



# The First Epistle

Worship, Serve, Grow  
May 2024



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 MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

## GRADUATE CELEBRATION!

We will celebrate YOU on **Sunday, May 19th, 2024**. If you are graduating from high school or from college this spring, please let us know ASAP! Congratulations to all of you!!



## POTLUCK SUNDAY



**Potluck Sunday May 19, 2024.** Let's share some great food and great conversation after worship in Litten Hall. Bring a dish that feeds 10-12 people. Beverages and place settings will be provided. A cart will be available by the entrance for your dish as you arrive for worship, and someone will take it downstairs for you. Come see why people say Presbyterians put on the best potlucks!

## SAVE THE DATE

Please save the date for the church picnic on **August 4<sup>th</sup>** after worship.

## FUNDRAISING FOR MADD

Session approved a fundraising campaign to benefit MADD (**Music, Arts, Drama and Dance**) Camp 2024. This is the eighth Camp and takes place **July 22-26, at the Church**. The goal is to allow the 60+ participants to have a tuition free camping experience. Funds are being solicited from the congregation and friends. Please make out checks to First Presbyterian Church and put "MADD Camp" in the memo line. Volunteers are needed to help with the campers and clean up. See Megan Hagle (248-320-4578), Ben English (517-930-0411), or George Bennett (248-762-0774) if you have any questions, concerns, or wish to volunteer. Thanks for your generous support and volunteer efforts.

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## FROM THE PASTOR

This year Pentecost falls on 5/19. Here's a little background from *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*, 2003:

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty *ruach* (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power — the unseen power of God — moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it *ruach YHWH*, “the wind, or breath, of God” (cf. John 3:8). The Spirit is the “unseenness of God” working among us.

According to Joel (2:28-29) the *ruach* is to open everybody to God's future. People young and old will dream and will have visions of hope; they will be able to loose themselves from the way things are now, because God is establishing a whole new economy of creation. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves and frees us to serve neighbors, loosens our grasp on possessions, and sets us to loving people. New creation is what Joel is talking about. Pentecost is new creation.

The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost's new creation: people witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn

church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God's mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith that broke from its present order has spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible....

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its missing as God's new people. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.




**April Baer**

On today's *Stateside*, a new chemical recycling operation could soon be coming to West Michigan. Critics say the process used by the company, Clean Seas, could create other problems. The company has made projections for their upcoming tourist season. Next, the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing is making a \$100,000 reparations payment to the Justice League of Greater Lansing, which works to address racial wealth gaps in the Lansing area. We spoke with leaders from both of these organizations about this allocation of funds and the role faith organizations can play in structural issues. Following that discussion, we revisited Lansing. Lansing leaders from both of these organizations about this allocation of funds and the role

**GUEST ON TODAY'S SHOW:**

- **Theo Scheer**, reporter for the Capital News Service
- **Michael Livingston**, rural life reporter for Interlochen Public Radio
- **Willye Bryan**, founder and vice president of the Justice League of Greater Lansing
- **Prince Solace**, president of the Justice League of Greater Lansing
- **Pastor Stanley Jenkins**, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing
- **Kyle Norris**, radio producer
- **Joey Cappelletti**, Michigan reporter for the






**The Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan and Lansing First Presbyterian** were featured in an 18-minute radio interview with April Baer for Michigan Public’s **Stateside** recently. The interview aired twice, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., on seven radio stations across Michigan.

You can listen to April; Willye Bryan and Prince Solace, from the Justice League; and Pastor Stanley Jenkins here: [Stateside: Thursday, March 21, 2024.](#) (The episode introduction is great — with a quote from Prince. Then skip forward to the 12:20-minute mark for the interview.)

# Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church



Here is what is going on this month for Faith Formation!

## CHILDREN and YOUTH!

### *4 years – 12 years Age Children!*

We will lean into the New Testament in April. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

We are so grateful for our volunteer teachers: Ms. Pam, Ms. Deb, Ms. Ann, Ms. Kathy, and Ms. Alyse!

### *Youth (Middle and Senior High)!*

Our Middle and Senior High Faith Formation group continues our fellowship with Holt and Okemos Presbyterian churches. These groups come together every Sunday evening. 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.

