

The Missive, November 2023

First Presbyterian Church

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Volume 57, Number 11, Monthly



***“Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.”***

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Gratitude

Did you know that November is Gratitude Month? Well I guess this would be the best month to choose after all!

I read a quote the other day that said “Gratitude turns what we have into enough”. There is a lot of truth to this way of being in the world.

Being mindful: being present in the moment and appreciating all those things we take for granted is a great way to reset when our minds become anxious. When we ask, “What will happen?” Will we get what we want? Will we be alright?”

We can spend so much of our time thinking about what is ahead, that dreaded deadline, that bill that still needs to get paid, even holiday

stress, that we convince our bodies and brains that we are constantly operating at a deficit, always have need to worry.

Give yourself a reset: take a moment and notice that the furnace is running and keeping you and your loved ones warm. If you had a good meal or are planning one, bow your head and give thanks. For those enjoying good health or the benefit of a hard-won recovery, praise God! If the rain is outside and you are dry inside, or, even better, if you can step outside and feel the sun on your face in November, turn that face to the sun and say thanks! Let someone hear you! Gratitude is contagious...

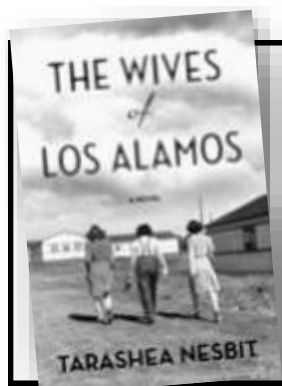
*And always, friends, for that which we give thanks, remember there are those who go without. Turn your gratitude into generosity, “for this is the will of God, in Jesus Christ, for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

With gratitude for you,

Mark

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00: Food Pantry Noon: Seasoned Seniors 12:30: Worship & Music 5:00: Library Author Reading 7:00: Mission Cmte.	2 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 5:00: Girl Scouts	3	4
5 ~ Daylight Savings ~ 9:45: Worship, Communion & KidsFirst 11:00: Fall Back Flap-Jacks Pancake Breakfast	6 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	7 9:00: FPC Walking Grp. 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 11:00: Church Staff Mtg.	8 10:00: Food Pantry Noon: Blood Drive 1:00: Women's Book Club 6:15: Session Meeting	9 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:00: Deacons	10	11 ~ Veterans Day ~
12 9:45: Worship, 2¢-a-Meal & KidsFirst 11:00 Book Discussion Group 3:00: 4H Meeting	13 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	14 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 11:00: Church Staff Mtg. 6:15: Brownie & Daisy Scouts	15 10:00: Food Pantry	16 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 5:00: Girl Scouts	17	18
19 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst	20 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	21 9:00: FPC Walking Grp. 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads at Beacon Pointe	22 10:00: Food Pantry	23 ~ Thanksgiving ~	24	25
26 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst	27 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: Boy Scouts	28 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 11:00: Church Staff Mtg. 6:15: Brownie & Daisy Scouts	29 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: Trivia at The Library	30 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 5:00: Girl Scouts		



FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The next Women's Book Club will be gathering on November 8th in Tineke Stoltz's home. The book is 'The Wives of Los Alamos' by Tarashea Nesbit. 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 meet in the Resource Center.

November Celebrations

November Birthdays

1 st Pearson Burris	9 th Dave Butler	17 th Angela Hittle
1 st Samantha Steele Gay	10 th Chris Gobble	21 st Jill Steele
1 st Laurel Odell	11 th Jon Brignall	22 nd Betty (BJ) Hooks
4 th Lib Wittwer	12 th Bob Zick	23 rd Lynn Hittle
5 th Theresa Butler	13 th Dick Chormann	24 th Joan Romyak
8 th Justin Perigo	13 th Brad Hittle	26 th Danny Snyder
8 th Larry Romyak	14 th Miriam "Mimi" Beimer	28 th Alex Zick

Anniversaries

14 th Joyce & Harold Dishon for 37 years	23 rd Dana & Mike Sullivan for 38 years
23 rd Sandy & Vince Carahaly for 21 years	25 th Becky & Tony Jones for 17 years

& Remembrances

8 th Lois Nafziger's birthday
11 th Tunis Willemstyn's passing
13 th Rev. Dave W. McShane's birthday
30 th Bob Nash's birthday

Carillon Hymns and Honoree

Date	Selection	Honoree
3rd	Fairest Lord Jesus	Beulah M. Ryan
25th	How Great Thou Art	Becky & Tony Jones
29th	How Great Thou Art	Lois & Ted Oosterhout



FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Food and Fellowship. The last Tuesday of each Month, October 31st, 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.

