The Missive December 2015

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

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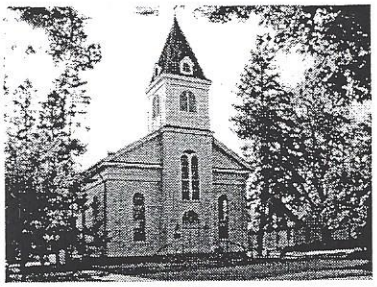


"The Longest Night"

This year, on December 21st, at 11:49 p.m., the Winter or December Solstice will occur in the Kalamazoo area. We often say the December Solstice because of course for those in the southern hemisphere it is not Winter, but Summer. The solstice is when the sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn and so it varies by where you are in the world. For us this will mark the longest night of the year and we will begin to see the days get longer following December 21st. For those of you paying attention, on December 21st the daylight will last for 9 hours, 5 minutes, and one second. By Christmas Day, the daylight will last for 27 seconds longer! We probably won't notice it that much, but many people in ancient societies did. Many cultures held feast around the winter solstice celebrating the return of the sun as it began its long journey back to summer. In Scandinavian countries there was a celebration of Juul, from which we get the term "Yule" and the burning of the Yule log. The word solstice comes from the Latin meaning "the sun stands still" as it stops its southward journey in the sky and begins to get higher in the sky each day following the solstice.

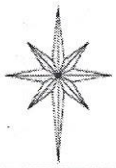
In Celtic countries, following the introduction of Christianity, the celebrations of Yule conflated with the celebrations of Christmas, and so many of our traditions have their roots in the celebration of the return of the sun, not just the birth of the Son. Some churches still celebrate an evening service around the 20th or 21st, a worship service remembering The Longest Night. It is often a service of quiet and remembrance in which those who are no longer with us this year are brought to mind. At one point in the service several scriptures are read and people come forward to light a candle remembering their loved one. There is often a bowl of salt water centrally placed in the church symbolizing God's tears. People then come forward and touch the water and then touch their cheeks under their eyes, or they take a pinch of salt from another bowl and sprinkle it in the water, symbolically adding their tears to God's.

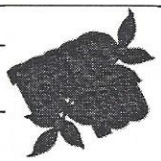
Someday I'd like to do a Longest Night service, mostly because I like the idea of God's tears, God weeping with us, knowing the ones we miss in the midst of our celebrating. But I also like it because there is affirmation in the midst of the tears that God heals our hurts. Those we miss are not missed by God, in fact they are celebrating with him, knowing the joy that will be ours someday. So it is a worship service of remembering but also of affirmation that, as we know the sun will come again, we also know that the morning will come when we will abide with him and rejoice forever. As we miss our loved ones this year, remember the benediction from the Longest Night Service:

In your silence, may the Word dwell in your heart.
In your brokenness, may the Bread of Life heal you.
In your pain, may the One who can heal you touch your soul. Amen.

May your Christmas season be filled with joy and peace, Mark

December Volunteer Assignments

	Greeters	Ushers	Coffee	Nursery Help	Teacher/Crafter
6	Dwoinen	Inman Simon, Stafford	Keusch LaLonde	Steele	Rehearsal
13	Fiordalis	Becker D Odar Vantine	Langshaw D Odar	Inman	Pageant
20	Greve	Hart Saddler	Urban Youse	Vantine	
27	?????	Willemstyn Wittwer	Petersen Kendall	Smith	
24	Wright's	Coverly's & Inman's			



Serving Communion

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

December 6
Sandy Barts
Heidi Bryant
Dave Butler
Ed Calkins
Sandy Carahaly
Laura Carisalez
Kay Hutchinson
Tom Noall
Tom Stegink

January 3
Sue Carlson
Jane Carpenter
Terry Carpenter
Beth Carrington
Mary Lou Cazers
Wanda Clawson
Judy Croasdale
Dave Deater
Shannan Deater

February 7
Ruth Dwoinen
Wendy Field
Faith Fiordalis
Zip Fiordalis
Gary Gibson
Joyce Gibson
Anna Gross
Rod Gross
Sandy Hart

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!

Musica Sacrae Larry Myland

The Blest Season

By the time you read this, what I call the Blest Season will already have begun.

For me, it really is the Blest Season because it is the time of year when my faith glows brightest, when doubters and naysayers seem to be of least consequence, when malefactors of every stripe can be seen for what they are without fear in our hearts, and when the Kingdom of God comes so near we can feel it. Advent/Christmas is that special time when Isaiah's vision takes on a special charge despite the darkness that so often encompasses us:

> "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
> and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
> and the calf and the young lion and the fatling
> together; and a little child shall lead them.
> And the cow and the bear shall feed; their
> young ones shall lie down together; and the
> lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the
> suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp,
> and the weaned child shall put his hand on the
> cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt or destroy
> in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be
> full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters
> cover the sea. ~ Isaiah 11: 6 ff.

