

The Missive October 2021

First Presbyterian Church

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“So What?”

Years ago, when I was in college—and I went to a Christian college—we had a speaker at chapel one day who was particularly challenging. I remember him saying, “Most of you here probably call yourselves Christian. But so what? How would I know? What difference does it make in your life? You say you’re Christian, but so what? Prove it to me by showing me two things—your Daytimer and your checkbook.” Do you remember Daytimers? (That’s a “date book” for those born after 1990...but wait... you probably don’t know what that is either! And a checkbook? Okay Boomer... nevermind!) Anyway, his point was that it is not enough to say that we believe in God, but there should be evidence of it in how we spend our time and how we spend our money.

I have to admit that our church is pretty generous with money. Whenever there is a need, whether it is for the Afghan refugees, cookies for hospital employees or a youth mission trip, we come through.

And we’re also generous with our time but I, along with the Mission Committee, have been considering ways we can do more, (or maybe not pile more on for those who already do so much) or do it better, with more effect, or more personal engagement. And how can we invite more hands to help? What would our faith look like if we took Jesus’ admonition to “do for the least of these?” more seriously.

So...we have a plan! “Wine, Cheese, and Faith,” an evening of discernment and fellowship on Gull Lake, October 12 at 7pm. Marilyn and Bob Simon have graciously offered to host us so please join us as we discuss our faith and calling to be the body of Christ in the world. Using the parables in Matthew 25 as a guide, we will explore what it means to “feed the hungry, give water to those who thirst, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit those who are sick or in prison...” Jesus tells us “When you do it the least of these...you do it to me.”

What would it mean to each of us if we took that deeper into our hearts? How would it transform our congregation? What difference would it make in our community and beyond?

I hope you will think about joining us. I especially hope that if you have a passion to see the church act faithfully in our world today that you will come and share with the others who feel that way too.

Grace and Peace,

Mark



October Togetherness

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>
3		Beaver Lebiecki	
10		L & G Lindenberg	
17		Smith	
24		Leiter Osborne	
31		Rothenberg	

It must be October, the trees are falling
away and showing their true colors.
Charmaine J Forde

In the entire circle of the year
there are no days so delightful
as those of a fine October.
Alexander Smith

October is the fallen leaf, but it is also
a wider horizon more clearly seen.
It is the distant hills once more in sight,
and the enduring constellations
above them once again.
Hal Borland

October's poplars are flaming torches
lighting the way to winter.
Nova Bair

Twilight, even remembered twilight,
is better than no light at all.
China Miéville

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!



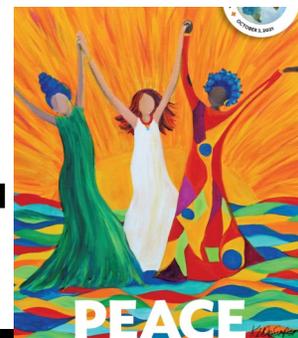
Happy 190th birthday, old and dear friend!



Church Sign:
"Come as you are,
you can change inside"

(thanks Kalli!)

October 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Gull Lake Homecoming 6:00 Girl Scouts	2
3 9:45 Worship - Communion 5:00 Youth Group at Pine Island	4 10:00 CE Meeting 1:00 Care Team 2:30 M&F Meeting 6:30 Boy Scouts	5 10:00 Connected Threads 8:00-3:00 Jack & Jill Pictures 6:0 Girl Scouts	6 8:00-3:00 Jack & Jill Pictures 12:00 Seasoned Seniors at New Hope 1:00 PW Meeting	7 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Mission Meeting online	8	9 7:00-10:00 Youth Group Movies-in-Boxes here
10 9:45 Worship 12:00 Young Adults at Bilbos on Stadium	11 6:30 Boy Scouts	12 10:00 Connected Threads 1:00 Personnel Mtg. 7:00 Adult Ed Mtg at Simons	13 12:00 Worship and Music Meeting 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Session	14 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Deacon	15 6:00 Girl Scouts	16 Happy Birthday Us! 
17 9:45 Worship 5:00 Youth Group at Kal 1st	18 1:00 Care Team 6:00 Coping with Loss 6:30 Boy Scouts	19 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	20 12:00-5:45 BLOOD DRIVE HERE 3:00 RACC Harvest Market Festival 6:15 Finance Mtg	21 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Girl Scouts	22	23
24 9:45 Worship 3:00-5:00 Youth Group Halloween Party at Kal 1st	25 6:00 Coping with Loss 6:30 Boy Scouts	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Connected Threads	27 9:30 Flower Group in GPR 5:30 Girl Scouts	28 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	29 6:00 Girl Scouts	30
31 9:45 Worship 10:45ish TRUNK OR TREAT in the big parking lot						

