



The Bell

June, 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

PENTECOST COMES ON JUNE 5

On June 5 we celebrate Pentecost, God's gift of Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ.

Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, but it was later associated with a remembrance of the law given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai. When the festival was first celebrated in the Christian church is not known, but it was mentioned in a work from the Eastern church as early as the 2nd century.

In the early church, Christians often referred to the entire 50-day period beginning with Easter as Pentecost. Baptism was administered both at the beginning and end of the season. In England the feast was commonly called White Sunday (Whitsunday) for the special white garments worn by the newly baptized. In Western churches, pastors often wear red vestments during Pentecost to symbolize the "tongues of fire" that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit; members of the congregation also are encouraged to wear red, and the sanctuary is dressed in red paraments.

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world.

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty wind invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power - the unseen power of God - moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it the wind, or breath, of God. The Spirit is the "unseenness of God" working among us.

Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens its eyes to needs in the world. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.



PRESYTERIAN CHURCH AIDS POLICE EFFORT

During the recent police investigation into the murder of Lily Peters, the Chippewa Falls Police Department used the available space in our church to gather law enforcement personnel from around the state to pursue their work.

To show their appreciation to the church for offering the space necessary to house over 70 law enforcement personnel, Chippewa Falls Police Chief Matthew Kelm presented a certificate of commendation to the church. Administrative Assistant, Tiffany Wogahn accepted the certificate on behalf of the church.

The framed certificate will soon be prominently displayed in Fellowship Hall

GIVING BACK

By Tiffany Wogahn

A few months ago a woman showed up at the food pantry with a lot of food to donate. This amount of food from one person is not a common occurrence. We asked her how much she spent as we stared in disbelief and gratitude. She said she spent \$200 and was going to do it every month! She kept her word and has been back three more times, each time with more food.

When we asked why she decided to do this, she said that someone helped her years ago and she wanted to give back.

It really warms our hearts as the helpers to receive unsolicited help from a community member who simply wants to pay it forward!

Speaking of giving back, there was a food pantry volunteer appreciation gathering late in May. Our food pantry simply would not be able to function without all of our volunteers. To show our sincere appreciation we took them out for pizza and laughs at the Fill Inn. We have such a wonderful group of people who enjoy helping others and have fun doing it!

A WEDDING AND A GRADUATION

On May 21, member Tricia Radke became the bride of Charles Foster. In addition Tricia's son, Keion Twyman, who is also a member of our church, graduated from Chippewa Falls High School in May and will attend UW Stout in the Fall where he will play NCAA DIII basketball. Keion was part of our 2017 confirmation class.

Congratulations to Keion on his graduation and to the newlyweds and family of Tracia, Charles, Kobe and Keion.

BACK TO SCHOOL LOOMS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Once again Valley Vineyard Church and the Mission Coalition are sponsoring the annual backpack giveaway just in time for school to start. We will begin collecting supplies for this drive in July but the actual giveaway won't be until late August.

This year, the church does not need the backpacks themselves but needs the school supplies. If you wish to participate in this program, the church needs notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, glue, glue sticks, colored pencils and rulers. You will find a special box in the church starting in July where you can place your supplies. If you can't purchase any supplies, you can send your check to Valley Vineyard Church and they will buy the needed supplies.

If you have any questions concerning the drive, contact Anne Welke or Bonnie Gullickson, our representatives to the Mission Coalition.

SOLES4SOULS CAMPAIGN STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

Now that Summer is upon us and we are changing over from heavy winter boots and shoes to sandals, it's time to think about giving away some of those unwanted/unworn/uncomfortable/mismatched shoes to people who may not have any at all.

The annual Soles4Souls shoe drive won't take place until September but it's not too soon to start thinking about donating your shoes – worn or unworn, new or old – to this worthy cause.

This has always been a very successful drive and we hope this year will be no different so start bagging/boxing those shoes to bring to the church. September will be here before you know it.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC) UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee is still actively seeking an applicant to fill the part time Pastor position for our church. Through our research, we are finding that we are not the only church struggling with this same dilemma.

Please keep this committee and our church in your prayers as we continue our search.

SPEAKERS SET FOR SUMMER

Our guest speakers for June and July will be:

June 5	Ken Ribe
June 12	Terri Koca
June 19	Sandee Kosmo
June 26	Ed Williams
July 3	Terri Koca
July 10	Joseph O'Donnell
July 17	Gary Hedding
July 24	Sandee Kosmo
July 31	Ed Williams

You will see a new name for July – Joseph O'Donnell. He is a special guest pastor from Illinois who will be officiating at a very special service on July 10. Watch your July Bell for more information on Joseph and this service.

