

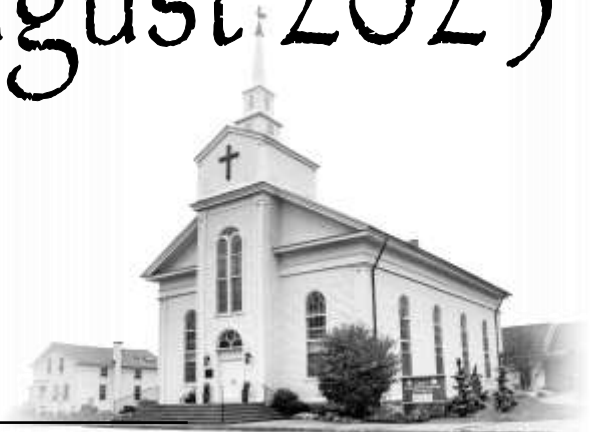
The Missive, August 2023

First Presbyterian Church

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“You Can’t Go Home Again”

Thomas Wolfe famously titled his 1940 novel “You Can’t Go Home Again” I’ve been thinking a lot about this concept lately. All around me, I see change, and I rejoice in the ever flowing waters of God’s divine mystery. Like water rushing under a bridge beneath our feet, life moves ever-forward, our past, our present, and our future are represented by the waters to come, the waters below and the waters now beyond us.

The Bible is full of homecoming stories: Jacob, The Prodigal Son, Jesus’s return to Nazareth, etc. In many of these accounts, there are themes of shame, forgiveness, reconciliation and above all, change. Jacob, who stole the birthright of his brother Esau, learns that Esau had, over twenty years, learned to forgive him. The prodigal, who squandered his inheritance, returns having matured greatly and his father, in pure joy, welcomes him home. Jesus, having returned to Nazareth, has changed greatly. The people, however, are not able to accept Jesus differently and ask, “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” Jesus has grown beyond their view of him

and this is threatening, prompting the verse, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country”.

Life moves us forward, like the rush of the ever-flowing stream and we must lean into this and refresh our souls and our perspectives so we don’t get stuck. Like the prodigal’s brother, who spent years stuck in his narrative of resentment, we too can be like stagnant waters, building up toxins and stifling the life meant to grow in God’s beloved creation.

Thomas Wolfe was right, you can’t go home again, and we praise God for this. Because home is not the same and neither are you.

I am not the same, and neither is the church. Alleluia and Amen.

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30: FPC Walking Group in GPP 10:00: Food Pantry	2 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission cmte.	3	4	5
6 9:45: Worship with Communion	7 10:00: Student Tutoring Group 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	8 10:00: Food Pantry 6:15: Daisy Scouts 7:00: Shared Blessings	9 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Worship & Music 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	10 5:00: Girl Scouts 6:00: Deacons Meeting	11	12 12:00: Sunday School Family Pool Gathering
13 9:45: Worship, 2¢-a-Meal 5:30: Vacation Bible School	14 10:00: Student Tutoring Group 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 5:30: Vacation Bible School	15 8:30: FPC Walking Grp in TWP Park 10:00: Connected Threads at Beacon Pointe 10:00: Food Pantry 10:30: Christian Ed Leadership Team 5:30: Vacation Bible School	16 10:00: Food Pantry 5:30: Vacation Bible School 6:00: Girl Scouts	17	18	19
20 9:45: Worship	21 10:00: Student Tutoring Group 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	22 10:00: Food Pantry 6:15: Daisy Scouts	23 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts	24 5:00: Girl Scouts	25	26
27 9:45: Worship, KidsFirst & Blessing of the Backpacks	28 10:00: Student Tutoring Group 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	29 8:00: Men's Breakfast 8:30: FPC Walking Group in GPP 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Jack & Jill Orientation	30 10:00: Food Pantry 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts	31		

FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONNECTED THREADS

August 15th, 10 am, Connected Threads will be meeting at Beacon Pointe.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Food and Fellowship. The last Tuesday of each Month, August 29th, 8am at Liz's Parkview Café.

RICHLAND FOOD PANTRY

Please call 269.343.3663 to make an appointment. Tues. & Wed. 10 am to Noon. Walk-ins welcome.

