



# The Bell

June, 2018

## Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Burned out, stressed, tired, worn out  
Play, rest, rejuvenate, retreat, pray

I just thought that I would say a few words about the importance of taking some time to play, rest, rejuvenate this summer.

I have learned in my work for example that I do better if I get a little sleep, even if it means giving up some much-needed time on my sermon. I can remember my train of thought better and can more easily pick up where I left off. The same is true for everyday living.

In order to perform well in our jobs and lives, we need to live balanced lives. This means we need to care for our spiritual life, mental life, social life, physical life and work life. Many times, we take care of ourselves in reverse order. Work life is first then physical life, social life, mental life then spiritual life. We feel that caring for ourselves spiritually and mentally doesn't have the same urgency and doesn't warrant taking time away from the other parts of our life. We go on and on with these priorities and then wonder what happened when we find ourselves stressed and burned out.

The Bible teaches us the importance of taking time for play, rest and rejuvenation. The Sabbath (Sunday for Christians) which many are familiar with, is the commandment given to take Sundays as a day of worship, rest and renewal. This not only includes going to worship but requires taking the whole day for rest. We used to have blue laws which mandated the closing of business, so work was not done on Sunday. They came out of the Biblical understanding of the Sabbath. In Exodus 16:23 we read "The LORD has appointed tomorrow as a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. On this day we will rest from our normal daily tasks. So bake or boil as much as you want today, and set aside what is left for tomorrow."

The Israelites also held several celebrations throughout the year. There were celebrations for the first fruits of the spring and harvest. Worship and celebration were a part of those days. Our society has become way too busy. Even the little moments here and there are filled with texting and games, shopping and TV. We take less and less time for our mental and spiritual life. This summer take time, extra time, more time to be at rest, to rejuvenate, to pray, to play. It's Biblical.

Tell your boss; tell yourself; tell your friends. I need to go to the Bahamas because it's part of my religious practice, because it is. Have fun, enjoy and live!!! **(Don't forget to take flat Jesus with you; take selfies and put them on Facebook!!! See Pastor Karel for more information about** (continued on following page)

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**this. Let others know that Jesus' Spirit is with you wherever you go)**

For your reading pleasure you can look up some of these Scripture passages. They have something in common. Genesis 4:21 Genesis 19:9 1 Samuel 16:16-18 1 Samuel 21:15 1 Chronicles 15:16 Job 40:20 Job 41:5 Psalm 33:3 Psalm 144:9 Proverbs 18:24 Isaiah 11:8 Ezekiel 16:341 Corinthians 10:7

In Christ,

Pastor Karel

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE ALWAYS BUSY**

About 60 ladies enjoyed the PW Spring Salad Luncheon and speaker, Moira Kneer.

The kitchen floor has been cleaned (using lots of elbow grease!). Although it looks better, years of toil and traffic have taken their toll on the floor and it will need more work before any sealer is applied to the tile or the grout.

The concert of sacred music by Sean Vogt and his student, Joseph Shakal, and the vocal group, Songa, was held May 12, followed by a spaghetti lunch prepared and served by Todd Teske. There were approximately 55-60 people in attendance. The luncheon left-overs were served at Barnabas Table. The concert, luncheon and sale of Songa CDs netted the church just over \$500.

More cleaning was in store for the ladies when on May 24 they worked the Nursery Room. This was the same week Open Door did its Spring cleaning so the basement will be spruced up for the coming year.

### **LARRY ANNETT TO ATTEND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Larry Annett will be attending the PCUSA General Assembly in St Louis in June as a delegate representing our Northern Waters Presbytery. The National Assembly meets on even numbered years and is charged with reviewing the work of the church and resolving matters that are emerging or are controversial. Larry was chosen as a "Ruling Elder" (non-clergy) representative because of his work over the past six years on the Committee on Ministry.

Although Larry will represent us at this meeting, we are still in need of an Elder to be our regular representative and attend four Presbytery meetings a year. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Karel.

