

The Missive, March 2023

First Presbyterian Church

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Lenten Plans and an Opportunity

Greetings, new friends!

I've agreed to provide a sermon series to take us through Lent and to Easter. After that, the pulpit supply preacher list will vary some. But Lent needs structure, discipline, and order!

I've found us a great resource. We will be using a book entitled *Lent in Plain Sight*, written by Jill Duffield, as the starting point. Rev. Duffield is the editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook* journal. Each week there will be a common object and theme for us to watch for during the week before and after. When we see it, we will be reminded of the life of Jesus and the journey he took. If you want to start looking ahead, the objects for March are bread, coins, shoes, and oil.

We will have a service on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at 7 pm. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. It's best not to skip from the joy of Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter without expressly considering the tough days Jesus endured in between.

Several years ago at a presbytery meeting, I heard about a twice-yearly retreat weekend that's available locally. I attended and have since become a part of this great community. I encourage you to consider attending the Michigan Pilgrimage weekend, which will be held

April 20- 23, Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. I have a brochure and a registration form with me at all times. It's not a "come to Jesus" revival but a way for Christ-followers to take a break from routine and experience a weekend full of grace, hope, and peace. (There's also good food and plenty of laughs.) Has anyone from Richland First Pres ever attended? I know Nathan Martens has. I would be glad to sponsor you and tell you more. See me for details and check out the website: michiganpilgrimage.org

Part of the pilgrimage is their routine closing statement:

God loves you, and so do I!
Pat Weatherwax

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 1:00: PW Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission Committee	2 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice 6:30: Lent Small Grp.	3	4
5 9:45: Worship with Communion & Sunday School 11:15: Just Love Cuppa and Conversation	6 9:00: PEO Group 11:30: Membership & Fellowship 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: ASL Workshop	7 9:00: GPP Walking Grp. 10:00 Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Library Meeting 6:15: Brownies & Daisy Scouts	8 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Worship & Music 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	9 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice 5:00: Girl Scouts 6:00: Deacons Meeting 6:30: Lent Small Group	10	11
12 9:45: Worship, 2¢-a-Meal & Sunday School 11:00: Just Love	13 3:00: Boy Scouts setup for COH 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: ASL Workshop	14 10:00 Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	15 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: GPP Walking Grp. 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts	16 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice 6:30: Lent Small Grp.	17	18
19 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	20 9:00: PEO Group 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: ASL Workshop 6:30: Boy Scouts	21 10:00 Connected Threads at Beacon Point 10:00: Food Pantry 10:30: Christian Ed Leadership Team 6:15: Brownies &	22 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts	23 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice 5:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Moms' Group	24	25
26 9:45: Worship & Sunday School	27 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: ASL Workshop 6:30: Boy Scouts	28 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00 Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry	29 10:00: Food Pantry 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts	30 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Practice	31	



FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Book Club: The next Women's Book Club will be gathering on April 5th in Joyce Hubbard's home. The book is The Alice Network by Kate Quinn. Everyone welcome.

Connected Threads at Beacon Point: Connected Threads will be meeting every third Tuesday, 10 am, at Beacon Pointe. All other Tuesday

meetings will continue to meet in the Resource Center.

Updating the Church Directory: If any contact information needs updating in the church directory, please let Rachel know by March 9th. You can contact her either calling 269-629-4944 or email her at fpcrich@firstpresrichland.org.

March Birthdays

1..... Wanda Clawson	16..... Caroline Gray	23..... Laura LaLonde
1..... Marilyn Steely	17..... Oliver Gauthier	23..... Cheri Larson
2..... Craig Muss	17..... Mark Mittelbach	24..... Kathy Hoorn
6..... Brienne Irey	17..... Ross Perigo	24..... Brian Evely
6..... Megan Lebiecki	17..... Nick Steele	24..... Brady Slezak
6..... Mike Sullivan	19..... Steve Saddler	24..... Bob Hills
7..... Kai Fiordalis	20..... Dan Weigel	25..... Mark Hittle
9..... Larry Langshaw	21..... Bronwyn Helmick	26..... AJ Carpenter
11..... Kathi Muss	21..... Barry Martin	26..... Kay Irey
12..... Mark Connell	21..... Larry Reinhart	26..... Allen Stupica
13..... Marilyn Alman	22..... Mackenzie Deater	30..... Lee Koffend
13..... Dori Jones	22..... Catherine Gibson	30..... Owen Osborne
14..... Lois Martin	22..... Chris Miller	
15..... Arielle Mack	23..... Dave Fisher	

Remembrances & Anniversaries

This March we remember

Carol Belz's passing on the 5th.

