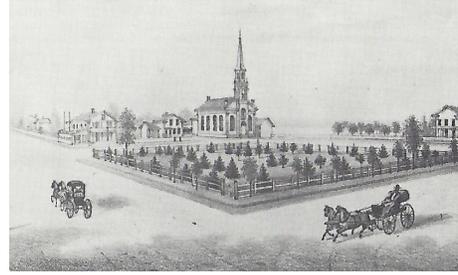


First Presbyterian Church

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revmarkwj@gmail.com
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Volume 55, Number 4 Monthly



“Vacation/Not Vacation”

When is a vacation not a vacation? When it's taken during a pandemic. That's not supposed to be a joke, it's a statement of reality for many of us. Did you take a vacation during the last year? Did you travel? Were you able to do the things you normally do for a vacation? The answer for most of us is “no.” I look back at the last year and think about how plans changed for Erin and me. Last March, Erin was scheduled to take a long-awaited trip to Hawaii and stay for a week with friends. That got cancelled. Last June, Erin and I had our travel plans ready, tickets bought, passports ready, to go to visit our son Brandon in Singapore where he is working as a chef. That got cancelled. We usually try to take some time after Christmas to go to Massachusetts to visit our daughters, but no luck this year. How does one take a vacation during a pandemic? Well, one probably doesn't.

But we will try to take some time off during April, after Easter. We aren't going anywhere, but we do feel the need for some “down” time. Or just a little more down than usual. We will still be here, but we will take a hiatus from Morning Devotions and from Storytime for the remainder of April. We will be back with both in May. I will be absent from Thursday Morning Bible Study for a few weeks, but Ken Hetzel will lead the study on Zoom for the month of April. We will still be putting together worship, but it will not be as “full” as you are used to. For the two Sundays following Christmas, we put together a “Sunday Devotional” which was broadcast for the Sunday Worship Service, but it didn't have all the readers, music, and Passing the Peace slideshow that you have grown accustomed to seeing. That's what will happen on the 12th and 19th of April. I will broadcast a devotional at 9:45 each morning, but it will be about 20 minutes rather than an hour.

During this time, I will still be taking care of the pastoral needs of the church, praying, visiting if I can, calling. So if you have a need, please never hesitate to call me or email me. I will also be meeting with worship teams to plan the online services in May and with a team from the session to plan for the resumption of in-person worship (we're assuming that will happen in June, but that's all dependent on the course of the pandemic).

You might notice that I didn't say that there will be a Sunday Devotional on April 25th. That's because that day is Youth Sunday! Meredith and the youth are working hard to put together the service for that day, which you won't want to miss.

So you see, it's sort of like a vacation . . . but not really. It's time off . . . sort of. Anyway, in the midst of all of this, maybe I'll get my leaves raked . . . wait, was I supposed to do that last fall?

Grace and Peace,

Mark

April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service 8:00p - 9:00a Prayer Vigil 	2 	3
4 9:45 Worship Service 	5 6:00 Boy Scouts	6 6:00 Girl Scouts	7	8 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Girl Scouts	9 6:00 Girl Scouts	10
11 9:45 Devotions (Mark off) 4:00-6:00 Youth Group	12 6:00 Boy Scouts	13 6:00 Girl Scouts	14 5:30 Girl Scouts	15 11:00 Bible Study	16	17 Adopt-a-Highway Begins for a week!
18 9:45 Devotions (Mark off)	19 6:00 Boy Scouts	20 6:00 Girl Scouts	21	22 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Girl Scouts	23 6:00 Girl Scouts	24
25 9:45 Youth Sunday Virtual Cropwalk 4:00-6:00 Youth Group	26 6:00 Boy Scouts	27 6:00 Girl Scouts	28 5:30 Girl Scouts	29 11:00 Bible Study	30	

Presbyterian Women



*Our next meeting is not known, but will be at Wanda Clawson's home
1507 W. Gull Lake Dr, Richland
EVERY WOMAN is welcome.*

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.

LMPW



LAKE MICHIGAN PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING GATHERING 2021 VIRTUAL GATHERING VIA ZOOM Saturday, April 17, 2021 10:00 AM



First Presbyterian Church of Holt

Contact Person: Anita Betts, busybeemom50@yahoo.com
1-517-993-7000

Send Anita your email address so she can send you Zoom link

Please also let us know the church you are from.

NO Registration Fee:

1 Thessalonians 5:11

'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing'

Program Speaker

Advent House Ministries - Rev Lori Pollitz

Offering will go to:

Advent House Ministries -

Mail offering checks to: LMPW

Susan Ochs, Treasurer, 2123 Hillside Dr. Norton Shores, MI 49441

Or visit <http://www.adventhouse.com> and donate directly.



Following the Gathering Program there will be a Virtual Sale of handmade items from ACT Uganda. If you would be willing to have the merchandise delivered to you on behalf of the ladies of your church, please let Anita know when you register.

YOUTH GROUP

April Schedule:

Middle and High School Youth

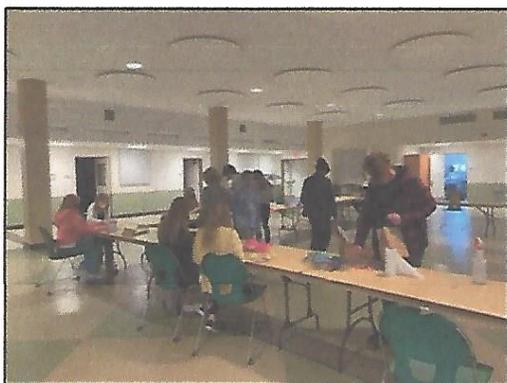
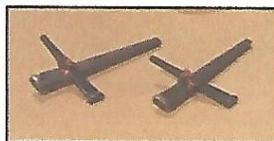
Sunday, April 11, 4-6pm

Sunday, April 25, 4-6pm

In-person, location TBD



The youth met in-person in March and spent time working on Holy Week care packages for some of our church family.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School children celebrated Easter early with an egg hunt and activities outside at the church. The immense *joy* of being together was made even sweeter by the beautiful, sunny day!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This month in Adult Ed we will be continuing our *Intersections* series with a focus on Disabilities.

In March we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day and asked everyone to *rock their socks* as a reminder that we are all *more alike than different*. For our *Intersections: Disabilities* series, Laura Carisalez is going to help us learn more about Down Syndrome with some weekly videos and an upcoming live Zoom discussion. Look for more information via email in the coming weeks.



April Book of the Month

*47 Strings:
Tessa's Special Code*
Becky Carey

Look for an upcoming email to hear Esperanza Carisalez read this book of the month to you.

USE THIS LANGUAGE WHEN REFERRING TO DOWN SYNDROME AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE DOWN SYNDROME

- People with Down syndrome should always be referred to as people first.
- Instead of "a Down syndrome child," it should be "a child with Down syndrome." Also avoid "Down's child" and describing the condition as "Down's," as in, "He has Down's."
- Down syndrome is a condition or a syndrome, not a disease.
- People "have" Down syndrome, they do not "suffer from" it and are not "afflicted by" it.
- "Typically developing" or "typical" is preferred over "normal."
- "Intellectual disability" or "cognitive disability" has replaced "mental retardation" as the appropriate term
- NDSS strongly condemns the use of the word "retarded" in any derogatory context. Using this word is hurtful and suggests that people with disabilities are not competent.

Down vs. Down's

- NDSS uses the preferred spelling, Down syndrome, rather than Down's syndrome.
- Down syndrome is named for the English physician John Langdon Down, who characterized the condition, but did not have it. An "apostrophe s" connotes ownership or possession.
- While Down syndrome is listed in many dictionaries with both popular spellings (with or without an apostrophe s), the preferred usage in the United States is Down syndrome. The AP Stylebook recommends using "Down syndrome," as well.

