



The First Epistle

Worship, Serve, Grow
April 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 APRIL 7TH

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 Higle, Christian Education Director: MHigle@lansingfirstpres.org



POTLUCK SUNDAY



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

SAVE THE DATE

Please save the date for the church picnic on August 4th after worship.



Mark your calendars!
On Saturday, April 13th, at 10:00 a.m. at Reachout Christian Center
5628 Wise Rd Lansing, MI 4891.



We've received a grant from Presbyterian Peace Fellowship to co-host, along with the Okemos Presbyterian Church and The Clergy Forum of Greater Lansing, our **first community-wide Gun Violence Summit!**

The emphasis here is on preventing gun violence, and not taking away anyone's hunting rifles!

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From the winning grant application:

The Greater Lansing Area Gun Violence Summit will be an opportunity for education, information sharing, and strategizing about practical and faithful responses to the plague of gun violence in Lansing, the Capital city of the state of Michigan, and surrounding communities. But we also see it as an opportunity for the church to gather across racial and denominational lines to pray together, eat together, and work together, to provide a unified witness to the power of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Working with Black colleagues of various denominations, the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, the Presbyterian Church of Okemos—two predominately white congregations—and Reachout Christian Center, a predominately Black Pentecostal Church, will co-host an event, open to the community at large, but directed especially to area churches, to be held in the heart of the Black community in Lansing. The event will begin with, but not end with, a prayer meeting.

Together we will ask God to make us ambassadors of peace in our own community. Like many places

across America, in recent years, the Greater Lansing area has been wracked with gun violence, from the school shooting at Michigan State University in East Lansing last February, to the ongoing gun violence throughout the area. In 2019 the FBI ranked Lansing in the top ten percent of most violent cities in America. This is not a white

problem, a Black problem, an urban problem, a rural problem, or a suburban problem. This is a community-wide problem, which requires a community-wide response.

After a prayer meeting, we will gather together for a meal, fellowship, and discussion. Afterwards, we will continue with an Action Symposium. Bringing to bear denominational resources, we will invite Margery Rossi to represent the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. Margery's expertise is in assisting congregations to get involved in gun violence prevention efforts; she will present a variety of practical responses and solutions, including, among others, a Guns to Gardens Program.

To update us on what is happening locally, we will have representatives from Lansing 360, a new organization, bringing together frontline workers dealing with youth violence, the police chief, the fire chief, local judges, business interests, and faith leaders, to create a wholistic response to gun violence in the Greater Lansing area. Finally, we will have a professor from Michigan State University to brief us on recent relevant legislative changes in the state of Michigan.

We need your participation!

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR FOOD PANTRY

Our friends one block east of our church at St. Paul's is once again offering a concert to raise funds for our food pantry as it has done in previous years. Here are details on the concert that Rector Karen Lewis provided Prince.



We will be hosting again the "If Music Be the Food" concert performed by MSU students on Saturday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. We would like the **First Presbyterian Food Bank to be the recipient of the donations collected at the concert.** It would be great if you could also share this information with your congregation and volunteers involved in the food bank. Once I have a set program from the director I will share it with you. In the meantime, here is a bit of information about the mission of "If Music Be the Food," which is a national organization/movement.

"If Music Be the Food..." is a series of benefit concerts which raise awareness and support for the hungry in the local community through the sharing of great music. Our mission also includes teaching music students about the importance of community service via their art. Each concert is a fully grass-roots community event involving

professionals, students, and local volunteers in joyful collaboration. We are striving to address nourishment in all of its forms; our bodies need it in the form of food and our souls need it in the form of music and community!



"If Music Be the Food..." is a completely volunteer endeavor. All of the musicians donate their services, the venues donate the space and print the programs free of charge, and the community, students, and local volunteers assist with publicity, stage management, and anything else that needs to happen for each concert. There is no fixed

price for admission, rather, the audience is invited to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations of any amount for the partnering food bank. IMBTF is not a 501c3; the only money exchanging hands goes directly to the partnering food bank.

Blessings to you and yours,

Karen+

GWEN BOTTING PERFORMANCE

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



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

The concert is at **7:30 p.m. at St. Cecelia Music Society in Grand Rapids on Friday, May 3rd**. For tickets, please go to kentphilgr.org.

