

# The Bell

July, 2025

## Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Good day and God's blessings upon you. I hope this finds you doing well and having survived our few days of sweltering heat. I just returned to church after a two week vacation, which I thank you all for and was happy to be inside by last weekend and not driving on a road somewhere.

As I indicated last month, we have entered the season of what is called Ordinary time, the time between Pentecost and Christ the King Sunday in November, so this is a time in our scripture readings where we see a lot of Jesus' miracles and teachings before he goes to Jerusalem and confronts the religious leaders of his time. I personally enjoy it as it allows me to preach on verses that give us all the opportunity to contemplate what Jesus was really teaching his Apostles and ultimately us, on his way to Jerusalem.

The verses for the last Sunday in June provide one of those opportunities to think and wonder what Jesus is saying to us here in the 21st century. Our reading comes from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 9: 52-62. I encourage you to read it in full but I would like to focus for a minute on the last part of those verses, 61-62. I took this translation from The Message Bible so it is a little different than our normal translation:

"Then another said, 'I'm ready to follow you, Master, but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home. Jesus said, 'No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day.'"

When I read these verses, I feel like Jesus is pointing at me and telling me, "Ed, tradition is good at times, but Jesus Christ's church moves forward and if you get stuck where you are, that is where you will stay, and you will wither on the vine, and you know what comes next".

This time between gives all of us an opportunity to look at what we have done for years in our prayer life, scripture reading life and, yes, how we worship Jesus Christ, not only on Sundays but throughout our week. We may need to change a few things to keep pushing the word of Jesus Christ out to our community. And yes, we may have to make ourselves uncomfortable to do what Jesus Christ asks us to do. And what is that? I do not have the answer, but with prayer and discernment, I think this church, the Body of Christ, can think of ways that we can get our message out in a more digestible way for our community to want to come hear about Jesus Christ. I welcome your input and suggestions.

God Bless you during this "ordinary", in between season. I hope you have some time to rest and recharge before we get back to the grind in September.

Ed

## **FROM THE MISSION TEAM...** by Barb Shorrel

**PENTECOST OFFERING:** We conclude this year's Pentecost Offering with the Noisy Sunday contribution to the Family Support Center. Thank you to all who donated. The totals will be reported in the August Bell.

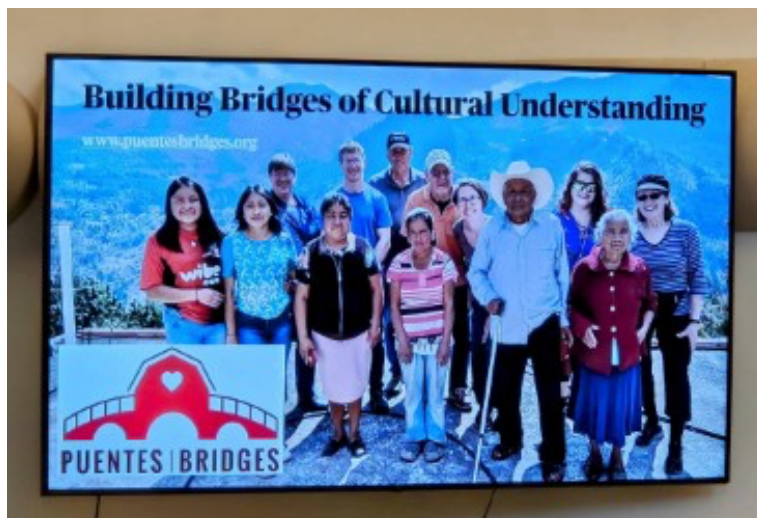
**BACKPACK GIVEAWAY:** Beginning July 6, we will be collecting donations for Valley Vineyard's Backpack Giveaway. You may donate money or school supplies. There will be a backpack in the sanctuary for checks and cash, and a box for school supplies. If you write a check, please specify "Backpack Giveaway" on the memo line.

If you would like to help pack up these supplies or help with distribution on August 17, please contact Trish Houle at [trish@cfvalleyvineyard.org](mailto:trish@cfvalleyvineyard.org), or call Valley Vineyard at 715-861-3523.

**SOLES 4 SOULS:** We are sad to inform you that this popular program will not take place this year. The Froelichs from Zion Methodist have retired after faithful service for the last 17 years. If you wish to continue giving your shoes to this program, Mason Shoe has a drop off spot at their retail outlet on Bridge Street.

**PUENTES/BRIDGES:** We had a large crowd at dinner church to hear a presentation from Puentes/Bridges. (And lots of food!) We heard from a farmer from Buffalo County, John Roesenow, who has hired migrant workers from Vera Cruz, Mexico for many years, from Mercedes, coordinator of the program, and from Roberto, a migrant worker who is employed on John's farm. We heard their stories and the special bonds that exist between the migrant workers, the U S farmers and the families that remain in Mexico. It was inspirational and an example of the many ways that we as humans are tied together.

The Mission Team will meet in July. If you have any special missions that you would like us to explore, please seek out Lynda Butek, Ruth Rosenow, Anne Welke or Barb Shorrel. Or if you would like to serve on our team, let us know.



## **CHURCH SERVICE MOVES TO FAIRGROUNDS**

On July 13 we move our regular worship to the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds where we will become part of Church at the Fair.

Beginning at 10:00, the service will feature Arni Jacobson, former chaplain of the Green Bay Packers as well as a variety of pastors from Chippewa Falls including Pastor Ed. The service will be non-denominational, faith-based and community-focused. It will feature the River City Worship Team.

Admission to the fairgrounds and parking will be free before the service.

If that morning proves to be hot one, the service will be live-streamed into FPC where it will be cool. In past years, live-streaming from the fairgrounds has not worked properly, however, according to fair personnel, the entire system has been upgraded to handle live-streaming.

BUT, if that doesn't work as planned, the service in our sanctuary will become one of music, spotlighting our favorite hymns. Either way, it will be a service to remember

For more information, tune into WEAU on July 2 shortly before 12:30 PM and hear all about the event from our Pastor Ed.

## **IT'S AMOST PARADE TIME**

After several years, FPC has decided to have an entry in the Pure Water Days Parade to publicize the church and the Food Pantry.

Volunteers are needed to get this done by August 9 when the parade will roll down Bridge Street.

If you are interested in planning the entry, actually building the float or being in the parade itself, contact Barb Shorrel.

## **HOW MANY PIANOS DOES A CHURCH NEED?**

Well, as it turns out, a church needs several – at least ours does. For many years we had four pianos in addition to our organ. There was the grand piano, which we use every Sunday, the spinet in the back of the church which the choir used, the piano in Fellowship Hall and yet another one in the basement where the choir practiced.

We have been slowly but surely with Sherry Friedl's help getting rid of those we don't need and moving the others around.

The grand piano isn't going anywhere but we have disposed of the piano in the basement and replaced it with the one from Fellowship Hall. The next piano to go was the one at the back of the church to be replaced with a digital piano which won't need tuning. Because of the heating and cooling vents at the back of the church, that piano has always needed tuning more often than the others. So now we are down to three pianos. Should be enough.

## THE KOHLS DONATE HEIRLOOM CLOCK

Now that Margi Kohl is happily installed at the Manor, she and her family are busy sorting and disposing of years of accumulated things. One of those is a grandfather clock which was given to Margi and Vance for their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Margi and her family have generously donated that clock to our church. It arrived late in June since moving a grandfather clock isn't for the faint of heart and requires special care and it has been installed in the Pastor's office

Many thanks to the Kohls for this wonderful gift.



## **JUST A REMINDER**

Our regular Wednesday night supper will not be held during July, not because of the weather but because of the July 4 holiday.

That gives us time to brush up on our potluck recipes for August 6 when we plan to return to Erickson Park for our last picnic of the summer (Mother Nature willing, of course).

## **AND ANOTHER REMINDER**

We have lots of things in the church (chairs, tables, roasters, coffee urns, dishes, etc.) All these things help make our lives at the church easier and they are available to be borrowed by our members and friends.

The one caveat is that if you wish to borrow something, PLEASE see Tiffany and fill out a special form indicating who you are, what you are borrowing and when you will return it.

Several years ago we learned the hard way that sometimes we forget who has borrowed what. A previous pastor (not Ed) loaned a roaster to someone but didn't write it down so we never did get the roaster back nor do we know who has it. Hopefully it has gone on to make many memorable meals.

## **SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO!**

And that just what our custodian, Colleen Audorff, did.

Colleen is a bus driver for Riteway, picking up and delivering our children before and after school and driving school busses. She has been doing this for years, long before she came to FPC.

While she has been driving school children to school and back for many years, she hadn't driven a motor coach filled with people for a long distance before. A motor coach is more like a Greyhound bus than a school bus and it is designed to carry adult passengers. Her "maiden trip" came on Friday, June 13 when she was scheduled to drive a group of law enforcement personnel from Wausau to Milwaukee for a Brewers game.

And so off she went. Or so she thought. Unfortunately she only got as far as Thorp when the coach broke down. After she crawled under the vehicle, Colleen determined it was a coolant leak and called for backup. She asked the bus company to send her a school bus so she could transport the waiting Brewers fans to where they could meet up with another motor coach.

After loading the waiting passengers onto the school bus (which they obviously hadn't been expecting), she was able to deliver them to the waiting backup coach and they were off to Milwaukee.

All's well that ends well. The group got to the game. The Brewers won and Colleen completed her first coach trip relatively unscathed. That's our gall!

## **LEO AND CHIP STUFFED TOYS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

Over the years we have come to know our Chippewa Falls K9 dogs, Leo and Chip. Leo has been in our church doing drug and SWAT training and has been part of our Trunk or Treat event in past years. But the time has come that Leo will soon be retired and go to live with his handler, Sgt. Steve McMahon, which leaves a vacancy to be filled.

The cost of a new K9 dog, plus the purchase of a new vehicle to carry him on his rounds plus training for the dog and his handler comes to about \$100,000. Part of this cost will be offset by the sale of the current vehicle which has reached the end of its days with the police force. This cost doesn't include transportation, housing and food for the handler who will meet his new companion in New Mexico sometime next year. Leo will retire at the end of 2026 and it is hoped his replacement will be ready for duty by then.

In the meantime, the police department is conducting a fundraising event featuring Leo and Therapy Dog Chip, to help with the added expenses. The fundraiser includes two stuffed dog modeled after Leo and Chip. Samples of the plushies (as they are known) are in the church and are available for \$20 each from the police department. If you would like to purchase one or both of these toys, contact Sgt. McMahon at the police department or the CFPD Alumni Association.

## **CALLING ALL GOLFERS!**

Hope Village has scheduled a summer golf scramble on Monday, July 28 at Whispering Pines Golf Course in Cadott. The outing is open to golfers of all talents and there will be multiple prizes as well as raffles for participants.

Cost of the tournament is \$100 for each individual or \$400 for a team of four. This cost includes 18 holes of golf, the use of a cart and food. Check in is at 8:30 with tee off at 10:00.

Interested golfers can sign up by completing the form available on the Hope Village website [HopeVillageChippewaFalls.org](http://HopeVillageChippewaFalls.org).

## **STATED CLERK BRAD CARLOSS SERIOUSLY INJURED**

Over the years, we have come to know Rev. Brad Carloss, who is the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Northern Waters. Brad has been in our church on several occasions, the latest being when we welcomed Pastor Ed and his family.

Brad fell from a ladder early in June and landed on the ladder itself breaking 10 ribs, damaging three vertebrae and partially collapsing a lung.

He spent most of June at Regions Hospital in St. Paul but has been moved to the St. Croix County Health and Rehab Center in New Richmond, which is much nearer his home in Amery. His recovery is going well but he is still dealing with a lot of pain and needs to be able to get around comfortably before going home.



# *Chippewa Falls Police Department Alumni Association*

## K-9 FUNDRAISER



**K-9 LEO**



**\$20.00**  
*each*



**DOG CHIP  
THERAPY**



Please contact Sergeant McMahon or the CFPD Alumni Association if you are interested in purchasing a plushy! 715-726-2763 OR [smcmahon@chippewafalls-wi.gov](mailto:smcmahon@chippewafalls-wi.gov) OR

[cfpdalumni@gmail.com](mailto:cfpdalumni@gmail.com)

Cash or Venmo only. Proceeds go to the CFPD K-9 Fund and Chippewa Falls Police Department Alumni Association. While supplies last.



**venmo**