

The Missive

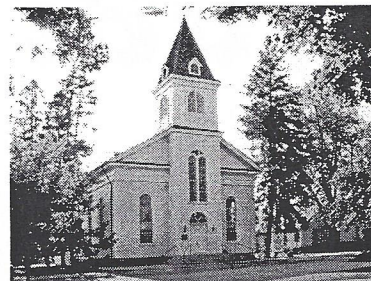
January 2015

First Presbyterian Church

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"The Secret of Life"

What is your philosophy of life? I admit that I don't always live by the precepts of the Sermon on the Mount. I don't structure my life by the ideas of St. Benedict or Mother Teresa often enough. Do you live your life by the words of Jesus? Or is the voice of your conscience the words of your mother or your father? Actually, the words that I hear in my head often belong to James Taylor or Carole King (I'm dating myself). "The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time," James says in one of his songs. I'm feeling that lately. It's strange, but I am enjoying the passage of time and that is especially poignant to me as we head into 2015.

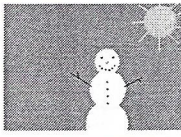

As lots of you know this was the first Christmas that none of our children were home with us. Brandon and Annie were in Boston, and Kendall, of course, is in the Philippines doing her mission work. It's sad that they are not with us to celebrate the holiday, but it is also happy because it means that their lives no longer revolve around us, that they have grown up (mostly). It was also incredibly joyful for us this year because Annie announced her engagement. It's amazing to think that we have arrived at that stage in our lives when our children are getting married. I think I'm excited about that also, but I'm not really sure yet. Don't misunderstand me, we love Stacey, Annie's fiancée, she's everything one could want in a future daughter-in-law, but I think Erin and Annie are preparing me for how much wedding dresses cost. Maybe I won't enjoy all of this. It probably won't happen until the fall of 2016, so I have some time to get ready. Whew!

As we begin 2015 I am aware that my children have grown up. I wonder if I have? St. Paul talks about growing into the fullness of Christ, becoming mature in my Christian faith. Am I more mature this year than I was last year? Are you? Is our church? As we watch our children it's easy to see them growing up—they change physically, they become independent, they ignore your advice because they think they know best, they move away—and they become mature. But what about us? Have we grown? Are we more compassionate, more hopeful, more able to love? If we are, then the passage of time is a good thing because by God's grace and by the power of his spirit we are growing more and more into the likeness of Christ. I hope that is what is happening to me, . . . and to you, . . . and to us.

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*

Again, Erin and I are so grateful for your Christmas gift. Especially as she heads out to India for ten days and then to the Philippines for a week to be with Kendall, your help makes it possible to do things like this. May God bless you as much as you have blessed us!

January Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teacher/Crafter</u>
4	G & J Gibson	Barts Calkins	Knibloe Lebiecki	Alspach	
11	Knox	Coverly E & M Davis	Fiordalis Romyak		Inman/Osborne
18	Teall	Kleis Deater	Hart Inman	Odor	Mandrell/ J Gibson
25	Sorrell	R & A Gross Hubbard	Hittle Larson		Movie 

Serving Communion

Please remember that only ordained elders and deacons should serve communion.

January 4

Sandy Barts
Jon Brignall
Tina Brignall
Barbara Brundage
Heidi Bryant
Mary Ellen Bryer
Dave Butler
Theresa Butler
Ed Calkins

February 1

Sandy Carahaly
Sue Carlson
Jane Carpenter
Terry Carpenter
Lee Coverly
Carol Coverly
Clark Crenshaw
Judy Croasdale
Phyllis Youse