MUSIC NOTES from Megan

*Shout your praises to God, everybody! Let loose and sing! Strike up the band!
Round up an orchestra to play for God, add on a hundred-voice choir.
Feature trumpets and big trombones, fill the air with praises to King God.
Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause, with everything living on earth joining in.
Let ocean breakers call out, "Encore!" and mountains harmonize the finale –
A tribute to God when he comes, when he comes to set the earth right.
He'll straighten out the whole world, he'll put the world right, and everyone in it.*
-Psalm 98:4-9 (The Message)

As Spring is in the air, in the ground, and in our thoughts, the music staff at FPC hopes that you are witnessing the beauty of creation; the love of God; and the grace of people around you. The music during the month of April has been selected for you to connect to a lyric (or verse), a musical idea, an overwhelming feeling or (even better) all of the above!

It has been scientifically proven that music can reduce anxiety, settle blood pressure, improve sleep quality, increase mental awareness, and improve mood. Why then, are not every member in our congregation singing to the best of their ability on Sunday mornings?!

I encourage you to SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG during the month of April – and I hope that you find it liberating. Our God is a gracious and loving God and wants us to be praising God with all of our being....let's start working on that now!

The music staff prays that the music you hear and experience during the month of April gives you moments of JOY and CELEBRATION as you feel how much God loves YOU!

Hymns for April include:

#255 O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing	#684 Faith Begins By Letting Go
#630 Fairest Lord Jesus	#366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
#394 Christ Is Made Sure Foundation	#757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples
#611 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	#450 Be Thou My Vision

Choral Anthems in April include:

"Walk in the Light" arr by Andre Thomas
"Modimo" arr by Michael Barrett
"Love One Another" by John Bell
"Joyful, Joyful" arr by Roger Emerson
"Requiem" by Gabriel Faure (with chamber orchestra) – Sunday, April 21!

Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church



Firstly...welcome and thank you to our 2024 committee for Youth Education... Alyse Collins (chair), Ann Harvey, Pam Blair, and Megan Hagle (staff resource).

Secondly.... Thank you to our Adult Education Committee for 2024 – Ceci Anderson (chair), Shirley Herrick, Bob Hagle, Charlie Herrick, Megan Hagle (staff resource), Sharon Carr, Karen Viele, Sue Carey, and Ann Harvey.

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS!

4 years – 12 years Age Children!

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

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

Youth (Middle and Senior High)!

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

These groups come together every Sunday evening. We are so glad that our young people have ways to share their faith with others in our larger community! If you have a student in grades 6 – 12, see Megan Hagle or Pam Blair to find out what opportunities exist. 😊

IF Youth Group is not “your thing”, please see Megan Hagle, Pam Blair or Alyse Collins for a 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.

Please look at the detailed list for Adult Forum in this newsletter.

Wednesday Bible Study will be led by Pastor Bob Hagle, at 4:30 p.m, 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. – 12:30 p.m. * – **Adult Forum** in Litten Hall

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

FAITH FORMATION DETAILS

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
April 7	Ms. Ann
April 14	Ms. Alyse
April 21	Ms. Deb
April 28	Ms. Kathy

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!

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.

ADULT FORUM

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

APRIL 7

Discussion of the ALL-CHURCH BOOK READ *Poverty, By America* – by author Matthew Desmond. Discussion led by George Bennett

If you have read the book or not, JOIN US as we try to answer questions such as *Why does the United States have more poverty than any other advanced democracy? 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?*

APRIL 14

Waterwise Landscaping: Protecting the Grand River and Beyond
Led by **Mike Bryan and Carol Wallace**

Paige Filice, MSU Extension, will discuss how to best manage and protect water resources in our lakes, streams, and backyards. Her presentation will include managing storm water issues using rain barrels and rain gardens. In addition, she will also discuss invasive species that sometimes plague water gardens, backyard ponds, and Michigan's lakes and streams.

Paige Filice is a natural resources educator with MSU Extension. Her responsibilities include coordinating the aquatic invasive species education programs RIPPLE (Reduce Invasive Pet and Plant Escapes), assisting with the Clean Boats and Clean Waters program, and serving as Associate Director of the MSU Extension Center for Lakes and Streams.

