



# *The First Epistle*

Worship, Serve, Grow  
December 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 DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>



SEE THE FIRST PRES ADVENT ACTIVITIES POSTED ON PAGE 9!!!

## **'Tis the season for Holiday Food Baskets!**

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

## **BOOMERS AND BEYOND – Wednesday, December 13 at 12:00 p.m.**

Our December luncheon will allow us to enjoy the Christmas Spirit with our fellow Boomer and Beyond Group. The church decorations around the church enhance the atmosphere of the season and the food is prepared with love. However, it is the people who come and sit around the tables enjoying conversations with each other that is most important. Join us on December 13th at noon.

## **TLC – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 1:00 P.M.**

TLC will meet on Thursday, December 21st at 1:00 p.m. This month we will be going to Bravo! Italian Kitchen. It is located at 2970 Centre Blvd. (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.





## Pastor's Corner

Act Uganda	4
Adult Bible Study	12-13
Adult Forum	3
Birthdays	18
Book Group	10-11
Boomers & Beyond	1
Celebrate Christmas Activities	9
Childcare Room	14
Christmas Joy Offering	5
Church Calendar	19-20
Church Family	18
Church Staff	20
Deacons Notes	16-17
DeWitt Comm Singers Concert	8
Equal Exchange	4
Flower Calendar	14
Faith Formation	15
Holiday Baskets	1
LINK News	6
Membership Committee	6
Music Notes	4-5
Pastor's Corner	2-3
Robert Burns Celebration	5
Session Notes	17
Stewardship	11
TLC	1
Women's Fellowship	14

The season of Advent begins this year on December 3rd. "Advent" means "coming," "arrival," and as such, both points toward a celebration of God's coming into the world through the birth of his son at Christmas two thousand years ago and the promise of his final return in triumph at the end of days. The season looks backward and forward at the same time, the two events finding their connection in the present.



On the one hand, we celebrate an event from the past as an experienced anticipation in the present, counting down not the remaining shopping days until Christmas, but the remaining days of growing expectation and longing until the advent of the joy of new birth, the dawning of the light, the arrival of the fullness of Divinity in the reality of humanity, which is celebrated in Christmas. In the ritualized days of the Season of Advent we experience the anticipation of the past as a present anticipation.

Each Sunday for four weeks we light a candle on the Advent wreath, each Sunday the glow growing with additional candles, getting brighter and brighter, until finding its culmination on Christmas Eve in the Christ candle haloed and surrounded by the combined light of all four candles of the season. In the ritual of the season, we experience what has already been as happening anew in our life—the birth of Christ not occurring two thousand years ago, but right now in our lives, in our midst, in our community.

On the other hand, in Advent we also celebrate an event that has not yet happened as partially fulfilled in the anticipation of the present, looking forward toward the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God, when Justice shall reign, and every tear be dried, and the swords beaten down into plowshares. As a community we tend and nourish our longing and hope, we huddle in the glow of God's Promise, building one another up, exhorting each other toward acts of kindness and love, keeping the hope alive in our shared longing, our shared pining, our shared hunger.

In remembering Jesus' promised return, we remember that God is not yet finished with us or his creation, that the status quo is not all that can be hoped for or expected. In remembering Jesus' promised return, we look forward with longing to the final vindication of hope and the triumph of love. In Advent, we experience, if not the fulfillment of this promise, then the palpable vitality of this promise, the life-giving power of this promise. In Advent this power is made manifest to us in the experience of anticipation.

In the ritualized days of the Season of Advent, past and future meet in the shared experience of the community in the present. These are strange days indeed, marked in sacred time by the church in worship and fellowship. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear! --- Stan



## **ADULT FORUM**

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



### **DECEMBER 3 ADVENT WORKSHOP**

For all ages! Come to Litten Hall for Cookie Decorating, Ornament Creating, Fellowship, Christmas Music! Cookies can be taken home, ornaments can be given as gifts, warm fellowship will live in your hearts! Bring the whole family!

