

The First Epistle Worship, Serve, Grow November 2024



Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48933

Office phone: 517-482-0668

Website: http://lansingfirstpres.com Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LansingFirstPresbyterian



COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED ON NOVEMBER 3RD

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS NOVEMBER 3RD

LANSING CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS



Lansing Children's Choir Fundraiser at Culver's on Monday, November 4 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Support the Lansing Children's Choir while you have dinner.



Lansing Children's Choir Annual Winter Concert on Saturday, November 23 at 4:00 pm.

Come hear the Lansing Children's Choir Treble Choir and Chorale for their Annual Winter Concert!

Enjoy music from 14th-century Spain, Jewish-folk music from Yugoslavia, American Folk Music, Pop Music and others!

SILVER BELLS

Silver Bells is coming to Lansing on November 22nd, and First Church is a warming station! We will be serving hot cocoa at the Ottawa Entrance and offering the use of our bathrooms. We will be open from 5-9 pm. We need people to help set up before November 22. We need people to set up and make hot cocoa, greeters during the evening, people to point to bathrooms, and people to clean up. Some jobs require you to sit in a chair and point; some jobs need you to stand some; all jobs require a welcoming smile! We are expecting 500 people, so we need YOU! Please see Prince or Pam Blair to volunteer, OR email Pam at blairkids3@yahoo.com

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Pastor's Corner

Get out your calendars! I want to highlight two events that you're going to want to be a part of.

1. What: The Justice League's Fall Celebration and Fundraiser with the PCUSA's (Presbyterian Church USA) newly elected Stated Clerk Rev. Jihyun Oh as keynote speaker. Tickets are \$30.

When: Friday, Nov. 8th 5-7PM

Where: MSUFCU Community Room, 3775 Coolidge

Road, East Lansing, please RSVP at www.JusticeLeagueGLM.org.

Why: This year marks the third anniversary of the Justice League. Nearly \$500,000 in reparations has been raised/pledged. \$50,000 in education scholarships have been awarded. We've been so successful that now we need to begin raising funds for ongoing administration costs. Let's ensure that the good work of repairing the breach can continue in the future!

2. What: The Justice League hosts Dr. William Woo, author of *What Kind of Christianity: A History of*

Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church. Come get lunch and hear Dr. Yoo's remarks about his book and a very difficult but crucial period in our history.

When: Monday November 11, 12:00-3:00 PM

Where: Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave, East Lansing

Why: If we don't know our history, we can't change our future!



CHURCH KITCHEN NEEDS COFFEE MAKER

Looking for a 30-cup coffee maker. If anyone has one that they no longer use, please consider donating it to the church for coffee hour. You can always borrow it back.

MUSIC NOTES with Colin & Megan

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign; For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow and our hearts confess him King of glory now!

-"At the Name of Jesus" verse 4, Caroline Maria Noel, 1870.

As we near the end of the church year (November 24 is Christ the King Sunday – the last Sunday of the church year), we will hear music that declares Christ as Lord of All and how we are inspired, charged and sent-out to proclaim that message in our everyday lives.

Being a follower of Christ does not simply happen from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings – it is a 24/7, 365-day vocation. As the hymn states, "my life flows on in endless song… how can I keep from singing?

The composer and arranger, Alice Parker said in an interview with Kirsita Tippett in December 2016:

...there is no such thing as song without human beings to sing it... it's [singing]the only one of the arts that is immediately available to human beings. You don't have to have paints. You don't have to have a brush. You don't have to have a pencil. You don't have to have anything else...you don't have to have lessons....

And in a way, because it is so available, we don't value it. "Well, anybody can do that. I want to do something that nobody else can do." But when you honor it, I think it is given us to overcome these differences that we have between these walls that we build up of between one person and another, or one culture and another. It's not that we can all sing the same songs because our languages are very different, and our experience is different. But a lullaby is a lullaby all over the world, and a love song is a love song.

...the song is the language of humans. I go so far as to say, for me, there is absolute daily proof that there is a God because there is music.

...I really believe it's [singing] the most complete human experience that there is. Everything else is partial.

The music staff – Megan, Sergei, Darin, Colin, Katie, Maco, Ben, & Troy – lifts you in prayer that the music you hear and experience during the month of November, encourages you, inspires you and uplifts you as you strive to *be* Christ to all you encounter each and every day.

Hymns for November include:

326 For All the Saints

840 When Peace Like a River

348 Lo, He Comes w/ Clouds Descending 268 Crown Him with Many Crowns

247 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

367 Come Ye Thankful People, Come

Anthems for November include:

"Sing Me to Heaven" by Daniel Gawthrop

"Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal" arr Alice Parker

"Jesu dulcis memoria" by Thomas Vittoria

"Take My Life" arr Rose Rodrigue

"Steal Away" arr Brazeal Dennard

"He Is Marvelous" arr Rosephanye Powell

"At the Name of Jesus" arr Ralph Vaughn Williams

To hear or read the transcript of the full interview with Alice Parker: https://onbeing.org/programs/alice-parker-singing-is-the-most-companionable-of-arts/

SAVE THE DATE! Caroling at the Capitol Food Pantry Fundraiser

Sunday, December 22nd
Caroling at the Capitol
5:30 pm-6:30 pm
AND

Food Pantry Fundraiser Afterglow 7:00 pm-9:00 pm At Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale 1101 S. Washington Ave.



