

The Missive

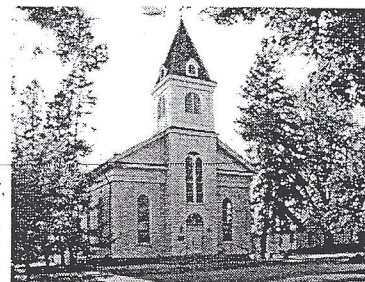
April 2017

First Presbyterian Church

8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083
269-629-4944
269-629-4945 fax
fpcrich@firstpresrichland.org
www.fpcrich.com

Rev. Dr. Mark W. Jennings
revmarkj@tds.net
269-731-2519 home

Volume 52, Number 4, Monthly



"Into the Fray"

The following resolution was approved at the Stated Meeting the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, Presbyterian Church, USA on March 11, 2017.

"Whereas, the President of the United States, in two separate executive orders has suspended refugee persons from Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen, with the nation of Iraq having been removed in the second executive order, from entering the United States pending further vetting and examination. It should also be noted the listed countries predominately have a Muslim majority. The president and his administration has indicated that both executive orders, one being opposed in court and the other more recently signed to be clearer of the Trump administration's intentions, are enacted to protect the national security of the United States. These executive orders further harm those who are the victims of genocide, terrorism, religious and gender-based persecution, and civil war in their own country and attempting to flee such trauma inflicted by these horrific acts while furthering unnecessary delay of entry into the United States.

Whereas, this ban contradicts the very foundations of our biblical faith to welcome the stranger and give safe haven to the refugee, and

Whereas, Jesus himself, with his family, began his life, as a refugee, which is recorded in scripture (Matthew 2:13-18).

Therefore be it resolved, in concurrence with a similar resolution shared by the Presbytery of the Redwoods and statements made by the Reverend Doctor J. Herbert Nelson II (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA)) in opposition to these executive orders, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan recognizes the monumental task of maintaining the national security of the United States, but opposes any executive order, past or present, or any other government policy (law or

regulation) to be used for the purpose of discrimination of refugees by nationality, color, or religion. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan deems this as contrary to biblical teaching of the Christian faith and to the traditions and values of the United States.

Further be it resolved, that this resolution would urge President Donald J. Trump to rescind any executive order or any potential legislative proposal that would have serious negative consequences for refugees entering the United States and create a sound-based policy for all refugees, not driven by fear or anger, but of clear rationale and compassion for refugees attempting to find a better and safer life in the United States."

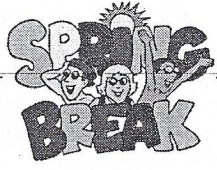

This is the resolution that was adopted by our presbytery a few weeks ago. This is the kind of issues we have been discussing on Sunday mornings in Adult Sunday School. What should our response be? How is God calling us to be faithful in this time and in the places where we live? Can our congregation do anything? Do we jump into the fray? Or is writing letters what we are comfortable doing?

Come join us for a lively discussion in the Gull Prairie Room at 11:15 each Sunday. All opinions are welcome, all persons are respected. We maintain our commitment that the church is a "safe" space. To us that means that every person is welcome, each one's gifts are valued, and we try to see the face of Christ in everyone we meet. What does this mean for the issues of our day? Come and let's talk!

Grace and Peace,

Mark

April Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teacher/Crafter</u>
2	Becker	Greve Webb	Alexander Fiordalis	Carisalez	
9	Vantine	Kendall Odell Vantine	Bryant VOLUNTEER	Alspach	
16	Inman	LaLonde Lebiecki J Croasdale Inman	Stafford LaLonde	Smith	Easter Eggstravaganza 
23	Gauthier	Rothenberg Simon Wieber	Barts Cazers	Deater	Webb, Alspach/ Osborne
30	Fiordalis	Coverly Meitz	Carahaly Beaver	Gauthier	Smith, Stafford/ Gauthier

Serving Communion

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

April 2

Bob Tower
Terry Vantine
Donna Webb
Tunis Willemstyn
Jilisa Williams
Mike Wright
Nancy Wright

May 7

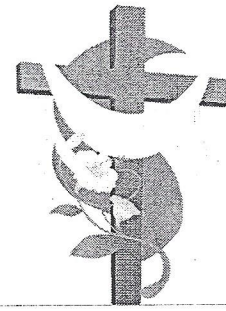
Brian Young
Teresa Young
Marsha Zick
Andy Alspach
Sandy Barts
Barb Brundage
Heidi Bryant
Ed Calkins
Sandy Carahaly

June 4

Laura Carisalez
Jim Collier
Lee Coverly
Carol Coverly
Ed Davis
Dave Deater
Shannan Deater
Joyce Dishon
Wendy Field

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!