SEASONED SENIORS

Noon on the first Wednesday of the month at New Hope Covenant Church, Richland. Please come for lunch & fellowship with our seasoned seniors. Lunch is a free-will offering.

Introducing Andrea Large, Our New Chancel Choir Director

by Andrea Large

Andrea grew up in Kalamazoo. She was an undergraduate Music major at WMU. She also earned a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from WMU. From 1993-2023, Andrea has taught in 8 counties in Michigan; subjects being vocal and instrumental music K-12, preschool and elementary classroom. She currently teaches Kindergarten SXI for the special education department of Calhoun ISD and is working on her special ed endorsement. Along with private music instruction, Andrea has been a choir director, pianist, cantor, catechist and Director of Religious Education for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. Her favorite voice teachers were the late Steve Zegree and late Mel Ivey.



Andrea Large

Hymn Fest

by Cheri Calkins

The Worship and Music Committee would like to announce that we are bringing back our annual Hymn Fest on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Our morning service will be filled with music. We are requesting that you all share with us your favorite hymns before that Sunday, but requests will be accepted the day of. If Larry can play it, we are all going to sing it and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Hope you all plan to attend!!

Holiday Giving Program Through Family and Children Services

by Cindi Lebiecki

This year, as in years past, the Mission Committee is supporting the Holiday Giving Program through Family and Children Services (FCS). To help with FCS' greatest need during the Holidays, we plan to support their YEAR ROUND PANTRY! Their Year-Round Pantry is stocked with essentials most needed by children and families in crisis while they work towards independence.

Suggested Pantry Items:

- Shampoo/Conditioner for a variety of ethnicities
- Body Wash
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Makeup Kits
- Curling Irons
- Anti-bacterial Hand Soap
- Hand/Body Lotion
- Facial Tissue
- Toilet Tissue
- Diapers and Wipes
- Baby Formula
- Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Household Cleaners
- Brooms/Mops/Swiffer
- Buckets
- Dish soap/Sponges
- Large Trash bags
- Laundry Baskets
- Laundry Detergent
- Fabric Softener
- Blankets (Twin and Full)
- Sheets (Twin and Full)
- Pillowcases
- Pots and Pans
- Dishes
- Flatware
- Glasses



Family & Children
Services Website



Holiday Giving
Brochure

You may bring your purchase to the Church Office clearly marked for the FCS Holiday Giving Program or send a check made out to Richland FPC (with FCS Holiday Giving in the Memo line) to the Church office and Mission Committee Shoppers will shop for the most needed items. Items/Checks can be brought anytime now until December 5th.

Again, thank you for your generosity during this Holiday Season! Questions: Ask any Mission Committee member or Cindi Lebiecki 269-365-3115.

Small Groups Ministries

by Amber Beals

Fall Back Flap-Jacks: What? A Pancake Breakfast!

When? Sunday, November 5! Yes, this is the time-change morning so you will be extra well-rested and extra hungry!

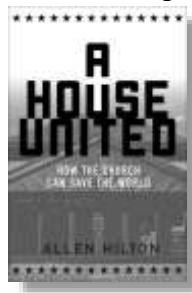
Who? Everyone is invited!

Why? The Shared Blessings Social Witness team is trying to raise funds to support Jonatan and his family. Jonatan is a Guatemalan refugee who will be coming to the area soon. He already has a job lined up, but when he arrives he and 2 sons (ages 12 and 15) will need weather-appropriate clothes, jackets, shoes, school supplies, etc.

Walking Group: Tuesday, November 7 at 9am, Richland Township Park. Meet by the playground for a 1.5 mile loop.

Tuesday, November 21 at 9am, Walk the Preserve, a 2.2 mile loop. Meet in the north church parking lot.

Book Discussion Group: Sunday November 12, 11:15 am: As promised, we are planning a Book Discussion Group, which will be choosing books focused on spirituality,



social justice, or other topics the church cares about. There will likely be 2-3 books throughout the year and each one will have a single gathering to discuss the book. For the first book, Nate Martens will be leading the discussion on the book: A House United: How the Church Can Save the World by Allen Hilton.

Small Group Ministries has purchased some copies of the book and has them available in the church office for \$10 each. Please stop by the office to pick one up. More can be ordered if needed.