Presbyterian Women



Our next meeting is October 6th at 1:00,
at Wanda Clawson's home
EVERY WOMAN is welcome.



Maybe now is a good time to remind you about making hats, mittens, and scarves for the Mitten Tree! There's plenty of time to get them finished.

You don't knit or crochet? That's A-OK too. You are so welcome to purchase items. 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 to 1, Mondays thru Thursdays. The Tree will be up next month!



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, 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 Presbyterian Women 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 and 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.
Thank you.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

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!

FIRST MEETING



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

*We invite all middle and high school students
to join us for Youth Group!*

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.*



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

*Youth Group will meet from 5-6pm and then parents and pets
are invited to join us at 6pm for a Blessing of the Animals*

October 9 - Movies In Boxes @ Richland, 7-10pm

This will be outdoors so dress for the weather!

In the event of rain, this will be held in the GPR

October 17 - @ FPC Kzoo, 5-7pm

October 24 - @ FPC Kzoo, Family and Youth Halloween Event, 3-5pm

October 31 - NO Youth Group

November 7 - **HIGH SCHOOL ONLY** - @ Richland, 5-7pm

November 14 - NO Youth Group

November 21 - **MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY** - @ FPC Kzoo, 5-7pm

November 28 - NO Youth Group

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

December 12 - January 2 - NO Youth Group

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT ED

Please join us for food & fellowship as we begin to embark on a new discussion-based series focused on growing our faith through taking action in our community. This group will be meeting every 2-3 weeks to study scripture and discuss what it means for each of us to use our God given talents to help others. Join us for *Wine, Cheese & Faith*, Tuesday, October 12 at 7pm at Marilyn Simon's home.

More information, and a link to RSVP, can be found in the Thursday emails.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite all preschool - 5th grade children to join us for Sunday School!

- ♥ 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.
- ♥ 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!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT



We will be having a trunk-or-treat for the children following worship on Sunday, October 31. We invite adults to stock up on some candy to hand out to the children who will trick-or-treat from trunk to trunk. Children, wear your costumes and come for some fun!

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.

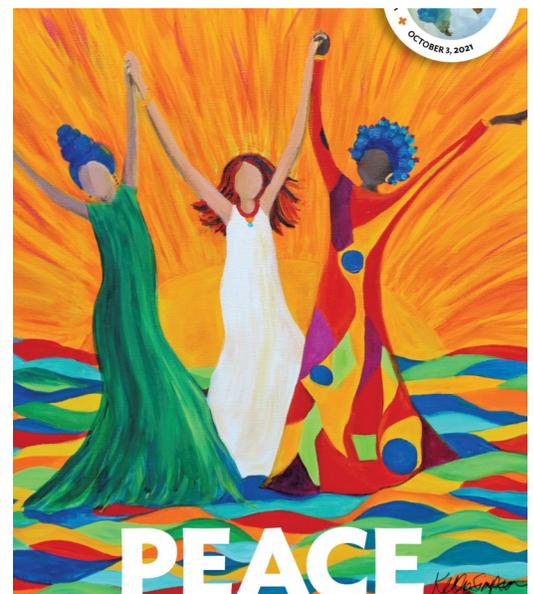
The church of every time and place wrestles with the distance between our timeframe and expectations and God's. In God's time, even the small seeds we plant can grow into sturdy trees. In God's time, the fears we carry can be transformed into new partnership and hope. In God's time, our expectations 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.



at all times in all ways.

