

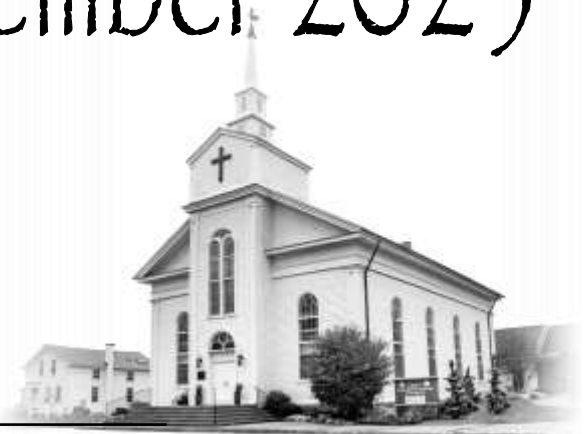
# The Missive, September 2023

## 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 57, Number 9, Monthly



### *On Community*

*It's not about introversion or extroversion, (well, not this time anyway). Still, my thoughts this month take me to the question of community. And yes, while our personality styles often determine how much we need it, we, nonetheless, ALL need community. Even monastic monks who don't speak to one another from sunrise to sunset still function in community,*

*Last week, an article was sent to Erin and me about the "Kirk" in Scotland. The traditional church, going back to the 14th century, is now struggling.*

*Meanwhile, an evangelical movement in Scotland, with its roots in the US, is renting out halls and filling them with young people, students, and families looking for something new.*

*There are numerous reasons why the Kirk is changing in Scotland, many are theological, but for the purposes of this letter, I will highlight the need for community. Those filling the halls are excited to be part of something new and different but they are also driven by the crowd, the sense that they belong to something with so many others.*

*About a month ago, I asked on our church Facebook page to complete the following statement, "For me, God is most manifested \_\_\_\_\_." (You can still go there and add your answer). The choices in the poll were "inwardly, outwardly, equally both, other, or none of the above." I will share that I said "inwardly". In fact, the largest number of you also said inwardly. The next largest group was "equally both" and only a small number said "outwardly" or "other". Maybe this isn't a surprise, that many of us, as Presbyterians, find God most manifested within, or at least equally within and without.*

*But before we look for that isolated place on a mountain top, scientists are discovering that human beings need encounters in community in order to be happy. And aren't happiness and spiritual wellbeing too intertwined to separate? So when I came across an NPR piece about happiness (you can find it, along with the piece on the Kirk, on the Adult Ed page on FB) and recognized the conclusion is that we ALL need a sense of community, I realized there is a thru line in both pieces, and that is community.*

*Far be it for me to try and change your answer in the poll anymore than I would try to change my own but this does give me reason to pause and consider how I might stretch myself to consider God manifest in the world and in the faces all around me. Studies cited in the NPR piece indicated that experiences—such as positive stranger encounters or mere acquaintances simply sharing a kind word or a humorous observation—accumulated throughout our days can add up to a strong sense of connectedness and this, in turn, promotes happiness.*

*I would add that worshipping together or having a great encounter over coffee following worship promotes a sense of well-being through connectedness and this, in turn, brings us closer to God.*

*For those lucky enough to hear the Word proclaimed by the very wise Pat Weatherwax on Sunday, she reminded us of the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer from Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community, "God has taught us to meet one another as God has met us in Christ."*

*So Beloved, as the scripture says, let us "dwell together in unity".*

Mark

# SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45: Worship with Communion	4 ~ <i>Labor Day</i> ~ Church office closed	5 10:00: Food Pantry 11:00: Church Staff meeting 6:15: Brownie 6:15: Daisy Scouts	6 10:00: Food Pantry Noon: Seasoned Seniors 6:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission Committee	7 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 5:00: Girl Scouts	8	9
10 9:45: Worship, 2¢-a-Meal 11:15: Fall Kick-off 3:00: 4H Meeting	11 10:00: Student Tutoring Group 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	12 9:00: FPC Walking Group in GPP 10:00: Food Pantry 11:00: Church Staff meeting	13 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Worship & Music 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	14	15	16
17 9:45: Worship 11:00: Just Love	18 10:00: Student Tutoring Group 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	19 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 11:00: Church Staff meeting 6:15: Brownie 6:15: Daisy Scouts	20 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts	21 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 5:00: Girl Scouts	22	23
24 9:45: Worship 11:30: New Member Class	25 10:00: Student Tutoring Group 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	26 8:00: Men's Breakfast 9:00: FPC Walking Group in GPP 10:00: Food Pantry 11:00: Church Staff meeting	27 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: Women's Book Club 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:30: Trivia at Library	28 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 7:00: Mom's Group	29	30

## FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONNECTED THREADS

September 19th, 10 am, Connected Threads will be meeting in the Resource Center at the Church

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Food and Fellowship. The last Tuesday of each Month, September 26th, 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.