The mission of the National Down Syndrome Society is to be the leading human rights organization for all individuals with Down syndrome. The National Down Syndrome Society envisions a world in which all people with Down syndrome have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life, realize their life aspirations, and become valued members of welcoming communities.

For more information on Down syndrome and NDSS, visit www.ndss.org or call 800-221-4602.





An update from our brother, Deng.



It has not been easy with pandemic, but we are all hanging in there. My family is doing well. Lou turned 1 year old last week. It is amazing how fast Lou is growing. I am still working at Perrigo and my work is going well. I have been at Perrigo for three years now.

The Pandemic has been remarkably interesting in many ways. My son needs to visit relatives sometimes but because of the pandemic, we have limited our visit to relatives or friends' houses. I still live in Grand Rapids.

My wife is still adjusting to the winter season. Thon is progressing in preschool and he has learned many things in a short time. When Thon came to the US, he did not know how to say one word in English, but he can now talk in English, NOT 100% but he is getting there. Lou is starting to say a few words in dinka, our mother tongue and English. She also knows how to wave and say hi to you.

We had a surprise in my family this last month, and I am happy to share with you today. Ayen and I were miraculously blessed with our third child last year. We did not plan to have another child right away after Lou but when that happened, we felt it was God's plan and we both embraced what God gave us wholeheartedly. The baby was supposed to be born sometimes this month, but due to doctor concern during Ayen's pregnancy, the doctor recommended Ayen to be induced before the due date. The baby growth was not meeting its requirements and that concerned Ayen's medical care personnel and they recommended Ayen to be induced on February 20th, 2021 at Spectrum Health Hospital, Grand Rapids. The process was worrisome on what the process involved, and we thank God that everything went well, and we received our baby girl at 3:12pm. The baby weighed 5 pounds and 13 ounces, a very tiny baby. The baby name is Yar. The news will be a big surprise for you and I totally understand.

We took the baby back to the hospital for an emergency after one week when a baby was not feeling well. Same to Ayen, I took her back to the emergency room one week after she was discharged from the hospital when she complained of lower abdominal pain. She was checked and the results came out normal. Both Ayen and baby Yar are progressing well, and Thon and Lou are enjoying their little sister. I took 5 weeks off from work to care for Ayen and the newborn. I will go back to work on March 29th, 2021.

Thank you.

Deng Alier



Maundy Thursday Service

April 1, 7:00 p.m. - online
8:00 p.m. At home prayer vigil
9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. In-person prayer
vigil throughout the night

Easter Service

April 4, 9:45 a.m. - online



Missions



One Great Hour of Sharing

For many years Richland Presbyterians have helped to fill the world with love by donating to
One Great Hour of Sharing.

Through our offerings, our church has a long tradition of helping children and adults around the world. Many projects are funded through

One Great Hour of Sharing,

a program in existence for over 50 years. Every year millions of Christians from many denominations show their love through donations to assist in feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and offering peace and hope to people in distress.

Human needs as simple as safe drinking water are made available to areas where the water supply is a threat to life and health. Refugees are offered basic needs such as food, shelter, and medical care in times of disaster and dislocation from their homes. The funds also provide many kinds of education, including literacy classes, agricultural and vocational training.

Please join other Presbyterians and Christians in sharing the support of these essential programs and by helping to fill the world with love. This year April 4th is the Sunday designated for the annual support of this most valuable program. Prayerfully consider your stewardship offerings and include

One Great Hour of Sharing

as a part of your contributions this year. An envelope has been provided in this newsletter, or you can send to the church, 8047 Church St, Richland, MI 49083, and we'll send it for you! Thank you.

