

The Missive, August 2022

First Presbyterian Church

8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083
269~629~4944
fprich@firstpresrichland.org
www.fprich.org

Rev. Dr. Mark W. Jennings
revmarkwj@gmail.com
269~598-0966 cell

Volume 56, Number 8, Monthly

“Welcome One, Welcome All”

When I was a boy of 13, my mother and I drove to Saskatchewan to visit her mother and step-father and all our Canadian relatives. While we were there, we drove around and visited great-aunts and uncles, cousins once and twice removed, and other assorted folks that were related to us somehow. And I soon noticed that everyone we visited, no matter what time of day or night we showed up, felt that they had to feed us. If it was mid-morning, they put out coffee cake and rolls. If it was mid-afternoon, they put out sandwiches and pie, even though we had just had lunch an hour ago. If it was after dinner, they put out cake and pie. And with every meal, one was served coffee. Being 13 years old, they assumed that I was old enough to drink coffee, so I was served coffee along with everyone else. I discovered that food was an important part of making a guest feel welcome.

This year's theme for Vacation Bible School, which will take place August 7-9, is “Welcome One, Welcome All.” And our stories from the Bible that we will use to illustrate welcome all have to do with the serving of food as part of being a welcoming host. That's been one of our traditions with Vacation Bible School through the years. We begin with dinner together. But it's not only important to feed the children who are coming to VBS, but to feed their families as well. And, it's important to feed the volunteers who are here to help. Everyone who comes is welcome to sit and eat with us, because breaking bread together as a family is a loving gesture of communion.

In the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, God made a home for human beings and animals on the earth, and then said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.” (Genesis 1:29) Our memory of the beginning of creation is God welcoming us and feeding us. And our Great Prayer of Thanksgiving when we celebrate Holy Communion we look forward to the day when “we feast with Christ and all your saints in your eternal realm of justice and peace.” From the very beginning, and continuing in God's forever kingdom, the image of being together and eating together shows God's love and care for us. It is doing the same for one another that shows that we are part of that kingdom!

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*



AUGUST 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00: Pastoral Care Team	2 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	3 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 7:00: Mission Committee	4 11:00: Bible Study 7:00: Trivia on the Patio, Richland Library	5	6
7 Mission Trip Departs 9:45: Worship & Communion 6:00: VBS, ends at 8:00	8 10:00: Christian Ed. Committee 6:00: VBS, ends at 8:00	9 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: VBS, ends at 8:00	10 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Worship & Music 7:00: Session Meeting	11 11:00: Bible Study 7:00: Deacons Meeting	12	13 Mission Trip Returns
14 9:45: Worship	15	16 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	17 10:00: Food Pantry	18 11:00: Bible Study	19	20
21 9:45: Worship	22	23 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	24 10:00: Food Pantry 5:00: Jack n Jill Registration Night	25 11:00: Bible Study	26	27
28 9:45: Worship	29	30 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	31 10:00: Food Pantry			



August Birthdays

1 st Tyler Fisher	11 thNellie Rose Abraham	22 ndLaurel Sutherland
1 st Barb Langshaw	11 th Thomas Stegink	24 th Kathy Hoekstra
1 st Christina Wank Ftacek	12 th Meredith Alspach	25 th Ryan Juodawlakis
2 nd Madison Alspach	12 th Lisa Ambrosio	26 th Emma Gobble
4 th Dorothy Humphreys	12 thDenise Caverly VanHoven	27 th Morgan Harris Wieland
5 th Troy Lebiecki	12 thBrent Slezak	27 th Josh Muss
5 th Hannah White	13 thJudy Croasdale	27 th Jackson Rogers
6 th Leigh Jones	13 th Nathan Kendall	27 th Walt Stafford
6 thHelen Keusch	13 th Ed Schaadt	29 th Cara Meyer
6 thRick Steele	14 th Diane Meitz	29 thLaura Osborne Carisalez
7 thBri Wynsma	15 thGinny Gross	30 th Matthew Reece
8 thPhilip Dawson	15 thByron Hodgson	30 th Jeremy Simon
8 th Steve Sutherland	16 th Leslie Keusch	30 th Catherine Stasevich
9 thMarleigh Burris	21 th Vince Carahaly	30 th Lindsay Sutherland
10 th Sam Butler	21 th Liz Kendall Matthews	31 th Phyllis Davis
10 th Caitlin Crenshaw	22 nd Tim Liggett	31 th Maddie Miller
10 th Maureen Osborne Lovequist	22 nd Emily Nott	