For me, and for most all of us, one of the essences of the Blest Season, the power that so kindles our hearts to reach out to God, is the music that sparks our human senses and ushers us into God's presence.

"O Come, Emmanuel," we sing in Advent. Then, later, the angels sing a cascading chorus of alleluias, accompanied by the announcement of Jesus's recurrent "fear not" theme. Fear not! Don't be afraid—of anything. If there's an encouraging word we need to hear, especially today, this surely is it.

"Fear not!" Jesus said it a lot. Yet, isn't fear itself a malady that infuses daily life? I might greet a stranger on the street, and whereas most respond, some don't. They're either afraid of me, or afraid of making a fool of themselves by possibly appearing ridiculous, talking to a stranger. I saw three kids at Meijer last week. One had a giraffe on his head. It was funny, so I said, "Hey, kid, you have a giraffe on your head," laughing. Though their mother whisked them away, it was good that they all exited laughing themselves.

OK, let's get to the music.

Nearly one hundred years ago the Dean of King's College Chapel, in Cambridge, England, created a service of worship that is widely replicated today in churches everywhere. Though not many know it, our very own Christmas Eve service is based on this famous service from King's. The service is called A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, and takes us from the Adam and Eve story all the way to the birth of Jesus.

In Cambridge, England, the service begins at 3 pm, the perfect hour for what is to come: the Light of the World illuminating the darkness. As the service progresses and the English shadows gather, the chapel, bathed in candle light, begins to glow with a heavenly light, and most certainly it glows aurally with the singing of angels.

Last March, Jean and Walt Stafford, along with my daughter Sarah and I, mutually had the great pleasure of hearing the King's College Choir firsthand at Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church. If you think that in my zeal I may be overstating the case for the choir of King's, ask Walt and Jean what they think.

To the best of my knowledge, WMUK, Western Michigan University's radio station (104.1 FM), will carry the Festival of Lessons and Carols live from Cambridge again this year beginning at 10 am local time.

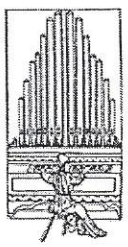
For me, this divine service is among the best and the most blessed of what humans can express of the inexpressible.

The Festival is broadcast live throughout the world. Become a part of the congregation of millions who tune in.

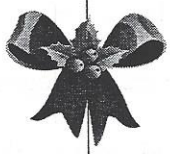
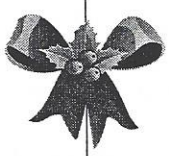
I love talk about the King's College Choir, so I'd love to hear your reaction to this extraordinary broadcast.

And, as I always remind you, remember that the season of Christmas only <u>begins</u> on Christmas Day, and it doesn't end on Christmas night. The church designates the season of Christmas as being 12 whole days long. This year, enjoy Christmas to the fullest, all 12 days of it!

Merry Christmas!



December 2015

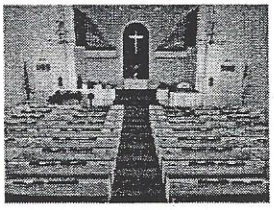
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8-4 Ryan School Workshop in GPR 10:00 Connected Threads 5:45 Girl Scouts	2 1:00 PW Meeting 7:00 Cub Scouts	3 9:00 Bible Study 5:30 Wassailing 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 Cub Scout Lock-In	5
6 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - Communion 11:05 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group to Westminster	7 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	8 10:00 Connected Threads	9 6:00 Session 7:00 Cub Scouts	10 9:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons	11 6:00 Christmas Party 	12 Christmas Program Rehearsal
13 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal *Christmas Program during worship* 11:05 Sunday School 	14 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	15 10:00 Connected Threads	16 5:00 Music & Worship Meeting 6:00 Committee Meetings 7:00 Cub Scouts	17 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Pack Meeting	18	19
20 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship	21 9:00 Care Team 10:00 Office Staff	22 10:00 Connected Threads	23 9:30 Flower Group in GPR Missive Articles DUE	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 Midnight Service	25 	26
27 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship	28 10:30 Office Staff	29 10:00 Connected Threads	30	31 9:00 Bible Study		

Presbyterian Women

PW meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the church,
The next meeting is ***December 2nd.*** *EVERY WOMAN is welcome.*

OUR MITTEN TREE IS UP!!

It is sitting in the Fireplace Room, just waiting to completely fill up with new or handmade hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. It's sad to think, but the items from our Mitten Tree may be the only Christmas gifts some children will receive. We're working with the Gospel Mission and Family & Children's Services.
Thank you all so much for this wonderful gift!



