

The Missive, June 2024

First Presbyterian Church

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How to Know a Person

*Back in March we held a retreat at our church that included the current elders and deacons. We were guided by the book *How to Know a Person*, by David Brooks.*

We looked at various tools or skills that are needed to build strong relationships and put this in the context of church. They were:

- a. disagreeing without poisoning the relationship*
- b. revealing vulnerability at the appropriate pace*
- c. being a good listener*
- d. knowing how to end a conversation gracefully*
- e. knowing how to offer and ask for forgiveness*
- f. knowing how to let someone down without breaking their heart*
- g. knowing how to sit with someone who is suffering*
- h. knowing how to host a gathering where everyone feels embraced*
- i. knowing how to see things from another's point of view*

Before I direct you to the answers we came up with, I'd like to encourage you to take a moment to look at this list and think about the top three responses that are important to you.

As a group, the overwhelming response was i, knowing how to see things from another person's point of view. This was followed by the letter c, being a good listener, and lastly the letter h, knowing how to host a gathering where everyone feels embraced.

Beginning this discussion was important in March and is important still as I ask this of you. So much hurt and heartache stems from our lack of understanding. Once hurtful things are said or harmful actions are taken, it is practically impossible to recover relationship.

Knowing how to see things from another's point of view is hard, this, our top vote-getter, doesn't necessitate agreeing but it does charge us to get in the other's head space

and heart space and understand the value they are trying to protect or the wound they are nursing.

*Of course, this also applies to our second place answer, being a good listener. This is a gift that not all of us possess but it is also a skill that we can develop. We may never be gifted, *per se*, in listening but we can always do better.*

The third place finisher, creating a culture where all feel welcome, is also closely related to the first and second answers. Feeling heard and understood are important precursors to feeling embraced or welcomed.

We're human and we fear that if we do this, it will not be reciprocated. Frankly, more often than not, this will be true. Some people simply don't possess the skill or will to consider another point of view or, in the case of conflict, that they have injured another with their actions.

But... The good news is that this does not describe most of us. Most people can learn to be a better listener, to be accountable, and relieve themselves of the victim narrative that imprisons them.

So... Especially as we brace ourselves for the presidential conventions this summer, the divisive political ads and the constant barrage of political commentary this fall, it might be particularly important to try to choose listening over arguing, understanding over vilifying, and remaining welcoming.

Trust me, I know that there will be moments when self-care necessitates ignoring or walking away. But we can choose these things while remaining kind.

Be kind...always.

*Grace and Peace
Mark*

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						JUNE 1
2 9:45: Worship & Communion 11:15: Church Picnic	3 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 7:00: Bach Around The Block	4 8:30: FPC Walking Grp. 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Church Staff Mtg. 11:00: Christian Ed Mtg.	5 10:00: Food Pantry Noon: Seasoned Seniors 4:30: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission Cmte. Meeting	6 5:30: Food Pantry	7	8 11:00: Family Group Gathering
9 9:45: Worship, 2¢-a-Meal 2:00: Boy Scouts 3:00: 4H Meeting	10 12:30: Worship & Music Mtg. 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	11 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Church Staff Mtg. 6:15: Brownie & Daisy Scouts	12 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: Session Meeting	13 1:00: Library Bingo 5:00: Girl Scouts 5:30: Food Pantry 6:00: Deacons Meeting	14	15
16 ~ Fathers' Day ~ 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst 11:15: Just Love	17 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	18 8:30: FPC Walking Grp. 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads at Beacon Pointe	19 ~ Juneteenth ~ 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Girl Scouts	20 5:30: Food Pantry	21	22
23 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst 10:00: Pride Service	24 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:00: Boy Scouts	25 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Church Staff Mtg. 6:15: Brownie & Daisy Scouts	26 10:00: Food Pantry 3:00: Library Event - Family Movie in Gull Prairie Room	27 5:00: Girl Scouts 5:30: Food Pantry	28	29
30 9:45: Worship	JULY 1 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	2 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads	3 10:00: Food Pantry Noon: Seasoned Seniors 4:30: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission Cmte. Meeting	4 ~ Independence Day ~ 8:30: Presbyterian Women Pie Tent	5	6
7 9:45: Worship & Communion	8 12:30: Worship & Music Mtg. 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	9 10:00: Food Pantry 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Church Staff Mtg. 6:15: Brownie & Daisy Scouts	10 10:00: Food Pantry 11:00: Library Event - Science Tales STEM Show in Gull Prairie Room 6:15: Session Meeting	11 1:00: Library Bingo 5:00: Girl Scouts 5:30: Food Pantry 6:00: Deacons Meeting	12	13



