



The Bell

October, 2026

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PASTOR ED

Sometimes you have to make decisions that you do not want to make, but you know that God wants you to go in a different direction. It has come to that for me.

I will be letting my Commission, as your Ruling Elder, expire at the end of the year. I have been doing a lot of praying and wondering what God wants me to do, and I feel I got my answer this Summer.

Two issues have shown me, I believe, where God wants me to go. The first is that my family, primarily my parents, are having many health issues that I, as their primary health care representative, have to attend to and make decisions that have been taking me away from my church responsibilities this year. The second thing is what GA did this summer. I shared those with you over the last two months in the Bell. I am still happy to discuss that with anyone who wants to stop by the office.

I wanted to let you know of this decision as early as possible so that we, as the body of First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls can set this church up for success. Professor Karoline Lewis summed up my job as your Commissioned Ruling Elder by saying

“...my job is tending the Kingdom of Heaven. My charge is to care for God’s Vineyard, to care for God’s people. I am leasing land. I am on lease from God to care for God’s people, to care for God’s creation, to care for the Kingdom of Heaven with the Beatitudes as my gardening tools.”

I hope I have done that. It is now time to find someone else who can lead the church into the next few years as we get closer to our 175th year anniversary in May, 2030.

I know this is hard to hear but I am only one person in this body of Christ. I can be replaced and the church will continue on the path you have been on, even if I am not in the church for a while. I have to leave for a designated time, three years, according to Presbytery, but never think that I don’t love you all as my church family.

God bless you all.

Ed

FIRST-WEDNESDAY-NIGHT SUPPERS MOVE INSIDE

Our regular First-Wednesday-Night supper will once again return to the church on October 7. During the Summer, we have been blessed with good weather allowing us to have our picnics at Erickson Park but Fall is upon us now so it's back inside until next year.

The first church supper will be potluck and begin with serving at 5:00. If we are able to find cooks willing to make their specialties for further First-Wednesday-Night suppers, we will let you know but at least for now it will be potluck so brush up your favorite dishes and join us on October 7.

FPC ORGAN TO BE HIGHLIGHTED

Our Sprecher and Schue tracker organ has caught the attention of the Organ Media Foundation (OMF) through the work of the Eau Claire Organ Guild.

The OMF visited our church in September and filmed two members of the Eau Claire group playing and demonstrating the organ. The Eau Claire organists were Elaine Mann and Lloyd Harter.

Their work on our organ will soon be featured on the OMF YouTube site and join such other instruments as the Schlicker organ of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, the Schudi organ of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and the Aolia-Skinner organ in Eaton Chapel at Beloit College.

The OMF travels the country highlighting various organs many of which are much larger and in more prominent churches than ours.

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES WITH WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WATCH PARTIES

The new huge television sets have been successfully installed in the Sanctuary and are operational. They will allow us to have watch parties this fall and winter to complete our study of The Chosen.

The first of these parties will be on October 28 and November 4 when we will view Episodes 7 and 8 of Season 5 respectively. Season 6 begins on November 11 and continues on successive Wednesdays through and including December 16 when the series ends.

The parties will begin at 3:00 each afternoon.

SESSION CALLS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has designated Sunday, November 15, for the annual congregational meeting as stipulated in the Book of Order and our church bylaws. This meeting will take place in the Sanctuary immediately following Sunday service. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect church leaders for 2027.

TIME TO FALL BACK APPROACHES

For millions of Americans, the regular change back to standard time will soon be a reality, as daylight savings time comes to an end for the year.

The twice annual time change, which allows for more daylight in the evenings in the spring and summer and more daylight in the morning in the fall and winter, begins in March and ends in early November. However, the current administration is pushing to have daylight savings time remain in effect year-round. But for now, the annual time change remains in effect for most, but not all Americans. Here's what to know in advance of daylight savings time coming to an end this year.

Daylight savings time will end for the year at 2 AM local time on Sunday, November 1, when we "fall back" and gain an extra hour of sleep.

We gain an hour in November (as opposed to losing an hour in the spring) to make for more daylight in the winter mornings. When we "spring forward" in the Spring, it's to add more daylight in the evenings.

The push to stop changing our clocks was put before Congress when the Senate unanimously approved the Sunshine Protection Act in 2022, a bill designed to make daylight savings time permanent. Although the act passed unanimously in the Senate in 2022, it did not pass in the House and so was not signed into law. A 2023 version of the act remained idle in Congress as well so we continue going back and forth.

