

APRIL 2022

Highland Herald

BIBLE STUDY

A publication of First Presbyterian Church - Muskegon, Michigan

**A YEAR LONG STUDY
OF THE WHOLE BIBLE!**

Next fall, we will be launching a year long study of the Bible using the program, "Disciple." If you are interested in learning more about this class, please join us for an **INFORMATIONAL MEETING** on Sunday, May 15 after worship in the library. Contact Pastor Laurie or Amber Petersen for more details.

Interim Update for April, 2022

Friends,

Bob Bengston, Ara Demirjian, Betty Dunn, Jon Mills, Ellen Prowant, Don Schneider and Don Swick have been busy writing the Mission Study documents for our Presbytery. Thanks again to all who helped give them information! The documents were completed during Holy Week and considered by the Session on Wednesday, April 22. As of the printing of this newsletter, the Session had not yet approved the study. When they do, we can send it on to the Committee on Ministry of the Lake Michigan Presbytery. If they approve it, we will be given permission to elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC).

If all goes as we hope, you should get an invitation to a Congregational Meeting sometime in late May or early June to elect the PNC.

After the PNC is elected, they will use the Mission Study information to compile a Mission Information Form (MIF) which the denomination will use to match us with prospective pastoral candidates. Rev. Troy Hauser, pastor of the Grand Haven First Church, is the Transition Counselor for FPC Muskegon. He will work closely with the PNC.

I recognize that this process can feel tedious, cumbersome and even confusing at times. The process is meant to help us be prayerful and thoughtful in discerning our call as a congregation and looking for a pastor who is a good fit with who we are. Hang in there and continue to hold the Mission Study Group and PNC in your prayers.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the Mission Study Group.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Laurie

*The flowers appear
on the earth;
the time of singing
has come.*

Staff Changes

April 21, 2021

Dear Friends,

My heart is very sad as I report that at its monthly stated meeting on April 20, the Session received, with regret, the resignation of our Youth and Young Families Director, Arisha Coffee, effective June 30, 2022. Her letter is on Page 3. None of us wanted to receive this!

As most of you know, Arisha has been with us for almost five years. She has cared for our children and youth, been creative in carrying out programs like VBS, Trunk or Treat, Easter Egg Hunts and more. She has served on our Presbytery's Youth Committee. She continued to develop the Moms Ministries. Her creativity, commitment, computer skills and enthusiasm helped carry us through the COVID shut down. I could list many more things she has done and relationships she has built. However, I think what I appreciate most about Arisha is her deep, vibrant and sincere faith, her integrity and work ethic and her longing to build true community and help others know the saving love of God. To say that her presence and her work will be missed among us in an understatement.

Arisha has graciously agreed to stay on until after VBS is done in June. This gives the Faith Development and Personnel Councils time to discern a path forward with Arisha's position and begin the process of looking for someone to help us with these ministries.

Between now and June 30, my plan is to take the chance to learn from Arisha. Arisha has agreed to meet with a small group in an "exit interview" for us to talk about her joys and concerns about FPC Muskegon. I also hope we all can have some fun talking about the good work she has done here. I'm sure there are stories!

Arisha's last Sunday will be Sunday, June 26. We will celebrate her in worship that Sunday and have some treats in her honor during after worship fellowship. Keep posted for more details on what will unfold on that day.

So, friends, our times of change here at FPC continue. When a church loses a strong leader, there can often be a sense of deep loss, as well as anxiety about the future. We will probably feel both of these feelings and more in this transition. As we do, let us remember that, first and foremost, FPC in Muskegon belongs to God. God, who has led us in the past, will continue to lead us in the future. We can count on that. Our part is to follow the best we know in the seasons we are in.

As we live into the Easter Season and prepare for Pentecost, may we lean deeply into the hope of the Resurrection. And guess what? The Holy Spirit is coming. And She promises to ALWAYS blow new life into Christ's Church. May it be so.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Laurie

4/18/22

First Presbyterian Church-Muskegon
2577 Wickham Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441

To the members and friends at First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon,

I am writing to inform you of my decision to resign from the position as Youth and Young Families Facilitator.

The Personnel Guidelines require a minimum of two weeks' notice; however I am committed to complete the Youth and Young Families events until the end of June. Vacation Bible School will be my last event. My last day of employment will be Thursday, June 30, 2022.

I have given this decision a lot of thought and prayer and have concluded, with God's leading, it is time to accept my calling into ministry and for my purpose to be served in other areas of ministry, business and community.

