

The Bell

June, 2025

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE!

God's blessings upon you. He has risen! He has risen indeed! Hallelujah.

The official start of Summer is upon us and so is the end of Easter Season. We will celebrate Ascension Sunday on June 1 and then Pentecost on the 8th and then the long season of after Pentecost which ends on November 23 with Christ the King Sunday and then Advent on the November 30. The busiest part of the church year is done.

Jesus is still with us even though he ascended to heaven, and the Holy Spirit is still in our hearts so there are still things that go on through this time of Summer rest.

I thought I would highlight what is happening over the next month at church. We will continue with our first Wednesday get togethers, but move them to Erickson Park for the summer, starting on the 4th of this month.

Dinner church on the second Wednesday of the month will continue with a special presentation on the June 11 by Puentes/Bridges, an organization that builds bridges between the community and immigrants that help in our rural farming community.

We will be doing June Kemp's internment at Forest Hill Cemetery on June 17 and all are invited.

We will also be watching season five of the Chosen, starting on the June 18 at 4:30 P.M. This season which lasts for eight weeks covers the Last Supper.

In July we will have Vance Kohl's celebration of life here at the church on July 5. On the 13th we will be streaming church at the Fair starting at 10:00. In August there is One Fest in Cadott on the 1st through the 3rd. I volunteer there for all three days so you would be among friends. And finally we have our Annual Pure Water Days Ecumenical Church Service on August 10 in Irvine Park at 9:00 with our fellow community churches coming together and celebrating the great blessing we have in our community. You'll hear more about all these events in the July and August Bells.

God bless you all and your family as we take a little break and rejuvenate during this summer season. Hope to see you all out and about in God's beautiful world enjoying the gifts he has given to us. God Bless you all.

Ed

JUNE BRINGS US ASCENSION, PENTECOST AND TRINITY SUNDAYS

The end of June marks the beginning of a dry spell when it comes to church holidays. The next event won't be until World Communion Sunday on October 5. Then we have Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday late in November and finally Advent.

But in June we have holidays the first three Sundays - Ascension Sunday, Pentecost and finally Trinity Sunday.

Ascension Sunday

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ commemorates the Christian belief of the bodily Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. It is one of the ecumenical feasts of Christian churches, ranking with the feasts of the Passion and Pentecost. The observance of this feast dates back as far as the 4th or 5th century.

Following the account of Acts 1:3 that the risen Jesus appeared for 40 days prior to his Ascension, Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the fortieth day of Easter, although some Christian denominations have moved the observance to the following Sunday, sometimes called Ascension Sunday.

The switch to Sunday was made in various countries on various dates but in the United States, Ascension Sunday has been celebrated since 1999, however, in certain areas of our country, the day remains Thursday.

Pentecost

Pentecost (also called Whit Sunday, Whitsunday or Whitsun) is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 49th day after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem as described in the Acts 2:1–31.

Since its date depends on the date of Easter, Pentecost is a "moveable feast". The Monday after Pentecost is a legal holiday in many European, African and Caribbean countries.

The events of Acts Chapter 2 are set against the backdrop of the celebration of Pentecost in Jerusalem. There are several major features to the Pentecost narrative presented in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The chapter begins by noting that the disciples of Jesus "were all together in one place" on the day of Pentecost.

There is a "mighty rushing wind" (wind is a common symbol for the Holy Spirit) and "tongues as of fire" appear. The gathered disciples were "filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues." Some scholars have interpreted the passage as a reference to the multitude of languages spoken by the gathered disciples, while others have taken the reference to "tongues" to signify ecstatic speech.

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In Christian tradition, this event represents fulfillment of the promise that Christ will baptize his followers with the Holy Spirit. Out of the four New Testament gospels, the distinction between baptism by water and the baptism by Christ with "Holy Spirit and fire" is only found in Matthew and Luke.

The narrative in Acts evokes the symbolism of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and the start of his ministry, by explicitly connecting the earlier prophecy of John the Baptist to the baptism of the disciples with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The timing of the narrative during the law-giving festival of Pentecost symbolizes both continuity with the giving of the law, but also the central role of the Holy Spirit for the early church.

The main sign of Pentecost is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Ministers wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well. Red banners are often hung from walls or ceilings to symbolize the blowing of the "mighty wind" and the free movement of the Spirit.

As with many individual birthdays, Pentecost is widely and lavishly celebrated as the birth of the church and is better recognized than either Ascension or Trinity Sunday.

Trinity Sunday

The third holiday is Trinity Sunday which is the Sunday after Pentecost and celebrates the doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit or the Triune God.

In the early Church, no special day was assigned for the Holy Trinity but even as far back as the Middle Ages devotion to the Blessed Trinity was a highly important feature of devotion.

