



The Bell

September, 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

SEPTEMBER HERALDS THE RETURN OF FALL

By Lynda Butek

Advent (which begins November 27) marks the beginning of our church calendar, but September has always been the start our year here at First Presbyterian. And this year is no different.

September brings the autumnal equinox (see the article on the equinox in this issue of the Bell) but it also brings other fall-related events.

Our monthly Wednesday night suppers return on September 7 and will continue through the spring. Anne Welke has been busy contacting “cooks” for each month but is still looking for more. The suppers, which will happen for the most part on the first Wednesday night of every month, will most likely include soup, pizza, and barbeque among other fall dishes. For many of us, Fall means a return to comfort foods like stew, chili, pot roast - but no more salads and summer fruit.

For many of our young people, September means a return to school and for their parents, it means buying new clothes and school supplies.

During September we will be learning more about the Peace and Global Witness offering which will be taken the first Sunday in October. (See the Mission article in this issue of the Bell.)

For many of us, September brings back Packers games. Fortunately for us regular church goers, most of the games won't interfere with Sunday services. Of the 18 scheduled games, only five will be in the early afternoon. For those of us who love the Badgers, their games will return in September too and continue through November.

Fall isn't hard to miss in Wisconsin when the leaves start to change and fall. Leaves change color during the autumn because the amounts of pigments change as the leaves prepare to fall from the trees. All leaves gradually lose chlorophyll during the growing season, and this loss accelerates before leaf fall.

Regardless of why you love Fall, it marks the end of hot weather and humidity and provides a pleasant respite before the cold and snow of winter. Enjoy the snap in the air, the fresh picked apples, the smell of burning leaves.

SOLES4SOULS CAMPAIGN STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

Now that Fall is upon us and we are changing over from shoes and sandals to winter boots, 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 runs throughout September.

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.

If you have questions or need more information on this drive, contact Anne Welke.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

As we told you last month, Sunday morning Bible study class resumes on Sunday, September 11, with the current topic of Understanding the New Testament.

In order to provide additional time following the class for discussion of the material presented, the Bible study will begin at 9:00 AM instead of the usual 9:15.

Bible study leader, Gene Peissig, decided to repeat the first three classes for the upcoming Bible Study. It has been three months since this material was originally presented and repeating the classes will give returning members an opportunity to revisit what they already heard and allow new members to start at the beginning.

SPECIAL MUSIC RETURNS TO FPC

On October 9, our old friends Sherry and Mario Friedel, will present a concert to benefit the Food Pantry.

Their group, Songa, can be heard in local venues throughout the year.

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.

FOOD PANTRY INVESTS IN NEW FREEZER

As with many of our older appliances, the freezer Food Pantry has been using has finally given up the ghost.

In its place, they have invested in a new industrial freezer which is now housed in the basement. The cost of this "beauty" was \$2500 which included removal and disposal of the old unit.

FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

We hope that you have been saving your shoes for **Soles 4 Souls**. You may begin bringing them on September 1st. Remember they must come in pairs—no singles. Bring them to worship on Sundays or whenever the church is open. The last day to donate your shoes is September 22.

For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace. Isaiah 55:12. The **Peace and Global Witness Offering** is the third special offering of the PC(USA) collected at our church. You will be hearing more about this offering from the mission team at worship during September. The culmination of this offering is World Communion Sunday on October 2 when the global community celebrates communion together.

What can your contribution do?

- It might help programs like the Indy TenPoint Coalition—a group formed to reduce gun violence, increase employment and enhance educational achievement in Indianapolis' at-risk young adults.
- It might help resettle refugees forced to flee their homes in Fiji due to climate change.
- It helps fund the work of Lesvos Solidarity, a migrant justice organization, in Greece.
- And locally, we keep 25% of what you contribute to this offering. As of press time, we have not finalized to whom this will go. Still waiting for a return call. We will let you know.

The next **Noisy Sunday** will be October 31. The recipient of this collection will be Lighten Your Load, a mission to help persons do their laundry. More info to come in the October Bell.

Thank you for your contributions of school supplies and cash to the **Backpack Giveaway**. We collected \$341.16 for this mission coordinated by Valley Vineyard Church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO MEET

PW will meet at the church on Thursday, September 15 at 9:30 AM for coffee followed by a business meeting at 10.00. The meeting will be preceded by Bible Study presented by Bonnie Gullickson. All women are welcome.

THE KEARNEY FAMILY VISITS FPC

Some of you will remember the 22 years Leland Kearney was organist and choir director at FPC. Lee has passed away but his son, Jim, and grandson, Jonathan, visited us in July.

The Kearneys are related to one of our guest pastors, Rev. Sandee Kosmo, through her deceased first husband. According to Sandee, every year, the family and close friends get together to share old memories and make new ones. This reunion takes place at the Pine Harbor Campground in Chippewa. This year, Jim and Jonathan Kearney were part of the reunion group.

Sandee and her husband, John Moseng, knew of the connection between the Kearneys and our church which resulted in Jim and John joining us for worship on July 24.

Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Jonathan is becoming an accomplished pianist and organist and was pleased to see where Lee had played for so many years and try out the organ for himself.



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 Thursday, September 22 this year. On that day sunrise and sunset are about as close to 12 hours each (or equal) as they are going to get. It is easy for us, living in a temperate zone, to divide the year into four seasons divided by the solstices and equinoxes.

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.

Not only that, but the sun is actually visible when it is below the horizon, as Earth’s atmosphere refracts the sun’s rays and bends them in an arc over the horizon. Yes, you can see the sun before the edge actually reaches the horizon! This causes daylight to be longer than 12 hours as well. Another definition of fall is “nights of below-freezing temperatures combined with days of temperatures below 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21°C)”. From here on out, the temperatures begin to drop.

The fall equinox has been a day of celebration for many cultures since ancient days when people tracked the transitions of the Earth’s journeys around the sun.

- At Machu Picchu in Peru, an ancient stone monument called *Intibuatana*—which means “Hitching Post of the Sun”—serves as a solar clock to mark the dates of the equinoxes and solstices.
- In Mexico, the Mayans built a giant pyramid called Chichen Itza. On the equinoxes, it looks as if a snake made of light slithers down the pyramid’s steps.
- In England, Stonehenge was also built with the equinoxes and solstices in mind.

There is no mention of the autumnal equinox in the Bible, possibly because Christianity came out of Egypt when Moses brought the Hebrews out of bondage. At that time in history Egypt was lush with nine rivers forming a delta on the Nile River leading to the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Egyptians had three harvests a year. They had seasons. Mostly it was, is the river flooding or receding?

Although the equinoxes and solstices are much less important to us today than they were centuries ago, they still herald the beginnings of each season of our lives.

(Thanks to Kevin Litten for his contributions to this article.)