Your Mission Committee

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



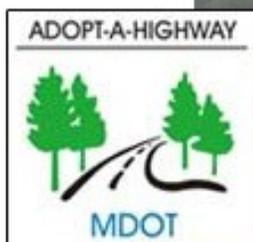
The Adopt—a—Highway clean-up is ON for April 17th—25th

We need and welcome anyone (children must be over 12 years of age), in families or small groups of 2-4 people. There are two one mile sections on each side of Gull Road from G Avenue toward Richland, between the two signs with our Church name on them.

I can meet you briefly at your convenience at church, to pass out vests and trash bags and review procedures.

Please remember your mask when coming into the church or we can provide one for you! Each small group can decide on their own schedule during the week.

Please text or call Adam Simon, 217-5337, if you would like to volunteer and select your section to beautify! Thank you and have fun with it!





The 46th Annual Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VIRTUAL CROPWALK, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO!

[CROP Hunger Walk - First Presbyterian Church Richland, MI](#)

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Kalamazoo CROP Hunger Walk will again be a virtual walk this year! As important as we know the Crop Hunger Walk family is to you, this continues to be a time that we all must take care of our families in our homes. Our parents, our children, our sisters and brothers. As Covid continues to upend our day-to-day routines and literally separate us, may we be reminded that you and I can still lift each other up and comfort one other, whatever the distance. That's what people like us do! You can be assured that the work of Church World Service and our local hunger agencies will go on. That's because our community is made up of people like you. We know that you are committed to CWS's mission, no matter what. In good times and bad, we know you're with us.

Go to the "Give to CROP" link and donate to the Church World Service website. Then choose one of the personal walks for small groups and families to safely walk in support of hungry people worldwide. You may also mail your donation to the church, 8047 Church St, Richland, MI 49083, and your check will be sent to CWS.

**For questions, please contact Cindi Lebiecki at
269-365-3115, or, cdoo258@sbcglobal.net.**

Team name: First Presbyterian Church Richland MI
Mailing address for check donations: CWS PO Box 968 Elkhart, IN 46515



April Togetherness



	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>
4	YOU	YOU	YOU	YOU
11	ARE	ARE	ARE	ARE
18	COMPLETELY	THOUGHT	CARED	DEFINITELY
25	MISSED!!!	OF OFTEN!!!	FOR!!!	LOVED!!!

April ~ From the Latin word aperio, "to open" (bud), because plants begin to grow during this month.
Almanac.com

April is a promise that May is bound to keep.
Hal Borland

"Snow in April is abominable," said Anne. "Like a slap in the face when you expected a kiss."
L.M. Montgomery

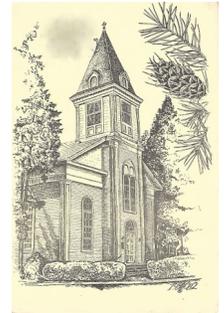
April is the kindest month. April gets you out of your head and out working in the garden.
Marty Rubin

April comes like an idiot, babbling and stewing flowers.
Edna St. Vincent Millay

April splinters like an ice palace.
Ruth Stone

Carillon Hymns and Honoree for April

Date	Selection	Honoree
4/13	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	Jay R. Wells, Jr.
4/17	What a Friend We Have in Jesus	James E. Garn
4/30	Faith of Our Fathers	Robert Murphy



FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER



FOOD PANTRY Giving Suggestions

Since our pantry now has a drive-thru distribution, working with Loaves and Fishes, we can really use:

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:

Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner, Soap, Toothpaste, Body Wash, Dish Soap, Tampons, Laundry Soap/Fabric Softener
Monetary donations are very welcome too!



This is a wonderfully easy way to give the church FREE money! Log onto the Harding's site and follow the instructions (you'll also be able to see the sales and print off coupons if you want). Just make sure, when asked, you select the Richland First Presbyterian Church as your organization. We don't get cards this time, but instead just have to tell the check-out person and enter your 10 digit phone number that you've registered.

Thank you for helping.
Every little bit helps!

