

The Missive, October 2022

First Presbyterian Church

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“In Times of Disagreement”

These days when I watch the news, I often see reports from Ukraine and they inevitably speak of Vladimir Putin. Lately, he is threatening to annex portions of Eastern Ukraine and make them part of Russia and using the threat of nuclear weapons to intimidate anyone who would stand in his way. This guy makes me so angry, and I wonder why someone doesn't do something about him. I'm also watching reports out of Iran where women are protesting the death of a woman while in the custody of the “morality police.” Isn't the very fact that there are “morality police” a sign of something deeply wrong? So, why doesn't someone do something about this too?

Of course, the TV is full of commercials about the upcoming midterm elections, many of them telling us how twisted, evil, and just wrong their opponents are. But saddest of all is when someone tells me that they have lost a friend, or un-friended someone on Facebook, or have stopped talking to their children or their parent or their sibling, because of their political beliefs. We have just become intolerant, and I just can't tolerate this intolerance!

What do we do when we disagree? What do we do with people who make us mad? When people ask me this, I encourage them, first, to pray for the person who makes them angry. Even if that means praying for Putin or for the ayatollahs? Yes, even for them.

But especially for church members and family members with whom we are in fellowship. We happen to be pretty blessed right now, but this isn't always the case and difficult conversations stemming from politics will undoubtedly arrive here, along with the ubiquitous pumpkin spiced latte!

Years ago, the Presbyterian Church adopted some guidelines called “Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement.” There are many suggestions in these ten guidelines and if you are interested, there's a link at the end of this article. It begins with the statement, “In a spirit of love and trust, we promise we will . . .

- *Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ.*
- *Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity.*
- *Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension; we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.*
- *Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.*

These are only some of the suggestions, but I commend them to us all as we enter this month of political discourse and ready ourselves to vote in November. What might it be like if we prayed for each other, treated each other respectfully, and actually listened? How would it be if we believed that our highest commitment is not to winning or even to a particular viewpoint, but to building God's kingdom and loving each other in the name of Christ? Hmmm . . .

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/seeking-to-be-faithful-together-guidelines-for-presbyterians-in-times-of-disagreement/>

OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45: Worship, Communion & Sunday School 2:00 Girl Scouts	3 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	4 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 7:00: Shared Blessings	5 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 6:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission Committee	6 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice 6:15: Girl Scouts	7	8 1:00: Girl Scouts
9 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	10 ~ Columbus Day ~ ~ Indigenous ~ ~ Peoples' Day 2:30: Personnel Committee 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	11 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 10:30: Christian Education mtg 6:15: Brownies	12 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Worship & Music 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	13 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice 6:00: Deacons Mtg	14	15
16 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	17 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: Boy Scouts	18 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	19 10:00: Food Pantry 11:00: Blood Drive 6:00: Girl Scouts	20 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice 6:15: Girl Scouts	21	22
23 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	24 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: Boy Scouts	25 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:15: Brownies	26 9:30: Lakeshore Flower Guild 10:00: Food Pantry 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts	27 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice	28	29
30 9:45: Worship & Sunday School Noon: Trunk-or-Treat	31 ~ Halloween ~ 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts					

October Birthdays

1 Matt Inman	9..... DJ LaLonde	16Faye Luscombe
1 Kathy White	9.....Jake Stopher	17 Mark Jennings
2Steve Powell	11..... Juan Carisalez	18Heather Putt
2Bob Simon	11.....Rick Foster	18 Judy Ruser
3Tom Webb	11..... Tim Simon	19 Joyce Hubbard
5 Carol Cooper	12..... Lindsey Stolt Denne	24 Lorrie Syverson
6 Ryan Griffin-Stegink	13..... Andrew Heck	25 Paisley Lindenberg
7 Cheryl Reinhardt	13.....Dana Sullivan	29 Steve Hart
8 Brady Howard	16.....Rodger Jones	31 Jeremiah Smith

& Anniversaries

1 Meredith & Andy Alspach	17 years	13..... Matt & Julie Pixley	33 years
1 Leslie & Greg Keusch	34 years	15..... Annie (Jennings) & Stacey Ferreira	6 years
6 Tony & Katie Osborne	4 years	16..... Bruce & Julie Howard	29 years
7 Chris & Paul Gobble	22 years	16..... Robin & Nancy Nott	40 years
11 Jay & Cindy Hoorn	36 years	21..... Andee & Allen, Steve Troutman	44 years
12 Barb & Larry Langshaw	49 years	22..... Theresa & Dave Butler	34 years

Remembrances

The wedding of Kristi and Tom Ryan 28 years ago on the 2nd, the birthday of Bill Hubbard on the 15th, the birthday of Rick Newell on the 16th, and the birthday of Martha Strumpfer on the 25th.