SHALOM! Open House FARM DAYS!



Sat & Sun, October 9-10th 2-5 pm

SHALOM Woolery Barn Dedication: Sunday at 5:00



New SHALOM
Woolery Barn

Pavilion

SHALOM
Woolery
3191
Van Buren



Van Buren St.
Turn off Riverview Dr. onto
Van Buren for all parking.

↑
N

SHALOM
Farm

McKinley St.

N. Riverview Dr.

ENTER
←



Farm entrance is
1.5 miles north of
"G" Ave. Take
N. Riverview Dr. to
3191 Van Buren St.

Apple Cider Press, Kids' Crafts, Games, Hay Ride, FOOD!

Interact with Farm Animals—

Sheep, Chickens, Alpacas, Rabbits, walk the Goats!

Pumpkin painting

SHALOM Woolery demonstrations & silent auction

Come Experience Life on the Farm with us!



Enriching the lives of adults living with developmental disabilities
through the love and wholeness of Jesus Christ!

269-382-3840 - shalomkazoo@aol.com - shalomkazoo.org -  shalom kazoo

SHALOM Farm Days at 3191 Van Buren St., Kalamazoo, MI

If you give a
COVID floor worker
a cookie they'll...

Know we appreciate them

1st Presbyterian
Richland

We heard what happens when you give a mouse a cookie, but what happens when you give a Covid floor worker one?

Answer: they'll know we appreciate them and pray for them.

We are coordinating with Maria Brennan of the The Victorian Bakery, and the Chaplains Office at Borgess Hospital, to have cookies brought to the Covid floor. Chaplain Benny says they have a day and night shift, each with upwards of 50 people working.

At \$2 a cookie, we might just cover both shifts.

☺ Each cookie is individually wrapped and will have a message of encouragement from our church. Please consider buying a cookie or two (or 10!). Please bring or mail donations to church by October 3rd, or let us know if you need it picked up.

October

From the Latin word octo, "eight", because this had been the eighth month of the early Roman calendar.

Before there were weather apps or the National Weather Service, people looked to the signs of nature to prepare for what was to come. Below are a list of these "signs" of nature that can predict a harsh winter, taken from the 1978 Old Farmer's Almanac.



1. Thicker-than-normal cornhusks
2. Woodpeckers sharing a tree
3. Early arrival of the snowy owl
4. Early departure of geese and ducks
5. Early migration of the monarch butterfly
6. Thick hair on the nape of the cow's neck
7. Heavy and numerous fogs during August
8. Raccoons with thick tails and bright bands
9. Mice eating ravenously into the home
10. Early arrival of crickets on the hearth
11. Spiders spinning larger-than-usual webs and entering the house in great numbers
12. Pigs gathering sticks
13. Insects marching in a line rather than meandering
14. Early seclusion of bees within the hive
15. Unusual abundance of acorns
16. Muskrats burrowing holes high on the riverbank
17. "See how high the hornet's nest, 'twill tell how high the snow will rest"
18. Narrow orange band in the middle of the woolly bear caterpillar warns of heavy snow; fat and fuzzy caterpillars presage bitter cold
19. Frequent halos or rings around the Sun or Moon forecast numerous snow falls
20. The squirrel gathers nuts early to fortify against a hard winter



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.

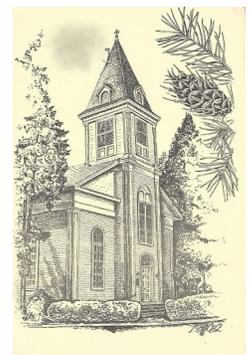
During the past many months in the face of the pandemic, your generosity and donations to the Food Pantry have been consistent, reassuring, and helped many.