## **DON'T FORGET**

**Sunday services begin at 9:30 the first Sunday in June. If you come late, you're sure to miss something! And June 3 is the next potluck, sponsored by the Deacons so bring a dish to pass and your appetite.**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

You won't want to miss the First Presbyterian Church picnic at Irvine Park on Wednesday, August 1 beginning at 3:00.

Last year's picnic included games for the children and lots of yummy food. Expect more of the same this year so save the date.

## **YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!**

We are really going to do it this time. No foolin'! Yes, we are finally going to clean up that highway. Mother Nature promises that Saturday, June 2 at 10:30 will be warm and sunny – a perfect day to collect the highway trash that has been building up since we last cleaned in the fall.

If you are coming for the first time, you will need to wear old clothes and bring gloves. Bags, pick up sticks, & vests will be furnished. Gene Peissig will tape your long pants to ward off ticks, bugs & critters!

Twelve highway Presbyterians in four groups of three can cover the ground in 1 to 1.5 hours. Additional folks are welcome. Some could police the small parking area near the creek. Others are welcome for hotdogs on Margie & Vance's patio. Bring your own beverage.

Who knows – we may find something wonderful!

## **TIME TO GROW**

Our church calendar shows that summer is a time of growth and renewal – a time of green and that is the color you will see from now until the first Sunday of Advent except for All Saints Day (October 28) and Christ the King Sunday (November 25) when the color is white.

## **CHIPPEWA FALLS CHAMBER PLANS EVENTS**

Now that we are members of the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce, we can participate in their events throughout the year. They include a golf outing on June 4 at Lake Wissota Golf Course, Coffee and Commerce on June 8 and the June Dairy Day Dinner on June 20.

Check the tower in the Narthex for a complete listing of Chamber activities during the summer.

## **ORGAN TO UNDERGO MORE RESTORATION**

Many of you will recall that in 2012 David Engen, our organ tuner, discovered seven of the large façade pipes on the organ were sagging from lead fatigue. At that time, we had those seven pipes repaired which solved that problem but didn't address the other pipes which are also made of lead.

As was to be expected, more pipes have begun to sag and must be addressed. Fortunately, these pipes aren't visible from the sanctuary and can be repaired differently and in a less costly manner than the original pipes.

Again we have contacted our organ tuners, Grandall and Engen, to assist in this project as they did in 2012. They recommended that the pipes be removed by them and taken to their shop in Maple Grove, Minnesota. From there they would be picked up by Tim Duchon Organ Pipes of Warrensburg, Missouri, the company that would actually do the work. Once the pipes are finished, Duchon would return them to Grandall and Engen and they would bring them to us, reinstall them, tune the organ and voice the pipes so they match our existing pipes.

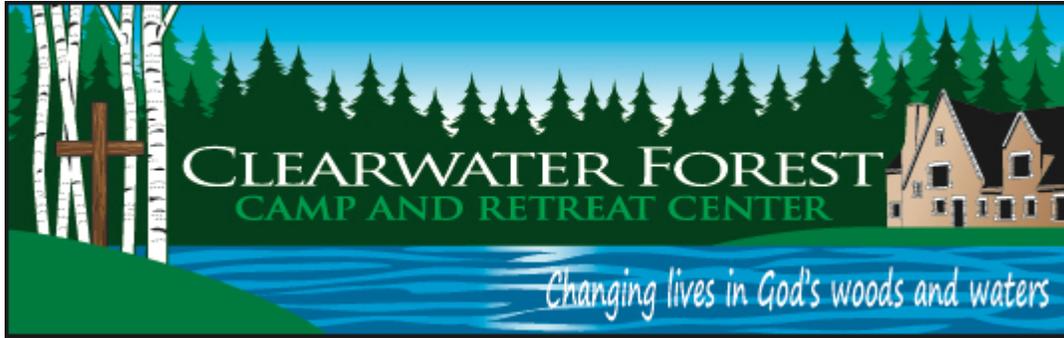
Tim Duchon, the owner of Duchon Organ Pipes, has been repairing organ pipes for many years and worked most recently for A. R. Schopp and Sons in Alliance, Ohio, the company we used in 2012. Since starting his own business in Missouri, Tim Duchon has become the pipe builder of choice for Grandall and Engen. Grandall and Engen have tuned our organ for years and were crucial to the repair in 2012.