April 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - Communion Deadline for Easter Flowers	3 9:00 Care Team	4 9:15 Prayer Moms 10:00 Connected Threads	5 1:00 PW Meeting	6 12:00 Older Bunch for Lunch at New Hope Church 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts	7	8
9 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Palm Sunday Worship - 2 cents-a-meal	10 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 9:15 Prayer Moms 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	12 6:00 Session Deadline for Easter Meal Basket Food	13 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:00 Deacons 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service All night prayer vigil	14 Good Friday	15
16 7:00 Sunrise Service 7:45 Potluck Breakfast 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Easter Service 10:00 Eggstravaganza for all kids	17 Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 9:15 Prayer Moms 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	19 6:00 Committee's Meet 7:00 Scout Leaders	20 9:00 Bible Study 11:00 Jack & Jill Parents Tea in White Room 4:00 Chancel Choir	21	22 9:00-12:00 Cub Scouts Food Drive
23 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:30 Youth Group at Westminster 9:45 Worship 11:00 Sunday School	24 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 9:15 Prayer Moms 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	26 9:30 Flower Group in White Room	27 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Pack Meeting	28	29
30 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 1:00 Youth Group at CropWalk 1:00 CROPWALK at Bronson Park						



Presbyterian Women

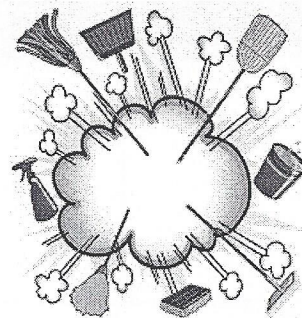
PW meets the first Wednesday of each month
at 1:00 in the church library.

Our next meeting is April 5th. **EVERYWOMAN** is welcome!

Annual Cleaning Day

We'll be having our annual cleaning of the sanctuary on the Tuesday, following Easter, April 18th, at 9:00 a.m. We welcome anyone who'd like to help sweep, Swiffer, turn cushions, dust, etc.

If you're able to be here, feel free to bring any cleaning supplies that might help. If you have a Swiffer, that would be wonderful,



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.

EASTER MEAL BASKETS!

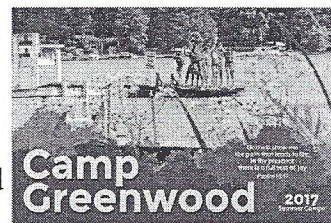
The Food Pantry folks want to put together Easter meal baskets for 5 of our guest families with children. By **April 12**, we'll be looking for hams, aluminum pans, rolls, cans of onion rings, mushroom soup, boxes of scallop potatoes, and pickles. Please contact Michelle Greve at, michellegreve1@gmail.com, so she can keep track of numbers! As always, we are blessed to have such wonderful friends at this church who care and reach out! Thank you.



Part of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan history, and ours, is Camp Greenwood! But that doesn't mean it's old and rickety! Camp Greenwood is always updating to continue with the present and the future. It's a place for spiritual growth, environmental stewardship, human development and service to our neighbors.

Camp matters! It makes a difference in the Christian education of children, youth, and adults. Camp Greenwood allows them to form a special community where great things happen. And in an environment created just for them, children learn real life skills, develop self-esteem and build their own sense of independence.

Google greenwoodministries.org, or call 616-824-2982 for more information and registration! There are brochures on the table in the Fireplace Room.



IT'S TIME!!
Open up the attic,
break thru the basement ...



RUMMAGE SALE!!!

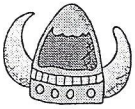


As a place to unload your unwanted (but still good) items, don't forget our Rummage Sale, which will take place

May 5th, 9 to 3 and 5 to 7, and May 6th, 9 to 11:30.