Trivia at the Library: November 29 at 6:30pm. We will have 6 slots to fill again. Watch for sign up info to come out soon!

Mom's Group: I am hoping to have a gathering soon. Please watch your emails. If you wish to receive mom's groups emails and haven't been added yet, please let me know. amberbeals@gmail.com

2024 Stewardship First Presbyterian Church of Richland For the Glory of God Giving Period - January 1st - December 31st, 2024

General Fund

\$ _____ / week or \$ _____ / month or \$ _____ / _____ = \$ _____

Total Annual Pledge

Building Fund

\$ _____ / week or \$ _____ / month or \$ _____ / _____ = \$ _____

Total Annual Pledge

Would you like pledge envelopes in 2024 (please circle one): Weekly Monthly No

Name(s):

Address:

City, St., Zip:

Email:

Options for returning your completed form:

- Email to the Financial Secretary: firstpresbyterianchurch49083@gmail.com
- Email to: Financial Secretary

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church St.
Richland, MI 49083



by *Sandy Carahaly*

We want to hear from you! Please reply to a brief survey at the link below. This should only take 2 minutes, and your input will help us plan for the coming year. Thank you! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7DZFS83>



Just Love
Survey

Next Meeting:

Nov. 19 at 11 AM in the Deacon Brown House

Recommended Reading:

Transgender Day of Remembrance: Why We Remember article by Gwendolyn Ann Smith https://www.huffpost.com/entry/transgender-day-of-remembrance-why-we-remember_b_2166234



Why We
Remember

Notable Quotes:

“This day we mourn our losses and we honor our precious dead -- tomorrow and every other day, we shall continue to fight for the living.”
-Gwendolyn Ann Smith

A Minute to Learn: November is Transgender Awareness Month, and November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR). TDoR is a day to recognize and remember those transgender people who lost their lives due to anti-transgender violence. It was created in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman whose violent 1998 murder is still unsolved. Hester was not the first woman murdered for being transgender, and sadly, she was not the last. A disproportionate number of victims are Black transgender women. TDoR memorial events typically include the reading of names of transgender people lost



TROR: Memoriam

from October 1 of the prior year to September 30 of the current year. In 2021, US Representative from Massachusetts Ayanna Pressley read the names of 46 transgender murder victims, with members of the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equity Caucus by her side. There are 34 names on the Oct 2022-Sep 2023 list compiled by GLAAD (<https://glad.org/tdor-memoriam/>). Of those 34, six were murdered in Michigan:

Dede Ricks, 33, a Black trans woman, was killed in Detroit, MI on August 27.

Hayden Davis, 28, a Black trans woman, was killed in Detroit, MI on July 25.

Shawmaynè Giselle Marie, 27, a Black trans woman, was killed in Gulfport, MI on June 21.

Ray Muscat, 24, a white trans man, was killed in Township, MI on May 8.

Kenyatta “Keshia” Webster, 24, a Black trans woman, was killed in Jackson, MI on March 26.

Naomie Skinner, 25, a Black trans woman, was killed in Highland Park, MI on February 12.

Days of Significance, November, 2023

- Transgender Awareness Month
- Nov 6 - Transgender Parent Day
- Nov 8 - Intersex Day of Remembrance
- Nov 13-19 Transgender Awareness Week
- Nov 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance

Budget update

by *Sam Beals*

Giving need by Dec 31: \$260,261

Giving as of Nov 1: \$194,858

Total need by Dec 31: \$ 65,403

Honoring Veterans Day

by *Rev. Ken Hetzel*

We will be honoring and remembering our Veterans on November 12th. The Flower Guild would like to display on the Communion Table the Memorial flags given to our veterans or given to their families. Whether folded or boxed, they would be placed on the Communion Table. Some might have their service medals in Boxed display cases, so these would also be appropriate for placing on the Communion Table. Any item brought in should be marked with a name so it can be returned after morning worship. Items can be brought in anytime, when convenient, and placed in the office until November 12th. We pray that we will be honoring and remembering many this coming Veteran's Day.

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



**American
Red Cross**



First Presbyterian Church

8047 Church St. | Richland, MI 49083

November 8

Noon – 6 pm

Use the contact information below to make your
appointment.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING LIST

FPC members have been very generous with their donations to the Richland Food Pantry. When the pantry's stores were empty of popular items like boxed breakfast cereal or canned soup, members of our church made several food donations, refilling the pantry shelves in short order. Thank you!

