



The First Epistle

Worship, Serve, Grow
November 2023



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 NOVEMBER 5

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

STEWARDSHIP 2024

With 2024 right around the corner, the Session is preparing the tentative 2024 budget for the church. As most of you know, **pledges are the church's most important source of income making up almost 70% of the General Fund budget.** In these difficult inflationary times, **we pray that you can pledge for 2024 the same amount as you did this year or increase it to support the church.**

Our Session and its committees are working to reduce spending and raise additional funds to balance the budget for the 2023 calendar year. Our members and friends are faithfully fulfilling their pledges and we are receiving \$100,000 of funds from the Endowment Fund in 2023, which should be repeated in 2024. **The Session wants to maintain the same level of General Fund budget in 2024 as we have in 2023 to continue the vital role First Presbyterian Church plays in Lansing. Your financial support is vital in this effort.**

A pledge card will be mailed in early November to our members and friends of the church with prayerful hope that it will be returned on November 19 on Commitment Sunday to joyfully celebrate our faith and financial support of this church. You also can mail the pledge card back to the church if you are unable to attend the worship service. **Thanks for helping to do the Lord's work in our neighborhood, community, and the world!**

Pastor's Corner

Adult Forum	13
Advent House meal	17
All Church Read	15
Angel Tree	18
Bible Study, mid-week	14
BINGO Outreach	17
Birthdays	21
Book Group	6-7
Boomers & Beyond	9
Church Calendar	22-23
Church Family	20
Church Staff	21
Coffee Project	8
Deacons' Notes	17-18
Faith Formation	11-12
Flower Calendar	15
Food Pantry Update	19
Green Team	7-8
Holiday Food Baskets	2, 18
Israel/ Palestine	9
JusticeLeague of Grtr Lansing	3
LINK News	10
Mission/Soc'l Justice Notes	7-9
Music Notes	4-5
Name Tags	10
Pastor's Corner	2
Restorative Justice Campaign	4
Rides to Church	17
Robert Burns Celebration	20
Session Digest	16
Stewardship	1
TLC	9
Women's Fellowship	10

I've had a wonderful Sabbatical and I thank you all for this opportunity to study, rest pray and reflect. I've just got back from Scotland, spending a lot of time in the beautiful Highlands and the Isle of Skye. I can't wait to show you all the pictures in Adult Forum! It's a magical place.

Leslie is recovering nicely from her hip replacement and thanks you all for the prayers. I've been up in Traverse City taking care of her. It's been wonderful to have the time together.

I've missed you all and can't wait to see you! I'm ready to get back to work!

Stan

'Tis the season for Holiday Food Baskets!

With your help, our church family will fill food baskets at Thanksgiving and at Christmas, for distribution to area families in need.



We packed baskets at the end of October for distribution throughout November. **Christmas Basket** non-perishable packing dates will be in late November and will be announced via all-church email as the dates get closer.

With rising food costs, your donation of \$50 per basket, which helps support this gift, is more important than ever! Please indicate Holiday Basket on the check and envelope. Thank you for your support!

Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan
Fall Celebration/Fundraiser Event



Everyone is invited to attend and share with the JLGLM on updates and progress the organization has made since its inception right here at First Presbyterian Church. **This congregation has shepherded and housed the JLGLM as a fledgling nonprofit. Currently, you have our backs as we toddle out into the world on our own.** So, **please come to this event and celebrate with us! Registration will open through November 2. If registration does not work online, please come to the event anyway, you will be admitted!**

I look forward to seeing you at this exciting event!

Willye Bryan

entpeople@yahoo.com

The flyer has a black background with a decorative border of colorful geometric patterns (diamonds and squares) in red, green, and yellow. The text is centered and reads: 'You're invited' in a white serif font. Below that is 'Justice League of Greater Lansing' in white, followed by 'FALL CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER' in large, bold, yellow sans-serif letters. To the right of the text is a small portrait of Dedria Humphries Barker. Below the portrait, it says 'With Guest Speaker Dedria Humphries Barker' in white. Further down, it says 'Rejoicing ♦ Reflecting ♦ Progressing' in white, followed by '5-7pm ♦ Friday, Nov. 3, 2023' and 'Gregory's Soul Food ♦ 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Lansing'. At the bottom, it says 'RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 25' and 'www.JusticeLeagueGLM.org/event-details-registration'.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As we start to close out 2023, **thanks to everyone that paid their pledge or contributed to the Restorative Justice Campaign this last year.** We will make a payment to the Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan (JLGLM) Dec 31. Good job, First Pres!