# September Celebrations

## September Birthdays

1st..... Dan Fiordalis	5th ..... Traver Gay	16th ..... Ted Ruser
1st..... Doug Gates	6th ..... Janet Saddler	17th ..... Sandy Hart
1st..... Connie Kratzer	7th ..... Christine Gates	19th ..... Reid Williams
1st..... Ruth Mason	7th ..... Joseph Keusch	20th ..... Spencer Mack
2nd..... Pam Mattes	8th ..... Barbara Monk	22nd..... Val Osborne
3rd ..... Heidi Bryant	9th ..... Marleigh Burris	25th ..... Rebecca Jones
3rd ..... Esperanza Carisalez	9th ..... Katie Monk Gartner	25th ..... Don Meitz
3rd ..... Suzie Carpenter	10th ..... Juan Carisalez	25th ..... Andee Trautman
3rd ..... Stephanie Kleis Newton	10th ..... Cindy Hoorn	27th ..... Betsy Powell
4th ..... David Greve	13th ..... Nicole Romyak	30th ..... Asalin Huskin
5th ..... Sarah Bryer	14th ..... Madeleine Gauthier	
5th ..... Susan Carlson	16th ..... Jake Myland	

## & Anniversaries

4th..... Ed & Cheri Calkins for 24 years	18th.... John & Cindi Lebiecki for 41 years
4th..... Dennis & Emily Myland Walters for 13 years	22nd... Juan & Laura Carisalez for 11 years
8th..... Brian & Teresa Young for 50 years	25th.... Craig & Kathi Muss for 41 years
11th.... Mary Ellen & Jerry Bryer for 41 years	29th.... Larry & Becky Reinhart for 49 years
14th.... Barbara & Robert Monk for 49 years	30th.... Gretchen & Jason Ferris for 23 years
15th.... Adam and Heather Simon for 5 years	30th.... Marilynn & Bob Simon for 34 years
16th.... Sheryl & Brent Slezak for 45 years	

## & Remembrances

6th .....Lois & Verne Nafzinger anniversary

## Carillon Hymns and Honoree

<i>Date.....</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
9th .....	<i>In The Garden</i>	<i>Irene Verploegh</i>
11th .....	<i>God Bless America</i>	<i>Brad Hoorn</i>
14th .....	<i>Eternal Father, Strong to Save</i>	<i>Jay Ralph Wells, Jr.</i>



# How to Tell a Good Music Teacher

by Larry Myland

A new school year is upon us. For a number of you there may also be “private” lessons on a musical instrument of your choice, or on one recommended by a music teacher. What is presented here can be used anytime you choose. Many of you may actively pursue music, or may have a secret desire to do so. Many more of you are parents of students who are active music students already.

Are all of you in good hands?

Fortunately, I've had the pure blind luck of having had some first-rate music teachers. Though I claim no special authority in this matter, sharing my thoughts and experiences may shed some light on the subject for you.

First, you won't necessarily find a really fine music teacher by visiting your local music dealer, though I suppose it's possible. Nor will you necessarily find a reputable teacher through media ads since the good ones always have new students waiting in line for them. And just because the lady down the street teaches piano and has a convenient address is no assurance of quality instruction.

The best approach is to get the opinion of experts. Call your local university's music department and ask them for their recommendation. Or, say you hear a really fine pianist like our own Maureen Lovequist. Ask her for lessons, or if she can't take you on at present, ask if she may know who might.

Bear in mind that it's just too risky to trust the word on the street.

So, what's it like to sit down one-to-one in the private studio of a real master? Well, it's a little scary at first, but it's also totally magical. It's scary because if the teacher is worth her salt, you'll quickly realize that she knows more, and maybe has forgotten more about the piano, than you may ever know. It's magical because here you are with this great teacher that you have all to yourself for the next entire hour. Though learning may not be a piece of cake, she will make it a lot of fun. What other qualities might you expect?

