



The First Epistle Worship, Serve, Grow March 2025



Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church
510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48933
Office phone: 517-482-0668

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
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 MARCH 2ND

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – March 5th at 7:00 p.m.

TALENT SHOW – Saturday, March 8th at 3:00 p.m.

Show off your talent by yourself or with a group. A talent show will take place on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 3:00 pm. If you want to be in the show, please contact Pam Blair at; blairkids3@yahoo.com. The show needs an audience too, so if you are not in the show come to be wowed and enjoy the fun.

LENTEN CROSS-GENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

Mark your calendars for the Lenten Cross-Generational Bible Study starting on **Sunday, March 9**. Adults and Youth/Children will all be using “Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living” (PCUSA). We will explore what it means MAKE DISCIPLES (led by the members of the Adult and Youth Education committees: Ceci Anderson, Alyse Collins, The Rev. Stan Jenkins, Pastor Bob Higle, Megan Higle, Pam Blair, and Kathy Banghart).

BOOMERS & BEYOND – Wednesday, March 19 at Noon

Wednesday, April 16 at Noon in the Parlor

Please mark your calendars for the above dates. Let us know if you need transportation and we will try to arrange it if possible. If any of our regular attendees can pick up anyone please reach out to others or let us know. Stay warm and we look forward to our next time together. Kathe Smith, 517-230-1814, and Bev Phillips, 517-927-8367.

TLC – Thursday, March 20 at 1:00 p.m.

TLC will meet on Thursday, February 20th at 1:00 PM. This month we will be going to Fiesta Charra Mexican Restaurant. It is located at 2706 Lake Lansing Road 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!

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LENTEN EGGS BEGIN IN MARCH!

The Youth Education Committee has LENTEN EGGS as a weekly devotional for families, especially families with children/youth.

Once Per Week (Sundays are perfect) there is an “Easter Egg” to open, a prayer and an activity to work through as a family. The “eggs” are a great way have some family time before/after dinner or before bedtime. The intent is to help our younger learners *experience* the season of Lent in a way that helps them understand the wonderful gift/sacrifice that our God did for us.

There are 12 eggs: Ash Wednesday, Sundays of Lent (7), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday.

Please see Alyse Collins (YEC Chair), Pam Blair (member) or Megan Higle (staff resource) to pick up your Lenten Egg Carton for YOUR family!

PASTOR'S CORNER

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This year we'll celebrate it on March 5th. What follows is an introduction to Lent from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (2003).

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. “I die every day!” asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church’s peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the “old self.” In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God’s gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the “old self” in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, “Death is no more!” and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of “prayer, fasting and almsgiving” leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ’s passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ’s path of servanthood through the Lord’s Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

MUSIC NOTES with Megan

*My song is love unknown- my Savior’s love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.*

Oh who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Choral Anthem by Karen Marroli

https://youtu.be/rVJ1zHjMNWs?si=ns3FD_9-gOVGicB

As I sit in my office, composing this text, listening to music selections for Lent and praying about what message to convey to the people of First Presbyterian Church, I am constantly interrupted by my barking dog, my mewling-deaf-blind cat and (God bless him) my husband. I also find that I can be interrupted by my own thoughts. What to cook for dinner? Did I communicate my adjudication schedule to the school? Have I rescheduled by dentist appointment? Did I *actually* put the laundry into the dryer? Did I remember to pay the section leaders?

The interruption of our everyday lives is *always* going to happen. How do we respond to these interruptions? Do we let the outside world dictate our response and/or our attitude?

My personal “mantra” for this year is RADICAL HOSPITALLY. How do I welcome or how do I extend kindness to *all* I encounter? Have I extended grace to the retail or grocery clerk? Have I made physical space as I drive to allow other drivers to merge? Am I looking for ways to make my workplace more inviting/welcoming/safe? Do I find opportunities for others to share their gifts?

We read in the Gospel of Matthew, “When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” How can you let Radical Hospitality become part of your everyday?

