



## *The First Epistle* Worship, Serve, Grow March 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 MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>**

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan, is called for **Sunday, March 10, 2024**, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the Session's reports on the life, work, and financial status of the church, to receive the annual budget, and review the Pastor's Terms of Call.

## **LENT – SIX WEEKS OF SUNDAYS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY THROUGH PALM SUNDAY**

- **Lent is a time of reflection, reconciliation, and repentance.** We have much to ponder in our world today and how best to reflect, encourage reconciliation, and repent of our own complicity in the struggles our world currently faces.
- **Lent marks the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness** preparing for his ministry, and “being tempted by the Devil.” It’s a time to consider how Jesus was able to reject Satan’s calls to put himself above God – and how often we fail to do so in our daily lives.
- **We mark the Sundays in Lent with our Lenten candle ceremony** to help us remember.
- **On Palm Sunday, March 24**, we will have palms and a play featuring Mary the Mother of Jesus’ possible perspective on Holy Week events.
- **On Thursday, March 28**, we will observe communion and the series of events that happened during and after the Last Supper. This event is planned to be family friendly, with “stations” to observe foot or hand washing, communion, prayer and storytelling, and the commitment of our paper prayer hearts from Ash Wednesday.

- **On Good Friday, March 29**, there will be two opportunities to worship and remember Jesus' sacrifice. From noon until 3:00 p.m., the Lansing Clergy Forum will again host a multi-pastor approach to worship in our Sanctuary. If you have never attended one of these services, you are highly encouraged to do so! We will also host a service at 7:00 p.m. in the First Pres Sanctuary to mark Jesus's death on the cross.
- **Sunday, March 31 is Easter!** Jesus has risen from the dead and we are witnesses of this great event! We will move from a mysterious dawn to the bright light of our Risen Lord! Join us for all or some of these events!

## PASTOR'S NOTE

Holy Week is just around the corner! This year we begin our observance on Palm Sunday with a breakfast from 8:30-9:30 and reader's theater production during our regular service written by our own Gwen Botting. Maundy Thursday services will be at 7:00 p.m. and might look a little bit different this year. Come and find out! On Good Friday we will have an ecumenical service with the churches of the Greater Lansing Clergy Forum from noon to 3:00 p.m. and our own regular service at 7:00 p.m. Easter Sunday we will celebrate at our regular worship time.

The following provides some helpful background on the history of Holy Week and is from the PC(USA) website:

One of the first annual events of the Christian year, after the celebration of the resurrection on every Lord's Day, was a commemoration of Christ's dying and rising at Easter. Over the years, one day was split into three different rituals to remember the Last Supper and New Commandment (Maundy Thursday), the Crucifixion (Good Friday), and the struggle to

make meaning of the cross in light of the whole of salvation history (the Great Vigil) — all culminating in Easter at daybreak.

What was originally one annual service remembering the Lord's death and resurrection became split into separate services to pay closer attention to the significant details of Christ's death and resurrection. These were considered to be part of one salvific activity

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of God and thus celebrated as such without a benediction until the end of the service with the Easter announcement that “Christ is risen!”

The Three Days or Triduum (Maundy Thursday at sundown through sundown of Easter) are the most solemn of the church year. The whole church’s participation is encouraged in this time of great significance for all who would be formed in the Christian faith, especially catechumens. The Great Vigil of Easter was the time set aside for the annual baptism of new Christians, coinciding with the eucharistic dawning of God’s reign in the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

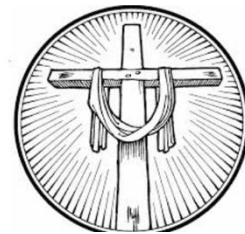
**A continuous dramatic story:** *An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 11)*

All of Holy Week points toward the passion — the death and resurrection of Christ. The week’s final three days (from sunset Thursday to sunset on Easter) complete the commemoration of Christ’s passion. These three days are called the Triduum.

The Triduum engages us from Thursday until Sunday in a unified act. What happens on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil forms a continuous dramatic story. These days are to be seen together rather than separately. The services for the three final days of Holy Week connect with one another and, together, comprise the oneness of the Triduum.

Because of this interrelationship of the three days, each service of the Triduum needs the others to tell the whole story. For example, resurrection is incomprehensible without Christ’s self-giving in crucifixion and at the Lord’s Supper. Therefore, Easter needs Good Friday and Maundy Thursday to be fully understood. The way to the triumph of Easter is through the Triduum.