The cost to do the seven most critical pipes plus 11 more that are beginning to sag is \$5,780. If we did not repair or replace the additional pipes, at some point, probably in the next five years, the situation would again become critical and we would have to repair the additional pipes. For that reason, Session has decided to repair all 18 pipes.

These costs include all pipe removal, packing, shipping, repair or replacement, delivery, installation, tuning and voicing. The work will involve removing the sagging portion of pipe and replacing it with pipe material of copper and zinc or if necessary, completely replacing the pipe. Duchon won't know which avenue to take until he actually gets the pipes in his facility. The work Duchon does carries a five-year warranty.

From what Grandall and Engen said, if we didn't take corrective action, eventually the pipes would deteriorate to the point where they could become a safety hazard and collapse, undoubtedly damaging some good pipes when they do. At this writing we don't know when the project will begin nor how long it will take but it is expected to be completed during the summer.

Our Steere and Turner organ is the oldest in west central Wisconsin dating back to 1889 and one of the few pipe organs still in use in the area. We are proud of the music it produces and want to prolong its life as long as possible. If you are interested in offering financial assistance for this much-needed project, please contact Pastor Karel or Clerk of Session, Lynda Butek.



## **Friends and Neighbors Day July 14, 2018**

Join us on Saturday, July 14, 2018 for the annual Friends and Neighbors Day, our celebration of Clearwater Forest and the communities of supporters that make it great.

On this day, we open the doors to showcase our beautiful, historic buildings, our exciting programming, and God's amazing wilderness. Come and experience the energy, beauty, joy, and play that Clearwater Forest offers! We will begin the day with our annual Lake 2 Lake bike ride, raising dollars for our scholarship fund. Then throughout the day there will be tours of the grounds and buildings, games and activities on the main lawn and community tables, where you can learn more about our programs and partnerships. If you are feeling adventurous you may try some of the many activities we offer on land and water, including sailing, paddle boarding, our high ropes course, and the bouldering wall. A picnic lunch, a celebration program, and campfire singing will round out the day.

Registration and more information are available at [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org) or by calling 218-678-2325. This event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is strongly encouraged to aid our planning.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The following members of our congregation are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries in June.

June 2 Erik Anderson, Julie and Scott Johnson	June 15 Jeff Buckli, Al and Margi Namejunas
June 6 Al Wolfe	June 18 Jim Biegging, Ken and Karen Beighley
June 7 Julie and Rees Anderson, Deb and Jeff Buckli	June 19 Mitch Mandelert
June 8 Whitney Bernhardt	June 21 Todd Teske
June 9 Anne Welke	June 24 Becky Hager, Sue Maitland, Dick and June Kemp
June 11 JoAnnGuthrie, George and Sara Abendroth	June 26 Mavis Babbitt
June 12 Al Namejunas	June 27 Lynda Butek
June 14 Susan Gutknecht	June 29 Margi and Vance Kohl

# LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO ALICE

By  
Tiffany Wogahn

Have you met **ALICE**? You most likely have and don't even know it.

**ALICE**, an acronym which stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, is a way of defining our families, neighbors, and colleagues (men and women) who work hard, earn above the federal poverty level, but not enough to afford a basic household budget. Sadly, **42% of Wisconsin households can't afford the basics** of housing, food, health care, child care, and transportation, **despite working**. So, you probably see **ALICE** every single day and have no idea that she is struggling.

We see all kinds of people in our food pantry every week. We definitely get a number of **ALICES** but we actually see more elderly and/or disabled folks that aren't even doing as well as **ALICE**. That says a lot when **ALICE**, who works, can't afford her heat in the winter or some toilet paper. Imagine having to rely on the insufficient amount you receive from the government to subsist and having no other means of income. What would that do to you mentally? What if you had to rely on churches for food and any other help you could possibly get because the government agencies that are there to help you have no funding themselves?

