



The Bell

February, 2020

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

FOOD PANTRY GIVES MORE THAN FOOD

The Food Pantry certainly dispenses food every week but it also serves as a place for our clients to share their joys and problems with someone who cares.

From time to time we receive “thank you” notes from our patrons. The latest one we received, and posted on the kiosk in the Narthex was a simple little note showing appreciation for our pantry which validates that we are really making a difference in someone’s life!

On a slightly different note, around Christmastime a homeless man with Raynaud’s Syndrome came in asking if we had any mittens. Due to a lack of blood supply, his hands constantly felt very cold and were very painful. Unfortunately, Marlys had to tell him we didn’t have any but would keep an eye out.

Marlys began her search for warm mittens for this poor man. It was a more difficult search than she’d thought it would be. After about a month of searching, she finally found the perfect pair! A friend had stopped by to show off the new mittens she’d gotten at the craft fair just a couple blocks away. Marlys asked her friend if she’d please go grab a pair for this man! Her friend informed her that the mittens were a little pricy but she’d go get her some. When the woman who made the gloves heard what they were for, she made a special pair for our food pantry patron and delivered them to Marlys herself....for free!

A few days after receiving the mittens Marlys was able to give the mittens to their new owner! They both cried tears of joy as this simple thing had meant so much to them both. A heartwarming Christmas story!

As our pantry grows and evolves, we are looking for new ways to be more sustainable. The board has applied for a few grants and just recently have heard back from two of them! The Burke Foundation out of Central Lutheran Church has given us \$250 to put toward food costs. The Community Foundation’s “Community Needs Family of Unrestricted & Field of Interest Fund” has given us \$900 to put toward stocking our hygiene cart. That should last through the year. We are budgeting \$75/month for health supplies. This is just the kind of help we need.

The Food Pantry volunteers and board members want to express the gratitude they feel for the help and support they receive. The growing number of clients they serve and the appreciation they give are ample payment for the hours spent stocking the Pantry and serving the needy. But in order to keep this mission going, they need all the help and funds they can get.

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According to Matthew 25: 34-40 Jesus said “...Come, you that are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the King will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did to me.”

Isn’t this what we are all about? Isn’t this what we meant when we said we are “In the City for Good”? How can we better use our time and talents than by helping the less fortunate in our community.

COOKIE TIME

Christmas in the form of homemade cookies from Presbyterian Women is coming in time for Valentine’s Day. The ladies of PW decided our shut-ins probably receive more goodies during the holidays than they know what to do with and Valentine’s Day would be a good substitute Cookie Day.

Attention all bakers – please bring three dozen Valentine-type cookies to the church at 9:30 on Wednesday, February 12. That time will allow for frosting (if necessary) and packing for delivery. Any type of cookie, not just cut outs, will be appreciated.

TIME TO CONTRIBUTE TO “LATHER WITH LOVE”

Once again FPC joins the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition in their joint mission project for February called Lather with Love.

During the entire month, the Mission Coalition will be collecting laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, shampoo and hand soap for the local food pantries. These are items that are urgently needed by our clients but not usually supplied since the food pantries traditionally focus on food.

You can bring your soap products to the church and place them in the specially marked boxes for distribution by the coalition to the various food pantries.

You will be hearing more about this mission project during Sunday services in February.

NEW HOSPITALITY/USHER, SHEPHERD TEAMS FORMED

At the December Congregational Meeting, we elected new leaders of our church. Since these people serve as the leaders of our Hospitality/Usher Teams which serve on Sunday, it has been necessary for us to update those teams to reflect these changes.

This year we have five Elders serving on Session and eight Deacons which means we cannot staff the eight teams we have had in the past. We have reduced the number of teams to six which gives us two leaders on Teams 1 through 5 and three leaders on Team 6. Because we have only six teams, we have moved people from teams seven and eight into the remaining six teams.

Included in this issue of the Bell is a new Hospitality/Usher schedule for 2020 which reflects this change. Also included in this Bell is the new Shepherd List for 2020.

Look at the new Hospitality/Usher schedule to see which team you are now assigned to and when you are scheduled to work.

Print out this new schedule and the Shepherd List and place them in your directory for future reference. They will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway too.

If you have any questions, please contact Margi, Corine or Lynda.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 9

The supplementary meeting of the congregation will be held immediately following the service on Sunday, February 9 as required by our church by-laws.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review the 2019 annual report and the proposed 2020 budget, review and vote on the minutes of the December 8 congregational meeting and celebrate the service performed by Elders and Deacons whose terms have expired.

