



# The Bell

August, 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls. Wisconsin

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON VIOLENCE

Good day and God's blessings upon you. What a drastic change in our country in just two months! Sometimes it makes your head spin at how fast these things happen. This has been weighing on my heart so I felt I should share it with you.

I talked on July 21 in church about what had happened on the evening of July 22 with former President Trump. I pointed out that it was unacceptable for any violence in any form to happen in our country, especially violence toward any public official, current or previous. I also reminded the congregation that all government officials, current and former, need to be prayed for and wished good health and safety. Paul told us all in his letter to the Romans 13:1-2; "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment." His protégé, Timothy, also told us in 1 Timothy 2:1-4 that "supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions..."

The discourse in our country goes against everything that Jesus told us to do in Mark 12:29-31. When he was asked which commandment is the first of all, "Jesus answered, 'The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Kathryn M. Schifferdecker offered this at the end of her commentary on Jeremiah 23:1-6 from last week, "As we in the United States enter into a contentious election season, we pray for leaders of integrity to be chosen, shepherds who serve their people, who practice justice (*mishpat*) and righteousness (*tsedakah*). And we pray for such leaders in nations around the world, shepherds who will usher in God's *shalom*, so that their people 'shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing.' May it be so for us and for our global neighbors."

Once again, please pray for our country and please pray for the anger that seems to be running through our country to stop and for Jesus' guidance to permeate our hearts.

God bless you all,

Ed

## **PURE WATER DAYS SERVICE TO BE AUGUST 11**

The ecumenical service that Chippewa Falls hosts during the Pure Water Days Festival is perhaps one of the most delightful examples of Wisconsin culture in the state. It is held in Irvine Park at the gazebo built to honor those who served in World War One. All are welcome.

The service will be held beginning at 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 11 and will include pastors and congregations from Trinity United Methodist, Our Saviour's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Central Lutheran, Christ Episcopal, Zion Methodist and Lake Hallie Methodist churches making it a truly ecumenical service.

This year Pastor Eddie Crise of Trinity United Methodist Church will deliver the sermon. All the other duties of the service are divided equally. A collection is held which goes to an agreed upon community service

Early in the service water will be poured in keeping with the theme of Pure Water Days and attendees are encouraged to bring bottles of water collected from the river, creek or a lake to add to the water being poured. There will be traditional music provided by an ecumenical choir directed by Ron Buckles of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

There are benches at the band shell but many people choose to bring folding chairs or blankets to sit on the hill. The earlier than usual schedule should mean that the sun won't shine as brightly on worshippers making for a more pleasant morning. The service usually sees about 200 attendees.

In case of rain the service will move to Our Saviour's parking lot where they are already set up for services by car radio.

There will be no regular service at FPC that Sunday.

## **WHERE'S WINSTON?**

Winston Baker is fine and he's right where he belongs – in church every Sunday morning. But it was a close call to be sure.

When part of the Romeis Apartments where Winston lived threatened to collapse into Duncan Creek, Winston and some 30 of his neighbors were forced to move immediately. That meant leaving his apartment with only the clothes on his back. At the moment, Winston is living at the Indianhead Motel in Chippewa Falls but should be moving into more permanent accommodations later this month.

Over the years Winston (like so many of us) accumulated many possessions all of which had to find new homes too. With the help of Rick Koepke, Kevin Litten, Gary Reich and Pastor Ed Williams, all of Winston's things have found new if temporary homes in storage. Of course, the team had to pick the hottest (to date) day to make the move but it got done. Watch the Bell for more news on Winston.

## **OPEN DOOR CLINIC HOLDS ANNUAL MEET TO EAT**

It is August so it is time to eat and support the Open Door Clinic while we are at it.

Every August the Clinic puts on Meet to Eat which this year involves eight restaurants in the Chippewa area. On August 8 those restaurants will donate 25% of your bill to help support the Open Door Clinic.

This year's eateries include Anderson's Chic-n-Fish in Cornell, Foster's Riverview Inn also in Cornell, Harm's Way Bar and Grill in Bloomer, Old Abe's Supper Club in Jim Falls, River Inn Bar in Wheaton, The SandBar and Grill in Lake Wissota, Whirlybird Coffee in Chippewa Falls and Xpeditions Coffee Company in Bloomer.

Sponsored by Northwestern Bank, Mayo Clinic Health System, Thrivent, A to Z Embroidery and Screenprinting, Scheels and Fries Financial, this event is a major fund raiser for the Clinic which is mostly dependent on individual contributions from the community.

FPC is proud to be able to host the Clinic and give them the space and facilities they need to do their much-needed work in the city. This event is just another way for us to help the Clinic and enjoy good food while we are at it.

## **COME HEAR SOME COOL/HOT JAZZ**

On August 2 Northwestern Bank is sponsoring Jazz for a Cause at the Chippewa Falls Riverfront Park. This year the proceeds will go to our Open Door Clinic.

## **SCHOOL BEGINS SOON AND SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED**

In early August we will begin collecting school supplies and contributions for Valley Vineyard's Backpack Giveaway. This event assists students whose families may not be able to afford backpacks or regular school supplies. Checks should be made out to the church and Backpack Giveaway written on the memo line. In addition to donating school supplies and money, volunteers are needed to distribute the backpacks.

## **SOLES4SOULS SOMEWHAT UP IN THE AIR**

Most years the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition has sponsored the Soles4Souls shoe drive during August. Although the drive isn't official yet, we encourage you to hunt through your closet and set aside any shoes you aren't wearing any longer for donation. We are looking for men's, women's and children's shoes in addition to sandals and boots. Remember, the shoes must be in pairs and somehow tied or fastened together.

