



# The Bell

July, 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## SUMMER FINALLY ARRIVES

Good day and God's blessings to you.

Summer is finally upon us!! Hooray! What a wonderful time of year - enjoying the early sunrises and the late sunsets. Even the smoke from the fires in Canada seem to add to the beauty of both, and it is so great to see what God created for us.

Babies all around and even here at church with a mama bunny making her nest in our front flower bed and leaving us five little ones.

This is also the time of year where we have lots of outdoor church fairs, festivals, and the return of Pure Water Days.

It starts with Church at the Fair on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July at 10 A.M. Then we have One Fest on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair grounds.

And our summer worship time ends with Pure Water Days Ecumenical Church Service in Irvine Park at the Band Shell at 9:00 A.M. on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. We will have our church service that day at the park and yours truly will be delivering the message that day. In amongst all that there are plenty of car shows, parades, and lots of family visits, all the things that make up a great summer in God's kingdom.

And don't forget our picnics at Erickson Park. We won't be dining al fresco in July but will return to hear the water flow on August 2 before we head back inside in September.

And last but far from least is Vacation Bible School at Trinity United Methodist Church on August 6 from 11 AM to noon. Watch for more information to come on this event.

I pray that you have a wonderful and safe summer season and that once fall returns we see you at church on a regular basis. We have some additional worship opportunities planned for the fall that we would love to include you.

God Bless you all,

Ed

## **TREASURER'S REPORT ON CHURCH FINANCES**

Editor's Note: Over the years one of the greatest complaints we have heard is a lack of financial information. In an effort to correct that problem, our Treasurer, Carla Ingalls, has agreed to write regular articles on our finances for the Bell as well as speak to the congregation as requested. She does give detailed financial statistics to Session every month but that doesn't get passed on to the congregation. Our plan is to change that so you will know where we stand.

### **Financial State of the Church**

At this point in 2023, we have a budgetary shortfall of \$13,870.00. We projected an annual shortage of \$27,000.00 or more so we are right on track per our projection.

Our income is down and our expenses are considerably higher than anticipated, mostly due to the maintenance issues with our beautiful but aging church building. Although we have reserve to cover this for 2023, depleting our reserve to this extent is not sustainable in the long term (longer than five years).

We have approximately 20 regular giving units - that is individuals or families who contribute regularly. To meet our budgetary goals for 2023, we would need an additional \$26.00 per week from each of you.

Pastor Ed has been calling on current and past members encouraging them to return to the church which would result in more contributions. He is also looking for possible new members to add to our family. In addition we ask each of you to review the contribution you make to the church. In many cases, this amount hasn't changed in several years. While we certainly appreciate what you give, our expenses have risen and it takes more money to keep us going. Your help is essential to keep our church alive.

You are a very strong and generous body of members and have, without exception, provided for all the needs of this congregation and its mission for many years. We ask that you give prayerful consideration to how best your time, talent and money can help sustain and grow this beautiful church.

If you would like more detailed financial information, monthly financial summaries are always available in the Treasurer mailbox at church or please feel free to call me.

Carla Ingalls, Treasurer

**FROM THE MISSION TEAM...**  
**SUBMITTED BY BARB SHORREL**

**A big thank you** to all who contributed to the Pentecost Offering. We collected \$485. We sent 60% (\$291) to the Presbytery of Northern Waters. We sent \$278.75 to Mentor Chippewa. This included the 40% (\$194) of the Pentecost Offering and the amount collected for the April Noisy Sunday (\$84.75).

Thanks also for your contributions to Lighten Your Load! The quarter container remains in the church if you haven't contributed or want to do more.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

July 16-Aug. 6: We will begin collecting school supplies and contributions for Valley Vineyard's **Backpack Giveaway** on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made out to the church and Backpack Giveaway written on the memo line. In addition to donating school supplies and money, volunteers are needed to distribute the backpacks. Email Trisha [trisha@cfvalleyvineyard.org](mailto:trisha@cfvalleyvineyard.org) for more information on how you can help.

**July 30: Noisy Sunday**—We will purchase an item or two from the **Giving Catalog** from your contributions. See the accompanying article.

**SOLES 4 SOULS:** We have all been waiting for this mission to resume. So here it is! You may begin bringing your paired shoes to the church on August 13. Remember they must be pairs and be somehow tied together! We are looking for men's, women's and children's shoes in addition to sandals and boots. Look through your closet for any shoes you or your family aren't wearing and bring them to the church on August 13.