Weekly emails come from Holt Presbyterian, if YOU want to receive these weekly email updates, please let Megan or Pam know!

## SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE (roughly)

11:30 a.m. – Noon(ish) – School House Learners in Faith Formation Classroom with snack, Bible story, craft and reading time.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \* – Adult Forum in Litten Hall

\*Childcare can be available until 1:00 p.m. – please speak with Lily in the childcare room beforehand.

## FAITH FORMATION DETAILS

*Our Elementary Age Learners* will learn more about how to be a kind and loving person in their every-day lives, as it connects to the Easter Story.

## **SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

**We want to help children and youth go to Christian camp this summer!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO THE LAKE MICHIGAN PRESBYTERY WEBSITE:**

[https://lakemichiganpresbytery.org/2024/04/11/available-youth-summer-camp-scholarships/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=2024-04-15&utm\\_campaign=eDigest+April+11+2024](https://lakemichiganpresbytery.org/2024/04/11/available-youth-summer-camp-scholarships/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=2024-04-15&utm_campaign=eDigest+April+11+2024)

**First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven (FPGH) has a camp grant program** that provides children and youth some funding to attend a Christian camp, and we'd like to help the children of your church go this summer. The program is simple:

- Children and youth should have some connection to a church home.
- Camp must be designed to help campers learn more about Jesus and grow faith.

Fill out an application (see presbytery link above) and send your proof of registration to FPGH. Our program will fund up to \$500 towards the camp. The letter (at the web link above) provides additional information. **The deadline for applications is May 15, 2024**, and should be sent to FPGH either via mail (508 Franklin Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417) or email to Kerri Roberts (kroberts@fpg.org).

Our hope is that all who want to go to Christian camp will be able to go.

Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven

## **LINK GROUPS**

### **Northeast/DeWitt & All Points North LINK**

We will be sharing lunch and conversation on every third **Saturday** of every month at 1:00 pm. On **May 18** we will meet at Coral Gables in East Lansing located at 2838 Grand River Ave, East Lansing, MI 48823. On **June 15** we will meet at Boston's Restaurant and Sports Bar at 3301 Centre Blvd, Lansing, MI 48912.

**In May, GL/West Delta Link Breakfast**, is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11 at 9:00 a.m.** Our gatherings have been full of enjoyable conversation and fellowship. We will be meeting at Dimitri's (Dimitri's is located at 6334 W. Saginaw just east of the corner of Creyts Rd and Saginaw Hwy).

**South Lansing Link** meets the second Sunday after worship. Check with Prince Solace and Bethanne Jenks for plans!

**HOME Link** will gather at Delhi Café on **Friday May 17 at 11:30**. It's always great to get together.

**West Lansing/Delta Link** members are invited to the home of **Ruth Brunet** for **"Sunday Night Supper"** on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Details will be sent to the group via email. Save the date.

## ADULT FORUM

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

**MAY 5**

**Justine Achuonjei**

*My Faith Journey from the City of Wum in Cameroon to Lansing, Michigan.*

**MAY 12**

**What Might it Mean to Call our Country a “City on a Hill?”**

**Charlie Herrick Presenter**

Over the years, debates have raged over whether the United States is/ was/ was meant to be/ was founded as/ should be/ a “Christian Nation.” What might that even mean? Does it have any legitimacy today? This question is closely related to the “idealization” of America, even its possible uniqueness among the nations of the world as it made its inevitable way westward. At the same time, there is a long history, even while we were yet colonies, of a *brokenness* to our society. That is, there have been serious clashes short of secession based not only on politics, but religion, geography, “States’ rights,” etc. That plague comes down to our own fragmented time. What do you make of this national debate in a crucial election year? **Charlie Herrick** will attempt in one hour to draw together insights from recent books and articles to lead us.



**MAY 19**

**Potluck Sunday**

Come celebrate with our graduates,  
savor great food and enjoy the coming of spring!  
See the announcement on page 1.  
(No Adult Forum today.)

