



The Bell

October, 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Good day and God's blessings to you. Fall programs are in full swing around our community as well as here at First Presbyterian Church.

We have our Sunday Bible Study at 9:00 AM every Sunday in the Library. Right now, we are doing a Bible study based on the TV series "The Chosen". All are welcome and I can get you up to speed if you are interested in joining us.

We have also resumed the choir on a limited basis as we are small in numbers right now. Sherry Friedel, our music director, is leading that at 9:15 AM on most Sundays in the Multi-purpose Room. They need women, so please think about it or feel free to come and just enjoy some fellowship and a cup of coffee and visit before church.

We also started a new worship opportunity called Dinner Church on the first Wednesday in September. We had a potluck dinner followed by a confession of our sins and an open discussion about a selected part of scripture to wrap things up. It was a wonderfully attended ecumenical event with Presbyterians, Methodists, and Episcopalians. Everyone seemed to have a great time, so we are going to do it again, this time at Trinity Methodist Church at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, October 11. Dinner will be potluck. Please consider coming and joining us for a new expression of church around the table.

The other event was the Love Chippewa, Free Clinic on September 16. Local churches served between 125 and 150 people who just needed some additional help. This event used to be called "Touched Twice" but was brought under the envelope of "Love Chippewa" which was founded in the wake of the tragic death of the Girl Scouts in November, 2018 and the Lily Peters murder in 2022. Local churches got together to help the community members deal with their grief. With the Covid Pandemic, the churches stopped getting together and talking about community problems that churches could help with. With the return of the Free Clinic, it gave our local churches the opportunity to get back together again, not in a time of tragedy, but just to help the local community, as disciples of Jesus Christ. Love Chippewa is looking to find a way to provide more events and fill more needs in our community.

I pray that this finds you enjoying the colors of the trees and all early Fall presents. Please stay safe and feel free to drop in for a cup of coffee or just to chat. I would be happy to do either.

God bless you all, Ed

BITS AND PIECES

PW CHANGES HAM LOAF DINNER DATE

The much-awaited ham loaf dinner prepared by Presbyterian Women has been changed to November 8. The menu will include ham loaf, potatoes, vegetable, roll, beverage and dessert for \$12.

BRING YOUR APPETITE

Our Wednesday night suppers have resumed in the church on the first Wednesday night of the month. Since we are experiencing warmer than usual weather, the dinner on October 4 may be at Erickson Park. If the venue does change, you will be notified so you don't miss anything,

For sure the supper on November 1 will be in the church with soup on the menu.

BLOOD DRIVE TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED SUPPLY

Once again the Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive at the church on Thursday, October 12 from 10 to 4.

There is still time to schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767 or visiting RedCrossBlood.org on your computer.

UNITED WAY VOLUNTEERS MAKE US LOOK GOOD

Volunteers from United Way were busy at work at our church on Friday, September 22. As they have done in past years, they spent the morning pulling weeds. What would we do without them?

PFC DONATES TO LOVE CHIPPEWA

Many thanks to the members of Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men who donated \$200 each to the Love Chippewa event.

SOLES4SOULS YIELDS MUCH-NEEDED SHOES

The 2023 Soles4Souls campaign resulted in 2,663 pairs of shoes from the community. Of those, 200 pairs were given to the Love Chippewa event.

TRUNK OR TREAT COMING FOR HALLOWEEN

Once again FPC will sponsor the Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. Held in our parking lot, the evening will include trunks from community groups as well as representatives from the Chippewa Falls police and fire departments as their schedules allow.

OCTOBER BRINGS ALL SAINTS DAY

Although Halloween or All Saints Day as it is sometimes known falls in the middle of the week, it will be celebrated in our church on Sunday, October 29.

As we have done in the past, the names of recently deceased friends and family members will be written on ribbons. Our guest pastor that day, Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller, will read the new names before the ribbons are added to our ring of “saints” hung around the sanctuary where they will remain well into November.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING TO BE COLLECTED

October 1, World Communion Sunday, will be the official day for collection of donations to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Special envelopes are in the pews for that purpose.

HOW THE ENDOWMENT AND OPERATING CHURCH WORK TOGETHER

I've been asked what the Endowment fund is and how it works.

Our First Presbyterian Church is funded by weekly, monthly, or annual donations from friends and members, by earnings from Presbyterian Women's events, earnings from Presbyterian Men and yearly earnings from the Endowment.

