

The Missive March 2016

First Presbyterian Church

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“Pray with Me”

In the Gospel of Matthew, on the night of Jesus' arrest, after he shares the Last Supper with his disciples, he goes with them to a place called Gethsemane, “and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and he prayed . . . Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?’”

That's the challenge for us this year, to stay awake with him for one hour. Following this year's Maundy Thursday service, on March 24th, we will challenge ourselves to stay awake and pray with Jesus all through the night, one hour at a time. We hope to have at least one person who will stay in the sanctuary praying for an hour at a time. We will have a sign up sheet in the next few weeks so you all can pick an hour that works for you. The Maundy Thursday service is at 7:00, so there will be hours available from 8:00 Thursday evening until 9:00 on Friday morning. Of course there can be more than one person praying at a time in the sanctuary and we encourage that. If you sign up to pray, there will be resources available to help you pray; materials to read, to lead you in prayer, to teach you of centering prayer and lectio divina. And we will have a staff person in the church all night long so that no one is here alone.

Why are we doing this? Partially as a challenge, because the disciples were unable to stay awake with him. It is also for our own spiritual growth, to pray when there is no real reason to pray other than to pray. And it is mostly a sign of our devotion, of our love: to pray with Jesus when there is nothing we really want from him except to be with him.

What will you get out of it? I have no idea. Maybe nothing. But the point is not what it may do for us, the point is to give an hour to God on that holy night. I hope you can find an hour that night to come and pray. If you have questions, please call me anytime. Come and pray with us. Come and pray with Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

March Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teacher/Crafter</u>
6	D & J Gibson	C & J Gibson Larson Mandrell	Schaadt V Osborne	Deater	Stafford Gibson
13	Petersen	Petersen Youse Godfrey	Slezak Smith	Gauthier	Carisalez Osborne
20	D & M Fisher	D & M Fisher Stafford	Sutherland VanDyke	Slezak	Alspach Gauthier
27	Carlson	Inman Kern-Beaver Calkins	Carlson Urban	Stafford	EASTER Eggstravaganza!



Serving Communion

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

March 6

Bill Hubbard
Joyce Hubbard
Kay Irely
Larry Irely
Karen Kendall
Tom Kendall
Greg Keusch
Leslie Keusch
Jean Kubiak

April 3

Laura LaLonde
Barb Langshaw
Larry Langshaw
Cindi Lebiecki
Nancy Lynch
Amy Mack
Becky Mandrell
Sharin Noall
Tom Noall

May 1

Donna Odar
Val Osborne
Kay Polzin
Nancy Remley
Gene Rothenberg
Sharon Rothenberg
Judy Ruser
Dick Saddler
Janet Saddler

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!

March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Connected Threads 5:00-6:30 Girl Scouts	2 1:00 PW Meeting 7:00 Cub Scouts	3 9:00 Bible Study	4	5
6 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - Communion 11:05 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group at Pine Island	7 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	8 10:00 Connected Threads 5:00 Girl Scouts	9 6:00 Session 7:00 Cub Scouts	10 9:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons	11	12 Remember to "Spring Ahead" tonight before bed! 
13 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:05 Sunday School 2:00 Blue & Gold Ceremony in GPR 5:00 Youth Group at 1st Kal.	14 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	15 10:00 Connected Threads 5:00 Girl Scouts	16 5:00 Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 Committee's Meet 7:00 Cub Scouts	17 9:00 Bible Study  Everyone's Irish On March 17th.	18	19
20 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Palm Sunday 11:05 Sunday School 2- 4 Court of Honor in GPR 5:00 Youth Mystery Event <u>Deadline for Flowers</u>	21 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	22 10:00 Connected Threads 5:00 Girl Scouts	23 9:30 Flower Group <u>Missive Articles Due</u>	24 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 <i>Maundy Thursday Service</i>	25 <i>Good Friday Services</i> New Hope 12:00 St. Ann's 1:00 gracespring 7:00 Living Hope 7:00 St. Timothy's 7:30	26
27 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Breakfast 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Easter Sunday Easter Eggstravaganza after 'Time with the Children', downstairs	28 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts	29 10:00 Connected Threads 5:00 Girl Scouts	30	31		



Presbyterian Women

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

THE RUMMAGE SALE



Oh my, spring is just around the corner and that means the Spring Rummage Sale is only 9 weeks away! As you begin your spring cleaning we hope you'll take time to set aside those good reusable household items, tools, clothes, toys, etc. you no longer want so they can be recycled at the Rummage Sale. This is a great way to support PW missions and provide good items to folks at a low cost.



