

First Presbyterian Church

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“Earth Day”

Last week was Earth Day. Did you notice? I have to admit that sometimes Earth Day comes and goes and I forget to take any notice of it. It happens every year on April 22nd and, strangely enough, I remember the very first Earth Day in 1970. My seventh-grade science teacher, Mr. Crowley, was a young teacher in his first job, and was a big believer in ecology. Back in those days we considered environmentalism to be sort of a radical idea, but he thought the first Earth Day would be a good opportunity to teach a bunch of 12- and 13-year-old kids about the fragile nature of the planet we live on.

But in the years since then, many Earth Days have passed without me noticing very much. Much like the world we live in, there are many days when I do not pay attention to the beauties of nature, the needs of the natural world, and the affect that human neglect has on other creatures. I should pay attention, I know. Especially as a person of faith who strongly believes that the glory of God is displayed in all of God’s creation. Especially now, since the First Presbyterian Church is an “Earth Care Congregation.” We have stated that we believe that it is essential to our life as a faith community that we be caring of the world around us. But how much do we really notice it?

I’m sure that years have gone by and I haven’t paid much attention to the property directly to the north of the church, that borders our parking lot. What’s there to notice, it’s just empty fields. More than thirty years ago, when we first moved here, I noticed that area, because the Richland grain elevator was still there. How many of us remember that structure? It’s been gone many years now and the area has just been empty. But not really. If I had taken time to notice, that emptiness has been a open field habitat for many birds and animals and plants.

Recently it has become the Gull Prairie Preserve and there has been lots of activity there: the creation of hiking and skiing trails, restoring prairie grasses and plants, bluebird houses, and the planting of thousands (yes, thousands) of trees. Lots of folks in our community have been working hard for years to acquire this property and create this Preserve, and they deserve our thanks.

More than our thanks, they deserve a faithful partner in the church. We hope that we can assist in their efforts, as we continue to beautify our own property. Our parking lot can serve as a good starting point for skiers and hikers. Our church can be a meeting place for informational and educational sessions. We can show our “Earth Care” by noticing the beauty that is right under our noses!

Grace and Peace,

Mark

May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 Worship - Communion 4:00-6:00 Youth Group in Richland	3 10:00 Devotions 6:00 Sanctuary being used 6:30 Boy Scouts	4 10:00 Devotions 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	5 10:00 Devotions	6 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:30 Story Time <i>Nat'l Day of Prayer</i>	7 6:00 Girl Scouts	8
9 9:45 Worship	10 10:00 Devotions 6:30 Boy Scouts	11 10:00 Devotions 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	12 10:00 Devotions 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Session	13 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons 7:30 Story Time	14	15
16 9:45 Worship 4:00-6:00 Youth Group at Kal 1st	17 10:00 Devotions 6:30 Boy Scouts	18 10:00 Devotions 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	19 10:00 Devotions 3:00-6:00 Richland Farmer's Market Begins!!!	20 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:30 Story Time	21 6:00 Girl Scouts	22
23 9:45 Worship	24 10:00 Devotions 6:30 Boy Scouts	25 10:00 Devotions 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	26 10:00 Devotions 12:00-6:00 BLOOD DRIVE HERE!!! 5:30 Girl Scouts	27 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 Story Time	28	29
30 9:45 Worship	31 10:00 Devotions <i>Memorial Day</i>					

May Togetherness

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	I'm only wishing to go a-fishing; For this the month of May was made. <i>Henry Van Dyke</i>
2	YOU	YOU	YOU	YOU	May: the lilacs are in bloom. Forget yourself. <i>Marty Rubin</i>
9	ARE	ARE	ARE	ARE	May and June. Soft syllables, gentle names for the two best months in the garden year: cool, misty mornings gently burned away with a warming spring sun, followed by breezy afternoons and chilly nights. The discussion of philosophy is over; it's time for work to begin. <i>Peter Loewer</i>
16	COMPLETELY	THOUGHT	CARED	DEFINITELY	The month of May is the pleasant time; its face is beautiful; the blackbird sings his full song, the living wood is his holding, the cuckoos are singing and ever singing; there is a welcome before the brightness of the summer. <i>Lady Gregory</i>
23	MISSED!!!	OF OFTEN!!!	FOR!!!	LOVED!!!	
30					

GOOD FRIENDS
HELP YOU OUT OF
STICKY SITUATIONS



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.