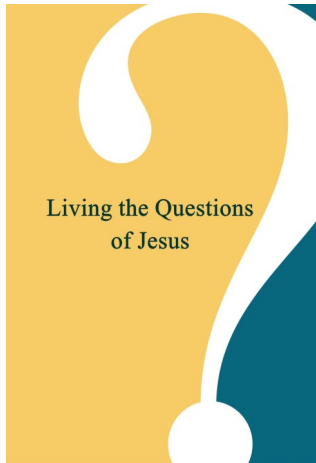
I have experienced a ton of love and support while serving here almost five years. I appreciate those who have taken time to support and encourage me in the Youth and Young Families Facilitator position.

My prayer is that the congregation truly grasps God's call to be "salt and light" in the world. I pray the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon cling less to the church's materials (the pews, the organ, the stained glass windows...), and more to God's people, in love. I pray God and the beautiful mission statement guides change in the church to truly "cross boundaries... devoted to serve... rooted deeply enough to risk being reshaped..." in the church and community moving forward.

Peace to you,
Arisha Coffee



Pastor's Corner



Back in my days as a math teacher, I spent a lot of time with students looking for the answers to math problems. We learned ways of thinking, processes, formulas and more to help us get answers. It was often so fun when we got the answer! Many days I wish the life of faith was that easy. Don't you wish there were some simple formulas or easy answers to the problems and questions of living?

It gives me hope amid all the challenges of life to know that Jesus likes questions. In fact, Jesus is prone to ask questions more than he is likely to give answers in the Gospels. United Church of Christ pastor and author, Rev. Martin Copenhaver, in his book "Jesus is the Question," reports that the Gospels record at least 307 questions that Jesus asks. He is asked 187 questions and only answers 3. It seems that part of learning to live this life of faith involves being able to live with questions.

In an interim season in the life of a church there are often many questions -- Who will our next pastor be? What are we called to do and be in this season of our life together? How do we live as faithful people in a church when our numbers are smaller than they used to be? And most people of faith carry questions with them about who this Jesus is and what this faith really means for our lives. COVID-19 has seemed to unearth many of these questions for people, too.

Learning to live with our questions, dwell in them, pray with them, and let them unfold in our hearts and our lives together is part of our call in following Jesus. So, during this Easter Season, we are going to take time to dwell with some of Jesus' questions. And in dwelling with Jesus' questions, we will also garner courage and hope as we dwell with our own questions. And who knows, maybe we will even come up with some answers that work for this season in our lives.

Pastor Laurie

- Sunday, April 24: Holy Humor Sunday
Living the Questions of Jesus: *"Do you have anything to eat?"* -- Luke 24: 41
- Sunday, May 1: Second Sunday in Easter
Living the Questions of Jesus: *"What do you want me to do for you?"* -- Mark 10: 46-52
- Sunday, May 8: Third Sunday in Easter/Mother's Day
Living the Questions of Jesus: *"Who is my mother? Who is my brother?"* —Matthew 12:46-50
- Sunday, May 15: Fourth Sunday in Easter/Scot Sunday
Living the Questions of Jesus: *'Who Do You Say that I am?'* —Luke 9:18 – 22
- Sunday, May 22: Fifth Sunday in Easter and Celebration of Music Sunday
"Who is God to you? Who is Jesus to you?"
- Sunday, May 29: 6th Sunday in Easter
Living the Questions of Jesus: *"Do you love me?"* —John 21:15-19



Musical friends and members of FPC: if you're interested in sharing your musical gifts in worship this summer, please let Pastor Laurie (pastor@fpcmuskegon.org) or Roxanne (music@fpcmuskegon.org) know what you'd like to play or sing, and dates you are available. We'll look forward to hearing from you!



VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED!

Are you computer savvy and interested in graphics? Then the church needs you! We are looking for someone to learn how to provide content on the screen for our Sunday morning worship services. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Joan in the church office at (231) 759.1275 or office@fpcmuskegon.org.

