

The Missive October 2020

First Presbyterian Church

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“Atonement”

As I write this, it is September 28, 2020, and it is also Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement in the Jewish faith. It is the holiest day of the year in the Jewish tradition and it is a day of fasting, of abstaining from work, and spending time in worship. It is especially hard for our Jewish brothers and sisters to worship as they normally would during this time of pandemic.

The first time I remember knowing what Yom Kippur was all about was October 6, 1965. I was almost seven years old, in first grade and I knew enough to be upset that the World Series was starting that Wednesday and I had to go to school. I had also heard about something called “Yom Kippur” and that the star pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Sandy Koufax, could not pitch in that game because he was Jewish. I didn’t really know what Jewish was or why he couldn’t pitch, but to a seven-year-old all I knew was that it didn’t sound too good to be Jewish if you couldn’t play baseball sometimes. Of course the story goes that Dodger ace Don Drysdale pitched instead but when he was pulled out of the game in the third inning after having given up seven runs, he supposedly said to his manager, “I bet you wish I was Jewish too.” Although Koufax pitched Game 2 of the Series the next day and lost, he came back in Games 5 and 7 and threw complete game shutouts to win the Series for the Dodgers. I guess that’s “atonement,” right?

According to tradition, the first Yom Kippur took place after the Israelites left slavery in Egypt and came to Mt. Sinai in the desert where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. When Moses came down the mountain, he found that the people had given up on him and God, and decided to worship a golden calf instead. In anger, Moses threw the stone tablets on the ground and shattered them. Because the Israelites atoned for their sin, God forgave them and gave Moses a second set of tablets. In memory of this, the

people are commanded to have a day of atonement each year: “This shall be a statute to your forever: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall deny yourselves, and shall do no work, neither the citizen nor the alien who resides among you. For on this day, atonement shall be made for you, to cleanse you for all your sins and you shall be clean before the Lord.” (Leviticus 16:29-30)

During Yom Kippur at the time of the great Temple in Jerusalem, one of the priests would go into the Holy of Holies in the Temple and perform a sacrifice on the Ark of the Covenant, which was supposed to contain the Ten Commandments. By this the priest would ask for forgiveness for all of God’s people. When the Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. the Jewish people began to practice the Day of Atonement in each synagogue and every person of the Jewish faith performs the Yom Kippur service in the temple of his or her heart.

A time to fast, and to ask forgiveness, to bring us back into right relationship with God... The Jewish faith has something to teach us through Yom Kippur. The Day of Atonement is spent in a time of self-examination, to account for your wrongs and ask forgiveness. But how often does this practice devolve into dwelling on your anger and hurt, your justifications for your actions. It takes great discipline to set the hurt and anger aside and return to your wrongs, to seek forgiveness, and give forgiveness to those who’ve hurt you...even if they will never understand or apologize.

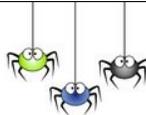
That is the hardest of tasks, not just to humble ourselves to ask forgiveness of someone we have hurt, but to swallow our pride enough to say “I forgive you” and put a hurt behind us, never to bring it up again.

Something to think about.

Grace and Peace, Mark

October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 Story Time	2	3
4 9:45 Worship Peace & Global Witness Offering World Communion	5 10:00 Devotional	6 10:00 Devotional	7 10:00 Devotional	8 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 Story Time Zoom Deacons	9 9:00-1:00 Flu Shot at RACC. MUST REGISTER	10
11 9:45 Worship	12 10:00 Devotional	13 10:00 Devotional 6:00 Girl Scouts	14 10:00 Devotional 1:00 Worship & Music Zoom Session	15 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 Story Time	16	17
18 9:45 Worship	19 10:00 Devotional	20 10:00 Devotional	21 10:00 Devotional 1:00-6:45 BLOOD DRIVE HERE Must Register online American Red Cross 	22 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 Story Time	23	24
25 9:45 Worship	26 10:00 Devotional	27 10:00 Devotional 6:00 Girl Scouts	28 10:00 Devotional	29 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 Story Time	30	31  Happy Halloween 

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.
If you have questions, please call Terry Vantine, 629-5381*

Dear Friends-

I am certain we are all sadly aware that the projects of the Presbyterian Women of our church have been unable to take place this year and perhaps next spring as well. Unfortunately, the need to support our missions is even more necessary. While we must send much smaller donations to area charitable organizations, we have become aware of and are now including Gateway Academy in our gifting.

