

The Missive, July 2022

First Presbyterian Church

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“Room For All”

This last Sunday, June 26th we had a special Sunday Morning worship service. All of you who were there either in person or online know that the Spirit was present with us as celebrated the inclusion of all God’s children. This was the last Sunday of Pride Month when we are reminded of the LGBTQ members of our society and of our church as well. I think on Sunday we were especially blessed by the musical offerings of Beth Patterson who sang her original song “Hallelujah,” Floy Latham, who sang “You Say,” and a special choir who sang “God Loves Me Too.” We had a great discussion after church on the book “UnClobber” by Colby Martin who writes about how the Bible has historically been misused to exclude LGBTQ people. It was a celebration of inclusion!

But maybe everyone didn’t feel that way. I got a note from one of our church members who wondered if there was room in our church for those who had conservative ideas. I think we realized when we created last Sunday’s service that there would be people who would be uncomfortable with it. We even knew that there would be people who would want to stay home. But is our church a “home for all?” When we celebrate the inclusion of some people, does that necessarily mean that others get excluded? I hope not.

For many years the Presbyterian Church (USA) has had a Sunday designated to “Celebrate the Gifts of Women.” This comes from the time when women had historically been excluded from leadership positions in the church and congregations were encouraged to have at least one Sunday on which a woman preached the message, and we were reminded that “in Christ there is no male and female.” But just because we celebrated the gifts of women didn’t mean that there was no place for men in the church.

Just so, I think that when we celebrate the inclusion of our LGBTQ siblings in the life of the church, it doesn’t mean there is no place for others. If God’s love truly is inclusive, it means there is a place for liberal, conservative, gay, straight, men, women, black, white and every label in-between. As Maureen Lovequist reminded us this last Sunday, God’s love is not like pie. Because I get a piece doesn’t mean there’s less of it to go around. There’s enough for all of us. So let’s include all of us.

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*

JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45: Worship & Communion	4 ~ Independence Day ~ 10:00: PW Pie Tent 11:00: Inde Parade Starts Noon: Lion's BBQ	5 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	6 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 5:30: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission Committee	7 11:00: Bible Study 7:00: Trivia on the Patio, Richland Library	8 5:00: Richland Art Hop, Jackie Stasevich in DBH	9
10 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	11 10:00: Christian Ed. Committee 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy Scouts	12 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 7:00: Shared Blessings	13 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Worship & Music	14 11:00: Bible Study 6:00: Deacons 6:30: Girl Scouts	15	16 8:00: Adopt-a-Highway Group Clean-up
17 9:45: Worship	18 5:00: Boy Scouts	19 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	20 10:00: Food Pantry 4:00: Meals & Hot Cocoa, Prep & Serve, Kzoo 5:30: Girl Scouts	21 11:00: Bible Study 7:00: Trivia on the Patio, Richland Library	22	23
24 9:45: Worship	25 5:00: Boy Scouts	26 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	27 10:00: Food Pantry	28 11:00: Bible Study 6:30: Girl Scouts	29	30
31 9:45: Worship						

July Birthdays

1 st Jane Carpenter	14 th Leslie Lindenberg	21 st Jennifer Odar
1 st Jacob Pixley	14 th Melissa Spengler	22 nd Joseph Odar
1 st George Spengler	14 th Kathleen Griffin	22 nd David Sizer
2 nd Milt Pollock	15 th Mary Lou Cazars	22 nd Tineke Stolt
3 rd Barb Perigo	15 th Barbara Liggett	24 th Christina Hittle
4 th Sandra Barts	15 th Tony Osborne	25 th Sheryl Slezak
5 th Helena Gartner	15 th Kyle Sunden	26 th Mary Brundage
5 th David Sutherland	16 th Jack Alspach	26 th Brent Wieber
6 th Ross Reinhardt	16 th Marilyn Simon	27 th Ben Gibson
7 th Roselyn Becker	16 th Olivia Sullivan	27 th Annie Jennings Ferreira
8 th Clark Crenshaw	17 th Harold Dishon	28 th Julie Johnson
9 th Bob Reinhardt	18 th Martha Croasdale	28 th Evan Jones
10 th Luke Fiordalis	18 th Sam Gibson	30 th Ann Stolt Stopher
10 th Donna Webb	18 th Geoff Lindenberg	30 th Megan Inman
13 th Justin Barts	20 th Carrie Stolt Meersman	30 th ... Jessica Wines Curry
14 th Deb Fisher	20 th Terry Vantine	
14 th Judy Kleis	21 st Gary Gibson	

