



The Bell

January, 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

SESSION CURTAILS CHURCH ACCESS

In-person worship has been suspended by the Session until Easter Sunday, April 4. This action comes on the heels of record numbers of new Covid-19 cases in Wisconsin.

In addition to temporarily prohibiting in-person worship, the Session also voted to prohibit gatherings of any kind in the church through March. This includes but is not limited to the Optimists which normally meet for breakfast on Wednesday, Session meetings and the Blood Drive which was scheduled for February. The Red Cross will reschedule the blood drive at FPC to a later time when the church is again available.

The Open Door Clinic and the Food Pantry remain open due to their increased importance during this pandemic and winter season.

The Food Pantry has instituted new plans of operation during the winter. The volunteers have been divided into two groups. One group works on Tuesday and the other on Thursday. In this way if someone in one group is tested positive for the virus, they won't spread it to the other group thus allowing the pantry to continue even if on a limited basis.

No clients are allowed in the church. Clients have been instructed to remain in their cars and call a special Food Pantry phone number and give the requested information about their needs to the volunteer answering the phone from inside the church.

The cart of food will be brought by a volunteer to the sidewalk at which time the volunteer will return to the church and the client will unpack the food and put it in their car. Once the cart is emptied, the volunteer will retrieve it and clean it before bringing it back into the church.

This procedure allows us to help those in need while keeping our volunteers safe from outside contact.

For those people needing assistance from CareLink, the volunteer will go to the client's car rather than the client coming into the church.

These procedures are subject to change if the need arises.

SERVICE STARTING TIME FINALIZED

Several months ago Session conducted a survey of church members concerning service starting time.

The decision of the congregation was to maintain the 10:15 AM starting time year-round. This new procedure of uniform service time begins immediately. The service time will not change in September as it has in the past.

Session has agreed to review this procedure at the end of 2021 to be sure this is still in keeping with the wishes of the congregation.

NEW LEADERS AND OFFICERS ELECTED

New leaders and officers of the church have been elected, installed and will serve through 2021.

New leaders are: Elders - Lynda Butek, Bonnie Gullickson and Kevin Litten; Deacons - Beth Cripe and Marlys Daniels; members of the Financial Review Team - Esther Frazier and Rick Koepke and Endowment Fund Board members - Church Norseng and Barb Shorrel.

Lynda Butek and Traci Anderson have been elected by Session to remain in their roles as Clerk of Session and Treasurer, respectively

2021 DIRECTORY BEING MAILED

The 2021 church directory of members and friends has been compiled and is in the mail.

Normally, the directory is available to be picked up from the church either following Sunday service or during office hours. However, since the church is closed to in-person worship and curtailing people from coming into the church, this year's directory comes to you in the mail

If you need additional copies after the initial one arrives, please call the church and one will be mailed to you.

REV. HANHART SENDS HIS THANKS

Former pastor Karel Hanhart has expressed his thanks for the many calls and cards he received following the death of his mother in Holland. He was able to "attend" the funeral virtually and had kept in close contact with her prior to her death.

FPC TO HOLD SUPPLEMENTAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The supplementary congregational meeting of the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls will take place by Zoom on Sunday, February 7 immediately following the regular Sunday service.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review the 2020 Annual Report, which will be sent to all members electronically during January, to review the 2021 budget, to nominate and elect members to the Nominating Committee and review and vote on the minutes of the December 6 congregational meeting.

In addition, the congregation will be asked to vote on the following changes to the church by-laws. These changes reduce the number of Deacons from 8 to 6 and the number of people on the Nominating Committee from 7 to 5. These changes are suggested because our membership has decreased over the past year.

The current wording of the by-laws is shown below with the proposed changes shown in italics and the suggested changes crossed out.

A-5.000

ARTICLE V The Board of Deacons

A-5.001 21) There shall be a board of deacons. The board will be composed of ~~eight (8) deacons~~ *six (6) deacons* and the pastor, who serves as an advisory member.