Carillon Hymns and Honoree for October



Date Selection

1 st Gift of Love
5 th Love's Devine All Love Excelling
7 th Let There Be Peace on Earth
11 th Morning Has Broken
17 th Of the Father's Love Begotten
21 st A Mighty Fortress
24 th He Lives
28 th Kum Ba Ya
31 st Amazing Grace
31 st Holy, Holy, Holy

Honoree

Lillian & Dick Davis, Frieda Nikola, Julie Hargreaves, Arlene Mauch
Bob & Brenda Jones
Cindy & Jay Hoorn
Mark Jennings
Francis Hoorn
Kara Hoorn Dolbee
Bob Jones
Kyle Anderson



Music in Service of the Liturgy

*by Donald L. Armitage
presented by Larry Myland*

Liturgy is Counter Cultural

The Word of God calls us to a life different than that promoted by our culture. We use a unique vocabulary, we have a unique story to tell, a unique song to sing, and a singular unconventional notion about values, relationships, and faith. We believe the most important thing in our lives, that which we worship, is God. Our relationship to God is more important than job, social status, education, economic security, and even family. We don't believe that the current obsession with personal beauty, wealth, power, and control are appropriate primary goals for Christians. Rather, our primary focus is faithfulness to God's Word, to the regular celebration of the sacraments, and to the creating and sustaining of personal and community relationships built on Christ's model. No music of our time that celebrates racial division, violence, pride of place and station, and the exaltation of one person or group of persons at the expense of another, is appropriate for the worship of God.

Many composers of this century have endeavored to create music for worship that is clearly liturgical in its concept and intended for use within the worshiping community. Their music shows little evidence of the influences of the commercial and popular music worlds, but rather is in the traditions of the great masters of earlier centuries. Benjamin Britten, Herbert Howells, Maurice Duruflé and Gerald Near are examples of composers whose anthems and organ and liturgical music, though lovingly crafted in the tradition of the masters of previous centuries with careful attention to musical syntax, text setting, originality, and usefulness, are unique in character, style, and musical vocabulary. Hymn tune composers like Carl Schalk, Sally Ann Morris, Carol Doran, and John Bell are producing significant new tunes with which to sing texts old and new.

Our secular culture thrives on entertainment. We have become watchers instead of doers, consumers instead of creators. Be it sporting events, television, or computer games, we have allowed ourselves to drift from participation and direct involvement. This same tendency has impacted our liturgy. For many congregations, worship has become primarily a vicarious experience. Singing groups, drama groups, charismatic preachers, and personal testimonies sometimes so dominate the activities of the assembly that the people are left with almost no song to sing and little else to do but watch, listen and absorb.

Liturgy is the authentic worship of God's people, what we do in response to God's patient and continual call. Authentic worship is an active witness to the revelation of God in Christ Jesus. This active witness is manifested in our communal song, our praise, prayer, and faithful attention to the Word and sacraments. Active worship requires our investment of time, energy, and will.

Liturgy Transcends Time

The shape of our liturgy, its components and vocabulary, transcends age, culture, and people. With origins rooted deeply in Old Testament writings and Jewish practice, the liturgy of the early Christian church was transformed and expanded to allow for the celebration of the sacraments new forms of prayer, and preaching. Significant portions of liturgical text (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei) are drawn from biblical and early church sources. Known as the ordinary of the Mass, these have been used in one form or another to the present day.

The music of the liturgy also transcends time. For fifteen hundred years what we know as Gregorian Chant has been the foundational music of the Church. It has survived cultural change, political upheaval, and religious division. While the sixteenth-century Reformation encouraged the development of many other musical forms and styles, chant remained the rule for much of the Christian world. Sometimes criticized as sterile and devoid of emotion, chant has one remarkable trait: the music focuses the listener and singer on the text. There are no harmonies, instrumental riffs, or engaging sonic contrasts. There is just a melodic line whose only task is to communicate text. Fragments of this great tradition are found in our hymnals, often in harmonized form. A more authentic recovery of this music, sung unaccompanied with creeds, the Lord's Prayer, and some canticles, would enable contemporary worshipers to reclaim a portion of their heritage. The use of chant can recover a sense of the holy mystery that encompasses our liturgy.

This article first appeared in *Reformed Liturgy and Music*.

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.

"In watching all of the coverage of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth and the ascension of Charles as the new King, I noticed that one of the first things King Charles had to do was to swear an oath to protect the Church of Scotland. Isn't this the same as the Presbyterian Church? Isn't Charles the head of the Church of Scotland like he is the Church of England? Does this make him head of our church too?"

