

The Missive, May 2022

First Presbyterian Church

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“Happy Easter!”

Wait . . . what? . . . Happy Easter? Easter came and went several weeks ago, right? Remember the visit from the Easter Bunny and then gathering in church to sing “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”? Easter is over.

Except it’s not. I always like to remind the kids of this when we do the “Time with the Children” during Sunday worship—Easter is a season, not just a day. In this way it is like Christmas, you’ll remember that there are 12 days of Christmas, traditionally lasting from the birth of Jesus until the visit of the Wise on January 6th. Similarly, Easter last from Easter Sunday until Pentecost, a period of just over seven weeks. In the ancient church this time was called “The Great Fifty Days.” Easter Sunday was often a “graduation” day for new converts in which they were baptized and became members of the community of faith. Following that, the Great Fifty Days were used as at time for new and older members of the church to deepen their faith, a faith grounded in the resurrection of Jesus. That’s why the Sundays during this time are called, for example, the Second Sunday of Easter, not the Second Sunday after Easter.

According to the New Testament, Jesus appeared to his disciples during these days, for forty days after his resurrection until his ascension, and then ten days after the ascension the gift of the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. This makes up the Great Fifty Days of Easter, the celebration from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. All the days of this season, but especially the Sundays are part of the great celebration of Easter. It’s just too bad the Easter Bunny only brings candy of the first day!

Because these days are a celebration of the resurrected Christ, on our Sundays of Easter we are going to look at the appearances of Jesus to the disciples and what they mean to us. We’ll look at the traditional stories of Doubting Thomas in the Gospel of John, but we’ll also look at Jesus having fish in the upper room in Luke, going fishing with the disciples in John, and his appearance to Paul on the Damascus Road. But what do those appearances mean to us? Because Jesus ascended to heaven and “is seated on the right hand of the Father,” doesn’t that mean that he no longer appears to us? Or does he? One of the things we will ask during these days of the appearances of Jesus to his disciples is, does he still appear to us? And in what ways? Do we see Jesus in bodily form? Does he come to us in our dreams and imaginations? Does he appear in the beauty of God’s creation? Or does he come to us as a comfort in our most difficult times? Perhaps the question for each one of us is how does he appear to us, where is it that we see Christ?

And then, of course, comes the flip side of that question—is it possible that others see Christ in us? The Letters of Paul describe the Church as the Body of Christ. If that is true, is it possible that we are the physical representation of Jesus to the world? How can we be a faithful “appearance” of the Risen Christ? As we spend this month putting a new steeple on our church building in order to give a more beautiful image of our church to the community, let us also pray that we are being the Body of Christ to the community as well

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*

MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45: Worship & Communion 2:00: Adopt-a-Highway 5:00: Youth Group	2 9:00: PEO Meeting in GPR 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 6:30: Boy Scouts	3 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts	4 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 7:00: Mission Committee	5 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:30: Girls Scouts	6	7
8 <i>~ Mother's Day ~</i> 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	9 10:00: Christian Education 2:30: Personnel Committee 6:30: Boy Scouts	10 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: Boy Scouts 7:00: Shared Blessings	11 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Worship & Music Committee 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	12 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:00: Deacons Meeting	13	14
15 9:45: Worship & Sunday School 4:00: 4 th 5 th 6 th Group @ Kzoo 5:00: Youth Group @ Kzoo	16 6:30: Boy Scouts	17 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts	18 10:00: Food Pantry 4:00: FPC Kzoo Meal & Hot Cocoa, prep & serve	19 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:30: Girls Scouts	20 7:00: Young Adults Bowling Night at Eastland Bowling	21
22 9:45: Youth Sunday Worship & Sunday School 5:00: Youth Group @Kzoo	23 6:30: Boy Scouts	24 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: Boy Scouts	25 9:30: Lakeshore Flower Group 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Red Cross Blood Drive 5:30: Girl Scouts	26 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	30 6:30: Boy Scouts	31 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts				