If you feel called to shop for the pantry and help members of our community with food insecurity, cans of hearty soups, chili, and stews are still needed. Boxes of breakfast cereal are also low again, and with the cooler mornings, hot cereals like oatmeal are wanted.



Word of The Month: Nephesh!

by Nate Martens

Mark has been starting the weekly staff meeting with a question from Micah 6:8:

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

It is always interesting to see where the conversation will go!

One week Mark provided some history and commentary about Micah's ministry. He was a prophet at the same time as Isaiah. Isaiah served larger, urban communities with significant wealth. Micah served regions which were rural and were not affluent. The question he posed to his followers was rhetorical. He didn't ask for riches. He asked them to commit their lives by doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God.

The week prior I had learned the term nephesh in my Hebrew class. Most words in Hebrew have a range of meaning and nephesh is a prime example! Nephesh can mean throat, neck, breath, blood; being, self, life; people, member of household; personality, soul, corpse.



If we can commit our nephesh to doing justice, loving kindness and walking with God we are off to a great start!

KidsFirst

by Brooke Heck

Autumn is rushing past, just like it always seems to do! Fall tends to be a busy season of adjusting to new school schedules, sports/extracurriculars, fun seasonal activities, and more. It can be easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and completely lose sight of the small moments that make our lives the most meaningful... so I challenge everyone in our church family (not just the KidsFirst members, but everyone!) to participate in a Thankful November. Take time each day to write down one thing you are thankful for and display it somewhere you can see. You can even take it the next step and use the Thankful Turkey provided on the next page! By Thanksgiving, you will have a turkey full of colorful thankful feathers!



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@kzoof.org or message us on Facebook.