June Celebrations

June Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2 ndMariela Carisalez | 14 thAmy Mack | 20 thStacy Feirreira |
| 2 ndShannon Wixson Smith | 14 thBethany Gibson Gauthier | 22 nd ...Carol Hodgson |
| 2 ndCarol Miller Johnson | 14 thNikki Vantine | 23 rdSteve Inman |
| 4 thJohn Welser | 15 thMichelle Fisher | 24 thNick Gauthier |
| 4 thShari Wynsma | 15 thJustin Gibson | 26 thCheri Calkins |
| 5 thBrandon Jennings | 16 thSandy Carahaly | 26 thAbraham Smith |
| 7 thLarry Osborne | 16 thCarol Thorne | 26 thTara Steele |
| 7 thMark Williams | 17 thMary Lindenberg | 26 thBob Tower |
| 8 thKeagan Miller | 17 thMichael Odar | 26 thJarad White |
| 9 thBrandon Wynsma | 17 thKaren Stasevich | 29 thPaisleigh Burris |
| 10 thMark Fisher | 18 thTim Peters | 30 thJoe Gibson |
| 10 thChase Sullivan | 19 thGene Rothenberg | 30 thJerry Petersen |
| 11 thMaria Hills | 20 thCatherine Martin | 30 thAva Rogers |
| 11 thPeter Mattes | 20 thLane Steele | 30 thCharlene Nash |
| 12 thGavin Gibson | 20 thJilisa Williams | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 stLinda & Milt Pollock for 56 years | 22 nd ...Pat & Tim Peters for 60 years |
| 12 thTerri & Philip Dawson for 42 years | 23 rdHeather & Darwin Putt for 12 years |
| 14 thMaria & Bob Hills for 67 years | 23 rdJoan & Larry Romyak for 51 years |
| 15 thBetsy & Steve Powell for 5 years | 24 thJennifer & George Spengler for 35 years |
| 17 thSandy & Steve Hart for 52 years | 25 thFaith & Zip Fiordalis for 47 years |
| 18 thMarleigh & Branden Burris for 8 years | 25 thLaura & Andrew Fiordalis for 19 years |
| 18 thMindy & Brad Hittle for 19 years | 28 thKyle & Kelene Monk Rogers for 16 years |
| 19 thLynn & Mark Hittle for 48 years | |

& Remembrances

26th We Remember Marv Hoektra's passing

SESSION

Class of 2024

Steve Sutherland, Buildings & Grounds
 Larry Irey, Personnel
 Pam Foster, Membership & Fellowship

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

Laura Carisalez, Finance
 Jill Steele, Mission
 Connie Kratzer, Worship & Music
 Ruth Mason, Personnel

Moderator

Rev. Dr. Mark Jennings

Clerk of Session

Rick Foster

DEACONS

Class of 2024

Deb Fisher
 Steve Hart
 Cindi Lebiecki Sara Wieber

Class of 2025

Anna Gross
 Tineke Stolt
 Jeremiah Smith
 Christie Sutherland

Class of 2026

Amber Beals
 Joan Willemstyn
 Sandra Gobble
 Margaret Hetzel

Thanks for the Memories

by Larry Myland

So, I was enjoying a quiet evening in our little bungalow in Milwood when the phone jangled off the hook.

Now what?

It was Dr. Paul Horton, a WMU sociologist of note and a faithful member of this little colony of heaven. At that time, Paul was also the chair of Worship and Music, and he needed an organist for the upcoming Sunday service. Dr. Horton directed him to my piano professor, H. Glenn Henderson, a WMU colleague, for a recommendation. At that time, Mr. Henderson was organist and choirmaster of First Church in Kalamazoo and was something of a famous person in southwestern Michigan owing in part to his having studied in Paris with perhaps the greatest organist of the day, Alexandre Guilmant. As if that schedule were not full enough, he began private lessons with the piano superstar Moritz Moszkowski. Did I even know what I was getting into?

I played that Sunday service on June 13, 1976, and was subsequently informed that I would be hired permanently to fill the vacancy if I chose to accept it. Like "The Man Who Came to Dinner," I never left.