All of Holy Week, and particularly its three concluding days (the Triduum), provides an opportunity to undertake a pilgrimage of renewed commitment and joy; to travel Christ’s path of servanthood, through the Lord’s Supper and the suffering of the cross, as we move toward Easter. Our joy during the great festival of resurrection will be enhanced by faithful participation in worship during the preceding week, especially during the whole of the Triduum.



## MUSIC NOTES from Megan



*Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust him as their Savior; still others have a gift for caring for God's people as a shepherd does his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God.*

*Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ.*

*-Ephesians 4:11-13 (Living Bible Translation)*

The liturgical calendar this year, requires us all to go through the bulk of Lent, then experience all of Holy Week to then burst into light on Easter morning. What an amazing journey we will be on together this month!

Your Staff, Worship Committee, Membership Committee, Christian Education Committee, and Deacons have been working hard to create a Lenten journey, a Palm Sunday, and an Easter morning that is meaningful. "WE" do not operate in a vacuum. The Lenten Bible Study, Sunday morning educational opportunities, worship service, Lenten candle readers, choir (chancel and bell), extra musicians, website workers, Egg Hunt organizers, Palm Sunday breakfast workers, the corporate prayer writers work *together* to create worship-filled experiences for you!

The music staff prays that the music you hear and experience during the month of March supports you on your Lenten and Holy Week journey and then bursts forth on the last day of March as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection!

### Hymns for March to include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| #166 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days | #310 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord               |
| #416 O Come Unto the Lord                  | #749 Come! Live in the Light!               |
| #833 O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go       | #724 O Jesus, I Have Promised               |
| #199 Filled With Excitement                | #353 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less       |
| #213 In the Cross of Christ I Glory        | #216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus             |
| #232 Jesus Christ is Risen Today!          | #239 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! |

### Choral Anthems in March to include:

- "If Ye Love Me" by Thomas Tallis
- "I Believe" by Mark A. Miller
- "God So Loved the World" by John Stainer
- "A Covenant Prayer" by Karen Marrolli
- "Sanctus" by Gabriel Faure
- "Lacrymosa" by W.A. Mozart
- "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!" arr Jeremy J. Bankston
- "Rise, Shine!" by Marques Garrett & Tom Trenney

### Here are some YouTube Clips of some of our music for the month of March.

"I Believe" by Mark Miller

[https://youtu.be/6RYh\\_RLUZ0A?si=vvSbfMIRQFhoPIb8](https://youtu.be/6RYh_RLUZ0A?si=vvSbfMIRQFhoPIb8)

"A Covenant Prayer" by Karen Marrolli

<https://youtu.be/AwpZIRWgsAA?si=nOI4GSLBuaCObNL>

"Sanctus" from Requiem by Gabriel Faure

<https://youtu.be/D7WGu1Ex4YM?si=jiNnxRMA57esO0px>

"Lacrimosa" from Requiem by W.A. Mozart

<https://youtu.be/0xgiSI-KibQ?si=aQKHbDnvXE0Utim7>

"Rise, Shine!" by Marques Garrett & Tom Trenney

<https://youtu.be/T8gMa-jHasc?si=P2fZV7YLQ1Ahjbl>



## WHAT'S NEW IN OUR LIBRARY?

### Earth Care Resources

A new re-purposed shelf in the church's library will feature resources on the environmental and eco-justice issues. The First Pres Green Team is working on an initiative whereby our church would become certified as an "Earth Care Congregation" through Presbyterians for Earth Care. This program strives to reduce environmental impacts through educational resources and local efforts such as recycling, conversion to solar power, and use of eco-friendly material in Worship. Our FPC Library Committee and the Green Team collaborated on providing a shelf featuring books, pamphlets, and related materials that provide insights on ways our congregation and its members can reduce poor environmental impacts on God's creation.



This new offering in the library helps our church to meet some of the criteria for becoming an "Earth Care Congregation." We hope to become fully certified by 2025. For more information on **Presbyterians for Earth Care** visit the website: [presbyearthcare.org](http://presbyearthcare.org)

### Social Justice Resources

Two more shelves are now being reserved for books regarding social justice issues. Books that were "all-church" reads or are other books on racial disparity and African American history can be found there.

