

The Missive November 2017

First Presbyterian Church

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Volume 53, Number 11, Monthly



“Thanksgiving”

November isn't as fun as it used to be. And that's not just because baseball is over (as of this writing, Spring Training starts in 106 days, 11 hours and about 45 minutes—not that I'm keeping count or anything). I suppose it's less fun because the kids aren't home anymore and having just a couple of days off (if that) is not enough to travel here from the East Coast. Annie and Stacey are still in Boston and probably will be for time to come (Annie even says that she's become a Patriots fan—yuck!). Kendall is also in Boston but looking to going back to school so who knows if that will last. Brandon recently moved to Portland, Maine, even farther away from his mother and me. That means that it will be just Erin and I for Thanksgiving Dinner. And that's ok, we like having the day to ourselves, making the same traditional dinner—only smaller. It's not as fun, but it does give us time to think about the things for which we are grateful.

November is the month in our church for both Thanksgiving and Stewardship because they are inextricably linked. This is the time that we not only thank God for all his graces and tender mercies, but as a covenant community, we respond. You're going to be hearing from us about making a pledge to our church for 2018 and we hope you will be thinking about these two things: thanksgiving and stewardship.

We are grateful for so many things in our church, for our history, our future, and our present blessings. We are blessed with a history of faithful witness in this place since 1831. We are also looking forward to a future of service to our community and our world and always looking for what new thing

God is doing among us. We just need to look around us and see all our blessings that we have right now: worship that is led by talented faithful people; support and fellowship opportunities; care when we are sick or grieving or lonely from our Pastoral Care Team and our deacons and one another; educational offerings that stretch our minds and our faith; youth ministry that is working outside the box and doing new things (we're now getting calls from all around the state asking how we are doing this new thing); the ability to meet in an historic building that witnesses to the faithfulness of generations; chances to serve in mission causes that make our community and our world better.

And we are also stewards of these things, for we did not inherit them from a previous generation, but we hold them in trust for those who come after us. The church we've created for them, the faith we wish for them, the world that they will live in, the knowledge of our love for them—these are all part of what we hold as stewards for our children and for those who will come to our church that we don't even know.

Thanksgiving and Stewardship. Looking back in gratitude and looking forward in faith. Two reasons to love November!

Grace and Peace,

Mark

November Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
5	Gauthier	Brundage Webb Larson	Larson Monk	Smith	Deater Osborne Alspach
12	Juodawlakis	K Urban J Romyak Sutherland	Stafford Romyak	Deater	Pageant Rehearsal 
19	Irey	Monk Willemstyn	Alman Irey	Gauthier	
26	Knibloe	Schaadt Williams	Knibloe Smith	Carisalez	Happy Thanksgiving 

Serving Communion

Please remember that only ordained elders and deacons should serve communion.

November 5

Carol Coverly
Lee Coverly
Val Osborne
Nancy Remley
Marilynn Simon
George Spengler
Jennifer Spengler
Jerry Wittwer
Lib Wittwer

December 3

Brent Slezak
Sheryl Slezak
Jean Stafford
Tom Stegink
Christie Sutherland
Steve Sutherland
Bob Tower
Terry Vantine
Tunis Willemstyn

January 7

Jilisa Williams
Mike Wright
Nancy Wright
Brian Young
Teresa Young
Phyllis Youse
Marsha Zick
Marilyn Alman
Andy Alspach

*We rely on many members and friends to help Sundays run smoothly and be a good worship experience for those attending our church. **If for some reason you are not able to help on the day originally selected, please find a replacement or someone to trade with, and let the church office know.** The yearly list of volunteers can be found at www.fpcrich.com, under "Living the Faith", then "volunteer schedule". **Or call Julie for a list of names. Thank you!***

November 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:00 PW Meeting at Wanda's 4:30 Girl Scouts	2 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	3 Urban Plunge begins in Lansing	4 4:00 Interment for Jim Payson Set your clocks back! 
5 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - Communion 11:00 Sunday School	6 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	8 4:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Session	9 9:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons	10	11 1:00 Raking and tending the outside of the church
12 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:00 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group Here	13 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	15 4:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Committee's Meet	16 9:00 Bible Study	17 5:15 Wedding Rehearsal	18 4:00 Chris Meitz & Jennifer Malm Wedding 
19 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group at Westminster	20 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	22 4:30 Girl Scouts	23  Happy Thanksgiving	24 Office Closed	25
26 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship	27 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Girl Scout Leaders 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	29 4:30 Girl Scouts	30 9:00 Bible Study		



Presbyterian Women

PW meets the first Wednesday of each month.
Our next meeting is November 1st at 1:00, at Wanda Clawson's home.
 EVERY WOMAN is welcome!

