



# The Bell

April, 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## **HALLELUJAH! HE HAS RISEN!**

God's blessings upon you. He has risen. He has risen indeed, Hallelujah. Easter, the season is done, but the tomb is still empty, and Jesus Christ is still there for us. God showed his great love for us, by sending his son to live a sinless life and die a horrible death. But he beat death and ascended to the Father for us.

As with every Easter season, you are given the opportunity to follow in Jesus Christ's footsteps. Looking at the whole passion story, you see that Peter denied Jesus three times. Yet none of the resurrection story includes Jesus Christ getting mad at Peter, the Rock of the church, or chastising him or any of the other disciples for abandoning him. He knew it would happen, and he told them.

But Peter gives us the example to follow. Even if you have turned away from God and Jesus Christ because of "churchy people", or you see what is happening in the world, God still is reaching for you. He truly wants a relationship with you. He loves you and would like to talk with you. How do you do that? Pray to him. Bring him your problems. Read your Bible. Come have a cup of coffee with me and I would love to talk with you.

God bless you and your family. Have a great spring and God's blessings upon you,

Ed

## **LATHER WITH LOVE IN APRIL**

Again this year we are collecting products for the Lather with Love project which will continue through April. You can bring your laundry soap, shampoo, toilet soap and such to the church and put them in the box in the Sanctuary.

This project sponsored by the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition of churches helps people do their own laundry. If you wish to make a monetary contribution, you may place quarters in the tube on the chancel.

## **EASTER LILIES RECEIVE NEW LIFE**

Every year members of the congregation and friends purchase Easter lilies which are used to decorate the chancel. Following the Sunday service, they can be taken home and enjoyed. We have always said that those that remained in the church after Easter were given to shut ins and while that is true in part, that's not the whole story.

Granted we do give lilies to shut ins but those remaining plants are taken home by one of our Food Pantry volunteers who then plants them in her garden where they bloom in later years.

Apparently she has been doing this for several years but few people knew about it.

Recycling at its best!

## **ANDRESS CELEBRATION OF LIFE TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE**

Ray and Pat Andress will be interred at Forest Hill Cemetery in Chippewa Falls on Saturday, June 1 in a ceremony beginning at 9:30 AM. The morning will be a celebration of the lives of Pat and Ray and their son, Mark, who passed away in 1967.

At the time of Mark's passing the Andress family endowed a stained glass window which stands today in the south-western vestibule to the sanctuary. There is a brass plaque on that window commemorating Mark's life.

The celebration in June will be followed by a reception at the church where there will be a catered lunch.

For more information and to confirm luncheon reservations, call Mary at 865-964-8588.

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS RESUME**

On Wednesday, April 3, we can enjoy a spaghetti and meatball feast prepared by Todd and Ellen Teske.

## **OPEN DOOR CLINIC FUTURE REMAINS IN LIMBO**

(Editor's Note: Technically the Open Door Clinic isn't part of First Presbyterian church despite having occupied the lower level of our church for many years but they are very much a part of our lives and we care deeply about them.)

Most of the people who work at the Open Door Clinic are volunteers. That includes doctors, nurses and technicians who come from all around the Chippewa Valley and donate their time.

The one exception is the clinic coordinator, Kim Renaud. She is actually an employee of HSHS and as such runs the chance of losing her job at the end of April. Kim has been in contact with HSHS following their announcement to move up their closing date to March 22 and they have assured her that she will continued to be employed until the end of April.

Kim schedules the volunteers for their shift at the clinic as well as ordering supplies and equipment. Without her and what she does, there would be no clinic.

While Kim is technically an employee of HSHS, they handle all the employee-related paperwork and bill the clinic board for her salary.

The clinic board has contacted both Chippewa County and Mayo about employing Kim. The county said it would take them several months to process the clinic proposal but Mayo is moving much faster and things look hopeful for them to take Kim on as an employee. At this point, the clinic proposal is in the hands of the Mayo HR and legal departments for review and Kim receives weekly updates on their progress.