As we begin our journey into the season of Lent, my prayer for First Presbyterian is that we begin to embody Radical Hospitality in our communities, in our congregation, and in our lives. The music staff at First Presbyterian pray you can reflect, repent, and **act** during the month of March. We pray that the music you hear, sing and experience during March enables you to be filled as you are called to BE THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Hymns for March to include:

853 We Are Marching in the Light of God	192 Shine, Jesus, Shine
783 When We Are Tested	215 What Wondrous Love Is This
213 In the Cross of Christ I Glory	223 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	816 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
442 Just as I Am, Without One Plea	418 Softly and Tenderly

Choral Anthems and Special Music in March to include:

- “Be Thou My Vision” arr Jay Althouse
- “Kyrie” by Andrea Klouse
- “A Simple Song” by Leonard Bernstein (Ben English, soloist)
- “A Lenten Prayer” by Hal H. Hopson
- “When Jesus Wept” arr Karle Erickson (with hand bells)
- “We Shall Walk Through the Valley” arr Undine Smith Moore
- “My Song Is Love Unknown” arr Karen Marroli

We also look forward to a musical gift from Bells of First!



Ash Wednesday – March 5th

Service at 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday – April 13th

Maundy Thursday – April 17th

Good Friday – April 18th

Easter Sunday – April 20th

Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church

Our Youth Education Committee is looking for a few Classroom Assistants to help with craft, snacks, etc. during Children Faith Formation. Please let Alyse, Pam or Megan know if you are interested in being a part of our young learners Christian Education!

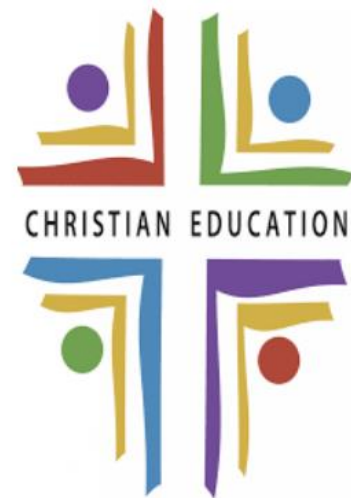
CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS!

4 years – 12 years Age Children!

Sunday Morning Faith Formation!

During the season of Lent, our younger learners will be utilizing the same materials/scripture as our adults...Our congregation will be challenged on what it means to MAKE DISCIPLES. Let's journey together through Lent!

- March 2 – Library time with Ms. Megan
- March 9 – “Live as a Disciple” with Ms. Pam
- March 16 – “Go” with Ms. Kathy
- March 23 – “Be A Witness” with Rev. Stan
- March 30 – “Baptize” with Pastor Bob



Youth (Middle and Senior High)!

Our Middle and Senior High Faith Formation continues our fellowship with Holt and Okemos Presbyterian churches this winter. 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!

If you have a student in grades 6 – 12, see Megan Higle or Pam Blair to find out what opportunities exist. ☺

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.

ADULT EDUCATION

Faith Formation (Adult Forum) will deepen our knowledge of our community. We hope you can attend these informative, historical, and relevant sessions during March.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Mornings at 10:30 a.m. and via Zoom

Join The Rev. Stanley Jenkins for discussions centered around Sunday morning Scripture lessons. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88617131852>

If you would like more information, zoom links, materials for upcoming studies and/or events, please contact Megan! megan.higle@gmail.com cell phone: 248-320-4578

ADULT FORUM

(Sunday Mornings from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

March 2

Are you ever in the church building? Then make sure that you join the **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GROUP**, led by Elder Mike Bryan, as we practice a Tornado Drill, prepare for weather events and have discussion on how to best respond while at the church building and/or in the church parking lot.

March 9

MAKE DISCIPLES. Our Lenten Multi-Generational Bible Study begins with the Fruits of the Spirit. How do we nurture our gifts? How do we center our attitudes to be more like Jesus?