& Anniversaries

1 stSamantha & Traver Gay	13 years	19 th Dave & Jan Fisher	55 years
4 thVal & Larry Osborne	43 years	19 th Joyce & Gary Gibson	50 years
7 thMichelle & Dave Greve	15 years	20 th George & Roselyn Becker	56 years
9 thBrad & Natalie Brundage	19 years	22 nd Tom & Karen Kendall	52 years
10 thDick & Janet Saddler	65 years	23 rd Cheri & Eric Larson	47 years
12 thKathy & Denny Hoorn	45 years	23 rd Joan & Tunis Willemstyn	48 years
12 thJerry & Jan Petersen	46 years	26 th Lee & Carol Coverly	61 years
13 thCheryl & Darcy Wank	39 years	28 th Tim & Barbara Liggett	51 years
13 thKathy & Tony White	39 years	28 th Christie & Steve Sutherl&	40 years
14 thDonna & Tom Webb	46 years	30 th Dave & Shannan Deater	36 years
16 thBethany & Nick Gauthier	19 years	30 th Sharon & Gene Rothenberg	42 years
17 thCarrie & Dan Meersman	20 years	31 st Marv & Kathy Hoekstra	56 years



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for August

Date..... Selection

4 th	<i>Here I Am Lord</i>
8 th	<i>Abide With Me</i>
23 rd	<i>Be Still My Soul</i>
25 th	<i>All Things Bright & Beautiful</i>
26 th	<i>Amazing Grace</i>
28 th	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>

Honoree

<i>Val & Larry Osborne</i>
<i>Greta Ryan</i>
<i>Anna K. Ostrander</i>
<i>Brenda J. Jones</i>
<i>Jack and Marcia</i>



The Trails of Scouting Troop 294, Richland MI

by Lynn M. Harmon

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 August edition of Troop 294's The Trails of Scouting.

The History of Scouting Continued

The Early Scout Program

Scouting began as a program for boys 11 to 18 years of age. Yet almost immediately others also wanted to participate. The Girl Guides program was started in 1910 by Baden-Powell who designated his sister Agnes to manage it. In 1915 Robert Baden-Powell became Chairman of the Girl Guides Association, and his wife Olave, whom he married in 1912, became the new Chief Guide in 1918. A Wolf Cub section was formed for younger boys. It used Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle Book", to provide an imaginative symbolic framework for activities. For older boys, a Rover Scout branch was formed.

The World Wars

Between the two world wars Scouting continued to flourish in all parts of the world - except in totalitarian countries where it was banned. Scouting is voluntary and based on democratic principles.

During World War II, Scouts undertook many service tasks – messengers, firewatchers, stretcher-bearers, salvage collectors and so on. In occupied countries, Scouting continued in secret with Scouts playing important roles in the resistance and underground movements. After the war ended, it was found that the numbers of Scouts in some occupied countries had, in fact, increased.

The '60s, '70s and '80s

Many countries gained their independence during these years. Scouting in developing countries gradually evolved to be a youth program which was designed by Scout leaders in each country to better meet the needs of their communities. Scouts, particularly in developing countries, became more involved with issues such as child health, low-cost housing, literacy, food production and agriculture, job skills training, etc. Drug abuse prevention, life skills training, integration of the handicapped, environmental conservation and education, and peace education became issues of concern to Scouts around the world.

Post Communistic Era

By the 1990s Scouting had been reborn in every country where it existed prior to World War II, and it started throughout the newly independent countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the USSR).

