



# The Bell

October, 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## **BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED**

It is time to bring the plants in that we set outside to grow. Time to repot those plants that have been growing in our windows all summer. Do we flourish when we are transplanted? Or do we allow heartbreaks and disappointments to stunt and hinder our growth? David said in Psalm 4:1, “You gave me room when I was in distress”. He was a “bigger” man for having gone through distress and difficulty. Sometimes we become a “pot-bound” (or narrow-minded) if left too long in familiar, comfortable circumstances.

Are we fair after having been transplanted? Is there a beauty and sparkle about us? Are others attracted to the Lord through us? Do we show forth (not necessarily tell) His praises? (1 Peter 2:9) Is there a fragrance about our lives that speaks well of our Lord? Both Daniel and Joseph were transplants but God made each of them a blessing in their difficult situations. Others of God’s children were uprooted and transplanted, but they were so defeated that they hung their harps on a willow tree, refusing to rejoice in the Lord and sing His songs in a strange land. (Psalm 137) They had lost their fragrance because of their unbelief in God’s sovereign plan.

No doubt all of us will admit our fragility. Sometimes we get depressed and begin to “pick ourselves apart”, forgetting that true growth is slow; God takes more time to build an oak tree than he does a mushroom. A bud that is picked open will never produce a healthy blossom; struggle is necessary for strength. We need to be “in the light as He is the light”. We need the water of the Word for cleansing and refreshment.

Just as a flowering houseplant’s blossoms will fade, so believers will inevitably experience times of fading; that only proves they are not artificial. True believers will produce “fruit in season” (Psalm 1:3). God only plants “perennials” and perennial plants need a time for “R&R”. Naomi is an example of one of God’s perennials. She had faded and nearly “died on the vine” but she returned to the “House of Bread” (Bethlehem) and God restored her (Ruth 1-4).

God will see to it that His children not only survive uprooting and transplanting, but that they will also flourish, be fair and fragrant in spite of their fragility and in times of fading. (taken from “Hope and Help”, The Sonshine Society, Lynwood Washington)

These are words to help us as we continue to stretch and grow as a community of faith. There are many areas where we are growing and where we have opportunities. We have been talking about them as we heard about our vision for our Church in September’s worship services. During September we (continued on the following page)

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began our fall programing with adult study programs, a change in our church school programing including a special area set aside for children in worship, and with a season of stewardship.

With all of this happening around us it is especially important that we are careful to “Bloom Where We Are Planted”. Be part of the blooming not part of the uprooting!!!

In Christ,

Pastor Karel

## **PM PROMOTES GOOD NEWS JAIL MINISTRY**

One of the special projects sponsored by the Presbyterian Men of our church is the Good News Jail Ministry. This ministry places Christian chaplains in jails and prisons to minister to the spiritual needs of inmates and staff.

PM donates \$1200 to this ministry as well as all proceeds from the annual golf outing, the most recent of which was held in September. Our golf team included Gene Peissig, Jeff Buckli and Erik Anderson. Our team finished at 8 under par which unfortunately, didn't win them any prizes but they had a wonderful time.

## **SOLES FOR SOULS MARCHES ON**

We are pleased to announce that the Soles for Souls campaign of providing shoes for the needy has been so successful that it is being extended for another week. We will be collecting shoes right up through Sunday, October 7, so if you haven't brought in your shoes yet, you still have time.

Anne Welke will be boxing and bagging the shoes we have collected on October 10 and welcomes extra hands to help. If you are interested, please contact Anne.

## **CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER**

Congratulations are due to those people who are celebrating a birthday or anniversary during October. They include:

October 1	Allan Peterson
October 5	Mary Flater
October 6	Winston Baker, Richard Stafford, Dick Kemp
October 8	Hess Morrison, Eleanor Owen
October 12	Margi Kohl, David and Pat Gutknecht
October 13	Julie Haglund
October 23	Mark and Kathy Borofka
October 25	Matt Simonson
October 31	John Ament and Marlys Daniels

## **FPC MAKES PLANS FOR THANKSGIVING**

The holidays are often a time for families to get together but sometimes that doesn't work out as we would like it to. Families are busy. There are conflicts with in-laws. Children have other plans. These conflicts can leave some of us alone on Thanksgiving. This year, we hope to remedy that situation.

