



# The Bell

November, 2019

## Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Dear Members and Friends of First Pres. Chippewa Falls, WI

For those of you that I haven't met yet, My name is Ken Ribe (pronounced Ree-bee) (it's an old Norwegian name that comes from the family farmstead near Fevik, Norway where my father was born.)

I have been married to Sue for 45 years, and we have one daughter, Erica, married to Jerry Arne. They have one son named Gustav Kenneth, or Gus, (almost 5) a daughter named Logan Louise (almost 3) and a "golden doodle" named Burton who is almost ten.

Erica is a project manager for Krause Anderson Real Estate Development, and Jerry is a Director of Sales for Russ Davis Wholesale.

Sue is an office manager for a small company in downtown Minneapolis where she has worked for the last ten plus years.

I have been doing "transitional ministry since 2004, and have served churches in Columbia Heights, LeSueur, St. Paul, Howard Lake, and Bemidji, MN, as well as Grand Forks, ND.

I love doing Interim/transitional ministry. Every congregation is different, and I have met and worked with wonderful people in every congregation. My hope is to walk with congregations going through pastoral changes, by helping them to focus on their strengths—those things they do well, and discover their passion for the ministry and mission of their church. Then, using that information, help them discern their best options for moving forward.

I also serve the Presbytery of Northern Waters as part-time Presbyter for Pastoral Care, which is a support role for those serving congregations in our presbytery. Northern Waters stretches from Bemidji/Blackduck and Park Rapids, MN on the west to Ironwood, MI; Phillips, Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, WI on the east and south.

Both Sue and I love winter, and outdoor activities. We built a small log cabin near Castle Danger, MN (Two Harbors) in 2010, and we love to spend time there when we can.

I am looking forward to being with you all and seeing what we can discover together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ken Ribe

## **MENOMONIE SINGERS RETURN TO FPC IN NOVEMBER**

The Menomonie Singers performed the Easter section of Handel's Messiah this spring and enjoyed singing in our sanctuary so much they have asked to return with a special anniversary concert on Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 PM.

2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the singers with a reflection on "pearl". Pearl is symbolic of a 30th year like silver is symbolic of a 25th anniversary.

In choral works by a wide range of composers such as William Byrd, Morten Lauridsen, Hildegard von Bingen, J.S. Bach, Henry Purcell, Maurice Durufle, and others, the Menomonie Singers will bring to the audience a musical representation of pearls of joy, pearls of wisdom, misshapen pearls, memories like pearls, and friendship: the loveliest pearl.

This performance will carry no ticket fee, but the suggested donation is \$10.

A reception will be held following the concert.

Conductor Amy Vogt has a Bachelor of Music in choral conducting from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Recently, she became the new choral conductor at DeLong and Northstar Middle Schools in the Eau Claire School District. Vogt has had many choral conducting experiences including choral conductor at McDonnell High School in Chippewa Falls and Osseo-Fairchild High School, most recently. In addition, Vogt was at one time a soprano with the Menomonie Singers, and a professional choir singer with the Apollo Master Chorale in the Twin Cities. Amy directed the singers when they performed the Messiah.

Accompanying the choir on piano will be Dan Wanamaker. Wanamaker is a choir section leader at the St. Paul Cathedral in the Twin Cities, and describes himself as a language collector and writer.

## **LAUNDRY MONEY**

During October all the Chippewa Falls churches are collecting funds to donate to Lighten Your Load's free laundry ministry. Please drop your quarters in the plastic tube and your other change and folding money in the detergent box on the chancel. We would also accept checks!

## **TRUNK OR TREAT CONTINUES TO GROW**

The food pantry is once again putting on a Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. Last year's success surprised us all! This event brought literally HUNDREDS of people to the church.

From 3 to 5 PM, this event takes place in our parking lot where kids go car-to-car to get their treats instead of door-to-door. Many Halloween-celebrating families park in the parking lot between Family Fare and the church. As we did last year, part of that lot will be closed to traffic to keep the kiddies safe. Plan on joining us for some Halloween fun.

## **JUST IN CASE WE HAVE LOTS OF SNOW AGAIN...**

Twice last winter we had to cancel church services because of heavy snow. At that time we didn't have a good way to notify everyone of the change but as reported this Spring, now we are prepared (and, of course, it won't snow much this winter.)

But if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, and you think church services might be cancelled, check the WEAU.com website. You will find a yellow "Cancellations" bar near the top of their Home page. Click on that and you will see all the cancellations for that period. That will include schools, the Boys and Girls Clubs, churches, etc.

If we have to cancel service again this winter, that cancellation will be posted on the cancellation page of the WEAU website and it will also appear on our church Facebook page. If the church office is open, those of you who have computers will be notified by email. If the schools are closed during the week, you will know that Wednesday night supper or the Food Pantry will be cancelled. The choir and the tech fellows will be notified of any changes by email or phone.