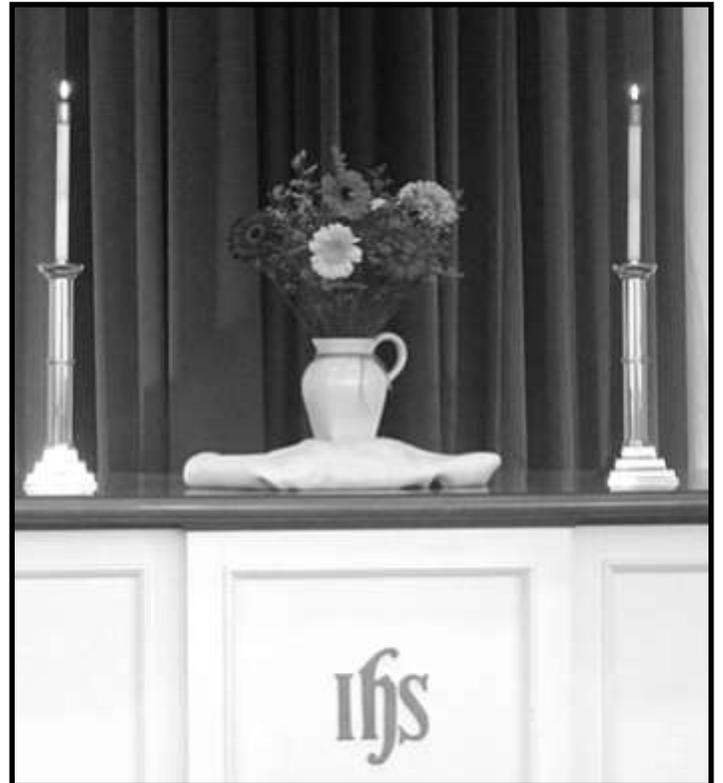
Wait, What? Questions & Answers

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.

What do the letters "IHS" stand for?

If you notice in the chancel of our sanctuary (that's the front, under the cross—one of these months we'll have a column about the different names for spaces in the church—chancel, narthex, nave, choir, etc) is a table or



altar with the letters "IHS" on the front. What do those letters mean? If you Google "IHS" you will come up with "integrated heat spreader" which assist in keeping your computer cool, or "Indian Health Service" which is a federal agency providing health services to Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Probably not what the designers of our sanctuary had in mind.

Actually the three letters are a Christogram, a monogram symbolizing the name of Jesus Christ. The three letters are the Greek letters iota, eta, and sigma, which are the first three letters in the name of Jesus in the Greek alphabet. As far as we know, this abbreviation first appeared on the coins of the emperor Justinian II, who was the Byzantine emperor at the end of the 7th Century AD.

Presbyterian Women 4th of July Pie Tent Sales by Terry Vantine

The PW Pie Tent was a huge success. All of the pies were sold before the parade was over and raised over \$1,200 for the many missions we support. There were lots of smiling people saying how happy they were that the pies were back. It was like a family reunion. One family said the 4th of July couldn't begin until they had purchased their 6 pies. A big thank you to all of the pie bakers and salespeople, you were terrific.

*One family said
the 4th of July couldn't
begin until they had
purchased their 6 pies*

In other PW news, the PW annual meeting and potluck will be on September 24th at noon. We will also have a guest speaker. A niece of Joyce Dishon, Diane Barton, will give a about her life experiences as a minister's daughter. Joyce says Diane can have you laughing and crying at the same time. We hope you have enough forewarning to clear your schedules for a great afternoon. Information about the place of the meeting and potluck will be coming soon. Remember. All Presbyterian women are PWs.



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

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

Our June gathering for Shared Blessings included a discussion on Structural Racism, which is the second pillar of the Matthew 25 invitation. The wording is as follows:

Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudices, and oppression of people of color.

We had a lively discussion that began with the definition of "structural racism". We concluded that "structure" doesn't have to mean laws (a concern was voiced that we can't legislate our way out of this) but structure can also refer to certain realities that exist within our culture that are detrimental to people of color, realities that are so commonplace that people of all political persuasions can admit they exist.

There was expressed concern that the language of the second Matthew 25 focus is too political, suggesting an effort to challenge the government. We concluded that, although the writers of this second focus may have intended it to be political, we, as a church, don't necessarily have to interpret it this way. If we can agree that certain realities exist within our culture that make life more difficult for people of color, then we, as people of faith, have an obligation to respond to this reality.

It was agreed that we keep our focus on our personal actions and thinking about racism. If we, as a group, can challenge one another to—first-- see the realities of racism around us and—second—vow to respond in a way that is true to ourselves and our relationship with God and one another, this might be enough. If more people vowed to do this and would truly stick to it, the "structures" would come tumbling down on their own.

While, for some of us, this may be enough, others might still choose to take an ax to the structures. We can all honor the personal call each and every one of us has, though it might be different than our own.