A reminder that over the next many months, some of our pews will be missing their cushions! Peter Alman will be reupholstering them for us, and we can't wait!

Women's Book Club

The next Women's Book Club will meet at Carol Coverly's home, 174 Lake Doster Dr. in Plainwell, on December 9th at 1:00.

The book of discussion is
"Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee.

We would like to welcome anyone who has an interest to please join us!

OLDER BUNCH FOR LUNCH

On December 10th the Gull Lake Middle School will be hosting Older Bunch for Lunch at 11:30. Please call the school office, 488-5040 by Dec. 4th to reserve your spot. The band will provide music and the choir will sing! There's valet parking beginning at 11:00.
The Middle School says, this is their way of giving back a little something, for the many years of service our senior friends have given the school community.

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.

NEW *Sundays from 5-7pm* NEW

Youth Group

Youth Mission Can and Bottle Drive

The youth have chosen a can & bottle drive as the next fundraiser to help support their mission activities. There is a collection bin outside the church office and the fundraiser will be ongoing! Thank you for your support of our youth!

West Virginia Youth Mission Trip 2016
June 25-July 2, 2016
Colcord, West Virginia

Purpose:

- To expose our students to people of all walks of life
- To help and serve
- To help bring God's love to all people

Who Is Served:

- Mostly elderly and less fortunate individuals living in the Colcord, WV area as chosen by the PC(USA) Disaster Relief.

Youth Group Schedule

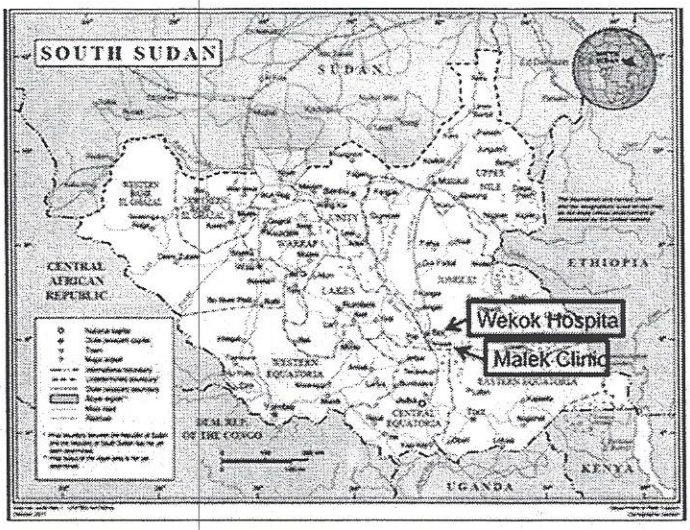
December 6 – Westminster Pres hosts 5-7pm *(Holiday Party!)*
December 13 – January 3 NO Youth Group *(Winter Break)*
January 10 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts 5-7pm

December 2015 Missionary Report

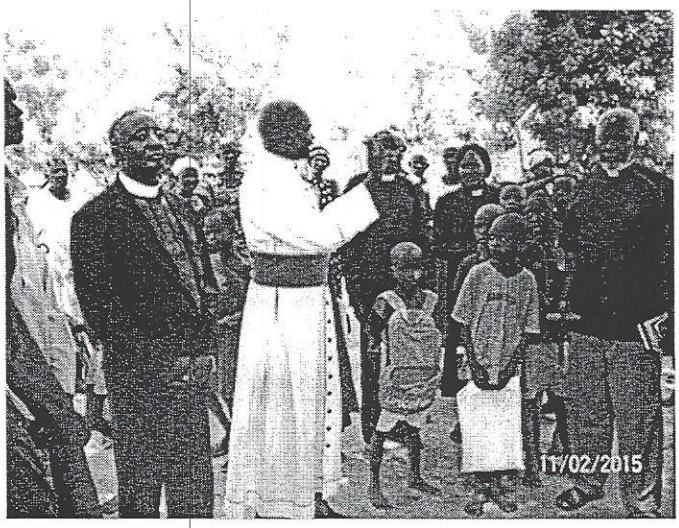
NOTE: Deng (Samuel) and his family are originally from Malek, where the first Christian mission in Sudan was established in 1905. In the photo, Deng, wearing gray shirt, is setting up the first clinic in Malek.

Dear Church Family,

It all started when we took Rev. Kevin Kingsinger, a former Executive Director of the Partners in Compassionate Care (PCC) Board, to Malek (my hometown) this year to visit the Malek Cathedral. It was on that visit that the PCC started having an interest in Malek. The people in the community of Malek had no access to medical services and were in desperate need. Memorial Christian Hospital (MCH) and PCC made a plan to extend healthcare from the hospital in Werkok to other villages. PCC partnered with the Diocese of Malek to start a health clinic in Malek.

