



# The Bell

March, 2019

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT HAVE SPECIAL MEANINGS

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday.

The purpose of Lent is to prepare the believer for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. It is heightened in the annual commemoration of Holy Week, marking the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the tradition and events of the New Testament beginning on Palm Sunday, further climaxing with Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday, which ultimately culminates in the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, is traditionally described as lasting for 40 days, in remembrance of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan.

These 40 days of Lent are marked by fasting, both from foods and festivities, and by other acts of penance. Today Lent may be marked by helping the poor and needy. It may include something as seemingly simple as helping your neighbor remove snow from his driveway or bringing his groceries into the house. In addition, some believers add a regular spiritual discipline, to bring them closer to God, such as reading a Lenten daily devotional

Ash Wednesday itself is a day focused on prayer, fasting, and repentance. Ashes are ceremonially placed on the foreheads of Christians on Ash Wednesday. The words (based on Genesis 3:19) used traditionally to accompany this gesture are, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ashes were used in ancient times to express grief. When Tamar was raped by her half-brother, "she sprinkled ashes on her head, tore her robe, and with her face buried in her hands went away crying" (2 Samuel 13:19). The gesture was also used to express sorrow for sins and faults. Today Christians continue the practice of using ashes as an external sign of repentance.

At FPC we observe the beginning of Lent with the Ash Wednesday fish fry and service including communion and the imposition of ashes.

During Lent, the traditional color used in the sanctuary is purple, however, several years ago Jeannette Miller made special Lenten paraments, banners and communion linens of beige muslin to commemorate the solemn season leading up to Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. You will see those in the sanctuary beginning on Ash Wednesday.

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

A special offering for One Great Hour of sharing will be taken on April 21. Easter Sunday. This ministry provides relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

32% of these funds go to helping restore communities after disasters while 36% goes to reducing hunger and the remaining 32% to providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities.

If you would like to participate in this offering, you can make your contribution anytime during the Lenten season. Donation envelopes will be available in the bulletin and pews during Lent.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations go out to those having March birthdays and/or anniversaries.

March 3	Karen Beighley
March 6	Robert Hoover
March 7	Abigail Owen
March 8	Mark Borofka
March 10	Jinx Smith
March 11	Carla Ingalls
March 13	Jan Koepke and Jerry Giedd
March 14	Chris and Chuck Norseng and Louise White
March 16	Pat Andress and Jeannette Miller
March 17	Larry Stevens
March 20	Traci Anderson and Anfin Anderson
March 22	Andrea Brovold
March 27	Carol Ament
March 28	Gene Peissig

## **DUST OFF YOUR EASTER BONNETS, LADIES**

Plans are in the works for the annual Easter Bonnet event at FPC. At this moment, we haven't firmed up exactly how the event will unfold but it will happen.

We are looking for a sponsor for the prizes which may be money or perhaps flowering spring plants. Stay tuned for more information in the April Bell.

## **WE HAVE SCRIP CARDS**

We still have KwikTrip scrip cards available. We can no longer obtain Gordy's cards but we do have them from KwikTrip. Contact Corine Boos for more information.

## **TIME FOR ANOTHER CHANGE**

Daylight Savings Time starts at 2 AM Sunday, March 10. Be sure to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before going to bed on Saturday night or you will be late and miss something

### **MISSION TEAM PUBLISHES 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Included in this issue of the Bell is the 2019 proposed Mission Calendar. This calendar is intended to be a reminder of the events in the church during the year. We realize it may not be complete with every event included, but this is a fluid calendar and will change from time to time to include everything we are doing at FPC. If you wish to add an event, please contact the Mission Team.

### **PRESBYTERIAN MEN HOST ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY AND SPECIAL SERVICE**

As in past years, the annual Ash Wednesday fish fry sponsored by the Presbyterian Men will be served on March 6 from 5:00 to 6:00 with the last dinners being served at 5:45.

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.

The meal and service are open to the public so bring your friends and family.

