



The Bell

February, 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF FAITH

by Edward Williams

Since I am the person who stands in front of you most Sundays, you should know what I believe, and I feel you should be able to challenge me on anything I put in it.

Now as with all Statements of Faith and Confessions, they are only applicable for the time that they were written. This statement may change in six months as I go to more schooling, learn more about the Bible, history, and prayer, which is something that I encourage you all to do daily. I will include this in my sermons from time to time and explain why we pray in more depth but understand there was a lot of praying offered up for this statement and there is for all of you daily, as I know you pray for me daily.

God's blessings upon you and your family and know that I am praying without ceasing for your continued walk with God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Editor's Note: A Statement of Faith is something most ordained pastors prepare and share with their peers. It is not usually a document that the congregation as a whole sees but in this case, Ed was kind enough to allow it to be printed in this Bell. In this Statement of Faith Ed mentions administering and receiving two sacraments. Once he has been certified, he will be able to do these things. Until his certification, he can only assist.

Edward Myron Williams Statement of Faith

1. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man - one part of the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe in the Holy Trinity which means that I love them, and hold them all near and dear and in my heart. I believe in salvation and that I will one day live eternally with Jesus Christ, but I also believe that salvation means that we are to live a transformed life here on earth and that we are to work for a transformed earth that more reflects heaven.
2. I believe I have been blessed by God and Jesus Christ with wisdom and direction and a call from the Holy Spirit to live out the notes of the reformed church:

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A. To proclaim and hear the Word of God

I believe that means that as a disciple of Jesus Christ I am to listen for the word of God wherever I go and to proclaim the word of God by using the resources provided to me, whether that be via speaking, singing, reading aloud, showing videos or having others share their experiences. Whatever it takes is what I believe the Holy Spirit is directing me to do.

B. To Administer and Receive the Sacraments

It is my responsibility to rightly administer our two sacraments: Baptism and serving at the Lord's table, to invite all people that believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior to the table and to follow Jesus Christ's direction to train everyone they meet in this way of life, marking them by Baptism in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C. To Nurture a covenant community of disciples of Christ

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means I need to set an example in my spiritual life as well as my personal life and reach out to all in my church, my community, my country and in the world, irrelevant of gender or sex, race or religious denomination, rich or poor and show them that everyone is created equally in God's image and to spread the good news far and wide and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide me on my path.

3. I believe as a disciple of Jesus Christ, that he gave us two great commandments to follow all the days of our lives:

1. Love God with all your passion, prayer and intelligence.
2. Love all others as you love yourself.

Everything I do hangs on these two commands.

4. Because of my belief in Jesus Christ's commands, I believe that God created the earth and put humankind in charge of managing the planet. I believe God is still an active part in the continued creation. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I believe it is wrong for any country or government to exploit another country or its people to advance its own perceived vision of how to manage God's creation. I also believe Jesus instructed us to love our enemies. I believe that violence, in any form is never justified, no matter what the perceived slight is, that we are to put our faith in God and Jesus Christ and know and believe that they will put it right in the end.

5. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I believe in God's undeserved grace, that there was nothing that I did and nothing I can do to earn it. That by faith alone in Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection, I will receive eternal life with God and must display my salvation to all on this earth. By reading, studying and living out the scripture, I am fulfilling the two great commands that Jesus Christ gave to the world.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The supplemental Congregational Meeting has been scheduled by Session for February 5 in the sanctuary immediately following Sunday service. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive and review the 2022 annual report and elect the 2023 Nominating Committee.

Four names have already been placed in nomination as members-at-large to the Nominating Committee. They are Chuck Norseng, Corine Boos, Rick Koepke and Marlys Daniels. Further nominations will be taken from the floor during the Congregational Meeting. No current members of Session are eligible for election as members-at-large. The Session will elect one of their number to serve as chair of the committee.

All prospective members must have been advised of the duties of the committee and have agreed to serve if elected.