Look to **OCTOBER 1st**
for the **RUMMAGE SALE!!!**



MISSION

MISSION

If you have an interest in getting more information about this, please contact Kristin Porter, kporter@fecfamily.com.

In December 2020, Kalamazoo County reported 504 KALAMAZOO KIDS in foster care, but only 151 families currently licensed as foster homes—only 151 families countywide! This is not nearly enough to meet the ongoing needs of children entering foster care.

Our mission at Fostering Partnerships is simple... a community for every child.

When kids are separated from their families due to abuse or neglect, they need foster families to patiently love and support them. But those kids and families can only thrive when they receive the support of a larger community of teachers, coaches, leaders, friends, and neighbors who can encourage and love them through all the uncertainties of daily life in foster care.

Please take a moment to check out our work on the web and on social media:

<https://fosteringpartnerships.com/kalamazoo/>
<https://www.facebook.com/fosteringpartnerships>
https://www.instagram.com/fostering_partnerships/

James 1:27 reminds us, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

Pentecost Offering



At Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. Because of the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for "business as usual" but can know the transforming and creative love of God that makes the impossible possible. Through our participation in the Pentecost Offering, we manifest that transforming love to youth and young adults and help make things possible for children at risk.

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four annual churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Through Pentecost Offering receipts, we minister to children at risk. We assist in guiding and nurturing the faith of Presbyterian young people. We call forth a new generation of leadership in mission service through the National and International Young Adult Volunteer Program.

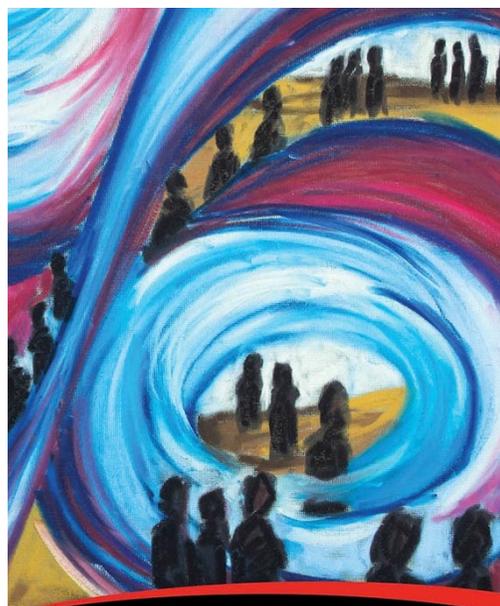
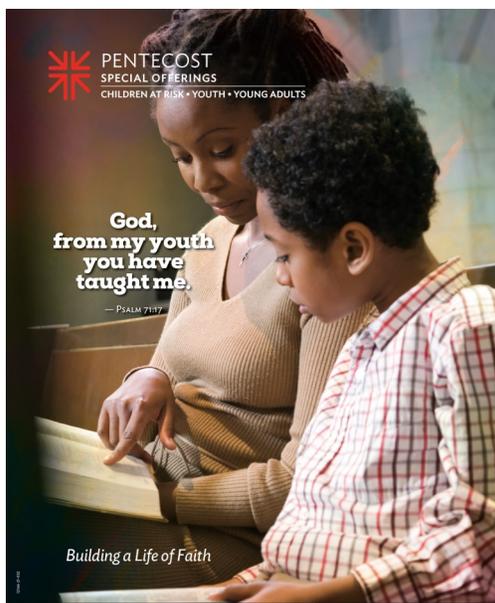
Forty percent of the offering receipts remain in our congregation to address the needs of children at risk. The remainder of the offering receipts will be sent to the General Assembly to support programs that benefit children at risk and ministries with youth and young adults.

The Pentecost Offering is a tangible way to demonstrate that Spirit within us! It gives us the opportunity to use 40% of the amount we receive to minister in our own community on behalf of children at risk. Through General Assembly ministries, the Pentecost Offering supports, guides, and nurtures the faith of the Presbyterian young people, calls forth a new generation of church leadership, and advocates for children at risk on a national level.

