

The Missive January 2020

First Presbyterian Church

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"Buying a House"

As all of you must know by now, the church is engaged in the process of buying the house and property next door to our church building. This is something that has been an idea in years past, but it is now coming to fruition. In my 30+ years at this church, this proposal has come up twice before, but now it actually seems possible. The first time (about 25 years ago) we had actually agreed with the owner on a price of \$230,000 but there were too many restrictions on the deed to make the building useable for the church. The second time, the price was just too much, around \$400,000. The property is now for sale for \$149,900 and it seems like this is too good of a chance to pass up.

But why do we want it? What is the motivation for the church to own this property? I'm sure there are several factors that come into this plan, but let's look at a few of them.

1). Fear. Are we buying it out of fear of what might be built there by some future owner? That may be part of our motivation, because it is zoned "commercial/mixed use" and we couldn't guess what sort of business might go in there. We assume that it's not a big enough spot for a fast-food restaurant, but who knows what else might go in there? But this is not our main motivation.

2). Money. Are we buying it so that we can make money off the property? Although for a while we could be collecting the rent of the current tenants who inhabit the building, the church does not want to get into the business of being a landlord. We're happy to keep the current tenants for the time being, but this is probably not a long term plan for us.

3). Control. Do we want the property so we can be the ones in control of how it is developed, who lives there, what happens to it? I'm sure that this is a larger part of the motivation. We do want to know what happens to the property, and to see it be a part of a beautiful historic Village Square. We also have ideas for gardens, restoration of the house, and a better view of the church and the village as one drives up Gull Road.

4). History. Do we want to buy it because it is part of our history? It is true that the house was built by Deacon Samuel Brown, an early member of our congregation, so he could always live next door to the church. But we view the entire park and village as part of the heritage of our church and so our historic connection to this property and to the integrity of the village is part of our motivation.

5). Faith. Do we want to buy it because we believe it is in the best interests of the church? Yes, we believe that it is. But we also believe that God calls us to make this move as a step in faith. Some people have been hesitant because this is a big financial leap for the church. That's true, it is. But we have faith that not only is God calling us to make this leap, but we believe that it will be good for our faith. This will stretch us, cause us to work together, make us renew our values. This will grow our faith in God and each other.

Please remember to send your gifts and pledges to the church by January 15th. We close on the house on January 30th.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

January Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	
5	Helmick	Helmick A&R Gross K Inman	Barts	Smith	<p>"January is here, with eyes that keenly glow, A frost-mailed warrior striding a shadowy steed of snow." - Edgar Fawcett</p> <p>"In January it's so nice while slipping on the sliding ice to sip hot chicken soup with rice. Sipping once Sipping twice." - Maurice Sendak, <i>In January</i></p> <p>"The twelve months... Snowy, Flowy, Blowy, Showery, Flowery, Bowery, Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy, Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy." - George Ellis</p> <p>'Dear world, I am excited to be alive in you, and I am thankful for another year.' - Charlotte Eriksson</p> <p><i>One kind word can warm three winter months.</i> Japanese proverb</p>
12	Osborne	Osborne B&T Jones	Bryant	Carisalez	
19	Leiter	Leiter 2 Beaver's Lebiecki	Carisalez	Gauthier	
26	Powell	L&G Lindenberg Lovequist	Cazers Croasdale	Lindenberg	



Serving Communion

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

January 5
Nancy Remley
Judy Ruser
Jack Sizer
Brent Slezak
Sheryl Slezak

February 2
Shannon Smith
Jean Sowers
George Spengler
Jennifer Spengler
Tom Stegink

March 1
Carol Thorne
Bob Tower
Terry Vantine
Donna Webb
Tunis Willemstyn

*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 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:45 Worship - Communion	6 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	8 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Session 6:00 Girl Scout Leaders	9 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:00 Undecorate the church 6:00 Deacons	10	11 11:00-5:00 Boy Scouts 50th Anniversary Open House (2:00-4:00)
12 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:00 Adult SS	13 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Cub Leaders 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Girl Scouts	15 5:30 Girl Scouts 5:30 Jack & Jill in GPR-Registration 6:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Boy Scout Leaders	16 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir	17	18
19 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 11:00 Adult SS	20 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	22 5:30 Girl Scouts	23 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Pack Mtg.	24 ??? Pinewood Derby set up in GPR	25 Pinewood Derby in GPR
26 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 11:00 Annual Mtg. 12:00 Potluck	27 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 7:00 & 8:00 Men's Breakfasts at Liz's 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Girl Scouts	29 5:30 Jack & Jill in GPR-Registration 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Girl Scouts	30 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir	31	



