



# The Bell

September, 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## **SEPTEMBER BRINGS THE NEW CHURCH YEAR AND LOTS MORE**

By Pastor Ed Williams

God's blessings and welcome to the new church year. Technically September 10 is the beginning of the church year but that is just a technicality. What a busy summer this has been with a wedding, a baptism, One Fest, Pure Water Days and the loss of two long-time church members, Ray Andress and Kathi Mandelert. We have had a lot of church events going on.

We have two more events this month to look forward to. First we have our first Wednesday night dinner on September 6. We are going to introduce a new thing (new to us at least) called Dinner Church. We will have a potluck then discuss a set of verses as a group rather than me just talking about a set of verses. If there is interest to continue it, we will do so. Your input is welcome.

The second thing happens on Sunday, September 17 during service. We have two very talented musicians joining us and taking over the service. They are the Lorn and Royce Band.

From their web site, "Bluegrass/Gospel Musicians", Lorn Schultz and Royce Sorenson have come full circle after starting together in the '80s as founding members of the King's Trio. Lorn went on to form the King's Countrymen which included bus tours to Nashville and Branson plus numerous recordings over the band's 26 year run. Lorn and his wife, Kristi, hosted a very successful and dearly loved Bluegrass Gospel Festival very summer for 18 years on their Mondovi farm.

In addition to 23 years with the King's Trio, Royce uses his multi-instrumental skills as a sideman in numerous Wisconsin bluegrass bands. He also has a recording business at his Eau Claire home studio.

The two "old friends" continue to share their love of bluegrass/gospel music and giving testimony to the work of Christ in their lives. Kristi often handles the sound system duties. On occasion, they invite guest musicians to join them. I have known Lorn for the better part of 20 years. He and my dad, Jim, have been best friends for that long and my dad used to do "roadie" duties for the King's Countrymen. We will probably be joined by several fans of theirs on Sunday.

As our new year begins, we are looking to add things to our church worship service by trying to bring back our choir. If you are interested in joining, please let Sheri or me know and we will gladly welcome you. We are also looking to adding a Wednesday night kids' schedule. That is in the beginning phases so if you are interested in helping, please let me know.

God bless you all and have a great September.

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER FEATURES DINNER CHURCH**

Our summer picnics in the park have ended for the year and we are returning to Fellowship Hall for our first-Wednesday-of-the-month suppers beginning September 6.

The first Wednesday night supper will be a special dinner church which will include a potluck beginning at 5:00 PM followed by a church service. If this dinner church concept proves popular, we may do it again sometime later in the year.

## **PFC INSTALLS A NEW COPIER**

After many months of negotiations, FPC has selected a new copier for the church. It is a Kyosera unit supplied by Bauernfeind Business Technologies.

The new unit, which operates similarly to our old Ricoh copier, will produce color copies when necessary and is cheaper to operate and lease than the old model.

If you need instruction on how to operate the new copier, contact Tiffany.

## **PW ELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

The August meeting of Presbyterian Women included an election of officers for the coming year.

Marlys Daniels returns as President and new member, Donna Martin, will serve as Vice President. Margi Kohl and Corrine Boos will serve as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

## **BLOOD DRIVE COMES TO PFC**

It's almost time to roll up our sleeves again. No, not to work at the church but to give blood.

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is on Thursday, October 12 from 10 AM to 4 PM. See your October Bell for more information on this drive.

## **PW TO PROVIDE NEW TEE SHIRTS**

Several years ago, Presbyterian Women purchased tee shirts with the church logo on them for our people to wear when working on church events.

Many of these have reached the end of their lives and need to be replaced while there are some members and friends who never received one.

If you would like a new tee shirt, please sign the list in Fellowship Hall indicating the size you need.

## **EMERGENCY SNOW PLAN IN PLACE**

After much discussion, Session has settled on a plan to notify church attendees that church is closed in case of inclement weather.

This plan only goes into effect if and when a snow and ice storm strikes Chippewa Falls on a Saturday night or Sunday morning not giving us time to notify you using our snow plan already in effect.

In the event of emergency weather, Session has authorized Pastor Ed, who will be moving to the Chippewa Falls area this Fall, to make the decision to close the church if necessary. If this were to happen, he would notify Beth Cripe, Margi Kohl, Bonnie Gullickson and Lynda Butek who will call all the regular attendees alerting them that church is closed that Sunday.

Now that we have this new plan in place, we won't need it. That's how things work, you know

## **STAINED GLASS PIECE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH**

We have received a bequest from the late Dr. Robert Koenig of a large stained glass piece which was originally given to him by members of the church when he retired in 1985.

The piece will be installed in Fellowship Hall in September and be dedicated soon after its installation.

Watch the October Bell for more information on the piece and the artist who created it for Dr.Koenig.

