

The Missive

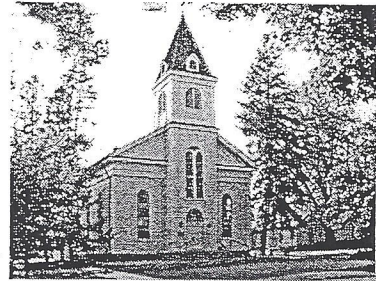
January 2017

First Presbyterian Church

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269~731~2519 home

Volume 52, Number 1, Monthly



"Gratitude"

There's a poem by David Budbill from his collection "While We've Still Got Feet" called "Winter: Tonight: Sunset":

Tonight at sunset
walking on the snowy road,
my shoes crunching on the frozen gravel,
first through the woods,
then out into the open fields
past a couple of trailers
and some pickup trucks,

I stop and look at the sky.
Suddenly: orange, red, pink, blue,
green, purple, yellow, gray,
all at once and everywhere.

I pause in this moment
at the beginning of my old age
and I say a prayer of gratitude
for getting to this evening
a prayer for being here, today, now, alive
in this life, in this evening, under this sky.

So many days I forget, I forget to be grateful. I can go a whole day thinking about my issues for the day and not even once look up at the stars or at the snowy woods or at the face of dog or in the eyes of those I love, and realize how blessed I am just to be here. And that's really too bad, because I think gratitude is a big part of faith and my relationship with God. I do what I do, I am committed to the church and to God's people, because of my gratitude of what God has done for me. I see God and experience his grace and care most clearly through his creation, and I'm grateful. I remember the past and I am thankful. I look forward to the years ahead and I give thanks.


It's really only when I'm caught up in myself that I forget to be grateful. That's why, especially as we head into 2017, that I am grateful for our church. It is being involved with you all, the privilege of being called to care, that takes me out of myself and commits me to something bigger than myself. I hope that you feel that too. As a congregation we are a community of people who have made a covenant with each other: to seek God together and as we do so to "lift one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support. (from our Book of Order)" As we like to say, "We're in this together." And I'm really grateful for that. And for you.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

P.S. Again, Erin and I are very thankful for your Christmas gift to us. We take it as an expression of your love and faithfulness and we hope that they are returned to you in uncounted blessings.

January Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teacher/Crafter</u>
1	Alman	Carpenter Alexander	Alman S & H Gobble	Deater	
8	Coverly	G & J Gibson D & M Fisher	Coverly J Croasdale	Gauthier	Webb, Simon Gauthier
15	Barts	Bryant Barts	Greve Inman	Carisalez	
22	Cazers	Cazers 3 Carahaly's	Knibloe Larson	Slezak	
29	Field	Field Remley Fiordalis	Lebiecki Lovequist	Stafford	Movie Day!

Serving Communion

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

January 1

Cindi Lebiecki
Phyllis Leiter
Nancy Lynch
Amy Mack
Bob Nash
Sharin Noall
Tom Noall
Donna Odar

February 5

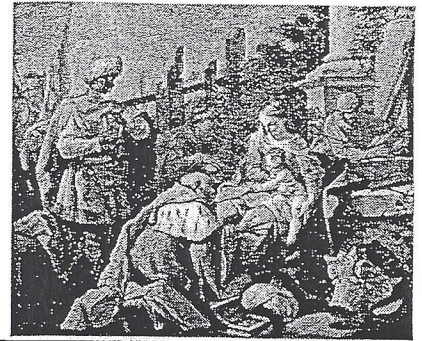
Nancy Remley
Gene Rothenberg
Sharon Rothenberg
Judy Ruser
Dick Saddler
Janet Saddler
Ed Schaadt
Ronda Schaadt
Marilynn Simon

March 5

Brent Slezak
Sheryl Slezak
Shannon Smith
George Spengler
Jennifer Spengler
Jean Stafford
Tom Stegink
Ken Sunden
Carol Thorne

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!

