



The Bell

December, 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

AND SO WE WAIT

Waiting has become a natural part of our lives – waiting in line, waiting for a letter, waiting for a phone call, waiting for the dishwasher repairman to show up. It seems every day we are waiting for something. But that is nothing new.

Over 2,000 years ago, the shepherds were waiting. They didn't know what they were waiting for but they knew something big was coming so they were waiting.

The wise men were waiting. They too didn't know what was coming but they were waiting.

When they saw the star in the heavens, the kings were waiting.

Joseph was waiting for the 90-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be over. That journey would have taken Joseph and Mary four to five days, travelling two and a half miles an hour, eight hours a day. That would have been a very difficult journey over the hills from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They might have encountered thieves and wild animals along the way but nonetheless, Joseph was waiting to complete the journey and get to his birth place as decreed by law.

Mary was waiting for the journey to be over and for the birth of her first child. She didn't know what to expect in Bethlehem or even after they got back to Nazareth. She didn't know what to expect giving birth to her first child but she was waiting. She didn't know what the future would hold for her or for Joseph or for Jesus. She was waiting.

And today we are waiting too for the birthday of the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Jesus.

We are waiting for the promises of the Advent wreath. We are waiting with **hope** for the one who will come to deliver all people from sin and darkness. We are waiting for the **peace** God promised the little child will lead us to. We are waiting for the **joy** that Mary felt when the angel made that wonderful announcement to her. We are waiting for His **love** which is the greatest gift he can bring us.

And so we wait.

FPC SCHEDULES CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The traditional Christmas Eve service is scheduled to begin at 4:30 on Saturday, December 24. Rev. Terri Koca will be the pastor that day. The service will include traditional scriptures and holiday music.

On Christmas morning, there will be a joint Methodist-Presbyterian service at FPC held by Rev. Eddie Crise and Ed Williams.

COOKIE TIME IS COMING!!

Presbyterian Women are going to pack Christmas cookies for shut-ins at 10:30 on December 15.

All the ladies of the church are invited to help with the baking and packing. After all the work is done, the group will treat themselves to lunch. All the cookies should be at church by 10:00 am.

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY DECORATING

It's not too late to order your poinsettias for Christmas. As we have done in the past, the plants will decorate the chancel on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning and then be available for the donors to take home to enjoy through the holidays. The poinsettia order form appears in this month's Bell.

SHEPHERDS LIST REVISED FOR 2023

The 2023 Shepherd list appears in this month's Bell. It will also be in the 2023 directory. Until you receive the new directory, put this list in your old directory for reference.

SHOPPING FOR OTHERS

While you are shopping for your own holiday cooking and baking, consider adding the things on this year's Reverse Advent Calendar to your list. The list has been slightly revised and appears in this month's Bell and is also at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.

PRESBYTERY SCHEDULES SPRING WORK TRIP

As in the past, the Presbytery has scheduled a Disaster Assistance Work Trip this year to Lake Charles, Louisiana from February 11 to 19. The Lake Charles area was hard-hit by flooding followed by hurricanes Barry and Laura.

The work will include drywall, siding, gutter, roof and flooring installation as well as painting. Prior experience isn't necessary but welcome. Training will be provided as necessary.

The registration deadline is December 31. For more information, see the notice in this month's Bell and posted on the Tower in the Narthex.

POINSETTIAS

We are now taking orders for poinsettias that will grace the chancel area this Christmas season. The cost is **\$8.00** per plant. Please fill out the order form. Return to the church office with your payment as soon as possible. Submit your order:

- 1) during office hours (9 to 2:00) Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays)
- 2) by mailing to the church
- 3) or, put order and payment in offering plate on Sunday

(Remember to write "poinsettia" in memo blank on your check.)

The plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. Of the plants not picked up, some will be saved for the following Sunday and others distributed in the community.

I want to purchase (how many) _____ poinsettias for display in our church chancel during the Advent/Christmas weekend.

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	Amount Paid \$ _____
	130 West Central Street		CK#
	Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729-2345		Cash



Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to a box or bag.

On Christmas Eve bring the bag or box to church to be blessed and given to the food pantry.

- December 1-box of cereal
- December 2-peanut butter
- December 3-cookies
- December 4-boxed potatoes
- December 5-macaroni and cheese
- December 6-cans of pears
- December 7-canned tomatoes (diced)
- December 8-canned tuna
- December 9-bag of chips
- December 10-can of Beef Ravioli
- December 11-canned fruit cocktail
- December 12-cranberry sauce
- December 13-canned chicken
- December 14-box of crackers
- December 15-package of rice
- December 16- can of green beans
- December 17-package of pasta
- December 18-spaghetti sauce
- December 19-can of chicken noodle soup
- December 20-can of tomato soup
- December 21-can of corn
- December 22-can of beef stew
- December 23-protein bars
- December 24-3 rolls of toilet paper

FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING TO BE COLLECTED DURING ADVENT...

The Christmas Joy Offering is the last special offering of the year. The contribution you make will be split 50/50 into two programs.

- One will be “to assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.”
- The other will be “to make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.”

Mission team members will present examples of each of the above during a Minute for Mission at worship services in December. For more information, you may visit the website at pcusa.org/christmasjoy.

If you wish to contribute, make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and write “Christmas Joy” on the memo line. There will be special envelopes in the pews if you wish to use them.

THE FOOD PANTRY’S REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR...

The Food Pantry Board is repeating the Reverse Advent Calendar this season to encourage you to add to our non-perishable food inventory. The list is on the welcome desk and in this issue of the Bell and there are bags available for your use. We will have a large box available for you to put the toilet paper donation as that is quite bulky. If you have any questions, ask Tiffany, Barb, or Anne.

TRUNK OR TREAT RETURNED

Once again FPC hosted Trunk or Treat in the Family Fair parking lot on Halloween.

Jackie Reich, Jan Koepke, Gene Peissig, Beth Cripe Sara Abendroth, Barb Shorrel, Kathy Torres, Ann Welke, Tiffany Wogahn and Bonnie Gullickson all helped set up for the event. This year we had trunks from The Chippewa Area History Center, Career Development Center Outreach Office, Hoppy House Rabbit Rescue, Chippewa Falls Lions Club, Chippewa Falls Optimist Club, Hope Village Tiny Houses, Marshfield Clinic Dental, and FPC. We handed out cookies and juice boxes while most of the trunks gave out the traditional candy to the over 200 children who visited us.

This year we had the children vote for their favorite trunk. First place went to Hoppy House Rabbit Rescue while CDC Outreach Office and the Chippewa Area History Center received second and third place trophies respectively. The trophies were, appropriately, tombstones made from stones cut, polished and donated by Kevin Litten and standing on wooden bases made by Gene Peissig.