March 16

MAKE DISCIPLES. Our Lenten Multi-Generational Bible Study continues with Spreading the Love of God. How can we share the Good News - in our actions, through our social media, via Radical Hospitality - to reach out to our community?

March 23

MAKE DISCIPLES. Our Lenten Multi-Generational Bible Study asks us to Bear Witness to Others. We will practice by talking, singing, and brainstorming.

March 30

MAKE DISCIPLES. Our Lenten Multi-Generational Bible Study discusses how Baptism Brings You into a Church Family. What do YOU know about your own baptism? How can you share your baptism with others? What made Jesus' baptism "special" or a model for us?



Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Adult Education is starting a new curriculum titled, "The Wired Word." Join Pastor Bob Hagle to discuss current events through a Biblical lens. It will spark stimulating discussions and conversations germane to current events.

This is how it will work:

- Weekly emails with two current topics, links for biblical verses, and more information on the topics.

- Weekly zoom discussions on these topics Wednesday (except the last Wednesday of the month) at 6:00 p.m.
- Once a month (the last Wednesday of the month) there will be an in-person gathering/discussion at a restaurant for fellowship.

Schedule of Events:

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Materials will be sent by email.

March 5, 12, 19 – Meetings by zoom at 6:00 p.m.

March 26 – Meeting in person at a local restaurant at 6:00 p.m. for discussion and fellowship. Invite a friend! Place TBD.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88970516558>

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The kitchen group has been working hard to try to get the kitchen updated. We have had some professional people come in and provide us with suggestions and quotes on getting the stove and hood replaced as well as some other cupboard and counter updates. We are working on clearing out the cupboards so they can be thoroughly cleaned and repainted or replaced. Then we will work on deciding what the kitchen needs and how to go about storing those things. There are some tables set up in Litten Hall that already have items on them that we believe are no longer needed in the kitchen. If you see something you would like to have, please take it. If you see something you question if it should be kept, set it aside and contact one of the kitchen group to let us know about your thoughts.

The group working on the kitchen currently is:

Sallie Campbell, Kathy Banghart, Sue Carey, Trudie Frick, Christopher Venetis, Carol Wallace, Pam Blair and Connie Heck. Sharon Johnson also joined us at our most recent gathering. Thank you, Sharon. It's very helpful to have the voices of those who have worked in the kitchen over the years included in some of the decisions that need to be made. Please contact any of these folks with questions or suggestions for the updating of the kitchen. At this time, ANYONE who would like to use the kitchen, PLEASE contact Sallie Campbell at 517-896-8311 or email at firstpresrentalspaces@gmail.com. This goes for groups from the surrounding community as well as anyone (individual or group/committee) from the church. Trying to keep one calendar for all kitchen use will keep things organized and simple. We will try to keep you updated as work is completed, but don't hesitate to ask one of us if you are wondering what's happening.

DEACON NOTES

OUTREACH MINISTRY: FPC DEACONS CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Advent House Meals: The next Advent House meal will be served on March 23. If you would like to help with this (preparing the meal or serving it), please contact Rich Blankenship, gogreen3426@yahoo.com.



CAMP GREENWOOD – Registration for summer camps now open!



A new year means a new summer season at Camp Greenwood! Registration opened January 1 for all summer sessions and spring events. To register, to apply for a Camp

Greenwood scholarship, or for more information, visit the Camp Greenwood website, campgreenwood.org, and click on the Summer Camp icon.

Food Pantry: The need for our Food Pantry ministry continues, year-round. The Food Pantry is always in need of basic food items and monetary donations. Contact Jim Donaldson for more details: jimdonaldsn01@comcast.net.

Bring your non-perishable items for the pantry to the sanctuary and place them next to the Food Pantry box there, for inclusion in each Sunday's children's moment! Basic items the pantry can always use include:

- Any type of cereal
- Jelly (grape or strawberry)
- Peanut butter
- Canned green beans, peas, and corn
- Canned peaches and mixed fruit
- Cans of baked beans
- Saltine crackers
- Baking mix
- Spaghetti noodles
- Pasta sauce
- Store bought cookies
- Spaghettios or Ravioli
- Mac and cheese
- Tomato soup
- Chicken noodle soup
- Bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper
- Reusable bags with handles

Also always helpful, financial donations, which are used to purchase needed items when they cannot be obtained through our regional Food Bank. Please be sure to mark your monetary gifts "Food Pantry." Contact Jim Donaldson for more details: jimdonaldsn01@comcast.net. Thank you for your generous support!

MEMBER CARE

Deacon “Buddies” Deacon “buddies” visit and/ or contact our homebound members regularly, representing our entire church, and showing the constant love of our Christian family of faith.

Angel Team Ministry: The Angel Team offers rides, meals, and other support for church members in both joyous and difficult times. If you are interested in assisting your friends and church members, or have need of such support, please contact Deb Donaldson: iampib@yahoo.com. Thank you for your kindness in supporting this ministry!

“Bingo!” Outreach Ministry: BINGO MINISTRY AT CAPITAL CITY APARTMENTS ON SOUTH WASHINGTON APARTMENTS

Join Linda Snyder, James Pyle, and Rich Blankenship in providing this entertaining outreach and fellowship to the residents at 3200 S. Washington Blvd. on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



You can also support the fun by donating prizes! Bring your donations to the church office, marked “Linda Snyder - Bingo prizes.” Prize items that are always appreciated include:

- Personal care items (hand soap, lotions, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels)
- Cleaning supplies (dish and laundry soap)
- Granola bars and other snack foods
- \$25 gift cards from Meijer/Kroger (grand prize)

Contact Linda Snyder at lksnyder3@comcast.net with your questions or to volunteer!
Thank you!

HOW TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MINISTRIES OF THE DEACONS

The ministry of your Board of Deacons is not part of the annual church budget (your pledges), but depends upon extra-mile giving by you, our generous congregation! You can help us serve our community by giving to the Deacons Funds:

- To support Member Care, Bingo Outreach, Advent House meals, and Angel Team ministries, put “Deacons General Fund” on the memo line of your check.
- To support our food outreach ministries, please indicate the desired recipient (Food Pantry or Holiday Basket).

Donations to the Deacons without a specific designation go into the Deacons General Fund. *Thank you for your support!*

First Pres Finances in Brief

As of January 31, 2025

This page is a new feature planned for the *First Epistle* to share a monthly snapshot of church finances. We want the First Pres family to understand our resources, our priorities, and our progress over time.

January notes: Spending overtook income by a large amount due to emergency repairs to the church heating system. Future spending should align more closely with the budget. We have just kicked off the Capital Campaign, and we are still receiving some of the last pledges for the new year.

First Pres Finance Committee

Bill Collins (chair), Bev Bockes (treasurer), Mike Carey, Jim Donaldson, Jim LeTourneau

Year to Date General Fund Activity

	Cash Flow YTD	Budgeted YTD	Difference vs. Budget
General Fund Income	\$ 24,896.27	\$ 36,893.24	\$ - 11,996.97
General Fund Spending	\$ 43,055.37	\$ 44,281.46	\$ -1,226.09
General Fund Net (Income minus Spending)	\$ - 18,159.10		

For 2025 the church operates with a deficit budget (budgeted spending is larger than budgeted income). Annual pledges have decreased while annual expenses have increased. We rely on gifts and income beyond pledges to help close the gap. The Session continues to look for ways to reduce future expenses while maintaining our church and mission.

January Balances

Balances	
General Fund Balance	\$ - 6,780.70
Designated Funds Balance	\$ 188,125.90
Endowment Fund Balance	\$ 2,100,178.14

Short-term negative General Fund balances are covered by Designated Funds held in the same bank account, much like a savings account may back up a personal checking account.

(12/31/24) The Endowment Fund balance is reported quarterly.

