

The Missive, June 2022

First Presbyterian Church

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“Places”

“Wherever you go, there you are.” I’d always thought that humorous quote was from Yogi Berra—it sounds like Yogi, doesn’t it? But it was actually made popular by the movie, “The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension” one of my brother’s favorite movies. Its exact origins are obscure but are no doubt even earlier than this 1984 movie.

But it tells us an obvious truth: we are creatures of time and space and there is never a time when we are “nowhere.” Erin turned me on to an excerpt from “This Here Flesh” by Cole Arthur Riley.

Place is the one thing that always is. We are always somewhere. I have been without people but never without place. Perhaps that is why it is so easy to become numb to it.

Isn’t it something that in Genesis, God makes a home for things before God makes the thing? Not the fish first but the sea. Not the bird first but the sky. Not the human first but the garden. I like to think of God hunched over in the garden, fingernails hugging the brown soil, mighty hands cradling mud like it’s the last flame in a windstorm. A God who says, “Not out my own womb but out of this here dust will I make you.” Place has always been the thing that made us. We cannot escape being formed by it.

*This is something that we are increasingly aware of as a church; creating space that is welcoming and hospitable. Like God, preparing the garden **before** the people who will inhabit it. Being hospitable so people know there is a place for them.*

We are looking at our sanctuary: is it hospitable to those with disabilities? How can we create garden paths and welcoming grounds, that encourage the community to seek refuge under the canopy of trees, or sit on a bench in the Memorial Garden and reflect among the peonies? Do we recognize our neighbor and community partner, the Gull Prairie Preserve and are we, as an Earth Care Congregation, doing what we can to support them, cooperate with them to ensure that we broaden our impact in seeking to protect our corner of paradise?

We are “place making” as Cole Arthur Riley calls it. Our Shared Blessings group has already been honing this vision and mission since we first began meeting last fall. We look to ways we can welcome the stranger, to make our buildings welcoming, to make our church campus more inviting, and to make sure folks of all points of view, orientations, opinions, race and ethnicity, or economic condition feel like there is a place for them at the table and in our sanctuary where we embrace our diversity. And that brings us to another quote, a wry observance, a paradox:

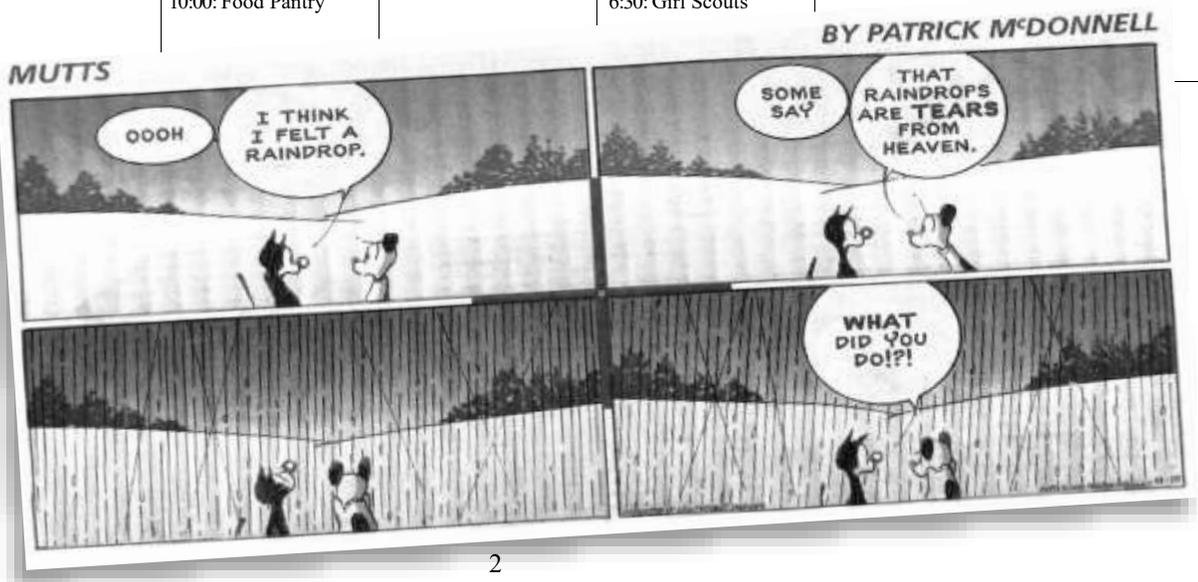
Diversity’s Dilemma: those who preach diversity rarely include those who disagree.