APRIL 21

EARTH CARE SUNDAY

Led by **Barb Amundsen, Carol Wallace, Mike Bryan**

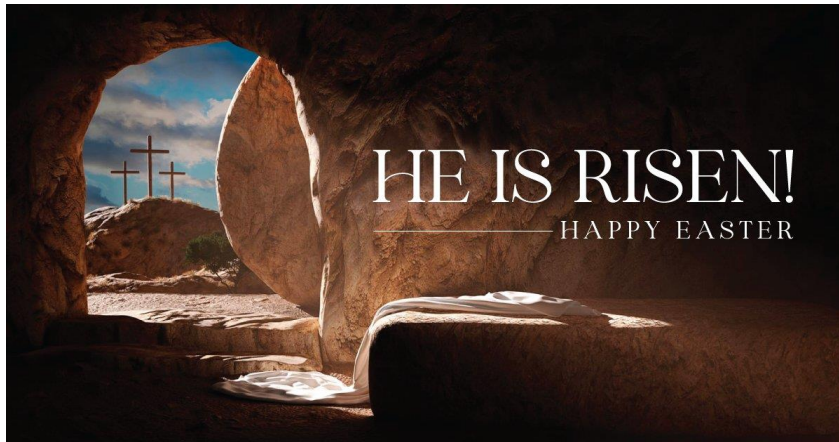
Earth Day is April 22. The First Presbyterian Church Green Team invites all on this 54th anniversary of this celebration to learn about the PC USA Presbyterian Mission Agency's Earth Care Congregations program. More specifically discover how our church can become certified as an Earth Care Congregation by becoming more involved in being stewards of God's earth through completing activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. For example, churches that participate in community garden programs like ours, or promote Fair Trade Coffee or use Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday gain points towards qualifying. The ECC program started with a few churches in 2007. Today there are over 276 churches that have been certified.



In addition, come learn about our **First Pres Community Garden** – its history, opportunities to volunteer, and how to rent a garden space – will all be discussed.

APRIL 28 - Host Russ Jenkins

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



BIBLE STUDY

The season of Lent wrapped up for us during the last week of March as we entered Holy Week. I am writing this in the middle of March. Under the organizational skills of Ceci Anderson, and Sunday morning leadership of Ann

Harvey we will have just completed our Lenten Study from the PCUSA's resource book titled "The Righteous Reign of God." Throughout that four-week study, we explored daily readings, meditations, and posited questions each week, providing anonymous questions to our website. Our Sunday morning gathering of friends and members alike were well attended as we considered the meaning of being followers of Christ.

Holy Week culminates with Jesus providing us with the gifts of the table, commanding each and all of us to "take and eat" as well as "take and drink." These gifts have been central to our identity as Christ's people and believers within the Presbyterian tradition.

By the time you read this, Easter will have occurred (March 31) and we begin to experience the work of the early believers through the "Acts of the Apostles." These early writings depicting the "Acts of the Apostles" will take us right to the day of Pentecost (May 19) and then to "Holy Trinity Sunday," May 26.

Fingers crossed, I am hoping to resume our midweek Bible study on Wednesday, April 17. This provides Megan and me time to settle back to Michigan after spending time in Italy.

One note to share. I have not renewed my Zoom License as the cost benefit does not warrant it. Instead, I will be using "Google Meet." Google Meet is free to everyone who has a Google account and is part of a larger toolchest of utilities that all fall under the banner of Google. So, for those of you who are interested in joining me virtually, please make sure you have a Google Account, and you know how to get to the Google Meet portion of your Google account. I will, of course, have a link that you only need to click on to join our study. If you are interested in getting a jump on matters, please check out this link: <https://meet.google.com/>

In the meantime, I hope to see each of you in Worship and Fellowship.

Bob

Bob.Higle@gmail.com

Book Group



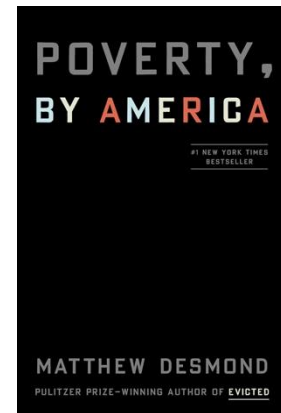
With daylight extending later into the evening, we will meet in the parlor during the warmer months. Our starting time will be 6:30, allowing us to drive home while it is still light.