January Campaign Progress

Progress		
General Fund Pledges Received	\$ 17,800.50	<i>toward total pledges of \$295,732.</i>
Capital Campaign Progress	\$ 6,500.00	<i>toward goal of \$100,000.</i>
JLGLM Pledge Progress	\$ 80,620.61	<i>toward pledge of \$100,000.</i>

General Fund Income: includes things like annual pledges, weekly offerings, building use and rent income.

General Fund Spending: includes staff payroll, physical operations, repairs and utilities, mission giving, and other budgeted expenses.

Designated Funds: include money that may only be used for specific purposes, like the Deacons Fund, the Food Pantry, special music programming, memorial funds, etc.

The Endowment Fund: is managed to maintain a capital amount of \$2.1M that is invested and cannot be spent. Endowment earnings over and above the capital contribute to both the General Fund and various Designated Funds.

The Capital Campaign: was established to fund specific improvements to the sanctuary, the chapel, and other building needs that are not funded by the general budget or grants.

The JLGLM Pledge: was made by the church to the Justice League of Greater Lansing MI to contribute voluntary reparations for the benefit of Lansing's African American community.

SESSION NOTES

The Session revised the Capital Campaign to raise funds for church improvements to \$100,000. A letter sent to the membership outlines the projects. Darla Jackson and Dan DeYonke have been nominated as elders to fill two positions on the Session. Elliot Ryser resigned from Session and is moving his membership to the Okemos Presbyterian Church. Don Heck resigned from Session. The membership committee has compiled a list of members and would like folks to review the list and give them feedback about folks that may want to be removed from the list.



EARTH CARE TEAM

The Earth Care shelf in our library continues to expand. Of particular interest is ***Climate Church, Climate World*** by Jim Antal, who writes from the perspective of a long-time climate activist, denominational leader of the United Church of Christ, and public theologian. The author presents climate issues from many perspectives, including the science of climate change, its impact on people (refugees, poverty, inequality, deadly viruses, war) and sin as we destroy what God has created. Reverend Antal declares climate change a moral issue that all churches need to address. He provides many recommendations and examples of actions churches may consider adopting. This book is accessible and thought provoking, a must read for members of faith communities.

MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NOTES

The Mission committee welcomed Darla Jackson to the committee. Funds were allocated to the food pantry and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the fires in California.

Who grows the cacao in your chocolate?



While chocolate is considered a luxury for many of us, for small-scale farmers worldwide, it is their source of necessary income that often comes with the harsh realities of corporate control of the industry. The cocoa industry is highly consolidated with only four companies—Hershey, Lindt, Mondelez, and Nestlé—controlling nearly 90% of the chocolate market, giving them a huge amount of control over cacao farmers and the prices we see on the supermarket shelves; they made roughly \$15 billion in profits since 2020.”

Equal Exchange partners are smallholder farmers who are proud of their work and want to sell organic cacao, sugar, and vanilla for use in delicious chocolate through a fair system.

Equal Exchange products have full traceability back to our farmer cooperative partners. We guarantee a minimum price to the cooperatives and pay higher prices for the work that goes into **organic** cocoa production.

Additionally, the advance credit our partners receive helps them weather the ups and downs of the market. This is even more important now that the price of cacao is at an all-time high and cooperatives are strained to finance the prompt purchasing of high-value cacao from their members. Advanced credit enables cooperatives to pay their farmer members earlier while continuing to guarantee supply to buyers, even when faced with new buyers competing for limited beans in the global market.

Your support of this model is crucial to the sustainability of fairly produced and delicious chocolate!

Contact Carol Wallace for Equal Exchange fair trade chocolate!

Here is an article you can click on for more information:

[Chocolate: A Bittersweet Luxury — Equal Exchange Resource Center](#)

Book Group



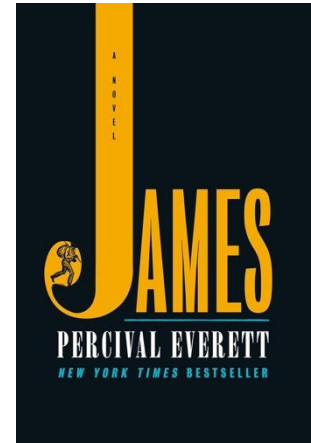
Prior to each meeting, the Zoom login link will be sent to the names on the book group email list. Let Pat Eenigenburg know if you would like to be added. You can reach her at (eenigenburg@hotmail.com).

Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

***James* by Percival Everett**

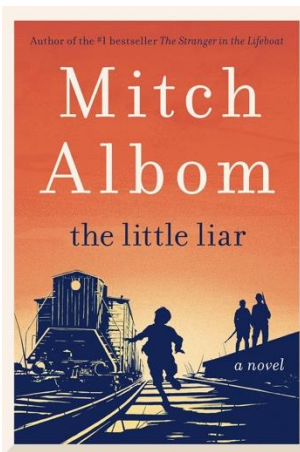
When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

While many narrative set pieces of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light. Discussion led by Doris Drake.



Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

***The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom**

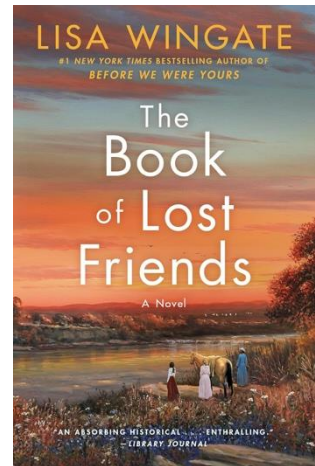


Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis has never told a lie. When the Nazis invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is persuade his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading “north,” where new jobs and safety await. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy reassures passengers on the station platform every day. But when the final train is loaded, Nico sees his family being herded into a boxcar. Only then does he discover that he has helped send them—and everyone he knows and loves—to their doom at Auschwitz. Nico escapes—but he never tells the truth again.

In *The Little Liar*, Mitch Albom examines the human repercussions of deception by interweaving the stories of Nico, who yearns for forgiveness; his older brother, Sebastian, who vows revenge against him; Fannie, the girl who must choose between them; and Udo Graf, the Nazi officer who forever changed their lives with his lies. Discussion led by Linda Diepenhorst.

Tuesday May 6, 7:00 in the parlor
The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

Louisiana, 1875: In the tumultuous era of Reconstruction, three young women set off as unwilling companions on a perilous quest: Hannie, a freed slave; Lavinia, the pampered heir to a now destitute plantation; and Juneau Jane, Lavinia's Creole half-sister. Each carries private wounds and powerful secrets as they head for Texas, following roads rife with vigilantes and soldiers still fighting a war lost a decade before. For Lavinia and Juneau Jane, the journey is one of stolen inheritance and financial desperation, but for Hannie, torn from her mother and siblings before slavery's end, the pilgrimage west reignites an agonizing question: Could her long-lost family still be out there? Beyond the swamps lie the limitless frontiers of Texas and, improbably, hope. Discussion led by Victoria Fitton.



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

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Stanley Jenkins

Parish Associate: Rev. Charles Herrick

Pastoral Care Assistant: Christine DeYonke

Church Administrator: Betsy Calvert

Director of Congregational Life &

Outreach: Prince Solace

Director of Christian Education &

Youth Ministry: Megan Higle

Part-time Custodian: Kliff Nhengu

Director of Music: Megan Higle

Organist: Sergei Kvitko

Bell Choir Director: Darin Showalter

Childcare Staff: Lily Ferris

Video Producers: Bill Collins and

Andrew Mackoul

CHURCH FAMILY

CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)

Dianne Rector (Rosewood Manor in DeWitt)



June Fitton passed into life eternal on Wednesday, February 12. June was Steve (Victoria) Fitton’s mother. She was recently received as a member and attended Sunday worship regularly. Following a fall and hospitalization, June went into hospice care where she had a peaceful transition to be with her Lord. A memorial service is planned for a later date when June’s ashes will interred at The Presbyterian Church in Traverse City with her husband, Walter Fitton.

