



# The Bell

January, 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## HAPPENINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

Good Day and God's Blessings to you. Happy New Year!!!

Boy, 365 days go quickly when you're having fun. It was a busy year, and since I will be submitting my yearly report for our congregational meeting on February 11, 2024, after church, I will leave the reviewing of the past year for that.

We have a few things coming up in the next month that I just want to highlight so you can put them on your calendars now, that way you will not miss them. On January 3 we will be continuing with our monthly dinners at the church with games from 4:30 to 5:30, and then dinner from 5:30 to 6:30. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and community. Invite your friends.

We also will continue with our Dinner Church that we have been doing on the second Wednesdays of the month. This month, that falls on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. That goes from 5 to 6, but feel free to come early and visit. This month we are honored that Deacon Rose Ruthy from Christ Episcopal Church has volunteered to open their church for the dinner and church service. Pastor Crise and I are very honored that she would take one of the Wednesday's. We are so blessed that all three of our churches want to do this together. As always it is a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share.

The other thing that I want to let you all know is that I will be continuing with the tradition that Pastor Ribe started when he got here of doing a recommittal of our Baptismal vows on Baptism of the Lord Sunday. This year that falls on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, during the service. Please come and join us as we remember what Jesus did for us, and we recommit ourselves to living by his example.

I pray that this finds you enjoying Winter if we ever get it. Please stay safe and feel free to drop into the church for a cup of coffee or just to chat. I would be happy to do either. You never bother me when I am in my office. I enjoy the company.

God Bless you all,

Ed

## **SESSION CALLS ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Session has called for the annual Congregational Meeting to be Sunday, February 11, 2024 as specified in our church by-laws.

The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the 2024 annual report and budget, elect the 2024 Nominating Committee and vote on the proposed changes to the Endowment Fund By-laws as shown below.

Committee reports for the annual report are due during January. As in the past, the annual report will not be mailed to members but will be available at the church office during business hours.

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN ENDOWMENT FUND BYLAWS**

Drafted 9/20/2023 Edited draft 10/2/23 edited 10/23/2023

### **CURRENT PEAMBLE**

The First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin hereby establishes an endowment fund for the purpose of supporting the ministry of the congregation. A board of trustees shall be elected by the congregation to administer the fund.

### **PROPOSED PREAMBLE**

In 1977 the First United Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, now known as the First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, created a perpetual endowment trust to be administered exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, and to carry out the purposes of the First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. This endowment will continue to support the ministries of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The following by-laws will guide the administration of this endowment by the elected trustees.

### **CURRENT ARTICLE TWO—PURPOSES**

The purposes of the Endowment Fund shall be to:

1. Receive gifts;
2. Maintain and add to the principal, and
3. Grant portions, above the principal, to the church as requested by session.

### **PROPOSED ARTICLE TWO—PURPOSES**

The purposes of the Endowment Fund shall be to:

1. receive gifts;
2. establish a spending policy allowing for distribution of income annually to the church;
3. to invest the principal and gifts in a manner that provides annual financial support to the church.

#### CURRENT ARTICLE THREE – TRUSTEES AND ADMINISTRATION

There shall be between three and five trustees, one of whom will be a member of Session and selected by Session. Only active members of the congregation may serve. The nominating committee shall put names for election before the congregation at its annual or special meeting. Terms are for three years. A trustee may serve two consecutive terms but shall be ineligible for election to a new term until one year shall have elapsed. There shall be three classes, each class consisting of no more than two trustees. The term of one class shall expire each year. The pastor of the congregation shall serve as a non-voting member of the board.

#### PROPOSED ARTICLE THREE – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

There shall be between three and five trustees. Only active members of the congregation may serve. One shall be a member of Session and can only be selected by Session. The nominating committee made up members of the congregation shall place names in nomination at the congregation's annual meeting or at a called special election. The congregation will vote on the nominees. Terms are for three years. A trustee may serve three consecutive terms but shall be ineligible for election to a new term until one year shall have elapsed. The term of one class shall expire each year. The pastor of the congregation shall serve as a non-voting member of the board.

