



The Bell

December, 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

November 20, 2018

Dear Congregation,

It is with a heavy heart that I tender my resignation as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. My last Sunday serving as your Pastor will be on February 4, 2019.

We have accomplished a lot in the almost five years I have served as your pastor. I am pleased that we were able to move from a feeling that the church would close in a year or two, to a church that has grappled with great financial difficulty and are more focused on the future.

We have completed fleshing out our vision statement, using our mission statement, which I am confident will guide you in your future decision making, "Living in Faith, With Purpose, For Community."

Each year we have chosen three goals which we accomplished in the year following. We have weathered several storms that could have been very detrimental to our community but rather we have grown in our mission and impact "In the city for good" in Chippewa Falls.

Not only do we participate and support many mission efforts that are ongoing in Chippewa Falls, but we have grown the three major mission efforts that take place in our church. Our food pantry has tripled in its ability to serve the hungry of Chippewa Falls. The Open Door Clinic, and CareLink continue in their vital ministry. We have also opened our doors to many civic organizations in town.

We are now at a crossroads in which the church needs to make some tough personnel decisions. I feel it is in the best interest that I resign and give the church some time to evaluate its direction in that regard.

It will be very difficult for my family to live on a reduced salary, so we have decided to return to Indianapolis.

The Congregation will need to vote on the dissolution of my call as your Pastor at the December 16th Annual meeting. The Committee on Ministry of Northern Waters Presbytery, will need to vote at their January meeting to concur with the Congregation's decision.

If this takes place, the Presbytery Committee on Ministry will guide the session and the Pastor
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Nominating Committee (PNC) in their search for a new Pastor to serve First Presbyterian. I have full confidence in the staff to continue their work in this process going forward.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Dr Karel Hanhart

WORDS FROM KATHERINE

On hearing about Karel's resignation, our former interim minister, Katherine Griffis, had this to say: "I thank God for the gifts that Karel has brought to the congregation over these last years. They are precious indeed. I admire his ability to reach the decision he has. I am in no position to comment on its merits, but I am impressed with his integrity in acting on it. He will certainly be in my prayers.... I have thought many times that God was at work in bringing you and Karel together. I still think so. I will be praying for you all as you discern what comes next."

Katherine has also added our church to the prayer list of her church in Hornell, NY.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone to church for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time, and the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the Letters to the Editor column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I can't recall the entire menu for a single one of these meals. But, I do know this: They nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are **DOWN** to nothing, God is **UP** to something.

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment. If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all.

FPC SCHEDULES ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

December 16 is the date of the annual congregational meeting at which time the following slate of officers for 2019 will be presented for congregational approval. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary immediately following Sunday service.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect leaders for 2019, review the 2019 budget as adopted by Session, approve the Pastor's call for the coming year and address possible changes to the church by-laws.

Nominated for Elder will be Jon Beighley and Larry Annett. They will join Elders Erik Anderson, Lynda Butek, Kevin Litten, and Mitch Mandelert on Session.

Nominated for Deacons are Anne Welke, Barbara Meredith and Chuck Norseng. They will join Deacons Corine Boos, Elizabeth Cripe, Margi Kohl, Kathi Mandelert, Gene Peissig and Mary Jo Reemtsma.

Gwen Bauman is nominated to serve a second term on the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees. She joins Vance Kohl, Chuck Norseng and Gary Reich.

Don Babbitt is being nominated to serve on the Financial Review Team along with Kevin Litten and Carmi Simonson.

Also presented to the congregation for approval will be a change to the church by-laws as follows: (Note: Deletions have been crossed through. Additions are shown in red and italicized.)

A-4.000

ARTICLE IV The Session

- A-4.003 17) The session shall be composed of between ~~five~~ ~~seven~~ and ~~seven~~ ~~nine~~ elders, plus the moderator. The clerk of session may be one of the ~~nine~~ elders or may be another elder elected by the session. Three elders and a moderator shall constitute a quorum.
- A-4.004 18) The session shall be divided into three rotating classes. *If the session is composed of five elders, there will be three classes, two of two elders and one of one. If the session is composed of six elders, there will be three classes of two.* If the session is composed of seven elders, there will be two classes of two and one of three. ~~If the session is composed of eight elders, there will be two classes of three and one of two. If the session is composed of nine elders, there will be three equal classes of three.~~ One class shall be elected each year to fill three-year terms. The elders shall be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation. An elder may serve two consecutive terms but shall then be ineligible for election to a new term until one year shall have elapsed. An elder may be elected to a two-year term or a one-year term to fill an unexpired term. The elder may then be elected to a full three-year term and is then ineligible for election to a new term until one year shall have elapsed.

