The Missive

August 2016

First Presbyterian Church

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"Peace Prayers"

"Now more than ever . . . " It feels like that to me, that now more than ever we need something in our society, our nation, our world that will help us to work for peace. This is usually one of my most favorite times—it's August of a leap year. That means so many wonderful things are happening: the height of the baseball season, vacations are going on, the drama and often comedy of political conventions, the Olympic Games about to start. But this year it sort of feels like there's too much drama. I am sometimes afraid to turn on the news because there will be news of a new shooting. I lack confidence in those we've elected to do much that will help. I'm scared of what might happen at the Olympics, rather than be excited to watch what will happen.

So what can we do? What can you and I do, what can our church do that will increase peace in our lives and our world? Stephanie Paulsell from Harvard Divinity School says, "We need places to pray as if someone were listening, to study as if we might learn something worth writing on our hearts, to join with others in service as if the world might be transformed. Churches are places to learn to practice with others, a continual conversion of life, a permanent openness to change." Maybe at church is where we start.

Many of us were touched by the prayer vigil we held on Maundy Thursday—Good Friday, as we took up the challenge to "stay awake with Jesus." We prayed in silence for an hour at a time, all through the night in memory of the time Jesus spent in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will do a prayer vigil again on August 6-7 to pray for peace. If we begin here, in our church, in our own hearts, who knows what difference it might make. But we need to pray, now more than ever...

John Kennedy said, "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures." This is a new thing we will be doing and maybe it's a way to build something new in our church. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night, August 6th and continue until worship begins Sunday morning, concluding our prayer vigil for peace with our Communion celebration.

Why do this? Because we need a more peaceful world and more peaceful lives. How will we do it? We will keep a vigil going all through the night, just like we did Maundy Thursday, with people committing for an hour at a time. Will it make a difference? Maybe nothing will happen, maybe nothing will change. But certainly nothing will happen if we don't work and pray for peace. Maybe it is only we who will be changed. But maybe that's enough.

Grace and Peace.

Mark

August Volunteer Assignments

	Greeters	<u>Ushers</u>	Coffee	Nursery Help	Teacher/Crafter
7	Martin	R & J Steele family	Wittwer Carahaly	Slezak	
14	Brundage Barton	Carpenter Brundage/ Barton	Hart Hutchinson	Stafford	
21	Noall	Noall Willemstyn	Lynch Stafford	VanDyke	Summer
28	Luscombe	Williams Wright	Alman Alspach	Smith	

Serving Communion

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

August 7 Barb Brundage Mike Wright Nancy Wright Brian Young Teresa Young Phyllis Youse Marsha Zick Andy Alspach	September 4 Ed Calkins Sandy Carahaly Laura Carisalez Sue Carlson Jane Carpenter Terry Carpenter Beth Carrington
Andy Alspach	Mary Lou Cazers

October 2
Judy Croasdale
Ed Davis
Dave Deater
Shannan Deater
Joyce Dishon
Wendy Field
Ruth Mason
Christie Sutherland
Steve Sutherland

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!

August 2016 PRAYING



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff	2 10:00 Connected Threads	3 1:00 Presbyterian Women Meeting	4	5	6 11:00 Visitation for Stirling Fenner at N. Park PC in GR 6:00 Prayer Vigil
7 9:45 Worship - Communion 5:30-8:30 Farm-to- Fork at GLCC	8 10:30 Office Staff	9 10:00 Connected Threads 10:00 Bubbleman from the Library in GPR	10 6:00 Session	11 6:00 Deacons	12	13
14 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal	9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 5:30-800 Vacation Bible School	16 10:00 Connected Threads 5:30-8:00 Vacation Bible School	17 1:00 Women's Book Club at Joyce H. 5:30-8:00 Vacation Bible School	18 5:30-8:00 Vacation Bible School	19 6:30 Family Movie Night in GPR	20
21 9:45 Worship	22	23 10:00 Connected Threads	24 4:00-8:00 Jack and Jill in GPR 7:00 Committee's Meet	25 7:00 Moms for Prayers in GPR	26	27
28 0:45 Worship 12:00-5:00 Staff Retreat	29 10:30 Office Staff	30 10:00 Connected Threads	31 11:00 Service for John Marshall at Ft. Custer			



Presbyterian Women

PW meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the church, The next meeting is August 3rd. EVERY WOMAN is welcome.

