

First Presbyterian Church

A place to worship. A place to belong. A place to serve.

Highland Herald

June/July 2022

Mark your Calendar

- 7-3 Cents-Ability Offering
- 7-18 Book Discussion Group
- 8-7 Worship in the Park
Potluck; Cents-Ability Offering
- 8-8 Session Meeting
- 8-15 Book Discussion Group
- 8-21 Newsletter Deadline

Interim Update

Our Pastoral Nominating Committee (Bob Bengston and Ellen Prowant, co-moderators, Don Schneider, Betty Dunn, Karlie Arnst, Don Swick, Ara Demirjian and Jon Mills) hit the ground running on Tuesday, June 7 at their first formal meeting. They met with Rev. Troy Brydon Hauser, our Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) Liaison. The PNC will meet every week at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Their first job is to complete a "Mission Information Form" that can tell prospective pastor candidates about our church and its mission. When they get that done, it will need to be approved by the Session and the COM. Then, they can start receiving applications.

Here's a little forewarning: The work of the PNC is kept confidential from us and from me as the Interim Pastor. The purpose of that is to give them free space to really listen to the Holy Spirit and trust the Spirit's work among them. So, we may not have too much information for a while.

But, keep praying for them. Keep praying for our church. Keep praying for the person who will be the next pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Laurie



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Pastor's Corner

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." – Philippians 1:6

Dear friends in Christ,

Years ago I moved into a house that had the most glorious peonies in the yard. White and magenta, they burst open each spring. One day a friend came over and said, "I just love your peonies." "Thank you!" I said. And yes, I did tend to those peonies. I watered them. Gave them fertilizer from time to time. Some years I trimmed them. I made sure they had wire rings around them so they wouldn't fall over.

But were they "my" peonies? I didn't plant them. I didn't nurture them from the start or get them through the tough early years. I surely didn't make the seed pop open and form flowers. I was just tending something I had been given, a gift that became mine.

This past Sunday two friends of mine joined us in worship and said, "We really loved being at your church today." They gave compliments about the music, the stained-glass windows, the kindness they received from greeters and my sermon. Of course I said, "Thank you."

But then I thought, "Is this my church?" I ask that question not just because I'm new and, as a transitional pastor, temporary. Whose church is this anyway? Yes, it belongs to all of you who have worked so faithfully, prayed and worshipped for decades and tended this building and the ministry with intelligence, imagination, and love.

But who, really, is the author of our worship? Who, really, is the founder of our work? Whose church is this, anyway? Maybe, as with my peonies, we are just tending something we've been given.

The Bible text above, from Paul to the church in Philippi, reflects that it is God who began the good work. Paul planted the church, but didn't start the church. Jesus did that. And as Genesis 1 reminds us, in the beginning, God creates.

So, at the risk of sounding trite, let me remind all of us: We belong to God, and our church belongs to God. God started this work, and by the grace of God many people, including us, have faithfully tended this gift given to us and the world.

And the promise of this text is that God IS STILL at work among us. Still creating. Still blowing new life. We can see that work in our worship and music and in the efforts of our Mission Council. Or how the Property Council cares for our vehicle for mission: our building. We can see that work as we interact with the community and share love in the form of meals, prayers, fun times together, and more.

God will continue to work among us. Our job is to remember that this is God's church and that our part is to listen deeply for the call of God's Spirit. We are just those who tend. Our work as God's people is not something we achieve, but is a grace we receive as we tend this church and ministry that belongs to Almighty God.

God's not done with us yet! What a blessing to be on this journey with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Laurie

Electric Sign Up and Running!

After relocating the position of the sign to accommodate city regulations, a crew of four, strong church men dug a new trench, 18-inches deep, for All Signs Company to lay the electrical power cords. Mike Foster, Clark Ganson, Jim Cloutier, and Mike Giblin did the digging. We greatly appreciate their hard work and hope there were no sore backs the next day.

Training for operating the sign is Monday, June 13. Several staff and volunteers are planning to learn how to operate our new sign. It won't be long before messages appear on the screen, for us and all the cars and walkers passing by church. "It's time to flip circuit breakers and begin creating," said Jim Cloutier, Moderator of the Outreach and Communication Council.

Kudos to the Outreach and Communication Council for carrying this project from start to finish. Carol Giblin was the liaison person communicating with All Signs. All the council members studied electronic sign companies and their options before the project began.

Worship in the Park

Mark your calendar for Worship in the Park at the Elks Park on August 7th at 10am. We will be sharing music, the message and Holy Communion!

Afterwards, we will have our first potluck in a long time, so bring a dish to share. Also bring with you your table service and beverage of choice.

Hopefully we'll have beautiful weather to gather in nature and lift our voices to the Lord. Either way, it will be a wonderful time to spend together!

Mary Eschman, Moderator
Worship and Music Council



VBS Change



We will still offer the Castle of Courage VBS to the children in our community this summer. BUT, we will move it from the end of June to early August. Exact dates will be forthcoming.

The reason for the change is that Arisha Coffee, our Youth and Young Families Director, has had a major family crisis and has not been able to be with us. Arisha is leaving some of her plans with us when she leaves her position on June 30. We can use those plans and get all hands-on deck to offer this important community outreach later this summer.

Stay tuned!!!

Backpack Drive

GOAL: Collect 100 backpacks for school children by VBS in August!