I failed to mention that I had excellent preparation for the job since I served as ship's organist of the dreadnought USS Saratoga, an aircraft carrier of 6000 souls. I played a trusty old Hammond organ for daily services, plus two Catholic masses and a Protestant service sandwiched in between every Sunday. I soon learned to master the shakes when I would be required to play services with the admiral present. All of the top brass would be there. What I relished most about the job was, in addition to getting to play for the admiral, that my general quarters station was on the bridge where I was messenger for the Boss, the ship's Captain. From that vantage point, I had a bird's-eye view of the flight deck and everything that went on down there. I never quite got over the thrill of it. I would have liked to hitch a ride with one of the jet pilots, but unfortunately, such antics were forbidden.

Armed with an honorable discharge and with tons of experience, I had a good measure of self-confidence. With Navy days in my rearview mirror, I took a job that afforded lots of travel. After work, I would visit some of the great churches of the world. Grace Cathedral in San Francisco was an instant favorite, in part due to the openness of the congregation. I decided to introduce myself to



the music director, Christopher Putnam. He was something of an angelic man as well as being an utterly fantastic organist. So, after the Sunday service, I walked to the chancel to meet him. I told him, facetiously, that it was my ambition to have his job. I meant it as a joke, but he didn't laugh. He looked at me with a serious expression. Then he said: "Do you come here often?" I told him I wished I could be there every Sunday. "Well, he continued, "let me know the next time you're coming, and I'll mark off some private time on the organ for you." Such an invitation is not as unusual as it may seem. Yet, it carries with it a wish to do the very best one

can. I worked like crazy on the half dozen or so pieces I would play on the great organ of Grace Cathedral. It was an experience an organist could only dream about.

As my music world expanded, I had other experiences an organist could only dream about. Prominent among these was striking up a friendship with Stephen Cleobury, music director of the King's College Choir in Cambridge, England. Like poor Christopher Putnam, Stephen went to his heavenly rest much too soon. As I write this, Lena Pledger is spending a long weekend with us here in Richland. Lena has worked for Cambridge University for most of her adult life, especially with the choir. She gets me into places generally closed to the public. I haven't yet approached Daniel Hyde, the current music director, about having him mark off some time on the organ for me. It resides in the 300-foot-long chapel of King's, where the reverberation is an aural feast.



by Sandy Carahaly

Please join us on June 23rd for a very special Pride worship service. This year’s focus is Inclusion. Worship will be led by Mark Jennings, with support from members of Just Love. Musical features include Mike McMinn and Andrea Large. A reception with light refreshments will be held in the Gull Prairie Room after worship. We look forward to seeing you all!

A Minute to Learn: What does it mean to be inclusive? Inclusivity is about recognizing that every person brings a unique perspective and experience to the table. It’s about creating and ensuring equal access to opportunities and resources. But more than simply recognizing diversity and creating legal structures that provide equal access, inclusivity is about creating environments where all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, or other identifying characteristics, feel genuinely accepted, valued, and seen... where they can be their authentic selves without fear of discrimination, marginalization, or injury. Being inclusive is more than a state of mind (which can be better described as tolerance); it’s an active process. Inclusivity involves challenging and dismantling prejudices, stereotypes, and discriminatory practices that can marginalize certain groups. This can sometimes make people uncomfortable. If you’re feeling discomfort at the prospect of being inclusive, take a minute to consider how a marginalized person feels at being excluded, or required to mask their true selves in order to “fit in.”

Notable Quotes: “Diversity, or the state of being different, isn’t the same as inclusion. One is a description of what is, while the other describes a style of interaction essential to effective teams and organizations.”

- Bill Crawford, PhD

“Inclusion is not a matter of political correctness. It is the key to growth.”

- Jesse Jackson

Days of Significance, June, 2024

June: Pride Month

June 12: Pulse Night of Remembrance

June 26: SCOTUS ruling on Obergefell v Hodges, which legalized same-sex marriage in the US.

June 28: Stonewall Riots Anniversary; Global Pride Day

Our next general meeting is August 18th at 11 AM in the church resource center.



Wait, What? Questions & Answers

by Rev. Mark Jennings

Do you have questions about something you heard in church? Have you always wondered why we do or say the things we do? Wondered what something means? This regular column is the place to bring up those questions and try to find an answer.

The colors on the pulpit and lectern keep changing: purple then white then red then white again and now they are green. Why do we change them and what do the colors mean?

Dear Gentle Reader,

Liturgical colors orient us to the season of the church year and help us to engage in the story. White and gold symbolize days and seasons of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ, like Easter, Trinity Sunday, Christ the King, and Christmas. Red symbolizes the work of the Holy Spirit and we use it on Pentecost. Purple designates a season of penitence and preparation, it is used in Advent and Lent.

Now we are in Ordinary Time which is marked by the color green. It symbolizes hope and growth.

The Giving Update

by Sam Beals

This monthly statement is prepared by the Financial Committee to help members understand our position on meeting our budgeted giving commitments.

Giving Update*:

Budget need as of May 30: \$127,171

Income as of May 30: \$118,658

Deficit: -\$8,513

*Session approved a \$305,212 budget for 2024

Donate Online

Scan the QR Code to the right to donate to the First Presbyterian Church of Richland online via Venmo.



Make Your Donation Online

Mission Committee adopts Seita Scholar Program at WMU

by Jennifer Spengler

As many of you are aware, the Seita Scholar program at Western Michigan University provides mentoring and physical support for students who have “aged out” of the Foster Care system in the State of Michigan and qualified for their studies at WMU. The freshmen in this program are offered a Welcome Pack of supplies the students will need to begin their life in the dormitory.

The First Presbyterian Church of Richland generously purchased items and made financial donations (which were used to purchase needed items) last summer for the Seita Scholars program. The Mission Committee would like to adopt this group again this summer and is asking for our congregation’s support.

Please see the attached Welcome Pack donation needs list, and if you are able, please purchase items from the list (or make a financial donation which the committee will use to purchase the needed supplies). Your donation of Welcome Pack items can be brought to the church office for storage. **The deadline for receipt of the Welcome Pack donations is Thursday, July 18, 2024** so that our donation can be delivered to WMU the first week of August prior to Freshman Orientation.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

SEITA SCHOLARS PROGRAM WELCOME PACK DROP-OFF FORM

ITEMS DROPPED OFF (PLEASE FILL IN QUANTITY OF ITEMS IN BOXES):

Fall Welcome Pack Donation (complete pack donation)

Fall Welcome Pack Donation (miscellaneous pack items, not full pack)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing Sponges/Puffs | <input type="checkbox"/> Razors (multi-pack) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body Wash/Bar Soap | <input type="checkbox"/> School Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Fan | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo and Conditioner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combs/Brushes | <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving Cream or Gel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Caddy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Erase Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Cord | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Paper (four pack or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric Softener (dryer sheets) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste and Toothbrush (two pack) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine Hygiene Products (unscented) | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin Blanket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin Comforter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hypoallergenic Pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin XL Jersey Sheet Set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Basket (large, rectangular) | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Size Sheet Set (as alternative to twin) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath Towels (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mattress Pad (twin) | <input type="checkbox"/> Washcloths (five) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nail Clippers | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbrella |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planner (2024-25) | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Gallon Tote |



Local Artist Greg Gorton



Artist Marz Carahaly



Artist Emma Gobble

smalgroups

March Small Groups

by Amber Beals

Family Group: Fun at the Lake on June 8th! Come enjoy the sunshine and Gull Lake at Winston's house on June 8th from 11-3pm @ 219 S Gull Lake Dr. Hotdogs, juice and water will be provided, please bring a dish to share and beverages of your choice. We have umbrellas for shade, but don't forget your sunscreen, hats, sun shirts and towel. Parking is limited so carpool if you can! Plan to park in the driveway or on Avery St. Please RSVP to Kathleen at kn.rothenberg@gmail.com by Thursday, June 6. We hope you can make it!

Walking Group: **Note time change to 8:30am for the summer to avoid the heat**

June 4, 8:30am Richland Township Park-meet by the playground

June 18, 8:30am: Location: TBD

Moms' Group: Watch for an email regarding a dinner out together in June, then we will take a break for July and August. If you wish to be added to the email list, please reach out to Amber at amberbeals@gmail.com

Bach Around the Block: June 3 at 7pm Attend an "organ crawl" (progressive walk) concert downtown Kalamazoo to experience three downtown organs/organists. Organized by the SW MI Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Starts at St. Luke's Episcopal, continue to First Pres Kalamazoo, and conclude at First Congregational. Small group Ministries will not be organizing anything formally, but we hope you invite someone else from church to join in on this fun, free event!



Shared Blessings

by Erin Jennings

We have our own exciting Art Fest happening right here at church! We are honored to have the very talented local artist, Greg Gorton to help us fulfill our vision for the fence behind the Deacon Brown House. Greg will be working with Marz Carahaly and Emma Gobble, designers and artists of our Just Love and Shared Blessings logos, respectively. So keep your eyes out for artists in our midst. We offer a special thank you to Steve Sutherland for his ministry.



Years of Pie

by Terry Vantine

Dear Presbyterian Women, The 4th of July parade is right around the corner and the time to sign up to bake pies is here. You are aware of all the good causes the money earned from the Pie Tent supports. You also know that the community loves your Pies! Please look for the sign up sheet in the Gull Prairie room and write down the number of Pies you will bake. Remember, NO cream or store bought pies. Our patrons look forward to the BEST PIES from all of you! Your Pies must be in ziploc type plastic bags and clearly labeled with their flavor. Your Pies can be frozen and put in the Church freezer well labeled for the PIE TENT or they can be brought on the 3rd and left on the kitchen counter. The Pies will be moved to the Pie Tent around 8:30-9:00. If you choose to bring your Pies on the 4th please have them there by 8:30. If you are interested in making individual serving Pies, PW has 50 small Pie pans. Please refer any questions to Jan Harrison at 569-2857. Let's make the 71th year the best ever!

Vacation Bible School is Going Down Under!

by Brooke Heck

Crikey! VBS 2024 is right around the corner! If you haven't already, mark your calendars for August 11 - 14! This year, we are headed to the land down under to explore the outback, check out the coral reefs, and learn about what that all has to do with God! We are going to need a **mob** of **shelias** and **blokes** to make VBS a success, so please let Brooke know if you are interested in lending a hand! There will be a sign-up in the Thursday emails in the coming weeks as well, so keep your eyes peeled for that! You aren't going to want to miss out... it's **defo** going to be a **cracker** of time! Volunteer roles we will need **mates** to sign up for are:

- Adventure Guides (Small Group Leaders)
- Craft Room Leaders (all crafts will be pre-determined and supplies will be provided!)
- Games Leaders
- Music Leader
- Snack Coordinator
- Decorating Crew

There will also be an Amazon wish list shared later this summer. Your generous contributions will help bring the Aussie magic to life right here at First Presbyterian of Richland!

Cheers! (P.S. How many of the bolded Aussie slang terms did you recognize!?)



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

KidsFirst Summer of Service Request!

by Brooke Heck

Summer is quickly approaching and KidsFirst is excited to embark on our 2nd "Summer of Service"! 2023's service project was kickstarted by the Rummage Sale concession stand fundraiser... but this year, we will be focusing on ways to serve our community that do not require money to fund it! A few of our projects last summer fell into this category (RACC cleanup and children's hospital craft kits), but we would love any suggestions you might have as well! Do you know of a local organization, family, or individual that could use a helping hand? If so, let Brooke know!



KidsFirst Summer at a Glance

by Brooke Heck

June 2nd: KidsFirst meets
KidsFirst Volunteer Recognition
Church Summer Picnic

June 16th: KidsFirst meets
Father's Day

June 23rd: KidsFirst meets
Pride Service

July 14th: KidsFirst meets

July 28th: KidsFirst meets

Aug 4th: KidsFirst meets

Aug 11th-14th: Vacation Bible School

Aug 25th: KidsFirst meets
Blessing of the Backpacks
Scripture Study Presentations/Bible
Ceremony (incoming 3rd graders)

Please note that KidsFirst will only meet on the dates listed above!

 Me and my _____ 

He always says _____

I love him because _____

Our favorite thing to do together is _____

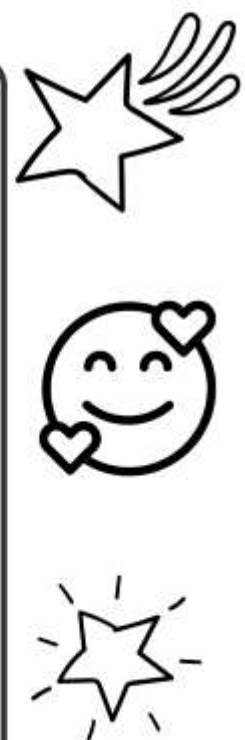
(draw a picture of it here!)



#favoritethingtodo
#iloveyou

SUBSCRIBE



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, Pastor
Reverend Pat Weatherwax, Parish Associate
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

Connie Slater, Sexton

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