

The Missive September 2019

First Presbyterian Church

8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083
269~629~4944
fpcrich@firstpresrichland.org
www.fpcrich.com

Rev. Dr. Mark W. Jennings
revmarkwj@gmail.com
269~731~2519 home

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“Family Forgiveness”

This summer has really been about family for Erin and me. In a way that it hasn't been for several years. For the last four years Erin and I have been “on our own,” since all the kids have moved away and it has been just the two of us in the house. But this summer we have been preoccupied with our families. Our son Brandon has successfully made the move to Singapore and so he now lives 9,354 miles away from us. Erin's niece and goddaughter, Katie, got married in San Antonio, Texas but then moved with her new husband to Grand Rapids, so it's nice to have someone move towards us instead of away. We spent time in Oregon for the dispersal of my mother's ashes and in the process we had dinner with my brothers and my sister, realizing that it's the first time all four of us have been together since 1999.

Families are interesting things and sometimes you can't help but wonder why God gives you the family that you have. Maybe it's to learn how to forgive. Annie Lamott, in her book “Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith,” reflects on the craziness of her own family: “Sometimes people who've read my work send me photographs of their families, and I tape them to the wall in hopes that they'll help me remember that we're all in the same soup, and that they'll make me more forgiving. Who was it that said that forgiveness is giving up all hope of having had a different past? The pictures do help sometimes, and I'm getting gentler with my mother, more understanding. They help by making me sad at how hard we all try and how far short we fall, and the sadness softens me for love. . . . At some point you pardon the people in your family for being stuck together in all their

weirdness, and when you can do that, you can learn to pardon anyone. Even yourself, eventually.” My siblings and I aren't close, as families go. There's a lot of water under the bridge since those years that we lived in the same house together. But maybe enough has gone by that we are learning to forgive each other for not being the best brothers or sister, or being the best children to our parents. And forgive ourselves, too.

I think that's what the family of faith is all about too. Maybe that's one reason that I'm resistant to the ideas of “virtual church,” of attending church by opening a web page on your computer, listening to the hymns and the sermon, reading along with the scripture, all while still in your jammies while you drink coffee and eat your bagel. But then you don't have to sit next to that person who annoys you, you don't have to look anyone in the eyes, you don't have to say “Peace be with you” to that woman who you really hope is feeling guilty for something she did that upset you. You can turn off the computer and walk away. You don't have to be part of it, really part of a congregation, a community of faith. A family that is learning to forgive. If nothing else, that seems to me to be a reason to show up. It is here that we learn to forgive. It is here that we discover that we really are forgiven. We're family.

Grace and Peace,

Mark

September Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>
1	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	Leiter Mason <u>2 VOLUNTEER</u>	Beaver Lovequist	Lovequist
8	Cramer	Schaadt Wieber	Hoekstra <u>2 VOLUNTEER</u>	Lovequist
15	Cazers	Sutherland G&L Lindenberg	Irey Lebiecki	Smith
22	G Gross	Remley Barts J Croasdale	Kendall G&M Lindenberg	Gauthier
29	Field	Young Webb	Monk Odell	Carisalez

The morning of the first of September was crisp and golden as an apple.
JK Rowling

We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost.
Henry Rollins

September was a thirty-days long goodbye to summer, to the season that left everybody both happy and weary of the warm, humid weather and the exhausting but thrilling adventures.
Lea Malot



Serving Communion

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

September 1
Rick Foster
Gary Gibson
Joyce Gibson
Sandra Gobble
Michelle Greve

October 6
Anna Gross
Rod Gross
Marv Hoekstra
Kay Irey
Larry Irey

November 3
Kay Hutchinson
Karen Kendall
Tom Kendall
Kristen Kern-Beaver
Cindi Lebiecki