## Hallmarks of a Fine Music Teacher

**Kindness** This is a given. You will be treated with kindness and respect merely because of your mutual interest. The teacher will love the fact that you crave her knowledge.

**Patience** The teacher's patience will approach the infinite simply because she's been in your shoes and she knows the terrific challenge in front of you.

**Discipline** Despite your teacher's kindness and patience, she will not be a pushover. She will float the banner and it will be high, plus she will expect you to follow it to the letter.

**Helpfulness** You will be shown exactly how to execute a technical maneuver. Nothing will be left to guesswork. Your teacher will carefully and skillfully instruct you on exact details and will demonstrate. She will explain the mysteries of practice and will have you repeat certain passages several times. [The great French organist Marcel Dupré practiced each measure of music 17 times before proceeding to the next measure. Naturally, that's part of why he played so flawlessly.]

**Criticism** A good teacher will be off-the-charts in this category. I don't mean she will rant and rave, no. But her attention to detail may amaze you, and she won't let you get away with anything. Every jot and tittle will have the full light of day cast upon it. [How pleasantly I recall my great teacher Huw Lewis when one day he dropped to his knees beside the organ bench in convulsive laughter. We had worked on two measures, two measures! for a good part of the one-hour lesson, and I simply couldn't please him. I finally caved in and told him I'd have it down to perfection by the following week, and I knew he'd be expecting results.

**Praise** When you come to your lesson well prepared and play or sing something really well, she will make you glow with the praise she will lavish upon you. Being praised by a master is a fantastic excursion into self-esteem.

This is merely an overview. I'd welcome your personal observations, questions or comments.

## Mission Committee's Report: First Presbyterian Church, Richland's donation

by Jennifer Spengler

Thank you to all who made donations to the WMU Seita Scholars' student Welcome Packs. We were able to contribute: several comforter/sheet sets, several sets of bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths, additional sheet sets, many hygiene and grooming items, two laundry baskets, laundry soap, a shower caddy and a first aid kit. The Seita Scholar freshman students will greatly benefit from your generosity!



by Sandy Carahaly

Please join us on September 17 at 11 AM in the Deacon Brown House for our next meeting. We will be finalizing plans for a post-worship discussion circle in October and would love to know what you'd like to learn about and discuss in more detail!

**Recommended Reading:** The Velvet Rage: Overcoming the Pain of Growing Up Gay in a Straight Man's World by Alan Downs

**Notable Quotes:** "The next time someone asks you why LGBT Pride marches exist or why Gay Pride Month is June tell them 'A bisexual woman named Brenda Howard thought it should be.'" – Brenda Howard (a.k.a. the "Mother of Pride")

**A Minute to Learn: Suicide Risk and LGBTQ+ Youth**  
September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. LGBTQ+ youth are more than 4 times more likely to attempt suicide than non-LGBTQ+ youth. According to a 2022 study by The Trevor Project, 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year; this rate rose to more than half for transgender and non-binary youth. Bullying, social stigma, marginalization, discrimination, religious pressure, and a lack of family support are primary contributors to the increased risk. Non-white youth had a higher risk rate than white youth, with indigenous and Black transgender/non-binary youth having the highest risk profile. But there is some good news: having at least one accepting adult reduces the risk of suicide by 40%, and those LGBTQ+ youth who feel strong support from their families had a reduced risk of more than half. Allyship matters! For more information and to support The Trevor Project in its mission to end LGBTQ+ youth suicide, see [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org).

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Text Q or select 3 when calling for LGBTQ+ specific support.

### Days of Significance, September, 2023

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

16-22 - Bisexual Awareness Week

18 - National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

23 - Bisexual Visibility Day

25-29 - Ally Week

## Small Groups in August

by Amber Beals

**Walking Group Dates:** Open to EVERYONE. Watch Facebook for weather cancellations. Sept. 12, 9am (Preserve): Meet in the North church parking lot for the 2.2 mile walk. Sept. 26, 9am (Preserve): Meet in the North church parking lot for the 2.2 mile walk.

**Trivia at the Library** is restarting! We can have up to 6 people on our team per night. Dates to put on your calendar: 9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 12/20. Trivia start time is 6:30pm. For those interested, there will be a pre-game "Strategy Session" at Richland Pub at 5:30pm. Sign up for September's Trivia Night here: <https://tinyurl.com/5yundum2> or you can email Amber at [amberbeals@gmail.com](mailto:amberbeals@gmail.com).

**Book Discussion Small Group:** I am planning to create an evening book discussion group for men and women, choosing books that will challenge our faith or focus on relevant social issues. The first discussion will probably occur in October so watch for more details as the book choice will be coming out soon! This is not to be confused with our already very popular Women's book club.

**Moms Group:** Watch your email to help me plan for our next gathering. If you do not already receive mom's group emails and would like to be included, please email Amber at [amberbeals@gmail.com](mailto:amberbeals@gmail.com).

**Youth Small Group:** I sent an email out to the families with teens in our church to see if there is interest in a teen small group. If you have a teen and did not receive my email, please email Amber at [amberbeals@gmail.com](mailto:amberbeals@gmail.com).

Upcoming small groups to put on your calendar/Save the Date: **Shalom Farm Days**, October 1, 2pm: Meet up with other church families at Shalom (3191 VanBuren St, Kalamazoo, MI 49004). This is a family friendly event with farm animals, live music, food, hayrides, crafts, woolery demonstrations, bounce house, yard games, and much more.

**Pumpkin/flower Centerpiece Making:** October 10, 6pm: Gull Prairie Room, We will meet up at 6pm to make pumpkin/flower centerpieces with the assistance of Sherri from Green Goddess Farms. Watch for more details and sign-up info in the coming weeks.

## New Door Bell and Cameras

by Steve Sutherland

The security of our Church Staff and our beautiful Church facilities is extremely important. To this end, Buildings and Grounds has been considering installing security cameras. Additionally, members of the Church recently encouraged the Buildings and Grounds Committee to install security cameras to help ensure the safety of the Church Staff.

Late in August, RING cameras were installed at three entrances to the Church. Additionally, a RING doorbell/camera was installed at the front entrance. These cameras are activated by motion and can capture both video and audio.

The entrances to the Church will clearly display notices that video surveillance is being utilized.

Our goal is to remain as welcoming and friendly to our community as possible. With these new cameras and the doorbell, the Church staff can now safely monitor the entrances to the Church, see who's at the door after hours, and keep an eye on the new bell structure as well.

North Parking Lot



Main Entrance & Bell Shelter



South, Memorial Garden



## Shared Blessing

by Erin Jennings

Did you know that we have a social witness team that is dedicated to the Presbyterian initiative to live out Mat-



thew 25 in our daily lives, church life, and worship practices. We call it Shared Blessings.

We embrace the challenge and privilege to be a welcoming church. We work tirelessly to improve our environment, inside and out, so others might feel warmly received.

♥ Our sanctuary is now better equipped for those with disabilities

♥ We offered an American Sign Language class this year to better communicate

♥ We work around our campus and with our partners at the Gull Prairie Preserve to create a hospitable environment for all creation.

♥ We are actively working to welcome Guatemalan church friends to the US where gainful employment and reunification with family members await them.

♥ We partner with SHARE (Society for History and Racial Equity) to raise our awareness and improve relations with people of color so all may experience a just world.

♥ We will begin to consider the effects of intergenerational poverty and challenge one another and the church to evaluate our role in being agents of healing.

♥ Lastly, we consider the invitation to become a Matthew 25 Church in the PCUSA, and endeavor to invite critical and compassionate conversations within the church as we discern God's calling.

Our logo was designed by our own Emma Gobble.

## Bible Study

by Ken Hetzel

Our weekly Bible Study resumes Thursday September 7, 11am. Ken Hetzel will be leading the discussions around the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Join in, come as you can. The More the Merrier.

As a teaser to the Study:

Did you know that Luke is the only ethnic Gentile writer of the New Testament Books and Letters?

Did you know that Luke was a medical Doctor who along with other medically trained individuals was unable to cure Paul's painful "thorn in his side?"

Did you know that Luke was an infant during Jesus' public ministry?