As early as the 14th century, the Catholic Church celebrated Trinity Sunday on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Pope Pius X further affirmed that date in 1911.

Since it was after the first great Pentecost that the doctrine of the Trinity was proclaimed to the world, the feast becomingly follows that of Pentecost.

PICNICS IN THE PARK RESUME

Now that Summer seems to have finally arrived, our first-Wednesday- of-the-month suppers have changed into picnics at Erickson Park.

Last year we were short-changed by Mother Nature and were only able to have one picnic but this year promises to give us better weather.

Bring your potluck dish to pass and a chair (if you don't want to sit on one of the benches) and perhaps a drink. We are planning on serving root beer floats but if that seems more like a dessert than something to drink with dinner, bring what you like.

Dinner will be served between 5 and 5:30 depending on when everyone arrives. Pray for good weather on June 4.

THERE'S A NEW SIGN IN OUR FUTURE

For many years, the small digital sign on our west wall facing the parking lot told the community about the work we do and the events we host. But several years ago, the poor old sign showed its last message and has been dark ever since. Things have changed since that sign was put up and communications have improved to the point where we have ordered a new sign to announce our presence.

The sign, which measures about 3' high by 6' long, will be installed directly below the old sign on the west wall of the church. It will feature in full color information about church services, the Food Pantry, Open Door Clinic as well as special events like the ham loaf dinner, Ash Wednesday service, Christmas Eve service and the fish fry.

It is expected the sign, which is being made in California, will be installed sometime this summer for all to enjoy.

DINNER CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS PUENTES/BRIDGES

Once again we will host dinner church on June 11 at 5 PM

Featured that evening will be a presentation by Puentes-Bridges, which is an organization that supports migrant workers and the farmers in Western Wisconsin and Southern Minnesota. The name of the group is interesting because la Puente means bridge in Spanish, the language of many migrants and the work the group does bridges a gap between the migrant workers and the farmers in our area.

Bring a dish to pass and plan on hearing more about the important work this group does.

WE HAVE FLAG DAY TO CELEBRATE TOO

There are many things in our country today on which we don't agree but our flag isn't one of them. Perhaps George M. Cohan said it best when he wrote

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Every heart beats true
'Neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag

Our flag is the best we have and the best we could hope for so proudly display it on Flag day, June 14.

JUNE 15 IS THE DAY TO HONOR DEAR OLD DAD!

Much is said about Mother's Day but as a rule, our fathers aren't celebrated as much as our mothers. But in June that changes with the coming of Father's Day.

When you think about it, fathers have played a big role in our lives. They were the ones who traditionally taught us how to throw a baseball, tie a tie and change a tire. Those are things we take for granted but if it wasn't for your father, you might have missed out on many important things in life.

Father's Day is a holiday honoring one's father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. The holiday complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Mother's Day and, in some countries, Siblings Day, and Grandparents' Day. The day is held on various dates across the world, and different regions maintain their own traditions of honoring fatherhood.

Most countries throughout the world celebrate Father's Day in some form and on some day and have done so for centuries but here in the United States the holiday isn't much more than 100 years old. In 1908, Grace Golden Clayton proposed the day to honor those men who had died in a mining accident in the US. Though it was not accepted then, in 1909 Sonora Smart Dodd, who along with her five brothers was raised by her father alone, after attending Mother's Day in a church, convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association to celebrate Father's Day nationwide. And so Father's Day as we know it was born.

In Catholic countries of Europe, Father's Day has been celebrated on March 10 as Saint Joseph's Day since the Middle Ages. For centuries, the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrated the second Sunday before Nativity as the Sunday of the Forefathers to commemorate the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, starting with Adam and emphasizing the patriarch Abraham. This feast can fall between December 11 and 17. This feast includes the ancestors of Mary, mother of Jesus and various prophets.

A customary day for the celebration of fatherhood in Catholic Europe is known to date back to at least 1508. It is usually celebrated on March 19, as the feast day of Saint Joseph. This celebration was brought to the Americas by the Spanish and Portuguese. The Catholic Church actively supported the custom of a celebration of fatherhood on St. Joseph's Day from either the last years of the 14th century or from the early 15th century, apparently on the initiative of the Franciscans.

In the Coptic Orthodox Church, the celebration of fatherhood is also observed on St Joseph's Day, but the Copts observe this on July 20. The Coptic celebration may date back to the fifth century.

In addition to Father's Day, International Men's Day is celebrated in many countries on November 19 in honor of both men and boys.

VIEW THE CHOSEN SEASON 5

If you are interested in viewing Season 5 of the Chosen, you can do so in Fellowship Hall every Wednesday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 beginning June 18.