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

**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.**

Starting off the Lenten season, the traditional Ash Wednesday service featuring a Lenten sermon, special choir music, come-forward communion and the imposition of ashes will follow at 6:15 allowing a quiet time following dinner.

As in the past, this service will be held in conjunction with Trinity United Methodist Church and will include Methodist Pastor, Terri Koca, who will preach. The choir from the Methodist church will join our own Celebration Singers under the direction of Methodist choir director, Bill Bocian, to provide special music for this evening service.

Many thanks to our Methodist friends including Pastor Terri Koca, who has prepared the service and will preach and choir director, Bill Bocian, who selected the anthem and will direct the choirs.

This service is always a highlight of our church year and a fitting start to Lent.

Plan to join us!

# The Presbytery of Northern Waters



## PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presbytery of Northern Waters held its Winter Stated Meeting at the Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Duluth on Saturday, February 2, 2019.

Vice Moderator Chris McCurdy offered to conduct a brief orientation for first-time commissioners, but none were present at that time. We plan to continue this tradition so that new commissioners have a better chance to understand what goes on at the Presbytery Meeting.

The featured speaker was the Reverend Robyn Weaver, pastor of the Glen Avon Presbyterian Church, Duluth. She led a workshop on Active Listening encouraging us to be aware of blocking techniques that keep us from truly hearing what others are trying to communicate and helping us to use other language to be sure we understand.

We also had a presentation by the Reverend Doug Paulson, ELCA, Director of the Twin Ports Seafarers who assist foreign ship crews with their needs, including spiritual needs, while in port.

The Reverend Karen Schuder spoke on behalf of the Self Development of People Committee (SDOP) about projects that are eligible for funding and about two local projects in particular: SDOP is one of the recipients of the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering annually.

The Reverend Jim Deters, co-chair of the Committee on Ministry (COM), plans to write a letter encouraging all pastors and Ruling Elders to participate in the governance of the more inclusive Councils of the church, particularly the Presbytery. Attendance by both pastors and commissioners of the churches needs to improve.

The Overtures and Bylaws Committee (O&B) recommended approval of an addition to the Manual of Operations to make it clear who has the authority to approve expenditures from the Presbytery portion of the Peace & Global Witness special offering. The Presbytery approved giving this authority to the Presbytery Council which has now approved a \$2,000 grant from this fund for The Express Yourself project.

All the amendments to the PCUSA Constitution proposed by the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly were approved by the Presbytery except for amendment 18-C.

Treasurer Jay Wilkinson spoke to the year-end financial statements and to the written report submitted by Finance & Budget Committee Chair Bill Gravelle. We ended the year with a deficit of \$5,810 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$4,245. The primary reason is due to the poor performance of investments in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018 which led to the first yearly loss on investments in several years.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHIPPEWA FALLS MISSION CALENDAR FOR 2019

The Mission Team will be promoting the following mission projects for the remainder of 2019. Other items may be added to the calendar throughout the year if agreed upon by the Mission Team. We will endeavor to support the projects of the Mission Coalition.

We will also support mission projects and Session-approved fund-raisers of Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men, and the Deacons. We encourage them to add these projects to the Mission Calendar for our church. Others who are interested in adding other mission projects or fund-raisers should submit their ideas to the Mission Team so that we may coordinate these activities that have already been approved by Session.

Currently Presbyterian Men serve the Wednesday breakfast for the Optimist Club in Fellowship Hall. This is an ongoing fund-raiser for them.

The Food Pantry operates on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with deliveries from Feed My People on Tuesday mornings as well.

JANUARY: Carelink promotion

FEBRUARY: Lather with Love—a Mission Coalition project

MARCH: One Great Hour of Sharing: Runs through the Lenten Season March 6 - Easter  
Noisy Sunday: March 31  
March 6: Pres Men's Ash Wed Fish Fry

APRIL: OGHS—ends April 21.

