



The Bell

January, 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

WE HAVE A PASTOR IN TRAINING!

By Lynda Butek, Clerk of Session

After almost four long years, I am finally able to announce to you that we have a new pastor in training.

Ed Williams, who has been preaching to us for over a year, has signed a one-year contract with the church to be our Certified Ruling Elder in Training beginning January 1. He will be working 20 hours a week on our behalf and preaching three Sundays each month. Pastor Ken will continue to preach on the first Sunday of the month and from time to time we will call on one of our guest pastors to preach.

We have been very fortunate to have an excellent and gifted group of guest pastors to help guide us through the last four years. We will miss having them regularly in the church but we need someone who can provide continuity to our services and be the face of the church to our congregation and to the community. Your Session thinks Ed Williams is that person.

Ed is a Ruling Elder just as many of you are but he is taking classes to become a CRE or lay pastor. He has completed some of those classes but still has some to finish. Once that is done to the satisfaction of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, he can be certified to officiate at communion, moderate Session and other meetings and perform the duties of a pastor in this church. During his training period, Ken Ribe is serving as his mentor and will continue in that role for the foreseeable future.

Four years ago, you elected a Pastor Nominating Committee to find a new pastor. They worked diligently but like other denominations, they found the pickings to be very slim. Many pastors don't want to move to Wisconsin. Others want to work in a church in a big city. Some want a church with multiple pastors to share the workload. Many don't want to work part-time. Unfortunately those criteria don't describe our community or our church.

Every week the PNC (first Gary Shorrel and later Jan Koepke) contacted the Presbyterian clearing house for new pastors to see if any new names had emerged. They explored possible yoking with a Methodist or UCC church to no avail. They contacted the Presbyterian Seminary at Dubuque University but again no candidates were found. In summary, the PNC, despite their diligent efforts, came up empty.

All through that time, we have been praying that the Lord would lead us to the right person. And I believe he has.

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When we started our search, the Presbytery said we had to have the help of an interim pastor, like Katherine Griffis was before we found Karel Hanhart. The PNC was unable to find anyone who was a qualified interim pastor. They had several candidates but in every case, either the person had no interim training or no interim experience. One by one they were eliminated. So it seemed we were caught between a rock and a hard place – we had to have an interim to proceed but none was available.

In the meantime, Ken Ribe had joined our team of guest pastors. We didn't know it but he was an official interim pastor with training and experience so he became our interim. But that still left us without a pastor.

Ken knew Ed from his work at another Presbyterian church and knew Ed was interested in working for a church as a CRE and so Ed came to us first as a guest speaker and later as a potential lay pastor.

We weren't looking for Ken. We didn't know he was an interim. We weren't looking for Ed. We didn't even know Ed existed. But I believe the Lord answered our prayers and brought both men to us when we needed them.

Ed has a great deal of enthusiasm for what our church can become. He brings new ideas to us which we haven't had in a long time. He began his work in the church in December even though he isn't official until January 1.

Please welcome Ed Williams in his soon-to-be new capacity as our pastor in training. Join us for worship on Sunday so you can meet Ed in person.

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. In accordance with the Book of Order, this meeting will be announced from the pulpit during January.

2023 DIRECTORIES IN THE WORKS

The 2023 church directories have been compiled and are soon to be in the mail. 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. The Shepherds list has been revised due to some names having been inadvertently omitted. To be certain the Hospitality teams know which Sundays to put on their calendar, that list is also printed in this issue of the Bell.

Happy New Year!!

God's Blessings and Hello,

We are at the beginning of a new year with all its possibilities. We came through Advent and Christmas and are now on our way toward the next biggest event in human history - Jesus Christ's betrayal, his persecution, his death, and ultimate resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As with the beginning of a new year, we are also celebrating a new beginning in the life of Chippewa Falls Presbyterian Church. For those of you who are unable to attend church regularly or do not hear a lot of news about the church, I have been asked, and accepted as a lay pastor in training for Chippewa Falls Presbyterian Church. My name is Edward M. Williams and I would like to introduce myself to you.

I was born in California and moved to Wisconsin in 1986 to live with my dad and stepmother in Eau Claire. I am a graduate of North High School and UW Eau Claire with a 20 year stint in the United States Navy in between.

I live in the small community of Gilman, north of Thorp with my wife, Barbara. I have two children, Amanda, 28 and her husband, Nathan, and my son, Brendan, 23. I have two stepsons, Josh, and his wife, Kara, and their three daughters, Kinsey, LynLee, and Elsee, and my other stepson, Cody, and his wife, Jessa, and their son, Mikael. My dad, Jim, and my stepmother, Gloria, live just outside Mondovi on the family farm, and my sister, Deanna, her husband, Bo, and my niece, Renia, live in Mondovi. My aunt, Marjorie, lives in Eau Claire at a memory care facility, as she has Alzheimer's.

As you can see, I call myself a lay pastor in training and that has to do with the way I come to you through our Presbyterian Church Program called Commissioned Ruling Elder.

I have not attended seminary where ordained pastors come from. I attended several classes under our presbytery's direction and with their blessing, and with the session's approval, have been given permission to become your lay pastor in training as I continue my studies toward becoming a full-fledged lay pastor able to officiate at communion, moderate session and congregational meetings and fulfill the duties of a pastor in this church.

I am very honored that God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as the Holy Spirit put me on this path, and that the church would be willing to hire me to help this wonderful church. It will take a bit to get my bearings, so please pray for me as I begin this new ministry. I am happy to talk with any of you who want to drop in to the church as I plan to be there, with Tiffany, during the normal church hours or if you would like me to come visit you, I would be honored to do so as well. I will be working halftime – 20 hours per week - and spending most of those hours in the church.