### **NEW CHURCH LEADERS CHOSEN**

The new church leaders for 2024 were elected at the supplemental Congregational Meeting held on December 10.

They are:

Elders: Barb Shorrel, Rick Koepke, Bonnie Gullickson  
Deacons: Corine Boos, Margi Kohl  
Endowment Fund Board: Chuck Norseng  
Financial Review: Rick Koepke

These new leaders take their places on January 1, 2024.

## An Update for Partners of Feed My People



### **PARTNER CELEBRATION** **Hunger Fighters from 1st Presbyterian Church**

Feed My People is honored to have such amazing partners who work diligently to ensure people in their communities have access to food. We acknowledge your dedication, passion, and hard work taking a stand against hunger.

The photo above is the crew from 1st Presbyterian Church in Chippewa Falls. They embraced Hunger Action Month and wore orange to display they are taking a stand against hunger. Thank you 1st Presbyterian Church for partnering with us, serving your neighbors, and fighting against hunger in your community.

### **WHAT IS THE FOOD PANTRY AND WHAT DOES IT DO?**

First Presbyterian Community Food Pantry is a partner of Feed My People Food Bank (FMP) in Eau Claire. We serve people with food insecurities in Chippewa county.

We have a board to make decisions regarding the activities of our food pantry. Current members are Larry Annett, Sue Kern, Barb Shorrel, Todd Teske, Anne Welke and Tiffany Wogahn.

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(Food Pantry continued)

### **WHERE DO WE GET THE FOOD?**

We order food from FMP Food Bank each week. **This year we have spent \$35,743 with FMP.** We expected to spend \$30,000! We also didn't expect to serve over 2,155 households this year when we served 1,681 last year. We're seeing bigger families which means they get double the food. So far this year we've had 6,050 individuals compared to last year's 4,530.

As a partner with FMP, we participate in their food rescue program which allows us to pick up food that otherwise might be discarded. Every Monday our volunteers pick up food rescue from Festival, Lake Hallie Walmart, Dollar General and Family Fare. We receive food donations from our Reverse Advent Calendar, summer garden surplus, and the postal worker's Stamp Out Hunger food drive. Trinity Methodist brings over their extra commodity items for us to distribute.

### **HOW DO WE DISTRIBUTE THE FOOD?**

We are open to serve guests on Monday from 1-3 and Tuesday from 10-noon. Cars line up on Island Street. The first car in line calls the person inside the church, gives them their information for our statistics and then informs the packers of the number of persons in the household. The packers bag the fruit, the vegetables, the bakery, the bread, and the meat and place those in a cart that already has the bag of nonperishable food items that all households receive. Stapled to these bags is information on various resources such as: seasonal heating assistance, FoodShare, other food pantries, etc. We also purchase milk and egg coupons from FMP which are stapled to the bag of food. When the cart is loaded, a volunteer takes it out to the car where the occupants unload it.

There is no charge to our clients for this service – no annual fee, no charge for the food we provide.

### **IF THERE IS NO CHARGE TO OUR CLIENTS, WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM TO OPERATE THE PANTRY?**

We operate under the non-profit status of the church, so all donations are tax deductible. One of our largest donors is the Rutledge Charities. They have kept our pantry operating during tough times. Trinity United Methodist recently held a concert by the Holcombe Madrigal Singers. The free will offering of over \$600 was donated to our food pantry.

Through November, we have received \$45,883 in contributions. Our expenses through November have totaled \$43,601. Our non-food expenses such as paper and plastic bags, toilet paper, equipment repairs, and hygiene products run about another \$8,000 a year!

### **WHO DOES THE WORK?**

About 30 volunteers do a wide variety of tasks. We would not be able to operate without them.

Unfortunately, the need continues to be going up in our community for food, shelter, and other basic needs. We do what we can for our community thanks to the church allowing us to use the building, the church and community members who donate and volunteer, and the ability to purchase food at a discount from FMP. We are grateful to be able to continue to be God's hands and feed our community.

## **FROM THE MISSION TEAM...**

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

Greetings for the New Year. May joy be our constant companion throughout the year.

Our January project is to raise funds for Carelink. Transportation in our community can be a challenge. Carelink provides emergency gas cards to those who need to get to medical appointments, a job, or for other important reasons. The Carelink volunteer meets with individuals to discuss their needs and to possibly refer them to other agencies for help. They offer a prayer to those who are willing. Carelink limits gas cards to one every six months. After they have had four cards, they are given out on a loan basis.

Carelink offices are at the Career Development Center on Grand Avenue. They are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 – noon. They give out \$25 gas cards.

**The tree in the sanctuary will remain up for the month of January. On the tree you will find envelopes with a dollar amount. Choose one and put your name on the envelope with your contribution. If you wish to give a different amount, cross out the one on the envelope and replace it with the amount that you wish to give. Place your envelope in the offering plate. When you take an envelope, help yourself to a sweet treat from the tree.**

**We will add the Noisy Sunday contribution on December 31 to the total given by the congregation.**

2024 Calendar for the Mission Team: We plan to publish a calendar of mission events in the next issue of the Bell. If you have any ideas that you would like to see happen, please let Barb Shorrel know.

## **COMMISSIONING SERVICE HELD FOR PASTOR WILLIAMS**

After almost a year here in Chippewa Falls, Pastor Ed Williams celebrated his commissioning as a CRE (Commissioned Ruling Elder).

The service, which was held on Saturday, December 9, included members of the Presbytery staff headed by Moderator Dianna Bell. The order of worship for the service was prepared by Committee on Ministry co-chair, Corey Larsen and the sermon was delivered by Rev. Ken Ribe who is also Presbyter for Pastoral Care as well as having served as our interim minister and the current mentor to Pastor Ed.

Also participating in the service were Commissioned Ruling Elder Bev Thompson, who serves on the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Lynda Butek, Ruling Elder and Clerk of Session for this church and organist, Judy Brist. Also attending the service was Brad Carloss, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.

During the service, Anne Welke presented Pastor Ed with a handmade stole on behalf of the congregation.

Presbyterian Women served lunch following the service which was attended by some 50 members and friends of the church.

## **2024 DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE SOON**

The new directories for 2024 will be available in the church by year-end. As usual, they include the officers and leaders of the church for the coming year as well as the hospitality and shepherds lists.

The updated list of names and addresses for members and friends also appears and is available in the Members Only section of the church website. As usual, the directory will not be mailed but will be available from the church office during regular business hours.

## **THANKS TO THE COW**

Those of you who attended Pastor Ed's commissioning service or visited Family Fare on Saturday, December 9 may have been greeted in the parking lot by a cow. Well, not a real cow but Chad Smith who was dressed as a cow.

Chad and his wife, Tiffany, belong to the Faith Riders, chapter of the Chippewa Valley. The Faith Riders are a national organization whose mission is "Go out – serve as ambassadors for Christ and make disciples of all nations." Most of the members ride motorcycles, hence the name Faith Riders.

The local chapter raises money from bake sales and other benefits during the holidays and use that money to pay for people's groceries at local supermarkets. On December 9 they also received a donation from Jacob's Well. That's what brought them to Family Fare where they donated money to pay for lunch following Pastor Ed's service.

## **ELEVATOR UPDATE**

As some of you may know, we have been having problems with our elevator. After many years of use, the elevator needs parts to continue operating. In order to get these parts, we needed to change our service company to TK Elevator Corporation in Minneapolis. The parent company actually manufactured and installed our unit and parts can only be obtained through one of their licensed service companies.

The elevator is operating fine but one guide shoe has broken, and it's only a matter of time before the other five guide shoes need replacement. For that reason, we are installing all new guide shoes probably immediately after the first of the year. The parts are readily available but with the holidays, the service probably won't take place until January.

In the meantime, we can continue to use the elevator since the service that needs to be done does not pose a safety problem. If and when one or more of the remaining guide shoes fail, we would be warned by a loud scraping noise. The elevator would continue to operate but the scraping would alert us to discontinue using it until the service can be done. There is a good chance the service work will be completed long before the remaining parts fail.