



The Bell

February, 2025

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls. Wisconsin

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS ON PER CAPITA

God's blessings upon you on this fine day.

It is finally starting to warm up. It will be interesting to see what Punxsutawney Phil and Sun Prairie Jimmy see when they are awakened on Sunday and if we have more winter coming or if we will have an early spring. I think I will listen to my local weather man first rather than two groundhogs, but it is still a cute scene.

In November's Bell I wrote this about Per Capita and what we did at our Annual meeting in October: "The Presbytery voted to raise the Per Capita level from 2024's level of \$34.00 to \$38.00 for 2025. This is how we fund our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly with our one-time voluntary donation. I will talk more about how that is divided in my January Bell letter."

As you can see, I missed my own deadline for talking about it, so I will give my explanation of why we make this one-time donation to the bigger church. From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A): "Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10, 000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future."

That is the long explanation of why we do it. The short one is that we are a connectional church and to stay connected; we help with the budgeting of our upper councils just like you help our church with our own budgeting. In return they help us with things that we are unable to do on our own. A few recent examples would include Pastor Ribe being appointed as our Interim pastor for his four-year tenure and helping me do classes so that I could get commissioned as your first Commissioned Ruling Elder in our history. They also look out for the health of churches in our Presbytery as they have been working with me and Pastor Kathy Reid Walker as we walk alongside North Presbyterian Church in Eau Claire, and many other churches in our presbytery.

But I also wrote this in our November letter, "We approved the (Presbytery of Northern Waters) Budget for the 2025 church year. It is considered a deficit budget as not all churches in our Presbytery give their Per Capita donation." Our Presbytery relies on each of us to pay our \$38 to help support all the things that our Presbytery does for all the churches in our Presbytery and in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) worldwide.

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As you know I hate asking for money because I feel we need to listen to God and what he is asking us to give, be it our talents, our time, or his treasure. But I would ask if you feel God pulling on your heart to help the church universal with your \$38 dollar Per Capita pledge, I would be eternally grateful. If you chose to, please write out your checks to First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls and in the memo line just write “Per Capita”, drop it in the plate on Sunday, and we will make sure it gets up to Duluth, where our Presbytery of Northern Waters resides inside of Glen Avon Church.

I hope all of you have a great rest of the Winter season, which should end on March 20 on the calendar, but you never know what our two groundhogs may say. Please keep praying for our churches, our country, and our world.

God Bless you all,

Ed

SESSION SCHEDULES CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has voted to conduct the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 2 immediately following Sunday Service.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the 2024 annual report and elect members to the 2025 nominating committee. The names of nominees to the committee will only be accepted from the floor during the meeting. They will be joined by a current Ruling Elder selected by the Session. That person will serve as committee chair.

PROJECT FOR FEBRUARY – LATHER WITH LOVE

Most months of the year, your Mission Team selects a special project to promote and donate to for the entire month. For February, that project is Lather with Love.

In order to help the needy, we are collecting and will be donating all kinds of soaps – laundry detergents, hand soaps, dish soap, shampoo – you name it. If you can wash with it, we need it.

The Lather with Love project is a collaborative effort with other churches in the area and non-profit organizations operating under the umbrella of the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition.

There will be a special collection box in the sanctuary where you can bring your contributions to this special project.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ESTHER

After many months of waiting, we will be able to wish Esther Frazier a very happy birthday on February 8 as she celebrates turning 100.

Esther is having a lavish party at the church from 2 to 4 that day and welcomes any and all friends who can join her.

No gifts please, but cards and hugs welcomed.

THEY'RE OFF TO NORTH CAROLINA

Or they soon will be. This year's Presbyterian Disaster Relief Project is centered in the hurricane-ravaged North Carolina area.

Gary and Jackie Reich, Rick and Jan Koepke and Pastor Ed will join Presbyterians from other area churches to help our neighbors to the south rebuild their homes, businesses and lives following the devastating hurricanes of 2024. They will be gone from February 15 to February 23.

Our church recently raised over \$500 to be added to that donated by other churches and used to help the needy in the weather-torn area.

Our prayers and good wishes go with them as they work to help our brothers and sisters in the South.

Rick has expressed his intention to visit former interim pastor Rev. Katherine Griffis while they are in her area. Undoubtedly the whole team will have much to report when they return.

2025 CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE

The new 2025 church directories are available to be picked up at the welcome desk on Sunday mornings or from the church office during regular working hours.

The directories will not be mailed but must be picked up from the church. If this is not possible, please notify the church office and one copy will be mailed to you.

FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONTINUES FEBRUARY 5

Wednesday, February 5 will mark out next First Wednesday Supper and Mid-Week Church School.

Church School will begin at 4:15 and dinner will be served at 5:30. Bonnie Gullickson is planning to serve chili that night.