August Birthdays

1 st Tyler Fisher	11 th Tom Stegink	26 th Emma Gobble
1 st Liam Beals	12 th Lisa Ambrosio	27 th Walt Stafford
3 rd Alexia Taylor	12 th Brent Slezak	27 th Morgan Wieland
4 th Carroll Gallivan	13 th Judith Coasdale	27 th Charlie Bryant
4 th Dorothy Humphreys	13 th Edward Schaadt	27 th Joshua Muss
5 th Hannah White	14 th Colin MacRitchie	27 th Jackson Rogers
6 th Rick Steele	14 th Diane Meitz	29 th Laura Carisalez
6 th Helen Keusch	15 th Byron Hodgson	30 th Matthew Reece
7 th Brianna Wynsma	15 th Debbie Sunden	30 th Lindsay Sutherland
8 th Corey Verseman	16 th Leslie Keusch	30 th Jeremy Simon
9 th Marleigh Burriss	21 st Vince Carahaly	31 st Maddie Ballmer
10 th Maureen Lovequist	24 th Kathy Hoekstra	31 st Phyllis Davis
10 th Caitlin Crenshaw	22 nd Laurel Sutherland	31 st Jordynn Hoorn/Dolbee
10 th Samuel Butler	25 th Brenda Jones	

& Anniversaries

1 st Samantha & Traver Gay for 14 years	19 th Dave & Jan Fisher for 56 years
3 rd Amber & Sam Beals for 21 years	20 th Charlotte & Jon Battaglia for 1 year
4 th Valerie & Larry Osborne for 44 years	20 th George & Roselyn Becker for 57 years
12 th Kathy & Dennis Hoorn for 46 years	22 nd Karen & Thomas Kendall for 53 years
12 th Janet & Jerry Petersen for 47 years	23 rd Eric & Cheri Larson for 48 years
13 th Kathy & Tony White for 40 years	25 th Kent Dolbee & Kara Hoorn
13 th Cheryl & Darcy Wank for 40 years	26 th Carol & Leon Coverly for 62 years
14 th Donna & Tom Webb for 47 years	27 th Ron Davis & Carrie Sutton for 12 years
16 th Bethany & Nick Gauthier for 20 years	28 th Christie & Steve Sutherland for 41 years
19 th Gary & Joyce Gibson for 51 years	30 th David & Shannan Deater for 37 years
19 th Gerald & Lorelei Hildenbrand for 28 years	30 th Gene & Sharon Rothenberg for 43 years

& Remembrances

3rd..... Lois Nafzinger's Passing
11th..... Ginny Gross's Passing
15th..... Ginny Gross's Birthday
23rd..... Joan & Tunis Willemstyn's Anniversary
31st..... Kathy & Marv Hoekstra's Anniversary



Carillon Hymns and Honoree

Date..... Selection

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

Honoree

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



How We Listen to Music, Part 2

by Larry Myland

So, last month we wriggled our toes in the water of music theory by exploring the different ways in which we listen to music. As promised, this month we'll take a look at musical form—how music is structured.

No doubt the simplest and most widely known musical form is three-part ternary (A-B-A form). Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star is an example:

A: Twinkle, twinkle little star; how I wonder what you are
B: Up above the world so high like a diamond in the sky
A: Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are

It's simple to be sure, but it certainly isn't simplistic. In fact, it poses a cosmic matter. A matter of what? Well, no less than a matter of wonder!

Let us make haste and now plunge directly into classic sonata form which thinkers like Mozart brought to full flower.

Classical sonata form consists of a first theme, or theme group, a second theme or theme group, and a third or final theme or theme group. These themes are presented in the first section of sonata form which is called the Exposition. The Exposition is repeated (i.e., it's played a second time) to help you learn the tunes. Next comes the Development, a section most often based on the first theme group. The Development section is where a composer gets to prove her mettle, her musical know-how. The third and final section of sonata form is the Recapitulation, which is something of a recall of the Exposition. After a sometimes stormy romp for full orchestra in the Development section, the Recapitulation sort of brings everything back down to earth for a satisfying return to what we first heard when the piece began. Are you still with me?