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Since 2000, Harding's has contributed over \$1,000,000 to organizations in the communities we serve. This is part of our Vision Statement, "to be known as the favorite neighborhood market in every community where we do business, providing friendly service; high quality fresh products; surprising values; and a commitment to the communities we serve".

Sign up for Harding's Community Rewards today to help your organization of choice. It's easy and only takes a couple of minutes!

Click Here To Sign Up

- 1) Register your information on the Ecoupon Page
- 2) Go to My Profile by clicking the head icon on the far right corner.
- 3) Click Community Rewards and choose your organization. If your organization is not listed, contact them and have them sign up for Harding's Community Rewards.
- 4) Click Add Community. You can change your organization at any time by visiting your profile page
- 5) When checking out at the register, simply type in your 10 digit phone number on the pinpad. No card required!

The more you spend, the more your organization earns!

- 1% Rebate - Monthly purchase \$0-\$299.99
- 2% Rebate - Monthly purchase \$300-\$599.99
- 4% Rebate - Monthly purchase \$600-\$1999.99



AN EVEN EASIER WAY??

At check-out, just punch in the church telephone number when prompted
269-629-4944.

That's it!

THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED BACKGROUND ON WHITE PAPER WITH MICROPRINTING



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Feb 11, 2021

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CH.-RICHLAND
8047 CHURCH ST.
RICHLAND, MI. 49083**

April Birthdays



Jay Hoorn	1	Scott MacRitchie	21
Claire Stupica	2	Karalea Rothenberg Jasiak	21
Julie Howard	3	Phyllis Leiter	22
Aaron LaLonde	3	David McConnell	22
Stephanie Wank	3	Sarah Nott	22
Kay Hutchinson	4	Lily Thomas	22
Robert Monk	4	Gail Venner	22
Ken Barts	5	Nancy Wright	22
Rob Carpenter	5	Rick Wynsma	22
Kalli Inman	5	Liam MacRitchie	23
Heather Moseley	5	Jacqueline Brignall	24
Charlotte Slezak	5	Caelan Deater	25
Jennifer Spengler	5	Zoe Gobble	26
Sara Wieber	5	Will McWhorter	26
Jason Courtney	6	Brendan Hope	27
Gary Schott	7	John Meyer	27
Irissa Wyckoff	7	Linda Pollock	27
Margaret Hetzel	8	Paul Reinhart	27
Sharon Rothenberg	8	Sophia Carahaly	29
Evelyn Cramer	9	Elle Gay	30
Tyler Moseley	9	Tom Kendall	30
Katie Welser	9	Kelene Monk Rogers	30
CJ Hoorn	10	Matt Pausch	30
Rob Kubiak	10		
Emily Myland Walters	11		
Jacob Woll	11		
Corey Connell Thompson	12		
Emma Gay	12		
Michelle Greve	12		
Jacob White	12		
Barb Fox	13		
Nancy Lynch	13		
Nathan Schrauben	13		
Tim Brundage	14		
Mary Ellen Bryer	14		
Zip Fiordalis	15		
George Lindenberg	15		
Judy Bakker	16		
Christy Connell	16		
Molly Danielssen	16		
Karen Kendall	17		
Steve Allen	18		
Sheldon Putt	19		
Ronda Schaadt	20		
Beth Carrington	21		



& Anniversaries

- 4 Kalli & Steve Inman ~ 34
- 5 Larry & Sue Myland ~ 46
- 10 Marilyn & Bob Steely ~ 39
- 12 Allen & Jennifer Stupica ~ 36
- 16 Deng & Mary Alier ~ 6
- 21 Jane and Bob Morrow ~ 38
- 23 Byron and Carol Hodgson ~ 5
- 25 Deb & Mark Fisher ~ 34



EASTER FUN FACTS

What is the true meaning of Easter Sunday? Why does the date of Easter change every year? How is Easter calculated? Why are eggs associated with Easter? Here are some answers from The Old Farmer's Almanac.