January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 Worship - Communion	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7
8 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:00 Sunday School 11:00 Altar Guild Meeting	9 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 9:15 Prayer Mom's 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	11 1:00 PW Meeting at Wanda's 6:00 Session	12 9:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons 7:00 Cub Scouts	13	14
15 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group at Kalamazoo 1st	16 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	17 9:15 Prayer Mom's 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	18 6:00 Committee's Meet 7:00 Scout Leaders	19 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scouts	20	21
22 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group at Westminster	23 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 9:15 Prayer Mom's 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	25	26 9:00 Bible Study	27	28 12:00-3:00 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby in GPR
29 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 11:00 ANNUAL MEETING 12:00 Potluck 5:00 Youth Group at Kalamazoo 1st	30 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	31 9:15 Prayer Mom's 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts				

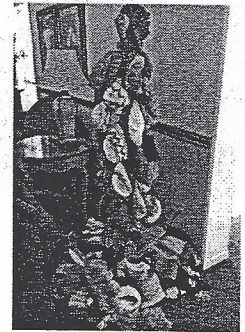


Presbyterian Women

PW usually meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the church,
HOWEVER, the next meeting is January 11th,
AT WANDA CLAWSON'S HOME!! 1507 West Gull Lake Dr. ~ 629-5428

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are thrilled to announce they delivered 181 brand new or homemade coats, hats, mittens, and scarves to Family and Children's Services, The Gospel Mission, and Ministry with Community!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed to the Mitten Tree! A special "shout out" to the Buddig family from Chicago. 99 of the items came from them! And, to the ladies in Connected Threads, who made most of the homemade items. Beautiful!!



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.

Money Matters

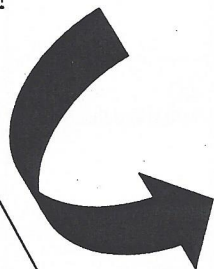
PLEASE USE YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES!



Regardless of whether you are giving cash OR check, please use your envelopes. When you don't use them, it creates three times as much paperwork for our Financial Secretary. All offering envelope boxes are on the table by Julie's office. Many thanks!

Showers

Did you know the church has two showers downstairs in the White Room (under the sanctuary)? If for any reason you are without the use of your own facilities, please come to the church! They are to be used, so help yourself!



.....AND SPEAKING OF ENVELOPES.....

Make sure to look inside your offering box for a single blue envelope. This is for the PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT. If we all help pay the **\$26.75** due, per member in your household, this will greatly assist in the HUGE expense for the church! Our membership is 272, so the amount due to Presbytery is over \$7000! Thank you!

FEEL FREE TO ROUND UP! Every little bit helps!

Youth Group

Youth Group Schedule

January 15 – New Year Kick-Off

First Pres Kalamazoo, 5-7pm

January 22 – Westminster hosts, 5-7pm

January 29 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts, 5-7pm

February 5 – NO Youth Group (Superbowl Sunday!)

February 12 – Westminster hosts, 5-7pm

February 19 – WE host, 5-7pm

February 26 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts, 5-7pm

Please feel free to contact mlt0002@yahoo.com with questions!

*Please consider helping with
Youth Group meals on our hosting days!*

2017 Youth Mission Trip June 17-24

Purpose:

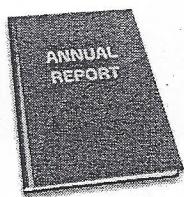
- ❖ To expose our students to people of all walks of life
- ❖ To help and serve
- ❖ To help bring God's love to all people

Who Is Served:

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

**All Middle and High School youth are welcome!
Scholarships and fundraising opportunities are available!**

Contact mlt0002@yahoo.com for more information
or to register for the trip!



TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

Just a friendly reminder that

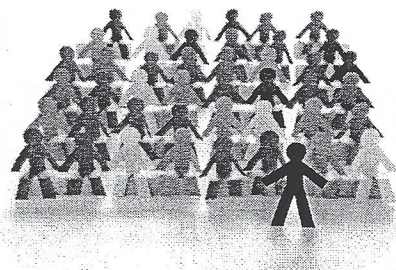
ANNUAL REPORTS

are due in Julie's office by
January 18th.