Classical sonata form is not difficult to grasp, though it takes some concentration to actually identify exactly where we are as it plays out before our ears. Take out any Beethoven piano sonata and you will find good old sonata form right off the bat. Several editions of these sonatas even tell you exactly where you are as the musical form unfolds. (G. Schirmer is a good and affordable edition of the Beethoven piano sonatas if you want to learn more. I can even let you borrow my copy.)

Musical structure and form are not ends in themselves, but they endure because they provide a sense of balance and completeness.

So, this and a couple of greenbacks will get you a cappuccino at Starbuck's, right? Well, yes and no. But greater understanding leads to deeper appreciation. It's as simple as that.

Happy listening!

Notes on Bible Study

by Ken Hetzel, Study Leader

Bible Study will resume September 7, 11:00 am, in the library. We will begin reading thru the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, also written by Luke. There is plenty of space for anyone to attend. Each meeting will be a standalone experience allowing individuals to come and go, attend or miss as desired or necessary. Attendance can be either in person or online; our usual attendance can be 6 plus in person and sometimes 4 or more online. The study group welcomes more to join. Try it out, stay or retire, be there when you can, all are welcome.

As a pastor, a common theme I heard from church members was "I wish I knew more about the Bible."

Our Bible Study proceeds very gently: reading a passage, trying to understand what is being described or what the reader is intended to learn; sometimes the Bible leader will fill in the gaps, the context, surrounding the passage or verses in question, but prior knowledge by the group is absolutely not necessary. If there are rules, they might include: keep it simple; don't make it more complicated than it is; don't read a verse at a time; special historical or theological training IS NOT necessary to understand any given passage; anyone and everyone is capable of reading and studying and knowing the Bible, what it says and what it means.

A final little note: When Margaret and I were stationed in Italy, we rented a house in the Italian community. Our landlord and his wife were delightful people and we had fun struggling both ways through broken Italian and broken English, to understand each other. A year and a half or so after we were there, our oldest son Joshua was born, to our delight and to the delight of our landlord and wife. They wanted to know the boy's name. It was Joshua, in Italian pronounced vaguely "Jo shu wah". But Joshua? No matter how we struggled with pronouncing it, no matter how we tried to explain that it comes from the Bible, they simply didn't grasp it and couldn't remember it one visit to another. Finally, we wrote it down on paper and said to ask their priest, he would know. And they did. Immediately after their Mass, they rushed over delightfully praising the wonderful Biblical Catholic name, fully approved and explained by their priest.

The foot note is this: Our Landlord's wife sheepishly came over to us speaking in somewhat hushed tones, telling us, "You know, when we were growing up we never read the Bible, our priest told us everything we needed to know. But now, after what our priest told us, now I'm going to read it for myself." For me, this is a little lesson in the value, or the power, or the delight in Bible reading and Bible Study...you get to know who Joshua was and why one might choose to give the name to, well, our son.

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY and learn all kinds of neat stuff.



by *Sandy Carahaly*

The Just Love group met on July 16 to discuss plans for the remainder of the year. The fence behind the Deacon Brown House is being painted to incorporate our various church missions, including Just Love. We are currently discussing topics for a post-worship discussion circle for October.

If you are interested in helping guide the future of Just Love events, please watch the Thursday newsletters for updates on our August 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:

12 Best Martha P. Johnson Quotes About LGBTQ+ Rights

www.goodgoodgood.co/articles/marsha-p-johnson-quotes

“We have to be visible. We should not be ashamed of who we are.” – Marsha P. Johnson

A Minute to Learn: Who was James Baldwin?

James Baldwin (Aug 2, 1924-Dec 1, 1987) was an author, orator and activist. His novels often featured gay and bisexual men, and focused on themes of civil rights, gay liberation, and the intersection of race and sexuality. Despite being one of only two out gay men in the civil rights movement (due to the hostility projected towards homosexuals by the members of the movement), he was active in the call for equality and wrote many essays and articles in support of civil rights. In March 1965 he joined many others in the 50 mile march from Selma to Montgomery. His unfinished memoir, *Remember This House*, was adapted for the screen and released as the Academy Award-nominated documentary *I Am Not Your Negro* in 2016.