What if you're even a step down from the lucky folks subsisting on SSI/Disability? While they struggle to keep their tiny apartment, you sleep in your car. You'd give anything for their tiny apartment and some heat. The food from the pantries is great but you have nowhere to prepare it. There are nearly 670,922 **ALICE** households in Wisconsin, more than double the official poverty rate. Together, with those in poverty, there are **960,131 households unable to make ends meet** in Wisconsin.

Luckily, Chippewa Falls is a tight-knit community. While the agencies don't have a lot of money to help those in need, the churches have pulled together to try to fill the gaps the best they can.

Our food pantry alone saw 191 households in January. That number dropped quite a bit in February to 109. We find that we serve individuals between ages 18-59 the most. Remember we saw 191 **HOUSEHOLDS** in January. In **JUST** the age range of 18-59 we saw 248 **INDIVIDUALS**. In February we saw 151 individuals in that age range. These are working people, folks.

Do you realize how many lives our church is affecting with the food Pantry, CareLink and the Open Door Clinic? We have homeless bags prepared if we need them. We have blankets, coats, gloves and hats, and some miscellaneous self-care items. We offer food, gas cards, and on Tuesdays the needy can come have their medical needs met for free. **ALL UNDER OUR ROOF!**

As Christians, we are doing our duty to help those in need. Some people need more help than others. I really wanted to introduce you to **ALICE** because she is so much more prevalent than most people know, and most often overlooked. Look around our community every day and realize that 42% of the people walking down Bridge Street or sitting in the park on a nice day may be struggling to meet their basic needs and you'd never know it.

Remember our motto is "In the City for Good" so continue to be kind and generous because you really never know how something that seems trivial to you, might mean the world to someone else.

# The Presbytery of Northern Waters



## PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presbytery of Northern Waters held its Spring Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, Ely on May 3.

The featured speaker was the Reverend Kara Root, pastor of the Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis who presented a program on church revitalization based on the experience at the church she serves. Their program includes the principles of Sabbath, hospitality and worship. Two Sundays each month they have worship services on Saturday at 5 rather than the traditional Sunday morning. Those weekends, members are encouraged to keep Sunday a day of rest/Sabbath. Their guiding principles are 1) God is doing something here and now that incorporates the past and leads us into the future, 2) We are exactly the right size and have all the resources we need for what God wants to do in and through us, 3) Each person belongs and participates from his or her particularities and passions, and 4) We all share responsibility in the ministry of the church.

The Committee on Ministry approved Henry (Chip) Holt to be commissioned to service as a CRE to the First Presbyterian Church of Bemidji. A working agreement as Temporary Pulpit Supply has been approved between Kathleen Larson and the First Presbyterian Church, Hibbing.

Seminary debt assistance grants were approved recently for two pastors. This program was established to assist our pastors and to help attract pastors to open positions within our Presbytery.

The Finance and Budget Committee presented the report of a review of our 2017 financial records. They made no adjustments to our accounting

records. The April 2018 financial reports indicate we are running a surplus of almost \$32,000.

The Personnel Committee has indicated that the new ministry of the Reverend Ken Ribe, Presbyter for Pastoral Care has begun very well. The Committee also reported that the contract with Jay Wilkinson as the Transitional Resource Person is ending May 15 and recommended to the Council that Jay be retained in the position without a contract as a continuing member of the Presbytery staff. The Council met over lunch and approved.

The Committee on Ministry recommended that the Presbytery grant the Reverend Arlin Talley and the Reverend John D Gibbs Honorable Retirement status.

The Youth Triennium is scheduled for about one year from now (July 16-20, 2019) at Purdue University. Sandy Uttley from the Lakeside Presbyterian Church has once again agreed to spearhead participation by the youth from Presbytery of Northern Waters churches.

Reverend Brad Carloss gave a brief presentation on this trip in February and March to visit with the Presbyterian Church in Portugal.

The Reverend Dr. Tom Boomershine will be leading a workshop on Biblical story telling at the October Presbytery Meeting at Clearwater Forest. He has written a book, "Story Journey—An invitation to the Gospel as Storytelling".

There will be a national gathering of Presbyterian Women entitled "Arise, shine our light has come!" August 2-5 in Louisville. Registration for this event is now open.

## WHAT'S UP WITH FPC'S MISSIONS

BY Barb Shorrel, team leader

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

Our missions in our community bring hope to those we serve. Just ask those who are on the front line of serving those who use our food pantry, Carelink, or the Open Door Clinic. Hear the stories and you will be touched.

Update on the Pentecost Offering—The total collected so far is \$505. The last collection day was Sunday, May 27. We will be sending 60% of this offering to the Presbytery of Northern Waters for disbursement to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. We will send 40% to the Chippewa Falls School District's Sources of Strength.

Food 4 Kidz update: Our church had 2 teams who worked to help fill 102,000 packages of food for distribution to local food pantries and school districts' weekend food programs on May 5.

Barnabas House: Ellen Teske, Bill Stafford and Anne Welke served a meal at Barnabas House on May 16. Are you interested in doing this? You don't even need to cook! Ask Anne Welke about how to get involved.

At our meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we decided to make the following recommendations to Session.

- Due to the fact that we did not need to use the money from the 2017 Pentecost Offering for the Food 4 Kidz project as recommended in April, we recommend that we use this money in the amount of \$210.40 for the Mission Coalition Backpack and School Supplies Give Away in August.
- In addition to that amount, we further recommend that we use the contributions from Noisy Sunday on July 29 for the Backpack and School Supplies Give Away.
- We recommend that the 25% local share of contributions collected for the 2017 Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering totaling \$126.25 should be given to the Family Support Center serving Chippewa County.
- In addition, we recommend that \$200 from the Mission Coalition account be earmarked for Barnabas' Table. Anne Welke will be in charge of when to use that money.

### Upcoming Events

- Soles 4 Souls will take place in August and September. Save your shoes that may be worn out or ones that you no longer want. It is a good time to clean out your closet!
- Lighten Your Load is held every week to help people who do not have the means to wash their clothes. Various churches in the city help in this project. If you can help out, contact Anne Welke or Bonnie Gullickson for more information.
- In July and August, the Mission Coalition will be sponsoring the Backpack and School Supplies give away to kids who need them.
- Preparing bags of groceries for the Food Pantry happens every week. Can you help once a month? Call Anne Welke if you want to know more.

# June Schedules

## June 3 – Sunday

### **Hospitality Team – Team 2**

Led by Lynda Butek and Mary Jo Reemtsma

### **DEACONS' POTLUCK AFTER SERVICE**

**Communion Servers** – Gene Peissig, Mitch Mandelert, Bonnie Gullickson, Jeannette Miller, ErikAnderson

**Welcome Desk** – June and Dick Kemp

**Flower Provider** – Beth Cripe in honor of her great, great, granddaughter, Penelope Lynn (one month old)

## June 10 – Sunday

### **Hospitality Team – Team 3**

Led by Gary Shorrel and Corine Boos

**Welcome Desk** – Marlys Daniels

**Flower Provider** – Open

## June 17 – Sunday

### **Hospitality Team – Team 4**

Led by Jeannette Miller and Jean Peissig

**Welcome Desk** – Barb Meredith

**Flower Provider** – Open

## June 24 - Sunday

### **Hospitality Team – Team 5**

Led by Erik Anderson and Kevin Litten

**Welcome Desk** – Holly Gintz

**Flower Provider** – Barbara Meredith in honor of all family birthdays and anniversaries in June

## **GATHER YOUR SHOES**

The Soles for Souls project will be in full swing in August and September. This is an annual project we undertake with the Mission Coalition.

We will be gathering all kinds of shoes – old shoes, new shoes, shoes of all sizes, single shoes, even worn out shoes – for this drive.

There will be a box in the Narthex so sort through your shoes and bring in what you and your family don't wear. Someone else will appreciate your generosity.