April Birthdays

Andy Alspach	1	Kara Reinhardt.....	15	Mara Juodawlkis	22
Harold Gobble.....	1	Joyce Gibson	16	Chloe Wieber.....	24
Gavin Inman	1	Carolyn Gruys	16	Anna Gross	26
Jason Lindenberg.....	2	Vicky Langshaw Thomas	17	Poppy Smith	27
Marcia Delf	3	Larry Myland.....	17	Tom Webb.....	27
Bruce Howard.....	4	Joan Willemstyn	17	Eric Wines.....	27
Alexander Inman.....	4	Shannan Deater.....	18	Erica Wines Smith.....	27
Bill Mattes.....	5	Alison Butler	19	Tony White.....	28
Anna Bea Miller.....	5	Carolyn Venner	19	Kaitlyn Quada	29
Branden Burris	6	Sandra Gobble	20	Lynne Quada	29
Vicki Janson.....	6	Tyson Putt.....	20	Jason Rairigh.....	29
Lindsay Webb.....	12	Ken Hetzel	21	George Becker.....	31
Emily Mattes.....	13	Haylee Inman.....	21	Larke Lindenberg	31
Barb Brundage.....	14	Lee Coverly	22		

& Anniversaries

2.....	Judy and Ted Ruser	41	22	Marcia and Robert Delf	46
5.....	Ken and Debbie Sunden	32	22	Laura and DJ LaLonde	46
7.....	Cheryl and Bob Reinhardt	45	24.....	Mark and Erin Jennings	36
7.....	Shari and Rick Wynsma	34	25	Jennifer and Mike Odar	26
9.....	Sandra and Harold Gobble	58	26.....	Jean and Walt Stafford	60
10.....	Ken and Sandy Barts	42	27	Steve and Sharon Sorrell	39
11.....	Amy and Mike Juodawlkis	26	28.....	Jill and Tim Bair	39
12.....	Gavin and Katie Inman	21	28.....	Ed and Ronda Schaadt	56
21.....	Mark and Jilisa Williams	28			



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for April

Date.....Selection

- 8.....*How Great Thou Art*
- 12.....*Sweet Hour if Prayer*
- 13.....*All Things Bright & Beautiful*
- 17.....*God of Grace & God of Glory*
- 17.....*O Master Let me Walk with Thee*
- 21.....*Hymn of Praise*
- 31.....*Little Bronw Church in the Vale*

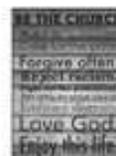
Honoree

- Isaac Henry & Daisy Berg*
- Elizabeth*
- Dorothy Hubbell Stimson*
- Larry's Birthday*
- Wanda H. Griffiths*
- Brad Hoorn*
- Millard Murphy*





YOUTH GROUP



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is meeting in-person for all 7th-12th grade students!

- May 1 – 5-7:00 pm @ Richland
- May 8 – NO Youth Group (Mother's Day!)
- May 15 – 5-7:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo
- May 22 – YOUTH SUNDAY, Youth Group 5-7:00 pm @ Richland
- May 29 – NO Youth Group (Memorial Day weekend!)
- June 4 – Pride Rally, Arcadia Park – youth needed
- June 5 – NO Youth Group
- June 25-July 2 – Youth Mission Trip to Colcord, West Virginia

← We need dinner for the youth one more time this program year!
 Can you help provide a meal on May 22?
 Contact Meredith for more information.

4th, 5th & 6th GRADE GROUP

Join us for faith, fun and fellowship!
 May 15 – 4-5:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo!

YOUTH MISSION

The youth are headed back to West Virginia in June and need your help! Costs have increased significantly and we are struggling to meet our fundraising goal.

If you'd like to help financially support the trip, donations can be dropped off in the church office or with your offering, marked "youth mission".
 Also, look for the food and supply sign-up in the coming weeks!
 Thank you for your continued support of our youth!



Youth Mission Trip 2021



CHRISTIAN ED LOVINGKINDNESS

The children celebrated Easter together with an egg hunt around the church grounds and some fun time spent together.

If you'd like to get to know this amazing group of kids better, consider being part of the Sunday School rotation. For more information, contact

Meredith: meredithalspach4@gmail.com



Presbyterian Women



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.

PW MEETING: May 11 at 1pm at Wanda Clawson's.

!!BIG NEWS!!

