



The Bell

September, 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

FALL FOCUSES ON GOD'S VISION FOR OUR CHURCH

September will be a time of reflection on God's vision for our church as outlined by the Session and Deacons at their February retreat.

This series is entitled "Wisdom of Discipleship and Community". It will begin on Rally Day. The theme for the day is "Be Opened" and we will look at the first part of our vision statement during worship on September 9. Our vision states:

"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 strive for a meaningful participation of all people, no matter their age, race or gender, and enjoy including them and finding a place where each person's gifts are used and shared. 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."

The scripture passage for that Sunday is Mark 7:24-37. It is a story about a woman (from a foreign county and faith) who begged Jesus to heal her daughter.

We will reflect on what it means to be welcoming and inclusive in our daily life and the life of our church. Don't forget, this Sunday will include the traditional Rally Day potluck after service.

The theme for the second Sunday in our series is "Who are you, Jesus". On September 16, we will look at the next vision statement:

"We are traditional in worship; telling the stories of God and God's relationship with God's 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, and participating in the sacraments. Yet, we are not afraid to add new programs, technologies, or change long-held traditions, in order to listen to the Spirit, pursue our mission and serve one another in the family of Christ."

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The scripture passage for that day is Mark 8:27-38. It is a story of Jesus asking the Disciples “Who do people say I am?” Peter gets it half right and then Jesus explains what the complete nature of his mission is. We will examine what it means for us to be a Christian Church in today’s world.

The theme for the next Sunday, September 23, is “First in Caring”. We will focus on mission, the essence of the next portion of our vision statement.

“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.”

The Scripture passage for this Sunday will be Mark 9: 32-37. In this story Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all”. Our church supports many missions and Jesus’ call to be a missional church will be the focus of worship that day.

The final theme is “Getting out of the Way” This Sunday in September will bring us to the last vision statement:

“We are open and accepting of others’ thoughts and interpretations, and 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 are known for our passionate mission work; and desire joy, excitement and inclusivity in our community of faith.”

The Scripture passage for the last Sunday of our series will be Mark 9:38-50. This story is about being open to others preaching about Jesus, the importance of giving a cup of water to those in need, and being “salty” (seasoned in what we say) in your understanding and telling others about our faith. These statements sum up what our church is today and where, with God’s guidance, it is going in the future.

In Christ,

Pastor Karel

SERVICE TIME CHANGES TO 10:15

Don’t forget service begins at 10:15 on Rally Day, September 9. If you forget and come early, there will be plenty for you to do – making coffee, practicing with the choir, chatting with others who come early, etc. You will be kept busy!

Rally Day also marks the return of Wednesday night fellowship and suppers on September 12. See more information about fellowship in this issue of the Bell.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP STUDY RETURNS

We will be holding a half hour study on different topics at 6:00, following the Wednesday night meal and time of fellowship on September 12. There will be a short video along with several questions for us to discuss. They will be led by Mitch Mandelert, John Hillary, Linda Hanhart, Jeanette Miller and Pastor Karel. There are over 24 different topics to choose from. You could have some input on which topic is chosen for the night.

In the meantime, think about our lives today. We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want. That's how it is and that's how we want it to be. Still, our lives aren't any different than other generations before us. Our time is. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us and available when we need it. Our half hour will include short films with communication that really speaks to us. Each film touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about.

Here are some of the descriptions of a few of the topics.

Rhythm:

What does it mean to have a relationship with God? What does it look like? For a lot of us it's hard to fully understand. If God is an infinite spirit with no shape or form, how can we possibly relate to that?

You:

Some of the central claims of the Christian faith are the source of many discussions and heated debates. But are we always debating the right things? Maybe some of our discussions would change significantly if we had more insight into the actual circumstances that surrounded the first people of the Christian movement – if we had a better understanding of the things they did, maybe some of the claims of the Christian faith wouldn't seem so unique.

Noise:

Why is silence so hard to deal with? Why is it so much easier for us to live our lives with a lot of things going on all the time than just be in silence? We're constantly surrounded with "voices" that are influencing us on how to think, feel, and behave - movies, music, TV, Internet, cell phones, and a never-ending barrage of advertising. Maybe there is a connection between the amount of noise in our lives and our inability to hear God.

Today:

How much time and energy do we spend wishing things were how they used to be? We often think about times in our past when things were different and want our lives to be like that again. Some of us have even come to believe that our best days may actually be behind us. But if we're in some way hung up on the past, what does that mean for our lives today?

Come join us for these half hour discussions right after the meal with your friends, led by your friends.

TIME TO DONATE YOUR SHOES

The Soles for Souls project will be in full swing through September. This is an annual mission program 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. Sort through your shoes and bring in what you and your family don't wear. Someone else will appreciate your generosity.

You will find the donated shoes on display in the sanctuary throughout September.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES RESUME

With the coming of Fall, we resume our Sunday morning Bible study series on September 16 led by Gene Peissig.