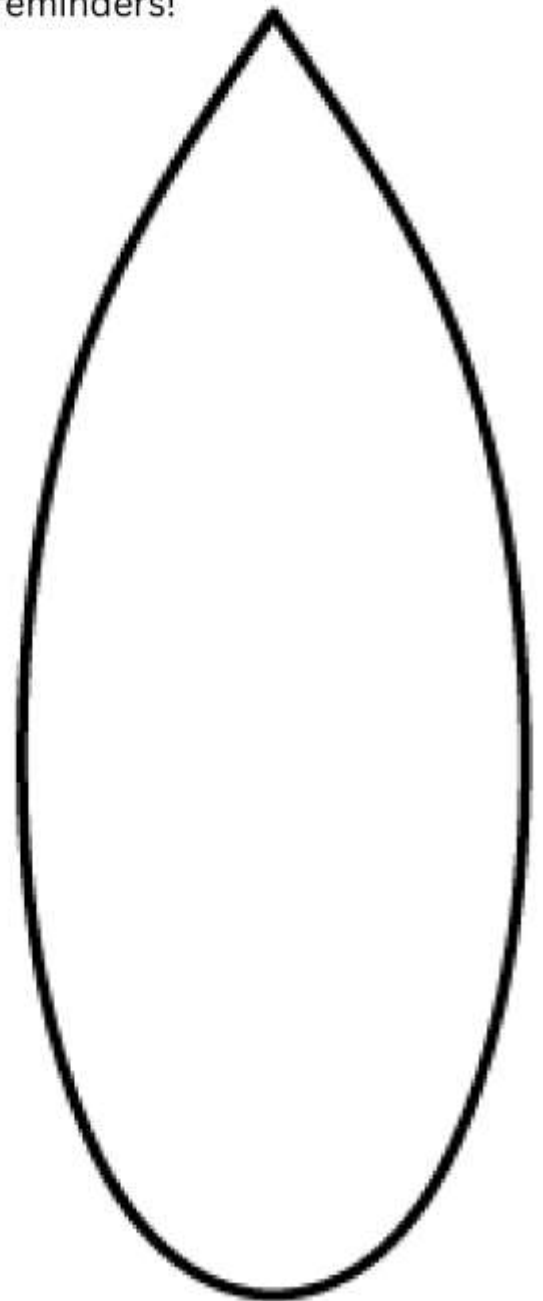
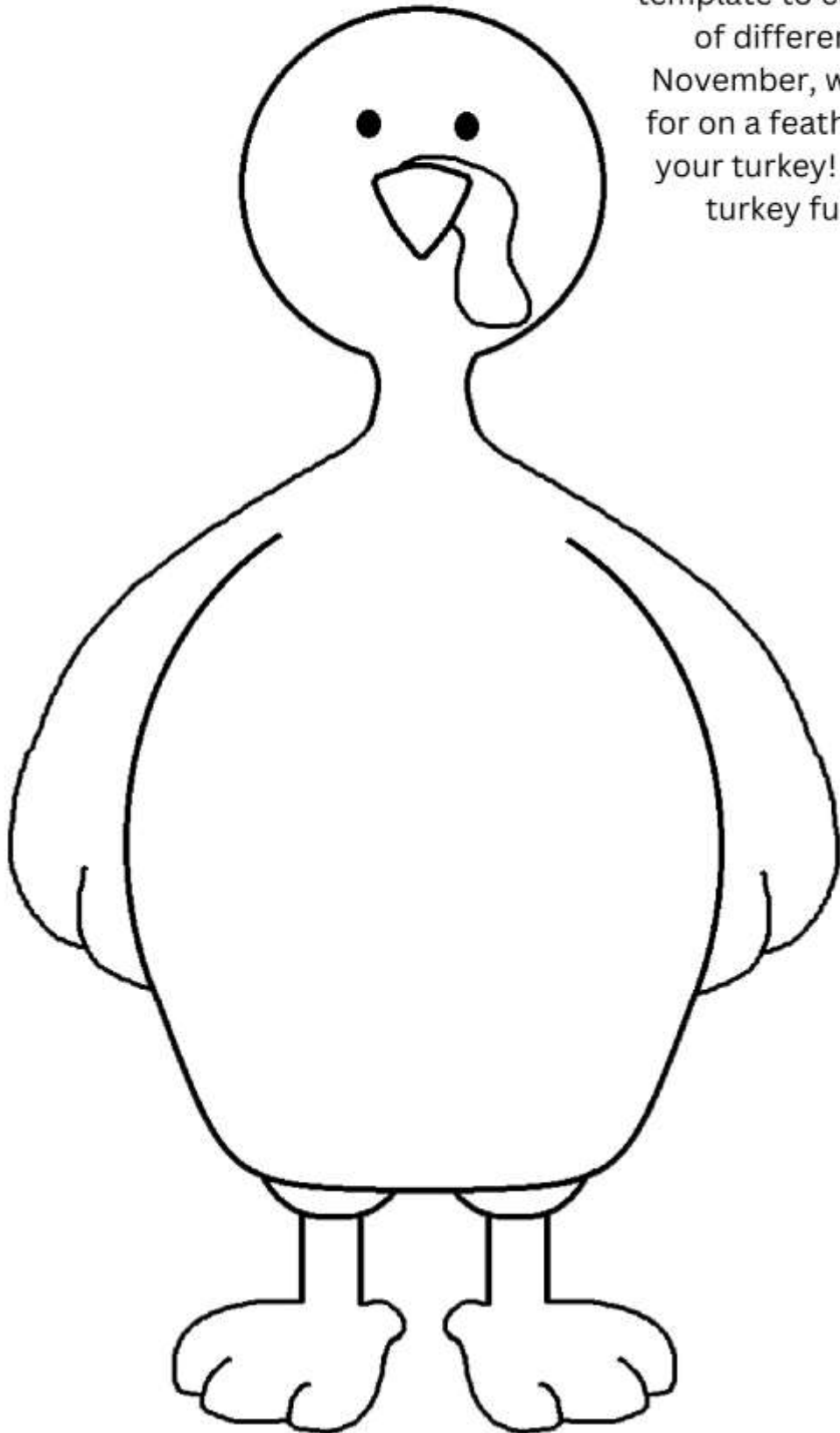
NEED FOOD LINE: 269.343.3663

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.

THANKFUL TURKEY

Color the turkey on this page, then cut out both the turkey and feather. Use the feather as a template to cut a large number of feathers out of different colored paper. Each day of November, write something you are thankful for on a feather and tape it to the backside of your turkey! By thanksgiving, you will have a turkey full of feathers and wonderful reminders!



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, Pastor
Reverend Pat Weatherwax, Parish Associate
Nate Martens, Pastoral Intern
Erin Jennings, Volunteer Assistant to the Pastor

Larry Myland, Director of Music
Andrea Large, Chancel Choir Director

Amber Beals, Coordinator of Small Group Ministries
Brooke Heck, Sunday School Director

Rachel Little, Office Manager
Karen Urban, Office Volunteer

Gretchen Ferris, Treasurer
Chris **Gobble**, Financial Secretary

Paul **Gobble**, Director of Communications
Jeremiah Smith and Zoe **Gobble**, Production

Connie Slater, Sexton

NOVEMBER