

First Presbyterian Church

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“Goosebumps”

Do you ever get goosebumps? What makes you get them? What is it that gives you goosebumps? You can't make yourself have goosebumps, at least I don't think you can. Goosebumps are an involuntary reaction to being tickled, or experiencing strong emotions like fear or euphoria or surprise. When do you get them? When you watch a scary movie? When you see a beautiful painting? When you step to the rim of the Grand Canyon or crane your neck to see the top of a redwood or stand at the edge of the ocean? When is it for you?

I'll tell you what gives me goosebumps—Easter. Every Easter Sunday, I get goosebumps. When I first walk into the sanctuary when it is still dark on Easter morning, the smell gives me goosebumps—lilies, tulips, hyacinth, all the flowers that fill the sanctuary—I walk in and I get goosebumps. Of course, seeing all the people makes me excited too, but I really feel it when I hear the music. As soon as we stand and begin to sing, “Jesus Christ has risen today! Alleluia!” I get goosebumps again. But the one that really gets me is “Christ is Alive!” Do you remember that hymn?

“Christ is alive, let Christians sing
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.”

Every time we get to the line, “the cross stands empty to the sky,” and all the voices in the sanctuary sing it out, I get goosebumps.

But what about this year? We won't be gathered in our sanctuary for Easter worship. Because of our “social distancing” caused by the coronavirus, we will be worshiping at home. At best we will listen to

some wonderful solos and hear the Easter story again, but we won't gather together and sing those great Easter hymns that give me goosebumps.

Or will we? One of the wonderful things about being Christian, in addition to belonging to a huge family of faith, is gathering for worship on the Lord's Day. We gather for worship on Sundays—the earliest churches gathered on that day of the week to celebrate and have a meal together—because that was the day that Jesus rose from the dead. That means for us, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Every Sunday is Easter. Whenever it is that we get back together in our wonderful old sanctuary for “in-person” worship, we will sing together “Jesus Christ Has Risen Today,” and “Christ is Alive!” and “The Day of Resurrection,” and we will rejoice and laugh and we will get goosebumps.

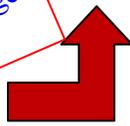
Grace and Peace,

Mark

April Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	
5	<u>WE ...</u>	<u>...ARE...</u>	<u>...HOME...</u>	<u>...AND...</u>	April is the kindest month. April gets you out of your head and out working in the garden. — Marty Rubin
12	<u>...DOING...</u>	<u>...OUR...</u>	<u>...VERY...</u>	<u>...BEST!!</u>	Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever. — Charles Lamb
19	Barts	Slezak Barts	G & L Lindenberg		Oh, the lovely fickleness of an April day! — W. H. Gibson
26	Powell	Williams Cazers Cooper	Lovequist	Smith	April is a promise that May is bound to keep. — Hal Borland
					Why are people so tired on April 1st? Because they just finished a 31-day March. — Unknown

Session is virtually meeting April 8, so this may change! We'll let you know!!



Serving Communion



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

April 5



May 3

Brian Young
Teresa Young
Marsha Zick
Marilyn Alman
Andy Alspach

June 7

Sandy Barts
Ed Calkins
Laura Carisalez
Carol Coverly
Lee Coverly

*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!***

April 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 	3 	4 
5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 
12 	13	14	15	16 6:30 Father Joel in Fireplace Room	17	18
19 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 1:00 Adopt-a-Highway 4:00 Youth Group at Kal. 1st	20 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 1:00 Book Club at Carol Thorne's 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Cub Scout Leaders	21 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Girl Scouts	22 9:30 Flower Group 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:00 Girl Scouts	23 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:00 Jack & Jill Parents in GPR 6:30 Father Joel in Fireplace Room	24	25 AS THINGS POSSIBLY CHANGE ON THE CALENDAR, WE'LL CERTAINLY LET YOU KNOW!!
26 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship 1:00 Cropwalk	27 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 7:00 & 8:00 Men's Breakfasts at Liz's 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	29 5:30 Girl Scouts	30 9:00 Bible Study 11:00 Jack & Jill Tea in White Room 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:30 Father Joel in Fireplace Room 7:00 Cub Pack Mtg.		

Rachel Horton *A Remembrance*

By Larry Myland

When we didn't get a card from Rachel Horton last Christmas, it was no earthshaking surprise. Her former more regular correspondence had become increasingly intermittent over the past few years, and since she had been crowned a centenarian last spring we assumed she was taking a well-earned break from keeping in touch with a throng of family and friends. Yet, Rachel was always sharp as an arrow; she didn't miss much, so the conundrum continued to gnaw now and then. But now, with the order of our Governor to stay home in the grinding teeth of the coronavirus, I had the luxury of time to devote my full attention to reconnecting with Rachel.

