

The Missive November 2020

First Presbyterian Church

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“Election Results”

As I write this, it is October 28th, 2020, but as you are reading this, I’m betting that it’s already November and that Election Day is over. Election Day this year is November 3rd, less than a week away, and many of us can’t wait for it to get here. Not necessarily that we are excited about that day, but that we wish it were here and gone! We can’t wait for the political commercials, billboards, and robocalls to be over. We are hoping that we can hear something on the news besides the sniping and criticism from one candidate to another. Some of us will go to our polling places and get in line to vote, looking at our friends and neighbors who are in line with us (wondering who they are voting for, perhaps), but many of us have already sent our ballots in. But what will you do when it’s over? Will we just go back to “normal” life and not think about politics anymore? I doubt that. I think that some of us will be very happy and some of us will be very upset. But what will we do with those feelings? Will those feelings of joy or frustration, of relief or anger provoke us to do anything? Will our feelings fuel any action? I hope they do. In fact, that’s what I would like to challenge us to do. Let’s take those feelings and use them. Let’s use them first and foremost to take us to prayer. This is what I’d like to challenge us to do in the days following Election Day.

- *Pray for the winners. Those who have been victorious in these elections now have great responsibility. Pray for the people who won elections nationally and in our state, and in our community. All of them are now servants of all the people. Pray for them to have wisdom, compassion, and the heart of a servant.*
- *Pray for the losers. For they are not really “losers.” It takes courage to put oneself out in front of the people and ask for their votes. Most of us would never want to do that. Pray that God gives them peace about the outcome*

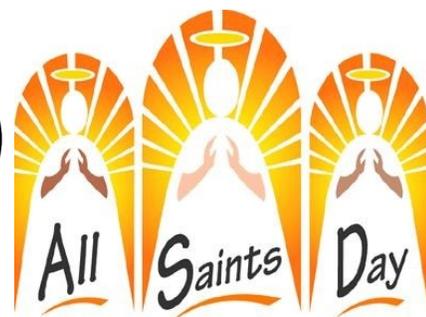
and that God gives them the strength to continue to work for the betterment of all.

- *Pray for our nation. There has been a lot of division in our country, red versus blue, Democrat versus Republican, progressive versus conservative. Pray that our people may have the “long view” and see that although we might disagree about tactics, we all want a society of peace and justice.*
- *Pray for our community. Those divisions are even evident in our towns, on our streets, in our neighborhoods. Pray that we may be loving neighbors and that we want less to “win” than we want our communities and neighborhoods to be places of welcome and care for one another.*
- *Pray for our church. Pray that we remember that the church should be the place where the liberal and the conservative can come and worship together because we share a common Lord, Jesus Christ and that is where our ultimate loyalty lies, not to a party or a candidate or political “ism.” Pray that God uses the church to be a demonstration of the kingdom of heaven to the world.*
- *Pray for yourself. Ask God to take your feelings of joy or disappointment and to use them to build up your neighbors, your community, our nation. Be a faithful citizen, but before that be a faithful disciple of Jesus, who is called to love our neighbors and love our enemies.*

Grace and Peace,

Mark

November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 Worship All Saints Day Hope we turned our clocks back last night!	2 10:00 Devotion 6:30 Boy Scouts	3 10:00 Devotion 6:00 Girl Scouts	4 10:00 Devotion	5 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 Story Time	6 6:00 Girl Scouts	7
8 9:45 Worship Thank Offering 3:00-5:00 Youth Group Outside	9 10:00 Devotion 6:30 Boy Scouts	10 10:00 Devotion 6:00 Girl Scouts	11 10:00 Devotion Session 6:00 Girl Scouts	12 11:00 Bible Study Deacons 7:30 Story Time	13	14
15 9:45 Worship Hymn Fest	16 10:00 Devotion 6:30 Boy Scouts	17 10:00 Devotion 6:00 Girl Scouts	18 10:00 Devotion	19 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:30 Story Time	20 6:00 Girl Scouts	21
22 9:45 Worship Youth Group Zoom Middle - 5-6 High - 6/7	23 10:00 Devotion 6:30 Boy Scouts	24 10:00 Devotion 6:00 Girl Scouts	25 10:00 Devotion 6:00 Girl Scouts	26 Happy Thanksgiving! 	27	28
29 9:45 Worship 1st Sunday of Advent 	30 10:00 Devotion 6:30 Boy Scouts					