A-5.003 23) The deacon board shall be divided into three rotating classes, ~~one class~~ consisting of two deacons *each*. ~~and two classes consisting of three deacons.~~

A-6.000

ARTICLE VI Nomination and Election of Officers

A-6.004 28) A nominating committee of ~~seven~~ *five* members shall be constituted each year, for a one year term. ~~Two~~ *One* members of this committee shall be designated by the session, ~~one of whom~~ and shall be ~~designated by the session as~~ chairperson. *One member shall be a member of the Deacon board.* ~~Five~~ *Three* members of this committee, none of whom may be in active service on the session, shall be chosen by the congregation at the supplementary annual meeting.

Because this meeting will take place by Zoom, names of nominees to the Nominating Committee can either be submitted during the meeting or mailed to the church office to arrive prior to the February 7 date. Only written nominations will be accepted prior to the meeting.

GUEST PASTORS SLATED THROUGH FEBRUARY

Guest pastors have already been lined up through February.

Rev. Gary Hedding will speak from the sanctuary on January 3 and February 14. Rev. Ken Ribe will join us via Zoom on January 10 and February 7. Rev. Jim Mohr will be our speaker on January 27 and Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller will speak from the sanctuary on January 14 and February 21. Rev. Sandee Kosmo will join us via Zoom from her home in Arizona on January 31 and February 28.

A WORD OR TWO FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

Here we are at the end of 2020. One might think, “good riddance,” but as a community of Christians, we have a lot to celebrate. The tech crew introduced us to Zoom worship. Musicians continued to provide us with melody. Pastors from near and far spoke the Word to us, sometimes in person and sometimes virtually. Many people in our community came forward with monetary donations and volunteer time to support our Food Pantry. Members continued to give in support of the four PC(USA) Special Offerings. The Pastor Nominating Committee continued their work. Can you think of other things that continued to happen? Let us hope that soon we are all back in the sanctuary for worship and doing the old things and maybe even some new things in 2021.

The Mission Team designated November as Thailand Mission Month. We collected \$125.30 to be sent on behalf of the Thailand mission effort. Thanks.

In December we collect the Christmas Joy offering. I mentioned this in last month’s Bell. If you can contribute, please mark Christmas Joy on the memo line. This is the fourth Special Offering of the year for the PC(USA) Mission.

HELP THE HOMELESS: The Mission Team encourages you to help Chippewa County’s homeless people by donating to the L E Phillips Career Development Center here in Chippewa Falls during the month of January. This is a difficult time for the homeless in our community and there are few resources to help. If you would like to help, make your checks payable to FPC with “shelter for homeless” in the memo line. Carla will send a check to the CDC at the end of the month including all of your contributions.

LOOKING AHEAD: We will promote Carelink in February and One Great Hour of Sharing in March/April.

Merry Christmas

BLOOD ELECTED AS GENERAL PRESBYTER

Former Presbytery moderator, Rich Blood, has been elected to the new position of General Presbyter of the Presbytery.

This role, which was formerly held by Jay Wilkinson, serving as Presbytery Resource Person, involves providing direction and leadership to the congregations and the Presbytery as a whole.

Although Jay will be retiring as Presbytery Resource Person, he will continue to serve as Presbytery Treasurer.

A PRE-CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

Just before Christmas we received an unexpected but very welcome gift in the form of a Centennial Plate commemorating the first 100 years of First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls.

The plate came from Rebecca Denton who is the daughter of Judith Anne Diercks Hart who was apparently a member here from 1942-63.

Rebecca said her mother left the plate to her and she has no one to pass it on to so she's returning it to us. She's getting on in years and doesn't want the plate to get discarded upon her death.

The inscription on the back of the plate reads:

“The First Presbyterian Church was founded by the Reverend Wm. McNair in the old log cabin school house, 1858. H. S. Allen donated the land for the present church site and the Allen Lumber Company donated the lumber. 1883, the present building was erected, with additions being added later. A procession of people have carried on the torch from that Mission church to the present “ALTER TO THE LIVING GOD”.

When the church is open again for in-person worship, you can visit the Library and enjoy our special Christmas gift.