### USED BOOKS NEEDED!

Doing spring cleaning at home? Our Little Free Library is used so much it needs to be refilled twice a week. We appreciated any used children's or adult books that are in good condition. Novels and romance and mystery books are favorites. Please put them in the tall wicker basket on the floor in the library. Thank you!!  
Call Linda Diepenhorst if you have questions about our libraries (517-410-1686).

## CALLING ALL UPCOMING GRADUATES!

It's time to start thinking about graduation! FPC wants to celebrate YOU this spring! We are planning on celebrating YOU on Sunday, May 19th, 2024. If you are graduating from high school or from college this spring, please let us know!  
We need to hear from you NO LATER THAN APRIL 30.

1. Photo(s) (FYI - our High School graduates typically share photos from Kindergarten – High School)
2. Your degree
3. Your immediate plans

All information (including photos) can be sent to Megan Hagle, Christian Education Director: [MHagle@lansingfirstpres.org](mailto:MHagle@lansingfirstpres.org)



# Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church



## CHILDREN and YOUTH

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

We continue learning more about the Old Testament in March. 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. ☺

Once per month we will have our Church-Wide Fellowship where YOU are NEEDED!

Sunday, March 24– Pre-Service Breakfast and After-Service Easter Egg Hunt –

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

If Youth Group is not “your thing,” please see Megan Higle or Ann Harvey for schedule of youth Bible Study and opportunities for service within our congregation.



### **SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE (roughly)**

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

\*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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of Lesson/Growing in God’s Love</b>
March 3	Being Kind: “God Gives the Ten Commandments” p. 166
March 10	Being Saved” “How Big is God’s Love?” p. 346
March 17	Being Brave “Speak Up, Jeremiah” p. 148
March 24	EGG HUNT ON THE FRONT LAWN
March 31	NO CLASS – EASTER SUNDAY

# ADULT FORUM

(11:30-12:30 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom).

Adult Forum Lenten Bible Study continues.

## “INHERITING THE KINGDOM”

**MARCH 3 – Unit 3**

**MARCH 10 – Unit 4**

Led by **Ann Harvey**

### MARCH 17

Come and enjoy watching an "Old School" video of a **Christmas pageant** from our Church's past.

Your host: **Russ Jenks**

### MARCH 24

#### PALM SUNDAY

No Adult Forum today

**Enjoy Breakfast served by the Deacons.**

**8:30-9:30 a.m.**

### MARCH 31

#### Easter Sunday

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

No Adult Forum today





# Book Group



*We will return to meeting on Zoom until next summer.* The Zoom link will be sent to the names on the Book Group email list. Please let Pat Eenigenburg know if you would like to be added to the list ([eenigenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:eenigenburg@hotmail.com)).

## Tuesday March 5, 7:00 on Zoom

### *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton



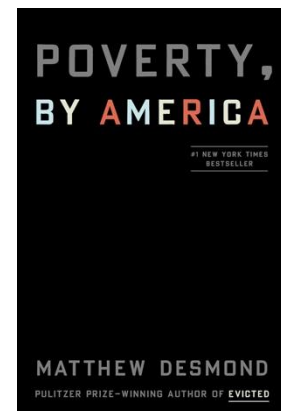
*Havana, 1958.* The daughter of a sugar baron, nineteen-year-old Elisa Perez is part of Cuba's high society, where she is largely sheltered from the country's growing political unrest—until she embarks on a clandestine affair with a passionate revolutionary... *Miami, 2017.* Freelance writer Marisol Ferrera grew up hearing romantic stories of Cuba from her late grandmother Elisa, who was forced to flee with her family during the revolution. Elisa's last wish was for Marisol to scatter her ashes in the country of her birth. Arriving in Havana, more family history comes to light and Marisol finds herself attracted to a man with secrets of his own. Discussion led by Pat Eenigenburg.

## Tuesday April 2, 7:00 in the parlor

### *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond (all-church read)

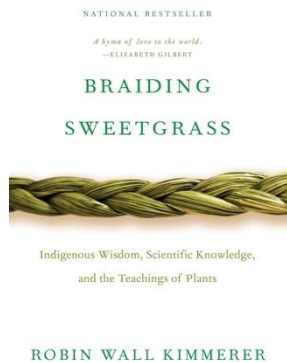
The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages?