& Anniversaries

1 st Tineke & Harry Stolt	44 years	9 th ... Joe & Catherine Gibson	28 years
1 st Sara & Brent Wieber	28 years	9 th ... Geoff & Leslie Lindenberg	11 years
3 rd Nancy & Bob Hess	51 years	12 th ... Jill & Rick Steele	42 years
6 th Doug & Linda Gates	37 years	21 st Michael & Nancy Wright	49 years
6 th ... Jean Yoder & Jean Sowers	3 years	23 rd Charlene & Bob Nash	56 years
6 th ... Katie & John Welser	59 years	26 th Ken & Margaret Hetzel	47 years
7 th ... Maureen & George Lovequist	10 years		
9 th ... Herb & Mary Brundage	28 years		



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for July

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
2 nd	<i>Panis Angelicus</i>	<i>Alberta Wells</i>
17 th	<i>Come Thou Font of Every Blessing</i>	<i>Pantry Volunteers</i>
22 th	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Lee Timmerman</i>
25 th	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	<i>Don Janson</i>
27 th	<i>I Love to Tell the Story</i>	<i>Kim Saunders</i>



Showcase Update *by Barb Monk*

It is time to change the showcase, so please come and get any items you have generously shared with us. Our new theme will be This Is Us. With the new steeple going up, and the pride we share for belonging to such a historic church, it would be fitting to put on display any pictures or items you may have representing our church, the people in it, our activities, or anything you feel would fit this theme. At any time if you feel you need to remove anything you brought for these displays, please feel free to take it home. I know the displays have had very lengthy timelines, and for This Is Us, I plan on not changing it until late October.

Thank you for helping to keep the showcases interesting. If you do have something to put in the display, place it in the showcase at your convenience.



The Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up is ON for July 16th – 24th.

By Cindi Lebiecki

Join us Saturday, July 16th at 8 am at church to walk with a group! We need and welcome anyone (children must be over 12 years of age) to assist with pickup/clean up. There are two one-mile sections of road on each side of Gull Road from G Avenue towards Richland. They are at the water tower between the two MDOT signs with our church name.

Adam Simon or Pastor Mark can meet with you briefly at your convenience at church to pass out vests, trash bags and review procedures. You can also stop in the church office to get your vests and trash bags.

You decide on your own schedule during the week or join us on Saturday, July 16th at 8 am to walk with a group from church. Many hands help the clean-up go faster.

Please text or call Adam, 217-5337, if you want to volunteer and select your section to beautify! Thank you and have fun with it!

Future 2022 dates are September 24th – October 2nd.

Rummage Sale 'Thank You'

by Sara Wieber and Joyce Dishon

After 2 1/2 years of no Rummage Sales we had an enormous amount of items to sell this year. With the help of our many volunteers, both men and women, the sale was a great success. We even added an extra two days of bag sales. Over \$4,400 was raised to support PW Mission giving: Gateway Academy students, Ministry with Community, Open Door/Next Door, the Gospel Mission, Church Women United, Community Volunteers, Loaves and Fishes, and Boy Scout Troop 294, i.e. It will be a blessing to resume our giving as in the past. After the sale a large amount of items remained and with the help of the Boy Scout Troop and their parents we were able to box and bag most items up and deliver it to area Salvation Army stores, the Discovery Shop, Habitat for Humanity and two different church affiliated free stores.

We extend a big THANK YOU to each of you for your contributions of Rummage Sale items, your time in helping with the sale, shopping, clean up, and the wonderful lunches and snacks brought in to keep the workers nourished. We are grateful for your generous hearts. Most of all the sale gave all of the workers an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship that we have missed for two years. We also extend our thanks to the Boy Scout Troop who were here promptly at 9:00am Saturday to help pack up and deliver items to the Salvation Army, and then break down our tables and clothing racks and put them away.

We are thinking the next Rummage Sale will be about the same time next year.

Garden info for the Deacon Brown House *by Barb Monk*

We are looking for a few perennials for the Deacon Brown House gardens. For now we are working on the areas around the trees and large rocks. The large area along the fence will be dealt with at a later date. If anyone has a sun loving perennial that is not invasive, we could use a few of those. Though it is not a good time of the year to divide hostas, if you have any available, we could use those as well.

If you have any plants please let me or Rick know, and we will get them planted.

Featured This Month... Boxes Made From Bell Tower Timbers! by Pam Foster

We are excited to share with you that special “pencil” boxes have been made from the timbers that supported our church’s bell tower for 160+ years. The boxes measure approximately 5 ½” x 5 ½” x 6” and have been hand-crafted by Zip Fiordalis.