We want to avoid this pitfall. If we are all someplace, and if we can choose to be here, in this place together, let’s make sure that this place is an open and welcoming place. A place to come and belong.

Grace and Peace,
Mark

JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 7:00: Mission Committee	2 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:30: Girl Scouts	3 8:30: Rummage Sale (until 7:00 pm) 2:00: Youth Group at Pride Rally in Arcadia Park	4 8:30: Rummage Sale (until 1:00 pm)
5 9:45: Worship & Communion 3:00: Student Piano Recitals	6 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 6:30: Boy Scouts	7 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	8 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Worship & Music Committee 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	9 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:00: Deacons Meeting	10	11
12 9:45: Worship & Sunday School 11:00: Steeple Dedication & Potluck	13 10:00: Christian Ed. Committee 6:30: Boy Scouts	14 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 7:00: Shared Blessings @DBH	15 10:00: Food Pantry 4:00: FPC Kzoo Meal & Hot Cocoa, prep & serve	16 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:30: Girl Scouts	17	18
19 9:45: Worship & Sunday School 12:00: Internment Ceremony for Dick Saddler	20 6:30: Boy Scouts	21 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	22 10:00: Food Pantry 5:30: Girl Scouts	23 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 7:00: Trivia on the Patio	24	25 TBA: Memorial Service for Pete Knibloe
26 9:45: Worship	27 6:30: Boy Scouts	28 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	29 10:00: Food Pantry	30 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:30: Girl Scouts		



June Birthdays

2nd Mariela Carisalez	12th Gavin Gibson	19th Gene Rothenberg
2nd Shannon Wixson Smith	14th Amy Mack	20th Catherine Martin
2nd Carol Miller Johnson	14th Bethany Gibson Gauthier	20th Lane Steele
3rd Sharon Sorrell	14th Aimee Robinson	20th Jilisa Williams
4th John Welser	14th Nikki Vantine	22nd Carol Hodgson
4th Shari Wynsma	15th Michelle Fisher	23rd Steve Inman
5th Tom Farho	15th Justin Gibson	26th Cheri Calkins
5th Brandon Jennings	16th Jerry Bryer	26th Abraham Smith
7th Larry Osborne	16th Sandy Carahaly	26th Tara Steele
7th Mark Williams	16th Carol Thorne	26th Bob Tower
8th Keagan Miller	17th Tina Brignall	26th Jarad White
9th Brandon Wynsma	17th Mary Lindenberg	27th Kelly Schadt Boyle
10th Mark Fisher	17th Michael Odar	29th Paisleigh Burris
10th Chase Sullivan	17th Karen Stasevich	30th Joe Gibson
11th Maria Hills	18th Jim Collier	30th Jerry Petersen
11th Peter Mattes	18th Tim Peters	30th Ava Rogers

& Anniversaries

1 Milt & Linda Pollock	54 years	19 Mark & Lynn Hittle	46 years
12 Philip & Terri Dawson	40 years	22 Tim & Pat Peters	58 years
14 Rob & Suzie Carpenter	36 years	23 Heather & Darwin Putt	10 years
14 Maria & Bob Hills	65 years	23 Joan & Larry Romyak	49 years
15 Steve & Betsy Powell	3 years	24 George & Jennifer Spengler	33 years
17 Steve & Sandy Hart	50 years	25 Faith & Zip Fiordalis	45 years
18 Marleigh & Branden Burris	6 years	25 Andrew & Laura Fiordalis	17 years
18 Brad & Mindy Hittle	17 years	28 Kyle & Kelene Monk Rogers	14 years



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for April

<i>Date.....</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
1.....	<i>Take My Life</i>	<i>C. J. Hoorn</i>
3.....	<i>Onward Christian Soldiers</i>	<i>Brad Hoorn</i>
3.....	<i>Pass It On</i>	<i>Brad Hoorn</i>
3.....	<i>America the Beautiful</i>	<i>Brad Hoorn</i>
12.....	<i>When Morning Gilds the Skies</i>	<i>Donald James</i>
23.....	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	<i>Julia Stephens</i>
28.....	<i>Old Rugged Cross</i>	<i>Alice V. & Harold F. Ostrander</i>





YOUTH GROUP

BE THE CHURCH
Forgive often
Respect people
Love God
Enjoy life



On Youth Sunday we had the great privilege of hearing Sophi Carahaly's senior sermon, a youth-led worship service along with incredible messaging and bulletin art by Marz Carahaly.