The SALE is April 29th from 9 ~ 3 and 5 ~ 7, and the 30th from 9 ~ 11:30.



DON'T FORGET ~~ please drop off your items the week of the sale. The boy scouts very helpfully arrange the tables for us on the Monday evening prior, so drop off stuff any time Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9 ~ 5 and/or 6 ~ 8. And when you drop off your items, if you are able, it would be most helpful to us if you could put your things on the appropriate tables. Thank you!



Somehow, that darn church secretary neglected to put in Marilyn Rhodes' telephone number in the newest directory!
What the heck was she thinking?

Marilyn's information is:
269-753-1777
210 Canterbury Park
Battle Creek 49015



SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Presbyterian Women are looking for volunteers to serve as Secretary and as Treasurer. PW is an outstanding group of women who are the best money-makers and distributors of that money, in the world! They give and give, and almost always with a smile! If you think you'd like to help with this extraordinary group of women, contact Terry Vantine, 629-5381, or merrylegstlv@gmail.com.

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.

Youth Group

2015-2016

Youth Group Schedule

February 28 – NO YOUTH GROUP

March 6 – Pine Island hosts 5-7pm

March 13 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts 5-7pm

March 20 – *Mystery Event!* 5-7pm

March 27-April 10 – NO YOUTH GROUP (Spring Break)

Youth Mission Can & Bottle Drive

The youth can and bottle drive mission fundraiser is in full swing! Simply drop your cans in the collection bin outside the church office!

Thank you for your support of the 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

Youth Mission Sponsorship Fundraiser

The Youth have had a wonderful response to their Envelope Fundraiser and have received some amazing stories of what inspired each

#41 - 41 years ago I went on my first mission trip as a 16 year old after my sophomore year of High School. We went to Mississippi and it changed my life. I hope these mission activities change yours too. God Bless you.

#150 - When I first became involved with our church, we celebrated our sesquicentennial anniversary! 150 Years! Now...35 years later...the church has been a big and happy part of my life!

#17 - I chose \$17 because I have 17 baby teeth left.

#90 - 90 is the sum of the ages of my 3 children who grew up in this church and loved doing things with the youth group. Have a wonderful mission trip and make great memories!

#53 - Married 53 years ago in this church

#94 - In the fall of 1994 when I was experiencing difficult days with a terminally ill husband, I decided after many absent years to return to the church for support & friendship. As a child I had sung in my church choir all the way through high school. So that was where I started out in our church – as a member of the choir. Soon after I joined the church as well. It has been a blessed decision. I have found joy and peace in singing and am so grateful to have this church and this choir in my life for the past 21 years.

#43 - To commemorate 43 years of being blessed by our relationship with this church.

#60 - Given in honor of our Annual Pie Tent's 60th anniversary. The ladies of this church have baked pies each summer to raise money for missions!!

#71 - My husband chose '71' because both of us will be 71 this year. Where has the time gone? We met on a blind date our freshman year at Calvin College when we were 18 and have been together since.

#185 - Given in honor of our church's 185th Anniversary!!

#49 - I really wanted the #45 for our 45th anniversary on Feb. 6th. That number had been taken, so I picked the next available amount. I consider it paying forward, and hoping we'll be around in four years. That's my story and I am sticking by it! LOL

March 2016 Missive - Missionary Report

Dear Church Family,



I am fine. My wife, Mary, is doing well. It is cold here in Bor but I think we can survive. My mother fell in January and she became unconscious. She bled and was taken to the hospital by my sister. She was injected with tetanus medicine; she was also given anti pain medication. I talked to her everyday. She is recovering. The rest of my family is doing well. My little brother and niece are now back to school. My niece, Monica, is standard eight candidate this year. We are all praying for her to do well in all of her courses this year. She goes to school from Monday to Sunday. I ask you to pray for her this year. She will sit for her final exam in November.

