



The Bell

April, 2019

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

WE CELEBRATE EASTERTIDE

We are now entering into what is known as Eastertide, or the Easter Season, or Paschal Time. It is the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

It is celebrated as a single joyful feast and each Sunday of the season is treated as a Sunday of Easter, while the whole fifty-day period concludes with Pentecost Sunday, June 9.

Easter Sunday and Pentecost correspond to pre-existing Jewish feasts: The first day of Pesach and the holiday of Shavu'ot . In the Jewish tradition, the 49 days between these holidays are known as Counting of the Omer.

Since 2000 the Second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday.

The solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the fortieth day of Eastertide (a Thursday) this year May 30. The days from that feast until the Saturday before Pentecost (inclusive) are days of preparation for the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, which describes the intercessory role of Jesus Christ who pleads to God on our behalf.

Before the 1969 revision of the calendar, the Sundays were called First Sunday *after* Easter, Second Sunday *after* Easter, etc. When the Anglican and Lutheran churches implemented their own calendar and lectionary reforms in 1976, they adopted the same shortened definition of the Easter season as the Roman Catholic Church had implemented six years earlier. Some Anglican churches continue to label the Sundays between Easter and the Ascension "Sundays After Easter" rather than "Sundays of Easter"; others, such as Presbyterian Church use the term "Sundays of Easter".

Eastertide in our church is a special time and commemorated as such. On Easter Sunday, April 21, we will celebrate the communion of our Lord. We will have the traditional Easter lilies in the sanctuary. You will see the Easter banners. We will have the Easter Bonnet contest complete with special prizes. We will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering for the church as a whole.

As a special Eastertide treat, we will welcome the Menononie Singers on April 27 to present portions of the Easter section of Handel's Messiah. This will be a fitting addition to our Eastertide season. See more information on this concert in this issue of the Bell.

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 signup 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.

MANY BLESSINGS

The following members and friends of FPC are celebrating in April:

April 1	Jennifer Radke
April 2	Isabelle Harmon
April 3	James Drace
April 5	Marge Nichols
April 7	Derek Cooley
April 8	David Blair and Terry Wiedenhoef
April 19	Hannah Koepke, Lauren Koepke and Karolynne Duffenbach
April 20	Eric Haglund
April 27	Bill and Deb McDougall

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.

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 \$400 for PM projects and it was planned so well, there were only two pieces of fish (sorry, no loaves) and a few peanut butter bars left over.

There were between 70 and 80 people at the Ash Wednesday service which netted \$459 for CareLink.

MENOMONIE SINGERS TO PRESENT EASTER CONCERT AT FPC

The 35 voice Menomonie Singers will present portions of the Easter section of Handel's Messiah in our sanctuary on Saturday, April 27, at 7:30 PM.

Every year, the singers present a concert in Menomonie on the Sunday following Easter and plan a duplicate concert in another church in the area the night before. This year, they have chosen FPC as this alternate venue.

The chorus is under the direction of Amy Vogt who was music department chair and choral conductor at McDonnell High School and has sung with the chorus for many years. She has a Bachelor's of Music in choral conducting from UW Eau Claire and is the choral conductor at Osseo-Fairchild High School.

Sean Vogt, Amy's husband, will accompany the group on our organ. You may remember Sean from the concert he put on for us last year.

There will be a free-will offering taken during the concert to help defray expenses of the church and the chorus.

THE THREE INEVITABLES OF LIFE

You all know about the two inevitables – death and taxes – but we Presbyterians have added a third, PER CAPITA.

Yes, every church has to pay \$32 per member for their Per Capita assessment. This isn't a voluntary payment; it is mandatory and has to be paid by the church whether the members contribute or not.

Per Capita is the member assessment used to fund the administrative work of the Synod and the church as a whole. The \$32 fee may not seem like much but when you multiply it by the number of members we have, it is a sizeable amount the church HAS to pay every year. You can help.

A NOTE FROM THE HANHARTS

Linda and I have come close to being settled in Noblesville Indiana. We had a few additional sadness (Linda's brother-in-law died) and other unexpected things to deal with. (Nothing compared to what you are dealing with.) Linda is very happy to be in warmer climes. We miss being in church and participating in all the events up in Chippewa, and miss all of you.

