



# The Bell

October, 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## SPECIAL MUSIC RETURNS TO FPC

For many years, FPC was known as the Music Church with special musical events filling the church regularly. Unfortunately, the years have taken a toll on the music program with musicians passing away and moving on until special music is almost a thing of the past. But in October and November, special music will again be heard in the sanctuary.

On October 9 from 4 to 5:15 PM, our friends Mario and Sherry Friedel will bring their group of professional musicians, Songa, to our church to present a concert to benefit the Food Pantry.

Songa includes instruments from guitar, banjo, ukulele, harmonica, melodica and percussion and will offer music from folk to country, bluegrass to blues to Latin jazz and more.

“We try to combine the harmonies, and the relaxing feel of the music with some inspiring text,” Sherry Friedel explained. “Hopefully people will leave a little lighter than they came.”

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The food pantry started off as a single bag in the pastor's office and has grown to working with different organizations in the area. From January to August, the food pantry served 1,149 households and 3,114 individuals. It saw 1,161 new people during this time.

Along with the food pantry, First Presbyterian Church hosts blood drives, offers a weekly free clinic, and offers access to housing and gas resources.

A free-will offering will be taken for the Songa concert which will be followed by a meal featuring pulled pork sandwiches. The cost of the meal is \$10 which will also benefit the Food Pantry.

While donations are greatly appreciated, concert organizers said it's just as important to show up. By doing so, there are more community members who are aware and able to point those in need towards individuals and organizations that can help.

In addition to the Songa concert, The Menomonie Singers will again sing in our sanctuary on November 12 at 2 PM. They will sing a variety of music by living choral music composers.

The Menomonie Singers is a non-profit music organization in existence as Menomonie Chamber Singers since 1989. This adult community choir performs at various venues in Menomonie and western Wisconsin. Singers are a mix of many professions, including UW-Stout faculty members. The group frequently sings four-part, a cappella music conducted by Brian Klein.

The Menomonie Singers concert carries no ticket fee, but the suggested donation is \$10.



## **IT MAY BE EARLY BUT ...**

Winter is on its way and it's time to think about what we might do if heavy snow means the church will be closed.

If you think church services might be cancelled, check the WEAU.com website. You will find a yellow "Cancellations" bar near the top of their Home page. Click on that and you will see all the cancellations for that period. That will include schools, the Boys and Girls Clubs, churches, etc.

If we have to cancel service this winter, that cancellation will be posted on the cancellation page of the WEAU website and it will also appear on our church Facebook page. If the church office is open, those of you who have computers will be notified by email.

This notice will be posted on the tower in the Narthex throughout the winter as a reminder

## **ALL SAINTS DAY COMES IN OCTOBER**

As we have done in the past, we will have a commemoration of those friends and family members who have gone before us and are now "saints".

Ed Williams will be our speaker on that Sunday and we will have the garland of ribbons with the names of our loved ones who have passed away around the church. As in the past we will have ribbons available for congregants to add the names of those who have passed away in the last year. Following the service those ribbons will be added to our garland.

Be thinking of those names you wish added on October 30. If you do not plan to be in church that day, you can call the office with any names you want included.

## **CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION CONTINUES**

Last Fall the Session embarked on a program of sprucing up the outside of our church. It began with replacing some of the crumbling blocks around the ramp.

The United Way volunteers visited us again this year and weeded the yard area and repainted our ramp railings. On the following page see pictures of the volunteers from the Mason Company who gave their time to our church.

The doors from Central Street to the sanctuary were in dire need of refinishing. Joe Teske, who has been taking care of our lawn mowing and snow removal chores, has completed this job too. He stained the doors and added the metal plates at the bottom of the doors where most of the damage occurs.

For the moment, the outside of the church looks great again but this is an on-going program as you would expect with a building like ours.



## NOTES FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

### PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING TAKEN ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY!

The past three Sundays you have heard from members of the Mission Team explaining how contributions to the Peace & Global Witness offering are used nationally and globally. We are allowed to keep 25% of this offering for a local project. This year the Mission Team decided to donate our portion to the Lilypad Project at Parkview Elementary. Stacy Perret-Bowe from Parkview explains what the Lilypad Project is all about.

In April of 2022 Parkview lost a student to a tragedy. Lily Peters was a 4th grade student at our school. In honor of Lily we completed a Lily Garden at the entrance of Parkview and are now in the process of building a "Lilypad" for her friends and students to enjoy in her honor. The Lilypad will be on the 3-5th grade playground and will consist of new playground equipment for her peers to gather and play to remember Lily. We plan to have purple as the main color of the equipment. Both projects have been made possible from donations sent to Parkview in Lily's honor. We are in the process of working with Lee Recreation on pricing for the playground structures. To date we have approximately \$7000.00 of the community donations \$10,000 needed be put towards the playground pieces. Any donation small or large would be appreciated! Anticipated installation date will be November 2022 - weather permitting.