Join us for caroling around the State Christmas Tree in front of the State Capitol.

Afterward many of us will warm up at the fundraiser for our food pantry at Sleepwalker with assorted tasty pizzas and cash bar. All are welcome to join either or both events. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors.

GLEN ERIN PIPE BAND ROBERT BURNS CELEBRATION

Tickets are on sale now for the Glen Erin Pipe Band's Robert Burns Celebration January



25, 2025, at MSU's Kellogg Center. Doors open at 5:00pm. Program begins at 6:30pm. This event with dinner, concerts, and dancing is a highlight of the Scottish cultural calendar and well attended by members of First Pres. Tickets are \$55. Contact Bill Collins for more info or to reserve a seat with the First Pres group: bill@pipercollins.com

VOTE FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

Church members voted on this year's slate of Deacons, Elders, Nominating Committee, and Financial Audit Review Committee members following the worship service on October 27. Here are their mini biographies:

BOARD OF DEACONS

Justine Nsih Achuonjei – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

Justine and her family joined the church about 29 years ago. She and her husband, Peter, were members of Presbyterian Church Wum, Cameroon, where they are from. During her time here she has served and helped in different areas, including Sunday School, Sunday childcare, Membership Committee, Elder (two terms), and Adult Forum.

Deb Donaldson – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

Debbie has been a member of First Presbyterian since 1976. She first became involved with Women's Association (remember that?) and working with Christian Education. Debbie taught Church School at various levels for years until her kids entered their senior years of high school. Later she was blessed to have accompanied our youth to Montreat twice and Mission Trips in 1997 and '98. She has been involved with the Food Pantry and Building and Grounds, helping maintain the Church gardens.

Debbie has been a Deacon several times, with her main interest in Member Care. She has continued helping organize the Angel Team. That will be her calling again.

Bev Phillips – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

Bev Phillips has had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Deacons for at least two terms and acted as Moderator two times during her years here at First Presbyterian. In addition to serving as a Deacon she has been an Elder and participated on the Pastor Nominating Committee for three years which led to the choice of Jeff O'Neill.

Bev and her husband Charlie were middle school fellowship advisors around 1989. In her retirement years she started helping Kathe Smith with the Boomer and Beyond Luncheons in 2013 and continues monthly with that activity. Bev participates with Member Care through the work of Christine DeYonke, Pastoral Care Assistant, making visits or calls to various church members.

Her family, including Charlie, Justin, and Kevin, started attending First Presbyterian Church in 1984. They chose to join because of the church school programs and the numerous activities the church provided for the members. The church continues to serve the members and the community with meaningful educational, musical and outreach programs. Serving again as a Deacon aligns with her interests in the Church. She looks forward to serving on the Board of Deacons at First Presbyterian.

Linda Snyder - Class of 2025 - 1-year term

Linda grew up in this Church. Over the years she has served on the Christian Education Committee, several terms on the Board of Deacons and has been on Session. While on

Deacons she has been overseeing the Bingo outreach, and has helped with Member Care, the Angel Tree, and Advent House meals.

Linda and her husband George have raised three sons and have two grandsons. She retired as a dental assistant and went to work for Grand Ledge schools part time as a Paraprofessional. They enjoy their lake home, hanging out with family and friends, golf sometimes, and travel.

Linda is grateful that she can serve our Lord through the church and in her daily life because of a good foundation.

Christopher Venetis – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

Christopher has attended First Presbyterian Church for the past ten years and was baptized in the Molly Grove Chapel in 2020. He sings in the Chancel Choir where on occasion he also solos. Christopher has served on Deacons for six years previously, serving as Moderator there. He works in our Food Pantry, unloading the delivery truck on Mondays. He currently teaches yoga classes at the Church and has for several years.

Judy Whitman – Class of 2025 – 1-year term

Judy has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1992. She has been married to Harvey Whitman for 19 wonderful years and has three amazing children, and six grandchildren that they love to spoil when they can. They love to travel.

Judy is currently serving on the Worship Committee, Flowers/Chancel Guild, Angel Team, Board of Deacons, and Nominating Committee. She volunteers at our Food Pantry once a week. Judy served on Session for three years. She will faithfully serve the congregation to the best of her ability.

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Cecilia M. Anderson – Financial Audit Review Committee – 1-year

Ceci is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church of Lansing. She was baptized here in 1960, became a confirmed member in 1973. She was married to her husband John here in 1981 and will be interred here in the memorial garden in the far future.

Ceci is a retired mathematics teacher of 38 years. Her parents, Ron and Carolyn Stauffer, and her grandmother, Cecelia R. Stauffer, were also members of the Church. She has taught Sunday School, participated in Youth Group, gone on mission trips both as a youth participant and as an adult chaperone. She has also been a Deacon and an Elder in the past.

She is very grateful for the members of this Church for her faith development and spiritual journey and is very grateful to give back to the members of First Presbyterian Church Lansing.

Bill Collins – Financial Audit Review Committee – 1-year; Session, Class of 2027 Bill grew up in Eaton Rapids in the Wesleyan and Methodist churches. He has been attending First Presbyterian since volunteering at the Food Pantry in 2010. He and Alyse became members and were married in the church in 2012, and have since brought their daughters, Jane and Claire, into the Church. Bill has become both a Deacon and an Elder, serving on various committees, as Clerk of Session, and as First Presbyterian Senior Audio Video.