Marv Hoekstra's birthday on the 12th

Carolyn Chormann's birthday on the 16th and passing on the 16

Peter Knibloe's birthday on the 26th.

17..... Pam & Bill Mattes for 43 years

Carillon Hymns and Honoree

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
14 th	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Alice Hill Kenworthy</i>
15 th	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	<i>Jeanne Gross Kalupa</i>
18 th	<i>In the Garden</i>	<i>Paul & Veda Robinson</i>
20 th	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	<i>Makena Clawson</i>
24 th	<i>It is Well with My Soul</i>	<i>Kathy Hoorn's birthday</i>
24 th	<i>Here I am Lord</i>	<i>Alan & Marjorie Brundage</i>
31 st	<i>Old Rugged Cross</i>	<i>Billie Showers</i>



FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil:

April 6th, following the Maundy Thursday evening service, the sanctuary will remain open until 8am for a prayer vigil. Sign up sheets will be posted the last week of March for one-hour time slots.

Men's Breakfast: Food and Fellowship, Tues. the 28th, 8am at Liz's Parkview Café.

Rummage Sale : The Presbyterian Women have announced the dates for the next Rummage Sale. The Rummage Sale will be held on June 9th & 10th.

Richland Food Pantry: Call 269.343.3663 to make an appointment. Walk-ins Welcome. Tues. & Wed. 10am to Noon.



Just Love

by Sandy Carahaly

Please join us for a very special meeting: “Just Love: Cuppa and Conversation” Sunday March 5th after worship (11 AM) in the Gull Prairie Room.

Several Just Love group participants will share their personal journeys, experiences, joys, and challenges being members of and advocates for the LGBTQ+ community. We will have time for open discussion and Q&A as well. Note that this is a learning and discussion opportunity, and a *safe space* meeting, not a debate. Respect and positivity are imperatives.



Next meeting: Sunday March 12th at 11:15 AM in the Deacon Brown House. All are welcome! Agenda will include debrief of the March 5th Cuppa & Conversation, mural planning, Pride month service planning, and any open ideas.

Recommended Reading:

Heavy Burdens: Seven Ways LGBTQ Christians Experience Harm in the Church, by Bridget Eileen Rivera

A Minute to Learn: International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)

March 31st is International Transgender Day of Visibility. On TDOV we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of transgender and gender non-conforming people; recognize the diversity of transgender identities; raise awareness about the discrimination faced by transgender people; and support the transgender community. Over the past 3 years, we have seen record numbers of anti-transgender legislation introduced in the US. These proposed (and sometimes passed) laws restrict or outright ban access to healthcare, education, athletics, legal rights, and more. In 2023 alone, there are already over 380 anti-transgender bills under consideration. For more information, including links to how you can become a better ally/advocate for transgender people, see: <https://translegislation.com/learn> ; <https://www.glaad.org/tdov> ; and <https://www.glsen.org/activity/transgender-day-visibility>

Days of Significance, March, 2023

- 3/1: Zero Discrimination Day
- 3/21: Omnisexual Awareness Day
- 3/20-24: National LGBT Health Awareness Wk.
- 3/31: International Transgender Day of Visibility

Small Group Ministries

by Amber Beals

Journey Through Lent:

Small Group, Deacon Brown House

Looking for a time-limited small group to challenge you during Lent? We've been given some great resources from Adult Ed and Pastor Pat, but some people might find it helpful to have a small group to journey with through the 40 days. This will be held at the Deacon Brown House on 4 Thursdays throughout Lent. We will be talking about our challenges and growth throughout the Lenten season using some of the materials already provided and also some Lenten discussion questions provided by author Kate Bowler. Bring a journal if you have one!