A reminder to those of you that haven't yet made an installment payment to their pledge, or to anyone who just wants to contribute: you still have the next two months to do so! You can pay by cash or check with the memo "Restorative Campaign," or you can pay electronically on the website (lansingfirstpres.com), by clicking "Donate here," then on the "Restorative Justice Campaign" box on the donation page.



MUSIC NOTES from Megan



Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!" - St. Catherine of Sienna

Blessings abound, all around us, at all times. (flicker, flicker)

I try, very hard (honestly), every day to remember this. Whether it's in the life of our 21 ½ year old cat, Elijah; my young friends at Montessori Children's House who are STOKED to see me whenever I am in the building; the relationships being fostered in the Lansing Children's Choir; the family unit that exists in the FPC Chancel Choir; the text messages I receive from my women friends at FPC....Blessings abound. Period.

(flicker, spark, flicker)

It can be so easy to fall into the trap of "we don't matter," "why bother?"...and be hit by the stones thrown from the sidelines. The gospel song, "Hold On" tells us to "keep your hand on the (Gospel) plow." Imagine trying to sow a straight line, via Ox cart/plow and you look backwards....you would not have a straight line! You can only plow straight ahead, by keeping your focus straight ahead. Be a spark. Be a flicker.

Music Notes continued...

Jester Hairston was able to record his choir on this most wonderful of inspiration songs:
https://youtu.be/7dpYx_NDFrY?si=HrpV9cNNI-OqPI81

As you continue your journey as being part of God's family, the music staff at FPC hopes that we offer you moments of inspiration and create sparks for you to carry into the community this month.

Hymns for November to include:

#840 When Peace Like A River	#326 For All the Saints
#352 My Lord, What a Morning	#192 Shine, Jesus, Shine
#4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name	#673 Jesus, Light of Joy
#44 Like a Mother How Has Borne Us	#15 All Creature of Our God and King

Choral Anthems in November to include:

“The Good Shepherd” by Zebulon Highben
“Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal” arr Alice Parker
“I’d Rather Have Jesus” arr Marianne Forman
“Jubilate Deo” by Emily Crocker
“Kyrie” from Mass in G by Franz Schubert
“Crown Him King of Kings” arr Hal Hopson

Peacefully and musically yours,
Megan

Here are some links to choral anthems this month:

“Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal”

<https://youtu.be/bVrK34BKazg?si=lxgBCeoXezvjfGrQ>

“I’d Rather Have Jesus”

<https://youtu.be/Gv6mF0X0yIk?si=c0LsXusmKyZcIh5Z>

“Jubilate Deo”

<https://youtu.be/BK0qqBi9SDg?si=fxKRE6IN11gThk-x>

“Kyrie”

<https://youtu.be/bI0eYuere4o?si=qkTKRZKyYP2Et06Q>



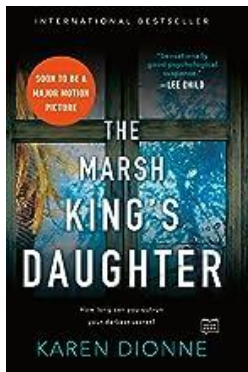
Book Group



Book Group is meeting on Zoom until next summer. Let Pat Eenigenburg (eenigenburg@hotmail.com) know if you would like to be added to the book group email list.

Tuesday November 7, 7:00 on Zoom

***Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne**

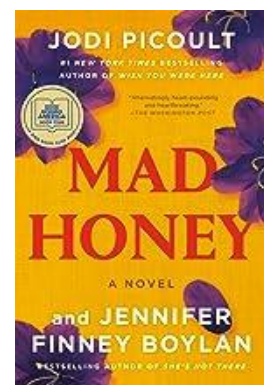


Helena Pelletier has a loving husband, two beautiful daughters, and a business that fills her days. But she also has a secret: she is the product of an abduction. Her mother was kidnapped as a teenager by her father and kept in a remote cabin in the marshlands of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Helena, born two years after the abduction, loved her home in nature, and despite her father's sometimes brutal behavior, she loved him, too...until she learned precisely how savage he could be. More than twenty years later, she has buried her past so soundly that even her husband doesn't know the truth. But now her father has killed two guards, escaped from prison, and disappeared into the marsh. The police begin a manhunt, but Helena knows that only one person has the skills to find the 'Marsh King'—because only one person was ever trained by him: his daughter. Discussion led by Jackie Blankenship.

