



The Bell

April, 2020

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Dear Members and Friends of First Pres. Chippewa Falls

We are in uncharted territory with the Coronavirus. It requires some difficult choices for all of us. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, and after conversations and correspondence with most of the churches in Chippewa Falls, the Session reluctantly has decided to cancel worship services **AT LEAST** through the end of March. During this time, Sunday services, Bible study, Wednesday night suppers and choir rehearsal will be cancelled.

The Food Pantry will remain open for now, but probably on a limited basis, and will make their own decisions whether to remain open or close. The Open Door Clinic will remain open on a limited basis. Church staff will be on hand to answer questions but the church building itself will be locked.

We hope to resume services on Palm Sunday, April 5. Session will make a decision after March 29 regarding Palm Sunday. Communion will not be served either on Palm Sunday or Easter.

For those of you who are homebound, the Deacons will be contacting you by phone, but if you need something, you may contact Margi at 715-720-8926.

We would encourage particularly those of you who live alone to contact the church if you are ill or need help. You may live alone but you aren't alone. We are all family and families take care of each other.

You will receive further information on this closure in future EBells.

In the meantime, stay safe, and be well. This too shall pass.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ken

THE APRIL BELL

Writing this month's Bell has been very difficult given the uncertainty surrounding what we will do as a church during April. But being an optimist, I have decided to give you the news of the church as it will be if we are able to reopen the church on Palm Sunday. This will include the Easter bonnets, Easter lilies, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, the combined Methodist and Presbyterian church choirs for Easter and the concert by the Menomonie Singers in April.

As you read what we plan to do, keep in mind if this virus doesn't loosen its grip, nothing we have planned will happen.

So read on and see what we have planned for Spring. We have lots to look forward to and plan for.

Lynda Butek
Bell Editor

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND FISH FRY DEEMED SUCCESSES

Once again the Presbyterian Men outdid themselves at the annual Fish Fry commemorating Ash Wednesday. The dinner raised over \$470 for PM projects and it was planned so well, there was only a very small amount of food left over.

There were between 70 and 80 people at the Ash Wednesday service which netted \$418 for CareLink. This year we included the congregation from Christ Episcopal Church in our worship. This brought together the three original denominations which met together over 100 years ago.

FOOD PANTRY REMAINS OPEN

During this crisis, our Food Pantry remains open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 to noon. Our procedures change daily as this is a very fluid situation. In the future, we will not let our clients into the church. We will meet them outside to deliver food.

Our volunteers will fill a bag with shelf-stable food, one with produce and meat, and another with breads and baked goods. Coupons for eggs and milk will be placed in an envelope and stapled to the bag. If dairy is available, volunteers will add that to the bag.

A volunteer will take the cart with the food bags outside to a client who may then take the cart to his car and return the empty cart to the church where will be immediately sanitized. Unwanted items may not be returned to the church.

Bonnie Gullickson made masks for volunteers to wear if they are outside with clients. We are wearing gloves and using a lot of disinfecting wipes as well. The safety of our volunteers and of our patrons is of utmost importance to us.

We want to continue to serve the needy in our community but do not want to unduly jeopardize anyone's health. If we feel we are putting anyone at risk, we will close the pantry. For now, we feel these procedures are the best way to serve our clients during this time of uncertainty.

CHOIRS JOIN FOR EASTER SERVICES

Easter Services at Trinity United Methodist Church and our church will be extra special this year. The two choirs will be joining to sing praises to the Lord under the direction of Methodist director, Bill Bocian.

The services will be held at their regular time but the order of worship may be changed so both choirs can participate in both services.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO HOST GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

This year's ecumenical Good Friday evening service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Chippewa Falls. Watch for an EBell with more information on this special service.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK TO INCLUDE CURRENT SERMONS

Because of the interruption in regular Sunday services, we are posting current sermons on our website and devotionals on our Facebook page. These will be updated regularly so check the website and Facebook page for changes.

MENOMONIE SINGERS TO PERFORM AT FPC

The Menomonie Singers under the direction of Amy Vogt will perform Mozart's Missa Brevis in D Major and other choral selections in our sanctuary on April 25 at 2:30. This will be the choir's third visit to our church.

While these performances carry no ticket fee, the choir suggests a \$10 donation to defray expenses.

The Missa Brevis (brief mass) consists of six movements, and was the first of Mozart's works to appear in print. It is thought to have been composed for liturgical use in the Salzburg, Austria, cathedral where Mozart was employed by the Archbishop Colloredo. The Archbishop demanded brevity and concision in this mass; none of the movements has an orchestral introduction, and Mozart composed it for a very limited instrumental ensemble. Originally scored for two trombones, and strings for accompaniment, The Menomonie Singers will use only strings, and a piano.

In addition, the choir is selling raffle tickets to raise money for future projects. Items donated to be raffled off are a stay at Cobblestone Suites in Menomonie, a silver and Alexandrite ring designed by Humphrey Gilbert, a handmade "moon" quilt, tickets to the Guthrie, the Ordway, the Pablo Center, the Mabel Tainter and Menomonie Theater Guild. The drawing will be held at the Duke and Dagger at 5 pm on April 26. Ticket purchasers need not be present to win.