Nancy Duncan – Financial Audit Review Committee – 1-year

Nancy has been nominated for reappointment to the Financial Audit Review Committee. Nancy is a longtime member of the Church, having joined First Presbyterian in 1984 with her late husband, Ron. Their children, Michael and Acacia (Casey), grew up in the Church, but both now live out of state. Nancy is a regular volunteer with the food pantry, and previously served for several years on the Church Endowment Committee. Prior to her retirement, Nancy worked in the State of Michigan Budget Office. She is happy to "exercise her brain" and use her work skills to serve the Church.

James LeTourneau – Financial Audit Review Committee – 1-year

Jim was born in Detroit but raised in Lansing until he was ten. During his childhood he attended Holy Cross and Verlinden Elementary. He attended the other University in Ann Arbor before starting a career in banking and accounting. Jim is currently the Controller at Michigan Orthopedic Center here in Lansing.

After moving back to Dewitt from the Chicago area in 2005, Jim and Polly started attending First Presbyterian Lansing. They started coming here because they enjoyed the pastorships of both Jeff O'Neill and Tony Patrick and because Polly's mother Carol Johnson was married here in 1955. Jim's wife, Polly, is a Social Work Manager for McLaren Greater Lansing. They have three young adult children, Wyatt (20), Angie (23) and Veronica (25), all in various stages of launching. Jim has served on the Finance Committee and on Session at various times over the years and looks forward to serving again.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathy Banghart – 1-year term

Kathy has been a member of First Presbyterian since around 1985, and was on staff here, retiring in 2021 after 25 years as the Director of Christian Education. She occasionally fills in as editor of the Church newsletter, the First Epistle, when Victoria Fitton is travelling. She is ordained as a Deacon and an Elder and is currently serving a 3-year term as Deacon (Class of 2025), and a 1-year term on the Nominating Committee. Kathy and her husband, Mark, have 3 grown sons and 3 grandchildren, who all live in the Lansing area.

Shirley Herrick – 1-year term

Shirley has enjoyed being a member of this wonderful congregation since 1990 and she feels it has been a privilege to serve as an Elder and member of several committees, including the Adult Education committee, Link leadership, and Membership Committee.

For quite a few years she was a high school social studies and English teacher and media specialist. Now in retirement she enjoys getting together with friends and family, church activities, reading, and gardening. She is active in the Mason College Club which raises money for scholarships for high school graduates.

Shirley and Charlie have two grown children; their son lives in Wisconsin with his family, and their daughter resides in the San Francisco Bay area.

Linda Snyder – 1-year term

See Linda's biography under the Deacons listed above.

SESSION

Mike Carey – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

Mike graduated from East Lansing High School, and Central Michigan University. He worked in Mt. Pleasant, in radio, for 50 years before selling his two stations and retiring. He and his wife, Sue, moved to Bath (Michigan), to be near four of their six grandchildren. Sue and Mike joined First Presbyterian Church about five years ago. He is currently serving on Session as well as the Endowment, Building and Grounds, and Finance Committees. Mike also is on the counting committee and volunteers on Mondays for the Food Pantry.

Bill Collins – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

See Bill's biography under Financial Audit Review Committee.

Steve Fitton – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

Steve has been a member of First Presbyterian for over 15 years. During that time, he has served on Session for two terms and chaired the Personnel Committee for over six years. He worked for the State of Michigan in Healthcare Administration for over 40 years, retiring in 2015. Since then, he has engaged in a variety of consulting projects almost exclusively to improve services to medically complex children. He has been married to Victoria for 52 years, has three children and six grandchildren. He is a graduate of Michigan State University in what Victoria calls "Glorified No Pref" but it was the 60s.

Erin Schor – Class of 2027 – 3-year term

Erin Schor has been a member of Lansing First Presbyterian since 2002. While she had a brief stint as a Deacon, Erin is most easily recognized from many years singing with the choir, playing her flute, and periodic turns as a liturgist. Erin was thrilled to recruit her parents, Sue and Mike Carey, to join the church in 2019, and now that her kids are grown

(at least legally), the time seemed right to contribute to our longtime church home in other ways as well.

Steve Warnaar - Class of 2027 - 3-year term

Steve was born into a Presbyterian family in Grand Haven in 1947. He moved to the Lansing area when he graduated from Michigan State University. He joined First Presbyterian Church downtown around 1979. He has been a Deacon, a Session member, sung in the church choir, served on the Pastor Nominating Committees, and coached the youth boys basketball team of First Presbyterian.

Steve is married to Debbie and a proud parent of six children, with 20 grandchildren and one great grandson. He values being in the company of believers, so being on the Session is important to him.