If you have already contributed to this offering, then thank you. If you haven't and wish to do so, please remember to write "Peace and Global Witness" in the memo line.

NOISY SUNDAY—OCTOBER 30: On October 30, we will again "shake the can" to benefit Lighten Your Load. This program sponsored by the Mission Coalition offers households to wash and dry two loads of laundry for free. This service is offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 6-9 pm and the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 1-4 at Express Mart Laundromat, 805 N Bridge St. Volunteers give out quarters and laundry detergent. They do not do the washing/drying/folding.

If you are interested in being a volunteer for this program, contact Gayle Klitzke, 715-723-5053 or email her, [gayleklitzke@hotmail.com](mailto:gayleklitzke@hotmail.com).

TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN RETURNS TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN. If you would like to participate, call Tiffany. It is lots of fun! You will be hearing more about this throughout October.

## **PUT THOSE SHOES BACK IN YOUR CLOSET**

In your September Bell we asked you to save some of those unwanted/unworn/uncomfortable/mismatched shoes and bring them to the church to donate to people who may not have any at all.

Unfortunately the Soles4Souls campaign which has been so successful in the past won't take place in September as we had thought. We have already collected many shoes and hope the program will go on sometime in the near future but in the meantime, keep those old shoes at home and be ready to bring them to FPC when we notify you the drive is on again.

## **THE RED CROSS ASKS FOR VOLUNTEER HELP**

In recent years the American Red Cross has called on us to host blood drives in our church. Each time they have been great to work with, bringing their own volunteers, materials and refreshments for the donors.

They have told us how great it is to be in our church. We have the ramp and elevator which makes moving their heavy and bulky equipment from place to place. In many places they go, they have to tote the equipment up stairs just to set up for the drive.

They are really a self-contained unit and clean up after themselves and put everything back when they are finished.

Now they are asking for our help since they need volunteers to work in various ways – as VA facility volunteers, workshop volunteers or as a volunteer leader to help bring their programs to the military community.

If you are interested in giving your time and talents to this very worthy group, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or contact [volunteer.wisconsin@redcross.org](mailto:volunteer.wisconsin@redcross.org).

## **FPC SEEKS NEW LEADERS FOR 2023**

October is the month we start thinking seriously about new leaders of the church for the coming year.

This year we have need of two Deacons, one trustee of the Endowment Board and one person on the Financial Review Committee.

If you have any names to be put forward, please contact Margi Kohl, Chuck Norseng, Barb Shorrel, Dick Kemp or Lynda Butek. The list of nominees will appear in your November Bell and they will be voted on by the congregation the first Sunday in December.

## **HOPE VILLAGE EVENT SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 6**

When the tiny house program began, FPC wanted to be one of the hosts but unfortunately we don't have the outdoor space for a house. But that didn't mean we couldn't help and we have helped.

First Presbyterian Church has been storing items for the tiny houses in the basement. We have bedding, linens, small appliances and all the things necessary to set up housekeeping in a tiny house. Some members helped work on the very first family sized house built at Christ Episcopal Church.

When you drive by the Hope Village site, you can see new streets and concrete pads for tiny houses which will be moved there soon. With the actual village in sight, the Hope Village board has planned a special event for the public to see what has been accomplished and learn what is next for the community.

Since we have been involved from the beginning in the formation of Hope Village, it would be appropriate for people to come to this event on Thursday, October 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The program will begin at 6:30 and see what has been done and what is next.

The event is called, "Welcome Home". Guests are invited for a free meal and to show their support just by being there. Advanced registration is required and space is limited. Click on the link below or enter the link into your browser and go right to the registration page. Here's the information:

### **[Hope Village Chippewa Falls](#)**

Heyde Center for the Arts, 3 S. High St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Please join us to celebrate the expansion of Hope Village and affordable housing in Chippewa Falls. Enjoy appetizers and sweets. A cash bar will be available. The event itself is free.

>>Sign up today<< <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e48a5ab29a5fece9-welcome>

## **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR COMES AGAIN**

You may recall that last winter, we had a special event featuring a Reverse Advent Calendar.

Instead of the traditional Advent Calendar where you may receive small gifts for every day during advent, the Reverse Advent Calendar works – you guessed it – in reverse. Every day during Advent participants will be asked to GIVE something to the Food Pantry to be distributed in the new year. The items range from soup to cereal, from macaroni and cheese to oatmeal.

On Christmas Eve the donations will be brought to the church and blessed during the service before being turned over to the Food Pantry. As happened last year, donations will also be coming from Christ Episcopal Church to add to our offerings.

Watch your November Bell for a complete list of donation items.