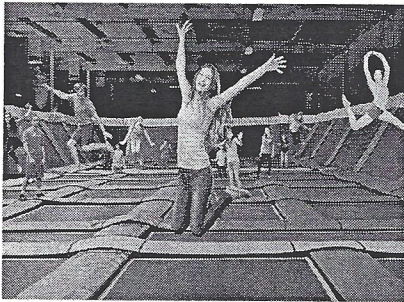
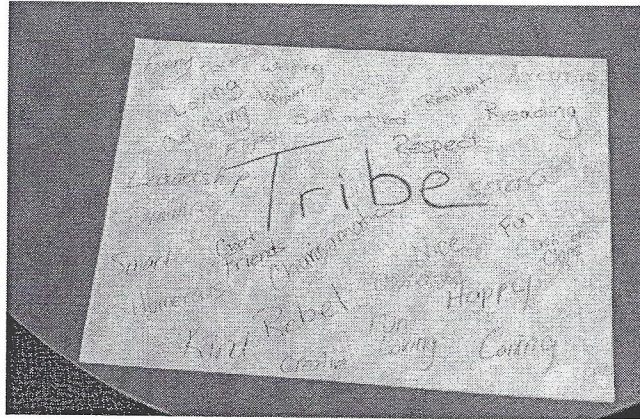
March 1

Ed Davis
Dave Deater
Faith Fiordalis
Zip Fiordalis
Hoyt Fonger
Janet Fonger
Gary Gibson
Joyce Gibson
Caroline Gray

We rely on many members and friends to help Sundays run smoothly and be a good worship experience for those attending our church. If for some reason you are not able to help on the day originally selected, please find a replacement or someone to trade with, and let the church office know. The yearly list of volunteers can be found at www.fpcrich.com, under "Living the Faith", then "volunteer schedule". Or call Julie for a list of names. Thank you!

January

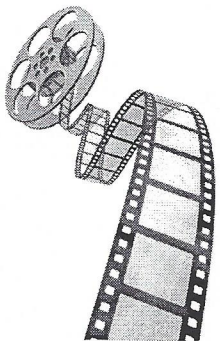
Tribe



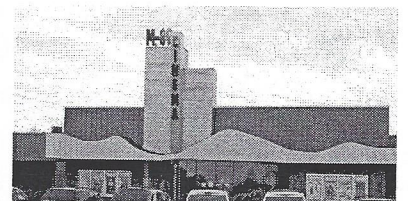
6th-8th Junior High
9th-12th Senior High



UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, TRIBE BEGINS AT 12:30
WITH LUNCH AT THE CHURCH, AND ENDS AT 2:30.



- 4 Enjoy the last day of vaca!!
- 11 Make Video, that will be shown at
M-89 Cinema in Plainwell! Totally
cool!!
- 18 SKY ZONE ~~~~~
- 25 6:00-8:00 View video's at M-89.



**Parents and friends, please remember to sign up for Tribe lunches!!
We need to feed these wonderful kids before they go out and have FUN!!**

The Church Resource Center

The movie, *Unbroken*, opened in local theaters on Christmas Day. It is based on the book, *Unbroken*, by Laura Hillenbrand. A copy of this book is in the Family Resource Center (FRC). It is based upon the life of Louis Zamperini: a delinquent as a boy and a runner in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Louis became an airman during World War II, "embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown." Captured by the Japanese, driven to the limits of endurance, using his ingenuity to survive, Louis unknowingly began a sporadic journey of faith which ultimately impacted the lives of many people. This book is a fast read—one you will not want to put down. If you plan to see the movie, you may want to read it before seeing the film.



Another book in the FRC which deals with an individual who endured significant tests of endurance is *The Real George Washington* by Jay A. Parry, Andrew M. Allison, and W. Cleon Skousen. As we sit in our comfortably warm homes this winter, you may want to read of the conditions George Washington and his troops endured on Christmas Day as they crossed the Delaware River in preparation for a risky attack on the town of Trenton. This event, along with many others not only challenged the endurance and faith of Washington and his troops, but also required ingenuity in order to survive.

Altar Guild Arrangements



If you have a special occasion that you would like to celebrate, we would like to make an Altar arrangement for that occasion. (Sorry, we can't take orders during Advent or Lent, but all other Sundays will be available). **Please fill out the information below and mail to:**

First Presbyterian Church, 8047 Church St, Richland, MI 49083

We are suggesting a \$30 donation for your arrangement. You may take the flowers home after our Sunday morning service and the bulletin will announce your special occasion so we can all celebrate with you! Thank you from the Altar Guild members.