The church is registered with the I.R.S. as a 501(c)3 organization identified as “The Presbyterian Church”. E.I.N. # 39-0852153. The Endowment is registered with the I.R.S as “The First United Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls”. A 509(c)(5) organization with E. I. N. # 39-1272793.) Each must file an I.R.S. informational tax return every year.

During the pandemic, resulting financial disruption and conflicting language with the by-laws caused principal and interest of the Endowment Fund to be mixed. The principal, also known as the base amount, of the Endowment is perpetual and CANNOT be used for church operations. Annual interest earnings from the base can be used.

A revised set of by-laws will be submitted for approval at the annual Congregational Meeting in December. The revision sets the base as \$150,000.

For a gift to become part of the Endowment base, it must clearly state it is to be used to increase the Endowment. Gifts and donations to the Presbyterian Church can be used for daily operations.

The Endowment trustees have determined the base of \$150,000 is a correct amount. A considerable amount of work has been done to “right the ship” as they say.

Endowment Trustee,
Chuck Norseng

STAINED GLASS PIECE RETURNS HOME

When Dr. Robert Koenig left FPC in 1985, his parting gift was a special stainless glass piece crafted by Eau Claire artist, Laurie Bizee. While there is some question about the spelling of the artists name, there is no doubt she was a strong influence in the art of the Chippewa Valley to the extent that there is even a Laurie Bizee (note different spelling) Gallery at the Pablo Center at the Confluence.

In Dr. Koenig's will, he stipulated that the glass piece be returned to FPC where it has been installed in Fellowship Hall.

The original plan was to mount it to the wall across from the large stained glass window but apparently the wooden studs were replaced during the church remodel and steel posts added. Those posts made it very difficult to actually attach the piece to the wall so Gene Peissig made a small stand to take the weight of the glass. The piece is also attached to the wall for stability.

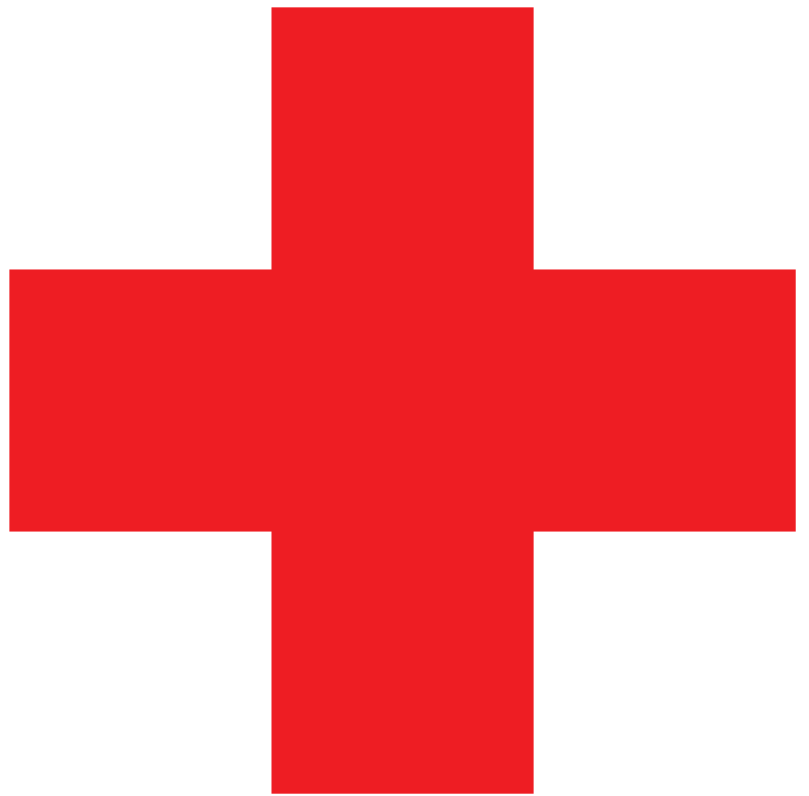
When Dr. Koenig's family can join us, the stained glass will be officially dedicated. Until then, it stands for us to enjoy.



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
**Chippewa Falls Community
First Presbyterian Church**

130 W Central Street

Thursday, October 12, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: Chippewa Falls to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Fall into giving blood Oct 1 thru 20 get \$10
Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See
rcblood.org/together**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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