**This ends the program year for Adult Forum.  
See you in September!**

## **SPRING GARDENING: SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9:00 – NOON!**

The church needs volunteers on **Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. - noon** to help with **spring church grounds cleanup** including weeding, parking lot cleanup, rose pruning, perennial flower bed spring clean-up, etc. Also needed is help with the community garden spring prep including putting out picnic tables, weeding, bed cleanup, etc. Feel free to bring your own garden tools, gloves, lawn bags, water, and sunscreen. If you have questions, see or call Barb Amundsen (517-862-6788) regarding the community garden and Jackie Blankenship (517-303-8116) for church grounds cleanup. Or call the church office.

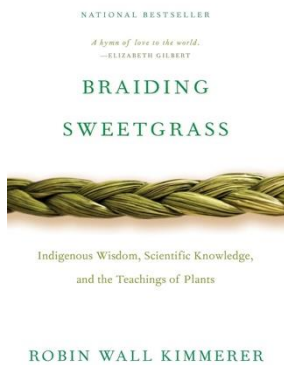
# Book Group



With daylight extending later into the evening, we will meet in the parlor during the warmer months. Our starting time will be 6:30, allowing us to drive home while it is still light.

## Tuesday May 7, 6:30 in the parlor

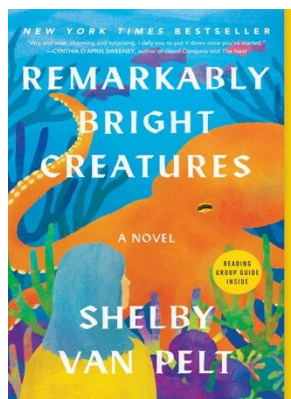
### *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer



As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. Her reflections circle toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth and learn to give our own gifts in return. Discussion led by Doris Drake.

## Tuesday June 4, 6:30 in the parlor

### *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt



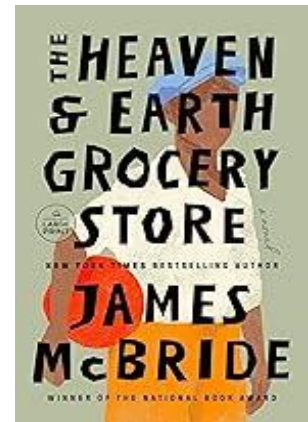
After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late. Discussion led by Sharon Carr.



**Tuesday July 2, 6:30 in the parlor**

***The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride**

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us. Discussion led by Linda Diepenhorst.



## **SESSION NOTES**

The Session met on April 17.

A revised Child Protection Policy was approved.

A new member was received into the church and one member transferred to another church.

A joint service will be held with Union Missionary Baptist Church on May 26. The Justice League will announce scholarship winners at the service.

MADD camp will be July 22-26. Approval was given for fund raising for the camp.

## **LUGNUTS OUTING**

Join us for a night of baseball at the Lugnut Outing on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The tickets are \$12 each. It will be a beautiful night for baseball. Contact Rich Blankenship for questions and to order tickets ([gogreen3426@yahoo.com](mailto:gogreen3426@yahoo.com) / 517-303-1587).



# DEACON NOTES

## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Thanks to all who helped put on the delicious breakfast on Palm Sunday, and to all who attended! Your Deacons say, "Let's do it again next year!" 😊

## CAMP GREENWOOD

Time is ticking away, and summer will be here before we know it! Don't forget to check out Camp Greenwood - a great place for kids of all ages! It's a safe space for life-changing experiences and outdoor activities. The ties of campers, their parents, and local churches, are strengthened by helping campers take what they have been taught and put it into practice.

To register, to apply for a Camp Greenwood scholarship, or for more information, visit the [Camp Greenwood website](#) and click on the "Summer Camp" icon.

## FOOD PANTRY

A reminder that 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](mailto:jimdonaldsn01@comcast.net).

- Cans of baked beans
- Any type of cereal
- Store bought cookies
- Canned peaches/mixed fruit
- Canned green beans, corn, and peas
- All varieties of canned soup
- Toilet paper
- Pasta sauce
- Bar Soap
- Saltine crackers
- Elbow macaroni



## MEMBER CARE

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](mailto:iampib@yahoo.com). Thank you for your kindness in supporting this ministry!

## BINGO MINISTRY AT CAPITAL CITY APARTMENTS ON SOUTH WASHINGTON APARTMENTS RETURNS!

Join the BINGO Team to provide this entertaining outreach and fellowship to the residents at 3200 S. Washington Blvd. The fun happens on the third Tuesday of the

month at 7:00 p.m. You can participate by volunteering onsite, or you can help by donating 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
- Small appliances (crock pots, toasters, small food processors)
- \$25 gift cards from Meijer/Kroger (grand prize)

**Bring your donations to the church office, marked “Bingo prizes.”**

Contact Linda Snyder at [lksnyder3@comcast.net](mailto:lksnyder3@comcast.net) with your questions or to volunteer!

*Thank you!*

### **HOW TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACONS**

The ministry of your Board of Deacons depends upon extra-mile giving (not part of your annual pledge) by our generous congregation! You can help us serve our church family and our community by donating to the Deacons Fund! 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 Holiday Basket ministry, please indicate that on the memo line. Donations to the Deacons without a specific designation go into the Deacons General Fund. You can also donate from our church website, <https://www.lansingfirstpres.com/>. Click the “Donate Here” button on the main page, then look for the Deacons Emergency Fund. *Thank you for your support!*

## **BOOMERS AND BEYOND –**

**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor**

Our group attendance last month filled the parlor. Let’s do it again as we gather in May on the 29th at noon. It is nice to have the opportunity to sit and chat with people you may not always see at church or outside of church. We encourage those who have been coming to our gatherings to continue and to those who have not come yet, please join us. Our date this month is later in the month due to travels and commitments of Kathe Smith and Bev Phillips. Please mark your calendars for **May 29th, Noon in the Parlor.**

## **TLC –**

**Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

TLC will meet on Thursday, May 16th at 1:00 p.m. This month we will be going to the LongHorn Steakhouse. It is located at 5796 W. Saginaw Hwy (in the Lansing Mall parking lot). 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.

## **MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NOTES**

Disbursements this month: Opportunities for the Blind Unlimited \$500, Friends of Child Protection (South Africa) \$500, Haven House (Shelter for homeless families) \$1000, Lake Michigan Presbytery \$6000, Black Family and Child Initiatives \$500.

The Green Team invited Paige Felice from MSU Extension to speak in adult forum about water management and native plants on April 14 as part of our Earth Care initiative. Her power point presentation will be posted on the church website.

### **Overture for General Assembly 2024 On Becoming Free from Plastic Pollution from Presbyterians for Earth Care**

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley overtures for the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to commit ourselves as a church, a people of faith and a social organization embodying Christian values, to:

1. Encourage all our settings to commit to changing from a disposable culture to a reusable, sustainable one.
2. Encourage education within our congregations and in our communities to advocate for alternatives to single use plastics, whether through mitigation efforts and campaigns or by supporting local and state bans on single use plastics, and
3. Encourage all settings of the Church to determine the best pathway forward for strategies and actions to mitigate plastic pollution.
4. Reduce the use of single-use plastics and packaging.
5. Commend all settings of the church to join in possible opportunities for participation in addressing plastic pollution.

Details of this overture and others can be found at [General Assembly 2024 – Presbyterians for Earth Care \(presbyearthcare.org\)](https://presbyearthcare.org)

## **LAKE MICHIGAN NICARAGUAN PARTNERSHIP TRIP TO NICARAGUA**

CEPAD (Nicaraguan council of protestant churches) promises you an experience you will never forget! CEPAD offers groups of individuals the opportunity to come to Nicaragua and experience first-hand the country's life and work. In a 7-day trip, you will visit rural communities, learn about Nicaraguan history, politics, and sustainable development, and see how CEPAD helps people living in poverty. A delegation trip gives

you the opportunity to experience an incredible country with the guidance of trained coordinators and experts.

You will also get to be a tourist in beautiful Nicaragua. We always make time for fun activities such as visiting a volcanic crater, shopping at local markets, hiking in a rainforest or taking a boat tour of the famous isletas near Granada in Lake Nicaragua.

CEPAD was formed based on Jesus' mission through Galilee, ministering to the marginalized in their needs and advocating for justice. In the same way, CEPAD walks alongside those in rural communities who have been oppressed for many years without the opportunities to own land, get an advanced education, or receive proper medical attention.

The Lake Michigan Presbytery Nicaraguan Partnership Committee is planning a trip for September 2024. The project for the group will be assembling and installing water filters in homes.

