



The Bell

August, 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

AUGUST AND THE SUMMER HEAT FINALLY GOT HERE!

Good day and God's Blessings to you. We are now to the middle of summer and guess what - It's hot! Thanks to your giving over the years, we replaced the big air conditioner earlier this month and it is very nice in Tiffany's office and mine as well. Thank you.

August brings three more events. First is the National Night out to celebrate our first responders at the Northern Wisconsin Fair Grounds on August 1. I along with others from the church will be there to hand out cards and bracelets to the parents and kids and just let the community know that we support our first responders.

Then on August 2, we have our next picnic in the park, at Erickson Park. It is a potluck. Bring your chairs, your service, your dish and your appetite. We had a great time in June and I expect the same again. Sadly, this will be our last picnic of the season. In September we will return to Fellowship Hall for our regular first-Wednesday-of-the-month supper.

We have one last summertime activity with our Pure Water Days Ecumenical Church Service in Irvine Park at the band shell at 9:00 A.M. on August 13. We will have our church service that day at the park and yours truly will be delivering the message, titled "My Rabbi Walks on Water and Reaches a Hand Out to Everyone!" Fortunately the gospel reading for that day is Christ walking on water. How fitting for Pure Water Days.

I pray that you have had a wonderful and safe summer season and that once fall returns we see you at church on a regular basis.

We have some additional worship opportunities planned for the fall that we would love to see you included in.

God Bless you all,

Ed

PURE WATER DAYS SERVICE TO BE AUGUST 13

After several years' absence, the Pure Water Days ecumenical church service returns to Irvine Park.

The service will be held at the band shell in the park beginning at 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 13 and will include pastors and congregations from Trinity United Methodist, Our Saviour's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Central Lutheran, Christ Episcopal, Zion Methodist and Lake Hallie Methodist churches making it a truly ecumenical service.

Communion will be served; water will be poured in keeping with the theme of Pure Water Days and there will be traditional music. As if planned, the Gospel lesson for that Sunday involves Christ walking on water. The sermon will be delivered by our own Pastor Ed Williams.

There are benches at the band shell but many people choose to bring folding chairs or blankets to sit on the hill. The earlier than usual schedule should mean that the sun won't shine as brightly on worshippers making for a more pleasant morning. The service usually sees about 200 attendees.

In case of rain the service will move to Our Saviour's parking lot where they are already set up for services by car radio.

There will be no regular service at FPC that Sunday.

FPC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND CELEBRATES A BAPTISM

New members, Bill and Donna Martin, were welcomed into the FPC family on July 24 after having been received by the Session on July 13.

In addition, Pastor Ed performed his first baptism on July 16 when Isaac Dale Lucas, grandson of members Jan and Rich Koepke, was welcomed into the community of Christ.

FPC HIGHLIGHTS MISSION EVENTS IN AUGUST

Between July 16 and Aug. 6 we will begin collecting school supplies and contributions for Valley Vineyard's Backpack Giveaway on Aug. 13. This event assists students whose families may not be able to afford backpacks or regular school supplies. Checks should be made out to the church and Backpack Giveaway written on the memo line. In addition to donating school supplies and money, volunteers are needed to distribute the backpacks. Email Trisha trisha@cfvalleyvineyard.org for more information on how you can help.

Once again the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition is sponsoring the Soles4Souls shoe drive through August. You may begin bringing your paired shoes to the church now. Remember they must be pairs and be somehow tied together! We are looking for men's, women's and children's shoes in addition to sandals and boots. Look through your closet for any shoes you or your family aren't wearing and bring them to the church.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out comes to the Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds on August 1. Sponsored by the Chippewa Falls Police Department, the event was originally conceived to acquaint the community with their police and fire personnel but it has grown to include community organizations as well. The event will run from 5 to 8 this year

FPC will have a table and will be distributing information on our mission programs, focusing on the Food Pantry and the Open Door Clinic.

FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS CONTINUE

Summer is nearing an end and so are our Wednesday night picnics at Erickson Park. There will be one more picnic on August 2 then we will move back into the church for a special Dinner Church service on September 6. Both of these evenings will be potluck so polish up your best take-to-church recipes.