JUST A REMINDER

Wednesday, March 5 will feature our annual Ash Wednesday service and Presbyterian Men's Fish Fry.

As usual, dinner will include fish, baked beans, vegetable, roll, beverage and dessert and will begin at 5:00 with the last serving at 5:45. The service begins at 6:15.

Watch your March Bell for more information on these events.

HOSPITALITY AND SHEPHERD LISTS AVAILABLE

The revised 2025 Hospitality Schedule and Shepherd List are available in this issue of the Bell.

The Shepherd List is new but the Hospitality Schedule has recently been revised. Be sure to print them out for future reference.

CHURCH COLORS CHANGE AGAIN

Now that we have gotten through the colorful days of Advent and Christmastide when the hangings in the church were first purple then white, we have moved into ordinary times or times of growth, signified by green paraments.

We can expect to see green as the predominate color in the church through February. In March, we will have one day of white (the first Sunday of the month, which is Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday) then it will be purple again signifying Lent. The Lenten season begins on Wednesday, March 5 and continues through most of April until Palm Sunday, April 20.

White is used for significant holidays like Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration of the Lord, Ascension, Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day and Christ the King Sunday. It is also used to signify whole seasons like Christmastide and Eastertide.

Purple marks the seasons of penitence and preparation like Advent and Lent. Red is the traditional color of Pentecost and can be used for ordination as we did in December.

For the remainder of the year, green is the color of the church signifying ordinary time or the time of growth.

If you should attend services in another church even one of another denomination, you may see the same colors as in our church. These colors are not mandatory but they are widely used.

Presbyterians All

WE CELEBRATE ESTHER FRAZIER

In many ways 1925 was a very good year for the family of Esther Frazier because on February 11, little Esther came into the world on a farm belonging to her grandfather in the Township of Lima, Wisconsin.

But 1925 also saw the death of Esther's mother when the baby was only two weeks old. Esther's paternal grandparents cared for her on their farm, which her father eventually purchased.

Esther began her schooling at the Howard School, a one room schoolhouse next to the farm where she lived. She was the last student to graduate from that school before finishing her education at Durand High School.

She began her working career at the Mondovi Clinic Hospital where she worked as a receptionist and did clerical work for the doctors. She was paid a whopping \$25 a month plus board.

Esther moved to Chippewa Falls in 1944 and lived with her aunt and uncle while working for the Charles Henneman Co in the parts department. But the majority of Esther's working life was spent working for the telephone company in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls where she spent a total of 38 as a service rep setting up new telephone service for potential customers.

In 1947, Esther married Claude Ackley, a marriage which ended in 1972. She became Mrs. Richard Frazier in 1974. Esther and Dick were married in the church manse by Rev. Allen Van Cleeve. They remained married until Dick's death in 2010.

Esther joined First Presbyterian Church 60 years ago and has been active in church life ever since. She has served as a Deacon, Worship Leader and still counts contributions and collections to this day.

Not one to rest at home with her feet up, Esther is active in Eastern Star and served a Worthy Grand Master for Wisconsin. She is still involved in the Elsworth Chapter of the Star.

But Esther's real passion began in 1962 when she received her first China head doll. Since then she has amassed a collection of nearly 300 dolls going back as far as 1860. The prize of her collection is a doll that originally belonged to her grandmother that dates to 1864. As part of her doll obsession. Esther has travelled to the National Doll Convention regularly and has won blue ribbons for her dolls.

Esther continues to put her artistic side to work as she creates pieces using counted cross stitch. She has many of her own pieces in her home and has made some for friends and family.

A many-faceted lady is Esther and one we love and cherish.



THE POWER OF INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

Saturday
February 22nd, 2025

Free Workshop

**WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN WHEN THE
CHURCH PROCLAIMS ALL ARE WELCOME?**

9:30-10AM

REGISTRATION & GATHERING

10:00AM-2:30PM

WORKSHOP

*Lunch provided
(free will donation)

**SNOW DATE: APRIL 5TH, 2025*

*In the chance of inclement weather the workshop will
be rescheduled for April 5th, 2025*

Speaker

Laura Foote



What does it mean to be inclusive?

How do we show love and encourage belonging?

How do we practice hospitality if there is a set of stairs leading to the front door and someone using a wheelchair rolls up? This workshop will have an inward (personal) and outward (communal) focus in order to better understand the power of accessibility, and how in turn that will make way for belonging and discipleship.

**REGISTER
NOW!**

Register By February 14th, 2025

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2112 RUDOLPH RD, EAU CLAIRE, WI
(715) 832.1011 / office@fpcec.org / www.fpcec.org**

**Funded by: Presbyterian of Northern Waters Grant*



First Presbyterian Church

2025 Hospitality Team Schedule

Updated 12-12-2024 tw

Team 1 <u>Anne Welke</u>	Team 2 <u>Barb Williams</u>	Team 3 <u>Chuck Norseng</u>	Team 4 <u>Corine Boos</u>	Team 5 <u>Barb Shorrel</u>	Team 6 <u>Bonnie Gullickson</u>
John Jensen Bill Martin Donna Martin Larry Annett Esther Frazier	Jan Koepke Winston Baker Scott Legwold Ed Williams Rick Koepke	Ruth Rosenow John Hillery Margi Kohl Lynda Butek	George Abendroth Sara Abendroth Gene Peissig Kevin Litten	Ellen Teske Todd Teske Bill McDougall Deb McDougall	Marlys Daniels Ryan Reemtsma Sara Reemtsma Barbara Ray Bob Bodeau Mary Jo Reemtsma

<u>Jan '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 5 1 12 2 19 3 26 4	<u>Feb '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 2 5 9 6 16 1 23 2	<u>March '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 2 3 9 4 16 5 23 6 30 1	<u>April '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 6 2 13 3 20 4 27 5	<u>May '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 4 6 11 1 18 2 25 3	<u>June '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 1 4 8 5 15 6 22 1 29 2
<u>July '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 6 3 13 4 20 5 27 6	<u>Aug '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 3 1 10 2 17 3 24 4 31 5	<u>Sept '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 7 6 14 1 21 2 28 3	<u>Oct '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 5 4 12 5 19 6 26 1	<u>Nov '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 2 2 9 3 16 4 23 5 30 6	<u>Dec '25</u> <u>Tm</u> 7 1 14 2 21 3 28 4

Welcome Center Contact Person: Marlys
Scrip Card Lead: Corine B.,

Shepherd List/2025

Contact:

Team 1 Barb Williams	Team 2 Anne Welke	Team 3 Mary Jo Reemtsma	Team 4 Chuck Norseng	Team 5 Corine Boos
Gary Reich	Larry Annett	Sara Abendroth	Kathy Borofka	Lynda Butek
Jackie Reich	Jeff Buckli	George Abendroth	Mark Borofka	Bonnie Gullickson
Mary Flater	Deb Buckli	Bill McDougall	Holly Gintz	Kevin Litten
Darin Flater	John Jensen	Deb McDougall	Dick Kemp	Patricia McGuire
Beth Flater	Mitch Mandelert	Rick Koepke	June Kemp	Barb Shorrel
Judy Brist	Winston Baker	Jan Hilton-Koepke	Kathy Torres	Al Namejunas
Esther Frazier	Robert Hoover	Ruth Rosenow	Jesse Torres	Margi Namejunas
Tiffany Wogahn	Marlys Daniels	Rich Rosenow	Wiedenhoeft Family	Barb Williams
Pat Popple	Beth Cripe	Ellen Teske	Chris Norseng	Scott Legwold
		Todd Teske	Dan Duffenbach	
		R. Reemtsma Family	Bill Martin	
			Donna Martin	
				Updated 12/31/2024
Prayer Chain:	If you have a prayer request, please call Bonnie Gullickson 715-723-2076.			

MISSION COALITION FILLS A MUCH-NEEDED ROLE

We may be a small community, but we don't lack for ways to help others, mostly through the Mission Coalition.

In 2011 the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition began with six participating churches. In the last 14 years, the Coalition has grown to include 20 churches and 38 local non-profit agencies and community contacts.

One of the most visible and perhaps impactful projects the Coalition has undertaken is Hope Village. The village began in 2016 as tiny houses scattered through the area and housing as much needy individuals as possible. Since then it has grown to a village with its own address and at this point 10 tiny houses and a community center providing a laundry room, kitchen and community gathering place, bathrooms and showers, an office and classroom spaces and basement storage and severe weather shelter.

The State of Wisconsin has given the project \$2.5 million grant to fund a three-story six-plex with two and three bedroom apartments and two duplexes with one bedroom apartments. These additions are expected to be completed by Spring then it's (hopefully) on to building another six-plex and two more duplexes.

Every month, the Coalition promotes a different project to help the needy. They include Lighten Your Load, which helps people handle the cost of doing their laundry. In 2024, this amounted to 1057 loads of laundry for 433 needy people.

In February, the project is Lather with Love. See the article on this project elsewhere in this issue.

In time for school, the Coalition supplies backpacks and school supplies.

In the Fall, it's Soles4Souls, which collected and supplied more than 2,000 pairs of shoes in 2024. The Fall also brings Love Chippewa which provides oil changes, medical care, chiropractic care, eye care, dental care, haircuts, family portraits, groceries, clothing, and a warm meal for those who need them.

The Coalition also participates in community meals offered at local churches during the year. FPC hosted such a meal on Christmas Day and served 137 meals.

Through the efforts of member Anne Welke, who is our representative to the Coalition, we at FPC are able to participate in every one of these projects and more throughout the year.