

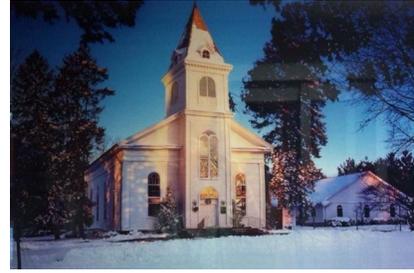
The Missive January 2022

First Presbyterian Church

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Volume 56, Number 1 Monthly



“Ponderings”

Some of us have been reading the devotional book “Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects,” that was recommended to us by Sandra Gobble and the Christian Education Team. One of the things that I appreciate about this little book by Jill Duffield is that it doesn’t end on Christmas Day. Our Advent calendar at home only have 25 days of counting, from December 1 until Christmas Day. But Christmas doesn’t really end on December 25th. That’s only the First Day of Christmas. You’ll remember from the old song that there are 12 days of Christmas. The Christmas story does not end with the birth of the Christ Child. That’s only the beginning.

In today’s devotion, Rev. Duffield picks up on the verse from Luke 2:19, “but Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” Ponder is an interesting word, don’t you think? When did you last ponder? I suppose we ponder all the time. Maybe you’re pondering right now about pondering. The Greek word for ponder that Luke uses here really means just to think about something. But in the context of the story, I’m imagining Mary not just thinking about the news that the shepherds had brought to her and Joseph, but keeping them in her heart and bringing them back up time after time as the years went by. Don’t we “ponder” by bringing back up memories or things someone has said to us, still wondering what they might mean or what new significance they have in our lives? I’m thinking that Mary remembered this night when Jesus was growing up wondering what he might be. Maybe she remembered this night when he changed the water to wine at Cana. Perhaps she even remembered this night when he spoke to her from the cross in all her grief and pain.

As the new year of 2022 stretches ahead, what are you pondering? Whether the pandemic will ever be over? What the year might bring for you or your family? But what memories from your past do you ponder anew? What things have you treasured in your heart and bring back up and wonder about? Do you ever ponder about your most significant relationships, your wedding vows, the birth of your children? Do you ever ponder about your baptism, whether you remember it or not, wondering what it really means to you to be called a child of God?

Jill Duffield says, “We learn from Mary to pay attention when God speaks, whether through angels or shepherds. We learn from Mary to treasure up those holy moments of God’s inbreaking. We learn from Mary to ponder in our heart the mysteries of God’s call so that we can return to it when we worry we may have lost our way.” Take some time to ponder. It’s worth the effort.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

"Friends, it always amazes me how generous this congregation is. It is a privilege to work among you and to do our best to spread God's word and build God's kingdom. Erin and I are grateful for your Christmas gift to us and our hearts are filled with love and gratitude for each one of you.

*Peace,
Mark"*

January Togetherness

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>
2		Lovequist	
9		Young	
16		J Fisher Vantine	
23		Willemstyn Inman	
30		TWO VOLUNTEERS	

I pray this winter be gentle and kind
– a season of rest from the wheel of
the mind.

John Geddes

Let us love winter,
for it is the spring of genius.

Pietro Aretino

January is the calendar's
ingrown hair.

Stewart Stafford

No winter lasts forever;
no spring skips its turn.

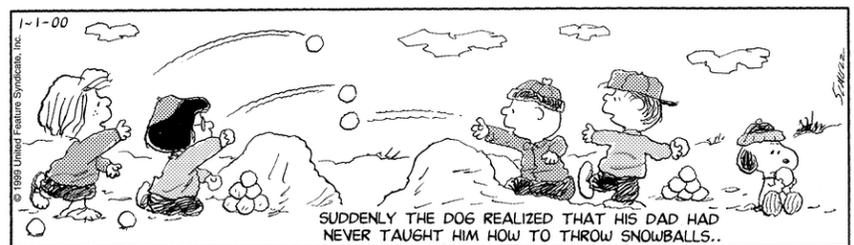
Hal Borland

If I had my way, I would remove
January from the calendar altogether
and have an extra July instead.

Roald Dahl

Make Today Amazing

We will be watching how things are, from week-to-week, and will notify everyone if your job responsibilities are not needed. Thank you so much for your patience!