Please call if you have any questions or need
help! 629-4944

*The Annual Congregational Meeting
will be held
JANUARY 29th following worship.*

*The potluck is immediately afterward
Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass (meat
will be provided) and table service.*



LOVE

THANK YOU

The Missions Committee thanks everyone who participated in the Family and Children Services Holiday Giving Program. Your generosity provided beautiful gifts and a wonderful Christmas meal to the Kalamazoo family we adopted. You are a beautiful example of serving God by serving our fellow human beings!

VOLUNTEER LIST

Just another reminder that the volunteer list for 2017 (greeter, usher, coffee) is posted on the bulletin board by the water fountains, and will stay there all year. It's also on our website, www.fpcrich.com, under Living The Faith/Volunteer Schedule, or in the December Missive.

Many of us will have duplicate jobs throughout the year, so please look carefully for your name!



WANT TO BE LITURGIST?

Would you like to be liturgist?? We would happily add your name to the list. To be a liturgist means you help Mark with the worship service by doing three readings ~ the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession, and the first scripture reading. It's pretty easy, and it's nice to have different friends "up front" each week. Just let Julie know if you have an interest.

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 492-5583

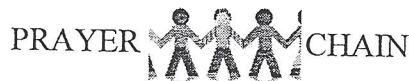
Joan Willemstyn 344-1203

Joyce Hubbard 372-9205

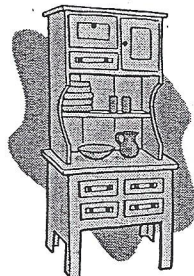
Cindi Lebiecki 365-3115

Phyllis Youse 731-4851

Caroline Gray 370-8152



FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER

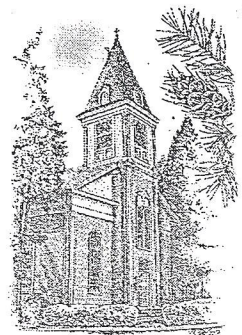


FOOD PANTRY
Suggested Giving

SOUP AND CRACKERS
(no tomato soup, please!)

Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for January

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
1/1	Holy, Holy, Holy	Leonard J. Ryan
1/20	Love To Tell The Story	Louise Hoorn
1/24	This Is My Father's World	Wava Murphy
1/25	Come, Labor On	Kristi Ryan
1/29	Old Rugged Cross	Marian and Earl L. Jones



January

Anniversaries



5 Dave and Jennie MacQuarrie ~ 9 years
 12 Mary and George Lindenberg ~ 37
 22 Diane and Don Meitz ~ 62
 24 Mark and Christy Connell ~ 36
 26 Shannon and Jeremiah Smith ~ 4

Birthdays



Tom Noall	1	Austin McQuarrie	18
Deng Thon Alier	1	Katie Miller	18
Brian Quada	2	Sandra Weigel	18
Logan Connell	3	Teresa Young	18
John Lebiecki	3	Dick Saddler	19
Sue Myland	3	Chuck Farho	20
Andrew Howard	4	Andy Kamernan	20
Sonja Acosta	4	Greg Keusch	20
Rachel Gates	5	Laura Pausch	20
Erin Jennings	5	Amy Syverson	20
Adam Simon	5	Denny Hoorn	22
Mark Stubbs	5	Bob Morrow	23
Ben Weigel	5	Winnie Arends	24
Eric Coffman	6	Christie Sutherland	24
Robert Delf	6	Kristi Ryan	25
Rebecca Gibson	6	Kelsey Saunders	25
Robin Nott	6	Jim Stallings	25
Spencer Brignall	7	Darcy Wank	25
Mike Kilbourne	8	Marlene McConnell	26
Vivian Lovequist	8	Nick Reece	27
Ron Davis	9	Bob Hess	28
David Deater	12	Brian Scribner	28
Clara Kreinbring	12	Paul Cazars	29
Lillie Steele	12	Joyce Dishon	29
Tunis Willemstyn	12	Sandy Stupica	29
Cam Nicholson	13	Faith Fiordalis	30
Brennen Wieber	13	Sue Higgs	30
Nicole Ambrosio	14	Marie Larson	30
Shannon Rench	15	Sarah Larson	30
Dave Damm	16	Doug Lloyd	31
David Fox	16	Kim Knutsen	31
Larry Irely	18		



First Presbyterian Church
 8047 Church Street
 Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED