



# The Bell

August, 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## OUR GENEVA BIBLE TO BE DEDICATED AND DISPLAYED

There are three things that should be prominently displayed in a Christian church. The first is the cross. We have that on our communion table. The second is the baptismal font. We have that in the center of the steps to the chancel. The third is the Bible. We don't have that. Yes, we have many Bibles in the church pews but we don't have one prominently displayed. That is until now.

Several years ago Bob Denman donated a copy of the Geneva bible to the church. Since that time, it has sat in the church library because we had no good way to display it. The Bible was very important to Bob and he never came to church without bringing one with him.

After his death, Bob Denman left money to the church as part of his estate. The Session chose to use part of that money to purchase a brass Bible stand which will sit on the communion table and hold the Geneva Bible.

On August 4 Rev. Ken Ribe will dedicate both the Bible and the stand and they will take their places in our sanctuary.

All but forgotten today, the Geneva Bible is one of the most historically significant translations of the Bible into English, preceding the King James Version by 51 years. It was the primary Bible of 16th-century English Protestantism and was used by William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, John Donne, John Knox and others. It was one of the Bibles brought to America on the *Mayflower*

This version of the Bible is significant because, for the first time, a mechanically printed, mass-produced Bible was made available directly to the general public. It also included a variety of scriptural study guides and aids that allow the reader to cross-reference one verse with numerous relevant verses in the rest of the Bible.

The Geneva Bible followed the Great Bible of 1539, the first recognized Bible in English, which was the authorized Bible of the Church of England

Fleeing the persecution of Queen Mary I of England, a number of Protestant scholars went from England to Geneva, Switzerland where they produced an English-language Bible reflecting Protestant theology. Among these scholars was William Whittingham, who along with other scholars of the day, supervised the translation now known as the Geneva Bible. Whittingham was  
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directly responsible for the New Testament, which was complete and published in 1557, while Anthony Gilby oversaw the Old Testament.

The Geneva Bible was intended to be available to all the people. It was published in a smaller size than previous Bibles and in the late 16th century it is likely that the Geneva New Testament cost less than a week's wages even for the lowest-paid laborers.

In 1604, the year after he ascended the English throne, King James I hosted and presided over a conference pertaining to matters religious known as the Hampton Court Conference. While the Geneva Bible was the preferred Bible of Anglican and Puritan Protestants during the Elizabethan Age, the new king disliked the Geneva Bible and made his views clearly known at the conference. Apparently, his distaste for the Geneva Bible arose less from the translation than from the marginal annotations. He felt strongly many of the annotations were "very partial, untrue, seditious, and savoring too much of dangerous and traitorous conceits . . . ."

So when towards the end of the conference two Puritans suggested that a new translation of the Bible be produced to better unify the Anglican Church in England and Scotland, James embraced the idea. He would not only be rid of those inconvenient annotations, but he would have greater influence on the translation of the Bible as a whole.

He commissioned and chartered a new translation of the Bible which would eventually become the most famous version of the Bible in the history of the English language. Officially known as the *Authorized Version* to be read in churches, the new Bible would come to bear his name as the so-called King James Bible or King James Version (KJV) elsewhere or casually.

The first and early editions of the King James Bible from 1611 and the first few decades thereafter lack annotations, unlike nearly all editions of the Geneva Bible up until that time.

Initially, the King James Version did not sell well and competed commercially with the Geneva Bible. Shortly after the first edition of the KJV, King James banned the printing of new editions of the Geneva Bible to further entrench his version. However, Robert Barker continued to print Geneva Bibles even after the ban, placing the spurious date of 1599 on new copies of Genevas which were actually printed between about 1616 and 1625.

The Geneva Bible in our church has much more extensive information on its origin and use.

This is not a Bible that will be the source of our weekly scriptures. Those come from the New Revised Standard Version, which is the Bible in our pews. The Geneva Bible will, however, take a prominent place in our church as is fitting such an historical book.

## **CARELINK MOVES IN AUGUST**

CareLink will be moving to the Career Development Center Outreach Office's new location at 21 E. Grand Ave. as of Aug 1. They will maintain the same hours as they had here – Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to noon.

At the first of the year, Feed My People changed their delivery hours to us which has necessitated changing our Food Pantry hours accordingly to Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings. CareLink, which has partnered with the Food Pantry, decided not to change their hours and find volunteers for the new schedule. In order to maintain the same days and hours, CareLink chose to move. They want to be at the CDC also because that's the hub for community services. That's where we send people who need help. It makes sense for them to be there.

## **FPC OFFICE HOURS CHANGE**

Effective August, the church office will be open from 9 AM to 2 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The office will no longer be open on Wednesdays.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS SCHEDULED**

We have guest speakers scheduled through October. Please plan to join us either in person in the sanctuary or on Zoom to hear:

Ken Ribe	August 7, September 4 and October 2
Terri Koca	August 14 and September 11
Gary Hedding	August 21 and October 23
Ed Williams	August 28, September 25 and October 30
Sandee Kosmo	September 18 and October 9

Our guest pastor on October 16 will be Rev. Richard Blood, our General Presbyter. Rich spoke in our church last November and we are pleased to welcome him back.

## **FPC MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD**

Longtime FPC member, Susan Gutknecht, has been selected to receive the 2021-2022 Elks Secretary of the Year Award.

The award, which was presented by State Elks President Jerry O'Brien, recognized Susan for the outstanding skills and effort she has shown in her years as secretary of Elks Lodge 1326.

Our congratulations go out to Susan for this achievement.



## **O'DONNELLS RENEW THEIR MARRIAGE VOWS**

On July 10 our sanctuary was the setting for the renewal of marriage vows for Cliff and Donita O'Donnell. The O'Donnells were married in our church 50 years ago by Rev. Merle Harberts. The renewal ceremony was conducted by one of their sons, Rev. Joseph O'Donnell, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dixon, Illinois.

Jerry Way, who sang at the wedding itself, sang and played an original song, "God Is Love".

We wish the couple many more years of happiness together.

## **BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER**

Our Sunday morning Bible study class will resume on Sunday, September 11. The current topic is Understanding the New Testament.

Bible study leader, Gene Peissig, decided to repeat the first three classes for the upcoming Bible Study. It has been three months since this material was originally presented and repeating the classes will give returning members an opportunity to revisit what they already heard and allow new members to start at the beginning.

**In order to provide additional time following the class for discussion of the material presented, the Bible study will begin at 9:00 AM instead of the usual 9:15.** Please plan to join us for coffee, cookies and a spirited discussion about the Bible.

From the Mission Team...

Backpack Give Away: Valley Vineyard Church will be giving away backpacks filled with school supplies on Sunday, August 14 from 1-3. This will be a drive-up event similar to last year's event.

There's no time to waste, so please act quickly. We will send the first check to Valley Vineyard on Wednesday, August 3.

How can you help?

- Purchase school supplies and bring them to our church. We will deliver these to Valley Vineyard.
- Write a check for a monetary contribution. Make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church with school supplies on the memo line. We will send a check in the amount of total contributions to Valley Vineyard.
- Volunteer your time. Email Trisha [trisha@cfvalleyvineyard.org](mailto:trisha@cfvalleyvineyard.org) for more information. Their greatest need is to help distribute the backpacks on August 14. You would need to be there at 12:30.
- Offer your prayers for the volunteers and for the students receiving these backpacks.

Pentecost Offering: Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Pentecost Offering. We sent 40% of the offering (\$116) to the Family Support Center; the remaining 60% (\$174) went to the Presbyterian Church USA for distribution to programs.

New hours for the Food Pantry begin August 1: The Food Pantry will be open on Mondays from 1-3. We will also be open on Tuesdays from 10-noon. We will no longer be open on Thursday mornings.

Watch for our new banner that will be going up soon!

Carelink is moving: Carelink will now serve persons looking for emergency gas cards at the new CDC office on Grand Avenue—the site of the Chippewa Museum of Industry and Technology. They will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-noon both days. As they often refer persons to the CDC for additional services, this will allow their clients to seek services without going to another location.