



# The Bell

August, 2019

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## **DOG DAYS OF AUGUST – I THINK NOT!**

Someone told me August was the month everybody kicked back and relaxed. Obviously they didn't go the FPC because we just don't have time to relax, especially in August. It seems we are busier this month than we have been before.

First we have a picnic in Irvine Park. The picnic has become a tradition with our church and is always a fun afternoon and evening and this year promises to be no different. You will read more about this year's picnic later in the Bell.

Then we have the ecumenical service in the park – another tradition. This is our opportunity to worship with our neighbors from the Methodist, Lutheran and Episcopal churches in Chippewa. We always have between 200 and 300 people at this service, not many of whom are Presbyterians, unfortunately. Again, you will find more about this service in this issue of the Bell.

Last year was the first time we participated in the National Night Out, sponsored by the Chippewa Falls Police Department. Despite the horrible weather last year (it poured!!!), the event drew many interested people from the community and we will be back this year. More information on the event later in the Bell.

August isn't too early to start setting aside shoes you no longer wear for the Soles for Souls event taking place throughout September. There is already a box brimming with shoes and boots in the Ushers' Closet.

We have two guest pastors with us in August. Ken Ribe, a retired Presbyterian minister from Minnesota spoke to us in May and will be back in August for two Sundays. Our old friend Rich Estrem-Fuller will fill out the month speaking to us the last Sunday of the month.

The Backpack Giveaway sponsored by Valley Vineyard Church will be winding up early in August. See the list of needed items later in this issue of the Bell.

On top of all these things, we are preparing for Rally Day early in September when all of our Fall offerings return like Wednesday night suppers, the choir, and hopefully Bible study. And maybe if we pray real hard, we will have a new interim pastor in the Fall.

Enjoy what is left of the summer and get ready for Fall.

Lynda Butek  
Bell Editor

## **LAST CALL FOR BACKPACK GIVEAWAY!**

Believe it or not, school will be starting soon and the annual Backpack Giveaway will be ending even sooner. We only have until August 4 to get our donations of money or materials to Valley Vineyard Church so they can put the backpacks together and distribute them before school starts.

The list of needed materials is long but all of the items are easily obtained from local stores.

Elementary school grades need scissors, glue sticks, glue bottles, pencils, crayons, notebooks, folders, markers, erasers and pens (both black and red).

Middle school backpacks include loose leaf paper, rulers, folders of different colors, notebooks of different colors, black and red pens, color pencils, erasers, glue sticks, compass/protractors, highlighters, binders and scientific calculators.

For the highschoolers, include notebooks, folders, black and red pens, pencils and loose leaf paper.

Add to all of these items, the backpacks themselves and you have a complete list.

If you choose to send money instead of materials, make your check out to Valley Vineyard Church and mark it for the backpack giveaway. Their address is 910 Bridgewater Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

## **THE INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH BEGINS**

The search for an interim pastor for FPC has begun.

The interim search committee, comprised of members of Session, has started its search for an interim pastor to lead us until we find a called-pastor.

The search began with preparation of our Ministry Information Form (MIF), which lists what we are and what we are seeking in a pastor. This MIF was sent to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) which keeps track of churches in need of personnel and personnel seeking a church.

The CLC matched our MIFs with Personal Information Forms (PIF) from pastors looking for a position. To date we have nine candidates who have had either interim training or actual interim experience and are seeking part time work.

The Session has met to discuss these candidates and review the PIFs. The next step will be to narrow our search and interview the selected candidates.

You will be hearing more about this search in coming weeks. In the meantime, prayers are in order.

## ALMOST TIME FOR A PICNIC

Wednesday, August 14, will be the date for this year's church picnic. There will something for everyone to do and eat.

The picnic will be held in the small pavilion near the splash pool in Irvine Park. Setup begins at 4:00 and we hope to serve by 5:30. The picnic will last until just before dark.

It is a pot luck so bring a dish to share. The meat will be provided and there will be a free-will donation to cover the cost. Bring your own table service and beverage.

While this is an FPC event, you are encouraged to bring a friend to enjoy the afternoon. There will be games to play, good friends to talk to, strategic discussions on the church to contemplate, maybe even baby or grandbaby pictures to share. We will be recruiting volunteers to help set up, grill, everything.. There are sign-up sheets at the Welcome Desk. Think about how you can help

## ECUMENICAL SERVICE IN THE PARK

As in past years, FPC will be participating in the Pure Water Days ecumenical service in Irvine Park on August 11.

The Sunday service on that day will begin at 10 AM when we will join other protestant churches for this special service. **There will be no service at the church that day.** We will join the congregations from Trinity United Methodist, Zion Methodist, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Central Lutheran and Christ Episcopal Churches in this special service.

Rev. Aaron Zook from the Episcopal Church will deliver the sermon and the music will be provided by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. First Presbyterian Church will provide the communion elements but another ordained pastor will officiate at the table.

In addition to communion servers, we will need at least two ushers who will also take the collection and 50 to 75 bars to serve after the service. We are loaning several of our smaller tables for the service. If you have a pickup truck to help haul them to the park, or if you can help, please contact Lynda Butek.

## SAVE YOUR SHOES

Just a reminder that the Mission Coalition has designated September as Soles for Souls month this year. We have already started our annual shoe collection.

As we have done in the past, we will be collecting your old or maybe new shoes for this project. If you have shoes that you no longer wear, that may be worn, that may be faded or maybe you can only find one of the pair, put them aside for the Soles for Souls project.

What you don't wear may mean everything to someone who has no shoes at all.

## **FAMILY FARE SCRIP CARDS NOW AVAILABLE**

After waiting several months, we have scrip cards from Family Fare available for sale. At the present time we have denominations of \$50 and \$100 . If you need cards for \$25, please let Corine Boos know and she will order them for you. We will receive 5% on each card we purchase.

You can purchase the cards on Sunday mornings, Monday from 9-10AM, and during regular office hours, Tuesday through Thursday, from 9 to 2. These cards are in addition to the Kwik Trip cards we have carried for some time. In the future, we may be adding additional cards to our stock as you indicate where you shop.

If you have any questions or concerns about the scrip card program, please let Corine know.

## **LATEST TINY HOUSE SOON TO BE FINISHED**

The latest in the string of tiny houses nears completion at Christ Episcopal Church here in Chippewa.

Many man-hours of work go into each tiny house and even though we don't have the physical space to have one of our own, some of our men have been helping build the latest house. Gene Peissig and Al Wolfe (who is a licensed electrician) have installed the electrical connections needed for the house.

In addition, as we have in the past, we continue to collect and store the materials and things needed to complete the houses. These include sheets, blankets, dishes, cutlery, etc. The list goes on and on. We may not have the outside room for a house but we certainly have room in our basement to store what is needed to make a tiny house a home.

If you want to see the fruits of the labors of the many churches involved, one of the tiny houses will be at the National Night Out at the Fairgrounds on August 6.

Since the project began, the tiny house project has provided over 1,000 nights of housing to those who would otherwise not have a roof over their heads.

Each of the residents of the tiny houses has his own story to tell. They are heart-breaking but show us the good we are doing in Chippewa.

Sara had a string of unfortunate events happen to her that brought her to a tiny house. She lost a teenage daughter to cancer during the winter of 2015 and in 2016 her significant other had health conditions that kept him from working.

On top of those two things, her vehicle just wore out from the many trips to medical clinics. Sara was able to find a job while living in a tiny house and pay off some past bills. A car was donated to her by a concerned volunteer from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Sara is just one person helped by being able to call a tiny house home.

## WORDS FROM KATHERINE

Editor's note: Our former interim pastor, Katherine Griffis, has been watching our progress since Karel left us. Here are her words for us.

“You as a congregation belong to Jesus Christ, who is your Head. (Also the Rock on which you are built.) He loves you; He calls you; He names you His friends; He has work for you.

What are the needs in Chippewa Falls and the world that Jesus is calling you to respond to in His name and for His sake? What are the resources He has given you? What does He want you to do with them?

You know what you've done in the past. What does He want of you now? And not with the assets you might have or would like to have, but the assets you do have. And not as the congregation you might be, nor the congregation you once were, but you, the congregation you are.

You are all ‘pressing on toward the goal’ of Christ Jesus. This stretch of the track looks different and may require different tactics, but the goal hasn't changed. You as a congregation may be on the track in New Balance and Rollators rather than Adidas and running shorts. But the goal hasn't changed. (And rest breaks are allowed. And water bottles full of living water.)