## **SEPTEMBER BRINGS THE AUTUMNAL EQUINOX**

The autumnal equinox which marks the first day of Fall in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of Spring in the Southern Hemisphere falls on Saturday, September 23 this year. On that day sunrise and sunset are about as close to 12 hours each as they are going to get.

The fall equinox is not on the same day each year, though it always falls between September 21 and September 24. Rather, the equinox is defined by the position of the Earth and the sun at a particular moment in time.

During an equinox, the sun crosses what we call the "celestial equator"—an imaginary extension of Earth's equator line into space. The equinox occurs precisely when the Sun's center passes through this line.

After the autumnal equinox, days become shorter than nights as the sun continues to rise later and nightfall arrives earlier. This ends with the winter solstice, after which days start to grow longer once again.

## FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

LAST DAY TO DROP OFF YOUR SHOES FOR "SOLES 4 SOULS" IS SEPT. 5!

If you haven't cleaned out your closet of those unwanted shoes, get busy. We will be collecting your new, used, grubby, or uncomfortable shoes through Tuesday, September 5. Bind the pairs together and drop them off at church.

THE PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

Your mission team members will be sharing information about the Peace and Global Witness offering during the month of September. This offering will be taken through World Communion Sunday on October 1.

We will keep 25% of the total contribution to use for a local effort to support peacemaking and reconciliation. Our local contribution will go to the Family Support Center here in Chippewa Falls.

## GIVING CATALOG PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED HELP

This year we embarked on a new program of giving using the money raised from our July Noisy Sunday collection. In all we raised \$125 which was used to purchase two programs from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

The congregation selected the Women's Empowerment Project for \$100. Through this program a woman receives education and economic opportunity. By helping to provide agricultural and vocational training, literacy education and access to loans and credit services for women, we help them in their efforts to care for their families and reduce hunger and poverty in their communities

In addition, we have donated a family of chickens for \$25 which provide eggs for food, feathers for pillows and fertilizer for crops. This program helps improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families around the world.

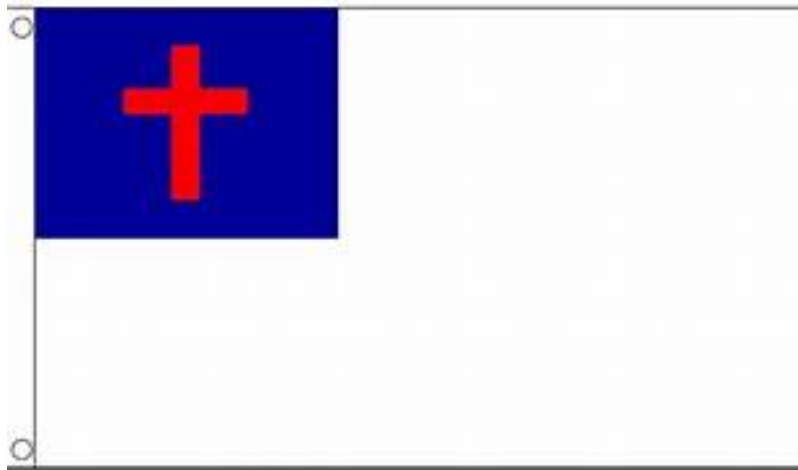
Although we don't know where our gifts will go, we have been assured that they will be used to aid impoverished people throughout the world.

This is a new program for us but if we choose, we can donate to the Giving Catalog at any time. Think of this when you are looking for something to give at holiday time.

## PFC RESURRECTS OLD CHRISTIAN FLAG

Those of you to come to Sunday services regularly have seen a new decoration on the northwest wall of the sanctuary. We have hung the Christian flag there

The Christian flag dates back to an impromptu speech given by Charles C. Overton, a Sunday school superintendent in New York, on September 26, 1897. The guest speaker for the Sunday school kick-off didn't show up, so Overton had to wing it. Spying an American flag near the podium, he started talking about flags and their symbolism. Along the way he proposed that Christians should have their own flag. In 1907 Overton teamed up with Ralph Diffendorfer, secretary to the Methodist Young People's Missionary Movement, to produce and promote the flag.



The colors on the flag, not surprisingly, match those on the American flag. White represents purity and peace, blue indicates fidelity, and red stands for Christ's blood sacrifice.

The first pledge to the Christian flag was written by Methodist pastor Lynn Harold Hough, who heard Diffendorfer's flag presentation at a rally. Hough, a liberal, wrote a fairly broad pledge:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Savior for whose kingdom it stands;  
one brotherhood uniting all mankind in service and love."

Conservative churches generally use a more detailed version if they pledge at all:

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose  
kingdom it stands; one Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with  
life and liberty to all who believe."

In our case, the flag was found in the Ushers' Closet where it was wadded up and generally stained and dirty. Elder Larry Annett took the flag to Gilbertson's Cleaners in Eau Claire where it was cleaned by hand to its former beauty. That is the flag you see today in our church.