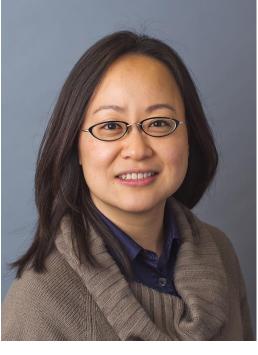
CYBER SECURITY REMINDER

The Emergency Preparedness Committee would like to remind church members to be alert for phishing attempts. Phishing is a practice where scammers send fraudulent text messages or emails which appear to be from reputable sources in order to trick people into revealing personal information, such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers and passwords. Be aware of phishing attempts where a text or email purports to be from church leadership and asks for funds to be sent via the email. We know of several incidences where text messages were received from a scammer purporting to be Reverend Stan Jenkins. Please note that Reverend Jenkins has said that he would never ask for any funds through a text. Do not provide personal financial information in response to those types of phishing. For more information on cybersecurity, bona fide organizations like AARP offer guides that outline strategies for staying safe and secure online.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF GREATER LANSING MICHIGAN WELCOMES THE PCUSA STATED CLERK TO THE LANSING MICHIGAN FALL CELEBRATION, NOVEMBER 8, 2024, 5-7 PM











This is the third anniversary of the Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan. The JLGLM was established in 2021 and is happily celebrating three years of working to "repair the breach" caused by slavery and its aftermath. The JLGLM's model is designed to have the disparities caused by slavery and its aftermath addressed by **Reparations**. Reparations are paid in the spirit of repentance for the sins of slavery, its aftermath of gross human rights violations — including genocide, violence, land theft, incarceration and police violence — and complicity in the misbelief of white supremacy.

The solution is a faith-based model for Reparations. The Justice League builds relationships and facilitates reparations between predominately white houses of worship, collaborative partners and individuals to close the racial wealth gap that exists between Black and White residents. This specifically means increasing wealth equity for descendants of enslaved African Americans in the Greater Lansing Area (GLA). Reparations will support education, home ownership, and entrepreneur start-ups.

The JLGLM has experienced exciting, wonderful growth and increased positive relationships in the greater Lansing community in 2024. We are extremely proud to say that we have met an important goal in 2024. We received over \$400,000.00 in reparations and paid out \$50,000.00 in educational scholarships to ten college bound high school graduates who are descendants of enslaved African Americans! Through the efforts of our supporters, we paid REPARATIONS! Those ten students have been

profiled on our webpage and through local print and broadcast media. The students received their \$5,000.00 scholarships on August 3, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year. The students will be honored at our Fall Celebration. Please go to our website for details on all the students: www.justiceleagueglm.org.

This is our third anniversary Fall Celebration. The Celebration this year will be held at the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) Corporate Office Community Room, 3776 Coolidge Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

At this Celebration we have a special treat as our keynote speaker. We have the honor of having the newly elected Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reverand Jihyun Oh. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the chief ecclesial officer of the denomination. Elected to four-year terms, the Stated Clerk carries out the ecumenical and constitutional functions of the General Assembly of PC(USA). The Reverend Oh was elected and installed at the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City in the summer of 2024. She is the first Korean American to serve in the denomination's highest office, only the second woman, and the first woman of color elected to lead the PC(USA) in its more than 300-year history in the U.S.

The Reverend Oh earned undergraduate degrees in Biology and German Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master of Science in Finance from Florida International University, and a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. For five years, she served as director of Mid Council Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly and was OGA manager of call process support before that. Ordained as a teaching elder by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida on behalf of the Presbytery of Chicago, Oh has served in several pastoral roles as well as hospital chaplain.

Jihyun is excited to come to Lansing and the Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan is elated to have her join us in celebrating this our third year as an organization that aspires to stand in the gap and be agents for change. A grassroots organization that is struggling to make racial and social justice a reality and fulfilling our goal of "repairing the breach…righting the wrong."



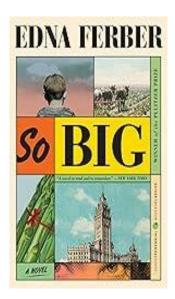




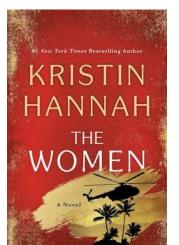
Prior to each meeting, the Zoom login link will be sent to the names on the book group email list. Let Pat Eenigenburg know if you would like to be added. You can reach her at (eenigenburg@hotmail.com).

Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 on Zoom DATE CHANGE! – Delayed one week due to the election. So Big by Edna Ferber

Set in Chicago at the turn of the twentieth century, *So Big* tells the story of Selina Peake, orphaned at nineteen after her father is shot and killed in a gambling house. Selina gets a job as a schoolteacher in a farming community outside Chicago and falls in love with a kind but struggling farmer. She soon leaves the schoolhouse for long grueling days in the fields and gives birth to a son, Dirk, nicknamed "So Big." When she finds herself unexpectedly widowed, she takes the reins of the farm, defying convention and all those around her, determined to give Dirk every opportunity to follow his dreams. Published in 1924, this Pulitzer Prize winner is a powerful and stirring portrait of one of the most memorable women in American literature. Discussion will be led by Pat and Paul Eenigenburg.



Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 on Zoom The Women: A Novel by Kristin Hannah



Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, Frances "Frankie" McGrath has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly decides to join the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam. Soon after arriving, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal. But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam. *The Women* shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment

to their country has too often been forgotten. Discussion led by Jackie Blankenship.