The choir is always looking for new members. Auditions will be held again in August with rehearsals beginning again shortly after to prepare for concerts in the fall. Interested singers should contact Juliana Schmidt, Executive Director and founder, at themenomoniesingers@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

Best wishes to all of you from the Mission Team. We hope that you are doing well during these trying times. We need to pray for each other and remain hopeful. The Mission Team met on March 12. I will share with you the highlights of that meeting and speak about our Lenten Special Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing. I also copied an update from the Presbyterian Mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) regarding OGHS and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The contributions from Presbyterians for the OGHS are used in three programs. The italicized items are copied from the Leader's Guide for the OGHS Special Offering.

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** (32% of \$): *Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees.*
- **Presbyterian Hunger Program** (36%): *Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty as all may be fed.*
- **Self-Development of People** (32%): *Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.*

If you wish to contribute, please mail your contribution to the church, Attn: Carla. Please write OGHS on the memo line.

The Presbyterian Mission regarding OGHS and the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening, we are reminded that the most vulnerable in our midst suffer first, most and longest. One Great Hour of Sharing has, for over 70 years, supported the most vulnerable among us. Because of our support, the Church is able to deepen its commitment to serve. In the days ahead, staff of Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be working with presbyteries to identify and support essential congregational ministries, especially in anti-poverty work. The Church's response to the present crisis will begin with the most at-risk communities across the country and around the world, as well as those facing spikes of racism in response to this disease.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat. During these uncertain times, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God's grace to see us through. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are the Church, together.

Thank you for your contributions to the following mission endeavors. You make a difference.

- You contributed \$562 to the Christmas Joy Offering.
- You contributed \$414 during the month of January for the Carelink promotion. This will purchase sixteen \$25 gas cards.
- You contributed 50 items for Lather with Love which we were able to distribute through our own Food Pantry. In addition, the Food Pantry received 200 items from the 1,095 combined totals of items donated through the efforts of Mission Coalition churches.

FPC TO BUY EASTER LILIES

Once again the church will order a dozen Easter lilies which will adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning. These flowers can be purchased by the congregation as we have done in the past.

As it was last year, each plant costs \$9.00. If you wish to order plants, you can use the order form in this issue of the Bell or in the Sunday bulletin.

Watch the bulletin for additional order forms.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

A special offering for One Great Hour of sharing will be taken on Easter Sunday. This ministry supports three programs – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which provides relief to those affected by disasters, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, providing food for the hungry and Self-Development of People which gives support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

32% of these funds go to helping restore communities after disasters while 36% goes to reducing hunger and the remaining 32% to providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities.

If you would like to participate in this offering, you can make your contribution anytime during April. Donation envelopes are available in the bulletin and pews.

IT'S EASTER BONNET TIME

It's time to pull out your Easter bonnets, Ladies, and spruce them up for Easter Sunday when we will have our annual Easter Bonnet Contest.

As we did last year each lady who enters her hat for consideration will have her name placed in the drawing. Three winners will be drawn and those ladies will each receive a prize.

In addition, \$1 will be donated to the FPC Food Pantry for every entry in the contest. Matching donations are most welcome. There is a sign-up sheet at the welcome desk for those who wish to make donations.

Every year the number of hats worn increases so this year we should have a bevy of beauties.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS END

The end of April marks the end of the season for Wednesday night suppers.

But never fear, Wednesday night suppers will resume in September. In the meantime, we will just have to fend for ourselves.

EASTER LILIES

We are now taking orders for Easter lilies that will grace the chancel on Easter morning, April 19. The cost is \$9.00 per plant. Please fill out the order form. Return to the church office as soon as possible. Submit your order:

- 1) during office hours (9:00 to 2:00 Monday, Tuesday or Thursday)
- 2) by mailing to the church
- 3) or, put order in the offering plate on Sunday.

The plants may be picked up after the Easter service. The plants not picked up at that time will be distributed in the community.

I want to purchase (how many) _____ Easter Lilies for display in our church during Easter at \$9.00 each. Write Easter Lily in the memo section of your check.

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
130 West Central Street
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729-2345

April Schedules

April 1 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 7 – Ryan and Sara Reemtsma

April 5 – Palm Sunday

Interim Pastor – Ken Ribe
Worship Leader – Jon Beighley
Hospitality Team 5 - Led by Chuck Norseng and Kevin Litten
Welcome Desk – Margi Kohl
Flower Provider – Open

April 8 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 8 – The Teskes

April 12 – Easter Sunday

Interim Pastor – Ken Ribe
Worship Leader – Esther Frazier
Hospitality Team 6- Led by Mitch Mandelert, Kathi Mandelert and Barb Meredith
Welcome Desk – Barbara Meredith
Flower Provider – Open

April 15 – Wednesday

HotDogs by Team 9 – Tiffany and Gina

April 19 – Sunday

Interim Pastor – Ken Ribe
Worship Leader – Bonnie Gullickson
Hospitality Team 1 – Led by Margi Kohl and Beth Cripe
Welcome Desk – Anne Welke
Flower Provider – Open

April 22 – Wednesday

Soupspuds by Team 1 – Margi Kohl, Corine Boos and Lynda Butek

April 26 - Sunday

Guest Pastor – Sandee Kosmo
Worship Leader – Erik Anderson
Hospitality Team 2 – Led by Lynda Butek and Marlys Daniels
Welcome Desk – Bonnie Gullickson
Flower Provider – Open

April 29 – Wednesday

Erik's Surprise by Team 2 – Erik Anderson and Rick Koepke

Wednesday Night Suppers are finished at the end of April. But never fear, they will return in September.