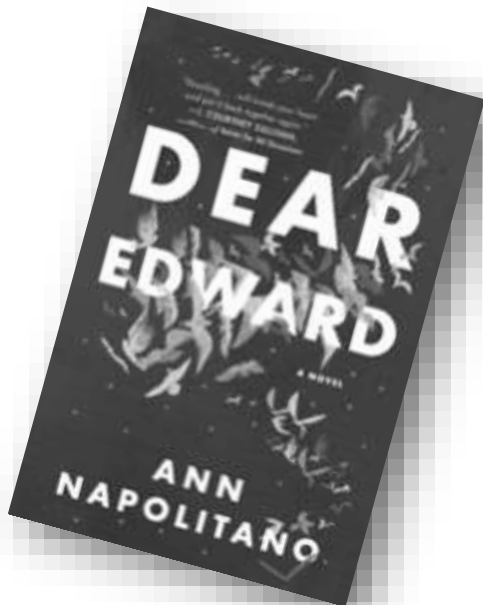
Did you know that Luke's mother is given credit for Luke's Christian faith and that it is sometimes said Luke is a Second-Generation Christian?

Did you know that Luke was a sometimes mailman delivering Paul's letters?

## The Women's Book Club

by Joan Willemstyn

The Women's Book Club will be meeting at Joan Willemstyn's house on Wednesday, September 27 at 1:00 pm. We will be discussing the book Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano. Everyone is very welcome to attend!



## FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING LIST

**Thank you** to everyone who has been reading the Food Pantry Shopping List and then making thoughtful and welcome contributions to the yellow donation box in the church lobby. **Boxes of breakfast cereal, cans of soup, and blocks and bags of cheese** have quickly made their way into households within our community with food insecurities. Your donations have been filling persistent gaps in the food distributions from Loaves & Fishes



## 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](mailto:info@kzoolf.org) or message us on Facebook.

**NEED FOOD LINE: 269.343.3663**

901 PORTAGE STREET, KALAMAZOO KZoolf.org INFO@KZoolf.org

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



## Scouting Life with Troop 80095

*by Mary Robertson*

Hello again from Troop 80095! We've had a lot going on since our last update. The biggest thing was that our girls "bridged" from Brownies to Juniors! In Girl Scouts, every 2 years, after completing certain requirements, the girls can bridge to the next level of scouting. We are so excited and proud of our girls for starting their 5th year together as a troop!

Another exciting thing from this summer was our trip to Michigan's Adventure. Every summer we like to take the girls somewhere special to celebrate the year. This summer the girls picked Michigan's Adventure and we had a blast riding the rides! Some of our girls rode roller coasters for the first time and were so brave!

We've also been earning some new badges. For our community service badge we helped to plant the planters around town. For our letterboxing badge we hid a letterbox at the Richland Community Center and used clues to find another letterbox. (Letterboxing is similar to geocaching.) You can find the girls' letterbox at the Community Center by unscrambling their clue. "ERET ELNTNU" If you find it, sign and date inside the book. The girls are excited to see the names of everyone who finds it!

Our next adventure is learning how to kayak and canoe. I'm sure it will be another fun adventure for us!



## The Trails of Scouting Troop 294

*by Lynn Harmon*

Welcome to the September 2023 edition of Troop 294's The Trails of Scouting

Summer was a busy time for the Scouts of Troop 294. We were on the go all summer, heading to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in June to go rock climbing and white-water rafting.

We paused our adventures for a day of remembrance on June 14th Flag Day, as Jeff Maxson worked with the Troop to conduct a flag retirement ceremony. July found us loading up the trailer and driving to Mountaintain, WI for a week of summer camp at Bear Paw Scout Reservation.

Our August adventures was a time of relaxation and enjoying the great outdoors of Michigan. The girls headed to the beach at Lake Michigan and the boys took to the waterways and did a little kayaking on the Kalamazoo River.

The newest Eagle candidate for Troop 294, Steven Mollison spent many hours this summer planning and executing his Eagle project at St. Ann's Catholic Church.

We are kicking off the fall with two recruitment events at the church. September 11th we are hosting a "Scout-Me-In" event to introduce youth and families to the wonderful world of scouting. October 9th we are holding an open house to demonstrate what Scout life is like on a campout.





# ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



**The last Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up for 2023 is set for Saturday, September 30th at 8:30 am.** Join us Saturday, April 22nd at 9 am at church to walk with a group!

We need and welcome anyone (children must be over 12 years of age) to assist with pickup/clean up. There are two one-mile sections of road on each side of Gull Road from G Avenue towards Richland. They are at the water tower between the two MDOT signs with our church name.

