



The Bell

October, 2019

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

NEW INTERIM PASTOR TO JOIN FPC IN OCTOBER

He's not new to us having preached several times since May, but Rev. Ken Ribe will be joining us in a new capacity. He will be our new interim pastor who will serve until we find a called-pastor.

Pastor Ken is a retired Presbyterian minister who has served several churches both as a called-pastor and interim pastor.

He attended Bethel Theological Seminary in Minnesota where he received his Masters of Divinity. His interim training was at Mid-America Lincoln Trails in St. Louis.

Pastor Ken is currently serving as a Presbyter for Pastoral Care for the Presbytery of Northern Waters. In this capacity, he is a support presence for Presbyterian ministers in this area. He is also a member of the Committee on Ministry of this Presbytery.

During his years since graduation, Pastor Ken has served as a called-pastor, redevelopment pastor, chaplain and interim pastor.

His service as interim pastor includes Presbyterian churches in Bemidji, MN, St. Paul, MN, Le Sueur, MN and Grand Forks, ND.

Most of these churches were small and in need of guidance to move forward. Pastor Ken was able to help build their finances and membership.

The Session believes Pastor Ken is the right person to help us determine what we need and want in a called-pastor and to help us determine the tasks we can ask that person to perform. His extensive background, including working as a part-time pastor, will be invaluable to helping us with our search.

His agreement with the church must be approved by the Committee on Ministry, which will review the contract this month. Once the COM has approved his joining us, he can officially begin work. We expect that will be Sunday, October 13.

During October and November, Pastor Ken will preach only two Sundays each month due to other Presbytery commitments. In December, he plans to preach the first four Sundays. After that, he will be with us three Sundays each month and we will continue to use guest pastors for the remaining services.

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Because Pastor Ken's home is in Hospkins, MN, and given that he will only be working in Chippewa Falls half time, he will maintain his home there and live here and work in the church on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays when he preaching. The weeks he doesn't preach, he will not be on site.

We have two guest speakers lined up to fill in the gaps this schedule will leave. Rev. Sandee Kosmo has agreed to continue her ministry with us through the coming year. Gene Peissig has also agreed to speak when Sandee is not available. And Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller will still be speaking to us through the end of this year as will Sandee and Gene. Rev. Rich will be our minister on All Saints Day and Christmas Eve and he has some special things planned for those services.

Now that we have chosen an interim pastor, we can begin our search for a called-pastor. That work starts with developing a slate of candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee. That work will be done by the current Nominating Committee. Once they have formulated a list of candidates, the Session will call a congregational meeting for the members to vote on the PNC. Only after that has been done can the work of finding a called-pastor begin.

But we still have work to do. Given that Pastor Ken is from Minnesota he undoubtedly is (pardon the expression) a Vikings fan. We must work to convert him. That's a big job but we can do it!

2020 CHURCH DIRECTORIES TO BE AVAILABLE SOON

Plan to stop by the church at the end of October to pick up your new directory.

As in the past, we will not mail the directories so if you want one, you must come to the church to get your copy. They will be available before and after services on Sunday and from the church office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays.

RCU TO CLEAN AND PAINT ON OCTOBER 14

On Monday, October 14, RCU will send some 25 volunteers to our church to clean and paint the areas used by the Open Door Clinic. Every year, RCU helps neighborhood groups like the clinic with cleaning, painting and whatever other similar projects they need done. This year that work will include painting our Narthex, shampooing the carpet in Fellowship Hall and doing outside yard work which may include weeding, trimming, etc. depending on the weather.

RCU supplies the people and the materials including paint to do these projects. All we have to do is be ready for them by October 14. That means, we need to remove all the items from the walls (some of which are screwed down), remove the flag, toys, chairs and tables from Fellowship Hall, remove the tower, welcome desk and benches from the Narthex and in general prepare for their arrival bright and early on Monday morning. Some of this work can be done the week before they get here but the remainder must be completed on Sunday, October 13 after service. If you can help, please contact Anne Welke.

TRUNK OR TREAT MOVES INTO 2019

The food pantry is once again teaming up with Kevin Litten to put 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. We have decided having it at the same time as the downtown trick or treating hours, 3pm-5pm, worked perfectly.

A quick explanation of the event is that Trunk or Treat is meant to provide a safe and fun trick-or-treating experience for kids. 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.