*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!***

September 2019

LABOR DAY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 Worship - Communion	2 <i>Labor Day</i>	3 9:00 Care Team 10:00 Connected Threads 10:30 Office Staff	4 1:00 PW Meeting at Wanda's	5	6 5:30 Clarkin/Kettenhofen Rehearsal	7 4:30 Clarkin/Kettenhofen Wedding
8 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:00 Church Fest	9 10:30 Office Staff 6:00 Grief Support 6:30 Boy Scouts	10 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Cub Scout sign up in GPR 6:00 Girl Scouts	11 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Girl Scout Leaders	12 9:00 Bible Study	13 6:30 Dixon/Kovach Rehearsal	14 5:00 Dixon/Kovach Wedding
15 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 2:00 Ron Teall's Service	16 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 6:30 Boy Scouts	17 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	18 5:30 Girl Scouts	19 9:00 Bible Study	20	21 Mary and Thon Jr. arriving in GR from Kenya!!
22 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	23 10:30 Office Staff 6:30 Boy Scouts	24 10:30 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	25 9:30 Flower Group in GPR 3:00 Last Farmer's Market at RACC 5:30 Girl Scouts	26 9:00 Bible Study	27	28
29 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 12:30 Adopt-A-Highway	30 10:30 Office Staff 6:30 Boy Scouts					



Presbyterian Women

*Our next meeting is September 4th at Wanda Clawson's home
1507 W. Gull Lake Dr, Richland
EVERY WOMAN is welcome.
If you have questions, please call Kalli Inman, 998-3497*

THE FALL RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING SOON

OCTOBER 11 & 12

Mark your calendars now. We'll begin collecting your items for the sale on Tuesday, October 8. We hope you will set aside a few hours or days that week to help: Tuesday thru Thursday to sort & price, and then Friday & Saturday for the sale & cleanup.

The hours are flexible and the rewards are great. A sign up sheet will be posted on the PW bulletin board soon.

Proceeds from the sale support the PW Mission budget.



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 Minutes

August 7, 2019

Present: Margaret Hetzel, Kalli Inman, Wanda Clawson, Pam Foster

Margaret opened the meeting with prayer.

The Least Coin container and the minutes from our last meeting were shared.

Old Business

Margaret is officially the new Treasurer. She and Pam met at the bank and signed the various forms.

Margaret shared the treasurer's report – Ending balance \$10,774.57; starting balance \$9,117.05; deposits in July: \$300 rummage sale (additional collection), \$1,405 pie tent (July 4th). Check to Judy Ruser for pie tent supplies \$47.58.

Total for the May rummage sale to-date is \$3,421.18. The fall rummage sale dates are October 11-12.

Pie tent discussion - Terry Vantine and Judy Ruser have agreed to take the lead again next year. A suggestion was made to increase the price of the pies. We had two bags of cookies and brownies left over.

New Business

Kalli will be stepping down as our PW moderator this December. We are looking for a volunteer to begin in January 2020. Please help spread the word so we can fill the position. Please contact Kalli, Margaret or Pam if interested.

The 2020 spring rummage sale dates will be decided on soon. Wanda will talk with Sara Wieber.

PW purchased the paper supplies for VBS meals (approximately \$105). Michelle Greve will submit the final cost to Margaret and we will reimburse her.

The PW note cards have been printed and are for sale. \$2 for a package of 4. Pam offered to set them out during Sunday morning coffee and conversation.

Faye Luscombe sent an email to Kalli and Jean Kubiak sharing a report from Don and Bev Roth of Wycliffe Bible Translators. PW and/or the Mission Committee has made a donation in the past for their mission work and Faye asked us to consider another donation for them to continue their important work. Kalli is going to contact Jean to see if the Mission Committee is going to make a donation. PW will match their gift.

We discussed another donation to Samaritas. Pam will contact Rachel to ask where there is the most need at this time.

The remaining 2019 donation checks will likely be made after the rummage sale and before the holidays.

We had a lengthy discussion about the older books in the library and the fireplace room - offering the children's books to families with children who visit the Food Pantry, setting them on a table in the GP room, selling them at the rummage sale, and/or the possibility of someone purchasing all of them. We will add this to future agendas for further discussion.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 4, at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Pam Foster, Secretary

MONEY MATTERS



How did it get to be September, already?? True confession: We haven't even emptied out last school year's backpacks, yet! (Sure hope there are no sandwiches in there...)

Last month we reported that June giving exceeded spending by \$11K.

This month I am pleased to report that July giving exceeded spending by \$7K.

The projected multi-year General Fund deficit is now \$15K. This is amazing progress compared to where we were just a few months ago, and is a testament to the faithfulness of our congregation. **Thank you!**

As I write this, August giving has been light, as is typical for summer months. But I ran some "what if" scenarios, and here is an interesting thought: if we are able to close August with the same \$7K surplus as we did in July, our projected deficit would be **wiped out** and we would begin projecting a **surplus** in the General Fund for the first time in a long time. (And we could have Fun With Finance, again! How cool would that be?)