Tuesday, Januarey 7, 7:00 on Zoom A Stubborn Sweetness and Other Stories for the Christmas Season by Katherine Paterson

This is a collection of modern-day short stories by Katherine Paterson, award-winning author of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, both loved by children and adults for over twenty years. This compilation includes stories of real-life people such as a shopping mall's night watchman, a lonely widower, a pregnant teenage runaway, a political prisoner in China, a grieving mother, and a privileged American, who have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas because of loss, pain, greed, or circumstances. Through unexpected and uplifting ways, each is reminded of the first Christmas story and the vision of hope and peace it offers the world. They realize that even in the darkness,



the light and song of Christmas can be seen and heard. Originally written to be read during her church's Christmas Eve service, this collection of holiday stories is perfect for individuals, families, and churches to read and share during the season. Discussion led by Elda Keaton.

WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIANITY?

We want to inform you about upcoming events that might interest you. Author Rev. Dr. William Yoo will be in Lansing to lead two workshops on his book, *What Kind of Christianity? A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*. He is associate professor of American Religious and Cultural History and Director of the Master of Divinity Program of Columbia Theological Seminary.

We will have the option to meet with William Yoo on the following days. Prince Solace will attend both.

Option 1

When - Sunday, November 10th at 1:00 pm

Where - People's Church in East Lansing

Workshop by William Yoo - "STRIVING AND STRUGGLING FOR A MORE PERFECT FAITH AND A MORE PERFECT UNION: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF RACISM AND AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY"

Option 2

When - Monday, November 11th

Where - People's Church in East Lansing

Workshop - Presentation with William Yoo and the Justice League of Greater Lansing

In Preparation

Who - The Presbytery of Lake Michigan

When - Mondays from 2:00-4:00 pm

September 30, October 7, 14, 21, and November 4

Where - Zoom

Book Study - Five sessions in person or on Zoom. Click on the link below to learn more. https://lakemichiganpresbytery.org/2024/08/15/join-us-for-a-book-study-focusing-on-what-kind-of-christianity-by-rev-dr-william-yoo/

The book is available for purchase on Amazon for \$18.49 (paperback). Considering First Presbyterian's long interest in and education about racial justice, Linda Diepenhorst has purchased two copies that have been placed on the library fireplace mantle. If you borrow one, do sign it out.

In addition, here is information on availability from Jean Fellows as of September 17. It's a newish book published in 2022. It's available as a digital eBook on Hoopla (free library service), and not available on Libby/Overdrive.

Three libraries in the state have physical copies for loan: Genesee, Grand Rapids, and Southfield. Here are the listings:

Library	Shelving Location	Electronic Link	Call Number/H	oldings Request Status
Genesee District Library	Headquarters Adult	Non-Fiction	285.137 Y	DUE 10-16-24
Grand Rapids Public Lib	rary Main [Non Fiction]		285.137 Y8w	AVAILABLE
Southfield Public Library	y Floor 3-NonFiction		285.137 YOO	DUE 10-15-24

The digital book on Hoopla has no wait list and multiple copies. Perhaps not the way we might prefer, but it will be available on time. Free with your library card.



ADULT FORUM

11:30-12:30 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom. Childcare is available through this time.

November 3
Assembly of Thanksgiving baskets
(No Adult Forum)

November 10
How We Rely on Welfare
Exploring Chapter 5 of Matthew Desmond's work titled
"Poverty, by America"

We will be working to debunk the myth that half the country appears to believe that social benefits from the government make people lazy.

Insights from Franklin Roosevelt, Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan, the American Psychiatric Association, Charles Murray, President Bill Clinton, President Donald Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, Roger Marshall, and more will be helpful.

Pastor Bob Higle, leading

November 17 Close Beside the Winding Cedar: The History of the Red Cedar River with MSU Librarian Eric Tans

Join us for a special presentation on the history of the Red Cedar River by MSU Environmental Sciences Librarian Eric Tans. The Red Cedar has played a significant role in shaping our region, both physically and socially. In this presentation, Eric Tans will teach us about some of the fascinating history of the Red Cedar and its relationship to our community it's past, present, and future.

Eric Tans has been the Environmental Sciences Librarian at the MSU Libraries for over 10 years. He lives with his family in Lansing's Eastside neighborhood and enjoys running and biking on the River Trail along the Grand and Red Cedar Rivers.

In 2022, he participated in a six-month research sabbatical on the history of the Red Cedar River and its relationship to MSU.

November 24
We'll be assembling holiday baskets
And
Decorating the church for Christmas
A great church family day!

BOOMERS AND BEYOND - Wednesday, November 20th at Noon

Boomers and Beyond will have the next luncheon on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 12:00 in the church parlor. We had 19 guests at the October luncheon! We celebrated a special birthday and had fun just being together as a church family. Please mark your calendar for this lunch "date" with us. If you can't find a ride, please call Bev Phillips (517-927-8367) or Kathe Smith (517-230-1814) and we will try to either get you here and/or try to get you a ride home after the lunch.

TLC - Thursday, November 21st at 1:00 p.m.

TLC will meet on Thursday, November 21st at 1:00 p.m. This month we will be going to The Irish Pub. It is located at 1910 West Saginaw St. in Lansing. Please call Judy Hartgerink (517-484-5177) for reservations or information. TLC is a group for women in the church who enjoy fellowship and good food. We would love to have you join us.



Many consider LINK a blessing – something not found in every church. But what is it?

LINK stands for Linking Neighbors in Koinonia.

