



The Bell

November, 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024 STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING

A few weeks ago, I went up to Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center to attend the Annual Stated Meeting of our Presbytery. Clearwater Forest is a beautiful area on Clearwater Lake donated to our Presbytery many years ago that any church may rent and use. This meeting gives us as church leaders the opportunity to get together and talk about Presbytery-wide issues as well as issues in each of our individual church settings. We did a lot of visiting and learning and I wanted to hit the highlights for you, so you know what and how your Presbytery is doing.

Clearwater Forest is starting a capital campaign to rebuild one of the existing buildings called Osprey House which needs to be replaced. They are also looking for donations to replace parts of the roofing on the original building on the camp ground, Eagle Lodge, which was damaged in a hail storm a few years back.

The Presbytery voted to raise the Per Capita level from \$34.00 to \$38.00 for 2025. This is how we fund our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly with our one-time voluntary donation. We approved the 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 church was presented by our General Assembly Mission Advisor, Mrs. Rene Myers, with a certificate of recognition for giving to all four of the offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). She also told us that as of 2026, there will be only three offerings, and getting the money for our local community will be done differently, but we can apply for larger amounts.

We installed our new Moderator (CRE Chip Holt) and Vice Moderator (Dr. Karen Schuder). Pastor Holt is the Pastor for Bemidji and Black Duck churches and Dr. Schuder is a member at large.

Rich Blood announced our February, 2025 service trip to the Ashville, North Carolina area where we will help those individuals devastated by Hurricane Helene. More information to follow soon.

That is not all that happened there but probably the most important parts of the meeting. If you would like to see any parts of the docket, or the budget, please feel free to stop in my office and you are welcome to look at my copy.

Hope all of you have a good Fall season and keep praying for our churches and our country!!

God bless you all,

Ed

HAM LOAF DINNER RETURNS IN NOVEMBER

The much-awaited ham loaf dinner prepared by Presbyterian Women will be served on November 13 from 4:30 to 6:30. The menu will include ham loaf, potatoes, vegetable, roll, beverage and dessert for \$12. Meals will also be available for take out.

This year's event will be a bit different from recent dinners. In addition to the meal, PW will have a Candy and Bake Sale table which will include cookies, sweet breads, candy, yeast breads etc. Contributions to this section should be delivered to the church by noon on November 13 so a price can be determined and the table set up. There will also be a book sale where each book, regardless of topic or size, will cost a quarter. Books for sale can be brought to the church by Wednesday, November 12

SESSION SCHEDULES CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 1 immediately following service.

The purpose of this meeting will be to elect new leaders to serve on Session, the Board of Deacons, Financial Review and the Endowment Fund Board.

The slate of nominees is: Dr. Bill McDougall and Ruth Rosenow for Session, Mary Jo Reemstma and Barbara Williams for the Board of Deacons (Barbara will replace Margi Kohl and complete her term), John Jensen for the Endowment Board and Deb Buckli and Lynda Butek on the Financial Review Team.

TRINITY TO HOST FIRST ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There's no more fitting time for an ecumenical service to give thanks than Thanksgiving. This year there will be such a service here in Chippewa Falls on Wednesday evening, Thanksgiving eve.

Trinity United Methodist Church will host this year's service which will include pastors from Trinity Methodist, Zion Methodist, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Christ Episcopal and First Presbyterian.

The service will run from 6:30 to 7:30 with pie and coffee served afterward.

An offering of non-perishable food will be taken. The food and any money donated will go to our Food Pantry.

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY DECORATING

It's time to order your poinsettias for Christmas. As we have done in the past, the plants will decorate the chancel on Christmas Eve and then be available for the donors to take home to enjoy through the holidays. The poinsettia order form appears in this month's Bell. Place your order early because the number of plants is limited by how many Family Fare receives and they always go fast.

POINSETTIAS

We are now taking orders for poinsettias that will grace the chancel area this Christmas season. The cost is **\$9.00** per plant. Please fill out the order form. Return to the church office with your payment as soon as possible. Submit your order:

- 1) during office hours (9 to 2:00) Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays)
- 2) by mailing to the church
- 3) or, put order and payment in offering plate on Sunday

(Remember to write "poinsettia" in memo blank on your check.)

The plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. Of the plants not picked up, some will be saved for the following Sunday and others distributed in the community.

I want to purchase (how many) _____ poinsettias for display in our church chancel during the Advent/Christmas weekend.

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	Amount Paid \$ _____
	130 West Central Street		CK#
	Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729-2345		Cash

SHOPPING FOR OTHERS

While you are shopping for your own holiday cooking and baking, consider adding the things on this year's Reverse Advent Calendar to your list. The list appears in this month's Bell and is also at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.

DIRECTORIES ARE IN THE WORKS

Work has begun on the 2025 Church Directories which will be distributed soon.

In order to have all the correct information for each family, we will include a short form in your December Bell asking that you verify your name, address, phone number and email. These forms will also be available at the Welcome Desk during December and from the church office.

STUDY BIBLE STUDY MOVES FORWARD

With the current season of The Chosen coming to a close, Pastor Ed and Gene Peissig have decided to take a short break from Sunday morning Bible study.