GOD WELCOMES ALL!



It's easy to offer "thoughts and prayers" when people are in need. It takes selflessness to provide the help they are needing.

~ Sophi Carahaly



CHRISTIAN ED & MISSION

In May, the Mission Committee prepared and served the Wednesday night meal at FPC Kalamazoo for the downtown hungry and homeless.

There have been several of our church members who have provided the meal for this important mission over the last year, and it has been a wonderful way to share in outreach ministry. Thank you to all who have been a part of serving this critical need in our community.



WE ARE EACH MADE FOR GOODNESS LOVE AND COMPASSION



LOVINGKINDNESS

Congratulations Graduating Seniors!



Nathan Ferris

Nathan attended Gull Lake schools through fourth grade and then moved to Plainwell. Nathan participated in the MS Robotics club 6th-8th grades, which led to the start up of the new HS VEX Robotics club his junior and senior years. Nathan played the trombone in 6th-11th grades and really enjoyed the marching band and jazz band. He plans on attending GVSU to pursue a degree in biology and perhaps a minor in criminal justice or legal studies. He is interested in a forensic science career. In his spare time he enjoys his part time jobs, gaming, hiking, boating, snow skiing and a bit of golf. He also plans to continue volunteering with west Michigan VEX robotics.



Sophi Carahaly

Sophi will be attending the Lee Honors College at Western Michigan University in the fall, majoring in Statistics. Her academic excellence at Gull Lake has been enhanced by 4 years in the GLHS Performing Arts Company (most recently seen as Auntie Pie in the spring PAC production of The Book of Everything), 2 years of marching band, re-establishment of the Gull Lake High School GSA, and community service as a Youth Ambassador at OutFront Kalamazoo. Sophi is working as many hours as she can this summer at Big Tommy's Pizza and Ice Cream, so be sure to say hello when you stop in!

Scouting Stories by Samantha Wheeler

Every week, The First Presbyterian Church in Richland hosts Scout meetings; BSA Troops (girls and boys), Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Daisy Scouts. Outside of worship and the regular church committee meetings, Scouts use this building more than anyone else. Scouting life is a big part of this church's life, but we don't often hear the scouting stories. This column hopes to change this by telling one scouting story each month.

Daisy Girl Scout Troop 80147 donated 3 cases of Girl Scout cookies leftover from their cookie season to the First Responders at Prairieville Township Fire Department for EMS week. The Troop dropped off their donations in person on Monday 5/16 during the department's training night. The Fire Chief wrote about the visit on their fb page:

"This week is EMS week. Girl Scout Troop 80147 brought us Girl Scout Cookies to help us celebrate. We like Girl Scout Cookies!

After Calling Central Dispatch or 911, we are usually the first people to assist you. We respond to injuries, accidents, falls, illness, physical assistance, and or calls for transport. It's what we do.

We gave the girls a tour and had them try on some of the gear, look at some of the equipment, squirt some water and even put the hoses back on the rig properly. We think they had fun, we know we did.

Thanks girls.

P.S. the cookies were awesome!"



Wait, What? by Rev. Mark Jennings

Do you have questions? Have you always wondered about something? Why we do the things we do? What something means? Why we say certain things in worship? This column is to bring up those questions and try to come up with an answer or two.

In the Lord's Prayer we say at every service, in the first phrase "Dear Heavenly Father, hallowed be thy name..." Wait. What? Do we know God's name? Do we ever use God's name? Mark?"

This question came up in the context of why we pray in the "name of Jesus." This is an appeal to the authority and to the will of Jesus, asking not only that he grant our prayers but that our prayers conform to his will and purpose.

But what about God's name? In the early writings of the Bible, God is usually referred to as "God" or sometimes "God Almighty." A few places God is called "God Most High" and "God of Hosts" and even "the Fear."