Days of Significance, August, 2023

- August 2: James Baldwin's Birthday
- August 13: Gay Uncles (Guncles) Day
- August 19: Transgender Flag Day
- August 24: Marsha P. Johnson's Birthday

VBS for Adults

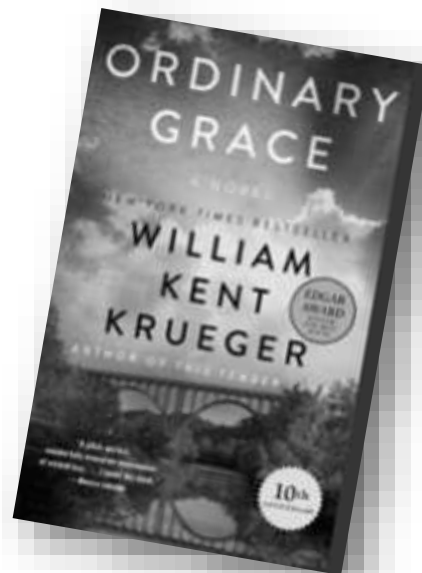
by *Nate Martens*

Vacation Bible School will have an adult offering this year! This offering will be a book study of William Kent Krueger's *Ordinary Grace*. Originally published in 2013, this book won an Edgar Award and a Midwest Booksellers Choice Award.

From the blurb on the back cover: "New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Harderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum, a preacher's son, it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

"Told from Frank's perspective forty years later, *Ordinary Grace*, is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God."

This group will meet from 6:15 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. August 13-16 in the Deacon Brown House. It will be facilitated by Nate Martens. You are invited to acquire a copy of this book or download it to your preferred device.



Rescued Timbers Reborn for Service

by Rick Foster & Steve Sutherland

Today a few of us were working on the new bell display to go at the north side of the sanctuary. The concrete has been poured and the next job is to prepare the shelter and clean up the corner posts that were rescued from the bell tower reconstruction. They had been waiting patiently in a pile for almost a year – waiting for all of the pieces to fall in place. The pile of rescued wood was pretty unsightly. Primarily four rough and dirty beams about 10 inches square and 10 feet long with ugly protrusions and rusty square-headed nails from the 1860s.

And it got us to thinking – these beams had been in the bell tower for over 160 years and were likely just seedlings 160 years before that. They likely survived prairie fires, disease, and drought. Then they were cut and shaped by craftsmen to build a bell tower that supported an 800-pound bell whose ringing brought people together from the surrounding Richland area to worship, to assist others, and maybe to simply bring a comforting reassurance that God was near. The tower and the bell and the supporting beams became a significant part of history of the First Presbyterian Church of Richland (the first church in Kalamazoo County).

They did their job for all those years, hidden from site, yet essential for the structural and spiritual well-being of our church and our congregation.

Now they are cleaned, power washed, and cut to size to be the visible corners of the bell display. They look beautiful, clean, and strong - almost as if they have been reborn for a new life of another 160 years of service. A new beginning, a second chance, rescued to do more for the church and the community. Other old timbers have already been repurposed for the two large crosses that adorn the steeple and the entry to the church.

There is a lesson to be learned from these timbers: How many of us have been rescued? How many of us have been helped back from the edge? How many of us have been given a second chance in life, in marriage, in family, or with God? A second chance to forgive, to love, or simply to do the right thing?

Just like these rescued timbers, we deserve the opportunity to be rescued as well. And we can be if we simply have the faith, the desire, and the will through God.



Small Groups in August

by Amber Beals

Sunday School Family Pool Gathering

Sunday School families are invited to the Carisalez home on August 12 from noon-3pm for some pool-side fun. Burgers, hotdogs, and lemonade provided. Please bring a side dish to pass. Please sign up at this link by August 10 so we know how many to plan for. Contact Laura with questions. Address: 6900 Brittanywood Dr., Delton, MI 40046.

<https://tinyurl.com/4y2h5mya>

FPC Walking Group

Tuesday, August 15, 8:30am-Meet at the Richland Township Park (playground side) to walk the loop.

Tuesday, August 29, 8:30am-Meet in the north church parking lot to walk the preserve .

