

The Missive November 2018

First Presbyterian Church

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“The Church and Politics”

In a week we vote. I can't wait. Not just because I'm excited to see who will win in our latest cycle of elections in our country, but because I'm ready for it to be over. Newscasters who tell us, “It's only 74 more days until the midterm elections . . .” Or to not have to see any more political commercials in which one side is cast as the evil foot soldiers from the dark side of the nether regions of Hades, while the other side will bring about peace, sweetness, light, and economic prosperity for people just like me. So I'm looking forward to it all being over.

But what is the church's place in all of this? A few weeks ago we reflected on this in church and in adult Sunday School—does the church have a place in politics? There was a lot of response to this question—some felt that the church should stay out of the political arena, others believed that although we were uncomfortable with the preacher telling congregants for whom they should vote, that the church had to take stands on political issues. I don't think anything was resolved, but it's been on my mind in the weeks since.

It seems to me that there are competing visions of how the church relates to the political realm. And it may be that each vision is equally flawed. One stance is to give in to the temptation to reduce our vision of the Kingdom of God to a vote for one of two political parties. That's a dangerous point of view because it tends to baptize one secular view of the world and desire for power as the one that God prefers. Never a good thing in my mind. A second option is to avoid “politics” altogether. This is equally dangerous because it assumes that God is only interested in individual faith and not in the entire created order. Matt Croasmun, a school-

ar at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, writes, “Both partisanship and quietism aim to save us from the theological work of discerning the good life; that is, they aim to rescue us from the burden of being the church.” That's a burden that is our joy to have, to take the work of God into the world, into each community in which we live. One of the Great Ends of the Church in our Foundational Principles as Presbyterians is that we are a “demonstration of the Kingdom of God to the world.”

The question is, and the reason we so often disagree, is how do we do that? How do we show God's kingdom to the world? How do we “be the church” to the world around us? If you have noticed the poster in the Gull Prairie Room that was put up by the youth, we have some idea: “Be the Church: Protect the environment, Care for the Poor, Forgive often, Reject racism, Fight for the powerless, Share earthly and spiritual resources, Embrace diversity, Love God, Enjoy this life.” When we do those things, when we are seeking first to follow our King, it may have political dimensions. But that's ok. We'll get things wrong. We'll move too slow, or too fast. We'll do the right thing for the wrong reason. Or vice versa. But that's why our most constant prayer will always be “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners.”

Grace and Peace,

Mark

November Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
4	Field	Field G&L Lindenberg VOLUNTEER	Osborne VOLUNTEER		
11	VOLUNTEER	Dishon Monk	Gauthier Urban VOLUNTEER	Lovequist	
18	G Gross	G Gross 3 Beaver's	Vantine VOLUNTEER	Lovequist	
25	Irey	Coverly A & R Gross	VOLUNTEERS Inman	Stafford	

Serving Communion

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

November 4

Deb Fisher
Rick Foster
Sandra Gobble
Michelle Greve
Kay Hutchinson
Karen Kendall
Tom Kendall
Kristen Kern-Beaver

December 2

Cindi Lebiecki
Phyllis Leiter
Nancy Lynch
Amy Mack
Ruth Mason
Val Osborne
Gene Rothenberg
Sharon Rothenberg

January 6

Nancy Remley
Judy Ruser
Dick Saddler
Ed Schaadt
Ronda Schaadt

*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!***

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts	2	3 Turn clocks BACK 
4 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - Communion 11:00 Steeple Meeting 11:30ish Altar Guild and W&M Meeting	5 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Endowment Meeting 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts 	7 1:00 PW Meeting at Wanda's 4:00 Girl Scouts	8 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Deacons 7:00 Cub Scouts	9	10
11 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:00 Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 Youth Group at Westminster	12 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30-8:00 High School Concert HERE	14 9:30 Flower Group in GPR 6:00 Session 7:00 Cub Leaders	15 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts	16	17
18 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - Hymn Sing 11:00 Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 Youth Group Here	19 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	21 4:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Boy Scout Leaders	22 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> 	23 Office Closed	24
25 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship	26 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts 7:00-8:00 Men's Breakfasts	28 1:00 Women's Book Club at Carol Coverly's	29 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cubs Pack Mtg.	30	

Presbyterian Women

THANK OFFERING

Diverse, yet one in Christ

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. We will be receiving the offerings during the church service on November 11, or you can turn them into the church office.

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.

Romans 12:4-6a





Stewardship Sunday

Dictionary.com defines Stewardship as: “the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.” This means it’s not something we should only think about once a year in November when it’s time to fill out our pledge cards... and it also means it’s not simply about money. Stewardship is a responsibility. It’s protection. It’s caring. It’s preservation. We can be good stewards of our church by giving our time and talents, as well as our “treasure.” All that said... yes... Stewardship Sunday is coming up this month, and like every other year, we will be asking you to prayerfully consider your financial pledge for the coming year. This helps us determine our budget, including both “needs” and “wants.”

Our 2018 budget was in the neighborhood of \$280K. At the close of September, with 75% of the year complete, we had received \$181K (65% of the full-year budget) and spent \$210K (75% of FY), resulting in a deficit of \$29K. Our budget spending is largely in the “needs” category. We need to keep the lights and heat on. We need to pay our pastor and staff. We need to maintain and insure our building and grounds. We need to purchase office and kitchen and bathroom and cleaning supplies. These costs do not go away when giving is down. The budget lines that suffer when giving is down are Mission, Christian Education, and the Sabbatical Fund. But these are no less “needs” for a Christian church than electricity and the pastor’s salary. In many ways, they are the true outward expression of our Christian faith.

On November 11th, Session will be asking you to pledge to fulfill your stewardship responsibility to oversee and protect both our church and our community. If you are unable to give financially, we hope you will reach out to a member of Session and offer your time and talent!

If you have any questions about church finance, please reach out to your Finance Committee elders, Pete Knibloe and Sandy Carahaly. Thank you!

Youth Group

Are you in Middle or High School this year?
Come be a part of our fabulous Youth Group!

Sundays from 5-7pm

All are welcome!



Would you be willing to help feed the
Youth Group on November 18???

Youth Group Schedule

November 5 - NO YOUTH GROUP

November 11 - Westminster hosts 5-7pm

November 18 - WE host 5-7pm

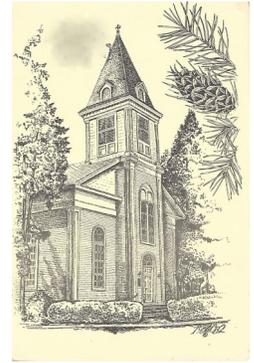
November 25 - NO YOUTH GROUP

December 2 - Evening worship @ First Pres Kalamazoo 6-8pm

December 9 - WE host Christmas party, 5-7pm

Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for November

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
11/3	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus</i>	<i>Beulah 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>Lois and Ted Oosterhout</i>



OUR PANTRY SERVED 417 PEOPLE IN THE THIRD QUARTER!!

FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER



FOOD PANTRY
Giving Suggestions

**Anything
Thanksgiving**



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

**TO ASSIST WITH CRISES,
NATIONALLY AND
INTERNATIONALLY**

Look on their website to see what they do!

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen*

TO DONATE:

Call - 800-872-3283

Online - pda.pcusa.org Look for "Donate Now" at top

Check - Presbyterian Church (USA)
PO Box 643700 Pittsburgh,
PA 15264-3700

On memo line, designate where you want your donation to go.



Salvation Army News

Here at The Salvation Army, we are already planning for the busy holiday season. Did you know that during the months of November and December, we depend on over 2,000 volunteers to help us assist those in need? Without volunteers, we could not touch the lives of so many people in our community so THANK YOU!

Below are the dates of our 2018 holiday volunteer opportunities. These opportunities are perfect for companies, clubs, organizations, families or individuals that want to give back!

Share the Warmth Coat Drive: November 1, 2, 8 & 9

Holiday Assistance Registration: November 5 - 16

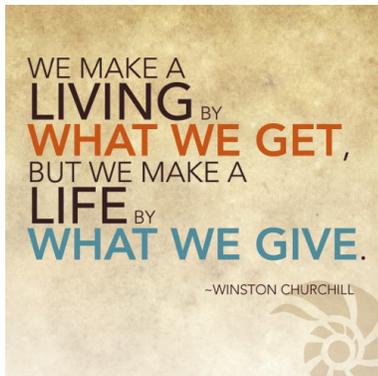
Thanksgiving Basket Assembly and Distribution: November 19 & 20

Bell Ringing: November 19 - December 24

Toy Shop: December 17 - 21

Contact me to get signed up!

Thank you,
Morgan Burnson
Volunteer and Events Coordinator



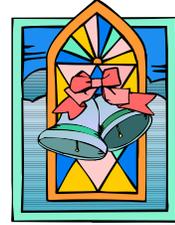
On a related note, our good friend, Mary Godfrey, once asked if we could list early, most of the things that people have the opportunity to donate toward, as they always seem to happen at the same time! Christmas. So, thanks to her, here are a few that will probably be forthcoming!

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

Local Mission:
Kalamazoo Deacons Conference
Gospel Mission
Ministry with Community
Shepherd's Center
....and on and on and on....



November Anniversaries



3 Ed and Marme Courtney ~ 45
 7 Katie and Nate Schrauben ~ 9
 14 Harold and Joyce Dishon ~ 32
 30 Jim and Sherry Stallings ~ 50

23 Sandy and Vince Carahaly ~ 16
 23 Mike and Dana Sullivan ~ 33
 25 Becky and Tony Jones ~ 12



and Birthdays

1 Samantha Steele Gay	18 Lori Hildenbrand
1 Laurel Odell	18 Caitlin Kamerman
3 Andy Ambrosio	20 Kate Kelly
3 Lynn Bakker	20 Taraynn Lloyd
3 Steve Knowlton	20 Jennie MacQuarrie
4 Lib Wittwer	21 Jill Steele
5 Theresa Butler	22 BJ Hooks
7 Dick Davis	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
13 Jacob Schott	30 Brendan Sage
17 Angela Hittle	



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Brandy Dlugoss, *Financial Secretary*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
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*