Gateway Academy is an alternative education program in the Gull Lake Community School District serving students who may have academic, socioeconomic, health and or mental health and behavioral challenges. At Gateway their goal is to ensure success for all of their students, who are overcoming adverse circumstances. They have used funds we have sent to: help with shelter and food for homeless students, provide diapers and food for a teen parent and child, student clothing and shoes, haircuts, gas cards and gift cards so families can shop for food during the time school is closed. Since Gateway cannot purchase these items from their school budget, they are very grateful for our donations which are kept separate for these expenditures.

Lynnette Walker, the head of the Academy, wrote this to us.

"We know that until kids are fed and feel safe and loved, they are not able to relax enough to learn. It's basic psychology. Because of the love, and I'm not talking about words of love but works of love, you have for my students, they see a different side of Christianity and are willing to consider that maybe there are good people because they experience it, with no strings attached. You plant seeds that our staff is able to water along the way."

This is a long explanation for a simple request. P.W. is hoping you might consider the amount you may have spent on buying or baking pies and the time and purchases expended at the rummage sales, and donate that to P.W. for our mission giving. We have missed serving and seeing you and hope you can help us continue to do God's work in this most unusual time.

Bless you - Terry Vantine

FROM CONNECTED THREADS



We're sure you've been spending the past 6 months working on hats, scarves, and mittens for the Mitten Tree, right??
HmMMMM?? Maybe not??

Well, you still have plenty of time to get them finished! Many families will be needing and counting on these lovely gifts to stay warm this winter. You are very welcome to drop off any items at the church from 9:00 to 1:00 on Tuesdays or Thursdays.



Presbyterian Women must regretfully inform everyone there will be
NO RUMMAGE SALE
in October this year!
We are sorry beyond words, but as with all else these days,
it's the safest thing to do.
Let's keep positive thoughts going for April of 2021!!

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.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCE UPDATE

August income was \$14.7K compared to expenses of \$19.4K, decreasing our YTD income by \$4.7K. **We are currently projecting a full year surplus of just under \$2K.**

Session greatly appreciates the dedication of our members and friends in the face of COVID-19 and the related uncertainties and economic challenges. It is because of your dedication that we remain able to focus on our missions, rather than our money.

As the year wanes and we move back to online worship with the colder weather, we will be making our annual Mission donations which will increase 4Q expenses in comparison to earlier quarters. Please continue to give in support of the general fund so that we can provide full funding to those local organizations that most need our assistance.

The simplest way to give is via **online donation**. Just go to the church website home page <https://www.fpcrich.org> and at the bottom of the page you will see a button that says “♥ **GIVE NOW.**” Click that button and it will take you to an online donations page that is managed by the Presbyterian Foundation, for the benefit of the church.

You may also snail mail your gift to the church office (8047 Church Street, Richland, 49083, attn: Financial Secretary). We have a brand-new locked mailbox, so your gift will be secure until Julie picks up the mail. PLEASE include your numbered giving envelope as well – this saves time because the Financial Secretary does not need to manually prepare a gift record.

As of August 31, fund balances are:



Grace, peace and good health to all. We look forward to seeing you again, hopefully soon.

Questions? Comments? Contact Sandy Carahaly or Sharon Rothenberg, Finance Elders.

MISSION



The Mission Committee and the Session voted in July to make a Love Fund donation to the hungry people in Guanaja, Honduras who have lost their income due to Covid-19. Pictured are Annette and Asalin Huskins, church members living in Guanaja, who have been coordinating the distribution with the local grocers. Pictured are 14 food trays of dry goods and the cooler with produce that was part of the distribution.

The Love Fund is a continuing project of the Mission Committee for special needs that arise. Thanks for past donations that made this gift possible.

If you would like to add to the Love Fund, you may send a check to First Presbyterian Church with Love Fund in the memo, so we may continue to help others.

The Adopt-a-Highway fall clean-up happened Sept.26-Oct.4 thanks to the efforts of our wonderful volunteers Gary Gibson, Cindi Lebiecki, Steve and Betsy Powell, and Jean Yoder. We will have 3 more opportunities in 2021 during April, July, and September.



YOUTH GROUP

October Schedule:

Sunday, October 11
Middle School Youth: 5-6:00pm
High School Youth: 6-7:00pm
Details to follow



Middle and High School Youth
Sunday, October 25
First Pres Richland
3-5:00pm
Outdoor Halloween Party
Costumes encouraged

Can you help?

As the youth continue to meet in person, we could use donations of pre-packaged snacks and drinks. Donations can be dropped off at the church or contact Meredith!

Youth Halloween Party!

We will be hosting an outdoor Trunk-or-Treat at the church for the youth group. Cars park in the back lot at church and the youth will trick-or-treat from car to car.

Masks will be required for all.
To sign up, contact Meredith:
meredithalspach4@gmail.com



We will also be having a Trunk-or-Treat for the little ones! Stay tuned for more info!



An update from Meredith:

The journey of faith formation . . .

And what a challenging journey that can be.

I don't know about you, but I've found the last 6 months to be challenging in ways I haven't quite known how to navigate. Everything is BIG, and IMPORTANT, and involves LIVES and PEOPLE and it all carries immense weight. In a time when everything seems to be divisive and political, I continue to lean very heavily on my faith and on the verse from Mark 12:31 to 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' We learn that verse at an early age, but I am just now feeling like the command is being put to the test in *my* life.

The journey of faith formation is life long, and learning how to navigate these intersections of life and faith isn't always easy.

As we continue with virtual worship and remain socially distanced, the Christian Ed team would like to introduce a new program series focused on *Intersections*. The topics will all be the big issues we are facing and how to *be the church* as life and faith intersect. Some resources will be educational, some will be interactive, some you may agree with and some may make you uncomfortable. It's all part of the journey.

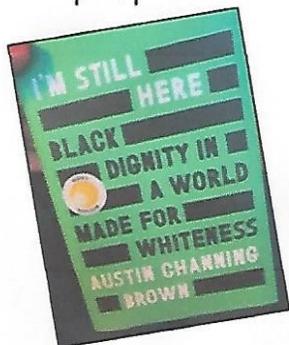
Look for video links and additional resources to be sent via email starting Sunday, October 4 and continuing each week. My challenge to you is to take a little time each week to check out the information and see where it leads you on your journey. We will also have open forum conversations with guest speakers some weeks via Zoom.

The first topic in our *Intersections* series is Racism.

**I encourage you to take a few moments to listen to our guest speaker videos and then join us to continue the discussion on
October 18 at 11am on Zoom.**

Look for a link to the Zoom in a future email.

There will also continue to be a recommended book of the month for us all to read together. The pick this month is one that I read in just a couple hours and had a profound effect on me. Holding a mirror up to my own actions and behavior has not been easy, but has been incredibly necessary as I to strive to *love my neighbor as myself*. This book will challenge you, might make you uncomfortable (it did me) and may change your perspective a bit. It came highly recommended to me by many people and I now recommend it to you. Join me this month in reading:



October Book of the Month

I'm Still Here

Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness

Austin Channing Brown



October Togetherness

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	
4	YOU	YOU	YOU	YOU	The crickets still sing in October. And lilly, she's trying to bloom. Tho she's resting her head on the shoulder of death, she still shines by the light of the moon. — Kevin Dalton -Faubush Hill
11	ARE	ARE	ARE	ARE	Let the leaves fall where they may- Welcome October- Autumn is here. — Charmaine J Forde
18	COMPLETELY	THOUGHT	CARED	DEFINITELY	October, baptize me with leaves! Swaddle me in corduroy and nurse me with split pea soup. October, tuck tiny candy bars in my pockets and carve my smile into a thousand pumpkins. O autumn! O teakettle! O grace! — Rainbow Rowell
25	MISSED!!!	OF OFTEN!!!	FOR!!!	LOVED!!!	

At this time, no need to put up our monthly lists!
We'll be back to normalcy before you know it!
Keep hanging in there! You are so loved!



Peace and Global Witness Offering

On World Communion Sunday, October 4th

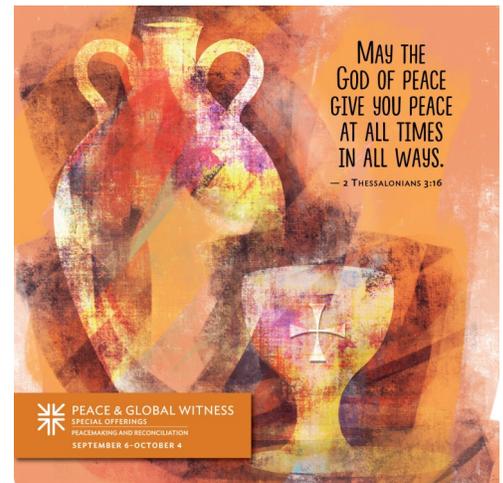
PEACE at all times in all ways

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 2020 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.

Since we can't be together to receive this offering, please feel free to send your donation to the church, 8047 Church St, Richland, MI 49083, with "Peacemaking" in the memo. Or, Julie can send you a mailing envelope. Just let her know.