Mary Eschman,
Worship and Music Council

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

VOLUNTEERS FROM FPC NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE MAY 7, 2022 FEEDING AMERICA WEST MICHIGAN MOBILE FOOD PANTRY (previously named Food Truck)

- FPC is continuing to partner with FCC (the First Congregational Church of Muskegon) to support the Mobile Food Pantry program in the spring and in the fall this year.
- Volunteers are needed for the spring Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday morning, May 7, 2022, starting at 9:00 AM for 2-3 hours.
- We'll meet at FCC to sort & package boxes of fresh vegetables, fruits, meats and other foods for hungry Muskegon residents.
- Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantry Line opens to the guests at 10:00 AM.
- Thanks to you, our many, wonderful volunteers from FPC who have helped in the past and, hopefully, will continue to help this spring. Your work & time have always been so much appreciated by FCC, by FPC, and by the hungry in Muskegon.
- More details will be provided 1 and 2 weeks before the May 7, Saturday morning Mobile Food Pantry.
- Our fall date will be Saturday, October 1, 2022, starting at 9:00 AM; please put this date on your calendar, too.



Please volunteer to help with the FEEDING AMERICA MOBILE FOOD PANTRY at FCC on Saturday morning, May 7, 2022. To sign up, please contact Jean at 301-641-0239 or at jeanchin2990@icloud.com.

Thank you! Looking forward to working with you!!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Presbyterian knitters can provide a prayer shawl for anyone in our church community. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please call or email one of the knitters: Joan Barnes, Dona Demirjian, Betty Dunn, Pam Foster, Carol Giblin, Sue Kacprzyk, or Ellen Prowant.

The prayer shawl knitters will meet again Tuesday, May 3, 2022, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the youth room. Come join us if you would like.

May Mission Box Muskegon Rescue Mission

Your friends in the community are still in need of these essential, donated items. Food or personal items in the Muskegon Rescue Mission box will be delivered by the Mission Council.

Donations of the following foods to Muskegon Rescue Mission are appreciated:

- ◆ spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned tomatoes
- ◆ soup
- ◆ juice, Jell-O
- ◆ boxed dinners, canned meats
- ◆ cereal, sugar, powdered milk.

The following personal items have also been requested by Muskegon Rescue Mission staff:

- ◆ shampoo, soap
- ◆ toothpaste, toothbrushes
- ◆ hairbrushes and combs
- ◆ hand lotion and tissues
- ◆ paper towels and laundry soap
- ◆ diapers, baby toiletries.

Thank you for giving generously to those in need in our community.



Dear FPC friends,

After nearly 60 years of membership and participation, and our daughters' membership and participation in First Presbyterian Church as they were growing up, we are finding it is time for us to move. Ann Arbor will be our new home where we have two of our three daughters and sons-in-law, and our two youngest grandchildren. They have been encouraging us to be closer to them for some time. We plan to move May 9th and our new address will be:

Samuel and Joan Hollar
4001 Glacier Hills Drive
Apartment 346
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

MISSION OFFERING COLLECTIONS TO DATE

	January	February	March	April	Totals
Bread for the World	57.00	153.00	121.00	146.50	\$477.50
Cents-ability	118.17	91.40	148.15	163.55	\$521.27



- 05/01 Vella Caruso
- 05/03 Yuri Mills
- 05/04 Cammie Hussey
- 05/06 Ron Rop
- 05/07 Betti Melrose
- 05/12 Nancy Evans
- 05/14 Jack Bonham
- 05/18 Jon Mills
- 05/21 Ginny Swan
- 05/24 Zeke Kinney
- 05/28 Jon DeVoogd
- 05/31 Louise Haas



- 05/06 Kirk & Sheila Wahamaki
- 05/12 Vic & Ellen Prowant
- 05/21 Mark & Pam Schumaker
- 05/23 Bill & Mary Seieroe
- 05/26 Bob & Nancy Bierenga
- 05/26 Bill Papo & Julie Stewart
- 05/29 Bill & Peggy Schaefer

Scots Sunday is May 15th!

Celebrate the heritage and tradition of our church with bagpipes, a grand processional/recessional, Highland dancers, and Scottish shortbread during the hospitality hour. All current elders and deacons are asked to attend to participate in the service. Please meet in the chapel at 9:45 a.m. to line up for the processional.