### **DECEMBER 10 SALIM MAKHOUL**

#### **A Faith Journey of a Christian Lebanese**

Elder and longtime member Salim Makhoul will talk about Lebanon and his life journey there and here in the US.

### **DECEMBER 17 Rev. Stanley Jenkins**

#### **The Scottish Highlands! the Isle of Skye!**

Come see fabulous castles, fairy pools, waterfalls, and highland cattle! Rev. Jenkins will talk about and show pictures from his Sabbatical trip to Scotland.

### **DECEMBER 24 (no Adult Forum today)**

**Join the congregation this evening in our beautiful candlelight service.**



***Adult Education Committee wishes everyone a blessed holiday.***

## ACT UGANDA CRAFT SALE



Instead of an in-person craft sale with Karen and Dave Viele, this year you can buy gifts from Uganda online.

**ACT UGANDA** – Wouldn't it be nice to find that perfect, unique gift for a loved one while giving someone hope at the same time? Well – you can! Just visit [Act Uganda](#) and take a “trip” to our ACT Uganda store for your Christmas shopping. The proceeds from your purchase will go back into the programs of ACT Uganda. It's a win/win! We have beautiful baskets, jewelry and sewn items made by the women of Muko Sub-County who are part of our Uniquely Uganda Handcrafts program. We also have a group of dedicated volunteers in Michigan who make lovely sewn items from the fabrics our Travel Teams bring back from Uganda. **Place your orders no later than December 11 to ensure that they arrive before Christmas.** And if you're not sure what to purchase, there is always the ACT Uganda Digital Gift Card, also available in our online shop, which is available to purchase and receive immediately. We hope you'll consider our shop as you work through your gift list. We thank your congregation for being a long-time supporter of ACT Uganda!

**SEE THE FIRST PRES ADVENT ACTIVITIES POSTED ON PAGE 9!!!**

## 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, December 3** for coffee, tea, chocolate bars, hot chocolate and for Christmas gifts. Contact Carol Wallace to order gift bags.

[Cwallace145@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Cwallace145@sbcglobal.net)

## **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

The Christmas Joy Offering will be dedicated on December 24. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



## **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 Presbyterian. Tickets are \$55. Contact Bill Collins for more info or to reserve a seat with the First Presbyterian group: [bill@pipercollins.com](mailto:bill@pipercollins.com)



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES

If you joined the church in 1972, 1973, 1974, or 1975 or know someone who did, we need your help. We are having trouble with our church data base and need you to tell us when you joined the church. Please **contact Pam Blair** at [blairkids3@yahoo.com](mailto:blairkids3@yahoo.com) with the year you joined. Thank you for your help.

We as a church want to support you and your activities. We realize this church has many talents and we would like to see you in action. Tell us when you have a game, a performance, or an art show. We want to publicize these events for people to attend. Also, please share pictures so we can show you off on the church screens. Help us celebrate you and your talents **send info and pictures to [psolace@lansingfirstpres.org](mailto:psolace@lansingfirstpres.org)**



## LINK NEWS FOR DECEMBER

Christmas Gathering for **West Lansing North Delta** Link group will be at **One North on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** We have space reserved, and we can order off the menu. If we have more than 25 people, that may change. Cost will be for your own dinner and tip. Please join us for a great, festive celebration of great friends and food. Contact Deb Donaldson (517-899-2583) or Chris DeYonke (517-281-3740).

Hi to **Northwest Lansing-DeWitt and all points North LINK** friends. We have a date for you. Our next gathering will be a celebration of the holidays at Bravo! Italian Kitchen, on **Saturday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m.** It is located at 2970 Centre Blvd. in Eastwood Towne Center. We hope to see you there.

On an added note, **Marilyn Mather** is included in our group although, at 92 years of age, she says she doesn't have the energy to come to lunch with us. She doesn't use a computer, but I have enjoyed getting to know her on the phone. She is a longtime supporter of our Food Bank, making weekly deliveries when she was able. I suspect she would appreciate cards and calls. Let's keep her LINKed in!

**Grand Ledge/West Delta Link** Breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday December 9.** We will be meeting at **Dimitri's at 9:00 a.m.** Our gatherings have been full of enjoyable conversation and fellowship.