Thank you. Paul Gobble and Marsha Zick



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for October

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



October



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 Juanito Carisalez
11 Rick Foster
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
30 Christopher Brignall
31 Rhonda Hope
31 Bob Jones
31 Jeremiah Smith
31 Sarah Weigel

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Anniversaries



1 Meredith & Andy Alspach ~ 16 years
1 Leslie & Greg Keusch ~ 33
3 Carol Miller & Kris Johnson ~ 12
5 Brenda & Bob Jones ~ 18
6 Tony & Katie Osborne ~ 3
6 Rick & Gail Venner ~ 37
7 Paul & Chris Gobble ~ 21
7 Kathleen & Kevin King ~ 26

11 Jay & Cindy Hoorn ~ 35
12 Barb & Larry Langshaw ~ 48
16 Bruce and Julie Howard ~ 28
16 Robin and Nancy Nott ~ 39
19 Tina & Jon Brignall ~ 25
21 Andee Trautman & Steve Allen ~ 43
22 Dave & Theresa Butler ~ 33





Blood Trivia

What common chemical added to blood keeps it from clotting until it is ready to be transfused to a patient?

Salt

What common chemical added to blood greatly increases its storage time without adversely affecting the quality?

Sugar

When and how was the first administration of blood given?

The early Egyptians and Romans prescribed it orally as a life-giving tonic and to transmit youth from donor to recipient.

What was the nickname of the Queen of England and Ireland who reigned from 1553-1558 (a cocktail is also named after her)?

Bloody Mary (Mary Tudor)

Which ancient culture, believing that blood had magical powers, painted their bodies with it and bathed their kings in it as part of their tribal rituals to appease the gods?

Aztecs

In ancient times, what profession became known by the name of an animal they often used in their work?

Doctors used leeches to remove blood (which supposedly removed demons which were thought to be the cause of illness). Soon their patients started referring to physicians as "leeches".

When were the four blood types identified in humans?

Blood transfusions were first attempted around 1600 by transfusing animal blood into humans — with disastrous results. Then, in the early 1800's an English obstetrician, James Blundell, came up with the idea of human blood for human beings. The results were better, but still some patients inexplicably died. Finally, in 1900, Karl Landsteiner identified the four basic blood types, and subsequently, the success of blood transfusions was significantly increased when patients were transfused with their same type!

Which RH factor is most needed, RH+ or RH- ?

Both. A greater percentage of people have RH+, so this means more RH+ blood donors are needed. Fewer people have RH- blood so there are fewer donors to provide this type when needed.

What is the origin of the red & white striped pole designating a barber shop?

In the Middle Ages, bloodletting was a popular cure for many ills, and barbers became known as professional bloodletters. Red & white barber poles symbolize the practice of hanging bloodstained bandages outside their shops.

What English aristocrat believed bathing in blood would keep her young (which may have contributed to the beginning of the vampire legend)?

Mary Bathory

What blood type did Mr. Spock of *Star Trek* have?

His blood type was T-negative.

What nation has popularized the belief that blood type is an indicator of personality traits?

Japan



		Blood Type Inheritance			
		O	A	B	AB
Parents	O & O	♥			
	O & A	♥	♥		
	O & B	♥		♥	
	A & A	♥	♥		
	A & B	♥	♥	♥	♥
	B & B	♥		♥	
	AB & O		♥	♥	
	AB & A		♥	♥	♥
	AB & B		♥	♥	♥
	AB & AB		♥	♥	♥
		O	A	B	AB
		Possible Children			

OUT OF EVERY 100 PEOPLE:

1 is AB-

3 are AB+

2 are B-

9 are B+

6 are A-

34 are A+

7 are O-

38 are O+

You can receive ...

	O-	O+	B-	B+	A-	A+	AB-	AB+
AB+	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
AB-	♥		♥		♥		♥	
A+	♥	♥			♥	♥		
A-	♥				♥			
B+	♥	♥	♥	♥				
B-	♥		♥					
O+	♥	♥						
O-	♥							

If you have ...

What percentage of a person's body weight is blood?
7%

What percentage of Chinese people have RH+ blood?
100%

Which blood type must receive only their own specific type, even in an emergency?
O-

How many blood types do cats have?
Four

How many blood types do cows have?
Over 800



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*