May 23rd is the day of receiving the Pentecost Offering, and an envelope has been provided in this newsletter, or you can send to the church, 8047 Church St, Richland 49083. You can also visit www.presbyterianmission.org/give/pentecost for more information or to give online.

Thank you for your much needed support.

God, from my youth you have taught me. -Psalm 71:17



YOUTH GROUP



In April the Youth participated in the CROP Walk through downtown Kalamazoo, raising money and awareness about hunger.



THANK YOU to all the youth for leading us in worship on Youth Sunday!

Congratulations to our seniors, Matt and Chloe!

May Schedule:

Middle & High School Youth Group
Sunday, May 2, 4-6pm
@ Richland, outside
Sunday, May 16, 4-6pm
@ First Kalamazoo



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In April, the Sunday School children had an Earth Day/Creation Celebration outside at the church! We had activities for each day of creation and learned about some ways we can honor this beautiful Earth God gave us!



Coming This Month ...



*May 19th through September 1st
at Richland Area Community Center*

Please share the news with your family and friends and join us on Wednesdays!

To stay up-to-date on Market happenings, please e-mail richlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com to be added to their mailing list and join our [Facebook](#) Group.

The Richland Farmers' Market is in its 13th year of operation!
Vendors set up on our grounds, and shoppers can enjoy convenient parking and restroom facilities.

Their Goals!

- 1. Provide a profitable outlet for local farmers and craft vendors.**
- 2. Create a place to gather and socialize for Richland area residents.**
- 3. Provide access to a predictable, ample selection and variety of high quality fresh, locally-grown produce and crafts for customers of all socioeconomic groups.**

<http://richlandfarmersmarket.weebly.com/>

**We are a proud partner of the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) and the Food Assistance Partnership.
We will again be accepting Bridge Cards at the market;
come on out and use your cards for fresh, local, healthy food.**



FOOD PANTRY CORNER



FOOD PANTRY

Giving Suggestions

The Richland Food Pantry continues to operate with a COVID-conscious sensibility. We rely on offering our clients prepacked food servings rather than traditional browsing while shopping to keep visits short, face-to-face interactions with our volunteers friendly but brief, and the risk of exposure to a minimum.

To make this possible, we are now more reliant on a deep food shelf than on variety. A dozen cans of kernel corn help us prepare the many prepacked food shares we need during a food distribution day better than a variety of dissimilar food items.

Individual donations to the Pantry continue to be important and welcome. If you are moved to help our community by donating to the Food Pantry, please consider donating multiple quantities of basic foods: A dozen cans of the same soup or vegetables, cans of tuna fish or white chicken meat, boxes of cookies.

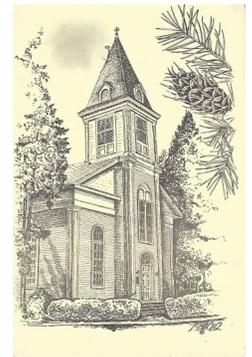
During the past year, in the face of the pandemic, your generosity and donations to the Food Pantry have been consistent, reassuring, and helped many.

Thank you. Paul Gobble and Marsha Zick



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for May

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
5/8	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Isaac Henry & Daisy Berg</i>
5/12	<i>Sweet Hour of Prayer</i>	<i>Elizabeth</i>
5/13	<i>All Things Bright & Beautiful</i>	<i>Dorothy Hubbell Stimson</i>
5/17	<i>God of Grace & God of Glory</i>	<i>Larry's Birthday</i>
5/17	<i>O Master Let me Walk with Thee</i>	<i>Wanda H. Griffiths</i>
5/21	<i>Hymn of Praise</i>	<i>Brad Hoorn</i>
5/31	<i>Little Brown Church in the Vale</i>	<i>Millard Murphy</i>



May Birthdays

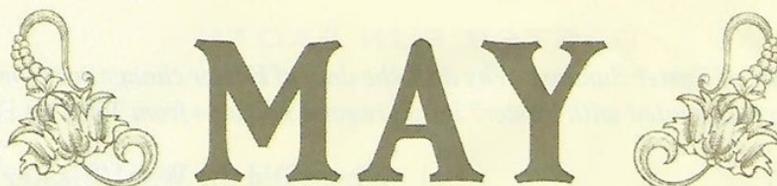


Andy Alspach	1	Shannan Deater	18
Harold Gobble	1	Alison Butler	19
Gavin Inman	1	Carolyn Venner	19
Jason Lindenberg	2	Sandra Gobble	20
Marcia Delf	3	Tyson Putt	20
Bruce Howard	4	Ken Hetzel	21
Alexander Inman	4	Haylee Inman	21
Bill Mattes	5	Lee Coverly	22
Anna Bea Miller	5	Mara Juodawlkis	22
Branden Burris	6	Ridge Robinson	22
Vicki Janson	6	Kathy Kreager	23
Jeannine Schott	10	Vaughn Kubiak	24
Aynna Lloyd	11	Chloe Wieber	24
Jonathan Reid	11	Anna Gross	26
Lindsay Webb	12	Carrie Sutton	26
Emily Mattes	13	Poppy Smith	27
Barb Brundage	14	Tom Webb	27
Josh Murray	14	Eric Wines	27
Kara Reinhardt	15	Erica Wines Smith	27
Joyce Gibson	16	Tony White	28
Carolyn Gruys	16	Kaitlyn Quada	29
Vicky Langshaw Thomas	17	Lynne Quada	29
Larry Myland	17	Jason Rairigh	29
Joan Willemstyn	17	George Becker	31
		Larke Lindenberg	31



Anniversaries

2 Judy and Ted Ruser	40 years	21 Mark and Jilisa Williams	27
5 Ken and Debbie Sunden	31	22 Marcia and Robert Delf	45
7 Cheryl and Bob Reinhardt	44	22 Laura and DJ LaLonde	45
7 Leo and Diane Rench	44	24 Mark and Erin Jennings	35
7 Shari and Rick Wynsma	33	25 Jennifer and Mike Odar	25
9 Sandra and Harold Gobble	57	26 Jean and Walt Stafford	59
10 Ken and Sandy Barts	41	27 Steve and Sharon Sorrell	38
11 Amy and Mike Juodawlkis	25	27 Dan and Sandra Weigel	32
12 Gavin and Katie Inman	20	28 Jill and Tim Bair	38
14 Lynne and Brian Quada	38	28 Ed and Ronda Schaadt	55
		30 Kim and Jim Saunders	39



MAY

*Named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants.
Also from the Latin word maiores, “elders,” who were celebrated during this month.*



HOW TO PROPERLY DISPLAY THE FLAG

- The custom is to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on flagstaffs in the open, but it may be displayed at night upon special occasions to produce a patriotic effect.
- When the flag is hung vertically on a wall, window, or door, the union (blue field) should be to the observer's left. When the flag is hung horizontally against a wall, the union should also be to the observer's left.
- The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- It should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, unless an all-weather flag is used.
- In a procession, the flag is to the right of another flag or, if in a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
- The flag should not be displayed on a float except from a staff, nor draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle.
- When the flag is displayed on a vehicle, the staff should be fixed firmly to the chassis.
- No other flag should be placed above the flag of the United States or, if on the same level, to its right.
- The United Nations flag may not be displayed above or in a position of superior prominence to the United States flag except at United Nations Headquarters.
- The flag displayed with another against a wall, from crossed staffs, should be on the right (the flag's own right), and its staff should be in front of the other staff.
- It should be at the center and the highest point when displayed with a group of state flags.
- When flags of states, cities, etc., are flown on the same halyard, the United States flag should be at the peak.
- When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height, and the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last.
- When displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union (blue field at upper inner corner) should be at the peak of the staff.
- When it is displayed otherwise than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out; or so suspended that its folds fall as freely as though the flag were staffed.
- When displayed over a street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street, or to the east in a north and south street.
- On a platform, it should be above and behind the speaker, with the union uppermost and to the observer's left.
- When displayed from a staff in a church or auditorium, the flag should occupy the position of honor and be placed at the speaker's right as he faces the audience.
- When flown at half-staff, the flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to half-staff position. It should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. Half-staff is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.
- When the flag is used to cover a casket, the union should be at the head and over the left shoulder.

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*