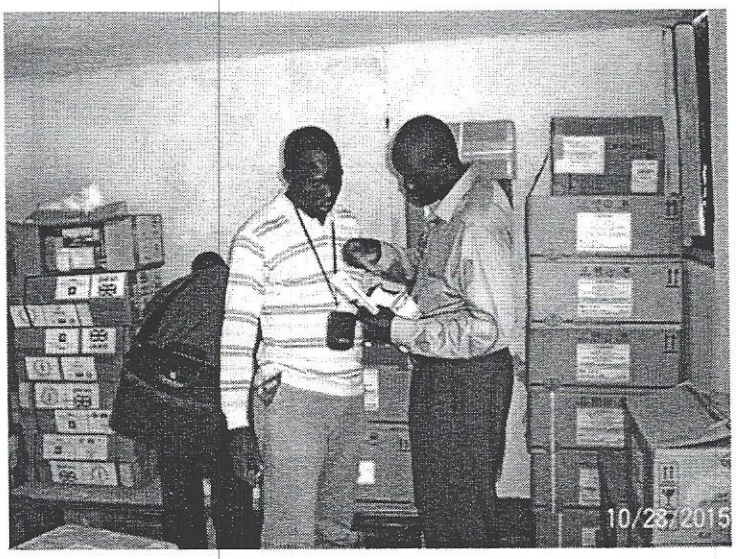


God answered their prayers by providing them with a health facility. At the ceremony to open the clinic, the Bishop of Malek, Rev. Peter Joh, came on site with his diocesan pastors and opened with prayer. The Bishop asked God to bless the clinic and the PCC board for their support. The clinic will treat medical cases. Cases requiring a referral for more investigation will be sent to Werkok

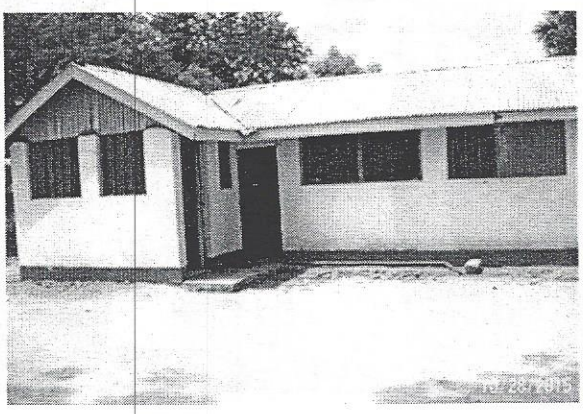


The economic situation in South Sudan, particularly in our state of Jonglei, makes things difficult for our citizens. The fuel price is high these days, so transport for people from Malek and other far villages to Werkok is costly. It costs more than 500 pounds (50 USD) and this is a lot of money here in South Sudan. Not everybody can afford these amounts but now that the clinic is in Malek and they will not be traveling to Werkok they are able to pay for their treatment. "We're blessed to have healthcare where we can access it easily," said one of the ladies during opening prayers.

The community thanked me and the MCH staff for bringing healthcare to Malek. As a resident of Malek, I am happy with the decision made by PCC board to start a clinic here. People in Malek always asked me, when I am going to bring a health facility to Malek. I kept telling them that I don't know, but God knows. I knew I owed the community of Malek since I had been working in other towns and had not brought anything to them before.



The clinic with be run by PCC for a period of 1-2 years. After that, the clinic will be handed over to the Diocese of Malek and it will take full responsibility. The Diocese is providing accommodations and feeding for two MCH staff (nurse and pharmacist) and PCC is paying their salaries. The Malek clinic has many needs. One of the needs is a laboratory. I am asking for you to pray for this need. The Diocese is new and it is struggling. Malek is the first Diocese to open a clinic among the new 5 Dioceses in the Greater Bor Dioceses. Rev. Peter Joh is taking charge of this initiative, he wants to carry it forward, and he needs your prayers.



My wife is doing well. She went back to the doctor this month for follow up and the doctor told her she is okay. She was diagnosed with Brucella after her miscarriage and the doctor gave her medicines for one month. I asked her to go back to the doctor this month after she finished her medicines to check if the bacteria are still present in her body. The doctor did a test for brucellosis and this time the test result was negative. At her last visit, the doctor gave her other medicines as part of her treatment.