If you are interested, please contact Carol Wallace, [cwallace145@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwallace145@sbcglobal.net)

## SHARE YOUR TALENTS AND YOUR PHOTOS



**YOU HAVE TALENT** and we want to know about it.

When you have a performance, a game, or an exhibit, please tell your church family, so if we are available, we can come cheer you on and be wowed by your abilities.

There is a Talent Calendar on the long table in the elevator lobby, so share the when and where and your name so we can come see you in action or talk to you

afterwards about it. We also would love to have photos of any events you participate in. Please submit any photos to Prince Solace, [psolace@lansingfirstpres.org](mailto:psolace@lansingfirstpres.org)

## GWEN BOTTING PERFORMANCE

Gwen Botting is performing “the work of a lifetime, bucket list piece” in Grand Rapids on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She and a friend, who is a tenor from South Bend, are performing the



Benjamin Britten, *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings*. The string orchestra is the Kent Philharmonic. Gwen has been a member since 1987. Please come hear Gwen play this exciting, and difficult, piece. Other pieces on the concert include Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnole* and Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances* – both super great works that are tuneful

and fun to listen to. The concert is at **7:30 p.m. at St. Cecelia Music Society in Grand Rapids on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. For tickets, please go to [kentphilgr.org](http://kentphilgr.org).

## HOPE IN ONE GOLF OUTING

Advent House Ministries and North Westminster Presbyterian Church have announced their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Hope in One Golf Outing on August 7. The event raises funds for the collaborative ministries, which serve the poor and homeless with the only weekend day shelter in the area. The event will be at the Groesbeck Golf Course in Lansing and is in need of participants as well as sponsors. Anyone interested should contact North Westminster Presbyterian Church at 517-484-8433 or Advent House at 517-485-4722 for the details. The deadline to register is July 26.



“This is a special year, and we will be recognizing those who have been a part of the event for 8 or 9 years, and your congregation is one of them. We appreciate your ongoing support which has raised over \$50,000 for the missions of Advent House and Northwestminister Presbyterian. On August 7, 2024, at Groesbeck we will highlight you in the program and in announcements and hope you will be there to be recognized for your support over the years. Thanks again.”

## COOKIES PLEASE

Calling all cookie bakers and cookie buyers. The freezer is low on a cookie supply for Sunday Morning Coffee Hours. If you are able, please bring cookie donations to the kitchen labeled coffee hour on any Sunday. Gluten free cookies must be store bought due to allergies. If you wish to leave your donation on a different day, please put cookies in silver freezer. Thanks for your help! Pam Blair, Membership Coordinator

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (FPC) MEN'S GROUP ACTIVITY

The annual **ADOPT A RIVER** clean-up is scheduled for **Saturday, May 13** with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and lunch provided beginning at 11 a.m. Our group will be assigned a section of the Grand River Trail to clean-up by picking up trash and putting into plastic bags that will be provided. Please contact Brian Koon (517 886-9801 or [b.koon@comcast.net](mailto:b.koon@comcast.net)) if you can help with the river clean-up. Males in all age groups are welcome to participate in the FPC Men's Group.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Are you handy with tools and willing to be called as a first line for church maintenance issues?**

First Pres has always relied on capable members to help with things that need doing. With rising costs and budget issues, and because our new administrator isn't familiar with everyone who has helped in the past, we want to compile a list of people who are willing to be called first in case of minor building maintenance issues.



Many things come up that can't be readily addressed by our part-time custodian, but don't need to be handled by a licensed contractor (things like loose trim work, door latches or closers that need adjustment, minor lights, and mechanical issues, etc.)

More major issues will still be referred to licensed contractors as needed, but with contractors becoming more expensive and increasingly difficult to schedule, this is an opportunity for members who are handy to apply their talents in stewardship of our church. If you would like to be included on the list, please contact Betsy Calvert in the church office, or Bill Collins.

## **FLOWER CALENDAR**



The flower calendar is back! If you would like to purchase fresh flowers for worship, please call Judy Whitman at 517-290-2350 and leave a check with Betsy in the office for \$50.00. If you would like to supply a silk arrangement, the cost is \$80 and can be split by two or more family units. Please call Judy for more information. In the spring and summer, if you have flowers from your yard you would like to provide, please let Judy know ahead of time. We welcome flowers from local growers, especially if that grower is you!