**East Lansing – Meridian Twp – Williamston LINK** is invited to the home of Sam and Kathe Smith for **Holiday Dessert and Coffee.** Bring the kids! **Friday, December 22, at 7:00 p.m.**

Continued on the next page.

**Home LINK** – Our December get-together will be on **Friday, December 29 at 11:30 a.m.** at the Vieles' home in Dimondale. This is our Christmas gathering with a **white elephant gift exchange**. Always a good time!



## **MUSIC NOTES from Megan**

*“Whom do you see? Shepherds, tell us!”*

-from “Christmas Cantata” by Daniel Pinkham

The choir, Sergei, and I are excited to bring the “Christmas Cantata” by Daniel Pinkham as part of our Advent journey in December. Composed in 1957, Daniel Pinkham was an organist, harpsichordist, teacher, and composer in the Boston area for the bulk of his career. He was a regular performer with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and was the staff organist at King’s Chapel in Boston for forty-two years.

The text comes from three Christmas Eve texts centering around Shepherds, Baby Jesus in the Manger, and a multitude of Angels in the Sky, and encompasses fanfare, plainchant (utilizing the Dorian mode – known for “mystery” in church music), and Renaissance dance.

Being a New England composer and a student of composition at Tanglewood, you can hear influence from Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, and Nadia Boulanger.

We, at First Presbyterian, will present “Christmas Cantata” with full choir, organ, and a brass choir.

As you make your way through Advent and into Christmas, the music staff at FPC hopes that we offer you moments of awe and wonder to enliven your spiritual journey.

### **Hymns for December to include:**

- |                                   |                                             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| #350 Keep Your Lamps              | #105 People Look East                       |
| #106 Prepare the Way, O Zion      | #88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel                 |
| #100 My Soul Cries Out...         | #112 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing |
| #129 Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming | #144 In the Bleak Midwinter                 |
| #145 What Child Is This?          | #134 Joy to the World                       |

### **Choral Anthems in December to include:**

- “Every Valley” by John Ness Beck
- “Christmas Cantata” by Daniel Pinkham
- “When Angels Sing” by Mark A. Miller
- “Gabriel’s Message” arr by Gail Lund
- “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” arr by Valerie Capers
- “Sing Lullaby” arr by Heather Sorenson





# All of Creation Sings


WINTER CONCERT

DEWITT COMMUNITY SINGERS

13 December, 2023  
7 PM

DeWitt High School Auditorium

\$10 per person



**DEWITT COMMUNITY SINGERS:**

Megan Higle, Artistic Director

Singers from FPC: Blake Castonguay, Lily Ferris, Bob Higle, Chrisann Lowe, Fred Lowe, Katie Sundeen

Violinist: Lydia Bradford

Choral "friends": Brooke Broughton (assistant director), Ian Broughton, Tim Gates, Alex Wassom







DECEMBER @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN of LANSING  
Celebrate the Season in Downtown Lansing!

# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

**ADVENT WORKSHOP**

**SUN DEC 3**

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**ORNAMENTS, COOKIES, FUN!**

**CHORAL CHRISTMAS**

**SUN DEC 10 @ 10 AM**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Featuring "Christmas Cantata" by Daniel Pinkham  
with Brass Choir & Organ

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS**

**PAGEANT**

**SUN DEC 17 @ 10 AM**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS SONGS FOR JAZZ**

**LOVERS**

**SUN DEC 17 @ 7 PM**

**CONCERT (FREE WILL DONATION)**

Paul Keller Ensemble celebrates the holidays  
with winter classics for big band and singer

**LESSONS & CAROLS**

**SUN DEC 24 @ 7 PM**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

510 W. Ottawa, Lansing, MI 48933 [www.lansingfirstpres.org](http://www.lansingfirstpres.org)

# Book Group

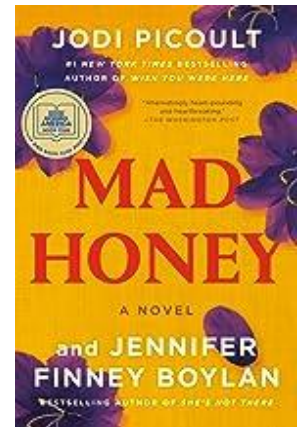


*We will return to meeting on Zoom until next summer.* The Zoom link will be sent to the names on the Book Group email list. Please let Pat Eenigenburg know if you would like to be added to the list ([eenigenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:eenigenburg@hotmail.com)).

