



# The Bell

September, 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

God's blessings to you on this warm ending to August and pleasant entry into September. Our second summer with several events that show our desire to continue with our ecumenical services include: Church at the Fair, One Fest, Pure Water Days. We also had some celebrations as well. The celebration of life for Pat, Ray and Markie Andres, the Baptism of Maxwell Wolfe and the reception of new member Scott Legwold. We have had a lot of church events again this summer.

As most of you know, or have heard by now, I came down with Covid on the August 24. Not a major case as can happen, but a cough and sore chest and just over all aches. No longer do we do the 10 days of quarantine as in the beginning of the pandemic. You can go out when you're symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.

It does cause me to reflect on just how precious having a church family is. With the diagnosis, I had to call on individuals to help me be able to continue with Sunday's service. I am sure I could have called on others to preach, but one day notice makes things a bit tight. With the help of our church family members, Rick and Kevin got me on the screens in the Sanctuary, and Gene and Esther did the other duties for worship that I perform on a regular Sunday morning. We also had a member of our church family go into the hospital that same day. I had to call on the Deacons to take the lead in that as well. Chuck did that duty that I normally perform.

But, I had to do one thing first. I had to get over my pride, and be willing to ask for help. I know that is hard to do. I hate admitting that I can't do something but that is what I did and what I am asking from you. Please, if you have any needs that your church family can help with, do not be afraid to reach out. We all have different gifts as a family and if one of us cannot help, I am sure we can find someone who can, but we don't know unless you reach out. We are all part of God's family, and we are all here to help.

As we begin this new school year, we are starting our Sunday School Program again. Starting at 9 A.M. on the September 8, we will have a Rally Day with a scavenger hunt to start us off. All adults who would like to help, please let us know so we can get you on the list to teach.

God bless you all and have a great September.

Ed

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS AT PFC**

After several years hiatus, our Sunday School class resumes at 9AM on September 15. The class which will continue every Sunday will include youngsters from other churches as well as our own.

Ellen Teske and her team will be on hand to conduct the classes before regular church services.

## **PFC TO PARTICIPATE IN LOVE CHIPPEWA FREE EVENT**

As we have done in the past, we'll be joining area churches in holding a one-day free clinic at which anyone can receive medical care, eye care, dental care, chiropractic care, haircuts, and oil changes. Everything is free of charge on a first-come-first-served basis. A free hot meal will be served and clothing and groceries will be available to take.

This event will be held at the Chippewa Falls Senior High School, as it was last year. It offers us a lot of room to spread out and offer more services. It will be held on September 28 from 9am-noon.

Last year 62 Volunteers served 55 Families (approx 150 people) doing 14 oil changes, 40 haircuts, 23 vision checks, 10 dental checks, 2 health checks, 20 massages, 35 family pictures, and 14 chiropractic adjustments! The need out there is real!

Once again, First Presbyterian Church Community Food Pantry and Valley Vineyard Church will be donating 25 bags of non-perishable food items each. Pastor Ed and Tiffany Wogahn will be volunteering again and more volunteers are needed. If you'd like to volunteer, please visit <https://www.lovechippewa.org/register/>. Email [info@lovechippewa.org](mailto:info@lovechippewa.org) with any questions or for more information.

If you'd like to take advantage of some of the services being offered, please come early!

## **IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNICATION!**

As you know, we have set up a regular channel of communication via the Bell and eBells but those don't always reach those who need to know. Beginning in October (or perhaps in mid-September) we will offer yet another source of important church news to you.

Our regular emails will continue but if you wish to receive critical, time-sensitive information like church closings because of bad weather or change to meeting times, you can receive a text message on your phone instead of or in addition to the email.

You will find a form in your bulletin to start this service or you can call the office and set it up. If you do nothing, your communications will continue as usual. This is in addition to our regular messages.

## **FPC RECEIVES A NEW MEMBER**

Scott Legwold officially became a member of our church in August. Scott, who has a home in Chippewa, has transferred his membership from the First Presbyterian Church in Waunakee to our church. But Scott is no stranger to us having attended services regularly when he is in the area.

Scott, who was born in Denver, moved with his family to the Eau Claire area where he was raised. He has returned to the Chippewa Valley to be closer to his family.

He received a BA in business administration and two master's degrees in human resources and strategic studies and international relations.

A retired former US Army officer, Scott served as assistant deputy secretary for the Wisconsin department of corrections and as an Army contractor when he worked for five years for Northrop-Grumman in Saudi Arabia.

He is currently a volunteer for the Department of Defense, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and the Chippewa Falls Veterans Center.

Scott has one daughter and counts travel, boating, music concerts and target shooting among his hobbies.