"Koinonia" is a New Testament Greek word meaning Christian fellowship and love. LINK is an organized expression of our love and concern for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Our purpose is to assure that all who consider First Presbyterian Church their spiritual home are part of an established group of caring friends. Since our congregation is quite spread out geographically we have identified "neighborhoods" – or LINK groups – where our congregants live.

What do these LINK groups do? It's totally up to the group. Some meet on a regular basis for brunch or pizza on a certain day of the month; others meet mainly for special occasions or holidays. Summer picnics and Christmas get-togethers are fun.

Why do some consider LINK a blessing? Finding new friends, recognizing familiar faces at church, enjoying intergenerational relationships, and finding interests in common with church neighbors is what the original Christian fellowship of *koinonia* is all about.

How to find a LINK group to connect with (if you haven't already)? It's easy. Contact Shirley Herrick at scherick42@gmail.com. We will let the LINK group in your neighborhood know you are interested.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church

Here is what is going during the month of November for Faith Formation!

CHILDREN and YOUTH!

4 years – 12 years Age Children!



We begin our rehearsals for "THE FIRST CHRISTMAS" during the month of November.

Rehearsals will begin in the Sunday School Room (basement) and move into the Sanctuary each Sunday in November.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP US **OUT, PLEASE LET MEGAN OR ALSYE KNOW!**

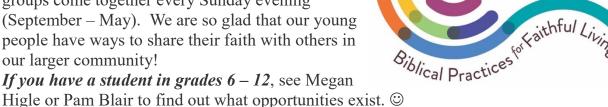
We are still looking for Teachers/Facilitators **AND Teacher Aids for** each Sunday!

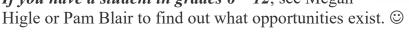
Follow Me

Contact Megan or Alyse for dates/calendar.

Youth (Middle and Senior High)!

Our Middle and Senior High Faith Formation group will continue our fellowship with Holt & Okemos Presbyterian churches this fall. These groups come together every Sunday evening (September – May). We are so glad that our young people have ways to share their faith with others in our larger community!





We hope to have some of our youth assist in our Christmas Pagaent! See Megan, Pam or Alyse!

IF Youth Group is not "your thing," please see Megan Higle, Pam Blair, or Alyse Collins for a schedule of youth Bible Study and opportunities for service within our congregation.

STEWARDSHIP 2025

With 2025 right around the corner, the Session is preparing the tentative 2025 budget for the church. As most of you know, pledges are the church's most important source of income making up almost 70% of the General Fund budget. As we begin our annual Stewardship Campaign, we pray that you can pledge for 2025 the same amount as you did this year or increase it to support the church.

Our Session and its committees are working to reduce spending and raise additions funds to balance the budget for the 2024 calendar year. Our members and friends are faithfully fulfilling their pledges, and we are receiving \$100,000 of funds from the Endowment Fund in 2024 which should be repeated or even increased in 2025. The Session wants to maintain the same level of General Fund budget in 2025 as we have in 2024 to continue the vital role First Presbyterian Church plays in Lansing. Your financial support is vital in this effort.

Our church has been blessed this year to receive financial support for specific expenses this year from a number of unexpected sources. The State of Michigan is providing a \$500,000 grant for improving our facility to strengthen its outreach to community organizations and activities. Bob Hughes' estate provided a \$100,000 bequest to the church and a recent policy change with a strong performance of the Endowment Fund is providing an additional \$37,900. These funds are tied to specific uses, and none are for the annual operating expenses of the church. Therefore, we are reaching out to you to support our 2025 Stewardship Campaign.

A pledge card will be mailed in early November to our members and friends of the church with prayerful hope that it will be returned on November 17 on Commitment Sunday to joyfully celebrate our faith and financial support of this church. You also can mail the pledge card back to the church if you are unable to attend the worship service. Thanks for helping to do the Lord's work in our neighborhood, community and the world!



DEACON NOTES

Advent House Meals: Deacons will prepare and serve a sloppy joe meal at Advent House on **Sunday, November 24.** You do NOT have to be Deacons to volunteer— anyone, including youth needing Community Service hours, are welcome! Contact Rich Blankenship at gogreen3426@yahoo.com for more information.

Our "Bingo!" outreach ministry with S. Washington St. Retirement Apartments meets

monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. Prizes are given out every time and donations are running a little low. You can help with your donations of items like \$25 gift cards from Meijer/Kroger; snack foods; small appliances; personal care items like soap, lotions, toothpaste and toilet paper; cleaning supplies like paper towels and laundry soap. They are greatly appreciated! Bring these donations to

the church office marked "Bingo prizes." Volunteers are needed to lead Bingo every 3rd Tuesday of the month -- contact Linda Snyder at lksnyder3@comcast.net to help.



Our "Angel Tree" is a beloved tradition that provides Christmas cheer for a family in need. You can help share God's love and joy by providing items from a family's wish list that would otherwise go unfulfilled. We'll do our Angel Tree this year via Sign-up Genius. Watch for complete details coming to you soon via all-church email!

Hurricane Relief Donations

Our Mission Committee and the Board of Deacons are donating budgeted funds to Presbyterian Disaster Relief to assist those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. which:

- Focuses on the long-term recovery of disaster impacted communities.
- Works collaboratively with church partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faithbased responders.
- Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others.

To add your donation to the church's, write your check payable to First Presbyterian Church, with the memo line: <u>Hurricane Relief (PDA)</u> and it will be forwarded on.



Holiday Basket Funds are particularly needed now—\$50

funds one basket, and 100 baskets are handed out at Thanksgiving AND at Christmas! Please mark your check **Holiday Baskets** to finance this year's Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. We will be packing the Thanksgiving baskets after worship on November 3. *Thank you!*

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

It has been a busy time in the food pantry as we serve an average of almost 100 households per week. The pantry has applied to the Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) for a 50% cost sharing grant for the food we order from it. Last year the request was approved, but not this fiscal year that started in July. The reason for the denial was the pantry's cash on hand was thought to be adequate to acquire food. But our cash is dwindling fast. The GLFB requests we increase our fundraising activities and therefore we are searching for ideas.

If you have thoughts on fundraising activities, Kathe Smith will be collecting your ideas and reporting back to the Food Pantry board. Kathe and Prince are reaching out to local churches for support and the pantry is once again applying to the City of Lansing for a \$5,000 grant that has been approved in the past for purchases of fresh food.

The cost of serving the increasing number of people is stressing the pantry budget and there are a number of ways to address it, but none are satisfactory. The Food Pantry Board could further reduce significantly the amount of food provided to each household. We could limit the times a family could visit to once a month. We could reduce the number of days the pantry is open etc.

Please put on your thinking cap and touch base with Kathe on fund raising ideas. Thank you.

SESSION NOTES

The Session met on October 16, 2024. The Finance committee has reviewed financial records which show we are on track to have a balanced budget this year. The stewardship campaign will start soon with a letter going out to the congregation. The capital campaign will not start until January. The grant from the State of Michigan requires many steps to obtain the funding. Currently forms are being completed with estimates for projects. Presbytery requires we have an anti-racism policy. A policy was distributed to be discussed at the next Session meeting.

MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NOTES

Funds were allocated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Food Pantry. You can donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by a note on your check to the church, PDA.



GOOD COFFEE FOR A GOOD CAUSE

The Presbyterian Coffee Project offers a special link between congregations and communities around the world. Churches can now reach out to neighbors overseas not only with the prayers and offerings we give, but with the goods and products we purchase. A warm cup of coffee (or tea) in our hands is perhaps the most tangible daily connection we have with farmers around the w



orld. It represents warmth, hospitality, fellowship, hard work and life's pleasures both fine and simple.

Fair trade products make good Christmas gifts. Gift bags can be ordered. Visit the Fair-Trade table on Sunday, November 3rd for coffee, tea, chocolate bars and hot chocolate for Christmas gifts. Contact Carol Wallace to order gift bags. Cwallace145@sbcglobal.net

GREEN TEAM TIP - LAWNS

- Mulch leaves into your lawn. Mulching leaves recycles nutrients and adds organic
 matter to turf. Make sure your mower has a sharp blade to ensure the leaves will
 be chopped up well. Set your mower height as high as it will go and mow at your
 normal speed. Try to mow the leaves when they are moist from the morning dew,
 but don't mow them when they're wet. Don't let the leaves pile up greater than 3
 to 4 inches deep before mowing.
- Once your lawn stops growing, lower the mowing height for your final mowing.
 This will help clean up the lawn, prevents grass from being too tall going into the winter and reduces problems with voles and snow mold. Michigan State University Extension <u>turfgrass</u> specialists recommend lowering the mowing height no more than one notch on your mower (typically half an inch).

THIS CHILD HERE – Organization to help the people of Ukraine

Mission: To empower vulnerable youth and families of Ukraine to lead lives grounded in peace and dignity.



In Ukraine, mothers and children are moving west to escape the violence of war. Many bear the scars of trauma; many arrive at the city of Izmail, on the Danube River, the border with Romania.

This Child Here is a Validated Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), at work in Izmail,

fostering hope and healing, shaping the feelings and memories of families displaced by this war. Suffering produces endurance, character, then hope, because God is at work in this community of love and support. One mother of two children said, "You didn't just give us what we needed. You did the impossible. You made us family."

All funding for This Child Here comes from Presbyterian Churches, Presbyterians, and others interested in helping the people of Ukraine.

To learn more about This Child Here, visit our website at: thischildhere.org
To read more about This Child Here's ministry, visit: Presbyterian Mission Agency News

2024 Hurricane Season



As we reel from the multi-state devastation of Hurricane Helene, we know there will be more storms this hurricane season. As of this moment, another, Hurricane Milton, has developed into a life-threatening category 5, en route to several of the same affected areas. Your gifts to support our response this season will ensure no community is left behind and give us the ability to respond even when there is little media coverage.

It will take years to recover. After initial needs are addressed, <u>PDA will remain</u> — providing emotional and spiritual care and long-term recovery to address unmet and ongoing needs.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Donations can be made online by scanning this QR code with your mobile device, calling (800) 728-7228, ext. 5885, or mailing a check using the reply device below.

ACT: Assemble emergency cleanup buckets (visit pcusa.info/heart). Learn how you can help families affected by hurricanes. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/PDAcares).

PRAY: God of grace and compassion,

May your Spirit move in this, your creation, bringing peace amid the turmoil and breathing hope into the places that feel broken. May your Spirit continue to be the quiet but constant reassurance that you are with your children and creation, even in the darkest moments, guiding us toward healing and restoration.