This year Gene will dig deeply into the writings of St. Augustine and look at how they influenced the formation of the early Christian church. He will be using a 24-lecture study of "The Confessions", written in the form of a prayer to God that we are allowed to eavesdrop in on.

The first part of the Confessions is somewhat of an autobiography of Augustine's first 31 years as a non-Christian. The last four books are a reflection on the nature of memory, of time and its relationship to eternity, the principles of biblical interpretation and finally a meditation on creation as recorded in Genesis.

The first four classes are an introduction to Augustine, his genre, corpus of his writings, explanation of classical antiquity. The next 19 classes examine the 13 books that comprise his "Confessions". The 24th class looks into the future, "Confessions Through the Ages".

OUR ANIMALS NEED BLESSINGS TOO

Last year's virtual blessing of the animals was so successful, we have decided to do the real thing this year.

We will be joining with the congregation from Christ Episcopal Church on Tuesday, September 25 at 6:00 PM. Bring your pets - furry, feathered, finned and otherwise to the church at 624 Bay St in Chippewa Falls. We will meet outside before entering the church for this special service led by Pastors Aaron Zook and Karel Hanhart.

The blessing of the animals is a service the Episcopal church does regularly and has opened its doors and lawn to us this year too. Be sure your animal is restrained. We won't want any fights or anyone getting lost.

VISITORS' POSTCARDS AVAILABLE

Most Sundays we have people drop in to attend our services but we don't always know how or why they have come to us.

We now have a new postcard at the Welcome Desk which greeters will give to visitors and ask them to take a moment to "fill in the blanks" and put the card in the collection plate.

These completed cards will tell us how they heard about our church and why they are here. Hopefully, this information will give us a better idea of the success of our outreach campaign as it pertains to visitors.

PW TO COLLECT ANNUAL DUES

All Presbyterian Women are encouraged to contribute \$10 to continue the mission work of PW.

Contributions should be directed to treasurer, Kathi Mandelert, and checks made out to PW or Presbyterian Women.

FALL DIRECTORIES TO BE AVAILABLE SOON

Fall Directories will be available in the Narthex or from the church office by Rally Day. This will be the only directory we will do this year and contains names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses as well as lists of Hospitality Teams, Shepherds, Wednesday night suppers and church leaders and committee members.

If you want a new directory, you will have to pick it up in the church since they will not be mailed.

FPC TO HOST HOMELESS NEEDS MEETING IN OCTOBER

Monday, October 15 will find personnel from the Workforce Resource Center meeting in Fellowship Hall to discuss the homeless needs in the community. They expect to have about 60 people in attendance including the police and various local agencies dealing with our homeless population.

FPC PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Despite the rain, FPC volunteers and staff showcased our mission programs at the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7 at the Northern Wisconsin Fair Grounds.

Designed as an evening for the community to get to know their law enforcement personnel, the evening also affords community groups like ours the opportunity to let the public know more about what we are and what we do. We plan to exhibit again in 2019.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE RAISES MONEY FOR CARELINK

The ecumenical service in Irvine Park on August 12 netted over \$1,000 for CareLink, which is a joint mission of many of the protestant churches in Chippewa Falls.

CORRECTION TO THE AUGUST BELL ARTICLE

It was erroneously reported in the August Bell that General Assembly had voted to add Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' to the Book of Confessions.

This issue was discussed and the assembly voted to begin the long process of adding this letter to the Book of Confessions.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following people are celebrating birthdays and/or anniversaries in September. Congratulations to them all.

September 4 Rich and Ruth Rosenow
September 8 Ky and Judy Anderson, Gene and Jean Peissig
September 9 Tim and Becky Harer
September 17 Linda Hanhart
September 18 Kevin Litten and Patricia McGuire
September 22 Bruce and Mary Rosenau
September 24 Ruth Rosenow
September 25 Jackie and Gary Reich
September 26 Jaime Ostrom, Ryan and Sara Reemtsma
September 28 Christina Wiedenhoeft
September 30 Jim and Kathi Mandelert

THE SANCTUARY IS CHANGING TO ACCOMMODATE OUR KIDS

By Rally Day you will see that we have made changes in the sanctuary designed to give our youngsters and their families a place to call their own.

By removing the last pew in the western section of the sanctuary, we will have room in the corner for a small table and chairs as well as coloring books and quiet games that should appeal to our children. The parents can sit in the back of that section to keep an eye on their little ones.

Our plan is to have this area available throughout the year and, hopefully, encourage families with small children to join us for worship.

From the Mission Team

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY CONTRIBUTION FROM FPC:

The total given from our congregation to the Back Pack Giveaway was \$340.88. Way to go, FPC!

THE PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING IS COMING SOON.

The Mission Team voted to recommend that the local share of this offering (25%) be given to the Family Support Center and Session agreed. Working for non-violence at the most basic level, the family, furthers the efforts of peace in our community. This offering will be collected on October 7, World Communion Sunday.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TO BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT ON THE MISSION TEAM CALENDAR.