Tuesday December 5, 7:00 on Zoom

***Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult**

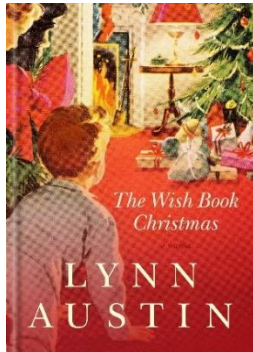
Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising their beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined that she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in and taking over her father's beekeeping business. Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start. Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl in school, and Lily can't help but fall for him, too. What ensues is a riveting tale of suspense. Discussion led by Victoria Fitton.



Book Group continued...

Tuesday January 2, 7:00 on Zoom

***The Wish Book Christmas* by Lynn Austin**



Best friends Audrey Barrett and Eve Dawson are looking forward to celebrating Christmas in postwar America, thrilled at the prospect of starting new traditions with their five-year-old sons. But when the 1951 Sears Christmas Wish Book arrives and the boys start obsessing over every toy in it, Audrey and Eve realize they must first teach them the true significance of the holiday. They begin by helping Bobby and Harry plan gifts of encouragement and service for those in their community, starting by walking an elderly neighbor's yellow Lab—since a dog topped the boys' wish list for Santa. In the charming tale that follows, Audrey and Eve are surprised to find their own hearts healing from the tragedies of war and opening to the possibility of forgiveness and new love. Discussion led by Elda Keaton.



MISSION and SOCIAL JUSTICE NOTES

The **Green Team** is working towards the church becoming an Earth Care Congregation, which recognizes and accepts restoring creation as a central concern of the church, to be incorporated into its life and mission at every level.

Caring for Creation

Bins are located throughout the church and labeled for specific items: recyclable items (Granger), paper (Paper Gator) and returns.

Please note that items such as napkins, used paper plates and cups are NOT recyclable, please dispose of them in the trash. Although cardboard is not accepted in the paper recycling, it **IS accepted in the Granger bins.** To reduce waste we use washable cups on Sunday mornings. (We are committed to not using Styrofoam).



What can go in the Paper Gator bins?

- Newsprint
- Catalogs/Magazines
- Junk Mail
- Phone Books
- Office/School paper
- Hard and soft cover books



- Paperboard
(Grocery Item boxes – boxes that tear easily)
- Standard staples & paperclips are ok

Why do it?

Being good stewards of our resources is a great reason by itself. Specifically, the paper will be shredded and processed into hydro seeding mulch, lawn establishment products, lawn repair products, Fresh News® Cat Litter, dog litter, Fresh News® Small Animal Bedding, Fresh News® Small Animal Litter or recycled at paper mills, cellulose insulation manufacturers or other recycling facilities. AND donating your used paper to the Paper Gator also earns funds for recycling!

Good coffee for a good cause



The Presbyterian Coffee Project offers a special link between congregations and communities around the world. Churches can now reach out to neighbors overseas not only with the prayers and offerings we give, but with the goods and products we purchase. A warm cup of coffee (or tea) in our hands is perhaps the most tangible daily connection we have with farmers around the world. It represents warmth, hospitality, fellowship, hard work and life's pleasures both fine and simple.

Fair trade products make good Christmas gifts. Gift bags can be ordered. A \$50.00 bag consists of dates or olive oil, gourmet chocolate box, bag of coffee, bag of cashews and bag of dried mangos. A \$30.00 gift bag consists of bag of cashews, hot chocolate and box of gourmet chocolate. A \$40.00 gift bag consists of coffee, box of gourmet chocolate, bag of cashews and can of hot chocolate.

Visit the Fair Trade table on Sunday, November 26 and Sunday, December 3 for coffee, tea, chocolate bars and hot chocolate for Christmas gifts.

Contact Carol Wallace to order gift bags. Cwallace145@sbcglobal.net

Mission Funds are being allocated to the Food Pantry, to the Deacons for Holiday Baskets, and for Boomers luncheons.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through Action through Churches Together (ACT) Alliance.



PDA has approved a solidarity grant for a hospital in Gaza and will continue supporting our partners providing humanitarian assistance. Our response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions including delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals wrestling with the emotional aftermath of the warfare.