Presbyterian Women WILL be meeting this month, on Wednesday, August 3rd, at 1:00.

Any woman is most welcome to attend the meetings! They are held in the library of the church!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



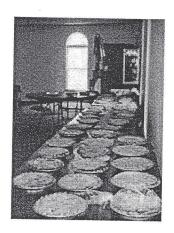
The next book club will be held at Joyce Hubbard's new home, 3709 Blackberry Lane, Kalamazoo, on <u>August 17th</u> at 1:00. The book of discussion is,

"Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes

The ladies welcome anyone who might have an interest and would like to join them!

A huge and appreciative "thank you" to everyone who baked pies, bought pies, and ate pies! The 4th of July Pie Tent was another wonderful success, thanks to so many of you!

Presbyterian Women made \$1582.00!! Wow!!

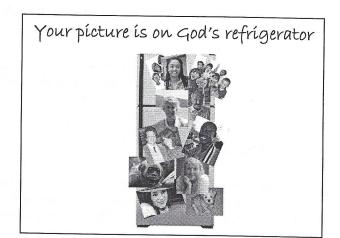


PW PURPOSE: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens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



Many, many thanks to all the good friends and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Richland. I appreciate your cards, well-wishes, good thoughts, and prayers.

Your support has meant the world to me! Carole Knibloe



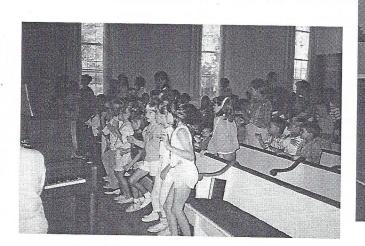
We're having a suitcase baby shower for Deng and Mary!! Bring to the church, anything a baby might need — cloth diapers & rubber pants, ointment, any and all kinds of clothing, blankets, powder, mosquito netting. Drop off all donations to the office, or look soon for a suitcase in the Gull Prairie Room! No liquids please and no later than August 21st! Thanks.



Previous Vacation Bible Schools.

Note the curtains in the sanctuary, and the "Presbyterian Blue" walls in the Sanctuary and GPR!

Oh yeah, no air conditioning!



August 2016 Missionary Report

NOTE: If you would like to give a baby gift to Deng and Mary, there is a suitcase in the Gull Prairie Room until August 21st.

Dear Church Family,

My last month has been busy with travel. In early July, my mom traveled to South Sudan because it is our custom that she is the one who hands over my wife back to her parents to finish her pregnancy and give birth there in September or October. Mary is doing well right now. She is with her parents now in a town close to Bor, called Pen-Deng-Kut. I can travel there by car. When the road is bad, it takes about 30 minutes; 10 minutes if the road is good.

You may have heard about the dangerous conditions in South Sudan. My mom and I are both safe now. I will share my prayer request with you that I sent to Rev. Mark on July 17:

Thank you Rev. Mark for your prayers. I am actually on my way to Kenya and I will be traveling to US on July 20th. I am travelling by road and this is risky especially at this time where the head of the government of South Sudan and its rebel leader are NOT on the same page again. The rebel leader attempted to overthrow the government for the second time. Fighting broke out on July 8th at the presidential palace in Juba and the lives of more than 1000 soldiers were killed from each side - that is rebels and government soldiers.

The recent incident created insecurity in Juba and the states around Juba. The means of transportation are now limited due to insecurity in Juba. There are no flights from Juba to Bor or from Bor to Juba. I booked my ticket before the current crisis and I was supposed to fly from Bor to Juba, and then take a bus from Juba to Kenya. It was unfortunate that now I have to travel today from Bor to Juba and then to Nimule, the town at Uganda border. The road to Nimule has become the most dangerous road in South Sudan for the last two days. The tribe along the road is singling out Dinkas (my tribe) and they kill the Dinkas who happens to be on the road. They have been doing that since Friday. I found burned bodies along the road to Nimule. The burned vehicles are still on the road.

I am travelling with my mother. She was totally out of breath today. She didn't think we were going to make it to Nimule. She was praying very hard by asking God to protect us. Likewise, I was praying asking the same thing, protection. We were relieved when we saw Nimule town over Nimule Mountain sloping down. I am sure the other passengers that were with us were also afraid but maybe not to our degree because they were not Dinkas and that may exempt them from terror. Well, we have an awesome God who always protects His people and he did so today.

