



# The Bell

October, 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## **FALL BRINGS US TO PRAYER**

Good day and God's blessings upon you. Fall is upon us!! As of September 22, we began Fall. Feel free to get out your Fall decorations and pumpkin spice stuff, if you do that sort of thing.

As we go into this Fall, we see there are a lot of things going on in our country, and our world. I will admit, I watch too much news, but I bring that from my military days as I always liked to know why they might send me somewhere, foreign or domestic, before I went.

As I watch what is happening in the Middle East, Europe and in our own country, it begs the question, "Are we not praying enough?" I pray every morning and throughout my day and most nights when I go to bed. Sometimes I feel like I am in a losing battle. But I was reminded by a devotional I got recently from Frederick Buechner, that even when you feel you have not heard from God, continue to pray.

Mr. Buechner writes, "WE ALL PRAY whether we think of it as praying or not. The odd silence we fall into when something very beautiful is happening, or something very good or very bad. The 'Ah-h-h-h!' that sometimes floats up out of us as out of a Fourth of July crowd when the skyrocket bursts over the water. The stammer of pain at somebody else's pain. The stammer of joy at somebody else's joy. Whatever words or sounds we use for sighing with over our own lives. These are all prayers in their way. These are all spoken not just to ourselves, but to something even more familiar than ourselves and even more strange than the world." He uses Jesus' own teachings to show us that we need to constantly pray.

If you look up Matthew 7:9-11, Luke 11:5-8, Luke 18:1-8 you will see that Jesus uses a bit of exaggeration to show us, his disciples, that we need to be constantly praying to our God and Father and telling him what we need and asking him how we can help.

In this time of extreme turmoil in our world, I would encourage you all to pray for everyone in our world and to keep a happy outlook on all that is going on. God is in control as always and will answer our prayers. It may not look like we thought it should, but as always, God knows best.

Hope all of you have a good Fall season, and keep praying!!

God Bless you all,

Ed

## **OCTOBER 2 WILL BE A BIG DAY**

As Fall finally arrives, we are starting off October with a BANG! October 2 is going to be a very special and busy day or evening.

The evening will start off with “Sunday School” for the kids at 4:15 in the Multi-Purpose Room in the basement. Since the class will be on the first Wednesday of the month, we are calling it Mid-Week Youth Gathering. The classes will be geared toward youth from pre-school through elementary grades. We are looking forward to having young people from our church family as well as from other churches participate.

We will have a special guest speaker, Alice Walters, who will be in Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:00. Alice is a nurse and will be discussing the missionary work she plans to do in Papua New Guinea and what she hopes to accomplish there. Alice is affiliated with Ethnos 360 which sponsors missions throughout the world. Check their website at [ethnos360.org](http://ethnos360.org) for more information on the group and their work.

Since October 2 is the first Wednesday of the month, we will have supper in Fellowship Hall from 5:00 to 6:00. Befitting the cooler weather, dinner will be three soups prepared and served by Corrine Boos, Barb Shorrel and Lynda Butek. You can also expect all the usual trimmings including bread, salad and dessert.

All in all, it should be an exciting and rewarding evening.

## **OUR WORLD NEEDS PEACE!**

October is the month we take up the Peace and Global Witness Offering. It's also a time for us to reflect what it means to be at peace within our country. Sure, we have hatred and vitriol in America but we don't fear for our lives every day and every night. Unfortunately that isn't the case in many areas of the world where our missionaries work.

Many of you will remember Carol and Leith who have visited us and talked about their mission in Southeast Asia. They have asked us not to divulge either their last name or where they are because they are genuinely fearful of reprisals.

For many years Carol and Leith sent us quarterly updates on their work but we haven't heard from them in quite some time. Their last newsletter is still posted on the bulletin board in the hall. The last we heard Carol was retiring but we don't know about Leith. We don't know HOW they are or WHERE they are or even IF they are. But we do know they need our prayers and the church needs our financial support to help people like Carol and Leith as they witness on our behalf.

It's not too late to contribute to the Peace and Global Witness offering. Send your check made out to our church and put Peace and Global Witness on the memo line. We will make sure it goes where you intend.

## **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 and will be held in conjunction with the Chippewa Falls Halloween celebration on Bridge Street. As in the past, Trunk or Treat will begin around 3:00 and end around 4:30.

Help is always needed to staff this event. Contact Tiffany Wogahn if you are interested in participating.

## **OCTOBER BRINGS ALL SAINTS DAY**

Although Halloween or All Saints Day as it is sometimes known falls on Thursday this year, it will be celebrated in our church on Sunday, October 27.

As we have done in the past, we will have a commemoration of those friends and family members who have gone before us and are now “saints”.

Pastor Ed Williams will be our speaker on that Sunday and we will have the garland of ribbons with the names of our loved ones who have passed away around the church. As in the past we will have ribbons available for congregants to add the names of those who have passed away in the last year. Following the service those ribbons will be added to our garland which will remain in the sanctuary until Advent.

Be thinking of those names you wish added on October 27. If you do not plan to be in church that day, you can call the office with any names you want included.

## **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR COMES AGAIN**

For the past several years we have had a special event featuring a Reverse Advent Calendar and this year will be no different.

Instead of the traditional Advent Calendar where you may receive small gifts for every day during advent, the Reverse Advent Calendar works – you guessed it – in reverse. Every day during Advent participants will be asked to GIVE something to the Food Pantry to be distributed in the new year. The items range from soup to cereal, from macaroni and cheese to oatmeal.

On Christmas Eve the donations will be brought to the church and blessed during the service before being turned over to the Food Pantry.

Watch your November Bell for a complete list of donation items to add to your shopping list.

## **IT MAY BE EARLY BUT ...**

With the warm weather we have been having, it's hard to think that winter is on its way but it is and it's time to think about what we might do if heavy snow means the church will be closed.

If you think church services might be cancelled because of snow, check the WEAU.com website. You will find a "Cancellations" bar on their Home page. Click on that and you will see all the cancellations for that period. That will include schools, the Boys and Girls Clubs, churches, etc.

If we have to cancel service this winter, that cancellation will be posted on the cancellation page of the WEAU website and it will also appear on our church Facebook page.

In addition, if the church is closed, we will notify as many of you as possible either by email, regular mail or text to your phone using the new procedure put in place this year.

This notice will be posted on the tower in the Narthex throughout the winter as a reminder.

Hopefully we will have a lighter-than-normal snowfall this Winter as we did last year but you never know.

## **SOLES 4 SOULS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES**

We all have them. Many of them are just taking up room in our closets. We know for whatever reason we will never wear them again but we keep them.

Now's the time to get rid of those old shoes. Maybe they don't fit or are worn out or just don't go with anything in our wardrobe. No matter the reason, someone without shoes would probably welcome them.

Bring pairs of shoes bound together with a rubber band or tied together to the church during our regular hours or on Sunday before services.

We are looking for ladies' shoes and men's shoes, especially children's shoes and even sandals or boots. Shoes are shoes!

We will collect shoes through October 9. We need to deliver the shoes to Zion Methodist on October 12.

This is our chance to clean out our shoe closets and give to those who really need and want shoes.

## **WHAT WILL WINTER LOOK LIKE?**

Now that Summer is officially behind us, we are experiencing Fall and looking toward Winter. Last Winter was a very quiet one but what will this year bring?

The Old Farmer's Almanac says we can expect a cold Winter but not too much snow. We will see about that. But if you are still in doubt (and why wouldn't you be?), here are a few thoughts to consider.

If October is very rainy, we can expect lots of wind in December.

For every fog in October, we can expect a snowstorm in Winter.

Or we can watch the Woolly Bear caterpillars. The Woolly Bear caterpillar has 13 different segments of either brown or black. The wider the rusty brown sections or the more brown segments there are, the milder the coming winter. The more black there is, the more severe the Winter weather will be. The next thing to do is find one of those caterpillars.

Heavy frosts are generally followed by fine, clear weather.

When the first snowflakes are large, the snowstorm will be a lasting one. When they are small, the storm won't last long.

If a mole digs a hole 2-1/2 feet deep, expect severe weather, if two feet deep, not so bad, if one foot deep, a mild Winter.

If you see pigs gathering leaves and straw in the Fall, expect a cold Winter.

If the north wind blows, we can expect snow.

Or you can always watch the weather on television, or on your computer - depends on how "scientific" you want to be.

## **BLACK CAT OR NO BLACK CAT**

Many of us have cats in our lives and many of those cats are black. The idea that black cats are unlucky is a very old one but one that persists today.

The idea that black cats are unlucky dates back to the middle Ages when that type of feline was associated with witches and warlocks. Pope Gregory IX even went so far as to insist black cats were devilish. The superstition carried over to America with the Puritans and was made worse during the Salem witch trials when black cats were even considered to be witches' familiars or magical attendants.

Unfortunately this superstition is still with us making black cats more likely to be overlooked when it comes to adoption. But there is a National Black Cat Day on October 27 which might be a good time to bring a new black fuzzy one into your home.