Shalom Visit, Tuesday August 22, 10:45am

Join other churchgoers for a visit to Shalom. Shalom is a local organization created to serve those with developmental disabilities; we have many church members already actively engaged in their ministries and some of our church mission funds have supported them in the past. Shalom has a farm, woolery, and most recently, a coffee shop! A tour has been arranged to learn about the organization and the services they provide. Shalom offers tours as an opportunity for their community members to interact with the outside community. We'll meet at the Woolery (3191 VanBuren St.) at 10:45am. Any ages welcome! Sign up at this link or on a paper sign up in the GPR on Sunday. The sign up link includes an option to carpool. Carpoolers will meet in the north church parking lot at 10:30am. Reach out to Amber if you have any questions!

<https://tinyurl.com/ysnwhka5>

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING LIST

The Richland Food Pantry is eager to accept food donations to help members of our community with food insecurities. Currently, our pantry is low on boxed breakfast cereals, canned soups, and block or shredded cheeses.

Monetary gifts can also be directed to the food pantry by specifying it as the intended recipient on your church offering envelopes or check.



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

PW's Bounty

by Terry Vantine, Moderator

Dear Friends,

As you have probably heard by now, the Presbyterian Women's 4th of July Pie Tent earned approx. \$1,750. An amazing accomplishment and all because of YOU, our fabulous pie bakers! Now comes the part where we determine how to share this bounty.

September 6th will be the next meeting of Presbyterian Women. It is the time set aside to discuss where to distribute these funds in preparation for the November budget meeting. This year there is approx. \$6,000. The PW budget includes groups that have been helped for many years but perhaps you have a new idea or two. Please come to the September meeting and be part of the budget process. ALL Presbyterian Women are PWs and your input can make the organization stronger.

Please come to Beacon Pointe Assisted Living 8774 N 32nd St. Richland Mi. on Wednesday September 6, 2023 at 1 o'clock. This is Wanda Clawson's residence and will hopefully hold us all.

Thank You Note

by Pastor Mark

Erin and I have many people to thank for so many things over the last six months: the visits have held us up; the meals that have nourished us, the prayers that have sustained us. We are so grateful to all of you.

A special thanks to the Gobbles for providing us with a place of healing. We also thank all who have helped with the changes to our home. We truly could not have done this without you. Your continued financial support of us these last six months gave us peace of mind and allowed us to focus our energies on healing.

You are shining examples of Christ's light in this world.

KidsFirst

by Brooke Heck



It's August, which means summer is winding down, back to school sales are in full swing, and VBS is just around the corner! And this year, we are going camping! The theme of 2023 VBS is "Happy Campers" and the church will be

transformed into an outdoor adventure for the 4 days we open our doors for summer fun and learning! Camping allows us to step back and slow down; it gives us the chance to appreciate all the beauty that surrounds us... beauty that was created just for us by God! There are so many amazing lessons that can be learned when we step outside and look around, and that is just what KidsFirst will be doing during VBS this year! Kids will be learning about how instructions are often vital for success (like when setting up a tent or living like Jesus), how God calls for us to go out on adventures for and with him, how we can use music to praise God, and what we need in order to "keep the fire going"! Mixed in will be lots of crafts, games, singing, and (of course) camping food!