In addition, the current Nominating Committee will be dismissed and a new one elected which will require nominations from the floor. If you are interested in serving on the 2020 Nominating Committee which will develop a slate of leaders for 2021, please be ready to submit your name.

Five members will be elected from the congregation. They will be joined by two members of Session, one of whom will be the committee chair. According to the Book of Order, no one who is nominated to serve on Session for the coming term can also serve on the Nominating Committee. So if you are considering joining Session, you cannot also serve on this committee.

The minutes of the December 8 meeting are available in the church office for review as are copies of the 2019 Annual Report. The December minutes will also appear in the annual report.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN HOST ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY

The annual Ash Wednesday fish fry sponsored by the Presbyterian Men will be served on February 26 from 5:00 to 6:00 with the last dinners being served at 5:45.

As is tradition, the menu this year will feature fried fish, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 5 to 12 and children under five will eat free.

Reservation sheets and sign-up sheets to help set up, cook, serve and clean up will be available in the Narthex soon.

Be sure to reserve your dinner early because this is always a very popular event that sells out early. In recent years we ran short of fish and don't want to disappoint anyone so reservations are advised to be sure you are seated and served.

The dinner is open to the public so bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy this meal.

FPC EXPANDS TRADITIONAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The traditional Ash Wednesday service featuring communion and the imposition of ashes will follow the Fish Fry at 6:15 allowing a quiet time following the meal.

In the past, this service has been held in conjunction with Trinity United Methodist Church but this year will also include worshippers from Christ Episcopal Church in Chippewa Falls.

Pastors Ken Ribe, First Presbyterian, Terri Koca, Trinity United Methodist and Aaron Zook, Christ Episcopal will share the duties of the service. The evening sermon will be given by Rev. Ribe, who is the interim pastor at the Presbyterian Church.

The choir from the Methodist church will join our own Celebration Singers to provide music for the evening.

The joining of these three denominations is not new in our community. According to our historical records, the three congregations began worshipping together, perhaps in the log cabin school house on the east bank of Duncan Creek. The three churches continue to worship under one roof until each could afford to build its own church.

The Presbyterian Church is the oldest protestant church in the community dating back to May 15, 1855 when it received its charter. This was only seven years after Wisconsin was recognized as a state.

First Presbyterian Church 2020 Hospitality-Usher Teams & Schedule

Updated 1-09-2020 tv

Welcome Center Contact Person: Margi K.
Scrip Task Group: Corine B., Margi K.,
Barb S.

6-Dec
"Tis the Season"
(Deacons)

7-Jun	13-Sep	16-Oct
Summer-Time Change	Rally Day (Worship time change)	World Food Day

26-Feb
Ash Wed Fish Fry

First Presbyterian Church

Shepherd List/Spring 2020

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request, please call Margi Kohl at 715-720-8926 or 715-523-0493.

February Schedules

February 2 – Sunday

Interim Pastor – Ken Ribe
Communion will be served
Worship Leader – Terry Wiedenhoeft
Hospitality Team 2 - Led by Lynda Butek and Marlys Daniels
Welcome Desk – Marlys Daniels
Flower Provider – Open

February 5 – Wednesday

Hot Dogs by Team 9 – Tiffany and Gina

February 9 – Sunday

Interim Pastor – Ken Ribe
Worship Leader – Esther Frazier
Hospitality Team 3- Led by Corine Boos and Larry Annett
Welcome Desk – Holly Gintz
Flower Provider – Open

February 12 – Wednesday

Souprspuds by Team 1 – Margi Kohl, Corine Boos and Lynda Butek

February 16 – Sunday

Guest Speaker – Gene Peissig
Worship Leader – Jon Beighley
Hospitality Team 4 – Led by Jon Beighley and Anne Welke
Welcome Desk – Margi Kohl
Flower Provider – Open

February 19 – Wednesday

Erik's Surprise by Team 2– Erik Anderson and Rick Koepke

February 23 - Sunday

Guest Pastor – Rich Estrem-Fuller
Worship Leader – Bonnie Gullickson
Hospitality Team 5 – Led by Chuck Norseng and Kevin Litten
Welcome Desk – Barb Meredith
Flower Provider –

February 26 – Ash Wednesday

Fish Fry by Presbyterian Men