



The Bell

November, 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls. Wisconsin

SESSION CALLS ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 5 immediately following the church service.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect the leadership of the church for 2022.

This year there are two vacancies on the Session. George Abendroth has volunteered to take his place on Session if elected and Larry Annett has agreed to serve a second term if elected..

Three Deacons are leaving the Board of Deacons having served two complete terms. That leaves five remaining Deacons. Mary Jo Reemstma has volunteered to put her name up for election thus filling out the six Deacons required by our bylaws.

The Endowment Fund Board requires three trustees which it will have even with Gwen Bauman leaving having completed her second term. No new trustees will be elected this year.

The Financial Review Team has no members to be replaced this year and will stand as constituted.

Those members who join the meeting via Zoom will be eligible to vote by a show of hands as will those in the sanctuary.

This meeting is just the start of the required congregational work the church must do at the end of each year.

Following their election, the new Elders and Deacon will be installed and if necessary ordained in January. The Session will then consider calling another supplementary meeting of the congregation early in February to present the budget and annual report.

As in 2021, the Annual Report complete with committee reports and the 2022 budget will be sent out electronically to those members having internet access. Those without internet access will receive the Annual Report by mail.

GENERAL PRESBYTER TO PREACH IN CHIPPEWA FALLS

Rev. Richard Blood, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Northern Waters will be out guest pastor on Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday, November 21.

As part of his new position as the leader of the Presbytery, Rev. Blood is visiting many of the churches in Wisconsin getting to know them as they get to know him.

Rev. Blood was the pastor of Peace Presbyterian, Brule Presbyterian, Lake Nebagamon Presbyterian and St. Croix Presbyterian churches in Pioneer Parish for 4-1/2 years before taking his current job. Pioneer Parish is the cooperative effort of four churches covering approximately 3,000 square miles of Northwestern Wisconsin.

PRESBYTERY ELECTS NEW MODERATOR

The Presbytery of Northern Waters elected Rev. James Deters as its moderator for 2022 at its October meeting.

Rev. Deters previously served as co-chair of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery. That position will be held in 2022 by Rev. Robyn Weaver, pastor of the Glen Avon Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Weaver isn't new to the Committee on Ministry having served as co-chair of that committee previously.

FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE SET FOR NOVEMBER

The following team leaders for Fellowship in February are:

November 7	Corine Boos and Barb Meredith
November 14	Anne Welke and Larry Annett
November 21	Chuck Norseng and Kevin Litten
November 28	Bonnie Gullickson

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL

The most likely origin for this phrase dates back to the reign of Henry VIII who granted Westminster Abby, dedicated to St. Peter, the status of Cathedral. This spared the former Abbey from being destroyed in his Dissolution of the Monasteries between 1536 and 1541.

It could be argued that Westminster Abbey deserved saving as it had been scene of the coronation of every English king since 1066 and continues to do so today.

After the dissolution, Westminster returned to Abbey status in 1550. However, while Westminster was a Cathedral, funds meant for its upkeep were diverted to the treasury of St. Paul's Cathedral in the City of London. Hence, robbing Peter to pay Paul.

WE CELEBRATE REIGN OF CHRIST/CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for the sovereignty of Christ on Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday. This festival was established in 1925 and originally took place on the last Sunday in October, just prior to All Saints' Day. Now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year, a week before the season of Advent begins. This year Christ the King Sunday falls on November 21.

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends Ordinary Time after Pentecost, and moves us toward Advent, which begins this year on November 28.

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. This celebration of the lordship of Christ looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends everything else. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!". Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty.

PROPERTY TEAM HARD AT WORK ON THE CHURCH EXTERIOR

While we certainly appreciated the work done by the United Way volunteers in September, the landscaping cleanup they did has uncovered work that needs to be done to the outside of the church itself. The Property Committee under the leadership of Jeff Buckli has already complete part of the projects and made plans for the remainder to be done at least by Spring.

First on their list of projects was replacing some of the paving stones lining the stairs on the west side of the church. Unfortunately, the stones could no longer be matched at least in part due to the weathering they have seen. Rather than replace all the pavers, the Property Team "robbed Peter to pay Paul" and traded some bricks which will be hidden as the bushes grow back for those along the stairs which are in plain sight.