Not all states and US territories participate in daylight savings time. Hawaii and most of Arizona do not observe daylight savings time.

Because of its desert climate, Arizona doesn't follow daylight savings time (with the exception of the Navajo Nation located in parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico). After most of the US adopted the Uniform Time Act, Arizona figured that there wasn't a good reason to adjust clocks to make sunset occur an hour later during the hottest months of the year.

Hawaii is the other state that does not observe daylight savings time. Because of its proximity to the equator, there is not a lot of variation between hours of daylight during the year anyway.

There are also five US territories that do not participate in daylight savings time: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands. But here in Wisconsin, we can look forward to changing our clocks once again at least for 2026..

TRUNK OR TREAT COMING FOR HALLOWEEN

Once again FPC will sponsor the Trunk or Treat event for Halloween. This year the event will be held inside the church rather than in the parking lot. The afternoon will include trunks from community groups and will be held in conjunction with the Chippewa Falls Halloween celebration on Bridge Street. As in the past, Trunk or Treat will begin around 3:00 and end around 5:00.

Trunk or Treat has moved inside because in the past Mother Nature hasn't always been kind to us and we have had to move inside at the last minute.

Help is always needed to staff this event. Contact Tiffany Wogahn if you are interested in participating.

RESTORATION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

The initial work on our restoration project has begun. Our contractors, Market and Johnson, have completed their work on the southeast sanctuary vestibule.

This work includes removing the old drywall and replacing it with new product which has been painted to match the existing walls. The old drywall had been badly damaged by water leaking from outside. The source of the leak has been determined and remediated so there should be no more water damage in the future. While the walls were open, Market and Johnson found some electrical damage which has also been repaired.

Jeff Buckli has removed the canvas awning over the southwest door. It will be used as a pattern for the replacement awning.

Bill Martin reported that work will now begin on the outside of the church, which should be more obvious to onlookers. Watch the Bell for future updates.

REAP WHAT YOU SOW

An anonymous couple from Cadott has been bringing produce from their garden for the Food Pantry.

Apparently 30 years ago, we helped them in through the Food Pantry and they never forgot what we had done. Now that they can pay it back, they are going just that. They won't tell us who they are or what we did for them. All they have said is that they were grateful and are glad to be able to repay at least some of what we did for them.

You never know what the seeds you sow today will grow into tomorrow.

ALL SAINTS DAY BRINGS CELEBRATION OF OUR SAINTS

Although Halloween or All Saints Day as it is sometimes known falls on Saturday this year, it will be celebrated in our church on Sunday, November 1.

Protestant Christianity contends that, according to the Bible, all believers are “saints,” whether they are alive on the Earth or in heaven. Protestantism rejects the notion that the term “saints” only refers to those people who are particularly holy who the Catholic Church has recognized.

Protestants have a unique perspective on saints compared to other Christian traditions. In Protestant belief, all believers are considered saints, reflecting the New Testament usage where Paul addresses entire congregations as "saints".

We are saints by the enabling verses of: Romans 1:7, Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 1:1, and Philippians 1:1. The Greek word Paul uses may be translated as holy or virtuous people. Virtue is something the Platonists or Stoics talked about. Holiness is from the Bible. That is us. As Presbyterians we may rightly refer to each other as saints. Certainly Paul would call us saints.

Protestants do not pray to saints, emphasizing a direct relationship with God without intermediaries.

In our church, we commemorate the “saints” we have had around us by writing the names of those who have gone before us and creating a garland of ribbons which stretch around the sanctuary. In this way we are surrounded with saints in the sanctuary and around us too.

Pastor Ed Williams will be our speaker on November 1 and we will have the garland of ribbons with the names of our loved ones who have passed away around the church. As in the past we will have ribbons available for congregants to add the names of those who have passed away in the last year. Following the service those ribbons will be added to our garland which will remain in the sanctuary until Advent.

Many people over the years since we have had the ribbon garland have remarked how comforting it is to see their friends and loved ones mentioned there. It is an indication they are still with us.

Be thinking of those names you wish added on November 1. If you do not plan to be in church that day, you can call the office with any names you want included.

It is good that we Presbyterians include all holy people as saints. Only God knows who is a saint and who is not. God's grace makes us all saints.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Kevin Litten for his contributions to this article.