We are very appreciative with the sendoff celebration you gave us on February 3. I would like to thank all of you for the gifts, prayers, hugs and well wishes you gave us. It meant a lot to both of us. You have no idea of how it has lifted our spirits as we go through this transition in our lives.

With grateful hearts,
Karel and Linda

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.

As part of our local mission effort, \$459 was collected during our Ash Wednesday service for the benefit of Carelink.

FPC HIGHWAY CLEANING COMES TO AN END

As Spring approaches and the roadways become accessible once again, FPC has decided not to clean our stretch of highway as we have in past years. There are several reasons for this decision.

First, the project was originally planned for the youth of the congregation but instead it has become something done by the adults many of whom aren't physically able to do the work.

Second, our stretch of highway is very difficult to patrol given its location and sloping terrain.

Third and probably most important, after the disaster last year involving the Girl Scouts, we don't want to put the lives of our people at risk cleaning the highway.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE CANCELLED

Because we do not have a called pastor and are using guest speakers each Sunday, the traditional Easter sunrise service will not be held this year. We hope to resume this celebration next year.

EASTER LILIES

We are now taking orders for Easter lilies that will grace the chancel on Easter morning, April 21. 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 Tuesday, Wednesday 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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

I've been going through old files and getting an idea of where the food pantry started and where we find ourselves today.

When the pantry first started, we saw maybe two or three people all month. I was looking through a file from 2015 with "thank you" notes for donations. In the letter it informs donors that we serve just over 90 people a month! I chuckled out loud since we reach that in two weeks now. How things have changed.

Either the word has really spread about our pantry or the need has grown. Probably both. Having CareLink here definitely draws more folks in too.

We're able to add additional care products at times when they're donated. A dentist will donate toothbrushes and paste. Frequent travelers bring in their mini hotel goodies. We've recently learned of financial investment companies that give grants and other things we can apply for.

In 2018 and 2017 we were able to get \$1,000 donation from Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield. With that we purchased \$25 gift cards from Wal-Mart to give to families with kids at Christmas. They could use the cards to buy food for a nice Christmas meal or for Christmas gifts of needed items. The gratitude and tears were very genuine.

During the holidays we were able to give turkeys to supplement our regular food.

In 2018 we learned of something called a Thrivent Action Team. The food pantry is made up of volunteers that made up the action team. We found someone with a Thrivent account who loaned us one of their \$250 Community Impact Cards. We got t-shirts and other promotional items from the company. Now, this money must be used within 90 days and must be used to benefit the community. So, the food pantry bought underwear in all sizes for men, women, and kids. In February we gave them out and they went like hot cakes. People were so grateful for new underwear.

We are trying to fill gaps with things that most people take for granted. What would you do if you ran out of toilet paper? Run to the store right? What if you literally had \$1 in your wallet and nothing in the bank? The food and toiletries are meant to help people who need a couple items before payday or to supplement their Social Security or disability payments.

We see so many different kinds of people and you never really know what their circumstances might be. But we honestly don't need to know. All we care about is that we help someone in need when they ask for it. To be able to offer a helping hand when needed is truly the best feeling in the world.

After all, that is what our church and being Christians is all about.

Submitted by Tiffany Wogahn

April Schedules

April 3 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice – Team 8

The Teskes

April 7 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 6

Led by Chuck Norseng and Barbara Meredith

Communion will be served

Welcome Desk – Holly Gintz

Flower Provider – Open

April 10 – Wednesday

Souperspuds – Team 1 – Margi Kohl, Corine

Boos and Lynda Butek

April 14 – Palm Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 7

Led by Mitch Mandelert and Kathi Mandelert

Welcome Desk – Bonnie Gullickson

Flower Provider – Open

April 17– Wednesday

Erik's Surprise - Team 2 –

Erik Anderson, Kathi Mandelert and Corine

Boos

April 21 – Easter Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 8

Led by Erik Anderson and Beth Cripe

Communion will be served

Welcome Desk – Barbara Meredith

Flower Providers – Easter Lilies

April 24– Wednesday

Chef's Choice – Team 3

Kevin Litten and Marlys Daniels

April 28 - Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 1

Led by Margi Kohl

Welcome Desk – Margi Kohl

Flower Provider – Open

April is the end of Wednesday Night Suppers until September.