Another excellent question, this time with a simple answer, but a lot of background. The simple answer is "No." The Church of Scotland is often considered the "parent" church of the Presbyterian in the United States since it was Scottish immigrants that brought their Presbyterian beliefs with them to the New World. In modern times the Presbyterian Church (USA)—our denomination—is independent of the Church of Scotland. The Scottish church is presbyterian, meaning it is governed by elders who are elected by the congregations. "Presbyter" is the Greek word for "elder" and this form of government was cause of dissent during the 17th Century. In those days Charles I tried to impose the Anglican (Episcopal) Book of Common Prayer on the Scottish Church. This was part of the attempt from the English to have the Scottish church accept the rule of bishops and for the King to be the head of the church in Scotland as he is in England. An armed insurrection was the result. Charles lost and eventually lost his head.

The result of all this upset was that the Scottish church remained "presbyterian" in its form of government. One of the key principles of presbyterian governance is that Christ alone is head of the church. To protect this principle, the British monarch, even before his or her coronation, has to swear an oath to "inviolably maintain and preserve the Settlement of the true Protestant Religion as established by the Laws made in Scotland . . ." Therefore, when Charles III attends church in England, he does so as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. But when he attends church in Scotland, he does so as an ordinary member of the congregation.

QR Code Deep Dive by Rachel Little

By this point, I am sure you have noticed some QR Codes that have been popping up around the church or on the church Facebook page. You may ask yourself: "what is a QR Code?" Well, here is your QR code deep dive.

A QR code, which is short for quick response code, is a two-dimensional barcode that can be read by a machine to take you to a certain website or application. The QR Code has been around since 1994, when it was invented by a Japanese Company, Denso Wave, to track vehicles during the manufacturing process. When the pandemic hit in 2019, contactless interactions became a necessity so QR codes became more and more popular. Nowadays, we are seeing QR codes in many places all around us. We see them in restaurants, in advertisements, in stores, and on billboards. They are used in doctors' offices, in schools, in video games, and on television. With the popularity of QR codes rising, they have become very simple to use. All that is needed is the camera on your smartphone!

So, what does this mean for us here at First Presbyterian? This means that we have found a very effective and easy way to pass communications along to our church members and community! This summer, we were able to use a QR code for Vacation Bible School registration forms, which allowed for a quick and easy registration process between parents and VBS leaders. This past Sunday we started offering a QR code for a digital bulletin which will allow us, as a church, to save some paper to better help the environment and our green initiative. So you will see QR codes around the church here and there. Just know that this is our way as a church staff to try to find easy and efficient ways to connect with all of you!

Thank you, God
for connecting us.

Thank you
for neighbors,
each with needs
and gifts
to share,
and for
our church,
the Whole Church,
together, and
for Jesus Christ,
Amen.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Communion Sunday

This Sunday was World Communion Sunday. We celebrated the sacrament with Christians all over the world as a sign of our unity as the Body of Christ.

Watercolors Workshop

The Christian Ed. and Membership & Fellowship teams are presenting a Watercolors Workshop next Sunday, October 9, at 2:00 pm in Gull Prairie Room, with Gina Stevens as the guest artist/instructor. Adults and teens are welcome, all materials are provided, and there is no fee! Please call Rachel to add your name to the list.

Reckoning

October 11 at 6pm author Anne Dueweke will be discussing her new book Reckoning, Kalamazoo College Uncovers Its Racial and Colonial Past at the Richland Community Library.

Ladies Book Club

We will meet on Wednesday October 12 at 1:00 in the home of Carol Thorne. The book for discussion is When the Apricots Bloom by Gina Wilkinson. Contact Carol with questions 664.6120.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, October 19, Noon to 5:45 p.m. For an appointment visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: RICHLAND, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Trunk-or-Treat

Please Save the Date for our Trunk-or-Treat event taking place on Sunday, October 30 following Coffee and Fellowship!

Friends of the Library Book Club

The Friends of the Library invite all to join their book club. Book club meetings are in-person, via zoom, plus a new daytime meeting on Fridays this year. The usual meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Follow the link below to see what books we will be discussed in the next few months. www.richlandlibrary.org/adult/rcl-book-club We would love to have you join in the fun!

Richland Food Pantry

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10am to Noon. Call 269.343.3663 to make an appointment.

Richland Food Pantry



NEED FOOD?

Our food programs are **FREE** and serve all of Kalamazoo County*.

GROCERY PANTRY PROGRAM

- No eligibility requirements. No ID required.
- Pick-up groceries 2 times per month.
- Someone else can pick up on your behalf.
- Home deliveries available county-wide.
- Non-perishable food as well as fresh produce, meat, dairy, bread, and eggs.
- At least four days' worth of food for everyone in your household.
- Special dietary needs? Let us know!