I know I have been quiet for so long and the reason is due to the internet. I am in Werkok and the internet access in Werkok is poor. I have to climb over the water tower to access the internet. Sometimes the internet may not be there. Also, the battery of my computer was bad and I sent it to Juba for battery replacement, unfortunately the battery type for my computer was not in Juba. So, I was lucky. My brother in-law, Gabriel Kuol, Mary Abul's husband (she is my middle sister) went for graduation in Addis Ababa and he took my battery with him. He found the battery for my computer and my computer is now working again. He paid a lot of money for the battery and I really appreciate his generosity. I know they don't have much and for him to do that for me meant a lot.

Mary, my wife is now with me in Werkok. I came to Werkok before her and she joined me in Werkok last Friday. This is her first time to stay in Werkok. The last time she was here was when we visited the hospital and we went back to Bor after that visit. She is now living in Werkok and she likes it so far. She was really lonely in Bor and that bothered both of us. So, I made a decision to bring her to Werkok. We are all happy now. She will be going back to Bor maybe in two weeks.

My work at Memorial Christian Hospital (MCH) is going well. We have construction on the site and that makes us busy. We have two American women volunteers here with us in Werkok. One of the volunteers will be here for two weeks and the other lady will stay here for at least six months.

The American volunteers are interacting well with Mary. Mary is very shy but I can see her communicating with the ladies and that impresses me every time I see her talking with Americans in English. You know Mary is not very educated compared to me, especially when it comes to communication skills. I always tell her that she will learn either from me or from American friends. I sometime joke with her by telling her to start learning English now since she will someday come to the US and if she doesn't learn to speak English, then it will be difficult for her. So it is so nice that Mary is starting to learn now.

The couple that you see in the picture are our friends. The husband is my co-worker. His name is Abraham Bol. He is a nurse/midwife. The picture was taken in Werkok in December 2015. We both got married almost at the same time.

Thanks and blessings to you for your support and prayers,

Deng Alier





HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday Service

March 24 7:00 p.m.

Community Good Friday Services

New Hope 12:00 p.m.

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

gracespring 7:00 p.m.

Living Hope 7:00 p.m.

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

Easter Sunrise Service

March 27 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast hosted by the Deacons

8:00 a.m. in the GPR

Easter Service

March 27 9:45 a.m.



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 March 27th 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 27th for your convenience. Thank you.

Your Mission Committee

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 **March 20th.**

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

Your Name _____

Person(s) or event being remembered _____



DISPLAY CASE

If you haven't already seen the display case, please do! Linnea Saffell and Jennifer Spengler have adorned the shelves with the most beautiful quilts! Some are theirs, and some from Linnea's mother, Wanda Albrecht Johnson. The detail is incredible! Check it out!!

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Do you have preschool/toddler age books that you're looking to find a home? The Food Pantry can help! When we have families that have children, they are welcome to take a book. We're happy to take any and all children's books, but are currently running a little short on books for the little ones. Thank you!



THE HEARING LOOP SYSTEM

We now have it in our sanctuary! If your hearing aids are equipped with a T-Coil Program you'll be able to hear so much clearer and better! You may have to call your hearing specialist to see if you have it, and if they need to get it going for you.

If you don't have the T-Coil Program, we'll still be able to offer you headphones that will do the same thing! We are so fortunate

to have great friends who wanted to provide this service to our church.

Thank you so much!





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

When: Easter Sunday, March 27th
during Children's Worship & Choir

Where: Sunday School classrooms

See YOU at the
Eggstravaganza!!!

This is for ALL kids.
Preschool ~ high school



The Music and Arts Committee
of First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo presents

Lenten Recital Series

Thursdays at noon | Freewill offering

February 18, 2016

Bernie Foulk

Organist, First United Methodist Church, Kalamazoo

February 25, 2016

David Acton

WMU School of Music student, First Congregational Church, Kalamazoo

March 3, 2016

Thomas Fielding

Director of Liturgy and Music, St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo

March 10, 2016

Carrie Groenewold

Minister of Music, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Kalamazoo

March 17, 2016

Stephen White

Director of Music, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Battle Creek

First United Methodist Church

212 South Park Street

Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

269.381.6340 | www.umc-kzo.org

We are a Reconciling Congregation

Metro County Connect

It has come to our attention that many of our residents are not aware of a County-wide service that is available to us. It is called Metro County Connect. Over 2000 residents in our Richland area did use this service in 2014. It can be used for scheduled rides to doctors offices, shopping or just when you need a lift.

Their website is www.kmetro.com. Click on Transit Services, then Metro County Connect.



"Metro County Connect is Kalamazoo Metro Transit's shared ride origin-to-destination transit service. Shared ride means that multiple passengers may ride together in the same vehicle. Metro County Connect is open to all residents of Kalamazoo County.

Discounted fares are available to individuals who are certified as having a disability, seniors 62 years or older and individuals with a disability who are certified as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) eligible."

Please visit the website or call this number 337-8222 to see if Metro County Connect can help you.

As always please share this information with those that could benefit from this service.

Daylight Saving Time

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE BED ON MARCH 12th



Saving daylight was first mentioned in 1784 by Benjamin Franklin in a satirical essay urging Parisians to get up earlier in order to use sunlight, thus saving wax by not burning candles at night, in the spirit of his proverb "Early to bed and early to rise / Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." Franklin did NOT mention Daylight Saving Time — he did not propose that clock time be changed.

DST was first seriously proposed in 1907 by William Willett, but he was unable to get British government to adopt it, despite considerable lobbying. Willett's proposal argued that DST increases opportunities for outdoor leisure activities during afternoon sunlight hours. As a builder, he also wanted workers to arrive at construction sites earlier in summer mornings. Similar motivations remain to this day.

DST was first put into practice by a national government in Germany during the First World War, between April 30, 1916 and October 1, 1916. On March 19, 1918, the US Congress formally established several time zones, which had been in use by railroads and most cities since 1883; at the same time it established DST from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. The law proved so unpopular, it was repealed after 1919, when Congress overrode President Woodrow Wilson's veto of the repeal.

By 1966, some 100 million Americans were observing Daylight Saving Time through their own local laws and customs. Congress decided to step in end the confusion and establish one pattern across the country. The [Uniform Time Act of 1966](#) (15 U.S. Code Section 260a) created Daylight Saving Time to begin on the **last** Sunday of April and to end on the last Sunday of October. Any area that wanted to be exempt from Daylight Saving Time could do so by passing a local ordinance. The law was amended in 1986 to begin Daylight Saving Time on the **first** Sunday in April. Wikipedia.org

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

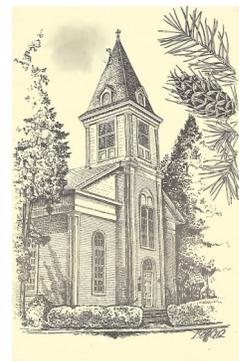
Cindi Lebiecki 344-0332

Phyllis Youse 731-4851



Carillon Hymns and Honoree’s for March

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
3/14	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Alice Hill Kenworthy</i>
3/15	<i>The King of Love My Shepard Is</i>	<i>Jeanne Gross Kalupa</i>
3/18	<i>In The Garden</i>	<i>Paul and Veda Robinson</i>
3/20	<i>For The Beauty of the Earth</i>	<i>Makena Clawson</i>
3/24	<i>It Is Well With My Soul</i>	<i>Kathy Hoorn</i>
3/24	<i>Here I Am Lord</i>	<i>Alan and Marjorie Brundage</i>
3/31	<i>Old Rugged Cross</i>	<i>Billie Showers</i>



FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER



FOOD PANTRY

SOUP, CRACKERS, CEREAL
SNACK TREATS
PAPER SACKS

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.
You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.

~ from The Talmud ³⁰³



Love n. Hugs

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.



We are going to suffer.
And it is going to shape us.
Somehow.
We will become bitter or better,
closed or open,
more ignorant or more aware,
more or less tuned in to the thousands
of gifts we are surrounded with
every single moment of every single day.

Art offers
sanctuary to
everyone willing
to open their
Hearts as well as
their Eyes

- NIKKI GIOVANNI -

Smiling Eye Studio

you are
not a mess.
you are
a feeling
person
in a messy
world.

GLENNON DOYLE MELTON

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Murray Cooper, *Seminary Intern*
Faith Fiordalis, *Financial Secretary*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Sadarra Fields, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Program Coordinator*
Samantha Gay, *Children's Worship Leader*
Alanna Wyckoff and Allie Steele, *Children's Worship Helpers*
Heather Putt, *Nursery Supervisor*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