The regular first-Wednesday-night-of-the-month suppers will resume in Fellowship Hall in October. As usual, the supper will be preceded with games from 4 to 5 PM.

FPC TO CHOOSE GIFTS TO HELP OTHERS

Just a reminder - the July 30 Noisy Sunday offering will go to purchasing a gift from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

This program stretches across all Presbyterian churches and offers the opportunity for congregations to purchase gifts for those in need.

The gifts fall into five categories – kits and tools, people, water, livestock and agriculture and they include family and community farm bundles, sewing machines, fishing nets, fishing boats and accessories, water filters, a deep rock well, nutrition packs, chickens, a cow, a pair of goats, seeds, farming tools and even a community garden.

Some of these items are beyond our financial means to provide, but we can help with their purchase. Other items are well within our means.

For a complete list of gifts available, you can refer to the Presbyterian Giving Guides in the church or go to presbyteriangifts.org to see what is offered.

Once we see how much money Noisy Sunday generates, the Mission Team will select several gifts and present them to the congregation in August to vote for the one or more that appeal to you.

In the meantime, take a look at the gift list and save up your change (and folding money too) for Noisy Sunday in July.

IT'S OUR JUDY

This picture shows that Miss Judy isn't just another pretty face who plays the piano, organ, harp, bagpipes, guitar, banjo, recorder and who knows what else. Of course we know she sings too but apparently this is nothing new given the 1964 date on the photograph. Still going strong! That's our Judy.



NEWS FROM KATHERINE

From time to time we hear news of our former Interim Pastor, Katherine Griffis.

When Katherine left us she became the called pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hornell, New York. She has finally retired as of May 31 but continues to occupy the manse owned by the Hornell church until August 1 when she will move to Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Before she settles down in the South, she is planning a trip to Denver to see her son, Matthew, who should have his first child (a girl), and Katherine's first grandchild about the time of her move.

Katherine's other son, Denis, and his wife, Anna, are living in the UK where Denis is teaching and doing research at the University of Sheffield. Anna is teaching biology at the University College London.

Once Katherine completes her move to North Carolina and unpacks her tons of books, she plans to do some writing.

She is very pleased to hear that we have found Ed and said "Three cheers for good CREs." She sends greetings to all her friends in Chippewa Falls.

IF IT'S AUGUST, IT'S TIME TO EAT AGAIN

It is August so it is time to eat and support the Open Door Clinic while we are at it.

Every August the Clinic puts on Meet to Eat which this year involves five restaurants in the Chippewa area. On August 10 those restaurants will donate 25% of your bill to help support the Open Door Clinic.

This year's eateries include Harm's Way in Bloomer, Old Abe's Supper Club in Jim Falls, River Inn Bar in Wheaton, The Sand Bar and Grill in Lake Wissota and Xpeditions Coffee Company in Bloomer.

Sponsored by Northwestern Bank, BMO Harris Bank, Brown Builders, Mason Companies, Deltar, Fries Financial Group and Leinenkugels, this event is a major fund raiser for the Clinic which is mostly dependent on individual contributions from the community.

FPC is proud to be able to host the Clinic and give them the space and facilities they need to do their much-needed work in the city. This event is just another way for us to help the Clinic and enjoy good food while we are at it.

MEET TO EAT FOR THE FREE CLINIC

the
open
door
clinic, inc.



Eat at one of the following restaurants on Thursday, August 10th, and 25% of your bill will help support the Open Door Clinic!

- Harm's Way Bar and Grill, Bloomer
- Old Abe's Supper Club, Jim Falls
- River Inn Bar, Wheaton
- The SandBar and Grill, Lake Wissota
- Xpeditions Coffee Company, Bloomer

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ANDRESSES

Long-time members, Ray and Pat Andress, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in July. They were married at the First Presbyterian Church on July 5, 1958, the church where Pat grew up as the daughter of Othniel & Helen Elliott.

On the same day as their anniversary celebration, which took place at Cambridge Senior Living where they live in Eau Claire, Ray was presented with a "Quilt of Valor" in recognition of his military service during the Korean War. Ray was in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division.