“ There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart. ”

– Mahatma Gandhi

January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 Worship - Communion No Sunday School No Youth	3 1:00 Care Team 6:30 Boy Scouts	4 10:00 Connected Threads 10-11:30 Food Pantry	5 10-11:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Seasoned Seniors Luncheon at New Hope 5:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Mission Meeting	6 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 9:45 Worship and Sunday School 4:00 4th-6th graders at Kz 1st 5:00 Youth Group at Kz 1st	10 1:00 Personnel 6:30 Boy Scouts	11 10:00 Connected Threads 10-11:30 Food Pantry 6:00 Girl Scouts	12 10-11:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 Session	13 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Deacons 6:30 Girl Scouts	14	15
16 9:45 Worship and Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group here	17 1:00 Care Team 6:30 Boy Scouts	18 10:00 Connected Threads 10-11:30 Food Pantry 6:00 Mom Group at 8023 House	19 10-11:30 Food Pantry 5:30 Girl Scouts Serve Hot Chocolate at Kz 1st	20 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 5:00-7:00 Jack & Jill in GPR ❤️	21	22
23 9:45 Worship and Sunday School 4:00 4th-6th graders at Kz 1st 5:00 Youth Group at Kz 1st	24 6:30 Boy Scouts	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Connected Threads 10-11:30 Food Pantry 6:00 Girl Scouts	26 10-11:30 Food Pantry 1:00 Women's Book Club at J Hubbard's	27 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Girl Scouts	28	29
30 9:45 Worship and Sunday School 10:45ish Annual Meeting 5:00 Youth Group here	31 6:30 Boy Scouts					

Presbyterian Women



No meeting in January!
If you have questions, please call Terry Vantine, 629-5381
EVERY WOMAN is welcome.

Women's Book Club

We welcome anyone new who'd like to join our Women's Book Group! The next book of discussion will be:

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

at Joyce Hubbard's home
700 Blackberry Ln, Kz, 372-9205.

Wednesday, January 26th at 1:00



Prayer Shawls

A reminder that we have two cabinets FULL of gorgeous prayer shawls (or hug shawls) of all shapes, sizes, and colors. If you know someone who could use a smile or hug with one of these shawls, please come on over and look for one (or more)!



I just picked out two for a new daughter-in-law and granddaughter who live in California. These shawls can be for any reason - not feeling well, recovering, comfort, or like me, just sending love!

Our wonderful ladies in Connected Threads have a good time making these treasures, and just happen to be experts at it! Thank you, wonderful women!!

PW PURPOSE: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

2022 Stewardship
First Presbyterian Church of Richland
For the Glory of God
Giving Period --- January 1st through December 31st, 2022

On November 7th, 2021, we join together with First Presbyterian Church of Richland members and friends to celebrate and support First Presbyterian Church of Richland. I/we have reflected upon the Church's influence upon the community, the world and myself – and submit this pledge with faith and gratitude.

General Fund

Total Annual Pledge

\$_____/week or \$_____/month or \$_____/____ = \$_____

Building Fund

\$_____/week or \$_____/month or \$_____/____ = \$_____

Please be sure to use your pledge envelopes to aid in the administrative task of tracking offerings.

Do you want envelopes in 2023? (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

Weekly Monthly No

Name(s)

Address

City, St, Zip

Telephone

Email

IMPORTANT – Please save this form on your computer and add your last name to the file
(Example: 2022 Stewardship Pledge Form – Electronic – **Mike Smith.docx**)

Options for returning your completed form:

Email to the Financial Secretary: **firstpresbyterianchurch49083@gmail.com**

Mail to: Financial Secretary
 First Presbyterian Church
 8047 Church St
 Richland, MI 49083

It's still not too late!
Please submit your pledge sheet as soon as possible!

A reminder that the
2022 per capita is
\$36.73 per member.

YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is meeting in-person for all 7th-12th grade students!

*** See information below regarding our NEW group for all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students!**

All meeting dates are subject to change as we keep safety and health of all at the forefront of our planning. The most up-to-date information will be sent to parents directly via email.

To be added to the Youth Group email list, contact Meredith: meredithalspach4@gmail.com

January 9th – 5-7:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

January 16 – 5-7:00 pm @ Richland

January 23 – 5-7:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

January 30 – 5-7:00 pm @ Richland

February 6 – 5-7:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

February 13 – NO Youth Group

February 20 – 5-7:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

February 27 – 5-7:00 pm @ Richland



CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of some help making and serving dinner for the youth on January 16, January 30 and February 27. Please let Meredith know if you can help!



We are kicking off a NEW group for 4th, 5th and 6th graders!!

This group will be very similar to our Youth Group, combining kids from the area Presbyterian churches.

January 9 – 4-5:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

January 23 – 4-5:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

February 6 – 4-5:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

February 20 – 4-5:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

To be added to the email list for this group, please contact Meredith: meredithalspach4@gmail.com

Youth Mission

The Youth Mission team will head back to West Virginia the week of June 25-July 2, 2022.

If your rising 8th grader-2022 graduate is interested in participating, please contact Meredith. Space is limited!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Our Young Adult/College group met in December for bowling and fun!
If you know of a young adult, recent high school graduate up to age 25, who would like to be a part of this group, please contact Meredith:

meredithalspach4@gmail.com

All are welcome!!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite all preschool - 5th grade children to join us for Sunday School each week in the Gull Prairie Room.

On communion Sundays, families and children are invited to remain in worship to begin making communion a part of their heart language.

