



# The Bell

October, 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls. Wisconsin

## FALL BRINGS ALL SAINTS DAY

**All Saints' Day**, also known as **All Hallows' Day**, **Hallowmas**, the **Feast of All Saints**, or **Solemnity of All Saints**, is a Christian feast day celebrated in honor of all the saints. Its intent is to celebrate all the saints, including those who are no longer celebrated, or are not celebrated individually, either because the number of saints has become so great or because they were celebrated in groups, after suffering martyrdom collectively. In our case, we choose to celebrate and honor all those who have gone before us.

In Western Christianity it is celebrated on November 1. Since October 31 is the Sunday closest to All Saints Day, we have chosen to celebrate our saints on that day.

Traditionally we honor our loved ones by writing their names on ribbons. After all the names are read by the pastor and a bell rung for each name, these ribbons join those from past All Saints Days in a long garland stretching around the sanctuary. In that way we not only honor our "saints" but are surrounded by them. The ribbons will remain around the sanctuary for several weeks to remind us of our loved ones.

We have our former Interim Pastor, Katherine Griffis, to thank for making All Saints Sunday an important day on our church calendar. She started the tradition of writing names of the departed on ribbons which encircle the sanctuary and we have continued the practice for the past 10 or more years.

The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven and the living.

Protestants generally commemorate all Christians, living and deceased, on All Saints' Day and they use it to remember all Christians both past and present.

While the dead are solemnly remembered during worship on All Saints' Sunday, the festival is ultimately a celebration of Christ's victory over death.

All Saints Sunday marks the close of the Paschal season. The Paschal season consists of the forty days from Pascha (Easter) to the Ascension. We consider this the time our risen Lord spent with his disciples, preparing them for the tasks which lay ahead, after our Lord's return to heaven. We also commemorate several miracles of the Messiah's earthly ministry during this time.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS SET THROUGH NOVEMBER**

So you can plan your Sunday worship, our guest pastors will be:

Ken Ribe	November 7
Rich Estrem-Fuller	November 28
Sandee Kosmo	November 14
Rich Blood (General Presbyter of our Presbytery)	November 21

November 14 will be the last time we will see Sandee Kosmo for a while as she and her husband, John, are heading for Arizona and New Mexico for the winter. But they will be back in the spring and we will hear more from her then.

## **BACKPACK PROGRAM DEEMED A SUCCESS**

The recent backpack giveaway sponsored by Valley Vineyard Church netted 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies for the start of the Fall semester. In addition, more than 20 volunteers helped pack and distribute the backpacks.

## **MISSION PROGRAMS CONTINUE**

Although most of our efforts are focused on local mission projects, every year we participate in the denomination-wide mission programs sponsored by the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Pentecost offering.

This year we donated \$410 for One Great Hour of sharing and \$282.50 for the Pentecost offering.

The next big offering will be the Peace and Global Witness Offering which will wind up the first Sunday of October. We plan to add the \$75 raised at the August Noisy Sunday to the portion from the Peace and Global Witness program that stays in Chippewa Falls. This money will go to the Family Support Center.

## **PRESBYTERY SETS FALL MEETING**

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Northern Waters to which we belong will be October 9. As in the recent past, this meeting will be held by Zoom.

It was originally planned that this meeting would take place in person at Clearwater Forest with those who could not attend in person joining on Zoom, however, because of the surge in Covid-19 cases, it was decided that the entire meeting would be held virtually.

The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for 2021, hear reports and worship.

## **FROM THE MISSION TEAM...**

REPORTED BY BARB SHORREL

### **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING...**

We will be dedicating the Peace and Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 3. This offering is dedicated to programs that support mental health and suicide prevention; programs that work to further “efforts for peace, justice, and reconciliation in places of conflict, injustice and oppression, and other programs to “help people process violence and crisis-related trauma through creative expression.”

Where does your contribution go?

- 25% of this offering stays locally. The Mission team has designated the Family Support Center in Chippewa Falls to receive this.
- 25% of this offering will be given to support Synod and Presbytery efforts to support peacemaking in our region.
- 50% of this offering will go for Presbyterian efforts to work for peace and reconciliation around the world.

Thank you to all who have already contributed. If you wish to contribute, please make your checks out to First Presbyterian Church with Peace & Global Witness written on the Memo line.

In addition to our contribution to the Family Support Center as part of this mission program, we are donating the \$75 collected at the August Noisy Sunday.

### **SOLES 4 SOULS...**

We have completed the Mission Coalition’s Soles 4 Souls mission this week. Thank you to all who contributed and to those who packed up the boxes for shipment.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

## TO VACCINATE OR NOT TO VACCINATE

The Rev. Keith Marshall, a Lutheran minister from Washington State asks:

“What does my faith in Jesus Christ exempt me from?”

Many people are claiming religious exemption from getting the Covid vaccine.

Here are some things that belief in Christ exempts us from:

1. Putting my wants above the needs of others.  
Philippians 2: 3-4, “Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t look out for your own interests, but take an interest in others too.”
2. Claiming my freedom in Christ as a liberty to act without responsibility.  
Galatians 5: 13-14, “Don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself.”
3. You are exempt from refusing to protect the most vulnerable in your midst.  
Matthew 25: 40, “I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me.”

Therefore, my “religious exemption” REQUIRES ME to receive the Covid vaccine to safeguard life and to wear a mask to care for others.

Claiming the Christian faith is no justification to refuse these measures.

By invoking the name of Jesus Christ to claim exemption is using the name of the Lord in vain.

You may have political or personal reasons to not get the vaccine, but please stop using your faith in Jesus Christ as justification.

Submitted by former member Courtney Erickson.



## **UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING BEAUTIFIES CHURCH GROUNDS**

We were blessed with many willing hands on September 17 when the United Way sponsored a day of caring. Volunteers from Group Health Cooperative included Theresa Monpas, Tina Schmitt, Jenni Felix, Melissa Martenson, Jayne Larson, Angie Pinter, Amber Herbison, Cindy Wergeland, Margie Ignarski, Shaun Kennedy, Shannon Darrow.

Working together they were able to make our church look as it should – clean, neat and well cared-for

We have Jane Weiler, coordinator of the Open Door Clinic, to thank for applying on our behalf for this wonderful crew to make our church look the way it does.

Check out the church bulletin board, tower and Facebook page to see the before and after photos of the work the group did.