As the final plans for Soles4Souls haven't been announced yet, **DO NOT BRING YOUR SHOES TO THE CHURCH YET.** You will be notified when you can deliver them.

# MEET TO EAT FOR THE FREE CLINIC



Eat at one of the following restaurants on Thursday, August 8th, and 25% of your bill will help support the Open Door Clinic!

- Anderson's Chic-n-Fish, Chippewa Falls
- Foster's Riverview Inn, Cornell
- Harm's Way Bar and Grill, Bloomer
- Old Abe's Supper Club, Jim Falls
- River Inn Bar, Wheaton
- The SandBar and Grill, Lake Wissota
- Whirlybird Coffee, Chippewa Falls  
(open 7am - 2pm)
- Xpeditions Coffee Company, Bloomer

Special thanks to our sponsors:





Northwestern Bank Presents

# **JAZZ** **FOR A CAUSE**

**TO BENEFIT THE OPEN  
DOOR CLINIC**

Friday, August 2nd, 2024 | Music starts at 5:00 PM  
Fireworks at 9:30PM | Riverfront Park | Chippewa Falls

**LOCAL JAZZ BANDS**

**FOOD TRUCKS**

**FIREWORKS AFTER THE SHOW**

**FREE FOR ALL AGES**



## **FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS CONTINUE**

Summer is nearing an end and so far we haven't been able have even one picnic at Erickson Park but we still have a chance.

Trinity United Methodist is hosting dinner church on August 7 featuring guest speaker, Miriam Godfrey, who will discuss her ministry in foreign countries. If the weather permits, we will have a picnic in the park on September 4. If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, we will be forced to dine in Fellowship Hall. Both of these evenings will be potluck so polish up your best take-to-church recipes.

Regardless, the regular first-Wednesday-night-of-the-month suppers will resume in Fellowship Hall in October. As usual, the supper will be preceded with games from 4 to 5 PM.

## **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

National Night Out comes to the Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds on August 6. Sponsored by the Chippewa Falls Police Department, the event was originally conceived to acquaint the community with their police and fire personnel but it has grown to include community organizations as well. The event will run from 5 to 8 this year

FPC will have a table and will be distributing information on our mission programs, focusing on the Food Pantry and the Open Door Clinic.

## **THE BEST LAID PLANS .....**

often backfire. The plans were laid far in advance for the Sunday Service at the Fair. The churches were prepped and ready to go and we had set up (we thought) streaming of the service in our sanctuary or in members' homes. But it didn't work out that way.

Shortly into the service, the streaming gave out leaving us with egg on our faces, blank screens and the biggest part of an hour to kill.

Apparently this wasn't the first time this problem had popped up. But we didn't know about past gaffes involving the WiFi at the Fairgrounds.

Now that we know we will plan differently in the future.

# STARGAZING IN THE NORTHERN SKY

By Kevin Litten

(Editor's Note: Now that summer has set in with warm nights, you may want to do a bit of star-gazing. The following article by FPC member Kevin Litten appeared in the July 19 issue of the Eau Claire Leader Telegram.)

Most people can point out the Big Dipper. The Big Dipper is an asterism, a smaller part of the constellation Ursa Major – the Big Bear. The two outside stars of the ladle, not the handle, point towards Polaris, the North Star. We say point towards because it misses the star by a proverbial mile yet it gets your eyes looking in the correct direction. Once you find Polaris, you know which way is North.

Polaris is in the constellation Ursa Minor or the little bear. Polaris is the last star on the end of the bear's tail or the handle of the little dipper.

Here in Wisconsin, the Big Dipper is up all night, all year long. If you are overwintering in Florida the Big Dipper will scoot beneath the trees. The constellation Cassiopeia, the queen, has a bright W shaped asterism that is easy to spot. Between Cassiopeia and the Little Dipper where Polaris lies is the constellation Cepheus, the king. The five brightest stars of Cepheus form the shape of a steep roofed house. If you take the top roof star of Cepheus, known as Errai, and the brightest star on the end of Cassiopeia's W, known as Caph, draw a line along those two stars, and it will take you very nicely to Polaris, but not exactly either.

The handle of the Big Dipper forms a nice arc. If you follow that arc about twice as long as the arc itself, it will take you to a bright star known as Arcturus. Out of that comes the rhyme "Take the arc to Arcturus". You were wondering how astronomers find their way around? Sometimes we use rhymes.

Arcturus is the brightest star in the constellation Bootes, the herdsman. Bootes looks like a kite with tiny feet. There are many notable things to look at in Bootes yet it is also notable for having a void. This gives cosmologists something to write papers about. So maybe it is a good thing.

From Arcturus, you can "Spike to Spica", the brightest star in the constellation Virgo, the virgin. Virgo contains a high number of galaxies. Possibly keeping the cosmos in balance? More papers to write.

## MAXWELL WOLFE TO BE BAPTISED

Our service on Sunday, August 4 will include the first adult baptism held in our church in over a dozen years. Maxwell Wolfe, aged 11, has expressed his desire to be baptized and so it will happen on August 4.

Most of us don't know Maxwell but we certainly know his grandparents, Al and Roxie Wolfe. Al has just about done it all from singing in the choir to serving on Session, from working with the PNC to find a new pastor to handling our electrical needs while he was on the Property Team.

When Maxwell expressed his desire to be baptized, Al and Roxie immediately thought of our church. Join the Wolfes on Maxwell's special day.