You have the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who will guide you into all truth. I'll be praying for you.“

In Christ's love,  
Katherine

## PW TO MEET TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Presbyterian Women will hold their annual planning meeting on August 15 beginning at 10:30.

This meeting, which will be held at the Kohl's, will cover all the PW activities for the rest of this year and those in the works for 2020.

If you can attend, bring your ideas and a dish to pass.

## FPC JOINS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out in Chippewa Falls is hosted by the CFPD Alumni Association “to promote police community relationships and neighborhood camaraderie to help make communities safer.

At the event citizens can learn about resources available within Chippewa Falls and Chippewa County. This event will take place on Tuesday, August 6 at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds from 5-7. And we will be there! Stop by our booth and say Hi. We will be highlighting our Food Pantry mission and the Open Door Clinic—our contribution to the community of Chippewa Falls.

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

When you walk into our sanctuary or Fellowship Hall, you cannot help but notice our beautiful stained glass windows. The soft light flowing through the windows offers such a calming and welcoming feeling to all who enter.

As usual, we can thank those who came before us for these well-thought-out pieces of work. For some of us, the windows are some of the best things about FPC.

In 2006 we formed a “Stained Glass Committee”. Members of this committee were: Barb Smith, George Abendroth, Verene Crane, Mike Tzanakis, Dave Cihasky, Jan Hilton-Koepke, Steve Playter, George Fleming, and Joe Mandelert.

It was their job to design the stained glass window in Fellowship Hall. They wanted a Celtic cross and/or the church building represented. They felt the glass should represent the mission statement of the church: Worship-Invite-Involve, Enrich-Extend.

In 1996 an abstract mosaic weaving titled, “Renewal” was created by Linda Franzel-Annett. It was dedicated in memory of Delores Boyer. You can appreciate it hanging on the east wall of Fellowship Hall. The weaving abstractly shows a landscape with greens at the bottom representing the earth, blues representing a flowing river, and upper colors representing a sunrise. Since the stained glass windows would be directly across from this large piece of work, the committee wanted it to include similar depictions.

Take a good look at the windows and you’ll see this committee did a really great job incorporating and conveying the messages they wanted to. The beautiful windows have a stunning Celtic cross in the center. Below are people standing next to a river (perhaps the Chippewa River, perhaps the River Jordan) and looking up in awe at the brilliant cross radiating the welcoming colors of a sunrise.

Let us give thanks by appreciating the time and thoughtfulness that went into beautifying our building with these meaningful stained glass pieces of art.

Tiffany Wogahn

(Editor’s Note: This is the second article Tiffany has done on the historic church where we worship. There will be more articles like this to come including one on the organ, another on the stained glass windows in the sanctuary and more on the history of the church itself. We worship in a very special place with a rich history and the more we know about it, the better we can appreciate what we have.)

# August Schedules

## August 4 – Sunday

**Guest Pastor** – Ken Ribe

**Communion will be served**

**Worship Leader** – Jon Beighley

**Hospitality Team** – Team 7 Led by Mitch Mandelert and Kathi Mandelert

**Welcome Desk** – Barb Meredith

**Flower Provider** – Open

## August 11 – Sunday

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE  
IN IRVINE PARK**

## August 18 - Sunday

**Guest Pastor** – Ken Ribe

**Worship Leader** – Kevin Litten

**Hospitality Team** – Team 1 Led by Margi Kohl

**Welcome Desk** – Anne Welke

**Flower Provider** – Open

## August 25 - Sunday

**Guest Pastor**– Rich Estrem-Fuller

**Worship Leader** – Bonnie Gullickson

**Hospitality Team** – Team 2 Led by Mary Jo Reemtsma and Lynda Butek

**Welcome Desk** – June and Dick Kemp

**Flower Provider** – Open

The Deacons could really use some help in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. Margi Kohl, Anne Welke, Bonnie Gullickson and Corine Boos to mention only a few are busy doing double and sometimes triple duty in the kitchen and at the Welcome Desk and can use an extra pair of hands or two to help. If you can pitch in on a Sunday, please let Margi know.