When Zip and Faith left for home after the recent rummage sale, they took enough lumber for him to craft 50+ boxes. The finished treasures are now available to purchase at \$25 each. The attached photos give you an idea of how attractive they are. However, when you see them in person you will be even more impressed!

Each box will include this insert:

The wood used to make this box came from the steeple of the First Presbyterian Church located in Richland, MI.

The steeple was erected in 1861, making the age of this virgin, white pine lumber at least 200-225 years old. The salvaged planks used were 13” wide, 1” thick, and 14’ long.

Please read more about the history of the First Presbyterian Church Richland: <https://www.fpcrich.org/history.html>

We will have the boxes available to purchase on Sunday, July 10 th , in the Gull Prairie Room after worship. Cash and checks will be accepted. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church Richland with the notation of Steeple Project.

The proceeds from the boxes will support the new home and placement of the bell.

Thank you Zip for this wonderful memory and for allowing us the opportunity to have a bit of our church’s history in our homes.



Shared Blessings: A Matthew 25 Service Group by Erin O’Sullivan

Background: The PCUSA has created a “Matthew 25” Invitation for those churches who identify their mission in a manner that reflects one, two, or three pillars that hold up this distinction. These are:

- Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



There has been a strong consensus that we be intentionally welcoming as a church and this has taken the form of making our sanctuary more hospitable to those with needs such as wheelchairs and hearing devices.

We also seek to welcome the stranger and have been active in advocating for the Guatemalan family of Jeni Steele, as they seek to come to the US.

We also identified a strong interest in our identity as an Earth Care Congregation. We work with our Earth Care Team and the Building and Grounds committee to create “hospitality” on our church campus, with improvements and the return to native plants. We actively engage the Gull Prairie Preservation project to partner and enhance the mission of both organizations.

Environmental racism is another concern. We acknowledge that changes in the environment disproportionately affect people of color. In considering the second pillar of Matthew 25, we have engaged in the difficult discussion of “structural racism” and will continue to move toward deeper understanding and consensus.

Our goal is to work WITH the committees of the church as we humbly endeavor to serve. Our distinction is in our ability to move about the organizational chart, partnering with others to accomplish goals. We also claim the distinction and responsibility to educate ourselves about all three pillars of the Matthew 25 invitation.

Please note that our beautiful logo was designed by Emma Gobble.

Steeple Raising

Looking back on June 14, several months since the demolition of our much loved historic steeple. After much anxious waiting, tremendous generosity from the congregation and community, and impressive leadership from the Buildings Committee, our church finally had its new steeple.

And the Richland Rooster had his perch back.

Thank you to Gretchen Ferris, Kristi Ryan, and Jack Sizer for sharing their photos to add to the story.





The Trails of Scouting Troop 294, Richland MI

by Lynn M. Harmon

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.

Welcome to the first edition of Troop 294's The Trails of Scouting. Over the next several months, we will include a history of the BSA (Boy Scouts of America). This month starting with the origins of the Scouting movement.

On January 24, 1908, the Boy Scouts movement begins in England with the publication of the first installment of Robert Baden-Powell's Scouting for Boys. The name Baden-Powell was already well known to many English boys, and thousands of them eagerly bought up the handbook. By the end of April, the serialization of Scouting for Boys was completed, and scores of impromptu Boy Scout troops had sprung up across Britain.

In 1900, Baden-Powell became a national hero in Britain for his 217-day defense of Mafeking in the South African War. Soon after, Aids to Scouting, a military field manual he had written for British soldiers in 1899, caught on with a younger audience. Boys loved the lessons on tracking and observation and organized elaborate games using the book. Hearing this, Baden-Powell decided to write a nonmilitary field manual for adolescents that would also emphasize the importance of morality and good deeds.

First, however, he decided to try out some of his ideas on an actual group of boys. On July 25, 1907, he took a diverse group of 21 adolescents to Brownsea Island in Dorsetshire where they set up camp for a fortnight. With the aid of other instructors, he taught the boys about camping, observation, deduction, woodcraft, boating, lifesaving, patriotism, and chivalry. Many of these lessons were learned through inventive games that were very popular with the boys. The first Boy Scouts meeting was a great success.

The Comings and Goings of Troop 294

At the beginning of 2022, Troop 294 merged with Troop 239. This included the Cub Scout Pack and a Girl's Troop. The Troop is busy planning their annual calendar for the 2022 – 2023 scouting year and getting ready for summer camp the third week in July. If you are partaking in the Richland Fourth of July parade, you will see the Scouts as they raise the flag. The pack is off for the summer but will resume activities in September.