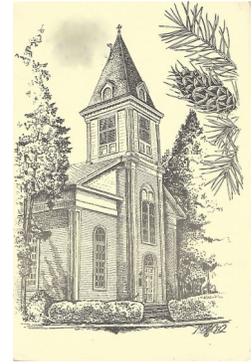


2 Thessalonians 3:16

May the God of peace...give you peace at all times in all ways.

Carillon Hymns and Honoree for October

Date	Selection	Honoree
10/1	Gift of Love	Lillian and Dick Davis, Frieda Nikola, Julie Hargreaves, Arlene Mauch
10/5	Love's Devine All Love Excelling	Bob and Brenda Jones
10/7	Let There Be Peace on Earth	
10/11	Morning Has Broken	Cindy and Jay Hoorn
10/17	Of the Father's Love Begotten	Mark Jennings birthday
10/21	A Mighty Fortress	Mildred and Larry
10/24	He Lives	Francis Hoorn
10/28	Kum Ba Ya	Kara Hoorn Dolbee
10/31	Holy, Holy, Holy	Kyle Anderson
10/31	Amazing Grace	Bob Jones birthday



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!

Our dear, good friend, Mary Godfrey, once asked if we could list early, all the things that people have the opportunity to donate toward, as they seem to happen most often (but not always) at the same time - Christmas. So, thanks to her, here are a few that have been on our list in the past.

The Mitten Tree *Church Women United Cookies* *Halloween Candy*
College Packages *Food Pantry* *PW Pies* *The Love Fund*
Family Services Wreath *Salvation Army Tree* *...and on and on and on...*

Local Mission:

Kalamazoo Deacons Conference *Ministry with Community*
Gospel Mission *Shepherd's Center* *Community Volunteers*
....and on and on and on...



Because of Covid 19, we aren't able to do all the wonderful church and community activities and donations. BUT, that doesn't mean we still can't give! If you'd normally bake a pie - give to PW anyway; if you'd normally buy stuff for college kids, or make cookies for CWU, or buy gifts for needy families, you still can. Give to the church. Give to Salvation Army (don't know yet if we'll have a tree for them, or a wreath for Family and Children's Services). Give to the Gospel Mission or Community Volunteers or any place you'd normally do so! All are very necessary helps for people in need. Especially now! Thank you!

October



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1 Matt Inman
1 Kathy White
2 Steve Powell
2 Bob Simon
3 Tom Webb
5 Carol Cooper
6 Ryan Griffin-Stegink
7 Cheryl Reinhardt
8 Brady Howard
9 DJ LaLonde
11 Rick Foster
11 Jack Kelly
11 MacKenzie Kemple
11 Timothy Simon
12 Lindsey Stolt Denne
13 Dana Sullivan
14 Andrew Mattes
15 Carolyn Schott
16 Lori Howard
16 Rodger Jones
16 Faye Luscombe
16 Rick Newell
17 Marie Mahieu
17 Mark Jennings



17 Sara Schott
18 Heather Ruser Putt
18 Judy Ruser
19 Joyce Hubbard
23 Joe Farho
23 Kate Farho
24 Brent Delf
24 Lorrie Syverson
25 Paisley Lindenberg
25 Martha Strumpfer
28 Kay Gross
28 Kathleen Howard
28 Carole Kamerman
28 Ron Reid
28 Archer Thomas
29 Jo Fenner
29 Steve Hart
29 John Lloyd
30 Christopher Brignall
30 Linda Gates
31 Rhonda Hope
31 Bob Jones
31 Jeremiah Smith
31 Sarah Weigel



Anniversaries



1 Meredith & Andy Alspach ~ 15 years
1 Leslie & Greg Keusch ~ 32
3 Carol Miller & Kris Johnson ~ 11
5 Brenda & Bob Jones ~ 17
6 Rick & Gail Venner ~ 36
7 Paul & Chris Gobble ~ 20
7 Kathleen & Kevin King ~ 25

11 Jay & Cindy Hoorn ~ 34
12 Barb & Larry Langshaw ~ 47
16 Bruce and Julie Howard ~ 27
16 Robin and Nancy Nott ~ 38
19 Tina & Jon Brignall ~ 24
21 Andee Trautman & Steve Allen ~ 42
22 Dave & Theresa Butler ~ 32



The Staff Wishes You A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!



Heather



Gretchen & Chris



Branden

Larry Meredith Julie Mark



Connie

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*

