



The Bell

June, 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

SESSION MAKES CHANGES TO WORSHIP RESTRICTIONS

Most of the June Session meeting was devoted to discussing and voting on changes to church worship and gathering now that the CDC has lifted certain COVID-19 restrictions.

MASKS

Effective immediately masks will no longer be necessary for those who have been vaccinated. Anyone who has not been vaccinated, however, is asked to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

COMMUNION

Beginning in July Communion will look different too. The prepackaged juice/wafer cups will be available for those who wish to use them but we will return to cut bread to be dipped into the juice. One difference will be how the bread is served. Rather than having it piled on a patent, it will be spread out on a tray or patent so the communicant can easily select one piece which they then will dip in the chalice of juice.

PASSING THE PEACE

Passing the Peace will return to the church in July but we ask that you be mindful of others when offering your hand to shake or offering a hug. A nod or fist bump or elbow bump might be more appropriate at this time.

COLLECTION AND BULLETINS

The Collection plates will remain at the doors and not be passed to the congregation. We will dispense with bulletins as we have used in the past. Most of the information including scriptures and prayers now appear on the screens. We will, however, have a handout available at the Welcome Desk that will list birthdays, anniversaries, guest pastors and any special announcements.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship following service will return in July. Since we will not be passing the collection plates nor handling out bulletins, the Fellowship teams will be limited to the kitchen, which should make staffing easier. A complete list of teams will appear in the July Bell and those team leaders assigned to the first two Sundays in July will be called late in June.

(continued on following page)

MUSIC

Because the virus seems to be primarily spread by airborne particles, it has been decided that choir and hymn music will not be returning to services for the immediate future. We will try though to add some special music to the order of worship most Sundays.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

The return of Wednesday night Suppers will depend on the availability of teams to cook and people to eat. For the next few weeks, we will “take the pulse” of the congregation on these issues and decide how to proceed.

WEBSITE INCLUDES MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

As you read in the April Bell, the church directory is now available on line. This will allow us to keep the directory up to date day by day rather than just at the end of the year when the hard copy is published.

You will receive an email this week inviting you to join this Members Only section. At that time you will also receive a password that will give you access to the directory. You can change that password BUT if you do, you will have to remember what your new password is. Don't ask the office because Tiffany won't know what new password you may have chosen. The best thing you can do is leave the password alone.

When you access the Members Only section, you will find that you cannot change the information there. If you have a change or addition, let Tiffany know so she can change the website and include the new information in the hard copy when it is published.

Unfortunately, not all internet browsers work with our website and with this section. We know that Safari does not work but that Chrome, Firefox and Edge do. Try to log into the website using your default browser and if that doesn't work, try Chrome, Firefox or Edge which you can download from the Internet. If you are still having trouble, call the office and we will try to solve the issues.

We are starting the Members Only section with the church directory but in the future we plan to add other features like the Wednesday night supper schedule (when that returns), the Shepherds list, Hospitality teams just to name a few. If you have any suggestions for additions to the Members Only section, pass them on to Tiffany so we can add them too.

MISSION TEAM UPDATE...

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering brought in \$410 and the Pentecost Offering came to \$470.83. To this was added the Noisy Sunday collection. Forty percent of this offering will go to the Family Support Center. Thank you to all who contributed.

NEW CHURCH EMAILS

By Tiffany Wogahn

We've been dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century yet again. Thank you technology.

You have all hopefully received an email with the new church email addresses. It's been a long time coming and we finally had to give in and make the switch.

For at least the past year we've been having issues with our database software called PowerChurch which also sends out the mass emails you receive. A large number of the emails wouldn't go through and would have to be manually sent. It was frustrating but doable.

The Open Door Clinic uses our copier to scan emails to doctors in Marshfield. One evening the emails wouldn't go through. We called EO Johnson who said it had to do with our email host. We called Krista Computers who confirmed it.

That's when we decided to look into having email addresses that match our website! Did you notice? Everything is fpcchippewa.org now!! Isn't that cool? Best of all, the new email addresses work with both the copier and PowerChurch!

I'm happy, the clinic is happy. This is a change we have been talking about for years and finally had to make.

So, if you missed the emails with the info:

To reach Tiffany in the office: admin@fpcchippewa.org

For Carla in finance: finance@fpcchippewa.org

When we get a pastor: pastor@fpcchippewa.org

Rick has one for the church tech stuff that he does. The copy machine actually has its own as well so if you get an email from "copier" I may have scanned something and sent it to you directly from the copier.

Please remember to update your address books!

DOG DAYS ARE COMING

The hottest months of Summer aren't quite upon us yet but they are coming, never fear.

During those hottest days, the sun occupies the same part of the sky as Sirius A, also known as the Dog Star. Sirius A is part of the constellation Canis Major, the Great Dog.

Sirius is the brightest star visible from Earth and ancient astronomers believed its shine contributed to the sun's heat, leading to especially warm weather.

This time was called dies caniculares, Latin for "dog days" and the name stuck.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FOOD PANTRY?

Thank you to our volunteers who have kept the Food Pantry operating during the pandemic for your dedication and hard work. We are thankful to the community non-profits and to individuals who have contributed generously to the Food Pantry.

On Monday, May 17, the First Presbyterian Community Food Pantry hosted a meeting of area food pantries to discuss shared interests. We heard from Chippewa County Health Department and a representative from Feed My People Food Bank. Those in attendance agreed to make this meeting a quarterly event. In order to share information, we will also form a Facebook group.