I wish I was there to celebrate Thanksgiving with my brother's family in Boston. To make matters worse, I am going to celebrate Thanksgiving without Mary. Oh, there is another holiday coming up in a month and I am going to celebrate Christmas with Mary, God willing! I have been talking to Mary and she has been telling me she is feeling healthy. This will be our first Christmas as a couple. My next step is to bring Mary to South Sudan in the first week of December. I need you to pray for her travel to South Sudan. She needs to migrate to South Sudan from Kenya through Uganda. That is the safest route. She has to pay for the bus ticket and a visa fee at each border so travel will cost $400 to $500 USD.

I know our mom really wants Mary and me to be in Kenya with her, unfortunately that will not be possible due to my current job. Our mom understands that and she is okay with the move. The kids at home in Kenya, especially my nephews and nieces, will miss Mary. Mary is lovable and this is her nature. She adopted that nurturing habit with her own siblings and that tells me that one day Mary will be good mom because she loves kids.

I thank all of you for your prayers and financial support for Mary and my family. Not to forget my brother Abraham and his lovely wife, Tabitha, for their support as well. They have been standing by us all the way. I know South Sudan is not safe but I pray that God Almighty will protect Mary, the people of South Sudan, and me.

Blessings,
Deng,

2016 Greeter			Usher	Coffee
Jan.	3	Remley	Remley, Field, Webb	Knibloe, J Croasdale
	10	Wittwer	Wittwer, Deater	Wright, Inman
	17	Sorrell	H & S Gobble, Greve	A & R Gross, Kendall
	24	Carahaly	3 Carahaly's, Cazers	Lebiecki, C & P Gobble
	31	Brundage	Brundage & Barton, Keusch	Hubbard, D Johnson
Feb.	7	Carpenter	Langshaw, Carpenter	D Odar, Polzin
	14	Scouts	Scouts	Mason, Rothenberg
	21	E & M Davis	E & M Davis, Langshaw	Leiter, Mack, V Osborne
	28	Fiordalis	Fiordalis, Langshaw	Romyak, Sunden
Mar.	6	C & J Gibson	C & J Gibson, Larson, Mandrell	Schaadt, Simon
	13	Petersen	Petersen, Youse, Godfrey	Slezak, Smith
	20	D & M Fisher	D & M Fisher, Stafford	Sutherland, VanDyke
	27	Carlson	Inman, Kern-Beaver, Young	Carlson, Coverly
Apr.	3	Hooks	C & P Gobble family	Urban, Vantine
	10	Lebiecki	Lebiecki, LaLonde, Monk	Monk, LaLonde
	17	McConnell	Saddler, Calkins	Sorrell, Stafford
	24	Clawson	Wieber, J Croasdale, A & R Gross	Alexander, Brundage & Barton
May	1	J & G Gibson	J & G Gibson, Coverly	Williams, V Osborne
	8	Lindenberg	Irey, Field, Bryant	Fiordalis, Youse
	15	Pollock	Mason, Mack, D Odar, Romyak	E & M Davis, Kendall
	22	Hodgson	Hodgson, Remley, Schaadt	Willemstyn, Cazers
	29	Dishon	Carrington, Leiter, Rothenberg	H & S Gobble, D Johnson
June	5	Newell	Dishon, Greve	Gauthier, Petersen
	12	Hart	Hart, Hutchinson, Martin	Luscombe, Noall
	19	B & B Jones	B & B Jones, Kubiak & Yoder	Ruser, Thorne
	26	Spengler	Spengler, Nash, Stegink	J & R Steele family
July	3	Ruser	Cazers, Beaver, Lovequist	Sutherland, Godfrey
	10	Stegink	A & R Gross, Keusch	Dishon, Spengler
	17	Lynch	Lynch, Alman, Alspach	Calkins, D & M Fisher
	24	Hutchinson	B & B Jones, B & T Jones	B & T Jones, J. Croasdale
	31	Kubiak & Yoder	Luscombe, Nash, Ruser	Noall, Stegink
Aug.	7	Martin	R & J Steele family	Wittwer, Carahaly
	14	Brundage & Barton	Brundage & Barton, Carpenter	Hart, Hutchinson
	21	Noall	Noall, Willemstyn	Lynch, B & B Jones
	28	Luscombe	Williams, Wright	Alman, Alspach

continued...

Remember to keep this list of names throughout the year so that if you are not able to fulfill your assigned responsibility, you can call someone from the list to trade with, and then just let Julie know. Thanks!
ALSO, THIS LIST WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE ~ www.fpcrich.com and on the bulletin board above the water fountains.

continued....