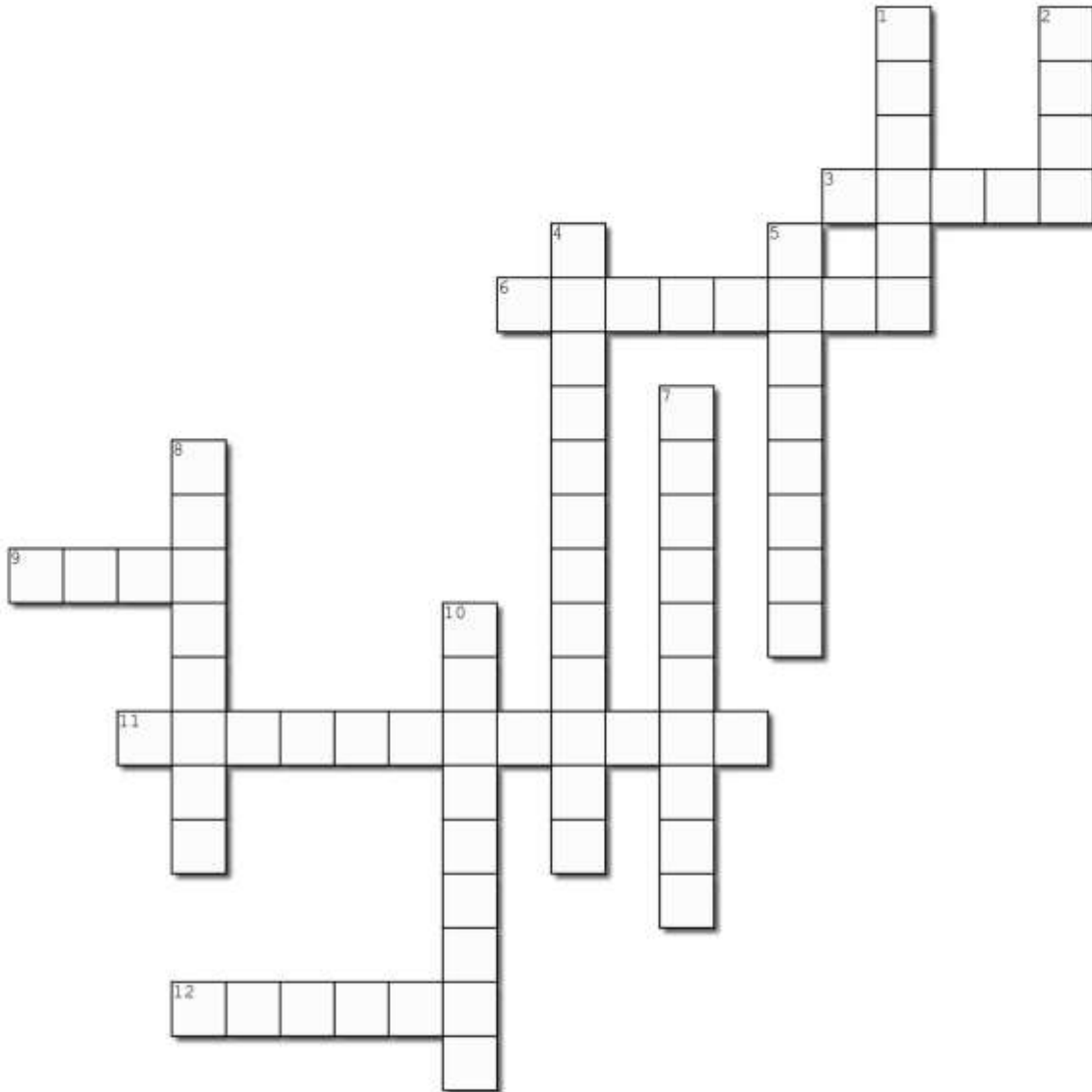
VBS may be a main attraction for KidsFirst during August, but it is far from the only thing we are looking forward to this month! Our incoming and outgoing 3rd graders are working on a scripture study in order to earn their Bible this month! Each student will find a verse or story in the Bible that speaks to them. They will create a 5 minute presentation in whatever format they choose that will be presented to church staff. Shortly after presenting their scripture study, they will be presented with their new, personalized Bible during a church service! The scripture study is new this year and encourages the students to dive deep into their Bible to find scripture they can relate to.

Finally, we will be wrapping up the summer season and our "Summer of Service" with our "Blessing of the Backpacks" on Sunday, August 27th. All students (of all ages!) will be encouraged to bring their backpack for this school year to church. Each student and bag will be blessed during service and will receive a small token to remember the occasion!

We are so excited for all the fun we will have this coming month! Fall is quickly approaching, along with some exciting changes and expansion to our program (but more to come on that in the September Missive!)

Vacation Bible School 2023

Complete the crossword puzzle below and turn it in to Brooke for a trip to the treasure box!



Across

- 3. Book full of stories about Jesus and God
- 6. You might sit around this while singing camp songs
- 9. Camping shelter
- 11. God's rules are called _____
- 12. A favorite camping dessert

Down

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

- 1. God wants us to sing songs that _____ him
- 2. Another word for a walk in the woods
- 4. This years VBS theme
- 5. Where our church is located
- 7. 'Let's go on an _____!'
- 8. Where you spend most of your time while camping
- 10. The name of FPC's Sunday School program



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
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

AUGUST