Presbyterian Women

*Our next meeting is February 5th at Wanda Clawson's home
1507 W. Gull Lake Dr, Richland
EVERY WOMAN is welcome.
If you have questions, please call Terry Vantine, 629-5381*

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Club
selection for February 8th is,

Virgil Wander by Leif Enger.

Sandra Gobble will host, 10727 East CD Ave, Richland.
If you've never joined us, we welcome you!



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.

VOLUNTEER LIST

A reminder that the volunteer list for 2020 (greeter, usher, coffee) is always posted on the bulletin board by the water fountains. It's also on our website, www.fprich.com, under Living The Faith/Volunteer Schedule, OR in the December Missive.

Another reminder that the coffee instructions have changed for this year. There is much less involvement, therefore less people are needed. Most are only down for once in the year. I'm posting the new instructions in this Missive, and of course they're posted in the kitchen!



BOOKS?

Do you have children's books that you're looking to find a new home? The Food Pantry can help! When we have families with children, they are encouraged to peruse through the books and take several home with them. We're happy to take books for all ages - toddler to teens. Just leave in Julie's office. Thank you!



PLEASE, TURN IN YOUR KEY

If you have been involved with church activities in some way, and are now stepping down and find you don't require your key anymore, please return it to the office! Thanks!



MONEY MATTERS

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of December 8th, we had received 62 General Fund pledges totaling \$149,948. This represents roughly 52% of the income needed to cover operating and Mission expenses for an average year. There were also 22 Building Fund pledges totaling \$15,082.

If you have already made your 2020 pledge, thank you! If you have not had an opportunity to do so, you may place your pledge form in the offering plate on Sunday, email our Financial Secretary, Brandy Dlugoss, at firstpresbyterianchurch49083@gmail.com, or mail your form to the church office. THANK YOU for your commitment! Pledges are a critical piece of the budgeting equation, assisting Session in maintaining fiscal responsibility.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

At the close of November, we are projecting a multi-year deficit of \$16.5K. This is an increase in deficit over last month's projections, due to lower giving in November than was budgeted. There is currently a deficit balance of \$13.2K in the General Fund, meaning, we are "borrowing" from designated funds in order to meet our operational expenditures.

As of November 30, fund balances are:



The full year 2019 update will be provided at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on January 26, 2020. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you are not attending worship, your pledge/offering may be mailed to the attention of the Financial Secretary. Our mailing address is 8047 Church Street, Richland, MI 49083.

Questions? Comments? Contact Sandy Carahaly, Elder, Finance Committee

COFFEE HOUR GUIDELINES

Necessary supplies are kept in the cabinet across from the island sink and drawer underneath. Tablecloths are kept in the alcove by the recycle bins. Some are in the bureau in the Fireplace Room.

Before church (9-9:15)

Set one table for coffee and water (hot/cold)

- *Vinyl tablecloth
- *Center piece or decorations are your choice, but not necessary
- *Treats or cookies are up to you if you choose!
- *We are trying to leave 2 or 3 of the round tables (with chairs) permanently set up. If they happen to be put away, please make sure at least several chairs are out.*

Coffee

- *Biodegradable cups in cabinet
- *Coffee stirrers, sugar, powdered creamer
- *Napkins
- *Wooden sign for Regular

Instant Decaf / Tea / Hot Chocolate

- *Biodegradable cups
- *Powdered chocolate mix
- *Tea bags, spoons
- *Napkins



Water

- *Pitchers

Make Coffee:

- *Regular - make **45 cups** in large pot (**4 cups of coffee**)
(In summer make only 35 cups of each (3 cups of coffee))
Coffee is on counter, or in cabinet close to spray hose.
Be sure to push "ON" button before church service

Make Hot Water:

- *In the smaller pot for tea and hot chocolate
Be sure to plug in before church service

You are ready - enjoy the worship service!