O \$500	O \$125	O \$50	O \$25	O Other \$_	
Name _	2222		A	ddress	
City			State	Zip	Congregation/PIN
				화면 시간 시간 사람들이 보고 있다.	r gift to your church, or mail with you





CHURCH FAMILY

CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)
Dianne Rector (Rosewood Manor in DeWitt)



FPC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



We truly want to wish everyone a Happy Birthday and we make every attempt to include every birthday in the Epistle and send a birthday card to each person. If you see we missed someone, please contact the church office, and inform someone of the mistake.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/02	Sue Jenks	11/20	Gary Bailey
11/02	Steve Campbell	11/21	Anne Weirich
11/02	Bob Hughes	11/22	Jovita Amabo
11/04	Amy Bockes	11/22	Thatcher Hengstebeck
11/04	Aiden Friess	11/23	Sorcha Powers
11/07	Rima Mackoul	11/24	Lamarr Braggs
11/09	Dani Fawaz	11/25	Jack Keller
11/09	Cecily English	11/25	Sophie Keller
11/09	Joel Layne	11/25	Ann Harvey
11/11	Franco Nashef	11/28	Bailey Kennedy
11/13	Collin Schafer	11/29	Chris Hughes
11/14	Cobi Snyder	11/29	Ann Helmic
11/17	Sue Kangas		
11/19	Willye Bryan		
11/19	Milo Snyder		



The DECEMBER newsletter deadline is NOVEMBER 15th. Please send articles to Victoria: vafitton@gmail.com

NOVEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

1101	
Friday, November 1	
10:00 a.m.	GIIL Classes
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Yoga – Yoga Room
Saturday, November	2
11:00 a.m.	Birthday Party – Litten
Sunday, November 3	
10.00	Marina N/arabin

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
11:30 a.m. Congregational meeting
11:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

Monday, November 4

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
11:00 a.m. NWI Kitchen Class
5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
6:00 p.m. Assoc of Lansing Pastors
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Membership Committee

Tuesday, November 5 ELECTION DAY 6:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Polling – Litten Hall 8:00 a.m. **NWI Kitchen Class** 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **GIL Classes** 4:00 p.m. **NWI Kitchen Class** 4:00 p.m. Adult Forum Committee Yoga - Yoga Room 5:30-6:30 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen 7:00 p.m. Book Group on Zoom 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6

NWI Kitchen Class 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **GIL Classes** 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 4:00 p.m. **NWI Kitchen Class** 4:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir 6:00 p.m. MidMI Photo Club Mtg 6:30 p.m. Mission Committee 6:30 p.m. Youth Education Comm

Thursday, November 7

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

Friday, November 8

 10:00 a.m.
 GIL Classes

 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Yoga – Yoga Room

Sunday, November 10

10:00 a.m.Morning Worship11:30 a.m.Adult Forum – Litten11:30 a.m.Children's Faith Formation12:30 p.m.Victory in Jesus Ministries2:00 p.m.Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Monday, November 11 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

11:00 a.m. NWI Kitchen Class
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Membership Committee
7:00 p.m. GL Mom's Demand Action

Tuesday, November 12

8:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:30-9:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
NWI Kitchen Class

Wednesday, November 13

8:00 a.m. NWI Kitchen Class 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. We the People MI–Litten 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes

10:30 a.m.
4:00 p.m.
4:30-6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

GIL Classes
Lectionary Bible Study
NWI Kitchen Class
Lansing Children's Choir
Deacons Meeting

Thursday, November 14

8:00 a.m. NWI Food truck prep

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes

10: a.m.-3:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
NWI food distribution
Chancel Choir rehearsal
Victory in Jesus Bible Study

Friday, November 15

10:00 a.m. GIIL Classes 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Sunday, November 17

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten
11:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

Monday, November 18

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
11:00 a.m. NWI Kitchen Class
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal

Tuesday, November 19

8:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
5:30-6:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

NWI Kitchen Class
GIL Classes
Yoga – Yoga Room
Mid-MI Photo Club
Capital City Chordsmen

Wednesday, November 20

8:00 a.m. NWI Kitchen Class

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes

10:30 a.m.Lectionary Bible Study12:00 p.m.Boomers luncheon4:00 p.m.NWI Kitchen Class4:30 p.m.Lansing Children's Choir

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Thursday, November 21

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes

6:00-8:00 p.m. GL Quilt Guild Meeting
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study

Friday, November 22

10:00 a.m. GIIL Classes 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, November 23

9:00 a.m. Larisa Clark Recital
10:30 a.m. Christmas Basket setup
2:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Concert

Sunday, November 24

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

11:30 a.m.Adult Forum – Litten Hall11:30 a.m.Children's Faith Formation12:30 p.m.Victory in Jesus Ministries

2:30 p.m. Megan Higle Recital

Monday, November 25

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. NWI Kitchen Class

5:00-9:00 p.m. GIL Classes

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal

Tuesday, November 26

8:00 a.m. NWI Kitchen Class

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes

4:00 p.m. NWI Kitchen Class
5:15-6:30 p.m. Bells of First Rehearsal
5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen

Wednesday, November 27

8:00 a.m. NWI Kitchen Class

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes

12:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study 4:00 p.m. NWI Kitchen Class

Thursday, November 28 THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 29

5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room