We can do this. Just \$300 per family above and beyond pledged giving for the year will put us in a position of financial health that can be used to ensure the strength of our church and its various missions. **Are you in?**

Fund balances at the close of July are:



If you are not attending worship, your pledge/offering may be mailed to the attention of the Financial Secretary. Our mailing address is 8047 Church Street, Richland, MI 49083.

Questions? Comments? Contact Sandy Carahaly, Elder, Finance Committee



Youth Group

Youth Group for all Middle and High School Students
kicks-off on September 15!
All are welcome!



Youth Group Schedule

- September 15 – Kick-off @ Pine Island, 5-7pm
- September 22 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts, 5-7pm
- September 28-29 – WE host Lock-in
- October 6 – Ministry with Community, 1-3pm
- October 13 – WE host, 5-7pm
- October 20 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts, 5-7pm
- October 27 – Halloween Party @ First Pres Kalamazoo, 5-7pm
- November 2-3 – Urban Plunge
- November 10 – FUN event, 5-7pm
- November 17 – First Pres Kalamazoo hosts, 5-7pm
- November 24 – WE host, 5-7pm
- December 1 – NO Youth Group
- December 8 – WE host Christmas Party, 5-7
- December 15 – January 5 – NO Youth Group

BE THE CHURCH.

Coming this fall!

Calling all children, youth & educators!

Please bring your backpack and join us on
September 8 during worship for a

Blessing of the Backpacks

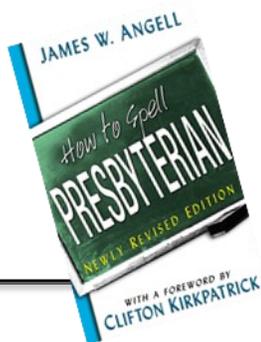


Sunday School kicks-off September 15

- ❖ Children's Sunday School takes place downstairs immediately following time with the children in worship
 - ❖ Adult Sunday School takes place after worship
 - ❖ Confirmation classes are as scheduled

How To Spell Presbyterian

Stop by the Christian Ed table during Church Fest to order a copy of this great book for our all-church book study!



Even if you only have a few moments in your day to spare, this is an easy, short and interesting read we can all share together.

Youth Lock-In

September 28 – 29

All middle and high school students are welcome!



CHURCH FEST 2019

Sunday, September 8

The Gull Prairie Room will have tables set up with many committees showing you what they do. Stop by after church and learn about them, ask questions, and even join one (or more) that interests you!

Right after that, we'll head to the Richland Square (the park) for grilling and a picnic! Bring a dish to share and get ready to have a great afternoon!



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Sunday, September 29 - 12:30

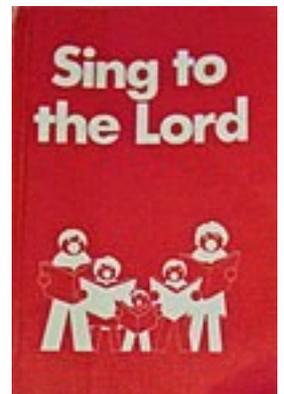
16 volunteers will be needed (12 years and older), as we once again clean up a section of both sides of Gull Road. A sign-up sheet is on the Mission bulletin board, to the right of the door to the GPR. Please meet in the GPR after church (11:45) on the 29th, to view a 6 minute safety video (required by MDOT), and we'll head to InfoSafe (the old Kalamazoo Plug Company). Bring any food, water, gloves, or tools you might want. We'll walk 1-2 miles, depending on the number of helpers. The more we have, the faster the clean-up goes! Please help support our church's commitment to being an earth care organization!



Worship and Music would like your help

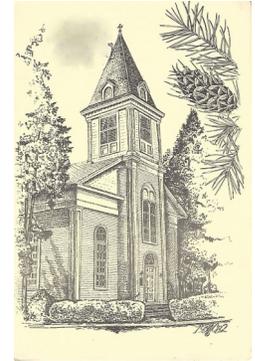
While you're visiting the committees tables on the 8th, make sure to stop and visit the Worship and Music group! They'd like your opinion on the doxology. Which do you prefer?? The more traditional tune we used to sing (hymn #592), or the more triune focused that's currently being sung (hymn #591). Check them out and give Sandy and Margaret your thoughts.

Also, we're planning another Hymn Sing in November!! This is always very popular with most folks. If you have favorite hymns you'd like to put on the committee's list, let them know! No promises, but they'll try to honor as many as they can.



Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for September

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
9/8	<i>In The Garden</i>	<i>Irene Verploegh</i>
9/11	<i>God Bless America</i>	<i>Brad Hoorn</i>
9/14	<i>Eternal Father, Strong to Save</i>	<i>Jay Ralph Wells, Jr.</i>



**FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER**



**FOOD PANTRY
Giving Suggestions**

**TUNA, JELLY,
TISSUE'S**

Andee Trautman and Steve Allen are looking for folks interested in joining their Couples Bowling League, held at Richland Lanes. This is a 16-week season, every other Sunday at 3:15, starting Sept. 8th. They play for FUN! Bowlers of all abilities welcome. \$14 per session, part of which goes toward a prize fund. 629-0247.



Our dear old friend, Mary Godfrey, once asked if we could list early, the things that people have the opportunity to donate toward, as they seem to happen most often (but not always) at the same time - Christmas. So, thanks to her, here are a few that will probably be forthcoming.

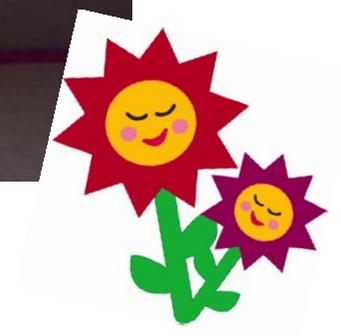
- The Mitten Tree Church Women United Cookies Halloween Candy
- College Package Food Pantry PW Pies The Love Fund
- Family Services Wreath Salvation Army Tree ...and on and on and on....

Local Mission:

- Kalamazoo Deacons Conference Ministry with Community
- Gospel Mission Shepherd's Center Community Volunteers
-and on and on and on...



Sometimes you just need a little help



September Anniversaries



- 4 Lisa and Andy Ambrosio ~ 26
- 4 Ed and Cheri Calkins ~ 20
- 6 Lois and Verne Nafziger ~ 71
- 6 Alexis and Jason Rairigh ~ 11
- 7 Carolyn and Richard Chormann ~ 62
- 8 Brian and Teresa Young ~ 46
- 11 Mary Ellen and Jerry Bryer ~ 37
- 14 Barbara and Robert Monk ~ 45
- 16 Sheryl and Brent Slezak ~ 41
- 18 John and Cindi Lebiecki ~ 37
- 19 Janet and Hoyt Fonger ~ 39
- 22 Juan and Laura Carisalez ~ 7
- 22 Tom and Sharin Noall ~ 57
- 24 Karen and Scott Bell ~ 36
- 25 Craig and Kathi Muss ~ 37
- 29 Larry and Becky Reinhart ~ 45



and Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Ruth Mason | 11 | Kinzy Turpin |
| 1 | Dan Fiordalis | 13 | Alec Ambrosio |
| 1 | Doug Gates | 13 | Gary Mittelbach |
| 2 | Pam Mattes | 13 | Nicole Romyak |
| 3 | Esperanza Carisalez | 13 | Gale Slentz |
| 3 | Suzie Carpenter | 14 | Erin Fenner |
| 3 | Stephanie Kleis | 14 | Madeleine Gauthier |
| 3 | Heidi Bryant | 14 | Steve Sorrell |
| 4 | David Greve | 16 | Jake Myland |
| 5 | Sue Carlson | 16 | Ted Ruser |
| 5 | Sarah Bryer | 17 | Louise Hanavan |
| 5 | Traver Gay | 17 | Sandy Hart |
| 5 | Tom Perigo | 18 | Marme Courtney |
| 6 | Janet Saddler | 19 | Reid Williams |
| 7 | Christine Gates | 20 | Spencer Mack |
| 7 | Joseph Keusch | 22 | Val Osborne |
| 8 | Barbara Monk | 23 | John Mittelbach |
| 8 | Stuart Verseman | 25 | Bob Hendrick |
| 9 | Samantha Duke | 25 | Rebecca Jones |
| 9 | Katie Monk | 25 | Don Meitz |
| 10 | Juan Carisalez | 25 | Andee Trautman |
| 10 | Cindy Hoorn | | |



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
Brandy Dlugoss, *Financial Secretary*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Branden Burris, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Director of Faith Formation*
Heather Putt, *Nursery Supervisor*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