But then in the book of Exodus, when God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, Moses asks God's name. God responds with the mysterious phrase, "I am who I am." But in Hebrew, God says, YHWH. We don't quite know how that was pronounced, but the closest we can come is probably "Yahweh."

One of the reasons we don't really know how to pronounce it is because to the Jewish people it was believed to be too holy to speak. A person would not say this word, even in worship, even in prayer. When reading the scriptures, if one would come across the word YHWH in the text, the reader would substitute the word "Lord" in its place. Most of our Bibles still do the same thing. If you happen to read Psalm 23, the first line is "YHWH is my shepherd, I shall not want," but most of our Bible translations read, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." Anytime you are reading in the Hebrew Scriptures and you find the word LORD written in all capitals, then you know that the Hebrew text is the sacred name of God, YHWH.

In Old English this word got mistranslated as "Jehovah" and we still find that in hymns and other places.

Love Bade Me Welcome

by *Larry Myland*

George Herbert (April 3, 1593 ~ March 1, 1633) was a Welsh poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England. His poetry is associated with the writings of the metaphysical poets, and he is recognized as “one of the foremost British devotional lyricists.” He was born into an artistic and wealthy family and largely raised in England. He received a good education that led to his admission to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1609. He went there with the intention of becoming a priest, but he became the University's Public Orator and attracted the attention of King James I.

After the death of King James, Herbert renewed his interest in ordination. He gave up his secular ambitions in his mid-thirties and took holy orders in the Church of England, spending the rest of his life as the rector of the rural parish of Fugglestone St. Peter, just outside of Salisbury. He was noted for unflinching care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill and providing food and clothing for those in need. He was never a healthy man and died of consumption at age 39.

In addition to his poems and other writings, Herbert is remembered in liturgy. On March 1, for example, being the day of his death, there are various collects for the day, of which one is based on his poem “The Elixir.”:

“Our God and King, who called your servant George Herbert from the pursuit of worldly honors to be a pastor of souls, a poet, and a priest in your temple: Give us grace, we pray, joyfully to perform the tasks you give us to do, knowing that nothing is menial or common that is done for your sake ... Amen. [Wikipedia]

I've never really figured out my attraction to George Herbert. Maybe it's because, like most Americans, I've always rooted for an underdog. Also, there's no denying that he was a saintly man with a noble and charitable heart. Here is my favorite poem of his. It is part three of “The Temple.”

Love (III)

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sinne.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lack'd any thing.
Aguest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkinde, ungratefull? Ah my deare,
 I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 Who made the eyes but I?
Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame?
 My deare, then I will serve.
You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat:
 So I did sit and eat.



Portrait by Robert White in 1674



The Herbert niche, Salisbury Cathedral

Steeple Dedication and Celebration

Every year we take pasta salad and brownies in hand, walk across the parking lot, and settle into the Village Green for the end of the program year church potluck. This year, with everything else we have to be thankful for, we will also be able to admire our new church steeple while we share lunch. On June 12th, we will have a moment of dedication during the service. Then after the service, meat and beverages will be provided, and you are encouraged to bring your best salad, side, or dessert to share.

Trivia on the Patio

This summer, one of the many exciting events at The Richland Community Library - right next door - is Trivia on the Patio. Outside on the library's patio, accompanied by some light snacks, small trivia teams of two to six will test their trivia skills. The event is on June 23rd, and Mark is putting a team together. Please let Mark know if you would like to be a part of the FPC trivia team. Registration begins June 1st.



Upgrades in the Food Pantry

We are very excited about the continuing improvements at the Richland Food Pantry. With the success of the capital campaign and the design-savvy of Sara Weiber and Shannon Smith, the Food Pantry and the church kitchen are expecting a flooring upgrade. Volunteers will be needed to help empty, paint, and refill the pantry in the second week of June. Please call or email Paul at the church office if you want to help. Thank you for your continued support of the Richland Food Pantry.

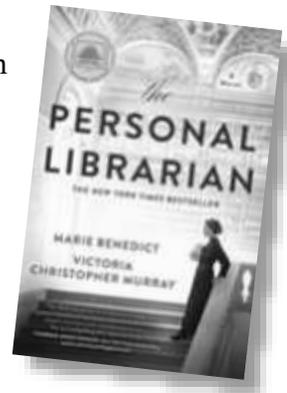
Successful Blood Drive

Congrats and thank you for another lifesaving day at First Pres Richland. Your May blood drive collected 33 units which can potentially help 99 hospital patients with lifesaving blood products. We all thank you for your generosity and support!