I do have some ideas and a rough vision of where I would like to go in this upcoming year as I get my feet under me. If you have the internet and are able to, I have found a TV show based on gospels of Jesus Christ and his disciples. It is called The Chosen, and the first three seasons are

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available to be watched for free on your computer or streaming service. If you need help, feel free to call the office and I will be happy to help with set up.

I plan on starting a Bible Study in the fall based on the series. Depending on how well attended it is will determine if it is worthwhile continuing on this path into further seasons.

You can expect to read regular articles from me in the Bell as I resurrect old programs and events and perhaps begin new ones. I welcome your input into where we should go in the future and how we should get there.

Thank you for allowing me to continue my walk with God, and Jesus Christ by helping you continue your walk. May you find a new beginning during this new year.

God loves you and so do I.

Ed

OPEN DOOR CLINIC SCHEDULES “RETREAT”

As they have in recent years, the Open Door Clinic has scheduled their annual “retreat” for January 28 from 9 AM to noon. The retreat will take place in Fellowship Hall.

RED CROSS TO HOLD BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross has plans to hold a blood drive in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 2 from 10AM to 4 PM.

This will be the third such drive held in our church in recent years.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS CONTINUE

The monthly Wednesday night supper schedule continues to be a success since its beginning.

Every month we have 20 to 30 hungry Presbyterians enjoying everything from soup to pizza and lots of dishes in between.

Put this supper on your calendar for the first Wednesday night of the month beginning at 5:30. You won't be disappointed.

FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Thank you for your contributions to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. You gave \$265 to this offering. Twenty-five percent (\$66.25) of that offering went to a special project at Parkview honoring Lily Peters called the Lily Pad. The Lily Pad will be a place for all children to gather. The other 75% (\$198.75) goes to the various programs of the PC(USA), the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and our Presbytery of Northern Waters.

Just a reminder... If you have not yet given to the Christmas Joy Offering and wish to do so, there is still time. Write your check to the church and put "Christmas Joy" on the memo line. Thank you to all who have given.

Our January project is to raise funds for Carelink. Carelink is a group of churches who banded together to provide emergency gas cards for persons in our community. Transportation in our community can be a challenge. Carelink provides persons who might need gas to get to medical appointments or a job with funds to do so. The Carelink volunteer meets with individuals to discuss their needs and to possibly refer them to other agencies for help.

Carelink offices are at the Career Development Center on Grand Avenue. They are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 – noon. They give out \$25 gas cards and limit those to one every 6 months.

The tree in the sanctuary will remain up for the month of January. On the tree you will find envelopes of varying amounts. Choose one and put your name on the envelope with your contribution. Put it into the offering basket at the doors of the sanctuary.

Lather with Love... Normally we would participate in this Mission Coalition project during the month of February to provide hygiene products (shampoo, soap, etc.) to the Chippewa Falls food pantries. This year that project will be held in May instead.

The Mission Team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a joy-filled new year.

Sara Abendroth, Lynda Butek, Barb Shorrel and Anne Welke

CHURCH ELECTS LEADERS, OFFICERS FOR 2023

The congregation elected new leaders for 2023 at their annual Congregational Meeting in December.

Elected to serve on the Board of Deacons were Chuck Norseng and Anne Welke. John Jensen will serve a new Endowment Fund Trustee and Barb Shorrel and Deb Buckli were elected to serve on the Financial Review Team.

Session elected Carla Ingalls to serve as Treasurer and Lynda Butek to continue as Clerk of Session.

First Presbyterian Church 2023 Hospitality-Usher Teams & Schedule

Updated 12-7-2022 tw

Team 1 <u>Anne Welke</u>	Team 2 <u>Lynda Butek</u> <u>Marlys Daniels</u>	Team 3 <u>Chuck Norseng</u> <u>Mary Jo Reemtsma</u>	Team 4 <u>George Abendroth</u> <u>Larry Annett</u>	Team 5 <u>Kevin Litten</u>	Team 6 <u>Beth Cripe</u> <u>Bonnie Gullickson</u>
Margi Kohl John Jensen	Jeff Buckli Deb Buckli Jan Koepke	Barb Shorrel Ruth Rosenow	Sara Abendroth Gene Peissig	Ellen Teske Todd Teske Jackie Reich	Corine Boos Ryan Reemtsma Sara Reemtsma

<u>Jan '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
1	4
8	5
15	6
22	1
29	2
<u>July '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
2	6
9	1
16	2
23	3
30	4

<u>Feb '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
5	3
12	4
19	5
26	6
<u>Aug '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
6	5
13	6
20	1
27	2

<u>March '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
5	1
12	2
19	3
26	4
<u>Sept '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
3	3
10	4
17	5
24	6

<u>April '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
2	5
9	6
16	1
23	2
30	3
<u>Oct '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
1	1
8	2
15	3
22	4
29	5

<u>May '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
7	4
14	5
21	6
28	1
<u>Nov '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
5	6
12	1
19	2
26	3

<u>June '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
4	2
11	3
18	4
25	5
<u>Dec '22</u>	<u>Tm</u>
3	4
10	5
17	6
24	1
31	2

Welcome Center Contact Person: Margi K.
Scrip Task Group: Corine B., Margi K,
Barb S.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Chippewa Falls Community
First Presbyterian Church

130 W Central Street

Thursday, March 2, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Chippewa Falls to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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