**LOVE CHIPPEWA FREE CLINIC EVENT—SEPT. 16—AT THE CHIPPEWA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL FROM 9-NOON**

Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men have each pledged \$200 to provide a grocery bag of non-perishable items like what we give out at our Food Pantry. We are partnering with Valley Vineyard to provide these bags of food to participants at Love Chippewa.

LOVE CHIPPEWA provides services that many of the poor in our community cannot afford. Some services offered include haircuts, car care, medical/dental/vision checks to name a few. These services are provided by volunteers from many fields of expertise.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

National Night Out comes to the Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds on August 1. Sponsored by the Chippewa Falls Police Department, the event will run from 5 to 8 this year and was originally intended to acquaint the community and particularly the children with the police officers.

The event has grown to include businesses in the community. FPC will have a table and will be distributing information on our mission programs, focusing on the Food Pantry and the Open Door Clinic.

## **FPC TO CHOOSE GIFTS TO HELP OTHERS**

As we discussed in last month, the July 30 Noisy Sunday offering will go to purchasing a gift from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

The gifts fall into five categories – kits and tools, people, water, livestock and agriculture and they include family and community farm bundles, sewing machines, fishing nets, fishing boats and accessories, water filters, a deep rock well, nutrition packs, chickens, a cow, a pair of goats, seeds, farming tools and even a community garden.

Some of these items are beyond our means to provide, but we can help with their purchase. Other items are well within our means.

For a complete list of gifts available, you can refer to the Presbyterian Giving Guides in the church or go to [presbyteriangifts.org](http://presbyteriangifts.org) to see what is offered.

Once we see how much money Noisy Sunday generates, the Mission Team will select several gifts and present them to the congregation in August to vote for the one or more that appeal to you.

In the meantime, take a look at the gift list and save up your change (and folding money too) for Noisy Sunday in July.

## **WE HAVE AIR!**

Yes, the new air conditioner has arrived and been installed.

This is the unit that failed late last summer and cools the Narthex, workroom, and the offices on the north side of the building.

We were forced to limp along without air to those areas for the remainder of the summer last year and the start of summer this year but now we have the new unit up and working and we should be good to go.

## **PER CAPITA HELPS US TOO**

As Pastor Ed mentioned recently, it's well past time for us to consider contributing to the Per Capita donations for the Presbytery.

This donation of \$34 per member is used by the Presbytery to fund their work including the cost of transportation to committee meetings for the pastors and in our case, the cost of Pastor Ed's continuing education. Without those funds from Presbytery, we might not have Ed because he might not have completed his studies to become a CRE.

The Per Capita assessment is over and above any donations made to the church. To contribute, just make your check out to First Presbyterian Church and put Per Capita in the memo line.

## **PURE WATER DAYS SERVICE TO BE AUGUST 13**

Mark your calendar for the ecumenical service in Irvine Park in conjunction with Pure Water Days..

The service will be held at the band shell in the park beginning at 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 13 and will include Trinity United Methodist, Our Saviour's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Central Lutheran, Christ Episcopal, Zion Methodist and Lake Hallie Methodist churches making it a truly ecumenical service.

Communion will be served, water will be poured in keeping with the theme of Pure Water Days and there will be traditional music. As if planned, the Gospel lesson for that Sunday involves Christ walking on water. The sermon will be delivered by Pastor Ed Williams.

There are benches at the band shell but many people choose to bring folding chairs or blankets to sit on the hill. The earlier than usual schedule should mean that the sun won't shine as brightly on worshippers making for a more pleasant morning.

In case of rain (Mother Nature wouldn't dare) the service will move to Our Saviour's parking lot where they are already set up for services by car radio.

There will be no regular service as FPC that Sunday.

## **FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS CONTINUE**

The First-Wednesday-Night-of-the-Month Suppers will continue through 2023 with the exception of July. Because the first Wednesday of July falls immediately after July 4, the picnic has been cancelled.

There will be one more picnic at Erickson Park on August 2. Then we will move back into the church for a special Dinner Church service on September 6. Both of these evenings will be potluck so polish up your best take-to-church recipes.

## **ANOTHER ADDITION TO OUR ARSENAL**

We have finally retired our old lawn mower. We knew it wasn't working the way it should but after Rick Koepke looked at it and said it would cost as much to repair as to buy a new one, the old mower was finally put to rest.

Thanks to the Presbyterian Men, Gene Peissig has purchased a new DeWalt electric 20 volt self-propelled mower with two batteries and a charger included. Plus Farm and Fleet threw in a DeWalt 20 volt leaf blower for free.

Many thanks to PM for this new mower. Now all we need is for the grass to green up so we can try our new "baby".