Your name _____

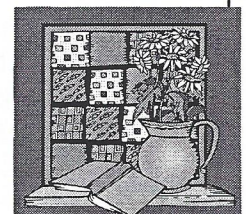
Your phone number _____

Person or occasion being celebrated _____

Date of arrangement: _____

*A guild member will call you to talk over your flower ideas
and wishes for your arrangement.*

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and
mail to: 8047 Church Street, Richland, MI 49083



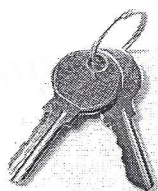
This and that...



ATTENTION:

Past scout leaders, past food pantry, past elders, past deacons, teachers, or anyone who has had a church KEY and no longer needs

matter
venient it
keep it :)
them into
even if



one (no
how con-
might be to
Please hand
the office
it's been a

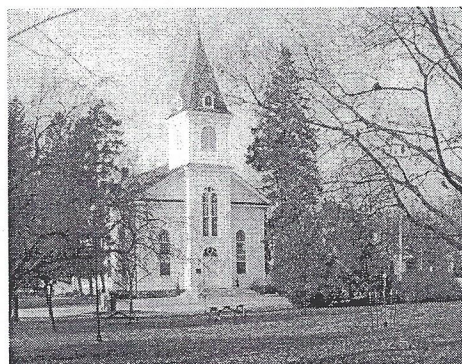
few years. Check your key holder and if you see one you don't recognize, please bring it in and we can try it! The church keys are about 1/8 inch longer than most standard key sizes.

Thank you to everyone for the lovely cards, notes, calls and prayers during my surgery and recovery. Healing and strength are getting better every day, and soon I will be back. (I promise to listen to the Doctor!). John and I are blessed to be part of this wonderful Church Family, and we send our blessings to all for a 2015 filled with peace and health!

Karen and John Urban

Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for January

1/1	Holy, Holy, Holy	Leonard J. Ryan
1/20	Love to Tell The Story	Louise Hoorn ~ Birthday
1/24	This Is My Father's World	Wava Murphy ~ Birthday
1/25	Come Labor On	Kristi Ryan
1/29	Old Rugged Cross	Marian & Earl L. Jones



We love our new church t-shirts! Thanks for making it happen, Meredith! Just a reminder to wash with like colors for the first couple of washes!

FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER



DAILY FOOD PANTRY

TUNA, PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY
ANY AND ALL PERSONAL ITEMS

Please save your paper bags too! We use a lot of them! Thanks.

January

Anniversaries



5 Dave and Jennie MacQuarrie ~ 7 years
 12 Mary and George Lindenberg ~ 35
 22 Diane and Don Meitz ~ 60
 24 Mark and Christy Connell ~ 34

Birthdays

Tom Noall	1
Deng Thon Alier	1
Brian Quada	2
Logan Connell	3
John Lebiecki	3
Sue Myland	3
Andrew Howard	4
Sonja Acosta	4
Rachel Gates	5
Erin Jennings	5
Adam Simon	5
Mark Stubbs	5
Ben Weigel	5
Eric Coffman	6
Robert Delf	6
Rebecca Gibson	6
Robin Nott	6
Spencer Brignall	7
Mike Kilbourne	8
Ron Davis	9
David Deater	12
Clara Kreinbring	12
Lillie Steele	12
Tunis Willemstyn	12
Cam Nicholson	13
Brennen Wieber	13
Nicole Ambrosio	14
Shannon Rench	15
Dave Damm	16
David Fox	16
Larry Ire	18



Austin McQuater	18
Katie Miller	18
Sandra Weigel	18
Teresa Young	18
Dick Saddler	19
Chuck Farho	20
Andy Kamerman	20
Greg Keusch	20
Laura Pausch	20
Amy Syverson	20
Denny Hoorn	22
Bob Morrow	23
Winnie Arends	24
Christie Sutherland	24
Kristi Ryan	25
Kelsey Saunders	25
Jim Stallings	25
Darcy Wank	25
Marlene McConnell	26
Nick Reece	27
Bob Hess	28
Brian Scribner	28
Paul Cazers	29
Joyce Dishon	29
Sandy Stupica	29
Faith Fiordalis	30
Sue Higgs	30
Marie Larson	30
Sarah Larson	30
Doug Lloyd	31
Kim Knutsen	31