MAY: Promote the Pentecost Offering May 19 thru June 9

JUNE: Pentecost Offering: June 9. Promote May 19 thru June 9 (Percentage stays in the community to promote youth projects.)  
Noisy Sunday: June 30

JULY: Backpack Giveaway: Valley Vineyard Church (dates tbd)—a Mission Coalition project

AUGUST: National Night Out—First Tuesday; Kiosk highlighting our church and missions.  
Feed My People Match Challenge for the Food Pantry (dates tbd)

SEPTEMBER: Promotion begins for the Peace and Global Witness Offering on September 22.  
Noisy Sunday—September 29

OCTOBER: Oct 7 Peace and Global Witness Offering collected. (25% can stay in the community for projects promoting peace and/or justice), Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER:

DECEMBER: Christmas Joy Offering Dec 8-Dec 29. Promote Dec 8 – Dec 22.  
Noisy Sunday—Dec 29

## FPC LISTS COMMITTEES AND LEADERS

Below are listed the current committees/teams operating at FPC. The listing also shows the committee chair and the Session liaison. If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact the committee chair or the Session liaison for more information.

Committee	Chair	Liaison
Worship Planning	Moderator/Clerk	Mitch Mandelert
Property	Jeff Buckli	Erik Anderson
Mission	Barbara Shorrel	Lynda Butek
Communications	Gary Shorrel	Jon Beighley
Deacons	Margi Kohl	Lynda Butek
Finance	Traci Anderson	Larry Annett
Pres. Women	Marlys Daniels	
Pres. Men	Rich Koepke	Erik Anderson
Nominating	Erik Anderson	Erik Anderson
Education		Kevin Litten
Endowment	Vance Kohl	Erik Anderson
Personnel	Larry Annett	Larry Annett
Stewardship		Kevin Litten
Events	Kevin Litten	Kevin Litten
Financial Review	Kevin Litten	Kevin Litten

## WE HAVE HEARD FROM BARBARA SANDFORD

We have received the following note from Barbara Sandford from her new home in Florida.

“Dear Sweet Friends at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian,

I have cried so many tears missing you all. What a blessing you have all been to me and what a privilege to worship with you all these years. Thank you for putting up with me! Thank you too for the beautiful piano key necklace. What a special, thoughtful gift. I love it. Thank you too for the wonderful cake and party after church my last Sunday there. I went home and cried! This transition has been tough but I have a cute little red-headed boy that is very happy to have Grandma right around the block. The neighborhood is lovely and we have met delightful new friends. We'll be okay but I still miss wonderful Chippewa Falls and you!

May our loving heavenly Father bless you every day in every way! Blessings all around, Barbara Jean”

Barbara's new address is 1009 Pelican Lane, Rockledge, Florida 32955. She and Tom plan to divide their time between Florida and Chippewa Falls so we can expect to see Barbara in the summer. She even hopes to play for us while she is here.

# March Schedules

## March 3 – Sunday

**Hospitality Team** – Team 1  
Led by Margi Kohl

**Communion will be Served**

**Welcome Desk** – Barbara Meredith

**Flower Provider** – Open

## March 6 – Wednesday

**Fish Fry by Presbyterian Men**

## March 10 – Sunday

**Hospitality Team** – Team 2  
Led by Lynda Butek and Mary Jo Reemtsma

**Welcome Desk** – Barbara Meredith

**Flower Provider** - Open

## March 13 – Wednesday

**Lasagna or ?** – Team 5  
Presbyterian Men

## March 17 – Sunday

**Hospitality Team** – Team 3  
Led by Corine Boos

**Welcome Desk** – Anne Welke

**Flower Provider** – Open

## March 20 – Wednesday

**Barbeques by Team 6** – Anne Welke and  
Bonnie Gullickson

## March 24 – Sunday

**Hospitality Team** – Team 4  
Led by Jon Beighley and Anne Welke

**Welcome Desk** – June and Dick Kemp

**Flower Provider** – Open

## March 27 – Wednesday

**Chef's Choice by Team 7** – Ryan and Sara  
Reemtsma

## March 31 – Sunday

**Hospitality Team** – Team 5  
Led by Larry Annett and Kevin Litten

**Welcome Desk** – Marlys Daniels

**Flower Provider** - Open