

# The Bell

October, 2025

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## FALL BRINGS THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

God's blessings and welcome to Fall. It officially started at 2:00 P.M. on September 22. The leaves are beginning to change color and fall. The days are getting shorter and the nights longer. Daylight savings time is about to end on the first Sunday after Halloween. The apple harvest is in full swing. The temperatures are dropping and the end of 2025 is in sight.

Fall brings lots of things that only happen at this time of year. We have the collection of the last churchwide donation event promoting Peace and Global Witness. We have the annual celebration of our saints on November 2. We have Trunk or Treat on the 31st of October which I know is in the Bell elsewhere. We also have the ham loaf dinner in November and the beginning of Advent and the new church year on the last Sunday of November. Lots going on in the next two months.

As we finish up this church year in the Gospel of Luke, the last two weeks of scriptures in September, Luke 16:1-15, which Deacon David Behling preached about on September 21, and Luke 16:19-31 which I preached about on September 28, have me thinking about money and how we sometimes are a slave to it and sometimes, as it should be, it is a slave to us.

Do we as the Body of Christ have the right relationship with our money and possessions?

I am most certainly not here to judge how any of us spends our money or acquires our possessions. I have blown through more money and stuff than most people. I am just wondering if we could help more people in our community with our time, talents and, yes, money than we are currently doing. We do a lot with our robust mission program but could we do more.

Are there things that you could donate to our local organizations that could help someone less fortunate than yourself? Do you have some extra time in your already busy schedule to volunteer? Are you talented in a special way that you could share with others? There are so many ways we can help others. We just need to think about what they might be.

I hope as we enter fall, that you enjoy the change of colors in the trees and all the things that only Fall brings. God Bless you all and have a great October.

Ed

## **ESTHER DONATES SAMPLER FOR THE CHURCH**

We have been so blessed to have Esther Frazier as a faithful member for many, many years and once again she has blessed us in return.

For many years Esther has made exquisite counted cross stitch wall hangings and embroidered pieces but until recently we did not have one of her creations in the church. But now we do.

On September 14, Pastor Ed received a special sampler Esther made just for FPC. It will proudly hang in Fellowship Hall for us all to enjoy.

Many thanks to Esther not only for this hand-crafted piece but for the gift of herself she has given us over the years.

## **FIRST-WEDNESDAY-NIGHT-SUPPERS CONTINUE**

Summer may be over and with it our picnics in the park but the tradition of First-Wednesday-Night suppers continues in the church.

They will begin on October 1 with soup and be followed by pizza, Teske spaghetti and meatballs, something special from Anne Welke and Bonnie Gullickson, a surprise dish from Kevin Litten and Marlys Daniels, a gourmet meal by the Reemstma family and finish in May when we celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Barb Shorrel's tacos.

## **WINTER IS ON ITS WAY**

With the warm weather we have had this year, 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.

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

## **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 5:00.

If the weather should be bad, as it was last year, we will move into the church that evening.

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

## **OCTOBER BRINGS CELEBRATION OF OUR SAINTS**

Although Halloween or All Saints Day as it is sometimes known falls on Friday for Halloween and Saturday for All Saints Day this year, it will be celebrated in our church on Sunday, November 2.

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 November 2. 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.

## THE CHIPPEWA FALLS YEARS

By Irene Robertson

Editor's note: Following is the second 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, portions of it will appear in subsequent issues of the Bell.

I seldom shopped at the grocery store. We had a charge account with the grocer and I telephoned my orders and they were delivered to the house. The store was downtown. It was owned by one of our parishioners. There were a couple of small stores. But none in our neighborhood. We also had home delivery from the ice man, Fuller Brush man, and the milk man. The downtown area had a small department store, restaurant and bank and grocery store. Eau Claire, a much larger city, was only 10 miles away, with larger stores. I spent some time in our department store. They gave instructions in knitting and I wanted to knit a two piece dress for myself. Wally's mother had taught me how to knit and I tried knitting a sweater for Wally. He was of slight build and when the sweater was completed it would have fit Fatty Arbuckle! So I knew I needed further instruction and signed up for lessons. The knitted dress was a big success, made of a lovely shade of blue boucle yarn.

I have a true fish story – not catching them, but eating them. A maiden lady in our congregation invited us to come to her house for lunch one cold winter day. It was a long walk for us and when we opened the door to climb the stairs I smelled FISH and knew I wouldn't like this lunch. She served salmon loaf. There was also a large dish of pickles on the table, so ---- with every bite of fish I ate some pickles. Yes, I ate the whole dish of pickles. Wally loves fish and he enjoyed the meal very much.

Something I wasn't used to was a tramp. They appeared at our back door often asking for food or money. Some offered to work for it but I wasn't sure I should let them into the house. We certainly didn't have money, or an abundance of food, but I usually gave them a sandwich and something to drink. I began to wonder why we had so many of them. I was soon enlightened. The railroad tracks were at the bottom of the ravine behind our property and the tramps hitched rides on the trains. If they found some place that gave them handouts they marked the house so that they or other tramps would know where to go. Pretty soon I learned that it wasn't a good idea to feed them. We had become an easy touch.

Chippewa Falls which is in northern Wisconsin, was a nice place to be in the summer time and we had many visitors from Milwaukee during our first summer. Wally's \$900 a year salary our budget didn't include much for groceries, so when I saw a car coming up our long driveway I was ready to dash to the garden and cut some asparagus. The previous winter (Rev. Bruhn) had established a fine asparagus bed and we were grateful to him. A nice thing about the ravine was that it had lots of watercress, so watercress/cream cheese sandwiches were also on the menu. Sometimes I felt like we were running a Bed and Breakfast establishment.

(To be continued)

## **ALMOST TIME TO FALL BACK AGAIN**

For millions of Americans, that will soon be a reality, as daylight saving time comes to an 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 morning in the fall and winter, begins in March and ends in early 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 altogether. 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 AM local time on Sunday, November 2, when we "fall back" and gain an extra hour of sleep. Next year it will begin again on Sunday, March 8.

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 Monday, September 22, marking the official start of the fall season.

The push to stop changing our clocks was put before Congress in the last few years when the Senate unanimously approved the Sunshine Protection Act in 2022, a bill designed to make daylight saving time permanent. Although the act passed unanimously in the Senate in 2022, it did not pass in the House and so was not signed into law. A 2023 version of the act remained idle in Congress as well so we continue going back and forth.

Not all states and US 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 located in parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico). After most of the US adopted the Uniform Time Act, Arizona 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 anyway.

There are also five US territories that do not participate in daylight saving time: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands. But here in Wisconsin, we can look forward to changing our clocks once again.