I am now spending a night in Nimule with my mother and we will cross to Uganda tomorrow and we will proceed to Kenya. The next journey will be okay and I still need you to continue pray for me and my mother. Abraham and his wife were so worried but they are now relieved. I called Abraham on my arrival to Nimule and the first word that I heard from him was "Thank God you have made it safely to Nimule." I hope the security will improve in days and the months ahead. It will be an honor if my wife gives birth while I am in South Sudan, this is my wish. I ask you to continue to pray for Mary throughout her pregnancy.

Again, I thank God for my safe journey from Bor to Juba, then to Nimule. Thank you Rev. Mark for your prayers. You are a great shepherd, not only to my family, but also to the entire church in Richland, Michigan. I will see you soon.

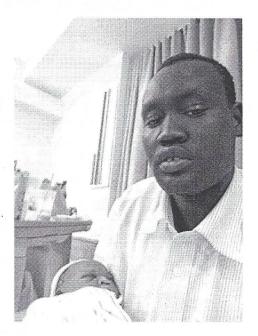
The first week of August, I will go to Boston to see my brother Abraham, his wife Tabitha and their three kids. I can't wait to see baby Deng Alier Thon (Deng, Jr.) who was born in May. See photos below.

I will be back in Michigan for a couple weeks before I return to Memorial Christian Hospital in Werkok and visit Mary.

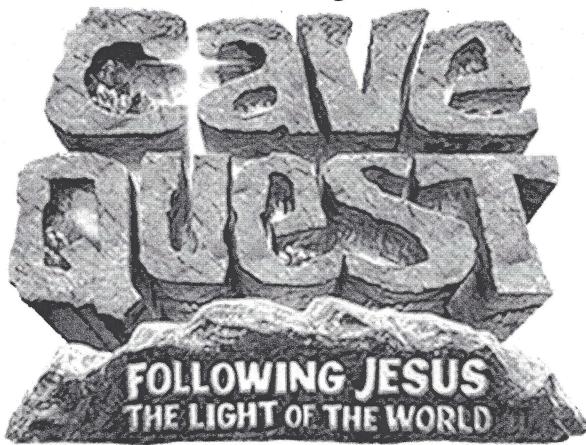
Your prayers and support are a blessing. Thank you! I am anxious to see you all in church,

Deng Thon Alier (Samuel)





Vacation Bible School 2016



WHEN: August 15-18

TIME: 5:30pm-8:00pm

Dinner included!

All ages are welcome!

\$10 for first two children in your family, \$5 for each additional child (scholarships available)



Registration Form

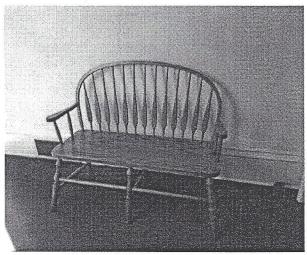
(One Per Child)

Child's name:	Child's gender:
Child's age: Date of birth:	
Name of parent(s):	
Street address:	
City:	
Home telephone: ()	
Parent/caregiver's cell phone: ()	
Home email address:	
Home church:	
Crew number or name (for church use only): _	
Allergies or other medical conditions:	
In case of emergency, contact:	
Relationship to child:	

SOME OF THE FUNDS ARE BENEFITTING US DIRECTLY

IN 2014,

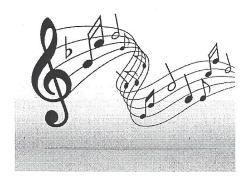
EARNINGS FROM OUR ENDOWMENT FUND WERE USED TO PURCHASE THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW BENCH FOR OUR NARTHEX.



Purchased with Endowment Fund Earnings—October 2014

IN 2016,

EARNINGS FROM OUT ENDOWMENT FUND ARE BEING USED TO CREATE A MUSIC LIBRARY FOR OUR CHURCH. THIS IS AN EXCEL FILE THAT WILL ALLOW US TO REFERENCE MUSIC BY COMPOSER, VOICING OR TITLE. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND EDITING ABILITIES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SYSTEM THAT IS BEING SET UP. WE HAVE COMMISSIONED SADARRA FIELDS WHO IS OUR WONDERFUL DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS TO SET THIS SYSTEM UP FOR US.