FOOD PANTRY CORNER



FOOD PANTRY

The Richland Food Pantry is back to having our guests shop themselves, and we're so happy! Everyone wants to be able to pick out the foods and personal items THEY want, and now they can!

We're open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30. Our guests call Loaves & Fishes in Kalamazoo, 343-3663, and are put on the schedule for that day.

We are also very grateful to our stellar volunteers!! They always go above and beyond and have built relationships with many of the guests.

The generosity of YOU in donating all kinds of food supplies, and also money, makes us exceedingly appreciative of our small community. Thank you.

And a BIG TIME thank you to Marsha and Bob Zick who came into the Pantry about 5 years ago, with a passion and determination to help others. They succeeded, over and over! We'll miss you!

Lastly, Paul Gobble. He's doing it and making it happen! Thank you!!

Am I bugging too much about this??? Yes??? GOOD!!! Thank you.

TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

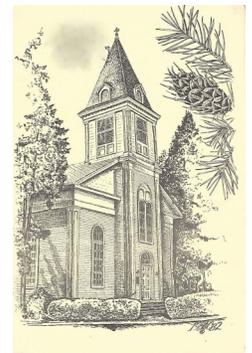
Just a friendly reminder that Annual Reports are due in Julie's office by **January 10.**

Please call if you have any questions or need help or want a copy of your report from last year! 629-4944



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for January

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
1/1	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	<i>Leonard J. Ryan</i>
1/20	<i>Love To Tell The Story</i>	<i>Louise Hoorn</i>
1/24	<i>This Is My Father's World</i>	<i>Wava Murphy</i>
1/25	<i>Come, Labor On</i>	<i>Kristi Ryan</i>
1/29	<i>Old Rugged Cross</i>	<i>Marian and Earl Jones</i>



January

Anniversaries



2 Nate and Wendy Martens ~ 1
 12 Mary and George Lindenberg ~ 42
 22 Diane and Don Meitz ~ 67
 24 Mark and Christy Connell ~ 41
 26 Shannon and Jeremiah Smith ~ 9

Birthdays



Tom Noall	1
Deng Thon Alier	1
Brian Quada	2
Logan Connell	3
John Lebiecki	3
Sue Myland	3
Andrew Howard	4
Erin Jennings	5
Adam Simon	5
Mark Stubbs	5
Ben Weigel	5
Robert Delf	6
Rebecca Gibson	6
Robin Nott	6
Spencer Brignall	7
Pam Foster	8
Mike Kilbourne	8
Vivian Lovequist	8
Dennis Walters	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



Larry Irey	18
Austin McQuater	18
Kate 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
Darcy Wank	25
Nick Reece	27
Bob Hess	28
Brian Scribner	28
Paul Cazars	29
Joyce Dishon	29
Sandy Stupica	29
Faith Fiordalis	30
Marie Larson	30
Sarah Larson Striffler	30
Kim Knutsen	31

New Year's Day

From Wikipedia



New Year's Day is the first day of the year, in the Gregorian calendar, falling exactly one week after Christmas Day of the previous year. In most countries, it is a holiday. It is a holy day to many of those who still use the Julian calendar, which includes followers of some of the Eastern Orthodox churches, and is celebrated on January 14 of the Gregorian calendar due to differences between the two calendars.

Originally observed on March 1 in the old Roman Calendar, New Year's Day first came to be fixed at January 1 in 153 BC, when the two Roman consuls, after whom - in the Roman calendar - years were named and numbered, began to be chosen on that date. However in AD 525, Dionysius Exiguus set the start of the Julian calendar at March 25 to commemorate the Annunciation of Jesus; a variety of Christian feast dates were used throughout the Middle Ages to mark the New Year, while calendars often continued to display the months in columns running from January to December in the Roman fashion. Among the 7th century druidic pagans of Flanders and the Netherlands, it was the custom to exchange gifts at the New Year, a pagan custom deplored by Saint Eliguis (died 659 or 660), who warned the Flemings and Dutchmen, "Do not make vetulas (little figures of the Old Woman), little deer or iotticos or set tables at night or exchange New Year gifts or supply superfluous drinks." The quote is from the *vita* of Eligius written by his companion Ouen.

Most countries in Western Europe officially adopted January 1 as New Year's Day somewhat before they adopted the Gregorian calendar. This is sometimes called *Circumcision Style*, because this was the date of the Feast of the Circumcision, being the eighth day counting from 25 December.



S T R E S S

A lecturer when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked

"How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter.

It depends on how long you try to hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.

He continued, And that's the way it is with stress management.

If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on.

As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again.

When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden.

So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow.

Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can.

Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while.

Great ways of dealing with the burdens of life!

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply be kind to others.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

We could learn a lot from crayons...

Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

~ Author Unknown ~

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*,
Chris Gobble, *Financial Secretary*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Owen Rushford, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Director of Faith Formation*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