In addition to employing Kim, the local hospitals have been performing blood tests for the clinic as necessary. Although the clinic has technicians to take the blood samples, they lack the facilities to perform the needed tests. In the past that testing has been done on a rotating basis by Mayo, St. Joseph's Hospital and Marshfield Clinic in Chippewa Falls. That work will now be alternatingly by Mayo and Marshfield Clinic.

The clinic purchases supplies and medications from various outside suppliers so that isn't an issue.

Six months ago the clinic averaged three to four patients a week. Their workload has increased to between five and six patients with more people coming in every week.

Kim expresses her gratitude to the congregations and friends of FPC for their continued support and prayers.

## **CARR LOOKS TO RETURN TO CHIPPEWA FALLS**

Several years ago First Presbyterian Church was approached by the Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (which operated as Chippewa Area Recovery Resource – CARR) about providing space in our basement for them to hold meetings for their clients.

CARR does substance abuse and mental health counseling and with the closure of L. E. Phillips Libertas, there is no other resource in the Chippewa Falls area to do that type of work.

At that time Session approved the use of space in our church but we were unable to reach an agreement with CARR due to scheduling and facilities conflicts, however, CARR has once again reached out to us about providing space for their work.

Discussions are in the very early stages but we have the space and they have the need. Watch your Bell for more information.

## **NEWS FROM KATHERINE**

Editor's note: Many of you will remember Katherine Griffis, who served as our Interim Pastor after Barry Boyer retired. I hear from Katherine from time to time and here is her latest update.

“I'm retired as of last June and am settled in Winston-Salem, NC, as of September. I bought a small house (my first ever time as a homeowner) and have been having great fun with it and with the small property. It's in a very modest neighborhood close to downtown, with friendly neighbors. With the help of others for the labor and thanks to the climate, I've been working on the garden since January. Whenever I get tired with my own place, there are still all of the cultural resources I moved to this town for. It feels really good to have this fallow time in ministry to do some personal things.

Matthew (one of Katherine's sons) and his wife Trystan are thriving in Denver, with baby Mara nearly eight months old, their two dogs, and most recently some guinea pigs. Denis (Katherine other son) and his wife Anna continue to enjoy living in the UK. He is on faculty at the University of Sheffield and she at University College London. However, she has just accepted a new position and they are hoping that he will be offered one at the same university as well, so this is an exciting time for them.

Here is my contact information: 1109 Rundell St., Winston -Salem, NC 27105 / 607 590 5150 (unchanged) / [katiej42@gmail.com](mailto:katiej42@gmail.com) (also unchanged). Please pass on my greetings to everyone there in Chippewa Falls.”

Katherine

## **BEWARE APRIL 1**

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called “April fools.”

There’s also speculation that April Fools’ Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather. (Editor’s Note: They must have lived in Wisconsin.)

In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools' Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and websites have participated in the April 1 tradition of reporting outrageous fictional claims that have fooled their audiences.

In 1992, National Public Radio ran a spot with former President Richard Nixon saying he was running for president again... only it was an actor, not Nixon, and the segment was all an April Fools' Day prank that caught the country by surprise.

In 1996, Taco Bell, the fast-food restaurant chain, duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and intended to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell.

In 1998, after Burger King advertised a “Left-Handed Whopper,” scores of clueless customers requested the fake sandwich.

Google notoriously hosts an annual April Fools' Day prank that has included everything from “telepathic search” to the ability to play Pac Man on Google Maps.

In March 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, various organizations and people cancelled their April Fools' Day celebrations, or advocated against observing April Fools' Day, as a mark of respect due to the large amount of tragic deaths that COVID-19 had caused up to that point, the wish to provide truthful information to counter the misinformation about the virus, and to pre-empt any attempts to incorporate the virus into any potential pranks. For example, Google decided not to continue "its infamous April Fools’ jokes" tradition for that year. Because the pandemic was still ongoing a year later in 2021, they also decided not to do pranks that year.

The question is – will you be fooled this year?