THE 2022 RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING SOON JUNE 3 & 4

Mark your calendars now. After a two year hiatus there has been a lot of interest expressed about this sale so we are expecting lots of sale items and shoppers. **We'll begin collecting your items for the sale on Tuesday, May 31.** There are two events planned in the GPR the week of May 23 so the Boy Scout Troop will be setting up the tables for us over the Memorial Day weekend, so please do not bring your items in early. Also, if you could have your items to the church by noon on Thursday, June 2, that would be a big help, so we have plenty of time to get everything displayed and priced as needed. We hope you will set aside a few hours or days that week to help: Tuesday thru Thursday from 9:00am to 8:00pm to sort & price, and then Friday (8:30am to 7:00pm & Saturday 8:30 – about 1:00pm) for the sale & cleanup. ***The hours are flexible and the rewards are great.*** And as a bonus Faith and Zip Fiordalis are planning to be in town to help with the sale. *It is always good to see them.*

A volunteer sign up sheet will be posted on the PW bulletin board soon.

Proceeds from the sale support the PW Mission budget.

4TH OF JULY PIE TENT

There is a VERY good chance we will be doing a 4th of July Pie Tent. We need your pies! Not pizza or cream but yummy fruit or pecan. Call Terry Vantine or Judy Ruser with the number of pies you can bake. Please fit them into ziploc type bags and label with their filling. They may be made a few days ahead and put into the church freezer clearly designated for the pie tent or bring them in by 9am the morning of the parade.

After 2 years without pies, we are hoping for a high demand.

What Can I Do About Climate Change?

Excerpted from presentation given on April 24, 2022
by Rick Foster and Tom Stegink

God owns everything, and we get to manage it for Him. The responsible management of these God-given resources is called stewardship. The fundamental questions are: How Has Human Interaction Impacted Planet Earth? Can We Change Our Ways and Improve the Human Condition? And, Can We As Local Citizens Have a Local and Global Impact?

The Problem: Most of the negative environmental impacts on Planet Earth have happened in the past 150 years – coinciding with the Industrial Revolution; Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Carbon Emissions.

Why Does CO₂ Matter? CO₂ is a small part of our atmosphere, mostly nitrogen, oxygen and argon with 0.041% carbon dioxide (CO₂). But it plays a major role in regulating temperature by controlling how much sunlight is reflected back into space. Too little and we freeze. Too much and we overheat. Scientists first demonstrated this in the 1800s

Climate Change - A Warming Planet. The years 2016 and 2020 were the warmest years on record since 1880 (earliest records). The 19 warmest years on record have occurred since the year 2000. Average global temps have increased almost 1.5 deg. C (3 deg. F) in the past 100 years.

Weather impacts of a warming Earth have been extreme weather patterns, hurricanes, tornados, and extreme high and low temperatures. The oceans also had their warmest year on record — a trend that intensifies sea level rise, coral bleaching, and tropical cyclones such as hurricanes.

And What About Glacial Melt? Rising ocean levels affect all coastal states. The Arctic is losing ice cover, thawing permafrost (releasing methane which increases heating) and the continent of Antarctica is shrinking. Consequently, the US Navy must now patrol the Arctic Ocean most of the year.

A growing cost to the public; 2018 had a near-record list of 14 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters. Hurricanes Michael and Florence combined for at least \$49 billion in damages. Western wildfire season was the most expensive ever, with total damages of at least \$24 billion. Only 2011, 2016, and 2017 have had more billion-dollar weather events. Remember Katrina, New Orleans - 2005?

So Why Is Climate Change Such A Political Hot Potato? If warming is caused by human activity, we must take action. This may require lifestyle changes, and change is difficult. This may require regulations, and regulations cost money and increase costs. Increased costs reduce income and profits.

What Can I Do?

Reduce use of carbon-based fuels. To reduce gasoline and diesel fuel, change to electrically-powered vehicles. With today's electrical sources, this creates less carbon. Even better if electricity from solar or wind, etc. Reduce natural gas and propane by insulate your house to reduce heating and cooling needs, changing from furnace/boiler to heat pump or geothermal, and replace failing gas appliances

with electric. This will reduce carbon creation as electrical power companies move away from carbon fuel to solar and wind, etc. All the above are best if powered from rooftop solar which eliminates grid losses and diversifies production.

What Else Can I Do?