Adam Simon or Cindi Lebiecki can meet with you briefly at your convenience at church to pass out vests, trash bags and review procedures. You can also stop in the church office to get your vests and trash bags.

You decide on your own schedule during the week or join us on Saturday, April 22nd at 9 am to walk with a group from church. Many hands help the clean-up go faster.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gull Prairie Room for anyone interested. Please text or call Adam (269-217-5337), or Cindi (269-365-3115) if you want to volunteer and select your section to beautify!

# KidsFirst

by Brooke Heck

The kids are in school, the temps are cooling down, and we are preparing for our fall semester of KidsFirst... which must mean it is September! We have some exciting changes on the horizon in our children's ministry, but first, we need to recap all the excitement that we packed into the summer!

Our first Summer of Service has come to an end and the KidsFirst ministry was able to support 5 wonderful organizations within our local community with the \$224 raised during the rummage sale! The children led the initiative by deciding which organizations they wanted to support. They created 6 birthday cake kits (complete kits with mix, soda, frosting, candles and more!) for our very own Richland Food Pantry, assembled 30 craft kits for Bronson Children's Hospital, provided snack baskets for the staff at the Friendship Village rehabilitation center, cleaned up the walking paths at the RACC, and purchased items for the Cheff Center off their Amazon wishlist! After we finished putting together the gifts for the Cheff Center we were able to reflect on just how many people (and animals!) in our community we were able to shower with love and kindness this summer and how these acts are one way we can spread God's love and message to others!

Vacation Bible School was packed with fun, laughter, and God's presence each of the four nights we gathered for camping themed fun! The church was transformed into a woodland wonderland and was filled with energy and excitement as we welcomed the children and their families each evening. A special thank you to the groups who provided and served the meals this year: Deacons, Mission, staff, and Worship and Music! Each meal was plentiful, delicious, and so very appreciated! The many volunteers who dedicated their time to the children of the church during VBS - thank you from the bottom of my heart! Our team of VIPP's (Very Important Pur-

ple People!) made the VBS fun come to life! There is already buzz in the KidsFirst world about next year's VBS and we can't wait to make more memories with all of you!

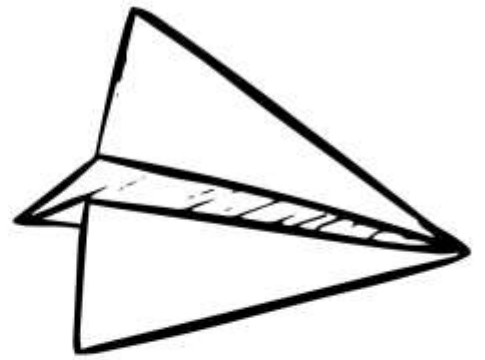
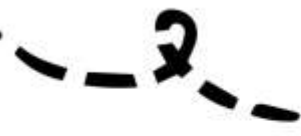
Four students were presented with their new Church provided Bibles on Sunday, August 27th during service. Abraham Smith, Esperanza Carisalez, George Lovequist, and Tyson Putt participated in a scripture study during the summer months and presented their chosen scripture to Pastor Mark and Brooke prior to service the morning of the 27th. The students' presentations focused on a chosen story or passage from the Bible that they felt was applicable to their lives and spoke about what it means to them. We heard about scripture that helps them through difficult times, that helps comfort them, and that reminds them to be thankful. Each year, students entering 3rd grade will have the opportunity to participate in the scripture study prior to moving into the upper KidsFirst class!

Speaking of the upper KidsFirst class... have you heard the news?? KidsFirst is growing! We have expanded from one class to two classes as of Sunday, September 10th. The lower KidsFirst will be ages 4-2nd grade and upper KidsFirst will be 3rd grade and up. The lower class will continue to use the same curriculum as last year, Simply Loved. The upper class will be starting a new curriculum called Be Bold, which focuses on the tough questions kids often ask regarding the Bible, God, and church. Each week tackles a different question so that they can continue to grow in faith, not wither with doubt!

Give your child (or yourself) the opportunity this month to reflect on something that is new or challenging in their life. Fill out the letter to God provided and bring it to Brooke for a trip to the treasure box!



Dear God,



I am feeling \_\_\_\_\_ about

\_\_\_\_\_.

I know that you are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Will you please help me \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Love,

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

***SEPTEMBER***