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A-5.000

ARTICLE V The Board of Deacons

- A-5.001 21) There shall be a board of deacons. The board will be composed of *eight (8)* ~~nine (9)~~ deacons and the pastor, who serves as an advisory member. Deacons shall be elected by the congregation and ordained and installed to the office of deacon (see Book of Order, G 6.0400)
- A-5.003 23) The deacon board shall be divided into three ~~equal~~ rotating classes, *one class, consisting of two deacons and two classes consisting of three deacons.* One class, ~~consisting of three~~ deacons, shall be elected each year to fill three-year terms. The deacons shall be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation. A deacon may serve two consecutive terms (full or partial) but shall then be ineligible for election to a new term until one year shall have elapsed. A deacon may be elected to fill a partial term and then will be eligible for only one additional term.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following people who are celebrating birthdays and/or anniversaries in December:

December 3 Christopher Facklam and Bethany Flater
December 9 Carol and Jack Ament
December 11 Barb Sorrel
December 19 Bob Denman and Kevin Litten
December 21 Barb MacNaughton
December 27 Kathy Borofka and Felix Wiedenhoef

DEACONS PLAN TIS THE SEASON POTLUCK

Don't forget the Deacons' potluck following service on Tis The Season Sunday, December 2. Bring a dish to pass and a good appetite.

SESSION FORMS COMPUTER COMMITTEE

Session has authorized the formation of a new ad hoc committee to address the computer issues we will face in 2020. Early in that year, Microsoft will cease to support Windows 7 which is the operating system we are currently using the church. For that reason, we are being pro-active and looking at our current computers, how they are used and what we will need in the future.

This new committee, which falls under the wing of the Communications Committee, is chaired by Gary Shorrel, who was part of the computer group that came up with our current system.

News from the Mission Team...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

Every generous act of giving...is from above. –James 1:17

This month we will collect the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering is used to

- provide financial assistance to current and retired church workers to support them through life's challenging circumstances,
- and to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

(from the 2018 Christmas Joy Special Offerings Leaders Guide)

We will be collecting it on December 23 and December 30. Please print Christmas Joy on the memo line of your check. Envelopes may be found in the pew hymnal racks.

No Alternate Gift Sunday this year.

As Christmas approaches, we think about giving gifts. Many of us are at a loss for words when someone asks us what we might like. An oft repeated response is, "I really don't want any more stuff." For the past couple of years, we have sponsored an Alternate Gift Sunday. On this particular Sunday we contributed to one of our church's mission as a gift to someone else. We have decided not to have this event this year. However, if someone asks you what you would like for Christmas, think about asking them to give to a local non-profit in your name. All of them could use your help including our own, Open Door Clinic, our Food Pantry, Carelink, and the Jail Ministry, as well as Mission Coalition projects such as Tiny Houses and Lighten Your Load.

Noisy Sunday will be December 16, not December 30

Session has approved our recommendation to move our Noisy Sunday from December 30 (the fifth Sunday) to December 16. We want to contribute the money to the account set up at Citizens Community Federal in Lake Hallie for the families of the Girl Scouts killed while doing roadside clean up. This account will be active through the end of the year, and we want to make sure that the money we collect will get there before then. So, we are moving our Noisy Sunday collection to December 16 instead of December 30.

Feed My People's Match Challenge: The Match Challenge raised \$9,334 for our Food Pantry. Thank you to all who gave. We qualified for the 5000 pounds of free food from Feed My People. Yay!

FPC WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBER

Marjorie Kritchman is our newest member, joining First Presbyterian on October 30.

Marjorie may be new to us but we aren't new to her. She has been working at the Food Pantry and on special things like the Halloween Trunk or Treat event even before joining our church.

Marjorie is the daughter of Mary Flater and sister of Darin Flater so she is well versed in our church.

A widow with one adult son, Marjorie has a BA in business administration and marketing and started her own business in 2010.

Welcome, Marjorie. Glad to have you with us.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS STILL AVILABLE

It's still not too late to order your Christmas poinsettias for the holidays. All you have to do is complete the order form in the bulletin or available at the welcome desk and send it in to the church with your check for \$9.00 each plant.

We have already ordered poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. If you wish to be a part of this program, order your plants soon. They will decorate the chancel during Christmas and then be available to you to take home and enjoy.

SESSION APPROVES 2019 COMMUNION SCHEDULE

The Session has approved the following schedule for communion to be served in 2019:

January 6	First Sunday and Epiphany
February 3	First Sunday
March 3	First Sunday and Transfiguration of the Lord
March 6	Ash Wednesday (come forward)
April 7	First Sunday
April 21	Easter (come forward)
May 5	First Sunday
June 2	First Sunday
June 9	Pentecost (come forward)
July 7	First Sunday
August 4	First Sunday
September 1	First Sunday (come forward)
October 6	First Sunday and World Communion
November 3	First Sunday and All Saints Day
December 1	First Sunday and Advent 1 and Tis the Season
December 24	Christmas Eve (come forward)

2018 TRUNK OR TREAT A ROUSING SUCCESS

by
Tiffany Woghan

During a recent Food Pantry meeting, we were discussing ways to offset the high cost of toilet paper. We can't stop giving it out as people ask for this more than anything else. It's one of those things you really don't want to run out of at home. So how can we afford to give out this item that eats up a big chunk of our budget? A fundraiser. A fun event. Marjorie Kritchman shouted excitedly, "A trunk or treat event for Halloween!". Everyone turned and looked at her with blank stares and a collective, "Huh? What's that?" She had me at "You dress up in costume and decorate your cars". So how does this make us money?