To support our response, designate gifts to [DR000081-Israel/Palestine](#)



The Boomers and Beyond luncheon is November 15, 20223 at 12:00 pm in the parlor. You will find a good meal of soup, salads, and dessert and good conversation as well! We hope you will join us! Please call Kathie Smith or Bev Phillips if you have any questions.



TLC – Thursday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m.

TLC will meet on Thursday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m. This month we will be going to BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse. It is located at 2515 Lake Lansing Rd. (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.





LINK NEWS for NOVEMBER

The Grand Ledge/West Delta LINK will have our November Link Breakfast on **Saturday, November 11 @ 9:00 a.m. at Dimitri's** on Saginaw Hwy.

East Lansing-Meridian Twp-Williamston LINK are invited to the **home of Sam and Kathe Smith** for Holiday Dessert & Coffee. Bring the kids! **Friday, December 22, 7 pm.**

HOME LINK! Our next luncheon get-together will be at **Delhi Cafe, on Friday, November 17, at 11:30.**

The next event for **NORTHWEST LANSING-DEWITT AND ALL POINTS NORTH** will be **December 9, 1:00 p.m., at Bravo Restaurant.**



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Name Tags

Would you like a name tag? Or does your old one need to be replaced? Please email Pam Blair blairkids3@yahoo.com or call/text 517-281-9099. **The deadline to get names to the printer is November 12, 2023.**

Women's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, December 9** at the **home of Alyse & Bill Collins**. Please see Megan Higle or Christine DeYonke for details.

WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP

We will be assembling luminaries for use on Christmas Eve, a hands-on craft, fellowship, Bible Study and snacks! Our theme is "God in Water/Mistletoe" (Chapter 12 of "Celtic Ways to Pray").

Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church

Following Christ

November 2023

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



CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS!



4 years – 12 years Age Children!

We have time for fellowship, snacks, Bible story, discussion, craft and story time in our Elementary School Classroom (K-6th grade) after worship service with our CE Teachers (Ms. Megan, Ms. Ann, Ms. Deb, Ms. Kathy & Ms. Pam) – every Sunday! We meet for about 30 -45 minutes. We use the *Growing In God's Love Story Bible* and typically follow the Gospel lesson each Sunday. Join in on the fun!

Youth (Middle and Senior High)!

Our Middle and Senior High Faith Formation group continues our fellowship with Holt & (now!) 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!

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.

Adults!

Adult Forum meets in Litten Hall most Sundays and is a welcoming place for all in our congregation and community. Adult Forum does Bible Study, Community Betterment and Congregational Building during this time together.

Wednesday Bible Study will be led by Pastor Bob Higle, from 10:30 a.m. – Noon, every Wednesday, on Zoom – see article in this newsletter for more information.

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. – 12:15 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 about how we God, through Jesus is part our everyday lives/homes/actions.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title of Lesson/Growing in God's Love</u>
Nov 5 (Ms Deb)	"A Blessing Map" (p 324)
Nov 12 (Ms Megan)	Pageant Rehearsal
Nov 19 (Ms Megan)	Pageant Rehearsal
Nov 26 (Ms Megan)	Pageant Rehearsal

Youth Group with Holt & Okemos Presbyterian continues every Sunday. Many thanks to Pam Blair for her continued connection with our youth (we couldn't do this without you)!

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

Adult Forum – Please see the description of Adult Forum topics in this newsletter (p. 13)

LOOKING AHEAD

December – Children/Youth Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17!

Peace and Blessings,

Megan Higle

mhigle@lansingfirstpres.org

office phone: 517-482-0668 x. 14





ADULT FORUM

(11:15-12:15 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom).
(Childcare is available through this time.)

NOVEMBER 5

Building/Emergency Procedures Drill given by the Emergency and Building Security Committee. This will be held in the Sanctuary right after church.

Please all stay!

NOVEMBER 12

Thanksgiving – Thanks but No Thanks?
With Elliot Ryser

Our traditional Thanksgiving holiday along with several others has continued to decline in popularity compared to some recently adopted holidays. However, there is at least one thing for which we are all universally thankful, namely the food that sustains us. Come and hear how many people it takes to get your Thanksgiving dinner to the table. It's more than you think.

NOVEMBER 19

The First Presbyterian Church of Lansing
Vision and Mission Statement
will be presented and questions answered.