Scott (Margo) Ross’ mother recently passed away at 101 years old. Scott said he was “holding her hand and let go to God.” He said he is “grieving, but not sad.” His mother resided in Florida where Scott and Margo spend the winters. They have good support from their Florida church where they are affiliate members. Be in prayer for Scott, Margo, and their family as they grieve the death of their beloved mother and grandmother.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/07	Alyse Collins	03/18	Pryderick Achuonjei
03/11	Jean Jones	03/18	Elliot Ryser
03/11	Charles Amabo	03/19	Gary Schaub
03/11	Rachel Layne	03/21	Jim Donaldson
03/12	Kathe Smith	03/23	Salim Makhoul
03/12	Fadia Fawaz	03/25	Ellyn Faziani
03/14	Bethanne Jenks	03/25	Mary Lou Gebhardt
03/15	Josephine Powers	03/26	Scott Moore
03/15	Jack Toomey	03/26	Cheryl Makhoul
03/17	Mike Bryan	03/27	Pam Blair
03/17	Gail Summerfield	03/28	Elain Mackoul
03/18	Jacob Toomey		

MARCH CHURCH CALENDAR

<p>Saturday, March 1 9:00 a.m. Moses Advocacy Group</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 11 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. AARP Tax Assistance 2:30 p.m. Building&Grounds-library 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee 6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen</p>
<p>Sunday, March 2 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. Christian Education 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 12 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Lansing Children Choir 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 6:00 p.m. Wired Word Bible– Zoom 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting</p>
<p>Monday, March 3 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. AARP Tax Assistance 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Assoc of Lansing Pastors 6:30 p.m. Bells of First Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Membership Committee</p>	<p>Thursday, March 13 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. NWI Food Distribution 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 4 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. AARP Tax Assistance 6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen 7:00 p.m. Book Group – Zoom</p>	<p>Friday, March 14 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 5 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Lansing Children Choir 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room 6:00 p.m. Wired Word Bible– Zoom 6:30 p.m. Mission Committee 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>Sunday, March 16 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. Christian Education 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>
<p>Thursday, March 6 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study</p>	<p>Monday, March 17 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. AARP Tax Assistance 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 6:30 p.m. Bells of First Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday, March 7 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 18 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. AARP Tax Assistance 6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Officers 6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsman</p>
<p>Saturday, March 8 3:00 p.m. Talent Show 7:00 p.m. Chordsmen Concert</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 19 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Boomers/Beyond Lunch 4:30-6:30 p.m. Lansing Children’s Choir 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 6:00 p.m. Wired Word Bible– Zoom 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting</p>
<p>Sunday, March 9 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:30 a.m. Christian Education 11:30 a.m. Finance Committee 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>	<p>Thursday, March 20 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. GIL Classes 6:30 p.m. Capitol City Quilt Guild 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Monday, March 10 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. AARP Tax Assistance 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 6:30 p.m. Bells of First Rehearsal</p>	

<p>Friday, March 21 5:30-6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday, March 22 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, March 23 10:00 a.m. 12:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, March 24 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:30-6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, March 25 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 6:30-9:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p>Community Choir</p> <p>Morning Worship Christian Education Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p>GIL Classes AARP Tax Assistance Staff Meeting Yoga – Yoga Room Bells of First Rehearsal</p> <p>GIL Classes AARP Tax Assistance Glen Erin Pipe Band Capital City Chordsmen</p>	<p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 26 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30-6:30 p.m. 5:30-6:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, March 27 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, March 28 5:30-6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, March 30 10:00 a.m. 12:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p>GIL Classes Lectionary Bible Study Lansing Children’s Choir Yoga – Yoga Room Wired Word Bible– Zoom</p> <p>GIL Classes NWI Food Distribution Bridge in the Parlor Chancel Choir Rehearsal Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p>Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p>Morning Worship Christian Education Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>