For those people of the church and their friends who might be alone, we are planning a special Thanksgiving meal in the church. This would be a potluck with dishes chosen ahead of time and a donation taken to cover the cost of the turkey and any other incidentals we might need.

If you are interested in having Thanksgiving in the church, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to have Thanksgiving in your own home and could host several church friends, please sign up for that instead. Remember, this is just for our church friends and their friends who might be alone at this time.

## **FPC TO NOMINATE NEW LEADERS**

In December the members of this church will be asked to vote for Elders, Deacons, and a member of the Financial Review team to serve for the next three years.

The Elders serve on Session which is the rule-making body of our church. The Deacons provide help and advice to our members and work with Pastor Karel to provide in-home communion to shut-ins. The Financial Review team determines if our 2018 financial data is in order. This position does not require financial acumen. The work involves determining if our financial team followed the proper procedures as outlined by a guidance form supplied by Presbytery.

If you are interested in serving your church any of these capacities, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. They are Erik Anderson, Chair, Corine Boos, Lynda Butek, Margi Kohl, Gene Peissig, Jinx Smith and Anne Welke.

## **FOOD FOR MORE CHALLENGE**

From October 7 to 28 we will be having our Food For More challenge where a pound of food will be given for each dollar donated!

We are really reaching high this year with a goal of \$10,000! Why? The number of people in need has risen and so have the prices of items. While we do get as much as we can from Feed My People, we have to purchase items like diapers and toilet paper ourselves more often than not.

Through August, 2018 we have gone through 49,100 pounds of food! That's in less than a year! Since January we've helped 1,270 households. These are staggering numbers. The Food Pantry spends \$2,000 every month on food and supplies. That's \$24,000 every year. The Food Pantry doesn't take money from the church budget and strictly survives on donations.

Please consider donating during the time the challenge is running. We need help helping others.

## ON BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPC

One of the most important things we as Presbyterians can do is join our church. While it is important both to the church and to the prospective member, it isn't difficult. Membership is open to anyone who has been baptized and truly wishes to join the family of the church. If a prospective member hasn't been baptized, that must be done first.

There are three ways a baptized prospective member can join the church. The first is by affirmation of faith where he or she accepts the meaning and responsibility of membership. The second way is through reaffirmation of faith. In this case, the prospective member has already professed his or her faith in another church and acknowledges that he or she wishes to transfer membership to this church. The third method is by letter or certificate of transfer. In this case, the prospective member is currently a member of another Presbyterian church. That church sends a letter of transfer to our church stating that the prospective member wishes to renounce membership in that church and join ours.

In the case of someone joining by affirmation of faith, the prospective member must decide first that he or she wants to join the family of this church. Once they have made this important decision, the next step is to talk with Pastor Karel about the decision. During this discussion, Pastor Karel will explain the theology of the church, its governance and the workings of the church. He will discuss the Book of Order which gives us the rules for the church as a whole and the Book of Confessions which outlines what we believe.

If both the prospective member and the pastor are satisfied with the information exchanged, the prospective member will meet with Session concerning his or her desire to become a member. The Session will vote to accept the prospect and if approved, the new member moves to the final step. This step and the final step are also followed by someone joining our church by reaffirmation of faith or letter or certificate of transfer from another church.

This final step involves the member answering questions before the whole congregation. The new member will agree to renounce evil and its power in the world, turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as his Lord and Savior, agree to be Christ's faithful disciple and obey His word and show His love. He or she will also agree to be a faithful member of the congregation and share in its worship and ministry through prayers, gifts, study and service.

Finally, the new member is welcomed into the family of the church by the entire congregation.

Joining this church brings the new member formally into the family of the congregation. As a member, he or she can vote on church leadership, officers and the rules that govern our membership.

Enrolment is open at any time. We welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the FPC family to talk to Pastor Karel about joining the church.



World Communion Sunday “celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world” (Presbyterian Mission Agency). We are all part of the international body of Christ and the sharing of a worldwide communion illustrates that.