We were truly impressed by the initiative taken by Tiffany Woghan, our admin, who on short notice and a few volunteers set up a booth at the Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds representing our church and promoting its missions at the National Night Out event. Thanks to Karel, Anne, Gene, Margi, and others who helped to give our church a presence at this event. We recommended to Session that this be put on the Mission Team calendar, and they agreed. We will be present again next year at this event held on the first Tuesday of August.

FEED MY PEOPLE MATCH CHALLENGE TO BE HELD OCT 7-OCT 28.

We want to make you aware of this important fund raiser for the Food Pantry. Feed My People will match one dollar donated with one pound of free food to be used at our Food Pantry. In addition, the money used will help to fund food pantry purchases through 2019.

SOLES FOR SOULS WILL BE HELD DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER—SEE THAT NOTICE SOMEWHERE ELSE IN *THE BELL*. It's like finding Waldo, but a lot easier!

SMALL CHURCHES THRIVE BECAUSE...

They are particularly authentic

They stay connected to their community

There is always time for Prayers of the People

People can build genuinely loving relationships

Lay leaders are active and ready to help out

They give the biggest welcome

People keep believing in their ministry even when the numbers are small

People are in touch with each other's spirits and the Holy Spirit

They aren't afraid to break the rules

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS 2018 -2019

5:30 - 6:00 PM

Christian Education 6p-7p

Choir Practice 6:30p-7:30p

Sept 12—	Team 1
Sept 19—	Team 2
Sept 26—	Team 3
Oct 3—	Team 4
Oct 10—	Team 5
Oct 17—	Team 6
Oct 24—	Team 7
Oct 31—	Team 8
Nov 7—	Ham Loaf Dinner
Nov 14—	Team 1
Nov 21—	No Meal [Thanksgiving]
Nov 28—	Team 2
Dec 5—	Team 3
Dec 12—	Team 4
Dec 19—	No Meal
Dec 26—	No Meal [Christmas]
Jan 2—	No Meal
Jan 9—	Team 5
Jan 16—	Team 6
Jan 23—	Team 7
Jan 30—	Team 8
Feb 6—	Team 1
Feb 13—	Team 2
Feb 20—	Team 3
Feb 27—	Team 4
Mar 6—	Ash Wed. Fish Fry
Mar 13—	Team 5
Mar 20—	Team 6
Mar 27—	Team 7
Apr 3—	Team 8
Apr 10—	Team 1
Apr 17—	Team 2
Apr 24—	Team 3

SUGGESTED DONATION:
\$4.00 FOR ADULTS
\$2.00 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

<u>MENU</u>	
Team #1	<u>SOUPERSPUDS</u> Lynda Butek 861-3936 Margi Kohl 720-8926 Corine Boos 382-4278
Team #2	<u>Erik's Surprise</u> Erik Anderson 723-0992 Kathi Mandelert 723-5992 Rick Koepke 720-1826
Team #3	<u>CHEF'S CHOICE</u> Kevin Litten 319-361-9607 Marlys Daniels 723-2851
Team 4	<u>SOKUPS HOT DOGS</u> Anne Welke 723-2306 Kathi Mandelert 723-5992
Team #5	<u>LASAGNA OR SURPRISE</u> Presbyterian Men Jim Mandelert 271-9719
Team #6	<u>BARBECUES</u> Anne Welke 723-2306 Bonnie Gullickson 723-2076
Team #7	<u>CHEF'S CHOICE</u> Sara & Ryan Reemtsma 577-1602
Team #8	<u>CHEF'S CHOICE</u> Teske's 715-834-7482

**MENUS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE AT COOK'S
DISCRETION!**

**TEAMS MAY
EXCHANGE IF
NEEDED!**

Questions? Please call Erik Anderson at 715-723-0992

Updated: 08/82018

September Schedules

September 2 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 7
Led by Mitch Mandelert and Kathi Mandelert

Communion Servers – Corine Boos,
Jeannette Miller, Bob Denman, Lynda Butek,
Kevin Litten, Gene Peissig

Welcome Desk – Bonnie Gullickson

Flower Provider – Open

September 9 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 8
Led by Gene Peissig and Beth Cripe

RALLY DAY POTLUCK

Welcome Desk – Margi Kohl

Flower Provider – Anne Welke, Annie,
Andrew, Wilder and Audrey in memory of
Frances

September 12 – Wednesday

Spuds by Team 1 - Corine Boos, Margi
Kohl, Lynda Butek

September 16 – Sunday

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

Welcome Desk – Barbara Meredith

Flower Provider – Bob Denman in memory
of his mother, Kathleen M. Denman's,
birthday September 20

September 19 – Wednesday

Grilled Burgers by Team 2 - Erik
Anderson, Kathi Mandelert, Rick Koepke

September 23 - Sunday

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

Welcome Desk – Jean Peissig

Flower Provider – Open

September 26 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 3 - Kevin Litten,
Marlys Daniels

September 30 - Sunday

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

Welcome Desk – Anne Welke

Flower Provider – Open

NOTE: Wednesday night suppers return on September 12. A complete list of suppers through 2019 appears in this Bell and will be published in the Fall Directory.