On the schedule for next spring is repainting the outside windowsills which were previously hidden by the overgrown shrubbery.

Also on the list to be completed by Spring is work on the doors to the sanctuary facing Central Street. There are several proposals on the table for Session to discuss concerning these doors from repairing them to complete replacement.

SOLES4SOULS CAMPAIGN NETS TONS OF SHOES

The September Soles4Souls campaign sponsored by the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition collected and distributed 4000 pounds of shoes.

FROM THE MISSION TEAM...
SUBMITTED BY BARB SHORREL

This Christmas season the Mission Team is promoting two missions. You are familiar with the Christmas Joy offering that we take each year during Advent. This year we are adopting a family through the Spirit of Christmas.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS/ADOPT A FAMILY

This holiday season the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are adopting a family through the Spirit of Christmas. We have requested a family of four or five. The recommended amount to spend per family member is \$100. The goal will be to raise \$500. We will be taking contributions toward this cause through the month of November.

The Spirit of Christmas of Chippewa County began 33 years ago as a request from the Chippewa Falls Clergy Association. It has continued its mission of bringing a merry Christmas to children of families in need since then.

Please make your checks out to First Presbyterian Church and write **“Adopt a Family”** in the memo line.

NOISY SUNDAY OCTOBER 31

Bring all of your loose change to church on October 31 (All Saints’ Day) to make some noise! We will dedicate this money for the family that we are adopting through the Spirit of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS JOY “God’s perfect gift, Jesus Christ—a gift who opens a door.”

This is the season of Christmas Joy—our congregation’s fourth denominational special offering of the year. The theme is *A gift opens doors (Proverbs 18:16)*.

We will be collecting this offering during the Advent season. Beginning in Advent (November 28), be sure to take one of the brochures that you will find in the pews. We will also place Christmas Joy offering envelopes in the pews for you to use.

Watch for more information in the December Bell.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING:

Thank you to all who contributed to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. You gave \$460. We dedicated the Noisy Sunday offering to this adding \$71.49. The total collected equals \$531.49. Of this total, we are giving the Family Support Center \$132.87.

PRESBYTERIAN PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL

Thanks to everyone who has been offering their thoughts and prayers for me. Barb and I appreciate it. I am still recovering so those prayers are still needed. –Gary Shorrel

THANKSGIVING AND TURKEY HAVE BECOME TRADITIONS

In a 1789 proclamation, President George Washington called on the people of the United States to acknowledge God for affording them “an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness” by observing a day of thanksgiving. Devoting a day to “public thanksgiving and prayer” as Washington called it, became a yearly tradition in many communities.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. In that year, during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln made his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation. He asked his fellow citizens “to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise ...”

It wasn't until 1941, however, that Congress finally designated the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day, thus creating a federal holiday.

Of course, Thanksgiving is not born of presidential proclamations. Native American harvest festivals had been celebrated for centuries and colonial services date back to the last 16th century. Thanksgiving Day as we know it today, began in the early 1600s when settlers in Massachusetts and Virginia came together to give thanks for their survival, for the fertility of their fields and for their faith. The most widely known early Thanksgiving is that of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, who feasted for three days with the Wampanoag people in 1621.

Turkey has become the traditional Thanksgiving fare because at one time it was a rare treat. During the 1830s an eight to ten pound bird cost a day's wages. Even though turkeys are affordable today, they still remain a celebratory symbol of bounty. In fact, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin ate roast turkey in foil packets for their first meal on the Moon.

Here in Wisconsin Thanksgiving Day has taken something of a back seat to deer hunting since it falls in the middle of the first week of the season. At least the hunters aren't shooting turkeys!

SPEAKERS SET FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

The schedule of guest speakers coming to our church has been firmed up through the end of the year and beyond.

We can expect the following speakers in November and December:

Ken Ribe -	November 7 and December 5
Sandee Kosmo -	November 14
Rich Blood -	November 21
Rich Estrem-Fuller	November 28 and Christmas Eve
Terri Koca -	December 12
Ed Williams -	December 19
Gary Hedding -	December 26

We will have our traditional Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 4:30 PM. The service led by Rich Estrem-Fuller will include Christmas music, scriptures, communion and candle lighting.