Our Mission Council is partnering up with the Moms' Swap group in a Backpack Drive for school children for the 2022-23 school year. Help us reach our goal of giving 100 filled backpacks to children who can really use them!

Bins will be available in the narthex beginning June 19 to start collecting your donations. The following are needed:

- Backpacks
- Pens
- Pencils
- Folders
- Three ring binders
- Markers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Notebooks
- Notebook paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Colored pencils

- Other:
- socks
 - underwear
 - deodorant
 - toothbrushes/ toothpaste

Monetary donations can be put in the offering plate with a note indicating that the money is for the purchase of back packs.

Keep posted for more information!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Presbyterian knitters can provide a prayer shawl for anyone in our church community, whether the person is recovering from an illness, mourning, or celebrating new membership, marriage, or a baby's birth. Our church blesses members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and acquaintances with shawls delivered in a variety of ways, depending on the situation. They have been mailed to or taken in suitcases to Alaska, California, and Chili. And they have been given to people in a worship service, their homes, the hospital or rehab center, the youth room, and the nursery. A short devotional with a Bible verse and prayer is usually part of the shawl delivery.

If you know someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please call or email one of the knitters: Joan Barnes, Ruth Clark, Dona Demirjian, Betty Dunn, Pam Foster, Carol Giblin, Sue Kacprzyk, and Ellen Prowant.

The prayer shawl knitters will meet again on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the youth room. Come join us. We delivered six shawls in June and would like to maintain our supply of shawls.

Reading at Church

- A Little Lending Library is on the Wickham Drive front lawn of the church.
- A Great Start children's book donation box is to the left of the Mission Table.
- Church Library books may be checked out by self-serve—directions are posted in the Library.



Mission Boxes

The light blue, labeled Mission Boxes and Mission Table are now located in the hallway at the Wickham entrance. The boxes are a short walk from the church's off-street or curbside parking on Wickham. Your friends in the community are thankful for the essential, donated items that fill the Mission Boxes.

Mission Box for July 2022 – Mission for Area People (MAP) Food Pantry

Groceries and personal hygiene items are welcomed by the clients of the Mission for Area People Food Pantry, which has served the citizens of Muskegon Heights and surrounding neighborhoods for over 53 years. Each MAP Food Pantry client receives a week's worth of food.

Donations of the following foods to the MAP Food Pantry are appreciated:

- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Brown rice
- Tuna packed in water
- Fruit packed in low sugar or own juices
- Soup with low sodium, lots of vegetables
- Cereal with healthy grains

The following personal care items have also been requested by MAP staff:

- Deodorant
- Shampoo, bars of soap
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Disposable razors
- Dish detergent, laundry soap
- Diapers, toilet paper

Mission Box for August 2022 – Love, In the Name of Christ

Love, INC (in the name of Christ), located in Muskegon Township, appreciates FPC's support for their ministry. Your donations help vulnerable people in our community with basic needs and encourages their self-sufficiency.

These are the most recent food needs of Love, INC:

- Canned meats and hamburger
- Tuna and tuna helpers
- Canned vegetables, fruits, juice
- Cereal, pancake mix, syrup
- Peanut butter, jelly
- Chunky soup, crackers
- Flavored rice, instant oatmeal
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles

Personal care items requested include the following:

- Deodorant, hand lotion, hand soap
- Tissues, feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Shampoo, hair conditioner
- Hand soap and shaving products

Thank you for your generous donations. Hope the new location of the Mission Boxes is more convenient for you, with easy access from the



Worship Assistants

July Worship Assistants

LAY LEADERS

07/03 Carol Giblin
07/10 Mary Eschman
07/17 Kristi Clark
07/24 Jim Cloutier
07/31 Roxanne Deibel

CHILDREN'S TIME

07/10 Jon Mills

COUNTERS

07/03 Ara Demirjian & Mike Foster
07/10 Mark & Pam Schumaker
07/17 Quinn & Linda Champion
07/24 Darlene Pawlak & Kathy DeCormier
07/31 Mark & Pam Schumaker

AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY

07/03 Mark & Pam Schumaker
07/10 FPC Youth
07/17 Kathy Dilts & Darlene Pawlak
07/24 Vic & Ellen Prowant
07/31 Ron & Mary Rop

USHERS

07/03 Clark & Pat Ganson
07/10 Bob & Joan Bengston
07/17 Don & Marie Olson
07/24 Quinn & Linda Champion
07/31 Mike & Pam Foster

GREETERS – SHERMAN ENTRANCE

07/03 Robin Schroeder
07/10 Kristi Clark
07/17 Mitzi Bixler
07/24 Jeanne deVette
07/31 Bev Spiwak

GREETERS – WICKHAM ENTRANCE

07/03 Bev Spiwak
07/10 Ruth Nielsen
07/17 Suzanne Carl
07/24 Joan Barnes
07/31 Carol Giblin

COMMUNION – JULY 3

Set-up: Jeanne deVette
Servers: Mark Schumaker
Clark Ganson
Carol Giblin
Jeanne deVette

August Worship Assistants

Note: August 7th is Worship in the Park

LAY LEADERS

08/07 Greg Boughton
08/14 Becky Slimko
08/21 Shawn Perry
08/28 Bev Spiwak

CHILDREN'S TIME

08/14 Sheila Wahamaki

OFFERING COUNTERS

08/07 Ara Demirjian & Mike Foster
08/14 Quinn & