



# The Bell

June, 2026

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## **WE HAVE LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO**

God's blessings upon you. He Has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Hallelujah.

The unofficial start of Summer is upon us and so is the end of Easter season. We celebrated Pentecost on May 24 and Trinity Sunday on the 31st. Then we begin the long season after Pentecost which ends on November 22 with Christ the King Sunday and then the start of Advent on the 29th of November. The busiest part of the church year is done.

Jesus is still with us even though he ascended into heaven, and the Holy Spirit is still in our hearts and there are still things that go on through this time of Summer rest.

I thought I would highlight what is happening over the next three months at church. We will continue with our first Wednesday get togethers, but move them to Erickson Park for the summer, starting on June 3. Sunday June 7 we will have special music from our Music Director, Sherry Friedel, and some guests we have never had before so please come.

Dinner Church will cease for now and will come back in September on a new day as we want to add more churches to our Dinner Church rotation. Gene Peissig will be preaching on the September 21 as I will be in California for the interment of my aunt.

In July we will be having Margi Kohl's celebration of life here at the church on Friday, July 3. Visitation is from 10-11 with the service at 11 with a luncheon afterward in the Fellowship Hall.

On the 12th we have church at the fair at the Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds starting at 10:00. Admission is free. You are invited to come to the Fair Grounds, but if you think it is too hot or wet please feel free to come to the church and Rev. Pauline Bangle will be preaching that day. We will also have a guest preacher on July 19 as I am preaching at First Presbyterian Church of Eau Claire. Please keep them in your prayers as they work through the process of calling a new Shepherd to their flock to lead them.

On July 31 through August 2 there is One Fest in Cadott, if you would like to listen to some contemporary Christian worship music. Donna Martin and I volunteer there for all three days so you would be among friends. On the 2nd there is a free church service on the grounds, or here at First Presbyterian Church when Rev. Sandee Kosmo will be preaching and leading communion. And finally we have our Annual Pure Water Days Ecumenical Church Service on August 9 in Irvine Park at 9:00 when many of our fellow churches in the community come together and celebrate the great (continued on the following page)

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blessing of fresh water that we have in our community.

God Bless you all and your family as we take a little break and rejuvenate during this Summer season. Hope to see you all out and about in God's beautiful world enjoying the gifts he has given to us. God Bless you all.

Ed

## **THE CHIPPEWA FALLS YEARS**

By Irene Robertson

Editor's note: Following is the tenth 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, the final portions of it will appear in the July Bell.

We have kept in touch with a few Chippewa Falls people. Whenever we were to vacation in northern Wisconsin we stopped in Chippewa Falls to see old friends. Earl and Ruth Gunderson also visited us after we left Chippewa Falls and we corresponded with them all through the years. Earl died before Ruth, who died in 1997 at the age of 99. Their daughter Barbara was in high school when we came to Chippewa Falls and she has been a good friend and keeps in touch with us. Last February, when we were vacationing in Clearwater Beach, Barbara and her husband, and Barbara's brother Bruce and his wife, came to the beach and we all had lunch at the Beachcomber restaurant. It was a lovely reunion.

Julian Clark, a young bachelor, was one of Wally's golfing buddies. He worked at the bank in Chippewa Falls. He had bankers' hours and he and Wally would go out early in the morning to get in 9 holes at the Ojibway course. We have not seen him in 50 years, but we correspond faithfully. He married and moved to a farm near Madison, Wis. And owns an apple orchard.

Fred and Amy Horak lived near the Manse and were about our age. They were faithful and helpful members of the church and, through the years, they have been faithful correspondents, keeping us up to date with what is happening at the church and the town.

Bert and Anita Jaggard lived about a block from the Manse and we did many things together. Their daughter, Betty Jo, was born in Chippewa Falls and Wally baptized her. They left Chippewa not long after we did, but we have remained close friends, and cherish the opportunities we have had to see them.

Our years in Chippewa Falls will never be forgotten. We owe the wonderful church members so much. They helped us grow and learn how to minister to a church and community.

## **PRESBYTERY MEETING MOVES TO CHIPPEWA FALLS IN 2027**

It's been about 15 years since the Presbytery met at our church but that will be changing next Spring.

The Presbytery of Northern Waters will come to Chippewa Falls for their meeting April 29 through May 1, 2027.

The last Presbytery meeting we had in our church was when Barry Boyer retired so it's been a long time coming.

Lots to do before then but we'll make it happen with the help of Presbytery staff.

## **MOVING THE BAPTISMAL FONT**

Occasionally it is necessary to move the baptismal font to another location on the chancel or below the stairs.

The font is rather heavy and is typically moved by one of our men. But there is a trick to that.

Before moving the font, remove the cover and the water bowl. Under the bowl is a sturdy wooden cross-piece with the words "Lift Here" printed on it. That's how the font itself should be lifted, not by the overhanging rim of the stone top.

What would happen if the font were lifted by the stone top? Maybe nothing but let's not find out.

## **IT'S PICNIC TIME AGAIN!**

Now that Summer is here, we are moving our regular First-Wednesday-Night suppers from the church to Erickson Park where (weather permitting) we will picnic through August.

Our first evening in the park will be June 3 so dust off your best picnic potluck recipe and join the fun. Erickson Park has shelters, rest rooms, access to the water, a play area for the youngsters, and limited seating. You might want to bring a beach chair just to be sure you'll have a place to sit.

The plan is to picnic through the summer unless rain forces us to move back into the church temporarily. If the weather does change, don't look for an eBell announcing a change of venue. Rather look at the sky to see what Mother Nature has in store.

Regardless, it will be great to get together.

## **BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES**

It may be summer but Bible study will continue. Normally at this time of year, our Sunday morning Bible study takes a break until Fall but this year will be different since the attendees want to complete the current chapter of the Chosen before taking a rest.

Bible study will take a break after this chapter but it will return in the Fall (probably in November) with the next installment of the Chosen.

## **A NOTE FROM THE ENDOWMENT TEAM...**

In April, Ed and I met with the representative of Kathi Mandelert's estate, Steven Cray. The Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls Endowment Fund was named as a beneficiary of her estate. Mr. Cray presented a check for \$65,709 to our fund. We are grateful to the Mandelert estate for this generous gift.

We are also grateful for those who donated to the Endowment Fund in memory of Esther Frazier. We received \$530 in her memory.

This money, along with a CD that matured in April in the amount of \$17,217, has been invested with LPL Financial. This is the entity used by our advisors to the fund, North Point Advisor Group in Eau Claire.

Barb Shorrel, Treasurer  
First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMES TO WISCONSIN**

Milwaukee will be the site of the 227 meeting of our General Assembly. The theme of this year's conference, which runs from June 29 through July 2 is Persevering Toward Wholeness. The meeting will include special speakers and special worship services.

For more information, contact the Presbytery office.

## **WHY DO WE DO COMMUNION BY INTINCTION?**

Sesson has scheduled Communion to be celebrated the first Sunday of every month and on special holidays like Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve and Pentecost.

Recently we have often been celebrating communion by come forward intinction rather than pew service. The reason for this is that our congregation is growing and it's difficult to know how many will be in church on any given Sunday.

Intinction involves dipping the bread in the juice rather than consuming individual cups of juice. This gives the Communion team a better chance of providing enough elements to serve everyone.

## **BOOKMARKS APPEAR FOR MOTHER'S DAY**

Worshippers attending service on Mother's Day were surprised with handmade bookmarks made specially for the occasion by Pauline Bangle.

Rumor has it that we will see more of Pauline's handiwork in the near future.

## **STAMP OUT HUNGER CRUSADE DECLARED A SUCCESS**

The Chippewa Falls Post Office announced the annual Stamp Out Hunger event which was held on May 9 was a success.

On that day Chippewa residents were encouraged to put a bag of non-perishable food near their mail box for their letter carrier to pick up.

The food that was collected not only here but nationwide was distributed to local food banks including our own Food Pantry which received 1,778 pounds of canned goods.

In addition, our Food Pantry received a check for \$500 from the local Post Office and that was matched with another \$500 from the Federal Postal Office.

## **WE ARE AWASH IN SOAP AND LOVE**

The May Lather with Love event netted our Food Pantry 140 soap items collected by local area churches.

Our own donations came to 50 soap items for the drive which has been going on for 15 years.

## **IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NO GOOD**

As much as we all hated to see the Family Fare market close, our church received many miscellaneous items the market couldn't find homes for.

We received batteries, glassware, cleaning supplies, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and other non-food items which we were either able to give to our own Food Pantry clients, or which we donated to other groups that could use them.