November Togetherness

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>
1	YOU	YOU	YOU	YOU
8	ARE	ARE	ARE	ARE
15	COMPLETELY	THOUGHT	CARED	DEFINITELY
22	MISSED!!!	OF OFTEN!!!	FOR!!!	LOVED!!!
29				

The month of November makes me feel that life is passing more quickly. In an effort to slow it down, I try to fill the hours more meaningfully.
Henry Rollins

November at its best - with a sort of delightful menace in the air.
Anne Bosworth Greene

November is auspicious in so many parts of the country: the rice harvest is already in, the weather starts to cool, and the festive glow which precedes Christmas has begun to brighten the landscape.
F. Sionil Jose

Autumn!
The greatest show of all times!
Mehmet Murat ildan

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!



Dear
NOVEMBER
Be awesome!

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??
Hmmmm?? 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.



Did you know the ladies of Connected Threads have lovely shawls just waiting to be used? These talented gals work on many projects throughout the year, including making Prayer Shawls. These wrap-around hugs are usually given to folks who are recovering or recuperating or feeling a little low, but they can also be taken for anyone who might want to sent a hug to a grandchild, or a father-in-law, or the next door neighbor - just because! You are very welcome to come to the church and look at the shawls, pick one (or more if you have the need), and take to someone you care about. Just tell Julie who it's for!

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.

Presbyterian Women

THANK OFFERING

Do not worry about anything...

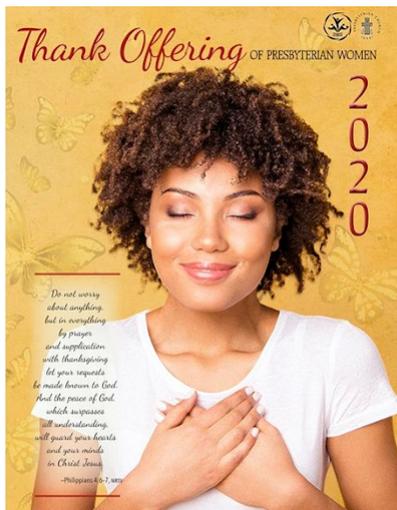
The **Thank Offering** began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey, of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a “**thank offering** to her Lord.” A day was set aside for meetings that were to be a “concert of prayer and praise and the gathering of the **Thank Offering.**” The gifts presented at those meetings represented much soul-searching and self-sacrifice on the part of many women. The impact was immeasurable. It has been said that women's giving saved the worldwide missionary movement at that time. The thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, but a “**thank offering** to her Lord” continued to be an important part of women's giving by United Presbyterian Women. This expression of thanksgiving now is an important part of Presbyterian Women.

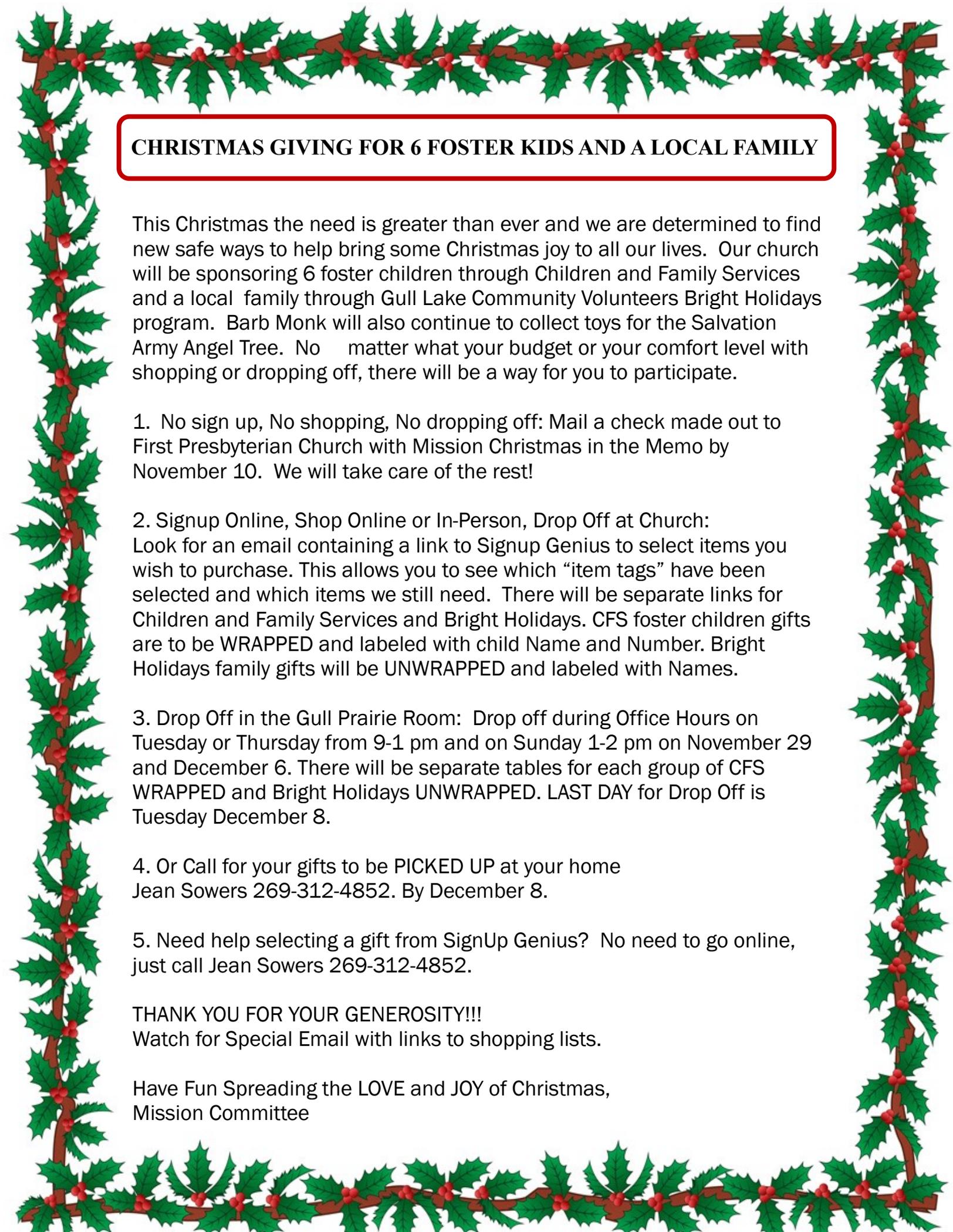
At least 40% of the **Thank Offering** receipts are allocated for health ministries. These funds are sent to hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's family. The remainder of the offering is used to fund proposals that deal with issues such as child care, the elderly, violence, hopelessness and injustice.

You will find a **Thank Offering** envelope included with this issue of the MISSIVE. Since we can't be together to receive this offering on November 8th, you are welcome to pay online, www.presbyterianwomen.org, and click on “Giving and Funding”, or I can send you an envelope to mail yourself!

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

Philippians 4:6-7





CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR 6 FOSTER KIDS AND A LOCAL FAMILY

This Christmas the need is greater than ever and we are determined to find new safe ways to help bring some Christmas joy to all our lives. Our church will be sponsoring 6 foster children through Children and Family Services and a local family through Gull Lake Community Volunteers Bright Holidays program. Barb Monk will also continue to collect toys for the Salvation Army Angel Tree. No matter what your budget or your comfort level with shopping or dropping off, there will be a way for you to participate.

1. No sign up, No shopping, No dropping off: Mail a check made out to First Presbyterian Church with Mission Christmas in the Memo by November 10. We will take care of the rest!
2. Signup Online, Shop Online or In-Person, Drop Off at Church: Look for an email containing a link to Signup Genius to select items you wish to purchase. This allows you to see which "item tags" have been selected and which items we still need. There will be separate links for Children and Family Services and Bright Holidays. CFS foster children gifts are to be WRAPPED and labeled with child Name and Number. Bright Holidays family gifts will be UNWRAPPED and labeled with Names.
3. Drop Off in the Gull Prairie Room: Drop off during Office Hours on Tuesday or Thursday from 9-1 pm and on Sunday 1-2 pm on November 29 and December 6. There will be separate tables for each group of CFS WRAPPED and Bright Holidays UNWRAPPED. LAST DAY for Drop Off is Tuesday December 8.
4. Or Call for your gifts to be PICKED UP at your home
Jean Sowers 269-312-4852. By December 8.
5. Need help selecting a gift from SignUp Genius? No need to go online, just call Jean Sowers 269-312-4852.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!
Watch for Special Email with links to shopping lists.

