



The Bell

November, 2020

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

ON COMMUNION

The Presbyterian Church celebrates two sacraments - baptism and communion. For most of us, communion may be the more important; certainly, it's the one we celebrate most regularly.

During this time of Covid-19, celebrating communion has been especially hard for those who come into the sanctuary as well as those who prefer to stay at home.

In the sanctuary, communion has ceased to be pieces of bread and cups of grape juice and been replaced by sealed wafers and juice. But as Pastor Ken has said, it's not what we consume for communion as much as the thought behind it. That's what counts.

In our church, we celebrate communion on the first Sunday of every month and on special church holidays like Pentecost, Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve. We continue to do this even in this time of pandemic. For those of you at home, things are vastly different but they don't need to be.

You too can celebrate communion with those in the sanctuary. You can use a piece of bread or piece of biscuit and grape juice or orange juice or even wine if you wish. Jesus used the common elements that were at the table, and in those days, it was bread and wine. It's not the elements that you use but the spirit with which you partake of them.

If you don't wish to have communion at home on Sunday, we can bring the communion elements to you. We do this for shut-ins and can extend this to those of you who don't wish to or can't come to church on Sunday. Let the office or Margi Kohl of the Deacons know that you would like to have home communion. The job of our Deacons is to provide care to our members and friends and this extends to communion.

Communion is a very important part of our worship and one we cherish. Covid-19 has robbed us of many things but it hasn't diminished our need to celebrate communion. This pandemic will pass and we will be able to take communion together in the sanctuary in the future but in the meantime, we can still commemorate the life and death of Christ.

FPC SCHEDULES ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6 following the regular service.

The business of that meeting will be to elect officers for the coming year. Those issues will be explained in full in the December Bell which will be published in mid-November to meet Book of Order requirements for announcing a congregational meeting.

CHRISTMAS EVE APPROACHES

Christmas Eve at First Presbyterian will be a bit different from past years but in many ways it will be the same. Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller will be our guest speaker that night as he was last year. The service will begin at 4:30 as it has in the past.

We will have communion and the individual battery-operated candles which we will light at the end of the service. Because of the restrictions placed on us by the virus, the candles will be placed at the door to the sanctuary for congregants to pick up on their way into the church.

We won't be able to sing Silent Night gathered around the sanctuary as we have in the past, but we do have plans for ending the service on a high note.

As usual, we will have the Advent Wreath and poinsettias on the chancel. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia which will be placed in front of the communion table for the service and then made available for you to take home, please complete the form you will find in the December Bell and turn it in to the church office.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR SNOW

Winter seems to be coming early this year so it's time to think about what we might do if heavy snow means the church will be closed.

If 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 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.

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

FPC WELCOMES ADVENT

Advent comes early this year with Advent 1 on November 29. Rev. Sandee Kosmo will be our guest pastor that day and we will kick off the season much as we have in the past.

The Christmas trees, Advent wreath, Christmas banners and wreaths will adorn the sanctuary and Narthex. The traditional 'Tis The Season Sunday tree decorating won't happen this year due to the need to social distance.

Instead, if you are interested in doing some holiday decorating, the tree in the Narthex and sanctuary tree, Advent wreath, banners and wreaths need to be put up in the church. This will be done the day after Thanksgiving beginning at 9 AM.

The more people we have to help, the faster the job will go so put that morning on your calendar and plan to help decorate the church for Advent.

DIRECTORIES TO BE OUT IN JANUARY

Be sure to keep your current church directory because the new edition won't be issued until January.

This is later than usual but printing it in January will take into consideration the new slate of leaders which is always printed in the directory.

And when we get back to normal and have fellowship and Wednesday night suppers, printing the directory in January will allow us to include the new Fellowship Teams and Wednesday Night Supper lineup.

Watch upcoming Bells for more information on when the new directories will be available.

TIME CHANGES NEXT WEEKEND

Don't forget the time change this coming weekend. Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 1 so be sure to set your clocks BACK an hour before going to bed or you will be super early for church – which isn't such a bad thing either.

WHAT TIME WILL SERVICES BEGIN?

We have received several votes for starting time of Sunday services and we will continue to receive ballots through November.

Session will decide on the starting time at their December 6 meeting.

NOVEMBER IS ASIAN MISSION MONTH

This month we will be supporting the efforts of our Asian missionary friends. They are working to bring about peace in their corner of the world. We have posted their newsletters on the tower in the narthex.

If you wish to contribute to their cause, please make out your checks to First Presbyterian Church with Asian mission in the memo line. This money will be sent to the Presbyterian USA Mission Agency and redirected to our friends in Asia. The Noisy Sunday (November 29) contributions will go to this mission also.

REPORT FROM PNC

Unfortunately, the PNC has run into a major stumbling block. According to chair, Gary Shorrel, they have not received applications from any viable candidates.

The committee received seven Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from possible candidates. They have contacted all those candidates only to find that four had already taken other positions and the remaining three candidates did not respond to repeated attempts to contact them.

The committee will continue to search but at this moment, there are no prospects.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

If you are interested in helping out the Spirit of Christmas, check out their website at <https://www.thespiritofchristmasofchippewacounty.com/how-you-can-help.html> You can send a check to Spirit of Christmas of Chippewa County, WI, Inc., P.O. Box 831, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. All gifts are tax deductible.

You can also adopt a family, purchase gifts to donate, or help to package up the donated items among other things. Call them at 715-944-4272 for more information.

HAVEN'T PAID YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT YET?

It's not too late to pay your per capita assessment for 2020. The cost to the church remains unchanged from last year at \$32.00 per member.

Per capita is a charge the church must pay to the Presbytery for each and every member. This charge is paid regardless of whether the member reimburses the church.

The money raised is used to defray Presbytery operating expenses.

FPC TO HOST BLOOD DRIVE

FPC is hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, November 23 from noon to 6:00.

The need for blood is especially critical since the Corvin-19 pandemic has forced the closure of many locations that normally would host drives.

The Red Cross is recruiting volunteers for our drive but if you are interested in donating, go to redcrossblood.org and click on "Make Your Appointment" to get started. You will see all the locations listed along the left of your screen. If you go to "By Distance" and scroll down to the church location. You can click on "See Times" and note the type of donation you wish to make and the time you want to donate. There is more information on donating on that website too.

If this drive goes well, we may want to host another drive in the future.



Blood Drive

Chippewa Falls Community First Presbyterian Church

130 W Central Street

**Monday, November 23, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**



**American
Red Cross**