NOVEMBER 26

Time to join the holiday fun of decorating the church.
(No Adult Forum today)

Mid-Week Bible Study

Our midweek bible study continues on Wednesday mornings beginning at 10:30 AM. We will be exploring All Saints Sunday through to Christ the King Sunday (the end of the calendar for the Church Year) and the First Sunday of Advent (the beginning of the new Church Year)



Here is a summary of the lessons we could study for the month of November:

November 1: All Saints Sunday

- Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 (The holy ones will receive God's kingdom and possess it forever.)
- Luke 6:20-31 (Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.)

November 8: Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

- Amos 5:18-24 (The day of the Lord is darkness; let justice roll down like waters.)
- Matthew 25:1-13 (The parable of ten bridesmaids; keep awake, the Lord is coming.)

November 15: Christ the King (this is a pull ahead for next week due to Thanksgiving)

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (I will be the shepherd of my sheep, says the Lord; I will save them.)
- Matthew 25:31-46 (The king will judge: just as you did it to the least, you did it to me.)

November 22: No meeting this day as it is the day before Thanksgiving.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 64:1-9 (Tear open the heavens and come down; save us from our sin.)
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ's coming.)
- Mark 13:24-37 (In those days the stars will fall from heaven; keep awake.)

Here is a link to the Revised Common Lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Come and join us! Wednesdays at 10:30 AM by Zoom. Here is the link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215658039?pwd=c21vSVhNQlJ2eHNBNmxZU1pyWWwydz09>

Meeting ID: 832 1565 8039

Passcode: 661418

Bob Higle

Bob.Higle@gmail.com

517-512-801

ALL CHURCH READ

We are doing an **All Church Read** through Adult Ed this year. It takes a look at Poverty and has some eye opening concepts. The book is **Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond**.

Desmond is a new kind of sociologist who lives with the people he is studying for a period of time. He describes those experiences and then uses his academic training to analyze and document what's happening.

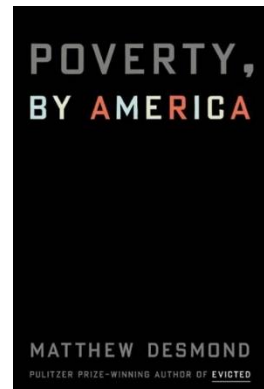
There are two copies in the church library. You can purchase it as a hard back, paper back, e-book or audio book. There are 9 chapters and a prologue to read, the rest of the book is the data to back the statements.

We have provided a sheet for you to take notes on as you read through the material. George Bennett will lead discussions on the book in April.

You can view the Washington Post interview with the author below or read the transcript of the interview to set the stage for the read.

[Interview with Matthew Desmond](#)

[Transcript of Interview](#)



FLOWER CALENDAR

There are many dates available on the chart (located in the main office hallway) to celebrate special days in our church family. The new price is \$50. Simply sign up on the chart, indicate the occasion that you would like celebrated or honored (birthday, anniversary or memorial), write a check to the church and give it to Betsy Calvert, in the office, and we will order for you. If you would like to purchase or provide a silk arrangement for use when we don't have a fresh arrangement scheduled, please see Judy Whitman. Thank you! -
Worship Committee.



First Presbyterian Church of Lansing,
Michigan
Session Digest
Wednesday, 18 October 2023

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Lansing met at the church for its regular meeting Wednesday, 18 October 2023. Rev. Charles Herrick served as moderator while Rev. Stanley Jenkins is on sabbatical.

The Finance Committee reported that we are making progress on closing the operating deficit, while a substantial deficit is still projected at the end of the year. Fees for weekday parking continue to generate new revenue, and Finance and other committees continue to look for ways to trim and reallocate the budget. Session asked all church committees and programs to submit their budget requirements for 2024. The Finance Committee will meet and compile committee budget inputs and make recommendations back to Session at the November meeting.

The Restorative Justice Campaign (which is separate from the operating budget) has reached more than three quarters of the goal for pledges to our \$100,000 commitment to the Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan, with almost \$79,000 pledged and nearly \$34,000 received so far, from 37 households.

Session adopted updated vision and mission statements, which are available on the church website, and to be formally presented to the congregation later this year. Discussion of the vision statement and our Matthew 25 commitment also involved member care among the congregation, and issues of attendance and engagement.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Collins, Clerk of Session

DEACONS NOTES: November 2023



Deacons serve at **Coffee Hour** on the third Sunday of each month—stop by and say hi on November 19!



