

# The Missive, July 2023

## First Presbyterian Church

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*When I was a kid, the Fourth of July was very important. Every year we would go up to the University of Colorado football stadium, Folsom Field, where there were fireworks and a sing-along for 50,000 people. One year I was sick and couldn't go, so I had to stay home, and I was so disappointed at not being able to see the fireworks, sing along to the music, and be with community.*

*This year our girls are coming home; Annie with her wife, Stacey, and Kendall with her fiancé Kim. They want to experience the Richland traditions of their youth and they want to share them with their loved ones. So they are coming home for the Fourth of July to celebrate with family, and friends. And of course this includes all the great Richland traditions like the parade, pie tent, the chicken barbecue, and the singing of the national anthem (which Annie sang as a teen).*

*The church has always been a central part of our celebration. In part, because of our location right here on the village green, but also because we host a pie tent, and our members are ever-present and hospitable to all. Our church building often serves as a place to get a cool drink of water, use the bathroom, or seek refuge from the heat. Who knows? Maybe some year we'll find a*

*way to involve the Deacon Brown House. Maybe an ice cream fundraiser on the front porch?*

*Our hospitality has always been a central mission of the church, and never more so than on the Fourth of July.*

*As we remember our nation's birthday, let us also remember to be open and welcoming to all in the name of Christ.*

*Have a safe and fun Fourth of July celebration, my friends,*

*Mark*

# JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45: Worship with Communion	3 11:30: Membership & Fellowship 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	4 ~ <i>Independence Day</i> ~ Office Closed 8:00: PW Pie Tent Set-up	5 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission cmte.	6 11:00: Bible Study	7 8:30: FPC Walking Group	8
9 9:45: Worship, 2¢-a-Meal	10 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	11 10:00: Food Pantry 6:15: Daisy Scouts 7:00: Shared Blessings	12 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Worship & Music 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	13 11:00: Bible Study 5:00: Girl Scouts 6:00: Deacons Meeting	14	15
16 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst 11:45: Just Love	17 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	18 10:00: Connected Threads at Beacon Point 10:00: Food Pantry 10:30: Christian Ed Leadership Team	19 8:30: FPC Walking Grp 10:00: Food Pantry 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts	20 11:00: Bible Study	21	22 8:30: Adopt-a-Highway
23 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst	24 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	25 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Food Pantry 6:15: Daisy Scouts	26 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: Ladies Book Club 6:00: Girl Scouts	27 11:00: Bible Study 5:00: Girl Scouts	28	29
30 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst	31 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts					

## FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FPC Walking Group

July 7th, 8:30 - 9:30 am. We are meeting in the Church parking lot and walking the path in the Gull Prairie Preserve.

### FPC WALKING GROUP

July 19th, 8:30 - 9:30 am. We are meeting in the Richland Township Park and walking the paved trail.

### CONNECTED THREADS

July 18th, 10 am, Connected Threads will be meeting at Beacon Pointe.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Food and Fellowship. The last Tuesday of each Month, July 25th, 8am at Liz's Parkview Café.

### FAMILY POOL PARTY

August 12: The Carisalez' have generously offered to host a pool party for the families in the church. Put this on your calendar!

### RICHLAND FOOD PANTRY

Call 269.343.3663 to make an appointment. Tues. & Wed. 10 - 12.

# June Birthdays

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

## & Anniversaries

1st ..... Tineke & Harry Stolt for 45 years	9th..... Herb & Mary Brundage for 29 years
1st ..... Sara & Brent Wieber for 29 years	9th..... Catherine & Joe Gibson for 29 years
3rd..... Nancy & Bob Hess for 52 years	9th..... Leslie & Geoff Lindenberg for 12 years
6th..... Doug & Linda Gates for 38 years	12th.... Jill & Rick Steele for 43 years
6th..... Jean Yoder & Jean Sowers for 4 years	17th.... Jacquelyn & David Stasevich for 47 years
6th..... Katie & John Welser for 60 years	21st .... Michael & Nancy Wright for 50 years
7th..... Maureen & George Lovequist for 11 years	23rd ... Charlene & Bob Nash for 57 years
7th..... Michelle & Dave Greve for 16 years	26th.... Margaret & Ken Hetzel for 48 years

## & Remembrances

14th ....Rick Newell's passing



## Carillon Hymns and Honoree

<i>Date.....</i>	<i>Selection</i>
2nd.....	<i>Panis Angelicus</i>
17th .....	<i>Come Thou Font of Every Blessing</i>
22th .....	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>
25th .....	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>
27th .....	<i>I Love to Tell the Story</i>

<i>Honoree</i>
<i>Alberta Wells</i>
<i>Pantry Volunteers</i>
<i>Lee Timmerman</i>
<i>Don Janson</i>
<i>Kim Saunders</i>



## How We Listen to Music

*by Larry Myland*

The American composer Aaron Copland wrote a book back in 1953 titled *What to Listen for in Music*. It's a handy primer for anyone who wants to know more about what goes on beneath the surface of this universally loved art.

Copland says that we listen to music in three different ways, or on three different levels: the sensual, the expressive and the purely musical.

"You may be sitting in a room reading a book," says Copland. "Imagine one note struck on the piano. Immediately that one note is enough to change the atmosphere of the entire room, demonstrating that the sound element of music is something powerful and mysterious."

The simplest way we listen to music is to immerse ourselves in the sheer pleasure of the musical sound itself. This is the sensual plane, and is the level on which most of us do our listening without thinking too hard about it. Yes, the sound appeal of music is a potent and primitive force, but it's not the whole story.

The second plane on which we listen is the expressive plane, one in which we seek the meaning behind, or in, the music. Consider Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The final movement has the tune of our hymn *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*. The expression here is one of majesty and praise.

Says Copland, "The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, Is there a meaning to music? My answer to that would be yes. And, Can you state in so many words what the meaning is? My answer to that would be no.

The third realm of listening is that of the purely musical. Besides the pleasurable sound of music and its expressive power, music exists in the notes themselves and of their manipulation. Part of what Copland is talking about is musical form. Most all music has some structure, from the simple A-B-A song form of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* to the more complex classical sonata-allegro form which is part and parcel of sonatas and symphonies composed in the Classical and Romantic periods of music by composers like Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms.

I'll try to cook up a little more about this next month.

## Flower/Pollinator Gardens

*by Steve Allen*

Three Flower/pollinator gardens were installed by 17 member's Saturday, June 17th. The three locations adjacent to the southwest side of the Deacon Brown House are all 12' by 12' square, prepared by Steve Sutherland and Rick Foster.

The three plantings included:

An annual flower garden, planted to Zenias and Begonias with a lantern sculpture in the center.

And two perineal wildflower gardens. Those pollinator garden areas were planted with 13 native wildflowers and four native grasses. Each pollinator garden is centered around taller grasses, and August flowering tall native *Sylphiums*, with shorter butterfly friendly wildflowers. A listing of those Plants used and a design outline are being prepared for those interested in learning more. This species selection will qualify our garden area to be included on the Monarch Butterfly Waystation Registry, supporting the migratory Monarch Butterfly with both food/nectaring plants and host milkweed plants for the larva.

Special thanks to the Earth Care Committee, Rick Foster and Steve Sutherland for preparation efforts; Steve Alien for arranging for and delivering the native plants and design guidance; Pam Foster for the annual plants in the annual garden; and Amber Bbeals for the lunch enjoyed by most of the work crew.

And a big thank you to the work volunteers that contributed some or all of their Saturday morning to enhance the church grounds with these gardens and other landscaping projects. Those helping out included those mentioned above and Juan Carisalez, Joyce Dishon, Glenn Fontaine, Sandra Gobble, Cindi Lebieki, Mary & George Lindenberg, George Lovequist, Amy & Paul Riker, Christie Sutherland, and Andee Trautman.

## Just Love

by Sandy Carahaly

**Thank you to everyone who attended our June 11 worship service!**

It was wonderful seeing so many allies both in the pews and online. Your encouragement of our mission and support of our loved ones means more than words can say.

Please watch the Thursday newsletters for updates on our July meeting (date TBD). Allyship is important year-round, and we would just love to have you join us! (See what I did, there?)

### **Recommended Reading:**

Presbyterian Mission Agency LGBTQIA+ Frequently Asked Questions  
[www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/lgbtqia-f-a-q-s/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/lgbtqia-f-a-q-s/)

### **A Minute to Learn: What Does it Mean to be Non-Binary?**

July 11-17 is Non-Binary Awareness Week, and July 14 is Non-Binary People's Day. But what does that mean? And what does it mean to us as Presbyterians? Let's start with the word "binary." Binary refers to having two parts. In the context of gender identity, the binaries are "male" and "female." But those labels don't fit all people equally. There are no "rules" about how to dress, wear your hair, etc. when it comes to being non-binary, but the thing all non-binary people have in common is that they do not identify as either of the gender binaries. Binaries are rare in nature. We know that God created night and day, but God also created twilight and dawn. We know that God created land and sea, but God also created marshes and reefs. Likewise, God created male and female, and God also created non-binary, gender fluid and agender people. While this can be confusing, it's important to remember that we as Christians are called to love all people equally. In Matthew 22:37-39, Christ answers the Pharisees' question about what the greatest Commandment is in this way: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Supporting and respecting non-binary individuals does not contradict the core teachings of Christianity, but rather aligns with Christ's principles of love, empathy, and inclusion.

### **Days of Significance, July, 2023**

June: Pride Month

June 12: Pulse Night of Remembrance

July 6: Omnisexual Visibility Day 2023

July 11-17: Non-Binary Awareness Week 2023

July 14: Non-Binary People's Day 2023

July 20-23: Battle Creek Pride [www.battlecreekpride.org](http://www.battlecreekpride.org)

## Adopt-a-Highway

by Cindi Lebiecki

The Adopt a Highway event is scheduled for Saturday, July 22nd, at 8:30 am. We'll meet at the church to get bags/vests and divide into groups. **TIME COMMITMENT** is one hour or less (depending on # of volunteers). A sign-up sheet will be in the Gull Prairie Room or you can text/call Cindi Lebiecki at 269-365-3115 to sign up or ask questions.

## PW RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

by Joyce Dishon

As always, a big THANK YOU goes out to all of our faithful Rummage Sale workers, donors, and shoppers. And to all of those who brought in snacks and lunches. Of course, we want to thank Boy Scout Troop 294 and their parents for setting up all of our tables and clothing racks, and for helping us clean up on Saturday. We are excited to report that over \$4,000 has been deposited from the sale to our Presbyterian Women account, which will go a long way to meeting our PW Mission Budget. We are planning to wait until the fall of 2024 for our next sale.

Thank you all again for taking advantage of the wonderful fellowship and love we share when working on the sale. It is a blessing, indeed. #

## Reminder about the Seita Scholar Program Donation

by Jennifer Spengler, representative of the Mission Committee

July 13th is the deadline for financial and item contributions that the Mission Committee will take to Western Michigan University's Seita Scholars Program. Please refer to the Welcome Pack needs list that Paul Gobble puts in each week's Thursday Church programming email (or see the list from the June Missive). Thank you for all of your generosity! Our donations help the freshman Seita Scholar students begin their college career with the supplies they need when living in the dormitory.

# The Trails of Scouting Summer Adventures

by Amber Beals

BSA Troop 294 just returned from an adventurous trip in Iron Mountain, MI; the beauty and geography was breathtaking! What was planned to be a rock climbing trip turned out to be a little different, but we rolled with it and it was still a ton of fun.

On Friday morning, the girl troop headed out to rock climb up a 60 foot rock face (with ropes). They all succeeded, though they all came back completely exhausted.

The boy troop was scheduled to climb at 2:30pm that same day. We arrived at the climbing outfit, they shuttled us 30 minutes to the climbing location, then we hiked through poison ivy all the way to the rock we planned to climb. Unfortunately, we learned that it had just rained for 20 minutes in that location; it must have been a single cloud since it didn't seem to rain anywhere else around the area. Wet granite=too slick to climb. It was quite disappointing.

While we were there, we hiked around a bit and then shuttled back. Fortunately, the boy troop was able to snag a white water rafting trip for the following day, which turned out to be a more than fair trade. The river had Category 4 whitewater; there was a 14 foot waterfall (at a 50 deg angle) we were able to raft down. Such a fun adventure and no one from our group fell out. Plus the cool water felt so refreshing since it was hot up there.

While we were up in Iron Mountain, both troops (boys and girls) toured an iron mine and learned about how it worked and how difficult life was for the miners back in the day and how few rights the workers had. The tour guide was fantastic which kept all the scouts interested and listening closely.

Now we are headed to summer camp at Bear Paw in Wisconsin in about 2 weeks, about 1.5 hours from where we were in Iron Mountain. Off to another adventure!



# KidsFirst

by Brooke Heck

Our "Summer of Service" is underway and we are busy finding ways to help our community! We kicked off our giving by making birthday cake kits for our very own food pantry! The kids made birthday cards to put inside each kit and assembled them. Each kit contained everything needed to bake a birthday cake; a box cake mix, can of sprite, can of frosting, candles, and printed directions to bake the cake! We assembled 6 kits on Sunday, June 24th and presented them to Paul Gobble after service! While assembling the kits, we discussed our next service project... but couldn't narrow it down to just one, so we ended up with 2! When we gather on July 16, the kids will be assembling snack baskets for the staff at Friendship Village as well as making craft kits to donate to Bronson Children's Hospital! It is amazing to watch each child brainstorm ideas to help others; they are thinking beyond themselves and learning about organizations that help others in the process!



In addition to the work we are doing during our time in KidsFirst, kids have the opportunity to continue their service beyond the walls of the church by partaking in "Kindness Bingo"! Getting a "bingo" of kindness acts from the provided bingo sheet means you get to pick something from the treasure chest! I look forward to seeing all the acts of kindness completed!



# *kindness* **BINGO**

Do an extra chore at home	Play with a new friend	Say hello to someone	Give a friend a high-five
Hug your parents!	Help do the dishes	Write a thank you note	Pick up litter
Let someone go ahead of you in line	Give someone a compliment	Hold the door open for someone	Say "please" and "thank you"
Make someone laugh - tell them a joke!	Tell a family member you love them	Invite a friend to church	Draw someone a picture

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*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, Pastor  
Larry Myland, Director of Music  
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

***JULY***