## Tuesday December 5, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

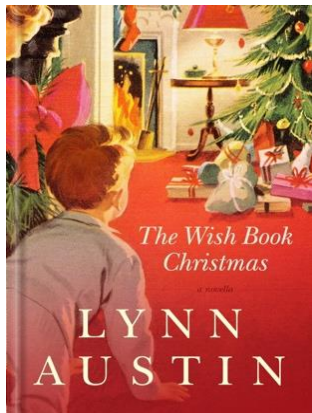
### *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult

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 Linda Diepenhorst.



## Tuesday January 2, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

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



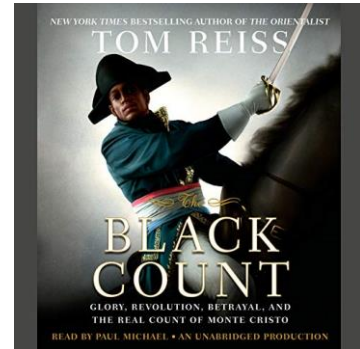
Best friends Audrey Barrett and Eve Dawson are looking forward to celebrating Christmas in postwar America, thrilled at the prospect of starting new traditions with their five-year-old sons. But when the 1951 Sears Christmas Wish Book arrives and the boys start obsessing over every toy in it, Audrey 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.

**SEE THE FIRST PRES ADVENT ACTIVITIES POSTED ON PAGE 9!!!**

**Tuesday February 6, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**  
***The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo* by Tom Reiss**

General Alex Dumas is a man almost unknown today, yet his story is strikingly familiar—because his son, the novelist Alexandre Dumas, used his larger-than-life feats as inspiration for such classics as *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*. But, hidden behind General Dumas's swashbuckling adventures was an even more incredible secret: he was the son of a black slave—who rose higher in the white world of France than any man of his race prior to current times. *The Black Count* is simultaneously a riveting adventure story and a window into the modern world's first multi-racial society. But it is also a heartbreaking story of the enduring bonds of love between a father and son.



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!

**STEWARDSHIP 2024**

If you have not returned your pledge card for 2024, please do it this month. There are extra pledge cards in the office and at the entrances to the sanctuary if you misplaced the letter and card mailed in late October. Pledges make up 70% of the church budget and therefore are extremely important to maintain our staff, programs, and property. We thank everyone who has pledged so far and look forward to receiving additional pledge cards. Those cards can be returned during a worship service, dropped off or mailed to the church office. Praise God for everyone's work and financial support of the church!

**The January newsletter deadline is December 15.**  
**Please send articles to Victoria Fitton: [vafitton@gmail.com](mailto:vafitton@gmail.com)**

# ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Information and Readings

As we begin the month of December, so do we also begin a new year in the life of the church with a new set of readings marking the beginning of the season of Advent. The Gospel According to Mark will be the primary book for this new year. These readings will also provide readers with an opportunity to focus on the words from the prophet Isaiah. We continue to meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. by Zoom throughout the month of December. We will not be meeting on the Wednesday following Christmas. A church wide email will go out on the Monday before each Wednesday we will meet. Here is the link to the readings for Year B: [PDF scheduled readings for Year B, 2023-2024](#)

## First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023

*Stir up your power and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open, to cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

Isaiah 64:1-9

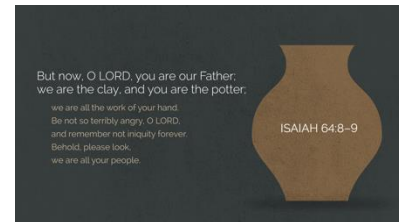
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

*Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.*

*(Ps. 80:7)*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37



## Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023

*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

Isaiah 40:1-11

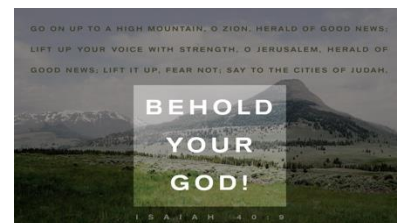
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.*

*(Ps. 85:13)*

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8



### Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

*The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)*

Luke 1:46b-55 (Alternate)

*You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28



### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed, still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

*You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)*

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (Alternate)

*Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)*

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



Bob Hagle / [bob.hagle@gmail.com](mailto:bob.hagle@gmail.com) / 517-512-8018



**SEE THE FIRST PRES ADVENT ACTIVITIES POSTED ON PAGE 9!!!**

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Women's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. to noon** at the home of Alyse & Bill Collins. Please contact Megan Hagle (248-320-4578) or Christine DeYonke (517-281-3740) for details and to rsvp. 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").



## CHILDCARE ROOM

Just a reminder that the Childcare Room is available during Worship Services on Sunday mornings. Because of the number of little friends we have, if your child is "in school" (kindergarten), try to refrain from using the childcare room. We encourage our growing learners to participate in the worship service. The children's area in the front of the sanctuary can be a calming and welcoming place for you and/or your child to be in the Worship space, too. There are soft chairs, a padded floor, books, puzzles, magnets, etc.



Updated "Fidget Bags" for any child are now available in the narthex. Memo pads, mechanical pencils, children's bulletins, poppers, water beads, crayons and coloring pages are ready for you!



## FLOWER CALENDAR

Sign up to provide flowers for worship on any given Sunday for a wonderful way to enhance the worship service, and to remember/ celebrate/ honor special events and the people we love. It's easy! Just put your name on the date of your choice on the Flower Calendar located in the hallway next to the parlor door and **send or give a check to the church office for the \$50 cost.** Please put "flowers" on the memo line of your check.



# Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church

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

## CHILDREN and YOUTH

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

Our Christmas Pageant, “The King’s Birthday,” will have costumes, songs, dialogue, and fun during worship on December 10! Join Ms. Megan and Ms. Alyse as we put the finishing touches on this beloved FPC tradition.



### **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! Contact Pam or Megan for weekly emails.

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

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

**Sunday, December 3 after church ADVENT WORKSHOP – come and decorate cookies, craft an ornament or two, sing along to your favorite Christmas songs!**

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 available until 1:00 p.m. 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.

Date	Title of Lesson/Growing in God’s Love
Dec 3	ADVENT WORKSHOP FOR ENTIRE FAMILY!
Dec 10	Final Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
Dec 17	No Class
Dec 24	No Class

*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)!

## DEACONS NOTES: December 2023



**Christmas is coming!**

**Non-perishable foods** were packed in **100 Christmas Food Baskets** by the congregation on **Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**, immediately after the service. Perishable foods will be added weekly by the Food Pantry Volunteers, for distribution to area families in need. Your donation of **\$50**—designated as **Holiday Baskets**—helps support this precious gift. You may donate through the green Deacons envelope in the pew, or by mailing a check to the church. Please indicate **Holiday Basket on the check and green envelope**—Thank you!

**Christmas “Angel Tree”**: Every year, our congregation shares love and joy with special area families in need. Click this [SignUp link](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084BA4A62DA5FE3-45827972-angel#/), <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084BA4A62DA5FE3-45827972-angel#/> which will also have been sent via an all-church email. Any questions, please contact **Alyse Collins** at [alyse.a.collins@gmail.com](mailto:alyse.a.collins@gmail.com)

When the “Angels” have purchased gifts, here’s what to do next:

- Attach a note securely to each gift stating “**Angel Tree**” and the **name and age** of the recipient.
- **If the recipient is under 18, please do NOT wrap the present.**
- **If the recipient is 18 years or older, please wrap the gift.**
- **Be sure the note is attached for each gift, no matter the age of the recipient.**
- **Drop off your gift no later than Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>** to the Church Office, Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, or on Sunday before worship.
- Wrapping paper and tape for the family is appreciated!
- Deacons will deliver your gifts to the families prior to Christmas so the caregivers can know what their family is opening on Christmas morning. Thank you and God bless you for your loving generosity!
- **Questions?** Please contact **Alyse Collins** at [alyse.a.collins@gmail.com](mailto:alyse.a.collins@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continuing ministry of love in the season of our Lord.