Advent House Meals: Deacons will prepare and serve a chili supper at Advent House on **Sun., Nov. 26. The next meal is Sun., Jan. 28.** You do NOT have to be Deacons to volunteer— anyone, including youth needing Community Service hours, are welcome!

Contact Alyse Collins: alyse.a.collins@gmail.com for more information.

Member Care: Deacons contact those unable to attend regularly to show the constant love of our Christian family of faith. If you know someone who would appreciate or benefit from this ministry, contact Bessie Roper: text or call 517-803-3640 or bessieroper@gmail.com.



• **Rides to Church:** Can you help with an occasional ride to church for those who cannot attend without transportation? If you're willing to participate in our **Rides to Church** list, call or text Bessie Roper 517-803-3640, or email bessieroper@gmail.com.

• **Homebound Communion.** To request a homebound communion visit, contact the church office: (517) 482-0668. **The next date is November 5.**



Our **"Bingo!"** outreach ministry with **S. Washington St. Retirement Apartments** meets monthly on the **3rd Tuesday at 7pm**. Donations of: \$25 gift cards from Meijer/Kroger; personal care items like soap, lotions, toothpaste and toilet paper; cleaning supplies like laundry soap and other useful items are appreciated as Bingo prizes. **Volunteers are needed to lead Bingo every 3rd Tuesday of the month** -- contact Lynda Snyder at lksnyder3@comcast.net to help.

Deacons Notes continued...

Our “Angel Tree” provides Christmas cheer for area families and children in need. Please help us share love and joy with these families this year. Complete details will come to you soon via an all-church email! Any questions, please contact Alyse Collins at alyse.a.collins@gmail.com



Please consider a monthly gift to the Deacons Fund (which is funded solely by congregational donations) to share blessings with those in need in our community. **Holiday Basket Funds are particularly needed now**—\$50 funds one basket, and 100 baskets are handed out at Thanksgiving AND at Christmas! Please mark your check **Holiday Baskets** to finance this year’s Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. *Thank you!*

The December newsletter deadline is November 15.
Please send articles to Victoria Fitton at vafitton@gmail.com



FOOD PANTRY



Thank you for responding to the weekly email requests for various food items that the pantry needs. The Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) still does not receive consistent supplies of food through USDA or Food Movers that picks up salvage items from major retailers such as Meijer, Kroger and Wal-Mart. Therefore we need to buy or receive donated items that are basic staples.

Client activity continues to grow because GLFB policy requires all pantries to provide food to anyone regardless of where they live. Previously our pantry served only the zip codes of 48933 and 48915 and referred “out of area” clients to pantries in their neighborhood. With many families needing food and most pantries open only one or two days per week, our pantry is serving many more Lansing area families.

Before August 1, GLFB did not charge pantries for the delivery of food and it provided USDA and salvage food at no charge. That policy has changed and all food pantries are now charged for delivery. In addition, all pantries have to buy certain foods that previously were free. The church Food Pantry Board is evaluating the financial impact on our pantry budget, and early indications are that our expenses have increased by \$3000 per month. We are reducing the amount of food provided to meet the financial challenges. Based on our projections, the additional expenses will exceed our monthly revenue by \$1000-\$1500. If nothing changes, our existing balance will be depleted in a year.

Our pantry continues to buy perishable items from Aldi’s and Meijer each week that our clients cannot obtain as many live in a “food desert.” The City of Lansing provides an annual \$5,000 grant to help us pay for these fresh items not obtainable in the area especially for many clients who do not have access to a vehicle. The Pantry Board is also applying for various grants to supplement the City’s funds. The most dependable source of funds continues to be donations from our church members and friends of the pantry. Thank you!

The pantry continues to be blessed with unexpected sources of money and food items from organizations and people who are moved by God to help us meet the increased demand and expenses. We are praying that our sources of revenue will meet the additional expenses being incurred. Our pantry is the “go to” source of food in the city and with your continuing help, we will meet those challenges. Praise God!

GLEN ERIN PIPE BAND ROBERT BURNS CELEBRATION

Tickets are on sale now for the Glen Erin Pipe Band's Robert Burns Celebration January 27, 2024, at MSU's Kellogg Center. This event with dinner, concerts, and dancing is a highlight of the Scottish cultural calendar and well attended by members of First Pres. Tickets are \$55. Contact Bill Collins for more info or to reserve a seat with the First Pres group: bill@pipercollins.com



CHURCH FAMILY

CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)

Dianne Rector (Rosewood Manor in DeWitt)



To our Church family,

We sincerely appreciate your phone calls, cards, emails, and prayers following Gary's hospital stay with Covid/Pneumonia. He has come a long way.