A collection of books was left for reading about race and racism this summer. Please feel free to peruse the books, which have been moved to the Resource Center.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 in the Deacon Brown House.

Shared Blessings



A MATTHEW 25 SERVICE GROUP

EVERY **VBS**
ONE August 7-9
IS Richland Presbyterian
WELCOME 6-8 pm
HERE Family meal at 6 pm
You are loved

Everyone is Welcome Here!

VBS is August 7-9 from 6:00-8:00. Dinner is included and families are encouraged to join us nightly between 6:00-6:30.

Registration opens on July 19th and closes on August 1. Ages 3-10. Please email fpcrichreservations@gmail.com to register.



Please Come Inside Growth at the Richland Food Pantry

by Paul Gobble

The Richland Food Pantry has had an amazing year full of change and growth. The RFP transitioned first from a COVID-conscience curbside service, then from a hybrid "pick-up" service, and finally, back to in-person, client-choice shopping. The food pantry installed a new glass-front retail refrigerator to support the return to in-person shopping. This upgrade allows the RFP to showcase and preserve fresh produce and dairy products.

Then came the new flooring and a fresh coat of paint. The Buildings and Grounds committee, mindful of the needs of the RFP, worked hard to install new flooring in the pantry and fresh paint on the walls. The many generous donors to this year's capital campaign supported these improvements.

There are many people to thank for this year's growth. The RFP Crew of volunteers continued to adapt to the changing situation and help our clients with warmth and grace. Thank you Joyce Dishon, Marlyn Graber, Mark Jennings, Erin O'Sullivan, Jan Runnels, Jack Sizer, Shannon Smith, Tom Stegink, and Sandra Welker. Rick Foster and Steve Sutherland from Buildings and Grounds deserve many thanks for their hard work making the improvements a reality. The design team of Sara Weiber and Shannon Smith get credit for the new clean and welcoming look of the pantry. And a huge thank you to everyone who donated to the capital campaign. Anyone called to support the Richland Food Pantry with donations is encouraged to include their gift in their regular tithing with a note "Food Pantry."

All of these improvements to the pantry help us towards our goal of providing our community with healthy, convenient, respectful access to food. We are now proud and excited to post sign boards outside the pantry inviting everyone to "Please Come Inside."



Deacon Brown Birdhouse Church Acquires Another House

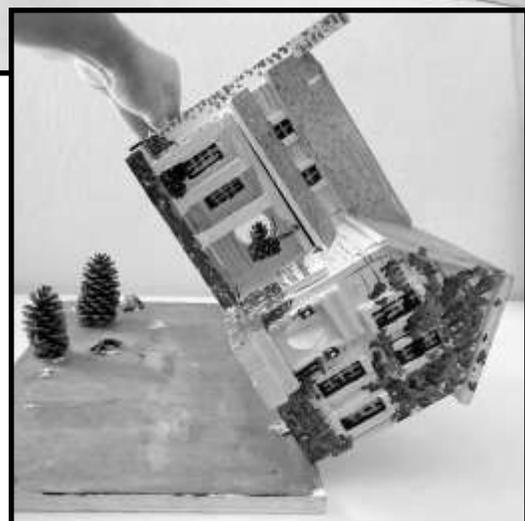
by Rev. Mark Jennings

This could be the most elaborate birdhouse we've ever seen! But it is a birdhouse nonetheless.

This house is a copy of the Deacon Brown House, next door to our church. It was made for Bernie Plump who was the owner of the house for many years. Bernie ran his business, Village Green Antiques out of the downstairs and then lived in the upstairs apartment.

We acquired the birdhouse last week from Jane Matthews Holton who had been given the birdhouse by Bernie. Jane decided in her own downsizing that she wanted to give it back to the current owners of the house, so it came to us! Thank you, Jane!

One thing to notice about the bird house is that it has more rooms than the current Deacon Brown House. If you notice the back of the birdhouse shows a large room where the DBH garage is. Did the house used to be larger than it is now? Did the builder of the birdhouse add on an extra room for the birds? We don't know. We're going to search for old pictures of the house to find out the answer to this mystery! You can see this treasure now nesting in the church display case.



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Rachel Little, *Office Manager*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
Chris Gobble, *Financial Secretary*
Paul Gobble, *Director of Communications*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Owen Rushford, *Director of Choirs*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*

AUGUST