The FP Community Food Pantry Board met on Wednesday, May 19. We discussed hosting a pop-up vaccination clinic at our church outdoors during food pantry hours with the hope of reaching more people. We held the first one on Tuesday, May 25, vaccinating 3 persons. On May 27, they vaccinated 3 more. The Health Department volunteers decided the numbers were too low to justify holding the vaccination clinic so they will not be hosting any more at this time.

One of the goals of the Food Pantry Board is to begin serving our clients inside of the church. In order to do this, we are planning to open our doors to clients on Thursday, July 15. The plan is to set up tables in the Narthex allowing patrons to select their own fruits, vegetables and bread items. We would still hand out meat, dairy, health items, and the prepacked bag of non-perishable groceries. We will ask all clients to wear masks, and we will limit the number of persons who can enter at any one time. We are awaiting Session's decisions at their June meeting before proceeding.

Members of the FP Community Food Pantry Board are Larry Annett, our Session rep; Susan Kern, Health Cart; Barb Shorrel, Secretary; Todd Teske, at large rep; Anne Welke, Coordinator; and Tiffany Wogahn, Statistics and FMP contact.

THE MAN BEHIND THE SCENE

by Lynda Butek

There's always one. It may be the person who paints the scenery or who sews the costumes or runs the lights. The man behind the scene is the one we need desperately but often fail to appreciate or acknowledge or maybe even know about. In our case that man behind the scene is Rick Koepke.

Many of you thank me for what I do for the church but do you thank Rick? If you don't, you should because he does more than you know.

Most Sundays find Rick at the AV console providing the lighting and audio and information on the screens that we depend on to make our services run smoothly. Even during the time we were closed for in-person worship, Rick was there every Sunday. You may not have seen him but I did and I know he was there working his magic.

Even on the Sundays when Rick isn't at the console, he has translated the order of worship from the written page to screen texts. And he's there for most funerals putting together the family pictures and service information.

So the next time you see him, let him know how much he is appreciated. He'll probably say it's nothing but we know better!

FPC COMMITTEES MEET

Now that the church has been opened to gatherings, several of our committees have taken the opportunity to meet. For some of them this is the first time they have met in several months.

MISSION TEAM

The Mission team met in April to discuss the Pentecost Offering which was formally taken on May 23. During May the offering was discussed and materials placed in the pews for the offerings. The 40% of this offering which stays in Chippewa Falls will be donated to the Family Support Center for their programs for children and young adults. It was decided that the money collected on Noisy Sunday (May 30) will be added to the Pentecost Offering.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Due to the ongoing problems with the email service the church has experienced for the past several years, the Communications Team decided to meet the situation head-on. They met with Rick Koepke and a representative from Krista Computer. The team decided to formally enlist Krista's help in solving this problem, which they have done. See the article elsewhere in this Bell which explains the problems and what has been done to correct them.

DEACONS

The Deacons met to discuss home visits and stressed that caution during the pandemic is necessary. Specific shut-ins were mentioned and prayers will go out to them.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD

Vance Kohl presented information regarding the endowment investment. In November, it was decided following the recommendation of T. Rowe Price with whom we have invested our money, to move those funds from the Capital Appreciation Fund to the Communications and Technology Fund which is performing better.

In order to clarify the investment schedule, a timeline of investments will be created for the board.

New officers were elected. Chuck Norseng will serve as chair for the coming year and Barb Shorrel will serve as secretary and acting treasurer.

The board plans to review the Endowment Fund by-laws, the classification of funds and tax reporting requirements.

FOOD PANTRY BOARD

The Food Pantry has received generous contributions from the Rutledge Charities and the Casper Foundation. They have also received a \$500 food credit at Feed My People from Mathy Construction.

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

The board continued discussions about opening the Food Pantry to clients who could enter the church. At this point, no changes have been made in how we handle future access to the church.

The church has been contacted by the Chippewa County Health Department about possibly offering Covid-19 vaccinations in conjunction with our Food Pantry. They are in the process of obtaining more information about this program and how we could assist.

Once the pantry is reopened to the public, the board has decided to require that all volunteers be vaccinated.

Once the date for reopening has been firmed up, there will be a volunteer meeting to discuss the changes.

The Food Pantry is working on the health cart which includes items to give away. They have also received a donation of diapers from Feed My People which we will give away as needed.

PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Granted, it's been quite some time since the PNC has reported on the search for a new called-pastor but the work continues nonetheless.

The pandemic caused unexpected delays in our search since many of the organizations we would typically use were at least temporarily shut down. But that hasn't stopped the committee from continue to look for a called-pastor.

And we have two promising leads which we are following. Neither of these will produce quick results though and in the meantime, we are continuing as we have been using guest pastors.

During June we have Rev. Ken Ribe, Rev. Gary Henning, Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller and Rev. Sandee Kosmo. Ken, Gary and Sandee will be joined in July by Rev. Jim Mohr and in August we are planning on Ken, Rich, Sandee, Gary and our own Gene Peissig filling the pulpit.

If you have questions for the PNC, please contact them direct. The committee includes Gary Shorrel, chair; Jan Koepke, co-chair; Corrine Boos, Deb Buckli and Lynda Butek.

JUST A REMINDER

FPC will host the Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, June 30 from noon to 6:00 PM. There will be a second session on Wednesday, August 25.

The June Blood Drive was postponed during time the church was closed to outside groups because of the pandemic.



Blood Drive
**Chippewa Falls Community
First Presbyterian Church**

130 W Central Street

Wednesday, June 30, 2021
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