March 2: 6:30pm, March 9: 6:30pm, March 16: 6:30pm
April 6: 5:45pm (early!) due to Maundy Thursday service

If you are interested, please let Amber know (amberbeals@gmail.com) or contact the office by Wednesday, March 1, so we know how many to plan for. Also, if any snowbirds would like to attend via Zoom, please let us know so we can try to accommodate.

Mom's Group

With spring break interfering with our normal monthly date and many moms traveling, it has been decided our next gathering will be in April (April 27). See you then!

GPP Walking Group

Dates: March 7 at 9am (Tuesday), March 15 at 1pm (Wednesday). Meets in North parking lot. Watch FB for any cancellations.

Library Cart Planning Meeting:

March 7 at 11am. Join us as we continue to make plans for the rolling library cart.

Carrie Newcomer Concert

March 11 at 7pm at First Presbyterian of Kalamazoo: This is a FREE concert, no reservations or tickets required. “Carrie Newcomer is a singer-songwriter, recording artist, performer and educator. She has been described as a ‘Prairie Mystic’ by the Boston Globe. She is known for emotionally intimate songs that explore the personal, the political, and the spiritual with compassion, insight, and wit.” (Presbytery of Lake MI website). I have been listening to her music and it is fantastic. I highly encourage you to try listening to her songs and consider attending the concert. Though I am not organizing a church event, I will be going to the concert and would be willing to drive some others if anyone wants to carpool—just let me know; I’d love for others to join me!

Elders, Deacons, and Nominators, oh my!

By Paul Gobble

At the February 26th Annual Meeting, the congregation elected new members to our Session, new Deacons, and a new Nomination Committee. Elders and Deacons serve for two years; consequently, any Elder or Deacon elected this year is said to be a part of the class of 2025. Members of the Nominating Committee serve for one year only.

Below are the descriptions of the offices and responsibilities, lists of the new officers, and, for Elders and Deacons, lists of the currently seated officers the class of 2025 will be joining. With prayers and gratitude, let us welcome our Elders, Deacons, and Nominators.

Elders share their gifts of leadership, dedication, and sound judgment in governing our church. They have overall responsibility for the life of the church through decisions and application of Presbyterian polity while serving on Session.

Elders Class of 2025

Sam Beals, Finance
Bethany Gauthier, Membership & Fellowship
Brian Young, Mission
Sandy Hart, Worship and Music
Joyce Gibson, Christian Education

The Class of 2025 will be joining:

Geoff Lindenberg, Finance
Adam Simon, Missions
Cheri Calkins, Worship and Music
Steve Sutherland, Buildings and Grounds
Pam Foster, Membership and Fellowship
Larry Irely, Personnel

Deacons share their gifts of sympathy, service, and sound judgment to others while ministering to our congregation. Their first duty is to minister to those in need, to the sick, and to anyone in distress. In addition, they have specific responsibilities; preparing communion, decorating the church at Christmas, and Altar flower distribution.

Deacons Class of 2025

Anna Gross
Jeremiah Smith
Tineke Stolt
Christie Sutherland

The Deacon Class of 2025 will be joining:

Ed Calkins, Juan Carisalez, Marilynn Simon, Jack Sizer, Deb Fisher, Steve Hart, Cindi Lebiecki, and Sara Wieber

If you need to contact the deacons for any reason, even just to find out who your deacon is, please email or call Jeremiah Smith (jeremiahsmith@gmail.com, 269-209-9931) or Rachel Little (fpnich@firstpresrichland.org, 269-629-4944). You are also invited to visit the deacon's page on our website where you can see all the deacons as well as the Deacon Family Assignment list: www.fpnich.org/deacons.html. Your deacon is also listed in the church directory.

Nominating Committee members share their gifts of sound judgment and knowledge of the congregation on whom to nominate for the following year's church officers and Nominating Committee. These Congregational Members will join two elders, a deacon and the pastor (ex officio) in forming the Nomination Committee for 2023.

Nominating Committee

Laura Carisalez
Maureen Lovequist

Your Pastoral Care Team

Please remember that members of the Pastoral Care Team are ready, willing, and able to address any of your care concerns. To acknowledge them, and thank them, listed below are the members of our Pastoral Care Team for you to reach out to.

Marilyn Alman (malman30@icloud.com)
Ken Hetzel (k.m.hetzel@sbcglobal.net)
Jennifer Spengler (spengler89@icloud.com)
Tom Stegink (tom.stegink@gmail.com)
Tineke Stolt (htstolt@aol.com)
Steve Sutherland (sutherlanddvm@gmail.com)
Joan Willemstyn (joanwillemerest@gmail.com)

Resource Center and Book Swap Room Important Announcement

by Amber Beals

Thanks to the help of several church members, the Resource Center and Book Swap Room shelves have been sorted and divided into books we will keep and books it is time to say goodbye to. All books in the latter category will be available for everyone in the church to peruse and take home to keep for themselves if interested. Starting on the day of the annual meeting 2/26, please stop into the resource room and take any books/cds/dvds from the bookshelves that aren't designated as "keep." You will have until March 12 to peruse and take books. After that date, any leftover books will be removed.

Scouting Life

by Alisha Woolley & Mary Robertson

Scouts Earn Spa Day Badge

Girls Scout Troop 80147 held our first meeting of the new year with learning about Self Care, earning a "Spa Day" badge. We learned ways to slow down and take care of our mental health and the girls LOVED it! We had manicures and pedicures, face masks with cucumbers for our eyes and everything. I think these girls will remember how important it is to stop our busy schedules and pour into ourselves too every once in a while!

BLESSINGS and many thanks!

Hello! Here is what my scouts in troop 80095 wrote. Clearly they love the new carpet.

Dear Church, Thank you for letting us use this space. I like the new carpet. We tried new foods during our meeting!

From Aubrey, 8 years old

We do fun crafts at Girl Scouts and we learned about robots. We are very fun. We like nature and robots. We work as a team. PS, I love your new carpet.

From Charlie, 8 years old

Dear Church, My favorite thing about Girl Scouts is making friends and earning all the badges. And I'm so glad we get to use the church. I also learned that robots are going to go to Mars. I like to do crafts at Girl Scouts. I love helping the community. Thank you for letting us use the church.

From Evelyn, 8 years old

We did a very fun gift exchange and tried weird foods. We learned that we can all be friends. There is a Girl Scout Promise and we try to follow it each and every day. My favorite part about Girl Scouts is that we get to sell cookies and make friends. Thank you for letting us use the building!

From Lara, 8 years old

Dear Church, We tried some new foods at our meeting and we made some cars out of Lego. It was really fun. Thank you for letting us Girl Scouts be at this wonderful church. PS, I love the new carpet.

From Charlotte, 9 years old

Dear Church, We really enjoy doing Girl Scouts. We make lots of crafts. My favorite thing in Girl Scouts is the food! Thank you Presbyterian Church for letting us use your building. Cool carpet!

From Emme, 8 years old

Dear Church, I like Girl Scouts because we do fun crafts. We get to try new healthy foods. We enjoy learning about being kind and how to help others. We learn to be true to ourselves and others and to help our community. Thank you!

From McKinly, 8 years old

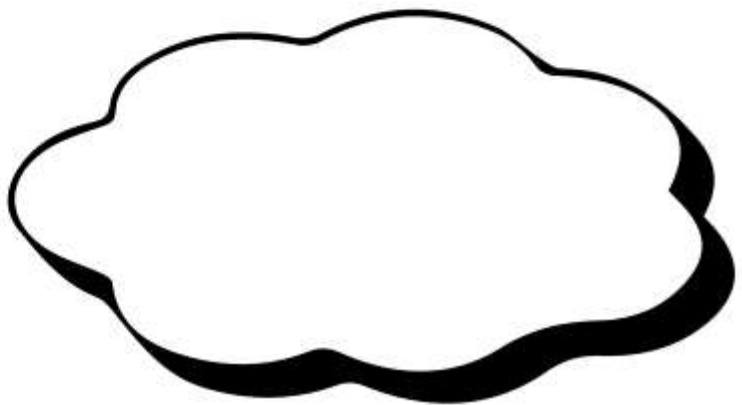
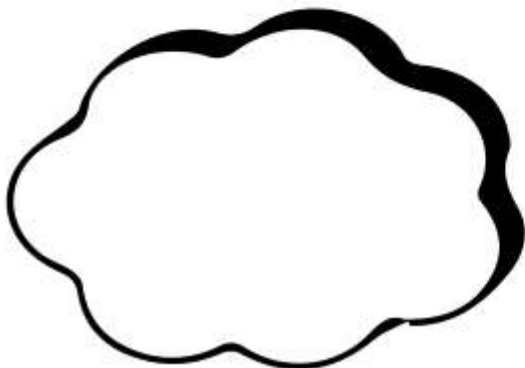
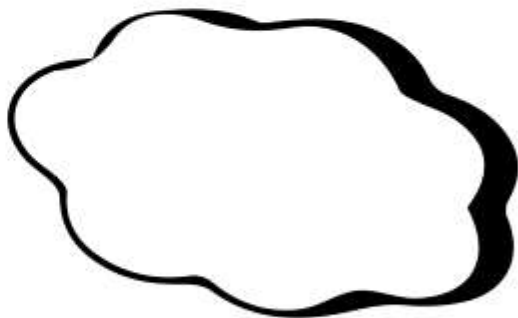
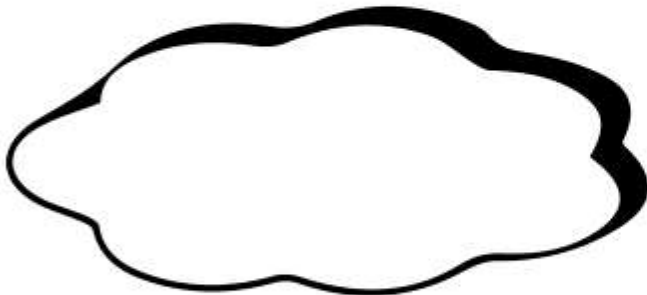
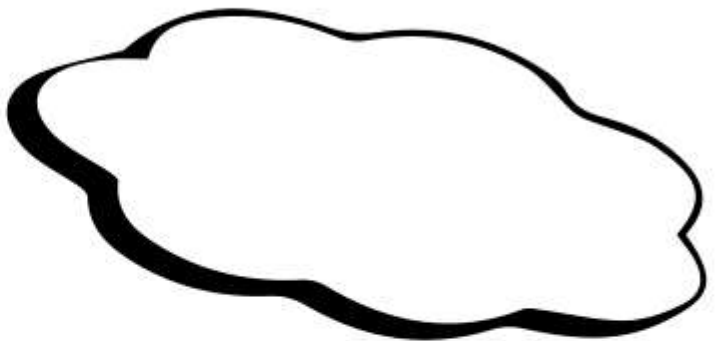
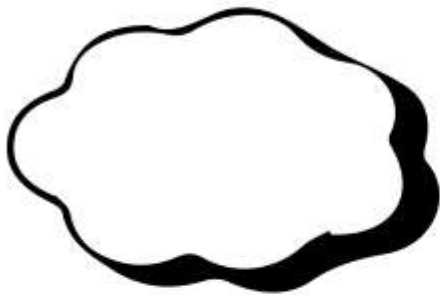
KidsFirst

by Brooke Heck

This month we will be welcoming spring and celebrating St. Patrick's Day, but I also want you to celebrate National "I am" day with me! The 2nd Tuesday of March is set aside as a reminder that positive self talk, or affirmations, is a really powerful tool! Not only do we recognize the importance of "I am" statements this month, but just a few days later is "Absolutely Incredible Kids Day"! I want you to share your "I am" statements with a few people you love, it could be a parent, a sibling, or a close friend. Tell them about each "I am" statement and show them just how "absolutely incredible" you are! Bring this page to church and show me your "I am" statements to pick something from the treasure box! I am excited to hear all of your "I am" statements this month!



I AM...



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
Amber Beals, Coordinator of Small Group Ministry
Rachel Little, Office Manager
Connie Slater, Sexton
Gretchen Ferris, Treasurer
Chris Gobble, Financial Secretary
Paul Gobble, Director of Communications

MARCH