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

LAY LEADERS:

- 05/01 Ellen Prowant
- 05/08 Annalisa Christensen
- 05/15 Robin Schroder
- 05/22 Joan Barnes
- 05/29 Don Swick

GREETERS – SHERMAN ENTRANCE:

- 05/01 Robin Schroeder
- 05/08 Mitzi Bixler
- 05/15 Bob Bengston
- 05/22 Kristi Clark
- 05/29 Bev Spiwak

CHILDREN'S TIME:

- 05/01 Arisha Coffee

GREETERS – WICKHAM ENTRANCE:

- 05/01 Ruth Nielsen
- 05/08 Kristi Clark
- 05/15 Joan Bengston
- 05/22 Suzanne Carl
- 05/29 Carol Giblin

OFFERING COUNTERS:

- 05/01 Vic & Ellen Prowant
- 05/08 Darlene Pawlak
- 05/15 Bob & Cheryl Hartman
- 05/22 Mark & Pam Schumaker
- 05/29 Ara Demirjian & Mike Foster

COMMUNION SET-UP:

- 05/01 Kristi Clark

AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY:

- 05/01 Mark & Pam Schumaker
- 05/08 FPC Youth
- 05/15 Kathy Diltz & Darlene Pawlak
- 05/22 Ron & Mary Rop
- 05/29 Vic & Ellen Prowant

COMMUNION SERVERS:

- 05/01 Vic Prowant
- Mike Foster
- Ellen Prowant
- Kristi Clark

USHERS:

- 05/01 Mike & Pam Foster
- 05/08 Don & Marie Olson
- 05/15 Mark & Pam Schumaker
- 05/22 Quinn & Linda Champion
- 05/29 Jeanne DeVette & Joan Barnes

It's time to start gathering your good, unwanted/unneeded items for the annual Glenside Yard Sale. First Presbyterian Church will participate in the yard sale on the front lawn on Saturday, June 4th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Items can be dropped off at the church beginning Sunday, May 29th.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>CONGREGATION OFFERING BY BASKET</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>11:30am - Farewell Parade for</p>	<p>ARTISTS COFFEE - VACATION</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:30pm - Book Club</p> <p>2pm - Faith Development</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p> <p>11:30am - Prayer Shawls</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12pm - Hackley Postpartum</p> <p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p> <p>5:30pm - Worship & Music</p> <p>7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p>		<p>10am - Feeding America Food</p>
<p>MOTHER'S DAY</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>10am - Moms' Swap</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p> <p>12:30pm - Strain Circle</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship</p>	<p>10am - Moms Workout Group</p> <p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p>		<p>ARTWORK INSTALLATION</p> <p>11am - Glenn Sheathelm</p>	<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>
<p>RENEWALIST DEADLINE</p> <p>SCOT SUNDAY</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>11:15am - Bible Study Info</p> <p>11:30am - MCAS Council</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:30pm - Book Club</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12pm - Hackley Postpartum</p> <p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>			
<p>MUSIC SUNDAY</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>2pm - O & C Council Meeting</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>10am - Moms Workout Group</p> <p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p>	<p>ARTISTS COFFEE - VACATION</p>		<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>
<p>ARTISTS COFFEE - VACATION</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>			<p>12pm - Hackley Postpartum</p> <p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p> <p>5:30pm - Worship & Music</p> <p>7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p>		<p>3pm - Glanside Yard Sale</p>

29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<p>Artsia Coffee - Vacation</p> <p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>12pm - Hackley Postiparium 3pm - Neighborhood Walk 5:30pm - Worship & Music 7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p>		<p>9am - Glenside Yard Sale</p>
<p>Unity Ability Overnight/Bake</p> <p>Day of Zenartsa</p> <p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting 12:30pm - Book Club 2pm - Faith Development</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 11:30am - Prayer Shawls</p>	<p>10am - Moms Workout Group 3pm - Neighborhood Walk 6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>			<p>10am - Girl Scouts 10am - Johnson Memorial</p>
<p>Trinity Sunday</p> <p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality 11:30am - MCKS Council</p>	<p>10am - Moms' Swap</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 12:30pm - Sarah Circle 6:30pm - Financial/Stewardship</p>	<p>Pastor Laurie Hartzell - Vacation</p> <p>12pm - Hackley Postiparium 3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p>			
<p>Pastor Laurie Hartzell - Vacation</p> <p>Father's Day</p> <p>Neighbor Usings</p> <p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting 12:30pm - Book Club</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>Artsia Coffee - Vacation</p> <p>Pastor Laurie Hartzell - Vacation</p> <p>10am - Moms Workout Group</p>			<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>
<p>Vacation Bible School 3 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality 11:15am - Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>2pm - O & C Council Meeting</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p>			

First Presbyterian Church

2577 Wickham Drive

Muskegon, Michigan 49441-3182

(231) 759-1275

www.fpcmuskegon.org

Highland Herald

SAVE THE DATE!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 26-30

5:00-7:00P



THE CASTLE OF COURAGE
BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

5 DAY VBS

2577 WICKHAM DR MUSKEGON MI 49441