First Pres Richland will host a second blood drive on October 19, 2022. We look forward to another successful lifesaving event.

Women's Book Club

Carol Coverly will be hosting the next Women's Book Club meeting at her house, 125 Pine Cove Circle, Kalamazoo, on June 22nd at 1:00 pm. The title of the book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. We welcome any woman who would like to join us. Questions call Carol 251-6054.



New Peeps in the Church Office

There are a lot of new things going on in the church and church office; new steeple, new flooring, new computers. But arguably, the most closely watched improvement (by some in the office, at least) was the nest of fledgling robins right outside the office window. The photos on the left show mother and her week-old chicks taken just days before they flew off. If you missed them, don't worry. Mother is nesting again. Stop by the office and have a peek.



Featured This Month...
 Presbyterian Women
 First Presbyterian Church Richland
 By Pam Foster and Terry Vantine

As promised in last month's Missive, our feature this month is Presbyterian Women (PW). Taken from presbyterianwomen.org:

"For more than 200 years, Presbyterian women have demonstrated a commitment to serve the mission of the church in special, caring ways. From our early beginnings as missionary societies to our work with hospitals and schools, our caring has been tangible. What does it mean to support the mission of the church worldwide? For Presbyterian Women, it means that we respond to God's love for us by offering our many gifts to ensure wholeness for all. Standing alongside the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and our ecumenical partners, we bring Christ's love to the world.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregations, Presbyteries and Synods often also identify their own mission partners, answering needs in their communities or regions.

Presbyterian Women understand that scripture asks us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. As such, Presbyterian Women provides information about justice and peace and ministry to inform mission and community-building work."

The Presbyterian women of the First Presbyterian Church in Richland (FPCR), hold three fundraisers each year. We use the monies raised to support eight local missions. All of the women of the church are members of PW. There are no dues or requirements, just a willingness to join with others to show God's love.

Our meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. Every woman of FPCR is welcome. The duties of the officers are minimal and are for three-year terms. We are currently entertaining nominations for moderator and secretary. The decisions concerning our activities are made at these meetings and new ideas are highly desired.

RUMMAGE SALE
JUNE 3 & 4

In the past, we have held two rummage sales each year (spring and fall). They require many hands to keep the load

from being too heavy for any one person. The local Boy Scouts are very helpful with setting up all of the tables and racks and with putting them away. Everything else... sorting, pricing, placing, selling, and policing are done by our women and men. A sign-up sheet is in the Gull Prairie Room (or call/email Sara Wieber 269-806-9524; sara-b49080@yahoo.com) and we encourage you to help and enjoy the fellowship too. The spring sale is June 3 and 4 with set-up beginning on May 31st.

The 4th of July Parade Pie Tent is our other fundraiser AND we need your help. Our bakers make their favorite

4TH OF JULY
PIE TENT

fruit or pecan pies at home (store bought ingredients are tasty and fine too). They can be brought to the church frozen a few days ahead or fresh on the morning of the parade. We usually sell out before the parade begins, so having a large number of pies are needed for our customers and our missions. One year we had 135 pies and sold all but two. At the moment, we have 50 pies promised and would love to increase that number to at least 80. Can we count on you to make a pie or two? If so, please let Terry Vantine know at 269-629-5381.

The groups that are helped by our funds are: Church Women United, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Ministry with Community, Community Volunteers, Open Door/Next Door, Loaves and Fishes, Richland Food Pantry, and Gateway Academy (GL Community Schools).

If you have questions or suggestions, the following women attend our meetings regularly and will be happy to share your thoughts: Terry Vantine, Nancy Lynch, Kalli Inman, Sara Wieber, Pam Foster, Margaret Hetzel, Joyce Dishon, and Wanda Clawson.

ALL women are welcome and encouraged to join us at our next meeting on June 15th (instead of June 1st because of the rummage sale). We are currently meeting at Beacon Pointe on 32nd Street in their conference room at 1 pm.



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.

First Presbyterian Church
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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*

JUNE