This notice will be posted on the tower in the Narthex throughout the winter as a reminder.

## **2020 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE**

Yes, the annual directories are now available. They are late this year because we wanted to add some new things and be sure all your contact information was accurate. If you find any errors in your contact information, please notify Tiffany.

We only found out about the change in the Presbyterian Women's Bazaar and ham loaf dinner after the directory was printed so the Wednesday Nite supper page in your directory is incorrect. The corrected page is printed in this issue of the Bell. Just add this to your directory so you won't miss anything on Wednesday nights.

As in the past, we won't mail the directories but you can pick one up on Sunday or during church office hours.

We have only a limited number of directories available but if you need an extra or two, notify Tiffany and she will make sure you get what you need.

## **TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON NOVEMBER 3**

It's time to reset your clocks to mark the end of Daylight Savings Time. The time will go back one hour at 2 AM on Sunday, November 3, so be sure to reset your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday night.

Good news – that gives you an extra hour to sleep so no napping during Pastor Rich's sermon!

## **PW FALL BAZAAR RESCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 11**

PW has rescheduled their annual Bazaar for December 11. The Bazaar will open for business at 3:30.

There will be limited booths which will include the popular candy and baked goods areas. The baked goods table will also offer soups and cookies and bars to be sold by the piece. There will also be salads (3-bean, carrot, cowboy caviar, etc.) available for purchase.

As usual, PW will host the ham loaf dinner on Wednesday, December 11. The dinner of ham loaf, scalloped potatoes, slaw, vegetables, roll, dessert and beverage will cost \$10.00. Serving will begin at 4:30 and end at 6:30. Meals will be available for takeout.

## **CHRISTMAS TO INCLUDE POINSETTIAS**

As we have done in the past, the church will purchase poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary beginning Christmas Eve.

If you would like to purchase a plant to take home after the Christmas services, there will be more information available and an order form in the December Bell. At this time, we do not know the price of the poinsettias but last year they were \$9.00.

## **FPC SCHEDULES ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8 following the regular service.

The business of that meeting will be to elect officers for the coming year and to vote on a change in the church by-laws. Those issues will be explained in full in the December Bell.

## **FALL BRINGS SPECIAL THINGS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS**

There are lots of special things to look forward to as we approach year-end.

All Saints' Day, November 3, will have the traditional ribbons but Pastor Rich has something new and different planned for that day too. Veteran's Day, November 10, will feature a military presentation by Gary Shorrel.

Christmas Eve will have the traditional candlelit singing of Silent Night but again Pastor Rich has some special things to bring to that evening service.

Our interim pastor, Ken Ribe, will be preaching the first four Sundays in December and Gene Peissig will finishout the month on December 29.

## FOOD PANTRY NEED INCREASES

Our food pantry has grown so much since our meager beginning of handing out a bag or two of groceries a week. We have become a well-oiled machine run by volunteers. We have also increased our hours to include the first Tuesday night of the month when the Open Door Clinic is in operation.

We keep growing and adding things like toilet paper, hygiene products, and donated clothing items. If we are out of any of these items, we try to direct our clients to other churches or agencies who might be able to help them.

In 2018 we averaged about 45 new people a month. We found that very concerning at the time. How could we keep up? In 2019 we have been getting between 70 and 80 new people every single month. We give out about 50 bags of food a week. What's been especially appreciated about our pantry is that we have fruit, veggies, baked goods, and some canned items available spread out on tables which our clients can take in addition to their bags of food.

People call every week asking how often they can come to our food pantry for help. The answer is they can receive the pre-packaged bag of food and meat and toilet paper once a month. Items on the tables are available any time the pantry is open. People are so grateful they are allowed to at least grab a few things from the tables between regular visits.

The statistics don't indicate how many homeless people we serve each month but we get them every single week. We have special "homeless bags" made up with flip top cans of food, water and any hygiene products we can spare.

You've read about ALICE in previous articles. The ALICE Report, which is conducted by United Way across Wisconsin, takes the national poverty criteria and adds a percentage of how many people in each county are unable to make ends meet. "We're looking at housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare, some technology, so a smartphone is included in this basic budget. Oftentimes, because it's a requirement for certain positions, and taxes are included." said Jan Porath, executive director of the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley.

The ALICE Report shows a whopping 42% of the people living in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties are struggling to fund their day-to-day expenses. These counties rank second and third on the list after Milwaukee for the highest poverty levels in the state.

Why are we seeing such an influx of new clients for the Food Pantry? One reason is because the federal Foodshare program gives credit cards to the needy with which they can purchase food but on October 1, 2019 the amount of money offered by the program decreased.