Set up is Monday evening, May 1st, and your contributions can be brought any day after that, through Thursday! The sign-up sheet for workers will be posted on the bulletin board in the Gull Prairie Room on the PW section.



We'll need people to sort and price all week. The sale begins Friday morning, so we need salespeople here at 8:30 a.m. to greet our line-up of customers. On Friday evening and Saturday morning, the cost for whatever can be stuffed into a grocery bag, is \$2 and \$1, respectively.



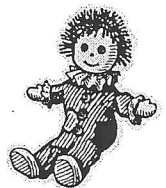
A crew of workers can come in about 11:30 Saturday morning to help dismantle the sale and pack up the unsold goods (we really need help with this part.)



SET-UP AND BRING IN TIMES:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday ~ 10 to 5 & 6 to 8

PLEASE: No TV's - No Computer Screens - No Car Seats



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday Service

April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Vigil throughout the night

Community Good Friday Services

St. Ann's 1:00 p.m.

gracespring 7:00 p.m.

Methodist 7:00 p.m.

Yorkville 7:00 p.m.

St. Timothy's 7:30 p.m.

Living Hope 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 16, 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast hosted by the Deacons

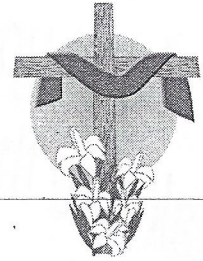
7:45 a.m. in the GPR

Easter Service

April 16, 9:45 a.m.

Easter Eggstravaganza during
worship. All kids are welcome.

Following the Maundy Thursday service, we're having an all night prayer vigil. Please sign up for an hour (or more). You won't be alone, and Mark will have material for you to read. This is a lovely, personal, spiritual time. Give it a try!



Bring a breakfast dish to pass and make sure to find your way to the Gull Prairie Room following the Sunrise service. We have our annual Easter breakfast, hosted by the Deacons. Just bring something to share and they'll do the rest!

MissionS

One Great Hour of Sharing



For many years Richland Presbyterians have helped to fill the world with love by donating to
One Great Hour of Sharing.

Through our offerings, our church has a long tradition of helping children and adults around the world. Many projects are funded through

One Great Hour of Sharing,

a program in existence for over 50 years. Every year millions of Christians from many denominations show their love through donations to assist in feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and offering peace and hope to people in distress.

Human needs as simple as safe drinking water are made available to areas where the water supply is a threat to life and health. Refugees are offered basic needs such as food, shelter, and medical care in times of disaster and dislocation from their homes. The funds also provide many kinds of education, including literacy classes, agricultural and vocational training.

Please join other Presbyterians and Christians in sharing the support of these essential programs and by helping to fill the world with love. This year April 5th is the Sunday designated for the annual support of this most valuable program. Prayerfully consider your stewardship offerings and include

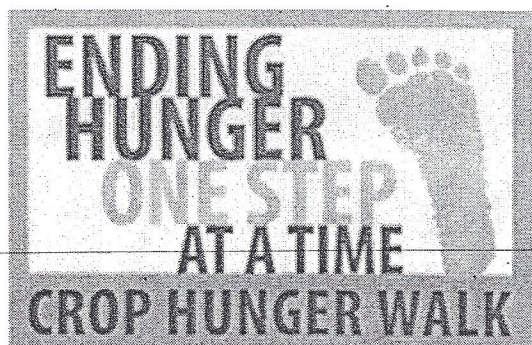
One Great Hour of Sharing

as a part of your contributions this year. An envelope has been provided in this newsletter, and one will be available during worship on the 16th for your convenience. Thank you.

Your Mission Committee

CROP WALK

It's time for CROPWALK!!



If you haven't already signed up, find the CROPWALK table after church each Sunday in the Gull Prairie Room. Everyone is welcome to participate in the Missions activity.

The walk will take place on Sunday, April 30. We meet in Bronson Park (Kalamazoo) at 1:00 to sign in, with the walk beginning at 2:00. There will be a 5K route for

Walkers and plenty of activities in the Park for non walkers.

The CROP HUNGER WALK is an annual event with the purpose of raising money and awareness to help stop hunger. Funds raised will benefit our local missions in Kalamazoo, as well as hunger needs around the world.

