



# The Bell

June, 2019

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## THE HISTORY OF FPC IS LONG AND VARIED

Our story begins in 1855 in a small log cabin on the banks of Duncan Creek. This log cabin served many purposes for the small village of Chippewa Falls. It was the first schoolhouse for the area children and it was the first worshipping place for the Presbyterians. In our original church organizational records the building was called, "The Old School Presbyterian Church". Services were held every two weeks by a circuit rider named Rev. William McNair from Eau Claire.

In 1858 we moved our services to a new building that was built on land donated by Mr. H. S. Allen. Not only did Mr. Allen donate the land but also the lumber! This is the land where our current church building still stands! The painting by Evelyn Jensen which hangs near the stairs to Fellowship Hall shows this early church building.

Now, in the early days it is known that the Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and the Methodists all worshipped together. The part that is uncertain is where. There are stories that everyone worshipped in the log cabin school house, but the most commonly held belief is that everyone was welcomed into the Presbyterian Church until the others were able to build their own houses of worship.

Within a few decades we outgrew our first little church and it was moved down Island Street. This freed up our land so that we could build our current building in 1883. Records show that membership in 1886 was 166, having grown from 35 members in 1870.

We are not only the first Protestant church in Chippewa Falls but we're also the first ones to have an organ! It was the talk of the town! In 1889 we dedicated our first and only organ, the Steere-Turner tracker organ that you see in the sanctuary today! We, and the Mabel Tainter Theatre in Menomonie, are the only ones in possession of this type and vintage of organ in the entire area.

Due to many complaints about the gas fixtures in the church, it was voted on September 10, 1910 to install electric lights in the Sanctuary. Electric bills not to exceed \$3.00 a month.

By 1941 it was time for some more building updates. The old theatre seats were replaced with pews in the sanctuary, a new pulpit, lectern, chancel woodwork, new sanctuary doors, and the outside of the church was painted. Take a look at the chandeliers in the sanctuary. They were originally from the old Lumberman's Bank.

Outgrowing our building once again, we decided to put on a large education unit in 1956-57. The addition was financed by pledges collected over six years. The new space housed Sunday School (continued on following page)

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facilities, dining facilities, a new modern kitchen, and heating system.

1970 brought new carpeting, drapes, furniture, fixtures and a small kitchenette area that was a gift from the Froberg family, donated in memory of Forest Froberg and was known as the Froberg Lounge. A chandelier in the lounge was donated by the Keith Coleman family. The library was given new shelving, tables, chairs, drapes, and a storage area. This update was financed by memorial gifts.

In March, 1998 there was a congregational vote deciding if our old church building was worth remodeling or if we needed to move to a new location. Our church family decided that we would be “in the city for good”.

In late 2000 a Church Enhancement Team was formed. The remodeling began one year later with a new roof over the sanctuary and handicapped accessible bathrooms. A plan was submitted to the congregation for complete renovation which received nearly 100% congregational support.

We began this century completely overhauling our “new” old church. Renovations lasted until 2005 when we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> year! Renovations and updates to our building will make sure we really are in our city for good!

## **FPC IS THERE IN THE TIME OF GREATEST NEED**

While we don't like to plan for the death of someone from our church family, it is something the Session felt we must do since we don't have a pastor who would normally handle this.

If we have a death in our membership, the family has the final word on how the services will be handled. Not only do they specify where they would like the services to take place but they tell the funeral home whom they would like to speak at the service. That person might be a clergyman, friend, or even a family member. Since a funeral is not a sacrament in the Presbyterian church, it is not necessary that an ordained pastor handle the services but he could if the family wishes.

In the absence of a called-pastor here at FPC, we have enlisted the help of ordained Presbyterian pastors Kathryn Reid Walker from Eau Claire and Christopher McCurdy from Rice Lake. Both of these pastors have agreed to handle a funeral service if the family wishes. We have also discussed this issue with Gene Peissig who has agreed to do a service of a member if the family prefers. Of course, FPC is open for the services of a member if the family wishes.