The allowable income amounts vary from program to program but in all instances, the people we see coming to the Food Pantry fall below the allowable Federal Poverty Limit and on top of that, they are being offered less money by the federal government to buy food. Taking this into consideration, you realize why our food pantry numbers continue to go up. Because of the survey the food Pantry took in March, we know our patrons only make \$992 on average. It isn't hard to see why people are struggling.

And we're struggling to keep up. We're applying for grants and crossing our fingers. We are having match challenges. We are having fundraisers to raise awareness as well as money. (Trunk or Treat). We are asking our members for homegrown produce and hygiene products which aren't covered by the Foodshare program. We are discussing where we can cut corners.

Our mission and our passion is to help those in need. With your help we'll continue doing that as best we can and as long as we can.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS 2019-2020

5:30 - 6:00 PM

Choir Practice 6:30p-7:30p

Sept 11—	Team 1
Sept 18—	Team 2
Sept 25—	Team 3
Oct 2—	Team 4
Oct 9—	Team 5
Oct 16—	Team 6
Oct 23—	Team 7
Oct 30—	Team 8
Nov 6—	Team 9
Nov 13—	Team 1
Nov 20—	Team 2
Nov 27—	No Meal [Thanksgiving]
Dec 4—	Team 3
Dec 11—	Ham Loaf Dinner
Dec 18—	Team 4
Dec 25—	No Meal [Christmas]
Jan 1—	No Meal
Jan 8—	Team 5
Jan 15—	Team 6
Jan 22—	Team 7
Jan 29—	Team 8
Feb 5—	Team 9
Feb 12—	Team 1
Feb 19—	Team 2
Feb 26—	Ash Wed
Mar 4—	Team 3
Mar 11—	Team 4
Mar 18—	Team 5
Mar 25—	Team 6
Apr 1—	Team 7
Apr 8—	Team 8
Apr 15—	Team 9
Apr 22—	Team 1
Apr 29—	Team 2

**SUGGESTED DONATION:  
\$4.00 FOR ADULTS  
\$2.00 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10**

## MENU

Team #1	<b><u>SOUPERSPUDS</u></b> Lynda Butek 861-3936 Margi Kohl 720-8926 Corine Boos 382-4278
Team #2	<b><u>Erik's Surprise</u></b> Erik Anderson 723-0992 Rick Koepke 720-1826
Team #3	<b><u>CHEF'S CHOICE</u></b> Kevin Litten 319-361-9607 Marlys Daniels 723-2851
Team 4	<b><u>SOKUPS HOT DOGS</u></b> Ruth Rosenow 723-8280 Kathi Mandelert 723-5992
Team #5	<b><u>LASAGNA OR SURPRISE</u></b> Presbyterian Men
Team #6	<b><u>BARBECUES</u></b> Anne Welke 723-2306 Bonnie Gullickson 723-2076
Team #7	<b><u>CHEF'S CHOICE</u></b> Sara & Ryan Reemtsma 577-1602
Team #8	<b><u>CHEF'S CHOICE</u></b> Teske's 715-834-7482
Team#9	<b><u>HOT DOGS</u></b> Tiffany and Gina 715-944-7797

**MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT  
COOK'S DISCRETION!**

**TEAMS MAY EXCHANGE IF  
NEEDED!**

# November Schedules

## November 3 – Sunday

**Guest Pastor** – Rich Estrem-Fuller  
**Communion will be served**  
**Worship Leader** – Bonnie Gullickson  
**Hospitality Team 4** - Led by Jon Beighley and Anne Welke  
**Welcome Desk** – Marlys Daniels  
**Flower Provider** – Chuck Norseng in commemoration of All Saints Day

## November 6 – Wednesday

**Hot Dogs by Team 9** –  
Tiffany and Gina

## November 10 – Sunday

**Interim Pastor** – Ken Ribe  
**Worship Leader** – Jon Beighley  
**Hospitality Team 5** – Led by Larry Annett and Kevin Litten  
**Welcome Desk** – Holly Gintz  
**Flower Provider** – Open

## November 13 – Wednesday

**Soup or Spuds by Team 1** – Corine Boos, Margi Kohl and Lynda Butek

## November 17 - Sunday

**Guest Pastor**– Rich Estrem-Fuller  
**Worship Leader** – Kevin Litten  
**Hospitality Team 6**- Led by Chuck Norseng and Barb Meredith  
**Welcome Desk** – Margi Kohl  
**Flower Provider** – Jinx Smith in memory of Douglas and Karen

## November 20 – Wednesday

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

## November 24 - Sunday

**Interim Pastor** – Ken Ribe  
**Worship Leader** – Jon Beighley  
**Hospitality Team 7** - Led by Mitch Mandelert and Kathi Mandelert  
**Welcome Desk** – Barb Meredith  
**Flower Provider** – Open

## November 27 – Wednesday

**No Meal - Thanksgiving**