SOME OF THE FUNDS ARE BENEFITTING OTHERS BY ENABLING US TO EXTEND THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

IN 2016, EARNINGS FROM OUR ENDOWMENT FUND WERE USED TO JOIN WITH ROTARIANS IN PROVIDING CLEAN WATER TO FAMILIES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC THROUGH THE PURCHASE BIO-SAND FILTERS. THROUGH OUR DONATION, EIGHT FAMILIES WILL:

LESSEN THEIR RISK OF BEING ONE OF THE 3.5 MILLION PEOPLE WHO DIE FROM WATER RELATED DISEASES EACH YEAR.

BE ABLE TO DRINK AND BATHE IN WATER THAT DOES NOT CONTAIN DISEASE CAUSING ORGANISMS SUCH AS BACTERIA, VIRUSES, PROTOZOA, CYSTS, HELMINTHS AND WORMS.

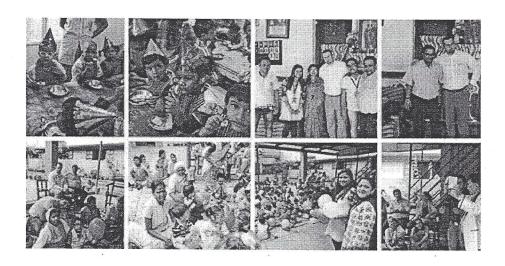
WILL KNOW THAT THE WATER THEY DRINK WILL NOT CAUSE THEM OR THEIR CHILDREN TO GET DIARRHEA. CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GET DIARRHEA THREE OR MORE TIMES A YEAR (4 BILLION CASES ANNUALLY) FROM DRINKING TAINTED WATER. DIARRHEA WAS NAMED BY UNICEF AS THE SECOND-LEADING CHILDHOOD KILLER. EVEN IF THE VICTIMS SURVIVE DEHYDRATION, DIARRHEA CAN GET IN THE WAY OF NUTRIENT ABSORPTION LEADING TO MALNUTRITION, STUNTED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND REDUCED RESISTANCE TO OTHER INFECTIONS SUCH AS HEPATITIS, TYPHOID, GUINEA WORM, HIV AND CHOLERA.



IN 2016,

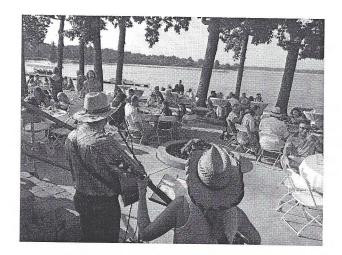
EARNINGS FROM OUR ENDOWMENT FUND WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR AINSLEY HERRICK FROM OUR PRESBYTERY (FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN JACKSON, MICHIGAN) WHO WILL SERVE AS A YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER THROUGH THE WORLD MISSION PROGRAM OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA.

Young $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$ dult $\underline{\mathbf{V}}$ olunteers experience a year of developing christian community through spiritual formation, mission service, and mission learning at both national and international sites. (mark's daughter kendall, participated in this program by providing a year of service in the philippines.) Ainsley is taking a year off from louisville seminary and will serve in columbia.



QUESTION: WHEN WILL WE NO LONGER HAVE EARNINGS FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND FOR OUR BENEFIT AND FOR OUR USE IN EXTENDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH?

ANSWER: OUR ENDOWMENT FUND WILL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE EARNINGS FOR OUR USE FOREVER.



Richland Farmer's Market

FARM TO FORK BENEFIT

August 7 from 5:30 - 8:30

Gull Lake Country Club Pavilion



<u>Tickets:</u> <u>\$25 adults - \$10 kids 12 & under</u> <u>At the door, \$30/\$15</u>

The Farmer's Market is very excited to announce its 3rd annual FARM to FORK celebration on August 7th at the Gull Lake Country Club's lakeside outdoor Pavilion. This fundraiser helps support all the market activities. This was a huge success last year and tickets will go fast!

Get your tickets at the Farmer's Market every Wednesday, or at Gull Lake Landscape Company, or Richland Area Community Center, or from our church.

Please make sure and get yours early!

FOOP PANTRY CORNER



FOOD PANTRY

CANNED ~
PEACHES,
FRUIT COCKTAIL
PINNAPPLE

Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for August

Date	Selection	Honoree	
8/4 8/8 8/23 8/25 8/26 8/28	Here I Am, Lord Abide With Me Be Still My Soul All Things Bright & Beautiful Amazing Grace Be Thou My Vision	Val & Larry Osborne Greta A. Ryan Anna K. Ostrander Brenda Jones Birthday Marcia & Jack Anniversary Tim Liggett	v
\			

Commitment to Peace in a Violent World

We need only turn on the television, listen to the radio, or read the newspaper to see that we live in a violent world. It often seems that each day brings more violence. For the last six years the Presbyterian Church (USA) has struggled to discern our churches response to this violence. After much review and prayer, this summer the 222nd General Assembly adopted the following five affirmations as a believer's calling. We urge you to study these affirmations and discern for yourself whether these affirmations of the church are something that you, in faith, can live by.

- 1. We affirm that peacemaking is essential to our faith in God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ, whose love and justice challenge evil and hatred, and whose call gives our church a mission to present alternatives to violence.
- 2. We confess that we have sinned by participating in acts of violence, both structural and physical, or by our failure to respond to acts and threats of violence with ministries of justice, healing, and reconciliation.
- 3. We follow Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Reconciler, and reclaim the power of nonviolent love evident in his life and teaching, his healings and reversals of evil, his cross and resurrection.
- 4. Learning from nonviolent struggles and counting the costs of war, we draw upon the traditions of Just War, Christian pacifism, and Just Peacemaking to cultivate moral imagination and discern God's redemptive work in history.
 - We commit ourselves to studying and practicing nonviolent means of conflict resolution, nonviolent methods for social change, and nonviolent opposition to war. Even as we actively engage in a peace discernment process, we commit ourselves to continuing the long tradition of support by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for our sisters and brothers who serve in the United States military, veterans, and their families. We promise to support materially and socially veterans of war who suffer injury in body, mind, or spirit, even as we work toward the day when they will need to fight no more.
- 5. We place our faith, hope, and trust in God alone. We renounce violence as a means to further selfish national interests, to procure wealth, or to dominate others. We will practice boldly the things that make for peace and look for the day when "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

We as a congregation and individuals will have opportunities to pray for and work for peace in this coming year. Congregational and personal discernment of God's leading is important. To start this process, we are planning a prayer vigil for peace starting Saturday, August 6. This vigil will be a time for individual prayer and discernment. The vigil will continue throughout the night and end with Sunday service which will be dedicated to God's peace. We urge you to sign up and participate in this vigil. More information will be coming shortly.

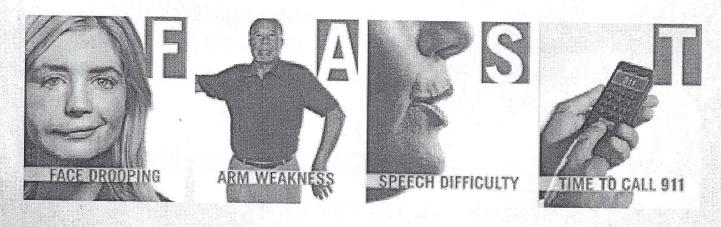


SPOTA STROKE EAST SPOTA STROKE

FACE ARM SPEECH TIME

It could save a life, possibly yours.

Last year, many of the 795,000 Americans who suffered a stroke did not get the right lifesaving treatment in time. But you can help save lives and improve recovery by thinking F.A.S.T. These simple letters can help you recognize the signs of a stroke and get help right away. Download the app today and remember F.A.S.T.





Download this application for your phone at StrokeAssociation.org/WarningSigns



Together to End Stroke™

Nationally sponsored by



EAST IS:

FACE DROOPING — Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?

ARM WEAKNESS — Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

SPEECH DIFFICULTY — Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "The sky is blue." Is the sentence repeated correctly?

TIME TO CALL 9-1-1 — If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get the person to the hospital immediately. Check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared.

BEYOND F.A.S.T. — OTHER SYMPTOMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

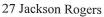
- Sudden numbness or weakness of the leg
- Sudden confusion or trouble understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or loss of coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

StrokeAssociation.org/WarningSigns 1-888-4-STROKE

August Birthdays

- 1 Jennifer Damm
- 1 Tyler Fisher
- 1 Barb Langshaw
- 1 Sharin Noall
- 1 Christina Wank Ftacek
- 2 Madison Alspach
- 3 Alexia Taylor
- 4 Carroll Gallivan
- 4 Dorothy Humphreys
- 4 Katie Inman
- 5 Troy Lebiecki
- 5 Hannah White
- 6 Leigh Jones
- 6 Helen Keusch
- 6 Rick Steele
- 7 Bri Wynsma
- 8 Erin Jager
- 8 Philip Dawson
- 8 Steve Sutherland
- 9 Earl Cramer
- 9 Cissie MacQuarrie
- 10 Sam Butler
- 10 Caitlin Crenshaw
- 10 Maureen Osborne Lovequist
- 11 Thomas Stegink
- 12 Meredith Alspach
- 12 Lisa Ambrosio
- 12 Denise Caverly VanHoven
- 12 Brent Slezak
- 13 Judy Croasdale
- 13 Nathan Kendall
- 13 Ed Schaadt
- 14 Colin MacRitchie
- 14 Diane Meitz
- 15 Ginny Gross
- 15 Byron Hodgson
- 15 Debbie Sunden
- 16 Leslie Keusch
- 16 Sandy Neal
- 19 Erik Syverson
- 20 Grace Johnson
- 20 Marisa Kreager
- 21 Vince Carahaly
- 21 Marilyn Davis
- 21 Liz Kendall Matthews
- 22 Tim Liggett
- 22 Emily Nott
- 22 Laurel Sutherland
- 23 Dugan Kemple
- 24 Carol Reid
- 25 Brenda Jones
- 25 Ryan Juodawlkis
- 26 Emma Gobble
- 27 Morgan Harris Wieland
- 27 Josh Muss
- 27 Leo Rench





- 27 Walt Stafford
- 28 Lynn Damm
- 29 Cara Meyer
- 29 Laura Osborne Carisalez
- 30 Benjamin McQuater
- 30 Matthew Reece
- 30 Jeremy Simon
- 30 Catherine Stasevich
- 30 Lindsay Sutherland
- 31 Phyllis Davis
- 31 Jordynn Dolbee
- 31 Maddie Miller

and

Anniversaries

- 1 Samantha and Traver Gay ~ 7 years
- 4 Val and Larry Osborne ~ 37
- 4 Carolyn and Gary Schott ~ 26
- 6 Laura and Larry Fitzgerald ~ 28
- 7 Michelle and Dave Greve ~ 9
- 9 Brad and Natalie Brundage ~ 13
- 10 Dick and Janet Saddler ~ 59
- 11 Evelyn and Earl Cramer ~ 65
- 12 Kathy and Denny Hoorn ~ 39
- 12 Jerry and Jan Petersen ~ 40
- 13 Tara and Nick Steele ~ 11
- 13 Cheryl and Darcy Wank ~ 33
- 13 Kathy and Tony White ~ 33
- 14 Donna and Tom Webb ~ 40 16 Bethany and Nick Gauthier ~ 13
- 16 Anna and Rod Gross ~ 19
- 17 Carrie and Dan Meersman ~ 14
- 19 Dave and Jan Fisher ~ 49
- 19 Joyce and Gary Gibson ~ 44
- 19 Lori and Gerry Hildenbrand ~ 21
- 20 George and Roselyn Becker ~ 52
- 21 Lynn and Judy Bakker ~ 48
- 21 Marianne and Scott MacRitchie ~23
- 21 Rick and Sarah Newell ~ 62
- 22 Tom and Karen Kendall ~ 46
- 23 Cheri and Eric Larson ~ 41
- 23 Joan and Tunis Willemstyn ~ 42
- 25 Kara and Kent Dolbee
- 26 Lee and Carol Coverly ~ 55
- 26 Marcia and Jack Sizer ~ 55
- 27 Carrie Sutton and Ron Davis ~ 5
- 28 Kathy and Dave Kreager ~ 29
- 28 Tim and Barbara Liggett ~ 45
- 28 Christie and Steve Sutherland ~ 34
- 30 Dave and Shannan Deater ~ 30
- 30 Sharon and Gene Rothenberg ~ 36



First Presbyterian Church 8047 Church Street Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, Pastor
Murray Cooper, Seminary Intern
Faith Fiordalis, Financial Secretary
Gretchen Ferris, Treasurer
Larry Myland, Director of Music
Sadarra Fields, Director of Choirs
Meredith Alspach, Program Coordinator
Julie Pixley, Children's Worship Leader
Heather Putt, Nursery Supervisor
Connie Slater, Sexton
Julie Pixley, Administrative Secretary