First, you find people to have "trunks" and hand out candy and information. They then make a free-will donation to participate. Date and time was on Halloween during downtown trick-or-treating hours. We decided to find local businesses and agencies that aren't on Bridge Street or in the downtown area. We pounded the pavement going to various places; we emailed agencies, and we used Facebook to get the word out. Since we are members of the Chamber and of Main Street we also contacted them. The bulletin and Bell were used to reach all of you!

We had great trunks including Jill Cooper with the Open Door Clinic who won the prize for best trunk. (The kids who attended voted for their favorite.) So she won her very own headstone award and was very proud. We had second and third places as well. (Huge thanks to Kevin Litten for finding and shaping the stones, Gene Peissig for making the wood bases they sat in, and to Marjorie Kritchman for having little plaques made for the stones.)

The day arrived! We were all a mix of nerves and excitement having NO IDEA what to expect! The kids start showing up at 3pm on the dot! We had just over 180 cookies and cupcakes donated for the attendees to enjoy while going trunk to trunk. Gordy's donated a couple gallons of apple cider AND not only allowed but helped us block off part of their parking lot for the event! We had a photo booth set up where we could immediately email the photo to the parent. It was a fun and safe space that everyone really seemed to enjoy!

Our donated treats ran out just at the end of the event. Some trunks ran out of candy and flyers and toothbrushes even! Every single one of the trunks that participated wants to come back next year and said they're already thinking of ways to decorate their cars! With a steady stream of folks from start to finish we are estimating about 300 kids!!!

With a budget of zero dollars we were able to have a very fun and successful event thanks to a handful of people donating this or that. Whatever was needed they just took it upon themselves to purchase for us. And even though we had no idea how this event would turn out, we had quite a few volunteers show up to help. We all are grateful beyond words for the donations of time and items which are both so important to making an event successful. And we all definitely are declaring this event a huge success!

Presbytery of Northern Waters
New Bern Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Work Trip
February 16-24, 2019



New Bern, North Carolina took the full force of the storm surge from Hurricane Florence in September of 2018 and suffered serious flooding.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WITH WILLINGNESS TO LEARN. DRYWALL-FLOORING
PAINTING-SIDING-GUTTING-ROOFING-EXPERIENCE HELPFUL, BUT NOT NECESSARY.**

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS- AT LEAST 18-YEARS OLD, IN GOOD HEALTH, AND HEALTH INSURANCE.

We will be staying at Cornerstone Church in New Bern, North Carolina and sleeping on cots or bunkbeds. Showers and a fully-equipped kitchen will be provided. They can accommodate a maximum of 25 volunteers, so please register soon! We will carpool out and back. The trip will take two days each way and we will be staying over one night at a motel, both ways.

Total cost is approximately \$300 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$100/person should be included with your registration. Please submit your registration form and a check payable to:

Presbyterian-Congregational Church, 214 Vaughn Ave., Ashland, WI 54806-1531. **Please put PNW Mission Trip on the Memo line of your check.**

If you are unable to participate, but would like to be involved financially, you are invited to send a check designated for the **Presbytery Mission Trip. Please register by January 5, 2019.**

If you have any questions, please call Rev. Richard Blood at 218-343-4850, or Paul Rigstad at 218-666-2646, or Jim Deters at 720-530-1073. **We meet in mid-January, for a pre-trip orientation session.**

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ **DEPOSIT** _____
ADDRESS _____
STATE _____ **ZIP** _____ **PHONE** _____
EMAIL _____

December Schedules

December 2 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 4
Led by Jeannette Miller and Margi Kohl

DEACONS' POTLUCK

Communion Servers – Jeannette Miller,
Mitch Mandelert, Gary Shorrel, Beth Cripe

Welcome Desk – June and Dick Kemp

Flower Provider –

December 5 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 3 – Kevin Litten
and Marlys Daniels

December 9 – Sunday

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

Welcome Desk – Marlys Daniels

Flower Provider – Esther Frazier in memory
of Dick

December 12 – Wednesday

Sokup's HotDogs by Team 4 – Anne Welke
and Kathi Mandelert

December 16 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 6
Led by Bonnie Gullickson and Pat Address

Welcome Desk – Holly Gintz

Flower Provider – Bob Denman celebrating his
Birthday, Dec. 19

December 19 – Wednesday

No meal tonight

December 23 – Sunday

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

Welcome Desk – Bonnie Gullickson

Flower Provider –

December 24 – Monday

Hospitality Team –

Communion Servers – Bonnie Gullickson,
Dick Kemp, Lynda Butek, Erik Anderson,
Bob Denman

Welcome Desk –

December 26 – Wednesday

No meal tonight

December 30 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 8
Led by Beth Cripe

Welcome Desk – Barbara Meredith

Flower Provider –