Please join us by walking or contributing. You can also contribute online at www.crophungerwalk.org/kalamazoomi. We're hoping for a beautiful Spring day, so come join the fun!





Rotary
Gull Lake Area Rotary Club

RICHLAND FLAG PROJECT

The American flags that are displayed along the village streets from Memorial Day weekend to July 4th are in dire need of replacement. The Gull Lake Area Rotary Club is leading a fund drive to replace all the flags in downtown Richland, which will make our village a sight to behold!

The Richland Flag Project is an exciting way for residents in the area to be involved by sponsoring a flag. This is a great way to memorialize or honor a loved one. Show your support and patriotic spirit and help us "paint the town" red, white and blue!

Your \$50 sponsorship will replace one bracket, pole and flag. More than 100 flags need to be replaced. Extra monies received will be placed in a restricted village fund for future flag replacement. Please make your donation soon so that you and your honoree can be recognized on a plaque to be displayed in the Richland Village Hall. The deadline is April 30, 2017.

*****Please make checks payable to Gull Lake Area Rotary Club*****

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Name to appear on Honor Plaque: _____

Please check one: ☐ In Honor Of ☐ In Memory Of ☐ Neither

Please send payment and order form to:
Gull Lake Area Rotary Club
PO Box 291
Richland, MI 49083

Youth Group

Youth Group Schedule

April 2/April 9 – NO Youth Group (Spring Break)

April 16 – NO Youth Group (Easter Sunday)

April 23 – Westminster hosts during morning worship
through lunch, 9:30am-Noon

April 30 – CROP Walk (time TBD)

May 7 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts, 5-7pm

May 14 – NO Youth Group (Mother's Day)

May 20-21 - KIDS IN BOXES & YOUTH SUNDAY!

May 28 – NO Youth Group (Memorial Day weekend)

June 4 – Year End Party at Westminster, 5-7pm

Youth Mission Can & Bottle Drive Continues!

Simply drop your cans in the collection bin outside the church office! Thank you for your support of our youth!

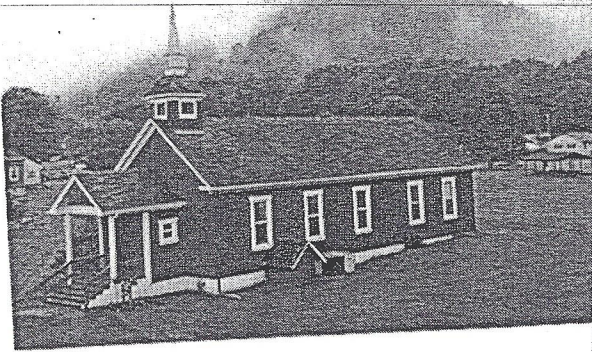
Kids In Boxes & Food Drive

May 20-21

Come out and support our youth mission to help feed the hungry by dropping off canned goods!

**** Appliance boxes needed!***

Youth Group



INVEST IN YOUTH

The youth are heading to West Virginia
and need your help!

- ✓ Invest in their mission
- ✓ Invest in their spiritual growth
- ✓ Invest in their desire to serve

Please consider making a donation to the Youth Mission Fund in support of the 21 amazing middle and high school students anxious to serve the people of Colcord, WV.

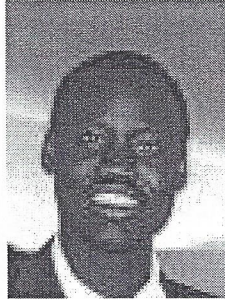
Along with your investment, please consider writing a note for the youth to open during the week in West Virginia:

- ❖ What I hope to see you do...
- ❖ What I hope to see happen...
- ❖ What I hope you get out of the trip...
- ❖ Why I know you're worth investing in...

Thank you for Investing In Our Youth!

April 2017 Missionary Report

On March 21, 2017, Deng traveled from his mother's home in Bungoma, Kenya to Nairobi where he boarded a plane to Grand Rapids. His wife and son stayed in Kenya to help his mother who is in poor health. He has temporary employment for a couple months here and needs our assistance finding a job in SW Michigan. Please contact him with any leads and for his full resume'. NOTE: photo of Mary and Thon Jr. was taken March 20.



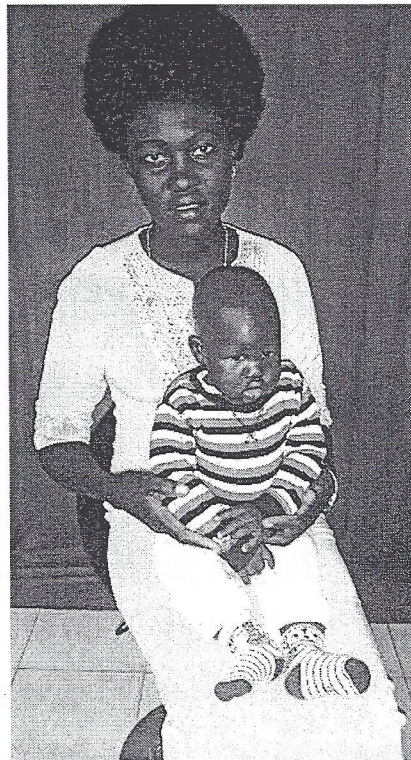
March 22, 2017

Dear friends and relatives, I have arrived safely in Grand Rapids Michigan. Thank you all for your prayers. I am tired from the long flight and I want to take easy it now. I am really glad to be home.

Also, I want you to pray for my son (Thon, Jr.) and brother Abraham's son (Deng) as well. Deng has been sick for the last few days, as has Thon Jr.

Blessings,

Deng Thon Alier (Samuel)



DENG THON ALIER
3160 Pleasant Grove Ter. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

✉ dengalier@gmail.com
☎ 616-377-6895

EMPLOYMENT

Partners in Compassionate Care (PCC)/Memorial Christian Hospital (MCH) 2011-2016
Logistics Coordinator, Men and Youth Coordinator, Assistant Hospital Administrator, Finance Officer, Werkok, Bor County, Jonglei State, South Sudan

Procurement:

- Designed/implemented system of procurement and transportation of construction materials, pharmaceutical supplies; prepared strategic procurement plans; maintained inventories.
- Developed/implemented supply chain management system; provided pricing information; made purchasing decisions; managed relationships with customs; secured clearance on shipments.

Logistics:

- Developed/managed MCH/PCC logistics in South Sudan; provided transportation services.

Administration:

- Assisted site administrator with management; assisted with administrative services within MCH and two satellite Clinics (Bush Clinics); managed staff when the Site Administrator was away.

Finance:

- Administered/monitored the financial system, including account payables/receivables systems; assisted with preparation of budget; implemented financial policies/procedures.
- Managed grant of 870.00USD from United States Agency for International Development (USAID); established a youth agriculture program.

Human Resources:

- Administered employee files, records, and accurate payment of benefits; maintained the vacation and sick leave management system; administered employee contracts/agreements.

Technology/Equipment:

- Managed the repair and maintenance of computers, iPads, printers, and other office equipment; monitored, provided troubleshooting, and trained others on the generators and solar system.

Walmart Stores, Inc. 2004-2011
Sales Associate, Kalamazoo Michigan, USA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Steward, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Leaders Training

United Way Project Blueprint, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Leadership Development

EDUCATION

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary of Cornerstone University MA in Educational Ministries

Western Michigan University BA in Sociology, minor in Economics

Grand Rapids Community College AA (Associate of Arts) in Social Science

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Demonstrated competency in Microsoft Office applications: PowerPoint, Excel, Word, Access, and Outlook.

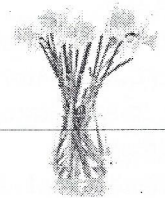
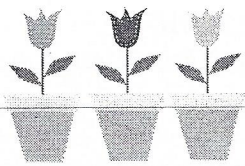
LANGUAGES

- Dinka (Sudanese) – fluent; English – fluent; Juba Arabic – basic

REFERENCES

- Deng Jongkuch Email: dengjungkuch@yahoo.com Tel: 616-419-0570
- Mary Lou Cazers Email: msmarylou@gmail.com Tel: 269-267-1111
- Zip Fiordalis Email: zipfiordalis@gmail.com Tel: 269-207-3316

Remembrance Flowers



The Altar Guild is once again offering an opportunity for you to remember someone or something dear to you by ordering one potted flower per household (multiple names can be given for one plant) which will be used to help create an environment of praise and thanksgiving in our church on Easter Sunday. Your remembrance will be noted in the bulletin and you are free to take any plant after the worship service.

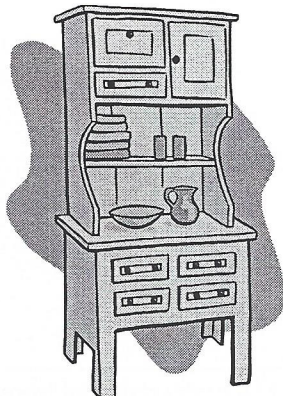
The price per plant is \$10.00. The orders must be in no later than **APRIL 2nd**

Orders may be given to Julie in the office. Thank you for participating!

Your Name _____

Person(s) or event being remembered _____

**FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER**

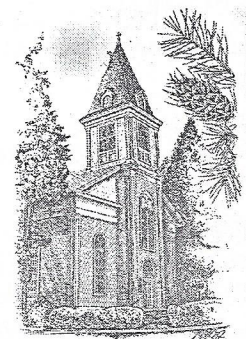


FOOD PANTRY
Giving Suggestions

**Salad dressings, mustard,
ketchup, mayo**

Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for April

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
4/13	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	<i>Jay R. Wells, Jr.</i>
4/17	<i>What a Friend We Have In Jesus</i>	<i>James E. Garn</i>
4/30	<i>Faith of Our Father's</i>	<i>Robert Murphy</i>



Credo Chapter 2: Who is God?
First Presbyterian Church of Richland
Murray M. Cooper
February 10, 2017

Introduction

God is the ground and foundation of reality. God is the prime cause from which all other causality descends. The physical creation, a divine act of God, is the result of that prime cause. God brought the physical creation into being by his will and not by reshaping any preexisting matter, creation *ex nihilo*. The nature and structure of the physical creation is fully reflective of God's will. This means that laws which govern the physical creation reflect God's intent. As such, all things which occur naturally in the physical creation are a direct result of God's creational acts.

When we attempt to discern who this creative God is, we come face to face with an unknowable mystery. In God, we are confronted with a being who appears to dwell beyond the boundaries of the physical creation as we know it, who is not subject to the natural laws that govern the physical creation. This being is both eternal, existence without beginning or end and infinite, existence without boundary. What we know about God comes from his self-revelation to humanity and what we might logically infer from his self-revelation.

God is Triune

God's self-revelation, particularly in the New Testament, but arguably also in the Old Testament, is that of a triune being, three persons of one substance, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three persons are distinctive but representative of a perfect relationship in that while the persons maintain their distinctive nature, they perfectly and completely know each other's thoughts, are always in agreement, and act in a unified manner. However, that God is triune is

not a provable statement. It is a statement of faith (belief). The beliefs in such a triune being arise out of the human experience of God as existing, acting, and revealing God's self in three natures.

However, the nature of such a triune being, three persons in one substance, is beyond the ability of human cognitive understanding. Because of the human inability to cognitively comprehend a triune being, it is not possible to express in any adequate way the nature of such a being. Perhaps the most that can be said is that the three members are mutually distinctive: (1) the Father is not the Son nor the Spirit; (2) The Son is not the Father nor the Spirit; (3) The Spirit is not the Father nor the Son. However, all three are God.

Relationships and Works of Members of the Trinity

The three members of the trinity are distinguished among themselves according to their special works. While their works are many and varied, they are distinguished majorly in the Nicene Creed as: (1) Father – creator; (2) Son – savior; (3) Holy Spirit – giver of life. The Father, as creator, is father to the creation in a sense analogous to the actions of earthly parents. In this sense, the Father gives birth to the creation. As a parent, he loves his creation. He watches over, cares for, has concern for, and guides his creation. His will is for the full flourishing of all of creation.

The Son, as savior, redeems the creation from the fall into sin. Through the incarnation as the divine man, Jesus Christ is the revelation of the Triune God so that humanity may know God, his will and his ways. Both human and divine, Jesus is the intermediary between the Father and humanity, bringing the Word of the Father to humanity and lifting humanity up to communion with the Father.

The Holy Spirit, as giver of life, is the means that the Triune God has chosen to interact with the creation. It is through his power that the creation came into being. Through him,

God speaks to humanity, including through the words of the prophets. Through him, the Son was incarnate of Mary, became man, and dwelled among us. Through his power, Jesus who was dead, was raised to new life. Through him, Christ's Church came into being, is sustained, and guided in God's ways. Through him, humanity is opened to faith in God, taught, and guided. Through him, humanity is engrafted into the body of Christ to participate in the communion of the Trinity.

Triune worship is shaped by the relationship of the members of the Trinity. Jesus Christ, our savior and intermediary, is the center of our worship. Through him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are presented to the Father as whole, righteous, and sanctified individuals. Through him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, our prayers and worship are lifted up to the Father. Through him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Father's love provides all that is necessary for life.

Attributes of the Triune God

The fundamental nature of God is a being of relationship and covenant. God, as three persons in one substance, is defined by the relationships among the three persons. Furthermore, God is covenantal in that the three persons share duties and obligations, one to the others, in a perfect harmony of cooperation and obedience, one to the other. The distinction of the three persons, in duties and obligations, does not imply a hierarchy among them, rather all are equal in all ways. These fundamental attributes define all other attributes that are imputed to God.

The attributes of God, strongly attested in scripture, are love, righteousness, justice, and mercy. Love, which we experience only imperfectly, is expressed perfectly in God in the relationship of mutuality within the triunity. God's love is expressed toward the creation in his gracious (uncompelled) acts which sustain and work for the flourishing of the creation. God's

righteousness is expressed in his work to establish right relationships, those typified by mutuality. God's justice is expressed in his work to ensure that all receive what is due to them and that all meet their obligations to others. Finally, God's mercy is expressed in his patience and willingness to defer punishment for those who deserve it. Unlike human acts, God's acts of love, righteousness, justice and mercy are not subject to judgment. God's actions cannot be judged as good or bad, since there is no power or norm outside of God to which they may be compared.

There are also "negative" attributes of God. They are negative in the sense that they are derived as attributes which are different from humanity, since God's being is different from humanity. God is infinite in the sense that nothing exists outside of him so that there is no way to measure his extent. God is eternal in the sense that his existence has neither a beginning nor an end, unlike mortal humanity which is born and dies.

Since time is part of the creation, God is not bound by it. From God's view, all time exists as a static dimension such as width, depth, and height. Since God is infinite, there is no place where God is not. God is omnipresent. Since God is infinite in being, he must also be infinite in power. God is capable of doing whatever God chooses. God is omnipotent. Since God is omnipresent, he is aware of all things in both space and time. God is omniscient.

Another attribute of God is suffering. Unlike corporal created beings, God's existence is non-corporal therefore he is not capable of experiencing physical pain. However, God can experience what might be imperfectly called mental pain. Since God has perfect love, his desire for the creation is that it exist in perfect relationship with God, which implies that the creation would also exist in perfect relationship within itself. As this perfect relation does not exist, God's desire is frustrated. In this sense, God feels the pain of rejection and separation from the object of his love.

Creation and the Triune God

The prime causality of God should not be construed to imply God's culpability for any "bad" occurrences. This is true for two reasons. First, distinctions of good and bad are not applicable to God, since as mentioned above there is no external authority or norm by which God's actions can be judged. Second, with particular reference to human action, one of God's creative acts was to grant free will to humanity. Thus, humanity may freely choose to act in concert with God's will or against it. Acting against God's will result in "bad" occurrences. The culpability for these "bad" occurrences lies with humanity, not God.

Humanity has recognized from earliest time that the creation is predictable. That is the creation acts in a rational way according to fixed laws. Any perception of unpredictability is mistaken and results from humanities lack of understanding or misunderstanding of God's fixed laws. As God created humanity with an inquiring mind capable of understanding the creation, humanity has grown in understanding of the way the creation functions. Modern scientific inquiry is a result of this. As such, the discoveries of modern science, so long as they are properly distinguished and understood, should be reflective of God's will. Thus, if properly understood, knowledge does not conflict with God's actions.