Join a group such as Citizen's Climate Lobby (website CCL.org). CCL advocates for a carbon fee and dividend. Fees will discourage use of carbon fuels, and dividends from the fees will be given back to the public to offset increased costs of carbon fuels as we transition to solar, wind, etc.



We Are An Earth Care Congregation

Earth Stewardship Through: Worship, Youth and Education, Outreach and Mission, and Facilities management. The following from The Presbyterian Mission website.

EARTH CARE PLEDGE

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.

2. In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.

3. Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.

4. Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

- Edward Everett Hale (1822–1909)



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

First Presbyterian Church

**May 25th
Noon – 5:45 pm.**

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

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How We Listen to Music

By Larry Myland

The American composer Aaron Copland wrote a book back in 1953 titled *What to Listen for in Music*, and it's a handy primer for anyone who wants to know more about what goes on beneath the surface of music.

Copland says that we listen to music on three different planes: the sensual, the expressive and the purely musical.

“You may be sitting in a room reading a book,” says Copland. “Imagine one note struck on the piano. Immediately that one note is enough to change the atmosphere of the room—proving that the sound element of music is a powerful and mysterious agent.

The simplest way we listen to music is to immerse ourselves in the sheer pleasure of the musical sound itself. This is the sensual plane. You just soak up the sound without really thinking about it.

“Yes,” the sound appeal of music is a potent and primitive force ... The sensuous plane is an important one in music,” but it's not the whole story.

The second plane on which we listen is the expressive plane, one in which we seek the meaning behind, or in, the music. Consider Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The final movement has the tune for our hymn *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*. The expression here is one of triumph.

Says Copland, “The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, Is there a meaning to music? My answer to that would be, Yes. And Can you state in so many words what the meaning is? My answer to that would be No.

The third realm of listening is that of the purely musical. Besides the pleasurable sound of music and its expressiveness, music exists in the notes themselves and of their manipulation. Part of what Copland is talking about is musical form. Most all music has some structure, from the simple A-B-A song form of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* to the more complex classical sonata-allegro form which is part and parcel of sonatas and symphonies composed in the Classic and Romantic periods of music by composers like Mozart and Brahms.

A Mini Lesson in Music Theory

Classical sonata-allegro form consists of a first theme, or theme group, a second theme or theme group, and a third or final theme or group. These themes are presented in the first section of the form which is called the Exposition. The Exposition is repeated a second time to help you learn the tunes. Then comes the Development, a section most often based on the first theme group. The Development section is where a composer gets to show her stuff—her craft, her musical know-how. The third and final section of sonata-allegro form is the Recapitulation, which is something of a recall of the Exposition. After a sometime extremely ambitious, perhaps even ferocious, Development section, the Recapitulation sort of brings everything back down to earth for a satisfying return to what we first heard in the Exposition.

Classical sonata-allegro form is not at all difficult to grasp, though it takes some concentration to actually identify exactly where we are as it plays out before our ears. Take out any Beethoven piano sonata and you will find good old sonata-allegro form right off the bat. Several editions of these sonatas even have printed guideposts that tell you exactly where you are as sonata-allegro form unfolds right before you.

Musical structure and form are not ends in themselves, but they endure because they provide a sense of balance and completeness.

So, this and a couple of greenbacks will get you a cappuccino at Starbucks, right? Well, yes and no. But greater understanding leads to deeper appreciation. It's as simple as that.

Happy Listening

Larry's Battery Box Update

Larry's dead battery recycling program has kept boxfuls of dead batteries out of the landfills. Larry has now learned that alkaline batteries should just be thrown away. So keep dropping your non-alkaline batteries into Larry's Battery Box and let Larry take them to be recycled.



Featured This Month...

The Altar Guild

By Pam Foster

In last month's Missive, Joyce Gibson shared Five Myths About the Altar Guild. This month we would like to share a bit more about the AG and also ask for volunteers to sign up for a Sunday or two for the rest of this year. Joyce Gibson would love a call (269-492-5583) or an email (moglets3@gmail.com) to find out what your interests are.

Our Altar Guild was established nearly 70 years ago and has provided beautiful arrangements ever since. As you would expect, there have been many people involved in taking on the responsibility each week. While there are too many to name here, they are members of our congregation, like you, who are willing to share their time and talents to beautify our sanctuary and bring glory to God.