The Chosen will continue through November 24 before the class takes a short break until December 1 when the new study topic will begin.

The topic for December and January will be the book "What Happens Next? – A Travelers Guide Through the End of the Age" by Max Lucado. Once that topic has been discussed, the class will decide whether to continue with the next section of The Chosen or move to another topic altogether.

Anyone interested in this new topic can sign up in the office to purchase Max Lucado's book and study guide for \$30. Both the book and the study guide are also available on Amazon. The book costs \$15 and the guide \$12 which may seem less than purchasing them through the church but those prices do not include tax and shipping costs.

THERE WILL BE MUSIC!

Our historic Steere and Turner organ with its tracker mechanism has attracted the attention of the Chippewa Valley American Guild of Organists who plan to visit us on November 17.

The local guild regularly schedules what they call "organ crawls" where they visit several organs in the area on the same day but this will be different in that our church is the only place on the agenda.

Eau Claire organist, Elaine Mann, and Lloyd Harter, Dean of the local guild, will demonstrate the organ.

Our organist and choir director, Sherry Friedel, has arranged the visit and will be on hand to explain the basics of the organ and show the organ chamber.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to a box or bag.

On Christmas Eve bring the bag or box to church to be blessed and given to the food pantry.

December 1-box of cereal
December 2-peanut butter
December 3-cookies
December 4-boxed potatoes
December 5-macaroni and cheese
December 6-cans of pears
December 7-canned tomatoes (diced)
December 8-canned tuna
December 9-bag of chips
December 10-can of Beef Ravioli
December 11-canned fruit cocktail
December 12-peaches
December 13-canned chicken
December 14-box of crackers
December 15-package of rice
December 16-can of green beans
December 17-package of pasta
December 18-spaghetti sauce
December 19-can of chicken noodle soup
December 20-can of tomato soup
December 21-can of corn
December 22-can of beef stew
December 23-spaghetti noodles
December 24-3 rolls of toilet paper

CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS TAKE CENTER STAGE

Like so many other things, we tend to take the maintenance of our church building for granted. But after many years of neglect, the church was very much in need of “spiffing up”. Fortunately our Property Team proved up to the task.

The team under the leadership of Rick Koepke and with the help of Jeff Buckli and Gary Reich has been busy repairing and repainting the walls and railings of the church.

Their work for 2024 is complete if for no other reason than the winter weather could descend at any time but the maintenance tasks will resume in the spring.

The next time you visit the church, take a good look at the walls and the railings along the ramp and around the front and sides of the building. You will see the results of many hours of hard work.

WE CELEBRATE REIGN OF CHRIST/CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for the sovereignty of Christ on Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday. This festival was established in 1925 and originally took place on the last Sunday in October, just prior to All Saints’ Day. Now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year, a week before the season of Advent begins. This year Christ the King Sunday falls on November 24.

We are pleased to welcome back to our pulpit, Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller, who will conduct this service as he has done in years past.

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends Ordinary Time after Pentecost, and moves us toward Advent, which begins this year on December 1.

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. This celebration of the lordship of Christ looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ’s truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends everything else. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”. Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty.

ALMOST TIME TO FALL BACK

For millions of Americans, that will soon be a reality, as daylight saving time comes to the end for the year.

The twice-annual time change, which allows for more daylight in the evenings in the spring and summer and more daylight in the fall and winter, begins in March and ends in November.

The one-hour shift can cause confusion and may bring disruption to sleep schedules, and has even spurred Congressional action in recent years to potentially end the practice. But for now, daylight saving time remains in effect for most, but not all Americans. Here's what to know in advance of it coming to an end this year.

Daylight saving time will end for the year at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, Nov. 3, when we "fall back" and gain an extra hour of sleep. Next year, it will begin again on Sunday, March 9, 2025.

We gain an hour in November (as opposed to losing an hour in the spring) to make for more daylight in the winter mornings. When we "spring forward" in March, it's to add more daylight in the evenings. In the Northern Hemisphere, the autumnal equinox is Sunday, Sept. 22, marking the start of the fall season.

Daylight saving time began in 2024 on Sunday, March 10 at 2 a.m. local time, when our clocks moved forward an hour, part of the twice-annual time change that affects most, but not all, Americans.

The push to stop changing clocks was put before Congress in the last couple of years, when the U.S. Senate unanimously approved the Sunshine Protection Act in 2022, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent. Although this act was passed unanimously by the Senate in 2022, it did not pass in the House and so was not signed into law by President Joe Biden. A 2023 version of the act remained idle in Congress as well.

Not all states and U.S. territories participate in daylight saving time. Hawaii and most of Arizona do not observe daylight saving time.

Because of its desert climate, Arizona doesn't follow daylight saving time (with the exception of the Navajo Nation). After most of the U.S. adopted the Uniform Time Act, the state figured that there wasn't a good reason to adjust clocks to make sunset occur an hour later during the hottest months of the year. Hawaii is the other state that does not observe daylight saving time. Because of its proximity to the equator, there is not a lot of variance between hours of daylight during the year.

There are also five other U.S. territories that do not participate: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Navajo Nation, located in parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, does follow daylight saving time.

So be sure to reset your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday night or you will be early to church. But if you forget, the coffee will be hot and ready for you.