Elegantly written and fiercely argued, this compassionate book gives us new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem. It also helps us imagine solutions. Desmond builds a startlingly original and ambitious case for ending poverty. He calls on us all to become poverty abolitionists, engaged in a politics of collective belonging to usher in a new age of shared prosperity and, at last, true freedom. Discussion led by George Bennett.

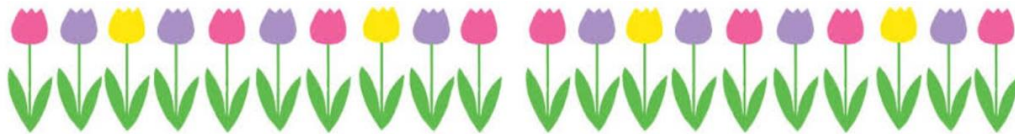


**Tuesday May 7, 7:00 in the parlor**

**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.



## **SESSION NOTES**

The Session met on February 21, 2024 for a training session with Sallie Campbell and Kathy Banghart and regular monthly meeting.

Don Heck explained the proposed budget for this year that will be presented at the annual meeting on March 10. The church ended the year with a \$9,457 deficit. The sale of the church van for \$4600 has helped to reduce last year's deficit and another donation of \$3,000 further reduced it to \$1857.

Pam Blair thanked the church for the **Pam Blair Christian Service award**: "I want to humbly thank you for your creative and thoughtful recognition. I am honored to have an award that highlights how God calls all of us to serve others. I am also excited to know this award means nothing unless we have many names for the plates, and I am already thinking of names to place on the plaque, because this church has many who are worthy. We are called to serve, and I am glad God has called me to serve with all of you. To God goes the glory."

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

# DEACONS' NOTES

**PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST – MARCH 24, 8:30 – 9:30**

**A.M. – Fellowship Hall**

Let us celebrate the beginning of Holy Week as a church family by sharing a meal together!! Your Deacons will be cooking up a lovely breakfast that includes breakfast casseroles, pancakes, and fruit. All we need is YOU to make it complete! **To help us**

**prepare enough food, if you think you might attend, please RSVP to Kathy Banghart ([kath1235@comcast.net](mailto:kath1235@comcast.net), 517-731-6183, leave a message). Don't worry - you are most welcome to join, whether you RSVP'd or not!**



## ADVENT HOUSE MEALS

The **next Advent House meal will be served on March 24**. If you would like to help with this (preparing or serving it), please contact Rich Blankenship, [gogreen3426@yahoo.com](mailto:gogreen3426@yahoo.com).

## CAMP GREENWOOD

Camp Greenwood is 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. 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](#) 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](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!*



Throughout the season of Lent, our Adult Bible Studies will focus our time, energies, and studies on the Bible material provided through our church wide Bible Study which will occur daily found elsewhere in this month's First Epistle and culminate on each of the Sundays in Lent during our Adult Forum. In the meantime ...

Be  
Be still  
Be still and  
Be still and know  
Be still and know that  
Be still and know that I  
Be still and know that I am  
Be still and know that I am God  
Be still and know that I am  
Be still and know that I  
Be still and know that  
Be still and know  
Be still and  
Be still  
Be

Bob Higle  
[bob.higle@gMail.com](mailto:bob.higle@gMail.com)  
sms 517-512-8018

## MISSION NOTES

### Support for Displaced Lebanese Families

Thank you for your generous support for the efforts of our mission partner, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), to provide for 145 Protestant families who were displaced from six communities near the Israeli border and forced to find refuge with relatives and friends in safer parts of the country. Our mission network was able to surpass our fundraising goal of \$10,000 and send \$15,000 to Lebanon in early January. Continuous shelling back and forth across the border has emptied border villages, leaving crops unharvested and orchards untended. Even Christian communities with no Hezbollah presence have been attacked. Although there are no reports of fatalities among the Protestant families, the church building in Alma as Shaab, south of Tyre, has been damaged.



### Feel the Love Buzz

Looking for a dark roast to fall in love with? Organic Love Buzz is a fan favorite for its velvety smooth brew and support of small farmers-led projects, like beekeeping on coffee farms. Love Buzz comes in bags of ground coffee or whole beans. Contact Carol Wallace (517-676-4847 or [cwallace145@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwallace145@sbcglobal.net)) to place your order for Love Buzz fair trade coffee.

### Agape Community Transformation (Act) Uganda

Karen and Dave Viele are on the board of ACT and have traveled to Uganda many times. **ACT celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.** As part of the celebration, a book covering the milestones of those 20 years was compiled with many photos. The book will be placed in the church library.

## **BOOMERS AND BEYOND –**

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor**

Come join the Boomers and Beyond group for lunch in the parlor on March 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. If you have not attended before, please come, and enjoy the camaraderie of others from our church. The group is a mix of men and women who may be long time members or fairly new members. We serve soup, salad, and dessert with lively conversations. The March winds may blow but the atmosphere in the Parlor is warm. If you have questions, please feel free to call Kathe Smith (517-230-1814) or Bev Phillips (517-927-8367). Hope to see you there.

## **TLC –**

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

TLC will meet on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. This month we will again be going to **Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill** (since we were snowed out in February). It is located at 2401 Lake Lansing Road (in Eastwood Towne Center) 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.

## **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.



## THANK YOU FOR THE MUSICIAN CHAIRS

A tremendous THANK YOU to the many **choir members** who contributed \$800 to purchase new musician chairs for the choir room and sanctuary!

A huge THANK YOU to **Steve Campbell and the Building and Grounds Committee** for dismantling the old chairs to dispose of the metal frames.



A SHOUT-OUT to **Darin Showalter and Bob Higle** for driving to Coldwater to pick up 40 chairs, load them up, and then unload them at FPC on a Sunday afternoon.

If you have a chance to sit down on one of the burgundy chairs, you will be completely supported and uplifted by these new chairs!

THANK YOU!

## 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)

## 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!





# CHURCH FAMILY

## CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

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

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



**Janet Metzelaar's Aunt Bethany** passed into life eternal on February 14th, 2024. Janet asked for prayers for her aunt's closest family members Pam, Greg, Teri, and Kimberly as they pack up Aunt Bethany's belongings and say their peace one to the other.

**Lord, we pray that the overflowing love you have for all your children find space in our hearts. We pray for healing, and your miraculous mending touch that it may help heal the physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds that touch our lives and those we love.**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/04	Heather Braggs	3/18	Pryderick Achuonjei
3/07	Alyse Collins	3/18	Elliot Ryser
3/09	K C Cornelius - Gallimore	3/19	Gary Schaub
3/11	Jean Jones	3/21	Jim Donaldson
3/11	Charles Amabo	3/23	Salim Makhoul
3/11	Rachel Layne	3/25	Ellyn Faziani
3/12	Kathe Smith	3/25	Mary Lou Gebhardt
3/12	Fadia Fawaz	3/26	Scott Moore
3/14	Bethanne Jenks	3/26	Cheryl Makhoul
3/15	Josephine Powers	3/27	Pam Blair
3/15	Jack Toomey	3/28	Elain Mackoul
3/17	Mike Bryan	3/31	Daphne Hengstebeck
3/17	Gail Summerfield		
3/17	Pat Feeley		
3/18	Jacob Toomey		



