



The Bell

April, 2026

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

God's Blessings upon you. He has risen. He has risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Easter is in full swing. The tomb will soon be empty, and Jesus Christ is still there for us. God showed his great love for us, by sending his son to live a sinless life and die a horrible death. But he beat death and ascended to the Father for us.

As with every Easter season, you are given the opportunity to follow in Jesus Christ's footsteps. Looking at the whole Passion story, you see that Peter denied Jesus three times. Yet none of the Resurrection story includes Jesus Christ getting mad at Peter, the rock of the church, or chastising him or any of the other disciples for abandoning him. He knew it would happen, and he told them.

But Peter gives us the example to follow. Even if you have turned away from God and Jesus Christ because of "churchy people", or you see what is happening in the world, God still is reaching for you. He truly wants a relationship with you. He loves you and would like to talk with you.

How do you do that? Pray to him. Bring him your problems. Read your Bible. Come have a cup of coffee with me and I would love to talk with you about it.

God Bless you and your family. Have a great spring and God's Blessings upon you,

Ed

HOLY WEEK BRINGS MORE ACTIVITIES

As we move into Holy Week, the church becomes busier than ever.

On Maundy Thursday the focus will be at Trinity United Methodist Church where the traditional service will include a potluck. The meal begins at 5:00 followed by the ecumenical service at 6:00.

This service will include Eddie Crise, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Ed Williams, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Paolo Vasquez, pastor of Zion Methodist and Lake Hallie Methodist churches, Deacon Rose Ruthy representing Christ Episcopal Church and introducing Rev. Chad Anderson, the new pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls.

Ed Williams will deliver the sermon at this service which will include a freewill offering to benefit Carelink.

Good Friday will see two ecumenical services including the same five pastors. The noon service will be at Our Saviour's followed by another service at Zion Methodist at 3:00. Rev. Anderson will deliver the sermon at both these services.

On Sunday, there will be no Bible study at our church since Fellowship is moved to before the service and begins at 9:15. There will be no Fellowship following the service which will allow families time to be together to celebrate.

As we did last year, the community-wide Easter dinner will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 810 Pearl St. Chippewa Falls from 2:00 to 4:00. All are welcome.

LILIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Time is drawing short to order lilies for Easter but they are still available.

We will have a dozen in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday and if you are interested in purchasing one or more at \$12 each, just complete the order form in this issue of the Bell and turn it in to the office.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING IN DULUTH

Presbyterian Women are invited to join others from the Presbytery at Glen Avon Church in Duluth on April 24 and 25 for their annual meeting.

See the notice in this issue of the Bell for more information about this special meeting which will revolve around Partnership with our Native Neighbors on reservations in North and South Dakota.

EASTER LILIES

We are now taking orders for Easter lilies that will grace the chancel on Easter morning, April 5. The cost per plant is \$12. Please fill out the order form. Return to the church office as soon as possible. Submit your order:

- 1) during office hours (9:00 to 2:00 Monday, Tuesday or Thursday)
- 2) by mailing to the church

The plants may be picked up after the Easter service. The plants not picked up at that time will be planted or distributed in the community.

I want to purchase (how many) _____ Easter Lilies for display in our church during Easter. Write Easter Lily in the memo section of your check.

I would like designation(s) in the church bulletin to read:

In Memory of:

1) _____

2) _____

In Appreciation for:

1) _____

2) _____

In Celebration of:

1) _____

2) _____

(other title) _____:

1) _____

2) _____

From:

Return to: First Presbyterian Church Phone: 723-5717
130 West Central Street
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729-2345

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Northern Waters

All women of the church are invited to our annual meeting.

Glen Avon Presbyterian Church

2105 Woodland Avenue, Duluth, MN 558036

*Please find our parking lot and entrance to the rear of the building,
or use the Lewis Street entrance.*

April 24-25, 2026

6:30 pm Friday - Pizza Meet and Greet

9:30 – 2:00 Saturday - Program and Lunch

Lunch \$8.00. Please register by April 16th to

Amanda Keppers at Glen Avon: 218-724-1604 or presbyteryofnorthernwaters@gmail.com

Please bring your Least Coin and Birthday Offering from your local church.



Sweetgrass Wacanga
Domestic Violence Shelter



Gather Our Children Home

Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor.

Romans 13: 9b – 10a

Please join us for our program:

PW Partnerships with our Native Neighbors

on reservations in North Dakota and South Dakota

By Marilyn Stone, Coordinator of the Native American Concerns Committee,
Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Who are our Native neighbors,

and how can we develop relationships with them?

We'll discuss causes for historical and generational trauma
affecting our Native neighbors and ways we can support their efforts.

A special offering will be received for

Gather Our Children Home, Pine Ridge, SD

THE CHIPPEWA FALLS YEARS

By Irene Robertson

Editor's note: Following is the eighth installment of Irene Robertson's letter about the years she and her husband, Rev. Wallace Robertson, spent in Chippewa Falls between 1938 and 1941. Mrs. Robertson's letter goes into detail about life in Chippewa Falls and at the church.

Due to the length of the letter, portions of it will appear in subsequent issues of the Bell.

Sunday picnics in Irvine Park with Gundersons, Hanson, Crissingers, Johnsons, Cranes and Jaggards; going to the woods owned by Crane Lumber Co. with church couples to cut the Christmas tree, followed by hot chocolate at someone's home; going to someone's cottage on Lake Wissota to picnic, play games and swim; all are pleasant and precious memories.

There are sad memories, too. The Crissinger family lived across the street from the Manse and they had a lovely daughter who was part of our high school group. She became ill, with a fever of over 5 degrees and died from an intestinal blockage. It was very difficult for Wally to comfort her family and conduct the funeral services. Another sadness came to the Crane family. Lloyd's sister, Gwen was a teacher, Janesville, Wis., and became engaged to a fine man who owned a pheasant farm in Janesville. Wally officiated at their wedding, and when they had a baby girl, Ruth Jean McFarlane, Wally baptized her. When David was about 4 months old I was invited to have lunch with an elderly lady (Aunti (sic) Bowe) and bring David with me. It was Armistice Day (November 11) and Wally had gone to Eau Claire to see the football game between Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire high schools. A sudden, severe snow storm developed that afternoon. I can remember packing newspapers around David before heading home from Auntie Bowe's. Thankfully, Wally made it home, too. We soon had a call letting us know Gwen McFarlane's husband, Kenneth, had gone duck hunting and was on a lake when the storm came up. He and his dog made it to the shore and he started to look for shelter. He became tired and decided to rest a while, but he fell asleep and froze to death. The news rocked our community. Gwen moved back to Chippewa Falls with Ruth Jean. Ruth Jean and David were about the same age and played together as toddlers.

We walked a lot. Wally called on patients at the hospital every day and he walked 10 blocks to the church. He also met with some of the men every day at Wheeler's Drug Store for coffee. After David was born I joined Libby Rodgers and we walked our babies. Later, when I took David for walks in his stroller I would have freshly baked bread and take loaves to shut-ins. Walking was good for us, but we were happy when Wally's Dad gave him \$500 to buy a car. He and Wally's Mom and sister had come to spend Christmas with us and Wally went with them to Eau Claire to see them off on the "400" train to take them back to Milwaukee when his Dad handed him the money. We bought a new Chevrolet for \$600. Wally had to learn to drive and I had to brush up on what I knew. It was stick shift back in 1940.

REEMSTMA COOKS FOR APRIL WEDNESDAY DINNER

The April First-Wednesday-of-the-Month Dinner will be hosted by Ryan Reemstma who plans to serve pulled pork. Everything Ryan makes is SCRUMPTIOUS!