The AG room is full of supplies to assist in arranging the flowers you bring. If it's a vase you need, florist tape, foam, wire, books with ideas, etc. I'm quite sure you will find it there. The sink is a handy resource to add water to a vase or clean up any mess that might happen during your preparation. Flowers can be purchased, you can bring flowers from your own garden, and sometimes flowers from our church grounds are available.

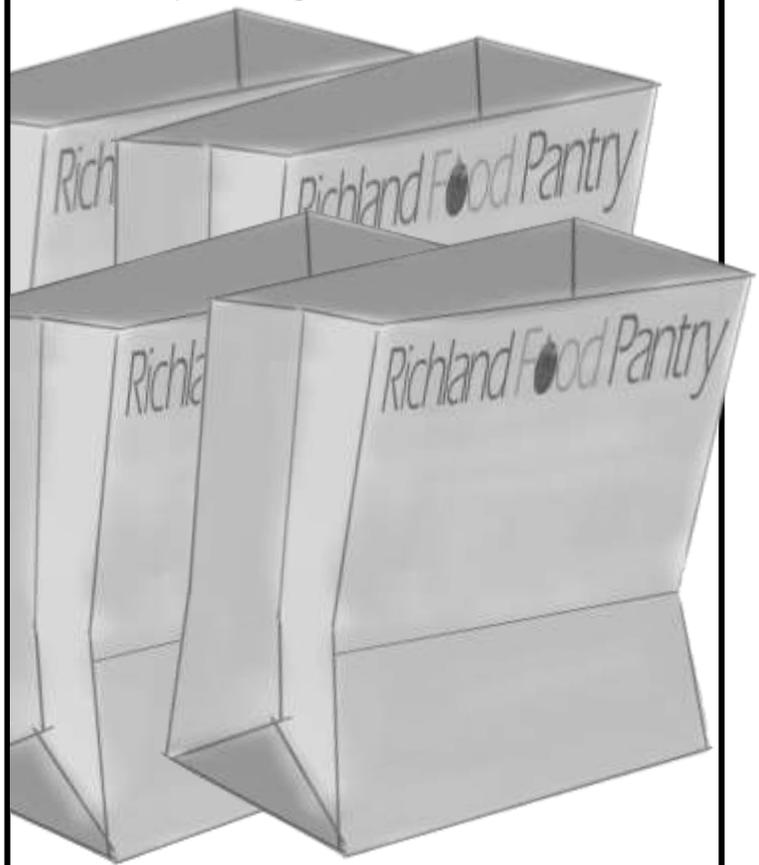
Please add the arrangement to the altar before the service begins (by 9:15-9:30 am). When worship is over, the arrangement will be delivered by the Deacons to one of our members, unless you prefer to take it with you. Please make that designation on the sign-up sheet.

If you have interesting insights and history about our Altar Guild that you would like to share, please send them to me at fosterpamela17@gmail.com and we will include them in a future Missive for everyone to enjoy.

Can we count on you to support our Altar Guild? Please refer back to the link above and add your name. □

Next month we will feature our Presbyterian Women and the neat things they're doing. REMINDER – our rummage sale will be taking place June 3-4!

More Paper Bags Needed!



With the announcement of dates for this year's rummage sale (see page 5), the need for clean, folded, like-new paper grocery bags goes up. The Food Pantry and the Presbyterian Women's Rummage Sale would love to put your paper bags to work. You can help by bringing your clean, folded, like-new paper grocery bags to the food pantry or church office. Also, please take a second to check for forgotten receipts you may have left if the bag.

Extended Pantry Hours

The Success of The Richland Food Pantry and the need in our community required us to extend the pantry hours to two days a week. The pantry now serves clients Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 am to Noon.

Food Pantry Shopping List

Canned soups, vegetables, or chicken are always welcome if you feel moved to help the food pantry with food donations. Monetary gifts can also be directed to the food pantry by specifying it as the intended recipient on your church offering envelopes.

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*,
Chris Gobble, *Financial Secretary*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Owen Rushford, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Director of Faith Formation*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Paul Gobble, *Interim Clerk*

MAY