2016

		Greeter	Usher	Coffee
Sep.	4	Thorne	Thorne, Alexander, Clawson	Kubiak & Yoder, Nash
	11	Meitz	Meitz, Lindenberg	Zick, Wynsma
	18	Pollock	Pollock, Dishon	Cramer, Saddler
	25	Huskin	Huskin, L Carisalez, J & G Gibson	Deater, Young
Oct.	2	Hooks	Carlson, Gauthier, Kreinbring	Greve, A & R Gross
	9	Clawson	Larson, Leiter, Petersen	Carpenter, Carrington
	16	Langshaw	3 Carahaly's, J. Croasdale	Coverly, Cazers
	23	McConnell	D & M Fisher, Mack, Mandrell	Webb, E & M Davis
Nov.	6	Gray	C & P Gobble and family	Knibloe, Bryant
	13	Becker	V Osborne, Romyak, Rothenberg	Irey, Youse
	20	Calkins	Calkins, Deater	Huskin, Fiordalis
	27	Mason	Mason, Inman, Slezak	Dishon, Carisalez
Dec.	4	H & S Gobble	H & S Gobble, Lovequist	Meitz, Williams
	11	Greve	Schaadt, Simon, Smith	Polzin, Leiter
	18	Hubbard	Stafford, Sunden	Pollock, Mandrell
	(24)		***Volunteers needed for the Christmas Eve service***	←
	25		***PLEASE LET JULIE KNOW IF YOU CAN DO ANY VOLUTEERING THIS DAY***	←

Please note that many of you are down for three things.
Many of you are down for ushering twice or coffee twice.
Many of you are down to greet the same day you usher.
Look over the names carefully to find yours! Thank you so much.

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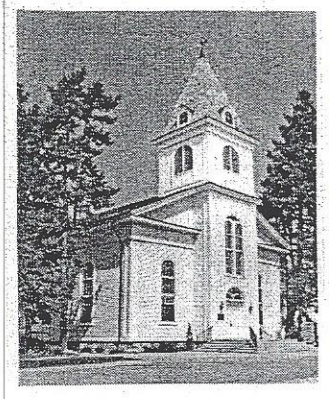


shepherd's center
OF KALAMAZOO

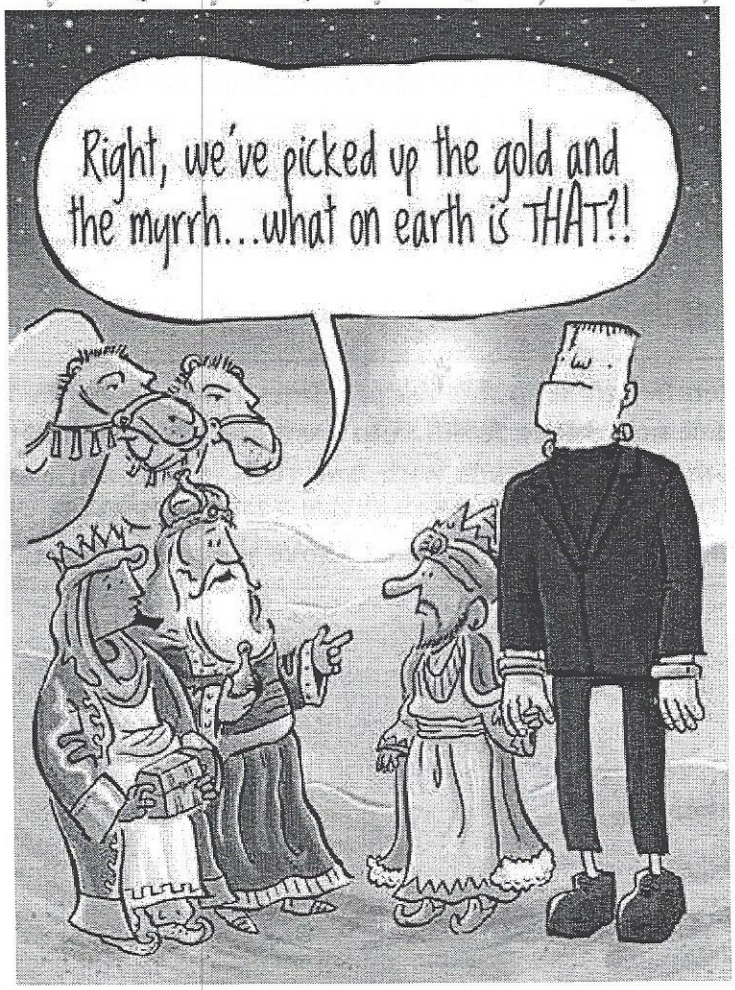
A Non-Profit Interfaith Organization that promotes Vital Aging in its Community

269-383-1122
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday from 9:00am - Noon

Most of you are familiar with the Shepherd's Center of Greater Kalamazoo, but some of you are not. This program is an interfaith organization where seniors help seniors. We, the First Presbyterian Church of Richland, have supported this effort for the past 23 years. Our participation began with the Escort Transportation program. This program offers a 'one on one' transportation to folks who need rides to and from doctor's appointments within Kalamazoo county. It provides drivers who take riders to their destinations. Wait for them. Then return them to their home. The drivers, as well as the riders come away with an extreme sense of appreciation and gratification. A separate program also provides rides for grocery shopping and non-medical needs.