The idea that God made the creation to act according to fixed laws should not be interpreted as God having made the creation and left it to run autonomously (i.e. deism). God is in total control of the creation which continues to exist only by his will. The omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient God is capable of breaking into the creation, in divine acts, to achieve his desired ends.

God's will while being active is also permissive. Since God thought it important to grant humanity free will, he is permissive of that will allowing humanity to decide whether or not to act in concert with God. However, while God is patient with human free will, he will not ultimately allow that free will to thwart his will. God acts providentially, turning the results of "bad" human choices to good in small, generally unseen ways, that achieve his desired ends. When necessary, God may also act in big ways, openly acting in ways that display the divine power to bring the creation into compliance with his will.



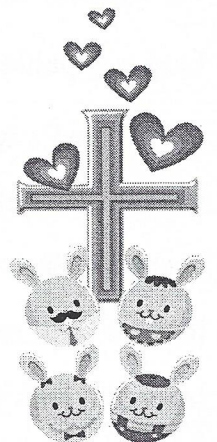
Join us for the EGGSTRAVAGANZA!!
Easter Stories, Crafts, and Snacks!

When: Easter Sunday, April 16th
during Worship Service

Where: Sunday School classrooms

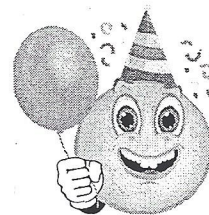
See YOU at the
Eggstravaganza!!!

This is for ALL kids.
Preschool ~ high school



April

Birthdays



Jay Hoorn	1
Claire Stupica	2
Julie Howard	3
Aaron LaLonde	3
Stephanie Wank	3
Kay Hutchinson	4
Robert Monk	4
Ken Barts	5
Rob Carpenter	5
Kalli Inman	5
Heather Moseley	5
Charlotte Slezak	5
Jennifer Spengler	5
Sara Wieber	5
Jason Courtney	6
Gary Schott	7
Irissa Wyckoff	7
Sharon Rothenberg	8
Evelyn Cramer	9
Tyler Moseley	9
Katie Welser	9
CJ Hoorn	10
Rob Kubiak	10
Emily Myland Walters	11
Jim Vantine	11
Jacob Woll	11
Corey Connell Thompson	12
Emma Gay	12
Michelle Greve	12
Jacob White	12
Barb Fox	13
Nancy Lynch	13
Nathan Schrauben	13
Tim Brundage	14
Mary Ellen Bryer	14
Zip Fiordalis	15
George Lindenberg	15
Judy Bakker	16
Christy Connell	16
Molly Danielssen	16
Karen Kendall	17
John Urban	17
Steve Allen	18
Ronda Schaadt	20
Terry Carpenter	21

Beth Carrington	21
Scott MacRitchie	21
Karalea Rothenberg Jasiak	21
Phyllis Leiter	22
David McConnell	22
Sarah Nott	22
Lily Thomas	22
Gail Venner	22
Nancy Wright	22
Rick Wynsma	22
Liam MacRitchie	23
Jacqueline Brignall	24
Caelan Deater	25
Zoe Gobble	26
Will McWhorter	26
Brendan Hope	27
John Meyer	27
Linda Pollock	27
Paul Reinhart	27
Sophia Carahaly	29
Elle Gay	30
Tom Kendall	30
Kelene Monk Rogers	30
Matt Pausch	30



& Anniversaries

3 Phyllis & Fred Davis ~ 41
3 Bill & Joyce Hubbard ~ 30
4 Kalli & Steve Inman ~ 30
5 Larry & Sue Myland ~ 42
10 Marilyn & Bob Steely ~ 35
12 Allen & Jennifer Stupica ~ 32
16 Deng & Mary Alier ~ 2
21 Jane and Bob Morrow ~ 34
22 Marlene & Dave McConnell ~ 57
23 Byron and Carol Hodgson ~ 1
25 Deb & Mark Fisher ~ 30



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Murray Cooper, *Pastoral Assistant*
Faith Fiordalis, *Financial Secretary*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Sadarra Fields, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Program Coordinator*
Julie Pixley, *Children's Worship Leader*
Heather Putt, *Nursery Supervisor*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