**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.**

# MARCH CHURCH CALENDAR

<p><b>Friday, March 1</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m.                    Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Saturday, March 2</b>    All Day Poor People’s March</p> <p><b>Sunday, March 3</b> 10:00 a.m.                    Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.                    Adult Forum 11:30 a.m.                    Children’s Faith Formatn 12:15 p.m.                    Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, March 4</b> 6:00 p.m.                    Area Lansing Pastors 9:00 a.m.-4                    AARP tax prep – Litten 7:00 p.m.                    Membership Committee</p> <p><b>Tuesday, March 5</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4                    AARP tax prep – Litten 4:00 p.m.                    Adult Forum Committee 5:30-6:30 p.m.                    Yoga – Yoga Room 6:30-9:00 p.m.                    Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00-8:30 p.m.                    Book Group – Parlor 7:00 p.m.                    Capital City Chordsmen</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 6</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m.                    Lansing Children’s Choir 6:00 p.m.                    Mid MI Photo Mtg 6:30 p.m.                    Mission Committee Mtg</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 7</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 5:00 p.m.                    NWI Cooking Demo 7:00 p.m.                    Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.                    Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Friday, March 8</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m.                    Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Saturday, March 9</b> 12:00-4:00 p.m.                    Goodwill Mission Mtg</p> <p><b>Sunday, March 10</b> 10:00 a.m.                    Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.                    Adult Forum 11:30 a.m.                    Children’s Faith Formatn 11:30 a.m.                    Finance Committee 12:15 p.m.                    Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, March 11</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4                    AARP tax prep – Litten 10:00 a.m.                    Staff Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m.                    Yoga – Yoga Room 6:30 p.m.                    Bells of First – Choir 7:00 p.m.                    Gr. Lansing Area Moms 7:00 p.m.                    Membership Comm Mtg</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, March 12</b> 9:00 a.m.-4                    AARP tax prep – Litten 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 5:30 p.m.                    Worship Committee Mtg 6:30-9:00 p.m.                    Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m.                    Capital City Chordsmen</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 13</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 12:00 p.m.                    Boomers &amp; Beyond 4:30-6:30 p.m.                    Lansing Children’s Choir 7:00 p.m.                    Deacon’s Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 14</b> 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.            NWI Food Distribution 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 7:00 p.m.                    Chancel Choir – Choir 7:00 p.m.                    Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library</p> <p><b>Friday, March 15</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m.                    Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Sunday, March 17</b> 10:00 a.m.                    Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.                    Adult Forum 11:30 a.m.                    Children’s Faith Formatn 12:15 p.m.                    Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, March 18</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-4                    AARP tax prep – Litten 10:00 a.m.                    Staff Meeting 5:00-9:00 p.m.                    GIL Classes 6:00 p.m.                    Finance Committee Mtg 6:30 p.m.                    Bells of First – Choir</p> <p><b>Tuesday, March 19</b> 8:00 a.m.                    NWI Food Truck Prep 9:00 a.m.-4                    AARP tax prep – Litten 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 2:30 p.m.                    Building &amp; Grounds Mtg 5:30-6:30 p.m.                    Yoga – Yoga Room 6:00 p.m.                    MidMI Photo Officers Mtg 7:00 p.m.                    Capital City Chordsmen</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 20</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 4:30-6:40 p.m.                    Lansing Children’s Choir 7:00 p.m.                    Session Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 21</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.            GIL Classes 5:00 p.m.                    NWI Cooking Demo 6:00-8:00 p.m.                    GL Quilt Guild Meeting 7:00 p.m.                    Chancel Choir</p>
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<p><b>Friday, March 22</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m.      Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Sunday, March 24</b> 8:30 a.m.      <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m.      Breakfast – Litten Hall 11:30 a.m.      Morning Worship 12:15 p.m.      Egg Hunt                          Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, March 25</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.      GIL Classes 10:00 a.m.      Staff Meeting 5:00-9:00 p.m.      GIL Classes 6:30 p.m.      Bells of First – Choir</p> <p><b>Tuesday, March 26</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.      GIL Classes 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</p>	<p>7:00 p.m.      Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 27</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.      GIL Classes 4:30-6:40 p.m.      Lansing Children’s Choir</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 28</b> 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.      GIL Classes 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.      NWI Food Distribution 1:00 p.m.      Bridge in the Parlor 7:00 p.m.      Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.      Victory in Jesus Ministries                          Bible Study – Library</p> <p><b>Friday, March 29</b> 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.      Secretary of State 12:00-3:00 p.m.      Good Friday Service 5:30-6:30 p.m.      Yoga – Yoga Room 7:00 p.m.      Good Friday Service</p> <p><b>Sunday, March 31</b>      <b>Easter</b> 10:00 a.m.      Morning Worship 12:15 p.m.      Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>
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### FIRST CHURCH STAFF

<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Stanley Jenkins	<b>Part-time Custodian:</b> Kliff Nhengu
<b>Parish Associate:</b> Rev. Charles Herrick	<b>Director of Music:</b> Megan Hagle
<b>Pastoral Care Assistant:</b> Christine DeYonke	<b>Organist:</b> Sergei Kvitko
<b>Church Administrator:</b> Betsy Calvert	<b>Bell Choir Director:</b> Darin Showalter
<b>Director of Congregational Life &amp; Outreach:</b> Prince Solace	<b>Child Care Staff:</b> Lily Ferris
<b>Director of Christian Education &amp; Youth Ministry:</b> Megan Hagle	<b>Video Producers:</b> Bill Collins and Andrew Mackoul