**The JUNE newsletter deadline is MAY 15<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Please send articles to Victoria Fitton: [yafitton@gmail.com](mailto:yafitton@gmail.com)**

## CHURCH FAMILY

### CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

**Jean Dietrich** (Story Point of Grand Ledge)

**Dianne Rector** (Rosewood Manor in DeWitt)



We grieve with **Helen Hansen and her cousin, Judy's, family**. **Judy's** daughter (Mary), granddaughter (Emily), and grandson (Donald) all died from a car accident on March 31st. Her grandson (Jeffrey) was removed from life-support and died at U of M Hospital on April 4th. Mary's husband and father of the children (Cory) was the sole survivor of this tragic accident. Please keep him in prayer as he recovers and suffers these losses.

**Mary Lou Gebhardt's brother, Robert Felter**, passed away on Monday, April 8th. Mary Lou was two years older than Robert and always felt nurturing and protective of him. Since Chuck (Gebhardt) was an only child, Robert became his 'brother' as well. Robert is survived by his wife, Janet, and family.

**Victoria Fitton's sister, Jeri Sherwood**, died Friday evening, April 12th after being removed from life support. A memorial service was held at First Pres on Saturday, April 20th. The family wishes to express their deep appreciation for the love and support of their First Church family.

**Bob Hughes** passed into life eternal in Benton Harbor, Michigan on Tuesday evening, April 16th. Bob was a long-time member of our church, and over the years was active as an elder and leader. His Memorial Service will be at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup> at our church.

Our condolences and prayers are extended to **Kathe Smith on the death of her cousin, Joan**. Joan was in hospice care and died early April 22nd. Lord, Comfort Kathe and her family members as they mourn the loss of their loved one. Bring them your peace.

*Lord, we know that You are the God who comforts us. We pray that You provide a time of comfort and rest for those whose hearts are hurting right now. Hold them in Your embrace, Father. Wrap them in Your love and remind them that though they may have lost someone dear, they are not alone, for You are with them. Bring to them the hope of Your unfailing love and turn their sadness into gladness. Soothe their heartache as they lean on You for comfort and guidance. We pray that their grief heals smoothly, for You will be with them every step of the way. May they hold on to You for strength, hope, and sustenance. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/01	Nan Carter	5/17	Victoria Fitton
5/01	Geoff Blair	5/18	Carol Wallace
5/02	Daniel Kangas	5/18	Scott Ross
5/05	Wendi Middleton	5/18	George Snyder
5/07	Matthew Anderson	5/21	Evelyn Che
5/08	Rachelle Mackoul	5/21	Asa Harvey
5/09	Avery Bockes	5/22	Ethan Hodgman
5/10	Alyssa Estes	5/22	Rebecca Anderson
5/10	Charles Taylor	5/24	Donald Hines
5/12	Todd Hendy	5/28	Chrisann Lowe
5/12	Jim LeTourneau	5/28	Griffin Keller
5/12	Jan O'Connor	5/28	Bob Helmic
5/13	Ryan Fawaz	5/29	Ginny Ndibongo
5/13	Michael Petit	5/31	Joan Heil
5/16	Alex Mackoul		



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.