**For those unable to attend worship:**

- **Rides to Church:** Can you help with an occasional ride to church for those who cannot attend without transportation? If you’re willing to help our **Rides to Church** call or text Bessie Roper 517-803-3640, or email [bessieroper@gmail.com](mailto:bessieroper@gmail.com).
- **Homebound Communion:** To request a homebound communion visit, contact the church office: (517) 482-0668.

**Member Care:** Deacons contact our shut in’s regularly, showing 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](mailto:bessieroper@gmail.com).

**Advent House Meals:** Deacons gathered **Sunday, November 26**, to prepare and serve a meal for the Advent House ministry. Advent House meals take place on the fourth Sunday on the odd numbered months. The next meal is **Sunday, January 21**. Volunteers are welcome for this important food



ministry, serving the hungry in our community! Contact: Alyse Collins at [alyse.a.collins@gmail.com](mailto:alyse.a.collins@gmail.com) or Rich Blankenship <mailto:gogreen3426@yahoo.com> for more information, or to volunteer.



**Our “Bingo!” outreach ministry** with Capital City Apartments, 3200 S. Washington St. in Lansing **meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7 pm**. Donations of: \$25 gift cards from Meijer/Kroger; personal care items (soap, lotions, toothpaste, toilet paper); cleaning supplies (dish & laundry soap) and other useful items are appreciated as Bingo prizes. Volunteers are needed for this service ministry!

Contact Rich Blankenship <mailto:gogreen3426@yahoo.com> or Bessie Roper: text or call 517-803-3640 or [bessieroper@gmail.com](mailto:bessieroper@gmail.com). They can also help with collecting prizes.

## **SESSION NOTES – December 2023**

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Lansing met at the church for its regular meeting Wednesday, 15 November 2023. Rev. Stanley Jenkins presided as moderator.

Prospective new members Natasha & Desmond Ferguson were invited to speak about their background and faith journeys, and their wish to join First Pres. After very brief deliberation Session approved their membership and welcomed them to the church.

The Finance Committee reported that the projected deficit is improving, but it is too soon to know by how much. Parking paid by state workers and contractors continues to be a welcome source of revenue, and careful budget reductions have helped to close the gap. Session also approved a motion by the Building & Grounds Committee to sell the aging and little-used church van.

A first-draft budget for 2024 was presented, based on committee budget input. The draft budget is nearly the same overall amount as the 2023 budget, but discussions are ongoing. The annual pledge campaign is now underway, with Commitment Sunday November 19.

Ordination and Installation of newly elected elders and deacons is planned for Sunday December 10.

# CHURCH FAMILY

## CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

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

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



It is with deep sadness that that we say goodbye to a beloved member of our church family, **Laura Wilkinson**, who passed into life eternal on November 9. Laura was a lifetime member of our congregation who faithfully shared her gifts over many decades of service. Her light will continue to shine in our hearts.

We extend our sympathy and love to **Chrisann Lowe** at the death of her brother, **Matthew Winklepleck**, on November 16. Matt had been under Hospice care in his home in Brighton. Chrisann and her sister, Julie, were staying with him. We hold Chrisann and her family in our hearts and prayers as they mourn his loss.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02	Julie Keller	12/18	Claire Collins
12/02	Kaitlin Holbrook	12/22	William Rye
12/03	Kathy Banghart	12/22	Bruce Poland
12/03	Larry Johnson	12/23	August Aste
12/04	Miriam Deh	12/24	Josef Snyder
12/04	Herschel Roper	12/24	Russ Jenks
12/04	Beth Roper	12/25	Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema
12/06	Matthew Ringlever	12/26	Connie Heck
12/06	Alden Hughes	12/26	Tessa Bockes
12/09	Richard Wampler	12/27	Lucy Petit
12/11	Carolyn Heck	12/27	Rev. Stanley Jenkins
12/13	Polly LeTourneau	12/30	Aryana Hughes
12/14	Hilda Khuri	12/30	Julia Wenglarski
12/16	Beverly Bockes	12/30	Jacob Fawaz
12/17	Christine DeYonke	12/30	Atticus Sirmeyer



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 of the mistake.

# DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

<p><b>Friday, December 1</b>            11:00a.m.-2:00 p.m. NWI Holiday Party            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Saturday, December 2</b>            3:00 p.m. Call time for concert            4:00 p.m. Lansing Children’s Choir</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 3</b>            10:00 a.m. Morning Worship-Chapel            12:15 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, December 4</b>            5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room            7:00 p.m. Membership Com- Zoom</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 5</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            4:00 p.m. Adult Forum Committee            6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe – Litten            7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen            7:00 p.m. Book Group - Zoom</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 6</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study            2:30 p.m. Building &amp; Grounds            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room            6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Club Mtg.            6:30 p.m. Mission Committee Mtg.</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 7</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. NWI Food Distribution            7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal            7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Friday, December 8</b>            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Saturday, December 9</b>            12:00-4:00 p.m. Tribal Meeting – Litten</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 10</b>            10:00 a.m. Morning Worship            11:15 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten            11:30 p.m. Finance Committee            12:15 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, December 11</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            5:00-9:00 p.m. GIL Classes            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room            6:30 p.m. Bells of First Rehearsal            7:00 p.m. Membership Committee</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 12</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting            5:30 p.m. Worship Committee            6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Officers            6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band            7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsman</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 13</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study            12:00 p.m. Boomers &amp; Beyond            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room            7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting            7:00 p.m. Session Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 14</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal            7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries                              Bible Study – Library</p> <p><b>Friday, December 15</b>            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 17</b>            10:00 a.m. Morning Worship            11:15 a.m. Adult Forum            12:15 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, December 18</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            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room            6:00 p.m. Finance Committee            6:30 p.m. Bells of First</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 19</b>            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            7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 20</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study            5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 21</b>            9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes            12:00-2:00 p.m. NWI Food Distribution            6:00-8:00 p.m. Quilt Guild Meeting            7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal            7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries                              Bible Study – Library</p>
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<p><b>Friday, December 22</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m.            Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve</b> 10:00 a.m.                Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.                Adult Forum 12:15 p.m.                Victory in Jesus Ministries</p> <p><b>Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 26</b> 5:15-6:30 p.m.            Bells of First Rehearsal 5:30-6:30 p.m.            Yoga – Yoga Room 6:30-9:00 p.m.            Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m.                 Capital City Chordsmen</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 27</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m.            Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 28</b> 1:00 p.m.                 Bridge in the Parlor 7:00 p.m.                 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.                 Victory in Jesus Ministries                                   Bible Study – Library</p> <p><b>Friday, December 29</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m.            Yoga – Yoga Room</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 31</b> 10:00 a.m.                Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.                Adult Forum 12:15 p.m.                Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>
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<b>FIRST CHURCH STAFF</b>	
<p><b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Stanley Jenkins  <b>Parish Associate:</b> Rev. Charles Herrick  <b>Pastoral Care Assistant:</b> Christine DeYonke  <b>Church Administrator:</b> Betsy Calvert  <b>Director of Congregational Life &amp; Outreach:</b> Prince Solace  <b>Director of Christian Education &amp; Youth Ministry:</b> Megan Hagle</p>	<p><b>Part-time Custodian:</b> Kliff Nhengu  <b>Director of Music:</b> Megan Hagle  <b>Organist:</b> Sergei Kvitko  <b>Bell Choir Director:</b> Darin Showalter  <b>Child Care Staff:</b> Lily Ferris  <b>Video Producers:</b> Bill Collins and Andrew Mackoul</p>



**SEE THE FIRST PRES ADVENT ACTIVITIES POSTED ON PAGE 9!!!**