Another of the Shepherd's Center's programs is Break Time. This is a program that provides folks with early Alzheimers disease or any similar affliction, to spend the day with friends in an environment that provides fellowship, breaking bread together and happy moments lead by the Shepherd's Center Assistant Director, Don Banner. This effort provides a necessary respite to the care givers. The care is provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays at an extremely reasonable cost.

The Presbyterian Women of our church have served this effort on the 4th and 5th Thursdays of each month by providing yummy meals and sharing their loving presence around the table. Oh, it's such a Win-Win! We hope when the opportunity comes for you to speak to it....that you will be in support of this effort! Please.....any questions.....just call the Shepherd's Center a 383-1122 or Diane Meitz at 685-6272. We So Welcome your participation!! God Bless.



hehehe....
Thanks,
Gretchen!

Christmas Joy Offering

At Christmas we celebrate the joy of belonging to Christ, of being part of the family of God. For decades Presbyterians have chosen Christmas as a time to affirm that indeed we care for one another as members of one family.

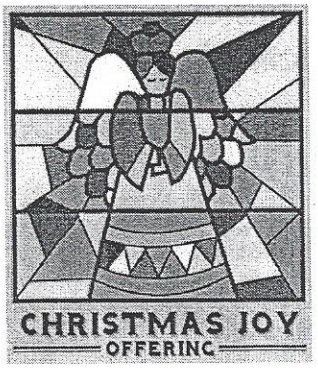
Every year at Christmas, Presbyterian churches receive the **Christmas Joy Offering**. Through this offering we share our joy with members of our extended church family.

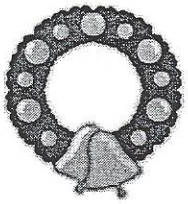
About two-thirds of the **Joy Offering** goes to supplement the benefits of retired church workers, workers who have taken risks in the faith in the belief that God will provide for them as they give their lives to God's work. The **Joy Offering** helps a former missionary whose salary was too low to provide a sufficient pension. It helps the family of a pastor whose early death leaves them emotionally and financially drained. It is one way for us to reach out to members of our church family as God reaches out to us.

The other third of the **Joy Offering** supports seven racially ethnic colleges across the country. The **Christmas Joy Offering** helps schools to create a family environment that nurtures each student's gifts.

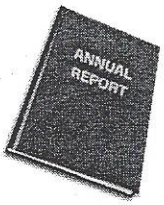
At Christmas we celebrate God's gift of Christ to us, his confirmation that he will indeed take care of us. In Christ we are one family. And, as in any family, we sometimes receive comfort and at other times have the opportunity to offer comfort to others.

This year, December 20th is the Sunday designated for the annual support of this most valuable program. Prayerfully consider your stewardship offerings and include the **Christmas Joy Offering** as a part of your contributions this year. An envelope is enclosed, and one will be provided on the 20th. Thank you!





TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE



Just a friendly reminder that

ANNUAL REPORTS

are due in Julie's office by
January 11.
Please call if you have any questions or need help! 629-4944

Have you noticed the little carolers in the Park? There's an interesting story behind them!
When Bronson Park changed their Christmas Nativity display years ago, our buddy, "big" Al Brundage purchased them when they were auctioned off.
The carolers were then put on the corner of Barb and Al's yard, and continued to be part of THEIR Christmas display. If anyone remembers, the Brundage's house was what everyone checked out each year!
Last month, Barb and Bill donated the set of little carolers to the Village of Richland, and the Township decided to put them up for display. Barb is thrilled to see them being used again for everyone to enjoy.
Thank you Barb and Bill!! (and Big Al!!!)

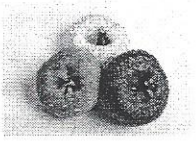
WMU SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESENTS: CHORAL CHRISTMAS

Choral Christmas will feature all three of WMU's Collegiate Ensembles: Collegiate Singers, Cantus Femina and University Chorale, along with Grand Chorus and WMU's Early Music Ensemble, Collegium Musicum!
DECEMBER 6TH AT 4:00 AND 7:30
First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo
Freewill offering

THE MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO.....

WASSAILING !!!

Join us for fellowship and a delicious warm cup of our world famous wassail, at least in Richland! December 3rd is the kick-off to the holiday season. If you would like to help this evening with kitchen duties, escorting our guests through our church, and cleaning up, please call the office, 629-4944, or see Shannan Deater or Judy Ruser.