All of this information has been shared with Pederson-Volker Funeral Home, who does most of the funerals we have here at the church. The funeral home would normally be where the family would turn first in time of need.

Hopefully we won't need to use any of these plans in the near future but just in case, the Session wanted you to know what they have in place in case of a death.

## **CLARIFYING COMMUNION**

The Session approves the communion schedule every year but how we serve it (pew service or come-forward) has always been left up to the pastor to decide.

There are certain communion services that we always do come-forward like Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve because we typically have more people and it's faster to serve come-forward but other than that, it's left up to the pastor.

Karel usually scheduled about six come-forward services and the rest pew service but since we are having guest pastors, we have left that decision up to them.

Most of them seem to like come-forward so you may find we are having that more frequently than before. But you will still be served cut bread and if you can't come to the servers, they will come to you.

If you have any questions, let Lynda Butek know.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS – SAVE YOUR SHOES**

The Mission Coalition has designated September as Soles for Souls month this year.

As we have done in the past, we will be collecting your old or maybe new shoes for this project. If you have shoes that you no longer wear, that may be worn, that may be faded or maybe you can only find one of the pair, put them aside for the Soles for Souls project.

What you don't wear may mean everything to someone who has no shoes to wear.

## **SESSION ELECTS NEW PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE**

The Session has elected Larry Annett to represent us at Presbytery meetings. Larry replaces long-time Presbytery Representative, Bob Denman.

Larry attended the most recent Presbytery meeting on our behalf and also attended the General Assembly meeting last year.

## **DON'T FORGET**

**Sunday June, 2 we change to summer service hours. Service will begin at 9:30. And to celebrate, the Deacons are sponsoring a brunch potluck that day so bring a dish and a good appetite.**

## A WORD FROM THE MISSION TEAM

By Barbara Shorrel, team leader

We have added to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. You contributed a total of \$465. Thanks to all who gave.

### “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” Psalm 71:17

On June 9 we will be collecting the Pentecost Offering. This offering “nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come—children, youth, and young adults.” This offering will be used in the following manner.

- 40% of the offering collected by our congregation will remain in our community. The Mission Team has decided that the 40% portion will be given to the Family Support Center here in Chippewa Falls.
  - “[The Family] Support Center is a longstanding Chippewa Valley agency serving individuals, families, and communities who have been affected by intimate partner and domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking.” We feel that this agency works to create healthy families which creates a better environment for children
- 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), a program of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an **ecumenical**, faith-based **year of service** for young people (ages 19–30) in sites across the United States and around the world.
- 25% goes to Presbyterian programs designed to support ministries with youth ages 12-18 and those called to accompany them.
- 10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative affirmed by the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. For more information visit the website: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-child-transform-world/>



BRING ALL OF THAT LOOSE CHANGE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAVING TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 30, AND LET’S MAKE A RACKET!! IT IS NOISY SUNDAY AND THE MONEY COLLECTED WILL BE GIVEN TO OUR OWN FOOD PANTRY.

#### MISSION COALITION NEWS:

- Construction of the family Tiny House continues at Christ Episcopal Church. Can you help? Call Tiffany for more info.
- Soles 4 Souls returns in September. Save those shoes!
- Sold4U Auction is helping to raise funds to purchase land for a site for the Hope Village Tiny Houses.

**FOOD PANTRY FUND RAISER:** Place an order on this Avon website, <https://www.avon.com/fundraiser/fpcfoodpantry> and Avon will donate 45% of the order to our FPC Food Pantry. This offer ends June 16. If you need help, see Tiffany or call Marjorie Kritchman, 715-568-3807.

## **POSSIBLE NEW SCRIP CARD OFFERINGS**

In an effort to offer scrip cards that appeal to most of our shoppers, the Mission Team is soliciting information about where we shop.

There is a very, very long list of markets, restaurants and stores in our area that offer scrip cards which benefit the church and we want to take advantage of those that might be used most by you.

The Mission Team has put survey forms in Fellowship Hall and on the Welcome Desk which include Family Restaurants in Chippewa and Altoona, Holiday gas stations, Kwik Trip, Culver's, Festival Foods, Woodman's, Ace Hardware, Burger King, Cenex, Menard's, Olive Garden, Walgreens and Walmart. We understand that Family Fare (formerly Gordy's Markets) will also offer scrip cards. If we have missed your favorite shopping place, add that to the list.

Once we have tabulated all those places, we will let you know which cards will be available. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Barb Shorrel.

## **TECHNOLOGY NEVER SEEMS TO STAY THE SAME**

In 2017 the Session learned that our office computers would only serve us until the end of 2019. The old computers, which currently run Windows 7, were last updated in 2012-2013. Unfortunately, Windows 7 will no longer be supported by the manufacturer after the end of 2019, which means we have to purchase new computers and install Windows 10.

The Session directed the Communications Team to request upgrade proposals from three local computer service firms. In February, 2019, Krista Computer Inc. provided the Communications Team with a proposal and quote to upgrade our three main computer systems (Administrative assistant, Pastor, Treasurer) and to upgrade our aging network infrastructure to support high speed internet. The upgrades were conducted in April and appear to be working well. This massive upgrade was paid for from the Memorial Fund.

Additionally, we have changed our website host from AT&T to GoDaddy.com. This change was not part of the original scope of work but was needed because the old website had become impossible to modify. Our Administrative Assistant, Tiffany Wogahn, has undertaken the task of developing the new website using GoDaddy and the new site is up and running. You can find it at [www.fpcchippewa.org](http://www.fpcchippewa.org). If you have any suggestions for the site, pass them on to Tiffany.

Finally, our telephone and internet service has been switched from AT&T to Spectrum which offers much improved service at a lower cost.

These technology upgrades should serve FPC very well for several years.

## **TAKE US OUT TO THE BALL GAME**

The Eau Claire Express baseball team is hosting a special Faith Night (actually Faith Afternoon) on Sunday, July 11 when they play the team from Thunder Bay.

The team is offering a special package for churches, which includes admission to the game, a grandstand or general admission seat, small soda and hot dog for \$12.00. The grandstand seats alone would normally be \$11 and general admission is normally \$9 so this is a good deal.

You can order your package on line at [eauclaireexpress.com](http://eauclaireexpress.com), on the phone at 715-839-7788 or at the gate the day of the game. Be sure to mention you are with the First Presbyterian Church to get your special package.

See you at the game!

## **GREEN IS THE COLOR OF GROWTH**

You will see lots of green in the sanctuary in the coming weeks. We have green banners and green paraments (the cloth on the communion table and the hanging on the pulpit).

The season of green in the Presbyterian Church has come to be known as Ordinary Time. But there is nothing ordinary about this season of green. Fortunately the season of green is also known as the Season of Growth and that's what we are celebrating now.

You will see a break from green on June 9, Pentecost, which will be red and June 16, Trinity Sunday, which will be white, then it's back to green for the rest of June and all of July, August, September, October and November.

We are growing in our faith and in our church. This is a time of renewal of our faith and commitment to the Lord and what He has planned for us and our church.

Things are going to be different. We will have different pastors. We will may have different worship services from time to time but through all this, we will grow and we will prosper.

As Kermit said, "It's not easy being Green" but he made it and we will make it too.

## **A PRAYER FOR OUR FUTURE**

Lord of the Church, you know what is to come for the people of this congregation. Guide us in the decisions that must be made and the work that must be done as we move toward a future that is already held safely in your hands. Let your Spirit move our hearts so that every work project, every discussion and every prayer is done in love. Amen

(submitted by Bonnie Gullickson)