After all, Rachel and I were pretty much lifelong friends. I first met her when, at age 15, she became my junior high school choir teacher. She was a fireball. All of us were in awe of her and her thrilling voice, that of a Met diva no less. The natural gifts she was born with were augmented by her arresting beauty. Had she chosen a career on the silver screen, Hollywood would have fallen at her feet. Certainly, as a 15-year-old kid, I had no idea that not so far down the road I would be singing Mendelssohn sacred duets with her here in this very church, and serving as her accompanist in numerous solo works.

What? Preposterous, you say? Perhaps so, but by then I had had the training of two exceptional university vocal pedagogues, plus that of Rachel herself, of course, that prepared me for my former teacher to accept me as a suitable duet singer. Together, she and I sang the roof off this place.

But none of that would have happened were it not for a serendipitous coincidence.

Rachel and her husband, Paul, a nationally known sociology professor at nearby WMU, were dedicated members of this church. Paul was also a Worship and Music Elder. One night, just after Sue and I had been married for a year, I got a phone call from Dr. Horton—an immense surprise because I knew of his reputation, and I also knew he didn't know me from Jack Sprat.

Paul explained that the church had an emergency: it needed an organist for the coming Sunday and my keyboard professor had given him my name. Since I have always considered such requests originate from a Higher Authority, I agreed outright, having then had many years of daily service playing experience in the USN. A one-day gig, then, as they say.

As it turned out, I made a more auspicious impression than I had thought. They actually liked how I played the service. They even offered me the job as the regular organist.

Since I was completely unprepared for that, I respectfully asked for a few days to think it over. Not unlike the man who came to dinner, I've never left. And that is how I came to sing those plashing duets with my dear teacher, Rachel Horton. Our old pastor emeritus, Evor Roberts, by the way, was always our accompanist. We were sort of like Peter, Paul and Mary, except perhaps on a slightly elevated plain.

So, why didn't we hear from Rachel last Christmas? The dear lady died in Peoria, Arizona, her home for the past many years, on October third, last fall, a sad day for all who knew her and loved her.

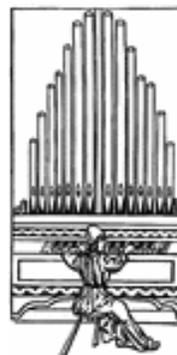
Before she died, she sent me a copy of her autobiography. She had it printed in handsome book form. I have it here in my church music library, and would be happy to share it with any of you who might like to read it. There are lots of nice pictures in it, too.

To read Rachel's obituary, simply Google: Rachel Horton, Arizona. It should be the first thing that appears.

Rest in peace, Rachel, dear.

*'Tis evening on the moorland free,
The starlit wave is still:
Home is the sailor from the sea,
The hunter home from the hill.*

~ RLS





Presbyterian Women

*Our next meeting is not known, but will be at Wanda Clawson's home
1507 W. Gull Lake Dr, Richland
EVERY WOMAN is welcome.
If you have questions, please call Terry Vantine, 629-5381*

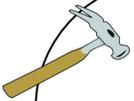
THE RUMMAGE SALE

IS CANCELED!

WE ARE VERY SORRY, BUT MUST BE GOOD

HEALTH STEWARDS TO EACH OTHER AND TO OURSELVES!

LOOK TO OCTOBER 2nd and 3rd !!!!



BOOKS?

Do you have children's books that you're looking to find a new home? The Food Pantry can help! When we have families with children, they are encouraged to peruse through the books and take several home with them. We're happy to take books for all ages - toddler to teens. Just leave in Julie's office. Thank you!



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.

MONEY MATTERS

THANK YOU, ALTAR GUILD!

The Altar Guild has graciously donated \$2,468.03 to the General Fund, to cover the opening deficit that was carried forward from 2019. This allows us to utilize all 2020 tithes and offerings to offset current year expenses. We are extremely grateful for this gift, and for the faithfulness of our Altar Guild in all that they do to beautify our church.

COVID-19 AND GIVING

As a result of the growing COVID-19 situation and the related impact on public health, Session made the difficult decision to suspend in-church worship through at least the end of March, with future weeks/months dependent on developing CDC guidelines and State of Michigan directives. It's important to remember that CHURCH does not stop, just because we are not worshipping in the sanctuary. If you are on Facebook, you have likely seen Mark's daily morning and evening prayers, Thursday evening story time with the children, and Sunday worship live streams. Meredith has been working hard to create and ensure continuity for the youth and the confirmation class via virtual meetings. Julie, Gretchen, Brandy, Connie, Larry, Branden, Heather, Session, Deacons, and countless volunteers are all staying connected and active in their service to the church to the extent possible as we "socially distance."

Likewise, our expenses do not stop. Staff and pastor salaries, utilities, insurance, etc. all must be paid, and our Mission giving and commitments to the Presbytery become increasingly important during challenging times. **Our general operating expenses, excluding Mission and Per Capita commitments, average \$23K/month.**

February income was just shy of \$12K, and March so far has been extremely light. **Please remember to "keep up, catch up or step up" your financial support of the church. Checks may be mailed to the attention of the Financial Secretary (Brandy Dlugoss) at 8047 Church Street, Richland, MI 49083.** Opportunities for online giving are being investigated and will be communicated via email, Facebook and the Missive when developed.

As of February 29, fund balances are:



Grace, peace and good health to all. We look forward to seeing you again, hopefully soon.

Questions? Comments? Contact Sandy Carahaly or Sharon Rothenberg, Finance Elders.

An update from Meredith:

There sure are a lot of scary new words in our vocabulary these days.

Scary new concepts.

A fear of the unknown and a vulnerability that is new to most of us.

WORLD PANDEMIC
SOCIAL DISTANCING
Stay Home Stay Safe
QUARANTINE
Self-Isolation
FLATTEN THE CURVE

And yet, we persevere.

There are extraordinary things happening within the church.

Connecting with one another. Making a difference in so many ways.

Here are just a few:



Val Osborne making masks



Just a few of the masks that Jennifer Spengler has made

SO MANY in the church making much needed masks for health care workers



Confirmation Class and Youth Group meeting each week via ZOOM

Calling one another
Sending cards
Retired teachers helping with lesson ideas for kids at home
Bible Study via email
Buying gift cards to local establishments
♥ Staying home ♥



Virtual passing of the peace high-five



In an effort to not have perishable food from the food pantry go to waste, we partnered with Great Grounds to offer a Pop-Up Drive-Thru Food Pantry

Youth Group

BE THE CHURCH.

***Youth Group will continue to meet
each Sunday at 4:00pm via ZOOM***

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.

Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.

(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.

Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love--

for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

~ Lynn Ungar 3/11/20



The 45th Annual Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk

PLEASE, FOLLOW THIS LINK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VIRTUAL CROPWALK, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO!!

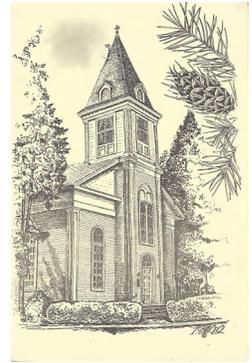
<https://kalamazoocropwalk.org/>

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the Kalamazoo CROP Hunger Walk will be a Virtual Walk this year. As important as we know the CROP Hunger Walk family (and the people we serve) are to you, now is a time that we all must take care of our families in our homes. Our parents, our children, our sisters and brothers. As COVID-19 upends our day-to-day routines and literally separates us, may we be reminded that you and I can still lift each other up and comfort each other, whatever the distance. That's what people like us do! You can be assured that the work of CWS and our local hunger agencies will go on. That's because our community is made up of people like you. We know that you are committed to CWS's mission, no matter what. In good times and bad, we know you're with us. That's what makes you special. Go to the "[Give To CROP](#)" link and donate to the Church World Service Website. Then choose one of the personal walks below for small groups and families to safely walk in support of hungry people worldwide.



Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for April

<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
4/13	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	<i>Jay R. Wells, Jr.</i>
4/17	<i>What a Friend We Have In Jesus</i>	<i>James E. Garn</i>
4/30	<i>Faith of Our Father's</i>	<i>Robert Murphy</i>



FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER



FOOD PANTRY
Giving Suggestions

Personal Items
Laundry soap/fabric, toothpaste,
shampoo/cond, DO, etc.

MAYBE??? We'll hope!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Carol Thorne will HOPEFULLY be hosting the April 20th book club at 1:00 in her home: 407 Midlakes Blvd, Plainwell. Please call Carol at 664-6120 with any questions.

“The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett

is our book of discussion. We welcome anyone who has not given our group a try, to join us!



If anyone doesn't have a directory and needs a phone number, email, or address of any of our friends, please let Julie know!

We can surely stay together and connected through all this!

I have the best friends ever !!!
Sometimes i wish they
were more normal...
but, Still wouldn't
change any of them.



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*