Wait, What? Questions & Answers

by Rev. Mark Jennings

Do you have questions about something you heard in church? Have you always wondered why we do or say the things we do? Wondered what something means? This regular column is the place to bring up those questions and try to find an answer.

Last Sunday's service was all about Love and the promise of inclusion in God's family. The Good News! But then there is Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom". And in the last "What, What" column, we learned that in the earliest writings of scripture, God is referred to by several names: God Almighty, God Most High, God of Hosts. One of the more obscure names comes up in Genesis 31:42. Jacob says to Laban, "If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed."

*Why does Jacob refer to God as "the Fear"?
Where does fear belong in The Good News?*

When Erin and I went to serve our first church in southwest Kansas, one of the things that we notice immediately is that one can see for miles and miles out on the prairie. And one of the things that is so impressive is to watch the storms roll in across the plains. If you stand out in the open you realize how awesome the power of those summer storms can be—perhaps containing hail and tornados. You realize how small one human being is. Was I afraid of the storm? Sure, but the primary feel is that of awe. And that is the real meaning of "fear" in the Scriptures. Are we supposed to be afraid of a loving God? Of course not. But do we feel awe and respect at the awesome power of God? I hope so. Maybe a better translation would be "Standing in awe of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Realizing where one is in the universe is the beginning of wisdom, realizing that God is god and I am not. I'm just a human being. But beloved by the great God of all that is.

Sparky Stravinsky

by Larry Myland

So, I've been listening to the music of Igor Stravinsky (1882~1971), a Magnitude One composer of major importance and influence. I like Igor Stravinsky because he strikes me as such a deeply authentic human being, and despite the fact that he never spilled a drop of ink on music for the pipe organ, tsk-tsk.

Great composers are often ahead of the rest of us, and it takes a while to catch up. I still wrestle with Stravinsky and with his roughly contemporary, Olivier Messiaen.

My own understanding of Stravinsky was heightened by Professor Robert Greenberg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, in one of his educational programs.

Having brushes, even very indirect ones, with people who have made indelible marks in the field of music, is something that has always struck me:

For example: Stravinsky's fellow Russian, Serge Koussevitzky, who, as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, built that group into a top-rate ensemble, and who furthermore developed its summer concert and educational programs at Tanglewood that still thrive today, was also a Stravinsky cheerleader.

Koussevitzky himself was a world-class musician. I was familiar with his name even as a fledgling teenage music student. I had to pinch myself to be sure it was real when I learned that my keyboard teacher's brother,, a California physician, was Koussevitzky's doctor when the maestro would visit the West Coast. Small world.

Stravinsky was largely a secular man-of-the-world, but he rediscovered faith in midlife, and being Russian (though he became a U.S. Citizen), he was naturally Russian Orthodox. While he began to take matters of faith more seriously, he still relished certain of this lifelong indulgences, especially those for cigarettes and Scotch. Even at the august age of 80, having been invited to a state dinner at the Kennedy White House, which he attended though he detested such extravagant affairs, he had to be assisted to the door early because he simply drank too deeply of the soothing waters; obviously his own personal comment on the occasion.

Alas, Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms is a faith-centered work, but one also of serious musical depth. The words sung by the chorus are all from the Psalms, hence the title.

The modal scales of the opening movement evoke liturgy, though Stravinsky confessed not to be conscious of this while composing the work: "I was not aware of Phrygian modes, Gregorian chants ... or anything else of the sort while composing this music." The presence of

the chorus, however, creates an ambiance ideal for presenting the Psalms, for example Psalm 39:

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with Thine ears consider my calling: hold not Thy peace at my tears.

The second movement, taking its text from Psalm 40, is a double fugue, a complex musical structure based on polyphony used widely in the Western Church in the Renaissance and Baroque periods, thus advancing the liturgical aura of the symphony. The first fugue theme in this second movement is based on a four-note cell heard in the first movement. This is one of the hallmarks of a great composer where throughout their work there is a certain economy, so that great structures rise up from tiny seeds and where "variety in unity and unity in variety" is evidenced throughout.

I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined unto me, and heard my calling.

The third movement is a setting of Psalm 150 and Stravinsky says the music was inspired by a vision of Elijah's chariot climbing the heavens. "Never before had I written anything quite so literal as the triplets for horns and piano to suggest the horses and chariot."

I think you might like, I mean really like, the music of Igor Stravinsky. By listening to it you can also get a handle on just what authentic contemporary "classical" music is about.

Give him a shot on YouTube. You can't beat the price.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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JULY