2023 DIRECTORIES IN THE WORKS

The 2023 church directories have been compiled and are available in the church office.

This year the copier would not print the directories consistently so only a limited number of hard copies were done. All the directory information is available in the Members Only section of the church website and we encourage you to use this resource.

If you must have a hard copy, call the office and one will be mailed to you or pick one up on Sunday or during regular office hours.

The directory includes not only the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses but also the list of 2023 leaders and officers of the church, committees and the Hospitality schedule as well as the revised Shepherds list.

CHURCH COLORS CHANGE WITH THE SEASONS

You have probably noticed that the colors in the church have been changing over the past couple of months.

Purple was the color during most of December, signifying Advent. On Christmas Eve the colors changed to white for Christmastide. White continued through Baptism of the Lord Sunday (January 8) only to change to green for the rest of the month.

Green, which is the color of growth in our church, will continue through most of February up to Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday (February 19) when we revert to white for one Sunday.

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will again use purple through Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND FISH FRY PLANNED

The traditional Ash Wednesday worship service will again take place in our sanctuary on February 22. The service, which will begin at 6:15, will include communion and imposition of the ashes. As we have done in recent years, the service will be shared by worshippers from Trinity United Methodist and Christ Episcopal churches in Chippewa Falls.

Joining Ed Williams in conducting this service will be Rev. Eddie Crise of Trinity United Methodist and Rev. Aaron Zook of Christ Episcopal

As we have done in the past, the service will be preceded by the Fish Fry hosted by the Presbyterian Men. The dinner will include fish, Denman baked beans, cole slaw, dessert and beverage. The cost for adults is \$11. For children 5 to 12 the cost is \$5 and children under 5 eat free.

Dinner will be served beginning at 5 PM with the last serving at 5:45.

BERYL OUIMETTE RESTROSPECTIVE ART EXHIBIT VISITS HEYDE

by Tiffany Wogahn

The Heyde Center for the Arts returns to its roots through February 15 to present a retrospective of the artwork of one of its founding members, Beryl Ouimette. The art show was curated by her daughter, Beryl Ouimette, Jr

Born April 18, 1926 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Beryl Ouimette pursued life as many did by getting married, having children, and working. However in her late 40s, early 50s, Beryl attended UW-Eau Claire to pursue a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in painting and illustration (graduating Magna Cum Laude), and she continued her studies through classes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Rhinelander School of Arts.

Beryl was an active leader in the Chippewa Falls art community, offering private art lessons in illustration, oil and acrylic painting, silversmithing for area children and artists of all ages in the art studios she managed. She was an organizer of the Chippewa Herald Spring Art Show that was held at the Methodist Church for many years. And in the late 1980s and 1990s, she was an integral force in the restoration and opening of the community art center, now known as the Heyde Center for the Arts. For several years after its opening, Beryl managed the Heyde Center's "Artist of the Month" exhibits and supported the move of the Spring Art Show from the church to the Heyde Center art galleries.

Her daughter still has a significant amount of her mother's artwork in storage that has become part of this exhibit. Some of the artwork will be available for sale for the first time in over a decade.

DEACONS ELECT OFFICERS

The Deacons met in January and elected officers for 2023. They are Chuck Norseng, Chair; Anne Welke, Treasurer; Mary Jo Reemtsma, Secretary.

FPC SCHEDULES BLOOD DRIVE

Don't forget there will be a Red Cross blood drive in our church on Thursday, March 2 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Call 800-733-2767 or visit the website at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Chippewa Falls to schedule an appointment.

FPC RECEIVES REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR DONATIONS TO FOOD PANTRY

On Christmas Eve we received and dedicated the many donations to the Food Pantry generated by the Reverse Advent Calendar. Donations came from Trinity United Methodist Church, Christ Episcopal Church and our own congregation. The Food Pantry staff thanks everyone who gave so generously during the holiday season.

Just a small portion of those donations is shown in the photograph below.