We'll be focusing more on the fundraising aspect this year as the food pantry really needs the funds. We're asking for a donation from anyone having a trunk. We'll have some statistics available to our visitors about how many people our food pantry is helping. This will really help raise awareness for the needs of our community and how FPC is trying to meet them.

We have reached out to various agencies and small business to see if they'd like to hand candy out of their trunks in the parking lot we share with Family Fare. It's basically free advertising for them as they can give information to the parents while the kids get the candy.

In addition, we'll have cookies, warm drinks, and a photo booth set up outside. We will also be giving out headstone trophies to the top three best decorated trunks again this year. The kids will place their votes when they've finished seeing all the trunks.

All the agencies that participated last year were already thinking of ways to decorate for this year's event before the last one ended! They're all as excited as we are!

You're welcome to come down and join us for some spooky fun and yummy treats. Happy Halloween!

WEDNESDAY NITE DINNER MENUS MAY CHANGE

For those of you who haven't come to Wednesday night suppers recently, we have been conducting an informal survey to determine what our diners would like us to serve.

We didn't include the chef's choice options since they vary from month to month.

Everyone seems to like the soup and lasagna the best followed by spaghetti and bar-b-ques. The potato bar came in next and the poor hot dogs dragged in last.

But we had some new suggestions – tacos, mac and cheese and pizza.

If you have anything to suggest, please contact Margi Kohl or Lynda Butek and we will see what we can do.

We aim to please – within reason, of course. Lobster and prime rib aren't on the menu, folks, sorry.

SESSION APPROVES 2020 COMMUNION SCHEDULE

The Session has approved the following communion schedule for the coming year.

January 5	First Sunday and Epiphany
February 2	First Sunday
February 26	Ash Wednesday
March 1	First Sunday
April 5	First Sunday and Palm Sunday
April 12	Easter
May 3	First Sunday
May 31	Pentecost
June 7	First Sunday and Trinity Sunday
July 5	First Sunday
August 2	First Sunday
September 6	First Sunday
October 4	First Sunday and World Communion Sunday
November 1	First Sunday and All Saints Day
December 6	First Sunday and 'Tis the Season
December 24	Christmas Eve

THE DOCTORS BIEGING LEAVE AGAIN – THIS TIME FOR REAL

It's hard to believe that it's been three long years since Drs. Jim and Deb Bieging moved to St. Paul. But fortunately for us, they have continued to return to Chippewa Falls and continue their work with the church and the Open Door Clinic.

Deb was a big part of the FPC choir and has returned to sing with that group whenever the occasion arose. Even before they moved to Minnesota, Deb spent a big part of each year in Bethel, Alaska where she ministered to the children of that area in her role as a pediatrician.

Deb was the first coordinator of the Open Door Clinic and recently has returned to work in the clinic pharmacy.

Dr. Jim practiced medicine at St. Joes for many years and continued to come back from St. Paul to help the clinic. In addition to his medical career, Jim is an accomplished trombonist.

Drs. Jim and Deb have decided to make their last trip to the Clinic on Tuesday, October 29. They have family in the St. Paul area and want to spend more time there.

If you want to say goodbye, shake hands, give hugs, the clinic is planning a going away celebration for the Biegings on October 29 at 7:30 to coordinate with the clinic hours.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION TEAM...

Submitted by Barb Shorrel

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: This is a special offering sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA), our denomination. This offering “encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God’s mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers.”

There are many ways that this offering is used at all levels of our denomination. At our local level we may keep 25% of our offering. We have decided to give this to the Family Support Center here in Chippewa Falls. They offer services to persons in our community trying to escape violent and abusive relationships and find a peaceful life.

We will collect this offering through October 6 on World Communion Sunday.

SOULS 4 SOLES: Thanks to everyone who donated their shoes for this mission.

FOOD PANTRY:

- Feed My People has given us a grant of \$1600 in credit toward the purchase of food. We will receive \$800 immediately and the other \$800 if we meet the goals that we set.
- We are pleased to announce that our Food Pantry Match Challenge has been met. Thanks so much to all who contributed. So far, we have received \$6,918 which qualifies us for the \$5000 match, bringing in a total of \$11,918. Thanks too, to our anonymous match contributor. God bless you all.
- We will be writing another grant to the Community Foundation for funds to provide hygiene supplies to those who come to our Food Pantry; and to Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield to provide Walmart gift cards at Christmas. Keep us in your prayers as we explore these options for funding.

LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD: In October we will be pairing with other Mission Coalition churches to promote contributions to help persons with laundry expenses. Four times per month, people may come to the Express Mart laundromat to wash their clothes. Volunteers give out the quarters for washing and drying laundry. They also provide laundry detergent and softener if needed. Bring your quarters on Sundays. We will have a tube for you to add your quarters. If you wish to write a check, please write “Lighten Your Load” on the memo line. You may also contribute laundry soap and softener. Look for the Tide box in the sanctuary.

OUR MEMBERS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR HISTORY

Over the past few months, we have been exploring the history of First Presbyterian Church. Our history is far more than the building, the stained glass windows or the organ. The most important part of our history is our people.

The deed for the church property was recorded on September 9, 1859 and the Articles of Incorporation were filed on April 12, 1886.

The first pastor was Bradley Phillips, who served from 1858 to 1868. Obviously the beginning of his ministry here was in the old church. Rev. Phillips was followed by Alfred Stead (1872-1974), David Evans (1874-1875), Samuel Brown (1877-1889), W. A. Broadhurst (1891-1896) and James Gorge (1896-1901).

Most of these names are unfamiliar to us today but we have members whose names you will recognize.

Serving as Elders were Dick Kemp (1960), Ray Andress (1965), Holly Gintz (1968), Al Namejunas (1970), June Kemp (1973), Jinx Smith (1975), Lea Dirks (1976), David Gutknecht (1976) and Louise White (1976).

Serving as Deacons were June Kemp (1963), Pat Andress (1966), Anne Welke (1966), Bonnie Gullickson (1973), Sue Maitland (1975), Lea Dirks (1976 and Pat Gutknecht (1977).

The first marriage conducted in our church was between S. K. Chittenden of Brooklyn NY and Anna Bella Cameron of Chippewa Falls. They were married on August 11, 1909.

The first baby baptized here was Ethleen Stella Noyes, the daughter of Frank Edward and Clara Noyes. She was baptized on July 8, 1893.

The first member of the church was Hector McRae, who joined in September, 1896. He was followed in March, 1871 by Mrs. Phillip Rheingans and in June, 1873 by Jennie Stevens.

Current members who have been here the longest are Sue Maitland and Anne Welke (1949) followed by Pat Hedrington (1950), Lea Dirks (1951), Beth Cripe and Louise White (1952), Dick and June Kemp (1953), Jinx Smith (1954) and Esther Frazier (1956).

From 1880 to 1889 there were only 11 members of our congregation. Between 1890 and 1899 54 more people joined the church. Between 1900 and 1909, only 4 new members were received but between 1910 and 1919, 15 more Presbyterians joined the church. Between 1920 and 1929, we added 17 members and from 1930 to 1939, 30 more people joined the church. Between 1940 and 1949 only 17 members joined but the years from 1950 to 2009 added more than 150 members each decade. From 2010 to the present, we have added 45 more members.

These figures come from old church registers which offer conflicting information as to the pastors who served and the members who joined but it shows us our history is long and varied.

October Schedules

October 2 – Wednesday

Hot Dogs by Team 4 -
Kathi Mandelert and Ruth
Rosenow

October 6 – Sunday

Guest Pastor – Sandee Kosmo
Communion will be served
Worship Leader – Erik Anderson
Hospitality Team – Team 8 Led by Erik
Anderson and Beth Cripe
Welcome Desk – Barb Meredith
Flower Provider – Open

October 9 – Wednesday

Lasagna or Surprise by Team 5 –
Presbyterian Men

October 13 – Sunday

Interim Pastor – Ken Ribe
Worship Leader – Bonnie Gullickson
Hospitality Team 1 – Led by Margi Kohl
Welcome Desk – Anne Welke
Flower Provider – Open

October 16 – Wednesday

Barbeques by Team 6 – Anne Welke and
Bonnie Gullickson

October 20 - Sunday

Guest Speaker– Gene Peissig
Worship Leader – Terry Wiedenhoeft
Hospitality Team – Team 2 Led by Lynda
Butek
Welcome Desk – Bonnie Gullickson
Flower Provider – Barbara Meredith in
honor of family member birthday

October 23 – Wednesday

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

October 27 - Sunday

Interim Pastor – Ken Ribe
Worship Leader – Jon Beighley
Hospitality Team – Team 3 Led by Corine
Boos
Welcome Desk – Barb Meredith
Flower Provider – Anne Welke in memory
of Dick

October 30 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 8 – The Teskes