On World Communion Sunday we collect the Peace and Global Witness offering—one of the four special offerings that we collect each year. Our gifts enable our denomination to act globally in matters of conflict resolution and reconciliation; to promote an end to human trafficking especially enslaving children to be used as soldiers and laborers; to help persons in troubled places to work for peace and stability where they live. There are many examples of the good being done through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

This offering not only goes to international efforts, but 25% remains here in our community. We will again give our local portion to the Family Support Center. This agency works with persons who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault providing support and counseling. They have programs to educate parents providing them with parenting skills; and they offer protective behaviors education in local school districts.

In addition, another 25% will remain with our Synod of Lakes and Prairies. The remaining 50% will go the PC(USA) Mission Agency for their programs.

We hope that you will generously support this offering.

Submitted by Barb Shorrel on behalf of the Mission Team.

## **EVELYN JENSEN PASSES AWAY**

FPC has lost another long-standing member in Evelyn Jensen. Evelyn died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa on Saturday, September 22, of respiratory failure.

At 94 Evelyn was still active in our church, and joined her husband, John, at a recent service where her painting of the original FPC was on display. That painting hangs near the stairs from the Narthex to Fellowship Hall.

In addition to her love of art, Evelyn was active in the FPC choir for many years singing soprano. But her real passion was education. She held several degrees in English including a doctorate and taught at universities in the United States and Hong Kong.

Evelyn once again showed her love of music and for FPC by contributing to the fund to repair our organ pipes. It was through her benevolence and that of others like her that we will be able to enjoy that instrument for years to come.

The memorial service for Evelyn was held at the church on Saturday, September 29.

## **MOVED AWAY BUT FAR FROM FORGOTTEN**

Dr. Deb and Jim Biegging and Tim Anderson may have moved to the Twin Cities but they are still members of FPC and we hear from them regularly.

Deb and Jim both serve at the Open Door Clinic on a regular basis. Deb still travels to Bethel, Alaska to practice pediatric medicine there. Her latest trip there began on September 26.

Tim has moved his law practice to Minnesota but also works part time at a hardware store. Apparently that was on his bucket list so now he can cross that one off.

Perhaps not on his bucket list was a knee replacement which he underwent only a couple of weeks ago. Our best to Tim on his recovery.

## **ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES TO VISIT FPC FOOD PANTRY**

During October, our Food Pantry will receive visits from the candidates running for office in the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes most of Chippewa County and Chippewa Falls.

On October 2, Democratic candidate Wren Keturi will be our guest and on October 9 incumbent Rob Summerfield (R) will visit us.

The purpose of these visits is to hear and see firsthand the plight of the needy in Chippewa County. The candidates will not campaign during their visits but will have the opportunity to meet and talk with not only our volunteers but some of the people who use the pantry for their daily supplies and discuss their needs.

# October Schedules

## October 3 – Wednesday

**Sokups Hot Dogs by Team 4** - Anne Welke and Kathi Mandelert

## October 7 – Sunday

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

**Communion Servers** – Gary Shorrel, Corine Boos, Lynda Butek, Mitch Mandelert, Bonnie Gullickson

**Welcome Desk** – June and Dick Kemp

**Flower Provider** – Open

## October 10 – Wednesday

**Lasagna or Surprise by Team 5** -  
Presbyterian Men

## October 14 – Sunday

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

**Welcome Desk** – Marlys Daniels

**Flower Provider** – Bob Denman in  
celebration of his brother Jay's birthday,  
October 18

## October 17 – Wednesday

**Barbeques by Team 6** - Anne Welke and  
Bonnie Gullickson

## October 21 - Sunday

**Hospitality Team** – Team 6  
Led by Bonnie Gullickson and Pat Andress

**Welcome Desk** – Holly Gintz

**Flower Provider** – Anne Welke in loving  
memory of Dick Welke

## October 24 – Wednesday

**Chef's Choice by Team 7** - Sara and Ryan  
Reemtsma

## October 28 - Sunday

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

**Welcome Desk** – Bonnie Gullickson

**Flower Provider** – Open

## October 31 – Wednesday

**Chef's Choice by Team 8** - Ellen and Todd  
Teske