### 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



# MAY CHURCH CALENDAR

<p><b>Wednesday, May 1</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.            2:00 p.m.            3:00 p.m.            4:00 p.m.            4:30-6:30 p.m.            5:30-6:30 p.m.            6:00 p.m.            6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            AARP Tax Wrap-Up            Visitation – Bob Hughes            Funeral – Bob Hughes            Reception – Bob Hughes            Lansing Children’s Choir            Yoga – Yoga Room            Mid MI Photo Mtg            Mission Committee Mtg</p>	<p><b>Thursday, May 9</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            NWI Food Distribution            Chancel Choir – Choir            Victory in Jesus Ministries            Bible Study – Library</p>
<p><b>Thursday, May 2</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            Chancel Choir            Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>	<p><b>Friday, May 10</b>            5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Yoga – Yoga Room</p>
<p><b>Friday, May 3</b>            5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Yoga – Yoga Room</p>	<p><b>Saturday, May 11</b>            11:00 a.m.            3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Chordsmen Concert            Cabaret Concert</p>
<p><b>Saturday, May 4</b>            1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Pipe Band – Litten</p>	<p><b>Sunday, May 12</b>            10:00 a.m.            11:15 a.m.            11:30 a.m.            12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Morning Worship            Adult Forum            Finance Committee Mtg            Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>
<p><b>Sunday, May 5</b>            10:00 a.m.            11:15 a.m.            11:30 a.m.            12:30-2:00 p.m.            3:00 p.m.            3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Morning Worship            Adult Forum            Finance Committee            Victory in Jesus Ministries            Boogie Woogie Kid            Pipe Band – Litten</p>	<p><b>Monday, May 13</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            10:00 a.m.            5:30-6:30 p.m.            6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            Staff Meeting            Yoga – Yoga Room            Bells of First – Choir</p>
<p><b>Monday, May 6</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            10:00 a.m.            5:30-6:30 p.m.            6:00 p.m.            6:30 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            Staff Meeting            Yoga – Yoga Room            Area Pastors Lansing            Bells of First – Choir            Membership Committee</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, May 14</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            5:30 p.m.            6:30-9:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            Worship Committee            Glen Erin Pipe Band            Capital City Chordsmen</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, May 7</b>            7:00 a.m.            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            4:00 p.m.            6:00 p.m.            6:30-9:00 p.m.            6:30 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Election – Litten            GIL Classes            Adult Forum Committee            ALP – Library            Glen Erin Pipe Band            Book Group – Parlor            Capital City Chordsmen</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, May 15</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            2:30 p.m.            5:30-6:30 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            Building &amp; Grounds Mtg            Yoga – Yoga Room            Session Meeting</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, May 8</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            4:30-6:30 p.m.            5:30-6:30 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            Choir Potluck            Yoga – Yoga Room            Deacon’s Meeting</p>	<p><b>Thursday, May 16</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            6:00-8:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes            GL Quilt Guild Meeting            Chancel Choir            Victory in Jesus Ministries            Bible Study – Library</p>
		<p><b>Friday, May 17</b>            5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Yoga – Yoga Room</p>
		<p><b>Saturday, May 18</b>            1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Pipe Band – Litten</p>
		<p><b>Sunday, May 19</b>            10:00 a.m.            12:30 p.m.            3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Morning Worship            Victory in Jesus Ministries            Lansing Symphony</p>

<p><b>Monday, May 20</b>  9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  10:00 a.m.  5:30-6:30 p.m.  6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>(Stan on vacation 20-27)</b>  GIL Classes  Staff Meeting  Yoga – Yoga Room  Bells of First – Choir</p>	<p><b>Sunday, May 26</b>  10:00 a.m.  12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Morning Worship  Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, May 21</b>  9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  6:00 p.m.  6:30-9:00 p.m.  7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes  MidMI Photo Officers Mtg  Glen Erin Pipe Band  Capital City Chordsmen</p>	<p><b>Monday, May 27</b>  9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  10:00 a.m.  5:30-6:30 p.m.  6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes  Staff Meeting  Yoga – Yoga Room  Bells of First – Sanctuary</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, May 22</b>  9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  4:30-6:40 p.m.  5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes  Lansing Children’s Choir  Yoga – Yoga Room</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, May 28</b>  9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  6:30-9:00 p.m.  7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes  Glen Erin Pipe Band  Capital City Chordsmen</p>
<p><b>Thursday, May 23</b>  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>GIL Classes  NWI Food Distribution  Bridge in the Parlor  Chancel Choir  Victory in Jesus Ministries  Bible Study – Library</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, May 29</b>  9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  12:00 p.m.  4:30-6:40 p.m.  5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes  Beyond Boomers Lunch  Lansing Children’s Choir  Yoga – Yoga Room</p>
<p><b>Friday, May 24</b>  5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Yoga – Yoga Room</p>	<p><b>Thursday, May 30</b>  9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  7:00 p.m.  7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>GIL Classes  Chancel Choir  Victory in Jesus Ministries  Bible Study – Library</p>
		<p><b>Friday, May 31</b>  5:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Yoga – Yoga Room</p>