Thank you and God Bless You. ~ Gary and Joyce Schaub

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

Child Care Staff: Lily Ferris

Video Producers: Bill Collins and

Andrew Mackoul



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/02	Sue Jenks
11/02	Steve Campbell
11/02	Bob Hughes
11/04	Amy Bockes
11/04	Aiden Friess
11/04	John Mackoul
11/07	Rima Mackoul
11/08	Laura DeYonke
11/09	Mike Carey
11/09	Dani Fawaz
11/09	Cecily English
11/09	Joel Layne
11/11	Franco Nashef
11/13	Collin Schafer
11/14	Cobi Snyder

11/15	Bill Marx
11/19	Willye Bryan
11/19	Milo Snyder
11/20	Gary Bailey
11/21	Anne Weirich
11/22	Jovita Amabo
11/22	Thatcher Hengstebeck
11/23	Sorcha Powers
11/24	Lamarr Braggs
11/25	Sophie Keller
11/25	Jackson Keller
11/25	Ann Harvey
11/26	Jeff O'Neill
11/28	Bailey Kennedy
11/29	Chris Hughes
11/29	Ann Helmic

NOVEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

(Dates subject to change)

Wednesday, November 1

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study - Zoom
 4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal –
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room
 6:00 p.m. MidMI Photo Club mtg- Litten Hall
 6:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting - Zoom

Thursday, November 2

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes

Friday, November 3

5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, November 4

Sunday, November 5

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship- Sanctuary
 11:15 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
 12:15 p.m. Victory In Jesus – sanctuary

Monday, November 6

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 5:00 p.m.-9 Gill Classes
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room
 7:00 p.m. Membership Committee – Zoom

Tuesday, November 7

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 4:00 p.m. Adult Forum Comm.- Library/Zoom
 6:30 pm-9 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
 7:00 p.m. Book Group – Zoom
 7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsman - Chapel

Wednesday, November 8

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
 4p Nominating Committee – Zoom
 4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal –
 5:00 p.m.-6 Open Spot Theatre – Litten Hall
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room
 7:00 p.m. Deacons meeting

Thursday, November 9

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 12:00 p.m.-2 NWI Food Distribution – Litten Hall
 6:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal–choir room
 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible study - library

Friday, November 10

5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, November 11

Sunday, November 12

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
 11:30 a.m. Finance Committee

Monday, November 13

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room
 5:00 p.m.-9 Gill Classes

Tuesday, November 14

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 2:30 p.m. Building and Grounds – library
 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee
 6:00 p.m. MidMI Photo Officers Mtg- Library
 6:30 pm-9 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
 7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsman – Chapel

Wednesday, November 15

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 12:00 p.m. Baby Boomers & Beyond lunch-parlor
 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study – Zoom
 5:00 p.m.-6 Open Spot Theatre – Litten Hall
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room
 7:00 p.m. Session meeting

Thursday, November 16

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 6p-8 GL Quilt Guild- Litten Hall
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal–choir room
 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible study - library

Friday, November 17

5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, November 18

Sunday, November 19

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 11:15 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
 12:15 p.m. Victory In Jesus – sanctuary
 3:00 p.m. Lansing Symphony Orchestra -chapel

Monday, November 20

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 5:00 p.m.-9 Gill Classes
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

November Church Calendar continued...

Tuesday, November 21

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
11:00 a.m. GIL Graduation – Chapel/Litten Hall
6:00 p.m. Mid-Michigan Photo Officers-library
6:30 pm-9 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsman – Chapel

Wednesday, November 22

5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24

5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, November 25

Sunday, November 26

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
11:15 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
12:15 p.m. Victory In Jesus - chapel

Monday, November 27

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m.-9 GIL Classes
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

Tuesday, November 28

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
6:30 pm-9 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsman – Chapel

Wednesday, November 29

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study - Zoom
4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal –
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Yoga – Yoga Room

Thursday, November 30

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Classes
12:00 p.m.-2 NWI Food Distribution – Litten Hall
1:00 p.m. Bridge in the parlor
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal–choir room
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible study - library

Updated 10/25/23