Tuesday April 2, 6:30 in the parlor

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

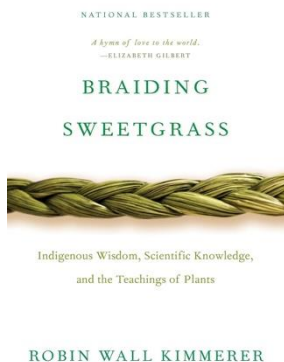
The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations 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, 6:30 in the parlor

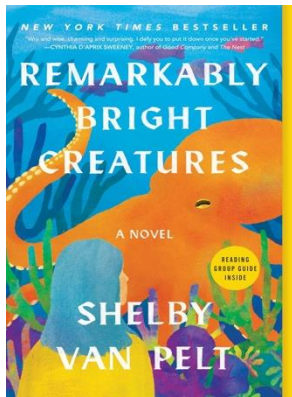
***Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer**



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

Tuesday June 4, 6:30 in the parlor

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



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



SESSION NOTES

The Session met on March 20, 2024 for its regular monthly meeting.

A letter from Brian Koon requested a congratulatory letter be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lansing for their 175th anniversary. A motion passed to send this letter.

Finance Committee report shows the 2023 deficit has been eliminated with donations from members.

A joint worship service with Union Missionary Baptist Church will be held on May 26, 2024.

A Gun Violence Prevention event will be held April 13th.

All ruling and teaching elders are encouraged to attend Boundary Training on September 28th via zoom at the church.

DEACON NOTES

CAMP GREENWOOD

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

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

FOOD PANTRY

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

- 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. 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 with your questions or to volunteer!

Thank you!

HOW TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACONS

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

BOOMERS AND BEYOND –

Wednesday, April 17th at 12:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor

Boomers and Beyond Luncheon April 17th at noon in the Parlor. Let’s welcome springtime together with our church friends at our Boomer and Beyond luncheon on April 17th. If you have been away for the winter months, please join us and enjoy the company again of church friends. We try to accommodate members who may need a ride so please inform Kathe Smith (517-230-1814) or Bev Phillips (517-927-8367) if transportation is needed. Our deacons can also be of assistance. We hope to see you on April 17th.

TLC –

Thursday, April 18th at 1:00 p.m.

TLC will meet on Thursday, April 18th at 1:00 p.m. This month we will again be going to Harry’s Place in Lansing. It is located at 404 N. Verlinden Ave. Please call Judy Hartgerink (517-484-5177) for reservations or information. TLC is a group for women in the church who enjoy fellowship and good food. We would love to have you join us.

MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NOTES

The Mission and Social Justice Committee distributed funds to support the work of Advent House Ministries, Action of Greater Lansing, United Against Poverty, Food Pantry (\$400 monthly), and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Israel/Palestine.



Advent House Ministries

[Advent House – Helping people out of poverty and homelessness](#)

For over 30 years, Advent House has helped people move from struggle to stability. We continually shift our services to meet evolving community needs. Leading with compassion, dignity, and a strong commitment to helping people, **we connect**

individuals and families who are struggling with services and resources, including short- and long-term housing assistance, housing stability case management, and food assistance. With a broad range of community partnerships, Advent House offers guidance and solutions that help individuals and families face a broad range of issues.



[Action of Greater Lansing](#)

Action of Greater Lansing addresses root causes of community problems by organizing for systemic change.

Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate and Foods from Equal Exchange

These unroasted cashews are tender and naturally sweet, versatile for snacking or using in all kinds of recipes. A heat process is used to crack open the tough shells, the nut meats are then removed and delicately hand-processed.

Fair Trade Alliance Kerala · India

Roasted Salted Cashews

FTAK was formed in the early 2000's. It allows farmers to access Fair Trade markets, to diversify their crops, and to improve their own food security needs: cashews, ginger, pepper, coconuts, and rice. Kerala is known to be the cashew capital of the world with 60 – 70% of Kerala's cashew production slated for the international market. Today, the 4,500 members of the co-op produce a variety of crops for export, local sales, and personal consumption. For all of FTAK's export



products, members are assured a minimum price, always above market. In this way, they are able to plan more confidently in their future. They also receive an additional premium that they use to reinvest in their farms.

Contact Carol Wallace for Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, Olive Oil, and cashews.