A WORD OR TWO FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

THE CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST AND THE PENTECOST OFFERING...

On June 5 we celebrate Pentecost considered the birthday of the Christian Church. On that day we officially accept and celebrate your contributions to the Pentecost Offering. I hope that you have had a chance to hear about how this offering helps young people around the world.

The Pentecost Offering is distributed in the following ways.

- We will keep 40% of your contributions locally. In the past we have given to the Family Support Center here in Chippewa Falls. We will do that again this year.
- The PC(USA) through its synods and presbyteries will use 25% of your contribution for the Young Adult Volunteer program.
- Another 25% will be used to support ministries with youth, ages 12-18, and their advisors.
- The final 10% will be used to support “the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* national initiative to motivate and inspire Presbyterians to better the lives of children” through educational opportunities.

BE READY FOR OUR NEXT MISSION OPPORTUNITY FROM THE MISSION COALITION...

School is not even out for the summer yet, but we wanted you to mark your calendar for the Backpack Giveaway. We will start collecting school supply items for students in Chippewa Falls beginning some time in July. Volunteers will gather the supplies and distribute them to students in mid-August. We haven't gotten the official word yet as to when this will start, but just wanted to give everyone a heads up.

And in September, Soles 4 Souls will be returning. Save those shoes! More to come later.

FOOD PANTRY HOURS TO CHANGE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1...

The Food Pantry Board decided at our last meeting to change our hours of operation beginning in August. We have been discussing this since our deliveries from Feed My People were changed from Tuesday at 9 to Mondays at 11:30. The new hours will be as follows.

Feed My People delivery	11:30 on Monday
Food Pantry hours	1:00-3:00 Monday afternoon
	10:00-Noon Tuesday mornings

We will not be open on Thursdays at all. We will be closed on Monday holidays, but will be open on Tuesdays after the holiday.

We will observe regular Food Pantry days and hours for June and July.

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ALL ARE WELCOME. • GOLF TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!!

The L. E. Phillips Career Development Center has scheduled their annual charity golf outing for Friday, August 5 at Hickory Hills Golf Course. The entire day will be devoted to golf and will include food and beverages throughout the day, a silent auction of donated items as well as a raffle. The grand prize for the raffle is \$2500. Cost for the nine-hole event is \$150 per golfer. Tee times will be determined on a first-come-first-served basis with no deadline for registration.

L. E. Phillips works closely with food pantries, the Family Support Center, Chippewa County Housing Authority and the Mission Coalition to help meet the needs of community members in crisis. For more information on the day of golf, call 715-834-2771

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Confession: Well into my late 20s, I often flinched at giving money to a homeless person, rationalizing that I might be enabling laziness or drug use, *Jim writes*.

My wife, Autumn, is the opposite. She *always* gives money and engages *every* person in need.

One day, with the kids in the backseat, she pushed back against my view, saying: "If I'm going to make a mistake, I want to err on the side of giving a drug addict money rather than not giving a hungry person means to eat that day."

Why it matters: She changed my mind about generosity. More importantly, she inspired our kids (on their good days) to adopt a similar help-don't-hide approach to people in need.

This mindset applies to leadership, as well as life: We all have chances to help those struggling instead of looking the other way — or justifying doing nothing.

What this might look like in regular life or at work:

If you see need, act: It's so easy to see someone in need, on the street or in the office and convince yourself it's none of your business — or that someone else will step up. Be the one who takes action.

If you wonder, ask: I am an introvert, so my natural instinct is to keep to myself. People like me need to force themselves to simply ask if someone needs a hand when things seem off. This remains a struggle for me.

Err on the side of generosity: Autumn is right. Are you ever going to feel bad about giving money or time to others? Never. "Our job is to give. Let God decide if the recipient did good with your gift," she says.

Surround yourself with givers: All habits are contagious. Between Autumn and my parents, who give all their time and focus to their kids even though we're adults, I am smothered by givers. It can't help but rub off.

Others are watching: You will be surprised how many watch and copy you. All actions are contagious — and goodness spreads just as easily as badness.

The bottom line: We try hard to apply these principles at work — paying close attention and swarming when people hit ruts. All of us have this opportunity every day in small, meaningful ways.

(Editor's Note: The above is an article from Axios sent in by Ken Ribe.)