Church Christmas Party!!

The Membership and Fellowship Committee cordially invites all adults to join in our annual Church Christmas Party, to be held at the church on Friday, December 11th at 6:00.

This year we will enjoy fellowship, food, fun, and games!

We ask for appetizers and desserts to be shared. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gull Prairie Room. Drinks will be supplied.

This evening will be good, ole-time fun, with parlor games, teams, and prizes for winners and losers!

Get signed up SOON!!!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

In everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."
—Philippians 4:6-7

****

Could you or someone you know, benefit from the power of prayer? Did you know that it is as easy as picking up the phone to have your prayers multiplied by many caring members of your church family? We invite you to give prayer requests to any member of the Prayer Chain, who will pray for you or the person who needs God's help in a time of need.
The person you contact will pass your request on to the next person on the list until the circle is complete. Be assured that we keep these matters in confidence.

We also invite others to join this circle of prayer.
Please note: participation is in no way restricted to women!
If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Mark or Julie at the office, 629-4944.

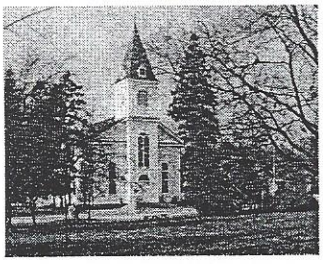
PRAYER CHAIN PARTICIPANTS

Marilyn Alman 623-2471 Diane Meitz 685-6272 Joyce Gibson 671-5019
Joan Willemstyn 344-1203 Joyce Hubbard 372-9205
Cindi Lebiecki 344-0332 Phyllis Youse 731-4851 Caroline Gray 629-9216

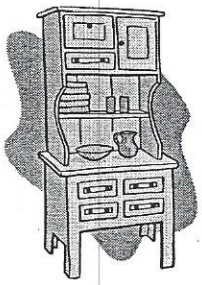
PRAYER CHAIN

Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for December

Date	*Selection*	*Honoree*
12/13	*Jesus Loves Me*	*Zackery James Anderson*
12/14	*Amazing Grace*	*Olga E. Boyer*
12/15	*The Old Rugged Cross*	*Emma Hubbard*
12/16	*Joyful, Joyful*	*Ellie Lynch*
12/29	*Wedding March*	*John G. Polzin*



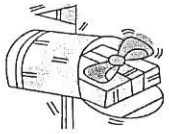
FOOD PANTRY CORNER



FOOD PANTRY

Anything Christmasy.
We aren't doing baskets, but we can help with usual holiday items.

December Birthdays



1 Andrew Fiordalis
1 Joseph Juodawlkis
1 Jana Turpin
2 Brian Schaadt
2 Casey Sunden
3 Brandon Delf
3 Katie Venner
4 George Lovequist
4 Grant Slezak
6 Georgie Lovequist
7 Josh Weigel
8 Kevin King
8 Jean Kubiak
8 Carson Miller
9 Nancy Hess
9 Matt Reinhardt
9 Alanna Wyckoff
10 Kendall Jennings
10 Kathleen Rothenberg
11 Gordon Mahieu
11 Jane Morrow
11 Lindsey Scribner
11 Holly Scribner
14 Mara Cazers
14 Ron Martens
14 Evan Odar
14 David Snyder
15 Sarah Myland
15 Lars Ruser

16 Marty Rench
16 Harry Stolt
18 Jarred Barts
18 Pam Moseley
19 Nathan Brundage
19 Hoyt Fonger
20 Cathy Layson
20 Michael Wright
21 Ashleigh Webb
22 Mike Juodawlkis
22 Laura Monk
22 Julie Pixley
23 David MacQuarrie
24 Jake Larson
24 Jeni Steele
25 Jan Petersen
26 Jennifer Stupica
27 Amy Juodawlkis
29 Laurie Alexander
29 Karen Urban
29 Nancy Woods
30 Ashlee Connell
30 Maggie MacRitchie
30 Chad Storer
31 Eric Bryer
31 Jan Fisher
31 Kay Polzin
31 Arlene Kuizema

and Anniversaries

1 Ed and Marilyn Davis ~ 26 years
6 Holly and Brian Scribner ~ 24
12 Jim Collier and Stuart Verseman ~ 2
16 Larry and Kay Irey ~ 48
18 Lib and Jerry Wittwer ~ 50
21 Liz and Allen Matthews ~13
27 Kay Gross and Gary Mittelbach ~ 40
27 Julie and Matt Pausch ~ 29
29 John and Kay Polzin ~ 59
29 Chuck and Joyce Farho ~ 11

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED