

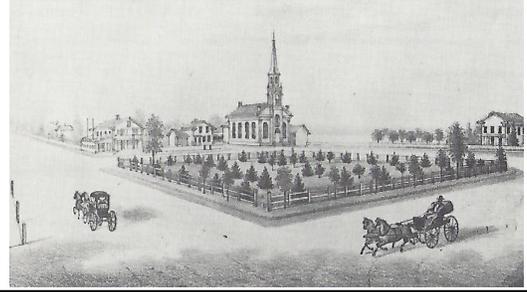
The Missive September 2021

First Presbyterian Church

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“Remember”

“The Presbytery of Lake Michigan was holding its September meeting at Camp Geneva in Holland. It was scheduled to be the meeting in which they also had a retreat; speakers had been booked, people were supposed to stay overnight, there were opportunities for recreation at the camp and on the beach. But of course there was also business to be discussed and as I was driving out to Holland that morning I was listening to music and going over in my head the report that I was supposed to give that afternoon. But then after a while of driving that morning, I switched from playing CDs to turn on Public Radio, and the world changed. September 11, 2001 was supposed to be just a day of a presbytery meeting for me, but when I heard the reports of the planes flying into the Trade Centers and the Pentagon, I quickly got on the phone to Erin to ask if she had heard from her brother, Kerry, who worked on Wall Street (he was late going into work that day, so by the time he drove from his home in New Jersey to lower Manhattan, he found everything blocked off already). The next days and weeks were spent dealing with the aftermath and waking into a world that was different from our reality of September 10th.

Twenty years have gone by since that day. Incredibly we have young people in college and beyond who have no memory of that day; their whole world has been post 9-11. How are things different for us? What has changed? What have we lost? What do you remember about that day? This year, the anniversary of 9-11 falls on a Saturday. We will host a Service of Remembrance at 8:00 pm on September 11 in our Memorial Garden. It will be a time of reflection and remembering, a time of prayer for our nation and for the nation of Afghanistan, where we have been involved for the last 20 years. We'd like to invite you to come and take part, make a

luminaria to be lit and placed on the front steps of our church, pray with us in the Memorial Garden, and listen to the church bell toll 20 times. We will remember those who lost their lives that day and give thanks for the heroes that gave so much, that day and in the years since then.

I went to the presbytery meeting that day back in 2001 and I gave my report. The moderator encouraged members of presbytery to stay for the retreat and the overnight so that we could all be together during this terrible time. I remember looking at a colleague of mine and we each said, “No way.” As much as I love my presbytery brothers and sisters, that’s not where I wanted to be and that’s not where I needed to be. I needed to be back with my family and my congregation. I remember driving home as quickly as possible and talking with other Richland clergy as I drove, arranging to have a community prayer service at our church that night. The church was packed that night, because we needed to be together. We needed to be together with God. Twenty years later, we still need each other. And we still need to be with God.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

September Togetherness

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>
5			
12	Kendall	G & M Lindenberg	Williams
19	Field	Zick	Irey
26	Powell	Mason A Gross	Alexander

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!

Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures...
Henry David Thoreau

Autumn seemed to arrive suddenly that year. The morning of the first September was crisp and golden as an apple.
J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows

All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made.
Virginia Woolf

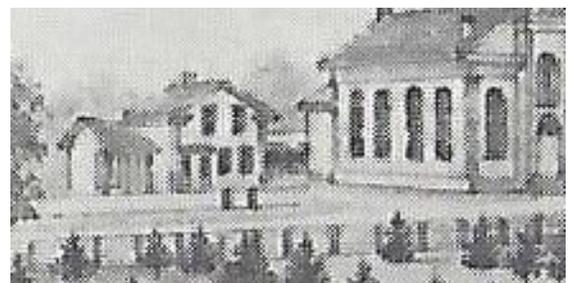
September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn.
Rowland E. Robinson

Let's strive to be better in September!
Charmaine J. Forde

OPEN HOUSE AT 8023



Join us September 12, following worship, to see all the hard work that's taken place, so far, to the house next door! Inside and out, it's looking so lovely! We very much appreciate the volunteers who've been extremely helpful in getting us to this point! This has been a TON of hard work!



September 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 Clergy Breakfast 1:00 PW Meeting at Terry Vantine's 3:00 LAST Farmer's Market at RACC 5:30 Girl Scouts	2 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Virtual Mission Meeting	3 6:00 Girl Scouts	4 10:30 Memorial for Beth and Dave McShane at Kal. 1st
5 9:45 Worship - Communion	6 Labor Day	7 10:00 Connected Threads 1:00 Care Team 6:00 Girl Scouts	8 6:00 Session	9 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons 6:30 Girl Scouts	10	11 8:00 p.m. Service of Remembrance In Memorial Garden (20 minute prayer service followed by ringing the bell)
12 9:45 Worship and kids Sunday School 11:00 Church Fest behind church Open house for house next door	13 6:30 Boy Scouts	14 10:00 Connected Threads	15 5:30 Girl Scouts	16 11:00 Bible Study	17 6:00 Girl Scouts	18
19 9:45 Worship and kids Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group kick-off here	20 1:00 Care Team 6:30 Boy Scouts	21 10:00 Connected Threads	22 9:30 - 12:00 Flower Group in GPR	23 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Girl Scouts	24	25
26 9:45 Worship and kids Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group at Kal 1st	27 6:30 Boy Scouts	28 8:30 Men's Breakfast	29 5:30 Girl Scouts	30 11:00 Bible Study		

Presbyterian Women



*Our next meeting is September 3rd at 1:00,
at Terry Vantine's home, 9086 Cotters Ridge, Richland
EVERY WOMAN is welcome.*

RUMMAGE SALE CANCELED

We regret having to cancel the Rummage Sale that was scheduled for October 1 and 2. But with the uptick in Covid cases among the unvaccinated and the vaccinated folks we determined our best option was to keep shoppers and volunteers safe. Hopefully spring of 2022 will be better.

We know many of you have saved up items for the sale. If storing them is no longer an option, then we suggest contacting

Hands of God (part of Living Hope Church down the road from the Richland Post Office). Mondays 9 to 1 and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 9 to 1. They accept clothing, household items, and toys. Right now they need men's clothing—small & medium, and all shoes and kids clothes.

Sunnyside Methodist Church Free Store at Gull Road and Brook Dr. Donations of clothing and household items accepted Wednesdays from noon to 3 (limited to 4 bags with "in season" clothes).

The Shack in Delton (on M-43, right before the printers & credit union). Thursdays 2 to 6 and Saturdays 10 to 2. They accept clothing and linens.

Also Good Will, Nu-Way, and the Salvation Army are good options.

We want to thank all of you had volunteered to help with the sale and hope you will be available to help next year.

Supporting Missions is the reason Presbyterian Women raise funds, and canceling the Rummage Sales and Pie Tent the past two years has limited what we can do. We will be discussing other fund raising options at our September 1 meeting, so please watch for that.

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.

Owen Rushford is Our New Chancel Choir Director

by Larry Myland

It is my very great pleasure to announce the appointment of Owen Rushford as our new Chancel Choir director. Like most of our immediate past directors, Owen is a graduate of Western Michigan University's outstanding School of Music. Unlike most of our recent directors, who have been students who've moved on after graduation, Owen has been putting down roots in our community for over five years, so we hope he has found a permanent home with us.



Don't let his youth fool you. Owen is a seasoned musician who has cut his teeth on everything from music theory and conducting, to show design, singing, playing, composing, audio engineering, and teaching applied music.

I have been privileged to work with Owen over the past several months as he has directed the Gull Lake High School Choir. His enthusiasm and boundless energy are contagious. Is it time for you to consider joining our church choir yourself? I guarantee you a good time and a great experience.

Welcome, Owen. We're glad you're here!

CHURCH FEST 2021



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

In the back yard of the church!!

Come one, come all, for
donuts and cider from Gull Meadows (YUM!!),
and coffee from Biggby (another YUM!!),
as we begin our brand new season of church life!!

We are SO excited to finally be able to gather for worship and children's Sunday school and share the love (and donuts)!!



We'll also have tables set up with many committees showing us what they do. Stop by to learn about them, ask questions, and even join one (or more!) that interests you!

GET INVOLVED!



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group resumes in-person this fall for all middle and high school students!

All are welcome!

All meeting dates are subject to change as we keep safety and health 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.

September 19 - Kick-off event @ Richland, 5-7pm

September 26 - @ FPC Kzoo, 5-7pm

October 3 - @ Pine Island Garden, 5-7pm

October 9 - Movies In Boxes & Food Drive @ Richland, time TBD

October 17 - @ FPC Kzoo, 5-7pm

October 24 - @ FPC Kzoo, Halloween Event, time TBD

October 31 - NO Youth Group

November 7 - @ Richland, 5-7pm

November 14 - @ FPC Kzoo, 5-7pm

November 21 - @ Richland, 5-7pm

November 28 - NO Youth Group

December 5 - Christmas Party @ Richland, 5-7pm

December 12 - January 2 - NO Youth Group



Can you help?

We are looking for people to provide dinner for the youth on the weeks they meet in Richland!

NEW

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH BUNCH

Sending our youth off after high school is just too hard for us, so we are beginning a new young adult group!

This group will meet monthly for lunch and conversation. All post-high school youth - age 25 are welcome! Join us monthly or drop-in whenever you're in town - lunch is on us!

Sunday, October 10
@ Noon
Outside at Bilbos
on Stadium Drive



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School begins
September 12 for
preschool - 5th grade

- ♥ All children can meet in the Gull Prairie Room before the start of worship.
(There is no children's time during worship quite yet!)
- ♥ On the *first* Sunday of each month, all children will stay in worship to begin to nurture their knowledge and understanding of communion. *There will be no Sunday School on these days.*
- ♥ All Sunday School teachers are vaccinated and all adults and children will remain masked throughout Sunday School.
- ♥ All lessons will be available via email for those unable to attend in person.
Please contact Meredith to be added to the email distribution list!
- ♥ On weeks when Sunday School has to be cancelled for any reason, Praise Pack activity folders will be available in the narthex for use during worship!

LITTLE ONES

At this time, there is no nursery attendant on duty.

However, the nursery downstairs is open for anyone who might need to step out of worship with a little one.

The green room (next to the nursery) is also a great place to take a wiggle break during worship. The green room has many books and quieter activities available.

ADULT ED

This fall, Adult Ed will focus on what it means to be a Matthew 25 church.

We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious.

Look for more information, as well as ways you can get involved, at Church Fest and in the Thursday emails.

Can you help?



We are looking for some kid-loving, vaccinated adults or youth to help teach Sunday School.

Contact Meredith if interested!

We're ordering bricks the end of the month! We won't order again until next year, so get yours in soon!!

BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

What a nice way to recognize your loved ones! The purpose of the Memorial and Endowment Fund is to use gifts and bequests to build a "permanent fund" that will provide income to be used for special opportunities that enhance our commitment to Jesus Christ. The funds raised will be "gifted" to The Presbyterian Foundation who will manage the funds for us and make periodic distributions of income for our use. The income produced is not intended to support day-to-day operations of the church as reflected in our annual operating budget. Additional information can be found in brochures available at several locations within our church or by contacting a member of our Memorial and Endowment Committee. The bricks will be placed in a "Path to the Future—Legacy Walk" located on our church property.

Minimum Endowment Fund Gift is as follows:

- 4 x 8 brick** (1) \$125: (2) or more \$100 each
- 8 x 8 brick** \$200

Yes, I / we would like to reserve a brick. Please engrave our brick as follows:

ANY SYMBOL (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH) OR BLANK IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE.

ALL TEXT WILL BE CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. ALL ENGRAVING WILL BE IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

4 x 8 Brick (4 lines—3 recommended, 21 characters per line)

8 x 8 Brick (6 lines, 21 characters per line)

EXAMPLE

ANY SYMBOL (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH) OR BLANK IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE.

ALL TEXT WILL BE CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. ALL ENGRAVING WILL BE IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

G	O		N	E	W	T	O	N		H	I	G	H		L	I	O	N	S	
S	T	A	T	E		C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S						
2	0	0	2	,		2	0	0	3	,		2	0	0	4					

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund * 8047 Church St * Richland MI 49083 * 629-4944

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Amount Paid: _____

Peace and Global Witness Offering

On World Communion Sunday, October 3rd

PEACE at all times in all ways

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written on the same theme as the first: the imminent return of Jesus, and the triumphal resolution of God's plan for all creation. The need for a second letter, though, arose from growing uneasiness, frustration, and fear within the church from those who thought this was supposed to have happened already. God's time was not the Thessalonian's time. As a result, fear and hopelessness gripped the church, resulting in divisions, mistrust, and dismay that began to sap the church of its vibrant ministry. Paul writes to encourage their continued faith and sure hope. In the midst of divisions and discord, he claims a God of peace who can bring peace at all times, in all ways.

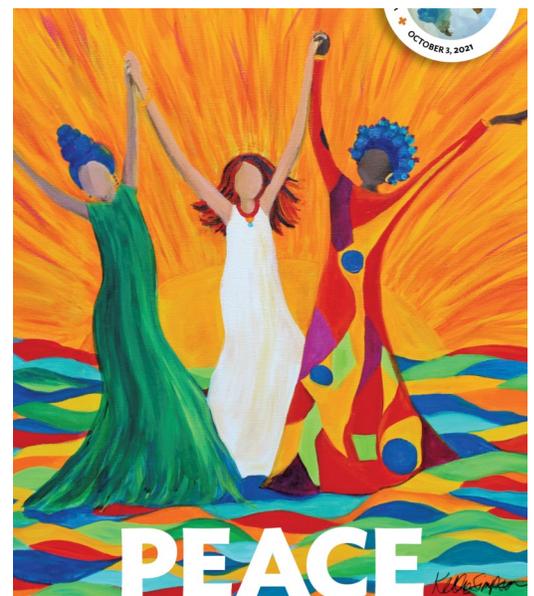
The church of every time and place wrestles with the distance between our timeframe and expectations and God's. In God's time, even the small seeds we plant can grow into sturdy trees. In God's time, the fears we carry can be transformed into new partnership and hope. In God's time, our expectations can be expanded and surpassed by God's faithfulness. The 2018 Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers. It bursts through the shackles of time and expectation. It quiets the anxiety of each believer by joining us together, as we offer our prayer, Now, may the Lord grant us peace at all times in all ways.

- ◇ 25 % is retained by congregations
- ◇ 25 % is used by presbyteries and synods
- ◇ 50 % is allocated to Presbyterian Mission Agency's peacemaking ministries.

There is an offering envelope in the hard copies of this newsletter, and there will be one in the bulletin October 3rd. Thank you!

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Peace at all times in all ways.



PEACE
at all times in all ways.

FOOD PANTRY CORNER



FOOD PANTRY

Giving Suggestions

The Richland Food Pantry continues to operate cautiously. We have been offering our clients prepacked food servings from Loaves & Fishes, rather than traditional browsing while shopping to keep visits short, so face-to-face interactions with our volunteers are friendly but brief.

We do have an “extras” shelf to offer folks a bit more variety. Individual donations to the Pantry continue to be important and welcome. If you are moved to help our community by donating, please consider giving 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.

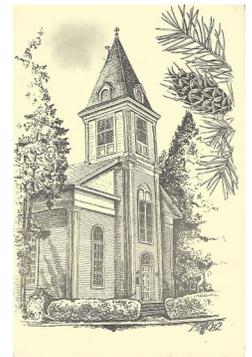
During the past many months in the face of the pandemic, your generosity and donations to the Food Pantry have been consistent, reassuring, and helped many.

Thank you. Paul Gobble and Marsha Zick



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for September

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
9/8	<i>In the Garden</i>	<i>Irene Verploegh</i>
9/11	<i>God Bless America</i>	<i>Brad Hoorn</i>
9/14	<i>Eternal Father, Strong to Save</i>	<i>Jay Ralph Wells, Jr.</i>



September Anniversaries



- 4 Lisa and Andy Ambrosio ~ 28
- 4 Ed and Cheri Calkins ~ 22
- 4 Dennis and Emily Myland Walters ~ 11
- 6 Alexis and Jason Rairigh ~ 13
- 7 Carolyn and Richard Chormann ~ 64
- 8 Brian and Teresa Young ~ 48
- 11 Mary Ellen and Jerry Bryer ~ 39
- 14 Barbara and Robert Monk ~ 47
- 16 Brent and Sheryl Slezak ~ 43
- 18 Cindi and John Lebiecki ~ 39
- 19 Janet and Hoyt Fonger ~ 41
- 22 Juan and Laura Carisalez ~ 9
- 22 Tom and Sharin Noall ~ 59
- 25 Craig and Kathi Muss ~ 39
- 29 Larry and Becky Reinhart ~ 47
- 30 Marilynn and Bob Simon ~ 33



and Birthdays

1	Connie Kratzer	13	Alec Ambrosio
1	Ruth Mason	13	Gary Mittelbach
1	Dan Fiordalis	13	Nicole Romyak
2	Pam Mattes	13	Gale Slentz
3	Esperanza Carisalez	14	Madeleine Gauthier
3	Suzie Carpenter	14	Steve Sorrell
3	Stephanie Kleis Newton	16	Jake Myland
3	Heidi Bryant	16	Ted Ruser
4	David Greve	17	Louise Hanavan
5	Sue Carlson	17	Sandy Hart
5	Sarah Bryer	18	Marme Courtney
5	Traver Gay	19	Reid Williams
5	Tom Perigo	20	Spencer Mack
6	Janet Saddler	21	Kyle Rogers
7	Joseph Keusch	22	Val Osborne
8	Barbara Monk	23	John Mittelbach
8	Stuart Verseman	25	Rebecca Jones
9	Katie Monk Gartner	25	Don Meitz
10	Juan Carisalez	25	Andee Trautman
10	Cindy Hoorn	27	Betsy Powell



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*