THE HISTORY OF EARTH DAY

Two events in the 1960s were factors in the creation of the first Earth Day in 1970. The first of these was the publication in 1962 of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. It became a New York Times best seller and raised awareness of the dangers of environmental pollution. MSU was mentioned in the book due to research on robin deaths caused by DDT documented by MSU ornithology professor George J. Wallace. Then in January 1969 a massive oil well spill in Santa Barbara, California prompted a call to action. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin had long been concerned about the effects of pollution on the environment. He enlisted the help of Denis Hayes, a young activist and Student Body President at Stanford, to organize teach-ins on college campuses across the country about this issue. He asked conservative leaning Republican Pete McCloskey to co-chair the creation of the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, the day selected for the teach-ins. Subsequently that year the Environmental Protection Agency was established. The focus of Earth Day 2024 is to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. To sign the petition supporting this goal go to <https://action.earthday.org/global-plastics-treaty>.

Our **Earth Care Team** has a bulletin board by the Food Bank supplies with information sheets written by Paige Felice at MSU Extension. They address topics of interest to homeowners and gardeners. Additional copies for personal use are available upon request from her. Paige is a dynamic speaker and will be our presenter during Adult Forum on April 14.

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

First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

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www.lansingfirstpres.org

CHILDCARE ROOM USAGE & EXPECTATIONS

Room Usage

The Childcare Room at First Presbyterian Church of Lansing is structured for use by children under the age of five (5). Please do not let older children use this room.

A minimum of two (2) childcare workers (one must be over the age of 18) should be in the room whenever the room is being used by our children. (This is in line with the Child Protection Policy held by FPCL).

“Guests” of FPCL must supply their Child Protection Policy in order to use the Childcare Room. (You may email to bcalvert@lansingfirstpres.org) (If your group does not have a Child Protection Policy, we can provide ours to you as a template.)

Due to the size of the room, typically no more than 3 adults and 6 children should be in the room at one time (this gives the ratio of adults to children as 1:2). We understand that on special occasions there may be more children utilizing the room, please be aware of the room capacity.

The bathrooms are designed for our children’s usage only. Please, if you need to use the facilities, try to do so in the “adult sized” bathrooms.

A way of communication should always be utilized while the Childcare Room is in use (walkie-talkies, cell phones, etc.)

“Guests” of FPCL should verify that room is in order before leaving.

Equipment/Supplies Usage

Food and Food Storage

The Childcare Room has a mini-fridge that is available for use while in the Childcare Room. If you need to store extra refrigerated items, please label them and place in the Parlor Refrigerator (or freezer). Make sure your label indicates Name of Group and Date.

If you come across items in the mini-fridge OR the supply cupboards that you did not place in there, please be respectful of the other groups that use this room – do not eat their food.

Cleaning Supplies

The Childcare Room has supply cupboards between the main room and the bathroom. Extra garbage bags, cleaning wipes, etc. are located here if they are needed. (Please alert FPC Staff if any of these items are missing or running low.)

Toys

The toys, chairs, tables, etc. are designed for children no older than 6 years of age. Some of the toys, chairs, tables, etc. are designed for children even younger.

If you come across a broken toy or piece of equipment, please alert an FPC staff member immediately – this is for the safety of all the children that utilize this room.

Changing Table

There is a changing table and children sized bathrooms inside the Childcare Room. Parents are welcome to utilize this space during services or events when the Childcare Room is open.

Room Expectations

Generally, you should leave the room in the same condition you found it in, OR BETTER!
This means:

All Trash needs to be emptied whenever the room usage is complete.

You may take trash (especially dirty diapers!) directly to the brown Grainger dumpster in the corner of the parking lot.

All toys need to be put away in their proper location.

All books are placed back into the book rack.

All surfaces should be cleaned/wiped down.

All lights should be turned off.

Floor should be clear of clutter.

Bathroom should have toilet paper, paper towels and soap (please alert FPC staff if there is a need for these items)

Questions about this document?

Please contact:

Megan Higle

Christian Education Director

mhigle@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!

HOPE IN ONE GOLF OUTING

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



The May newsletter deadline is April 15th.
Please send articles to Victoria Fitton: yafitton@gmail.com

CHURCH FAMILY

CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)

Dianne Rector (Rosewood Manor in DeWitt)



Condolences and prayers for Nancy Duncan and her family on the death of Nancy's mother, **Anna L. Henderson**. Anna died on March 12, 2024, just shy of her 100th birthday. A memorial service is being planned, and arrangements are being handled by Potere-Modetz Funeral Home in Rochester, Michigan.

Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servants to health again. We ask that you give comfort and peace to those who grieve. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/02	Steve Roosa	4/17	Liam Friess
4/02	Shirley Herrick	4/18	Caleb Layne
4/02	Jeff Keller	4/19	Betsy Calvert
4/05	Chuck Gebhardt	4/22	Veronica LeTourneau
4/08	Bobbie Banghart	4/25	Amy Willing
4/08	Austin Hughes	4/27	Amy Cunningham
4/09	Greg Botting	4/27	Bassam Makhoul
4/10	Helen Hansens	4/27	Elda Keaton
4/11	Daniel Fisher	4/28	Quintyn Harrison
4/11	Pearson Hengstebeck	4/29	Jameson Drake
4/11	Carrie Blair	4/29	Will Bales
4/13	Bryce Cornelius-Gallimore	4/30	Karen Viele
4/14	David Davies	4/30	Sergei Kvitko
4/14	Judah Layne	4/30	William Rude
4/14	Matthew Foster		



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.

APRIL CHURCH CALENDAR

<p>Monday, April 1 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Assist 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 6:00 p.m. Lansing Pastors – Library 6:30 p.m. Bells of First – Sanctuary 7:00 p.m. Membership Committee</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 10 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 2:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Mtg 4:30 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study 4:30-6:30 p.m. Lansing Children’s Choir 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 7:00 p.m. Deacon’s Meeting</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 2 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Assist 11:00 a.m. GIL interview – library 4:00 p.m. Adult Forum Committee 6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 6:30-8:00 p.m. Book Group – Parlor 7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen</p>	<p>Thursday, April 11 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. NWI Food Distribution 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir – Choir 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 3 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m. Lansing Children’s Choir 4:30 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Mtg 6:30 p.m. Mission Committee Mtg</p>	<p>Friday, April 12 5:00 p.m. MSU A Capella Group 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p>
<p>Thursday, April 4 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:00 a.m. Library Committee 5:30-7:30 p.m. NWI Cooking Demo 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>	<p>Sunday, April 14 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:15 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Finance Committee Mtg 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries</p>
<p>Friday, April 5 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room</p>	<p>Monday, April 15 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Assist 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 6:30 p.m. Bells of First – Choir</p>
<p>Sunday, April 7 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:15 a.m. Adult Forum 12:30-2:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries 1:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 16 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 6:00 p.m. MidMI Photo Officers Mtg 6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen</p>
<p>Monday, April 8 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Assist 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. Moms Demand Action</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 17 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. NWI Food Distribution 12:00 p.m. Boomers & Beyond 4:30 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study 4:30-6:40 p.m. Lansing Children’s Choir 5:30-6:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 9 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. GIL Classes 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Assist 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg 6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Officers 6:30-9:00 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band</p>	<p>Thursday, April 18 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 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library</p>

7:00 p.m.	Capital City Chordsmen	Friday, April 19 5:30-6:30 p.m.	Yoga – Yoga Room
Saturday, April 20 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p. 11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Children’s Choir Concert Recital – Chapel Baby Shower – Litten	Thursday, April 25 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	GIL Classes NWI Food Distribution Bridge in the Parlor Chancel Choir Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library
Sunday, April 21 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Morning Worship Adult Forum Victory in Jesus Ministries Brethren Trio - Chapel	Friday, April 26 5:30-6:30 p.m.	Yoga – Yoga Room
Monday, April 22 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:30-6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	GIL Classes Staff Meeting Yoga – Yoga Room Bells of First – Choir	Saturday, April 27 Sunday, April 28 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Morning Worship Victory in Jesus Ministries
Tuesday, April 23 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30-9:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	GIL Classes Glen Erin Pipe Band Capital City Chordsmen	Monday, April 29 Memorial Day-Office Closed Tuesday, April 30 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6:30-9:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	GIL Classes Glen Erin Pipe Band Capital City Chordsmen
Wednesday, April 24 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30-6:40 p.m. 5:30-6:30 p.m.	GIL Classes Lectionary Bible Study Lansing Children’s Choir Yoga – Yoga Room	Wednesday, April 31 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30-6:40 p.m. 5:30-6:30 p.m.	GIL Classes Lectionary Bible Study Lansing Children’s Choir Yoga – Yoga Room

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