What Is Easter Sunday?

Easter is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar—and has been regularly observed from the earliest days of the Church.

Easter Sunday celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead, following crucifixion. It marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, and the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday), as well as the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

The resurrection represents the triumph of good over evil, sin, death, and the physical body.

When Is Easter Sunday?

Easter is a “movable feast” and does not have a fixed date; however, it is always on a Sunday.

How Is the Date of Easter Determined?

Would you believe that the date of Easter is related to the full Moon? Specifically, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the paschal full Moon on or just after the vernal equinox.

For simplicity, the equinox is considered to be March 21 (a fixed spring date set by the Church), although in astronomy, it's not always that day. The paschal full Moon always falls on the 14th day of a lunar month; because ancient calculations (made in AD 325) did not take into account certain lunar motions, it may differ from the actual full Moon date by a day or so.

Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

What Folklore Is Associated with Easter?

Eggs, traditionally forbidden during Lent, symbolize new life.

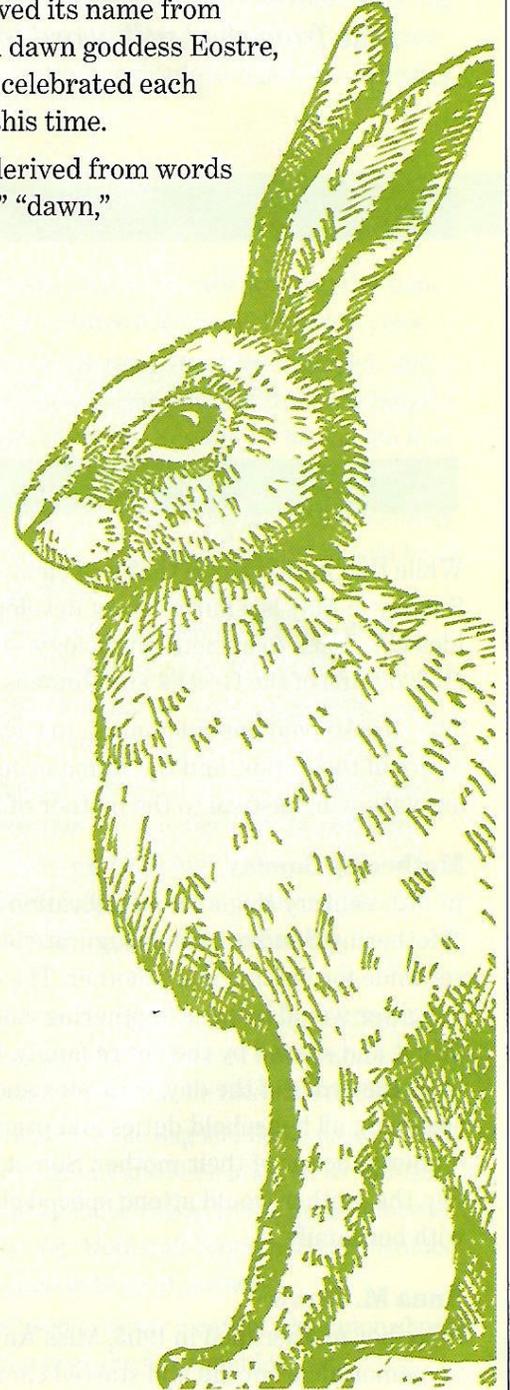
The Easter Bunny recalls the hare, the Egyptian symbol of fertility.

Where Did the Word “Easter” Come From?

The origin of the word “Easter” is unclear.

It may have derived its name from the Anglo-Saxon dawn goddess Eostre, whose feast was celebrated each spring at about this time.

Or, it may have derived from words meaning “rising,” “dawn,” or “east.”



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*
Branden Burris, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Director of Faith Formation*
Heather Putt, *Nursery Supervisor*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