THANK YOU, ALEXIA TAYLOR!

Alexia will be our July 4th Pie Tent Coordinator for 2018 (and beyond??). We appreciate you jumping in!



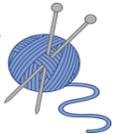
Again this fall we were blessed with a successful Rummage Sale, taking in close to \$4,600, that will allow Presbyterian Women to provide funding to several local agencies such as Ministry with Community, the Gospel Mission, Church Women United, Loaves and Fishes, Gull Lake Community Volunteers, and our own Deng, as well as a few others. Throughout the year we have also contributed funds to some First Presbyterian church projects. Many of the unsold sale items were donated to various local agencies, some that provide free clothing and household goods to those in need.

A big THANK YOU goes out to each of you for your contributions of Rummage Sale items, and your time in helping with the sale, shopping, and the wonderful lunches and snacks brought in to keep the workers nourished. We are grateful for your generous hearts.



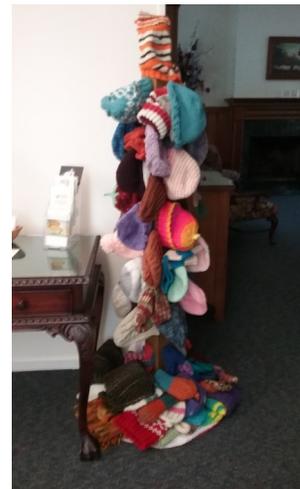
CONNECTED THREADS/PRAYER SHAWL

This wonderful ministry continues to meet each Tuesday morning from 10 to noon. We enjoy a great time of fellowship, and welcome all newcomers who want to knit or crochet, or learn to, or just visit. We have prayer shawls and lap robes available to anyone who has a family member or friend who could benefit from wrapping up in the warmth of love. Just let one of the ladies know, or call the office!



THE MITTEN TREE

The Presbyterian Women's "Mitten Tree" is in the Fireplace Room, just waiting for new or handmade winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. We'll be taking these items to the Family and Children's Services, Ministry with Community, and the Gospel Mission. We need to distribute them to these places by November 29th, so we don't have a lot of time!



PW PURPOSE: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Presbyterian Women

THANK OFFERING

For The Healing of The Nations

The **Thank Offering** began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey, of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "**thank offering** to her Lord." A day was set aside for meetings that were to be a "concert of prayer and praise and the gathering of the **Thank Offering**." The gifts presented at those meetings represented much soul-searching and self-sacrifice on the part of many women. The impact was immeasurable. It has been said that women's giving saved the worldwide missionary movement at that time. The thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, but a "**thank offering** to her Lord" continued to be an important part of women's giving by United Presbyterian Women. This expression of thanksgiving now is an important part of Presbyterian Women.

At least 40% of the **Thank Offering** receipts are allocated for health ministries. These funds are sent to hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's family. The remainder of the offering is used to fund proposals that deal with issues such as child care, the elderly, violence, hopelessness and injustice.

You will find a **Thank Offering** envelope included with this issue of the MISSIVE. We will be receiving the offerings during the church service on November 19, or you can turn them into the church office.

*On either side of the river is the tree of life...
and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

Revelation 22:2b



Membership & Fellowship had a PARTY!

We were celebrating all our dear ones who are 90 + years young. It was a great day, with cake of course! Our buddy, Wanda Clawson turned 90 this year. Other friends that joined in the party were Kay Polzin and Caroline Gray. Others who couldn't make the party - Byron Hodgson, Martha Strumpfer, Lois and Verne Nafziger, and Fred and Phyllis Davis!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



SAVE THE DATES

Wassailing ~ 12/7
Christmas Party ~ 12/15

Music and Worship Committee

invites you to join in a

Festival of Thanksgiving and Praise

on November 19th during Sunday morning service. We want your input on favorite hymns you would like to sing from the hymnal. There is a small box with slips of paper, around the corner from the Fireplace Room. Just write the titles down and put the slips in the box by November 13th. We will try to sing as many as possible. Bring your voices and join us in praising our Lord!



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The Food Pantry, with help from the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club, is once again making baskets for some of our guests with families. If you'd like to help donate for this very nice cause, the following items are in need:



Boxes of stuffing, canned green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, cream of mushroom soup, jars of gravy, onion rings, marshmallows, frozen turkeys and pies, bags of apples and oranges.

Or gift cards for Meijer and we'll purchase. Deadline is November 19th!! Just leave items in Julie's office or the kitchen (with note).

The new bricks have been installed in the pathway!
 Anytime you're passing through, please take a look.
 They look great!



Here's an easy way to give the church FREE money! Log into the Hardings site and follow the instructions (you'll also be able to see the sales and print off coupons if you want). Just make sure, when asked, you select the Richland First Presbyterian Church as your organization. At the check-out, when prompted, enter the 10 digit phone number that you've registered, or tell the cashier you want to enter a number. You are welcome to use the church number!
 Thank you for helping. Every little bit helps!



THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED BACKGROUND ON WHITE PAPER WITH MICROPRINTING

Harding's Markets West Inc. 211 Bannister Suite E Plainwell, MI 49080-1372	JP Morgan Chase Detroit, Michigan 741292724	197979
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Pay Ninety Four Dollars and 22 Cents DATE Oct 24, 2017 AMOUNT \$94.22

to the Order of:

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CH.-RICHLAND
 8047 CHURCH ST.
 RICHLAND, MI. 49083

[Signature]

COOL!

Building & Grounds Annual Fall Leaf Clean-up

Saturday, November 25



Every year the Village of Richland schedules a free leaf pick up. If we have our leaves at the curb in front of the church by their scheduled dates, they will be picked up free. Angie Rodino, the Village of Richland Clerk let us know that those dates this year will be November 27-29.

Since so many leaves are still on the trees, the pick up dates are later than normal.

Our annual Fall Leaf-Raking party will be on

Saturday, November 25th

“We will meet at 1:00....and work till done!”

**All members of the congregation are welcome to bring a rake
and join the fun! Bring your friends....**

Youth Group

2017-2018

***This month the Youth Group will be collecting items for
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to make Gifts of the Heart Kits.***

Please consider donating an item or two from the lists below to help with the kits:

Hygiene Kit – Value \$15

- 1 – hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
 - 1 – washcloth
 - 1 – wide-tooth comb
 - 1 – nail clipper
 - 1 – bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
 - 1 – toothbrush (in original packaging)
 - 6 – Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips
- Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure

School Kit – Value \$15

- 1 — pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
 - 3 — 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks (total 200-210 pages/no loose-leaf paper.)
 - 1 — 30-centimeter ruler (12")
 - 1 — hand-held pencil sharpener
 - 6 — new pencils with erasers
 - 1 — large eraser
 - 1 — box of 24 crayons
 - 1 — cloth bag (cotton or lightweight canvas), 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size, cloth handles
- Pack all items in the cloth bag

Clean up Bucket – Value \$75

- 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
 - 5 scouring pads
 - 7 sponges, assorted sizes
 - 1 scrub brush
 - 5 dust masks
 - 50 clothespins
 - Clothesline, two 50 or one 100
 - 1 box dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
 - 1 pair work gloves
 - 2 pair latex gloves (like Playtex®)
 - 1 liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz.*
 - 1 bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 25 oz.*
 - 1 pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
 - 24-count roll heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
 - 1 bottle insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol), 6-14 oz.*
- Send only new, unopened materials. Pack items securely in the plastic bucket; seal lid with packing tape
**liquids in plastic bottles only

Youth Group

2017-2018

All 6th-12th grade students are invited to join us for fun & fellowship each Sunday evening.

ALL are welcome and guests are encouraged to attend!

Please contact Meredith Alspach with questions: meredithalspach4@gmail.com

Can you help with dinner for Youth Group on November 12?



Youth Group Schedule

November 3-5 – Urban Plunge - Lansing

November 12 – WE host 5-7pm

November 19 – Westminster hosts 5-7pm

November 26 – NO YOUTH GROUP (*Thanksgiving weekend*)

December 3 – Christmas Party @ First Pres Kzoo 5-7pm

Youth Mission

Save the Date:
Youth Mission Trip 2018
Colcord, West Virginia ~ June 23-30

*To register, or for more information, please contact
Meredith Alspach: meredithalspach4@gmail.com*



Youth Mission Can & Bottle Drive Continues!

Simply drop your cans in the collection bin outside the church office!
Thank you for your support of our youth!



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**

Look on the youth page for information on making three specific kits to help!

TO DONATE:

Call - 800-872-3283

Online - pda.pcusa.org Look for "Donate Now" at top

Check - Presbyterian Church (USA)

PO Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

On memo line, designate where you want your donation to go.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen

In the challenging days to come, work through us to bring

relief and respite from urgent need, comfort and the hope of peace for those who grieve the loss of family, home and safety, and faith to walk on through weary days of rebuilding



pcusa.org/PDA

**FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER**

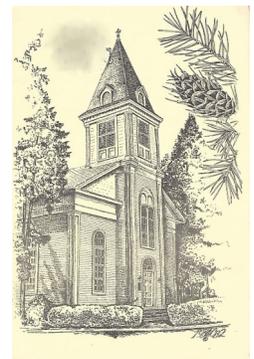


**FOOD PANTRY
Giving Suggestions**

**BOX STUFFING,
MASHED POTATOES,
JAR GRAVY**

Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for November

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
11/3	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus</i>	<i>Beulah M. Ryan</i>
11/25	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Becky & Tony Jones</i>
11/29	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Ted & Lois Oosterhout</i>



LOOK FOR THE BIG GOLD BOX
IN FRONT OF JULIE'S OFFICE



Warm Up The Winter



Benefitting the **Kalamazoo Gospel Mission**

Gull Lake High School Student Senate and National Honor Society are happy to partner with Comstock NHS to help “warm up the winter” for those less fortunate in our community.

WE are COLLECTING **NEW** items for ALL sizes:

SOCKS

MITTENS

GLOVES

HATS

(also accepting gently used **COATS**)

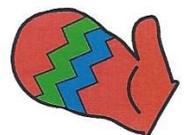
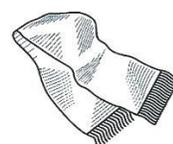
When: Collection dates are **October 23 - November 27**

Students will deliver donations to the Gospel Mission in early December.

COLLECTION LOCATIONS:

- ~Liz's Cafe
- ~Richland Eye Care
- ~Harding's Friendly Market
- ~Gull Meadow Farms
- ~Gull Lake Chiropractic

- ~Living Hope Church
- ~Richland Lanes
- ~First Presbyterian Church
- ~GLCS Administration Building
- ~Gull Lake High School





Kalamazoo Gospel Mission

Our mission here at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission is to change lives through the power of Christ. That is what we strive to do every day. We are writing to you today because we need your help.

We are looking for willing individuals to walk alongside our clients who are enrolled in our long-term program. Those who have chosen to make changes in their lives and live for Christ are on a journey of regeneration. They make choices every day to walk with God and live in the fullness and freedom that is available to them.

To help them do this, we are looking for mentors. We know that mentors make a significant impact on another's life. As we build relationships, talk about the day, and form trustworthy, personal relationships, it helps our clients see another way of life. Many who come to us are broken and hurting. Many have been let down, and lived a life of chaos. Mentors could make a difference in our client's lives.

Our requirements for mentors are simple: they must be a believer in Jesus, love others, and have 2-4 hours per month (min. of 1 hour every other week) to spend with a client. Each mentor is assigned to one person only for a 6-month period. Mentoring is flexible on times and days of the week, and can be adjusted to fit the needs of the mentor and mentee. Our goal is for our clients to build healthy relationships with another individual as they work on building safe relationships.

If you are interested in mentoring, or have questions, please contact Katrina at 269-345-2974 x 248. She is overseeing our mentor program and can assist you.

Thank you for helping us accomplish our mission of "Changing lives through the power of Christ."

In Christ,

John D. Simpson MA, LLC
Director of Programs
269-345-2974 x 234
www.kzoogospel.org



One. If you find that you're sitting in front of a child and they can't see, lean to the side.

Two. If the children seated behind you are rustling papers, hand them a crayon.

Three. If there is a baby that is crying, offer to take it from its parent and walk to the back of the church and rock it for a while. The parent really needs a break.

Four. If the teenagers are whispering give them some Smarties. The rustling and crinkling will replace their whispering.

Five. If an adult complains to an usher about the noisy children near them, offer to trade seats with that adult and then apologize to the parents of the children.

Six. When a child is running around giving everyone high-fives during the time of passing the peace/greeting your neighbor make sure to give them an extra fun high-five, and then high-five the next five adults that you see.

Seven. If a child has worn tap shoes to church and is dancing on the wood portion of the floor, slip the sheet music for "The Entertainer" to the pianist and roll with it.

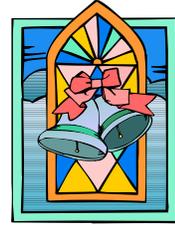
Eight. When the children can't hear because an adult around them won't take off their puffy jacket and it keeps squeaking and distracting the children, offer to help them off with their jacket and go hang it up for them where it goes.

Nine. When the three-year-old insists on standing on the front pew turned backwards looking at the rest of the people, give the child a pair of very dark glasses. That will prevent the child from catching any adult's eye, which would lead to distracting them. This will protect the adults who as we know have very short attention spans and are easily distracted.

Ten. When a child in front of you is very squirmy, and then they finally turn around and you realize suddenly, "Oh, it's Jesus!" take it in stride and play Got Your Nose till he turns around to the front again.



November Anniversaries



3 Ed and Marme Courtney ~ 44
 7 Katie and Nate Schrauben ~ 8
 14 Harold and Joyce Dishon ~ 31
 30 Jim and Sherry Stallings ~ 49

23 Sandy and Vince Carahaly ~ 15
 23 Mike and Dana Sullivan ~ 32
 25 Becky and Tony Jones ~ 11



and Birthdays

1 Samantha Steele Gay
 1 Donna Odar
 1 Laurel Odell
 3 Andy Ambrosio
 3 Lynn Bakker
 3 Steve Knowlton
 4 Lib Wittwer
 5 Theresa Butler
 7 Dick Davis
 7 Mary Godfrey
 7 Dave Kreager
 8 Lois Nafziger
 8 Justin Perigo
 9 Dave Butler
 9 Chelsea Martin
 10 Chris Gobble
 11 Jon Brignall
 11 Rachel Sage
 12 Ethan Storer
 13 Dick Chormann
 13 Brad Hittle
 13 Hannah Rose Kilbourne
 13 Cole Schott
 13 Jacob Schott

17 Angela Hittle
 18 Lori Hildenbrand
 18 Caitlin Kamerman
 20 Kate Kelly
 20 Taraynn Lloyd
 20 Jennie MacQuarrie
 21 Jill Steele
 22 BJ Hooks
 22 Jennifer McQuater
 23 Lynn Hittle
 23 Allison Hope
 23 Sherry Stallings
 24 Joan Romyak
 25 Ken Sunden
 26 Beth Nolin
 26 Daniel Snyder
 27 Alexandria Howard
 27 Janet Kelly
 27 Katie Knowlton
 27 Marilyn Rhodes
 27 Jaime Snow
 30 Bob Nash
 30 Brendan Sage



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Dr. Murray Cooper, *Pastoral Assistant*
Faith Fiordalis, *Financial Secretary*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Sadarra Fields, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Program Coordinator*
Julie Pixley, *Children's Worship Leader*
Heather Putt, *Nursery Supervisor*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

