



# The Bell

June, 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

May 22, 2023

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,

It has been my privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor and moderator since May of 2019. I don't have the words to tell you how much you have meant to me. You have shown me much grace and kindness.

As I said on Sunday, you have shown up time and again when there was a financial need in the church, and you have responded to the needs of the greater community as you serve them through the Food Pantry and participate in the other community groups that reach out to those in need.

Thanks for the wonderful potluck dinner yesterday after worship—the food and fellowship were wonderful as usual.

Thank you for your generous check—again your generosity blows me away and leaves me pretty much speechless.

Sue thanks you for the cookbook with your recipes and she is eager to try them out.

I want to give a special shout out to Lynda who kept both session and me on track and kept everything moving “decently and in order.” She has been the best and most effective Clerk of Session I have ever worked with. Thanks, Lynda.

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the church at Philippi, and they express my feelings for you. *“I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because [I hold you in my] heart, for all of you share in God's grace...”*

Really, that sums up how I think of you all, and I am so grateful to have had the privilege to journey with you for a little while.

Grace and Peace,

P.K. and Sue

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

Presbyterians are all about giving and this year we have a bit different way of giving to others less fortunate than we are.

On July 30, which will be a Noisy Sunday in the church, the money collected 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.

## **OUR SAVIOUR'S PLANS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has invited our children and volunteers to participate in Vacation Bible School from July 17 to 21.

Children from 5 to 11 years of age will be participating in games, crafts, music and enjoying snacks during the mornings, which run from 8:30 to 11:30.

Registration for children and adult volunteers is required by June 17.

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

Planning for the 2023 ecumenical service in Irvine Park has begun. Traditionally this service has been part of the Pure Water Days weekend and this year will be no different.

The service will be held at the band shell in the park beginning at 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 13 and will include churches from around Chippewa Falls, 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 of the First Presbyterian Church. Watch your July Bell for more information.

## **PENTECOST AND COMMUNION**

This may be the June Bell but you will receive it before the end of the month so it only seems right to include something about Pentecost which is May 28 this year.

Traditionally we celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month and church holidays but 2023 presents special problems.

You will remember back in April, Easter Sunday when we traditional celebrate communion fell on the second Sunday of the month. Rather than have two Sundays in a row with communion, Session decided to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of April, Palm Sunday, and not do it on Easter.

Now we have the dilemma of Pentecost. Pentecost falls on the last Sunday of May and we will celebrate communion that day. Rather than have two Sundays in a row with communion, we will not celebrate communion in June at all.

Pentecost, which celebrates the birth of the Christian church, marks the end of Eastertide so the colors of the church will change to red for that one Sunday before going to green signifying growth. The green paraments will predominate all the way through Summer and Fall until they are replaced by the purple hangings of Advent.

## **IT'S BACK .....**

Well, almost. After months and months of waiting, Soles4Souls will be returning to our area.

The word is that the program will be held during the month of September so don't start bringing your new, old or mismatched shoes to the church yet. But you should start saving them to bring in early September.

Watch your Bell for more information.

## **AIR CONDITIONER UPDATE**

According to Rick Koepke, who is our liaison with the Hovlands air conditioner people, the new unit for the Narthex, offices and workroom has been ordered.

Rick expects it will be available sometime in June. Once it has been received, Hovlands will rent the crane to remove the old unit from our roof and haul the new one up there.

The actual installation date depends on when the unit gets delivered, when the crane is available and when the installation personnel are on hand to do the work.

But rest assured, the work is coming right along and should be finished before the really hot weather gets here.

## IT'S WEDDING TIME AGAIN

Summer has come to be known as the traditional time for weddings and many superstitions and much folklore surround that ceremony. And FPC will host its first wedding in 12 years on June 17 when Pastor Ed will marry his step-son, Cody Wasnick, and his fiancé, Jessica Clifford.

It is said that snow on your wedding day is a sign of fertility and prosperity. Not much chance of that here though.

Walking is thought to be the best way of getting to the church since there are more chances to spot lucky omens like seeing a rainbow, having the sun shine and meeting a black cat.

Wearing gold earrings on your wedding day ensures wedded bliss.

If the bride puts marigolds in her wedding bouquet, she will keep her true love.

Speaking the wedding vows on the upward strokes of the clock hands will ensure that the lucky pair will work well together throughout the marriage.

An engagement ring purchased on a Tuesday will guarantee a marriage filled with peace and contentment.

If a young girl receives a wedding proposal and cannot decide whether or not to marry the man, she might be advised to "leave it to the cat". She then takes three hairs from the cat's tail and wraps them in a bit of white paper. She leaves the packet under the doorstep for the night. When she opens the paper in the morning, she will note that the hairs have arranged themselves in an N for no or a Y for yes.

Just as the moon regulates the rise and fall of water, it is an age-old belief that it regulates the rise and falls of our emotions. According to some lore, the full moon is an ideal time to accept a marriage proposal since love is amplified then. The new moon phase is also the best for breaking up.

According to folklore, if a young woman sees a dove and the new moon at the same time, she should repeat

"Bright Moon, clear Moon, Bright and fair. Lift up your right foot. There'll be a hair."

When she removes her right shoe, she will find a hair the color of her future husband's.

So they say .....

## **FPC SCHEDULES PASTORS**

Now that Pastor Ed has been commissioned as our CRE, we will be seeing him in the pulpit more often.

Although his contract only requires that he preach three Sundays each month, he is so enthusiastic that there's no holding him back. You can expect to see Ed all through the month of June and the first four Sundays of July. On July 30, Rev. Sandee Kosmo will return to us as guest pastor.

Then Ed is back for the first three Sundays of August and Gene Peissig winds up the month of August as our guest speaker.

It is our plan to invite the guest pastors who have spoken in the past to join us from time to time as Ed's schedule and theirs permit. So you can expect to see Sandee and Terri Koca and hopefully Gary Hedding back with us again as the year progresses. And Pastor Ken Ribe will be back once his year away from this church has passed.

In order to give the new pastor an opportunity to cement his place with the congregation, the Presbyterian Church requires a year of separation from his old church once a pastor leaves. This was true with Barry and Katherine and Karel and now Ken.

## **PRESBYTERIANS DO LIKE TO EAT!**

In case you haven't heard, the Wednesday Night Suppers in Fellowship Hall are a thing of the past, at least for the next few months.

But due to the nice weather, the Wednesday Night Suppers have become the Wednesday Night picnics in Erickson Park beginning on June 7.

So brush up your favorite potluck recipe and bring a dish to pass, your table service and a folding chair and plan to join the fun on the first Wednesday of the month. The potluck begins around 5 and lasts until the food and conversation run out.

If there should be rain, we can always move back into the church but Mother Nature wouldn't dare. Would she?

Once the nip of Fall sets in, we will return to the church for Wednesday nights but until then, we can enjoy the nice weather, the sound of the water and fellowship with good friends.