To Schedule A Same-Day Pantry Pick-Up:

Call 269.343.3663 Monday-Friday from 9AM-4PM
If you are unable to call or reach us during these times,
email info@kzoolf.org or message us on Facebook.

NEED FOOD LINE: 269.343.3663

901 PORTAGE STREET, KALAMAZOO KZ00LF.ORG INFO@KZ00LF.ORG
*If you live outside the County and need assistance, give us a call. We may be able to help.

Feature of the Month Building and Grounds

by Pam Foster

Building and Grounds (B&G) is one of the standing committees of our church. The primary responsibility of B&G is the general oversight and responsibility of maintaining both the church related buildings and the property surrounding the church. In doing so, committee members have oversight of the Building and Grounds budget (part of the annual budget) that purchases everything from insurance, to utilities, to general maintenance and landscape maintenance. The committee also manages four designated funds: Building Fund, Memorial Garden Fund, Bell Tower Fund, and the 8023 Property Purchase and Restoration Fund.

Projects currently underway include, but are not limited to:

1. Finalizing the bell tower and steeple project (erecting a cross from rescued timbers and installing speakers);
2. Painting the kitchen;
3. Painting and updating of the downstairs bathroom;
4. Painting of the downstairs Sunday School hallways, doors, and trim;
5. In partnership with our Scout Troops, cutting of trees and cleaning the north parking lot boundary along the Gull Prairie Preserve;
6. Landscaping and planting of flowers at the Deacon Brown House; and
7. Replacement of plumbing fixtures, faucets, and hot water heater in the church.

Additional projects in the works:

1. Removing rocks and gravel from the Deacon Brown property (west side) and bringing in new top soil;
 2. Establishing gardens and plantings on the west side of the Deacon Brown House;
 3. Replacing the roof on the Deacon Brown House;
 4. Covering asbestos tile with new tile and carpeting in the sanctuary;
 5. New carpet for choir area, adjacent sanctuary rooms, narthex, and balcony;
 6. New carpet for Gull Prairie Room;
 7. Continued discussion/planning for the bell display.
- Rick Foster and Steve Sutherland are the current B&G Elders. They are always appreciative and thankful for our many church members who help throughout the year

KidsFirst Off to a Great Start

By Brooke Heck

KidsFirst is off to a great start! We have spent the last three weeks getting to know the youngest members of the congregation and having lots of fun! If you haven't done so already, please fill out the KidsFirst registration using the QR code provided. This form is important for the safety of all children at the church (and to make sure your child receives a birthday card, too!)

October will bring lots more fun and some exciting events!

October 2: World Communion Day! KidsFirst will be singing as the "children's choir" during Sunday service!

October 30: Trunk or Treat event after church service.

Costumes, decorations, candy, oh my! Trick or treating will start at 11:30am in the North lot. Costumes and car decorations are HIGHLY encouraged to up the fun level of the event!

A big THANKS goes out to the classroom volunteers for September; Maureen, Erin, Pam, and Joyce, thank you so much for dedicating your time to the children this past month! The KidsFirst space has also seen a HUGE transformation this month thanks to Rick Foster and all the volunteers who helped paint the hallways! Head on down if you haven't had the opportunity to go look at the freshly painted space!



Scouting Life Girl Scout Troop 80095

Compiled by Mary Robertson

I like playing games and earning badges at our Girl Scout meetings. I like that Girl Scouts let's me make new friends. Thank you First Presbyterian Church for letting us have meetings here. Love, Charlotte (age 8)

Thank you for letting the troop use the church for Girl Scouts. We had a lot of fun doing the science explosion colors. Thank you church! Love, Charlie (age 8)

It has allowed me to make lots of great friends. We have enjoyed coding, hiking, and honestly just being ourself. We love learning together, becoming leaders, and finding ways to help community. Thank you for letting us use the church! Love, Lara (age 8)

I love Girl Scouts because we do art, cookie challenges, help the environment. My Girl Scout friends are kind, and considerate, and courageous, and strong, and helpful. Thank you so much First Presbyterian Church for letting us use your church. Love, Emme (age 8)

Shared Blessings: A Matthew 25 Service Group

by Erin O'Sullivan

Shared Blessings will meet on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 Deacon Brown House. We are meeting on this special night to host Donna Odom and Chiante Lymon of S.H.A.R.E. (Society for Historical and Racial Equity). Our discussion topic is: How to foster connectedness and healing as a response to racism. We moved our meeting so you can also attend the RCL book discussion "Reckoning" by Ann Dueweke on Tuesday, October 11 at 6:00.

Shared Blessings



A MATTHEW 25 SERVICE GROUP

Troop 80095



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**



First Presbyterian Church

8047 Church St. | Richland, MI 49083

October 19

Noon – 5:45 pm

Use the contact information below to
make your appointment.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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

OCTOBER