Have Fun Spreading the LOVE and JOY of Christmas,
Mission Committee

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE



Dear Church Family,

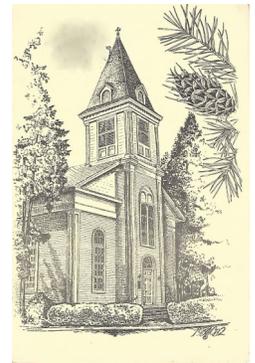
The Salvation Army is going to continue its tradition of the Christmas Angel Tree project. Toy collecting will begin November 13, and as of now, I do not have a final date for turning in the gifts. Our church has been so very generous in the past, and this year the need is even greater. Because of the COVID crisis, I am not asking for you to "take a tag" from the Christmas tree that will be set up in the usual place outside Julie's office. The tree and the tags will be there, but you all have done this sleigh ride before, so you know how it works. If you wish to purchase a gift for a child between the ages of infant to 17 yrs. old, please leave it outside of Julie's office as in the past. Don't worry about including a tag for a specific age. The people who work the Toy Shop will sort the toys when they are delivered to the Army. The tags serve the purpose of balancing gender and age group so that no age is left out. This year we are not worried about that. If you wish to purchase gift cards, please have the amount written on them. The Toy Shop is NOT including clothes, only toys and gift cards. Thank you so much for helping to make a child's Christmas a happy one.



Barb Monk

Carillon Hymns and Honoree for November

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
11/3	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus</i>	<i>Beulah M. Ryan</i>
11/25	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Becky and Tony Jones</i>
11/29	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Ted and Lois Oosterhout</i>



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!

BEING THE CHURCH

Sending a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all who helped make Halloween special for the children and youth of the church.
Your donations and time helped provide a little bit of "normal" and a whole lot of joy.

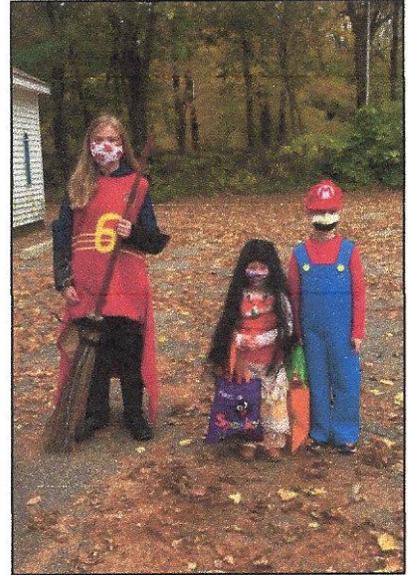
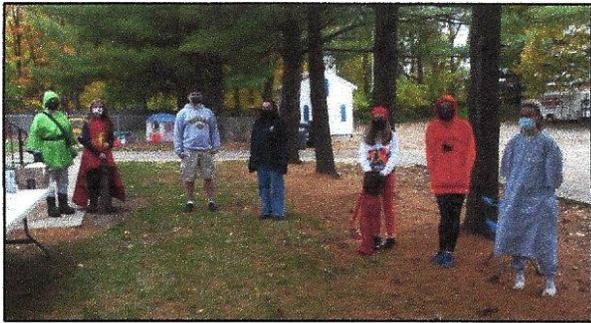


Photo credit to Jack Sizer

YOUTH GROUP

November Schedule:

Middle and High School Youth
Sunday, November 8
First Pres Richland
3-5:00pm
We will meet outdoors so bundle up!



Virtual Youth Group
Sunday, November 22
Middle School Youth: 5-6:00pm
High School Youth: 6-7:00pm
Zoom link to follow



Photo credit to Jack Sizer

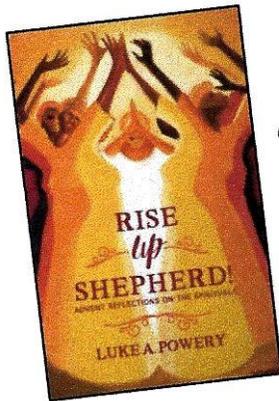
An update from Meredith:

The journey of faith formation . . .

It's hard to believe that Advent is almost upon us. It's even harder to imagine what this season will look like as we continue to socially distance in our efforts to keep one another safe. But Advent is the season of *hope* and *wonder* and no amount of social distancing can change that. We hope you'll join the Christian Ed team in an all-church read focused on where the Christmas story begins, based on what each Gospel says about it. "*Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* reimagines the season and inspires new and exciting reflection for Advent."

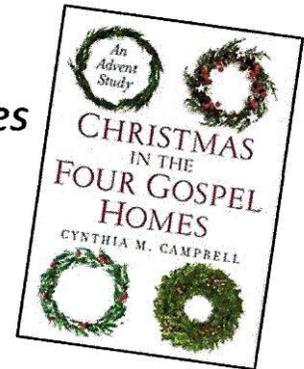
We also invite you to join us in a daily devotional read of *Rise Up, Shepherd*. "In *Rise Up, Shepherd!* each Advent devotion features the lyrics of a spiritual song, a reflection of the spiritual's meaning, a Scripture verse, and a brief prayer."

We will be ordering both books on November 10, so please let Meredith or the church office know if you'd like a copy of one or both. We are asking for a \$5 donation toward the cost of each book for those who are able.



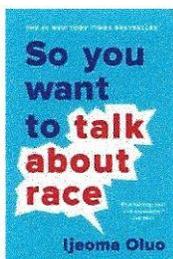
Advent Book Selections

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes
and
Rise Up, Shepherd!
Advent Reflections on the Spirituals



As we continue our *Intersections* series on Racism, we encourage you to take a few moments to listen to our video series and then join us to continue the discussion again on November 8 on Zoom.

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



I also invite you to join us in reading the
November Book of the Month

So You Want To Talk About Race

Ijeoma Oluo

Ijeoma Oluo guides readers through an honest conversation about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

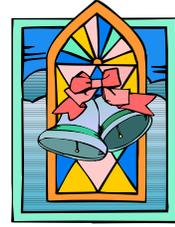
I found this a tough read, but one that had me making notes on each page and eager to learn more.

This is a great book to read before our live Zoom on November 8!

If you would like to borrow any of the books of the month, please contact Meredith at: meredithalspach4@gmail.com



November Anniversaries



- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 Ed and Marme Courtney ~ 47 | 23 Sandy and Vince Carahaly ~ 18 |
| 7 Katie and Nate Schrauben ~ 11 | 23 Mike and Dana Sullivan ~ 35 |
| 14 Harold and Joyce Dishon ~ 34 | 25 Becky and Tony Jones ~ 14 |
| 30 Jim and Sherry Stallings ~ 52 | |



and Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Pearson Burris | 18 Lori Hildenbrand |
| 1 Samantha Steele Gay | 18 Caitlin Kamerman |
| 1 Laurel Odell | 20 Kate Kelly |
| 3 Andy Ambrosio | 20 Taraynn Lloyd |
| 3 Lynn Bakker | 20 Jennie MacQuarrie |
| 3 Steve Knowlton | 21 Jill Steele |
| 4 Lib Wittwer | 22 BJ Hooks |
| 5 Theresa Butler | 22 Jennifer McQuater |
| 7 Dave Kreager | 23 Lynn Hittle |
| 8 Lois Nafziger | 23 Allison Hope |
| 8 Justin Perigo | 23 Sherry Stallings |
| 9 Dave Butler | 24 Joan Romyak |
| 9 Chelsea Martin | 25 Ken Sunden |
| 10 Chris Gobble | 26 Beth Nolin |
| 11 Jon Brignall | 26 Daniel Snyder |
| 11 Rachel Sage | 27 Alexandria Howard |
| 12 Ethan Storer | 27 Janet Kelly |
| 13 Dick Chormann | 27 Katie Knowlton |
| 13 Brad Hittle | 27 Marilyn Rhodes |
| 13 Hannah Rose Kilbourne | 27 Jaime Snow |
| 13 Cole Schott | 30 Bob Nash |
| 14 Jacob Schott | 30 Brendan Sage |
| 17 Angela Hittle | |



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*



Volunteer Assignments



*We rely on many mem-
run smoothly and be a
attending our church.*

***If for some reason you are not able to help on the day originally select-
ed, 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

*bers and friends to help Sundays
good worship experience for those*



Serving Communion

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