We welcome Scott to our church family.

## **MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM HOPE VILLAGE**

**By Ruth Rosenow**

We're thrilled to have celebrated our progress with a groundbreaking ceremony for the new affordable and workforce housing development that was held on August 26! Your dedication over the past eight years has brought us to this exciting moment, made possible by our \$2.7 million capital campaign and a \$2.5 million federal grant passed through the State of Wisconsin.

We will start construction of 10 housing units this summer. We're building two duplexes that will provide four one bedroom units, and one six-plex that will provide two, two bedroom units and four three bedroom units. This is the start of our affordable housing.

We will be adding 18 more units once we have raised additional money. All of these units are being built on our village site at 1825 Kennedy Road in Chippewa Falls. All of the units will be offered to low income households and the rents will be kept affordable for them.

Whether you've mentored, fundraised, or worked on any of our volunteer teams, your efforts have significantly impacted our community. We're also proud to announce that the "Green Team," three high school students, secured a grant to install solar panels on our community center, making us more sustainable. Thank you for being an integral part of Hope Village.

## NOTES FROM THE MISSION TEAM

### Peace and Global Witness Offering—Sowing the Seeds of Peace:

Each September we ask for your contributions to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Your contribution helps those who are sowing seeds of peace at home and around the world. They include the following:

- The work of the Central America Migration Mission Network whose goal is to seek solutions to the root causes of migration and offer support for those who have had to flee their homelands.
- The creation of the “Loads of Love” laundry program begun by the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, PA.
- We, too, have our “Lighten Your Load” program sponsored by Central Lutheran here in Chippewa Falls. We decided to give our local share of 25% of our contributions to this uplifting program.
- The funding of seminars such as the Peacemaking Travel Study Seminar to the Native Lands which inspired the Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond, VA to send funds to help with repairs to Native American Churches.

### SIGN UP FOR THE DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR A SEASON OF PEACE:

“This year’s *Path of Peace* reflections will highlight Presbyterians in the United States who have contributed to civic well-being and made a significant impact for the common good in a variety of sectors both within this country and beyond.” To sign up, go to [pcusa.org/subscribeSOP](http://pcusa.org/subscribeSOP).

### SOLES 4 SOULS:

Clean out that closet and grab those shoes that do not fit or are old and worn out. It is time for Soles for Souls again this September. Bring pairs of shoes bound together with a rubber band or tied together to the church during our regular hours or on Sunday before services. We will give those that are in good shape to the **Love Chippewa Event** on September 28. We will collect shoes through October 9. We need to deliver the shoes to Zion Methodist on October 12.

### NOISY SUNDAY—SEPT 29

Contributions from our Noisy Sunday collection will be given to “Lighten Your Load.”

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Oct. 2- Alice Walters will speak at 4:30 at the potluck on Wed. Oct 2. She is raising support for a mission trip to Papua, New Guinea.
- Oct. 6- World Communion Sunday—the culmination of the Peace and Global Witness Offering.
- Oct. 31- Trunk or Treat during downtown Trick or Treating.

## **SOLES4SOULS MOVES FORWARD**

As in years past, the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition has sponsored the Soles4Souls shoe drive during August and September. We encourage you to hunt through your closet and set aside any shoes you aren't wearing any longer for donation. We are looking for men's, women's and children's shoes in addition to sandals and boots. Remember, the shoes must be in pairs and somehow tied or fastened together.

You can bring your shoes to the church during September. Some will become part of the Love Chippewa Event on September 28. This is a great opportunity to get rid of your unwanted and shoes and help others who may need them.

## **FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ON TAP**

Summer is nearing an end and so far we haven't been able have even one picnic at Erickson Park but we still have a chance.

If the weather permits, we will have a picnic in the park on September 4 beginning a 5:00. If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, we will be forced to dine in Fellowship Hall. Regardless, dinner will be potluck so polish up your best take-to-church recipes. No need to bring dishes or utensils but you might want to bring a folding chair if we are in the park.

Regardless of where we eat in September, the regular first-Wednesday-night-of-the-month suppers will resume in Fellowship Hall in October. As usual, the supper will be preceded with games from 4 to 5 PM.

## **AGNES' TABLE RETURNS TO TRINITY**

Agnes' Table returns to Trinity United Methodist church on September 3. Free dinners will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the church.

As in the past, volunteers from area churches are needed to cook and serve the meals. If you are interested in helping, contact Trinity.

## **TRINITY HOSTS JUNK IN THE TRUNK**

On September 7 Trinity will hold its annual Junk in the Trunk sale in the church parking lot. There is a \$10 fee to rent a car space to sell items. The sale runs from 8AM to 3PM that day.