 for third.

In addition, the Gene is donating \$1 to the church music fund for every entry in the contest and would welcome matching donations. Every year the number of hats worn increases so this year we should have a bevy of beauties.

JUST WHAT IS REFRIGERATOR DELIGHT?

You never know what might be in your refrigerator or the church refrigerator either but we are soon to find out.

On Wednesday night, April 11, Kevin Litten and Marlys Daniels plan to make a truly delightful dinner using what is in the refrigerator augmented by offerings from Gordy's.

This will really be Chefs' Choice. Are you curious? Join us on April 11 and find out just what they can put together.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S **SPRING LUNCHEON**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

11:00 A M PRESENTATION/LUNCH TO FOLLOW

FELLOWSHP HALL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI

Everyone is welcome. Invite your mothers, daughters, aunts, cousins, and friends. Come enjoy sparkling conversation and a yummy salad lunch.

Before lunch, we will hear Moira Kneer's inspirational and humorous presentation, "With Age Comes Wisdom... of a Sort." She encourages everyone to wear a "stylish" hat. She will reference the poem, 'Warning' (I shall wear purple...), in her presentation. Moira is the Community Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Spiritual Care in Eau Claire.

Look for the sign-up sheet on the information desk in the narthex or call Anne Welke (715-723-2306) to RSVP.

SUGGESTED DONATION IS \$5.00.

April Schedules

April 1 – Easter Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 1
Led by Margi Kohl and Dick Kemp

Communion Servers – Kevin Litten, Bonnie Gullickson, Dick Kemp, Bob Denman, Lynda Butek, Jean Peissig

Welcome Desk – June and Dick Kemp

Flower Provider – Easter Lilies

April 4 – Wednesday

Grilled Burgers –Team 2 – Erik Anderson, Kathi Mandelert, Rick Koepke

April 8 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 2
Led by Lynda Butek and Mary Jo Reemtsma

Welcome Desk – Marlys Daniels

Flower Providers– Celebration Singers in memory of Ellen Devine

April 11 – Wednesday

Refrigerator Delight* - Team 3 – Kevin Litten and Marlys Daniels

April 15 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 3
Led by Gary Shorrel and Corine Boos

Welcome Desk – Barbara Meredith

Flower Providers – Kathy and Jesse Torres celebrating the six April birthdays in their family

April 18 – Wednesday

Lasagna or Surprise – Team 5
Presbyterian Men

April 22 - Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 4
Led by Jeannette Miller and Jean Peissig

Welcome Desk – Holly Gintz

Flower Provider – Open

April 25 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice – Team 7 – Sara and Ryan Reemtsma

April 29 - Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 5
Led by Erik Anderson and Kevin Litten

Welcome Desk – Bonnie Gullickson

Flower Provider – Open

*Check this issue of the Bell for details