Leave the Service during the last hymn, or during the Doxology if there is no third hymn.

Fill labeled, silver carafes (lower cabinets under silverware) with coffee and water (have several cups of coffee poured when folks arrive so line moves quickly)

Clean up:

- Towels and washrags are in the 4 drawers by island sink.
- Dish soap is on island sink or under cabinet. Please hand wash anything needing it.
- *Clean the coffee pots and the coffee makers – CAREFUL!! THEY'RE HOT!!
- ***Turn off the lights**

THANK YOU

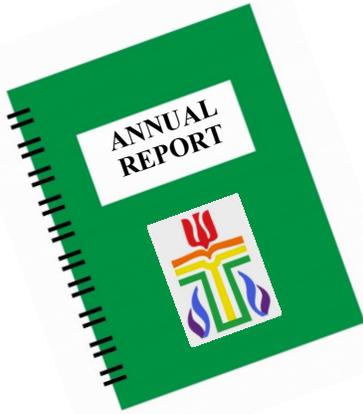
To All Committee Chairpeople

You still have plenty of time to hand in your

ANNUAL REPORT.

If I can get them by January 17th,
that would be great!

Please let me know if you need last year's copy,
or just need a little help.



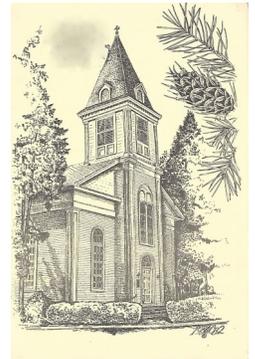
*The Annual Congregational Meeting
will be held January 26th, following worship.*

*The potluck is immediately afterward. Please bring
a side dish or dessert to share, and table service.*



Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for January

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



**FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER**



FOOD PANTRY
Giving Suggestions

SOUP
(no tomato or creams)

January

Anniversaries



5 Dave and Jennie MacQuarrie ~ 12 years
 12 Mary and George Lindenberg ~ 40
 22 Diane and Don Meitz ~ 65
 24 Mark and Christy Connell ~ 39
 26 Shannon and Jeremiah Smith ~ 7

Birthdays



Tom Noall	1
Deng Thon Alier	1
Brian Quada	2
Logan Connell	3
John Lebiecki	3
Sue Myland	3
Andrew Howard	4
Sonja Acosta	4
Rachel Gates	5
Erin Jennings	5
Adam Simon	5
Mark Stubbs	5
Ben Weigel	5
Eric Coffman	6
Robert Delf	6
Rebecca Gibson	6
Robin Nott	6
Spencer Brignall	7
Pam Foster	8
Mike Kilbourne	8
Vivian Lovequist	8
Ron Davis	9
David Deater	12
Clara Kreinbring	12
Lillie Steele	12
Tunis Willemstyn	12
Cam Nicholson	13
Brennen Wieber	13
Nicole Ambrosio	14
Shannon Rench	15
Dave Damm	16
David Fox	16



Larry Irely	18
Austin McQuater	18
Katie Miller	18
Sandra Weigel	18
Teresa Young	18
Dick Saddler	19
Chuck Farho	20
Andy Kamerman	20
Greg Keusch	20
Laura Pausch	20
Amy Syverson	20
Denny Hoorn	22
Bob Morrow	23
Winnie Arends	24
Christie Sutherland	24
Kristi Ryan	25
Kelsey Saunders	25
Jim Stallings	25
Darcy Wank	25
Nick Reece	27
Bob Hess	28
Brian Scribner	28
Paul Cazars	29
Joyce Dishon	29
Sandy Stupica	29
Faith Fiordalis	30
Sue Higgs	30
Marie Larson	30
Sarah Larson	30
Doug Lloyd	31
Kim Knutsen	31

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
Brandy Dlugoss, *Financial Secretary*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Branden Burris, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Director of Faith Formation*
Heather Putt, *Nursery Supervisor*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

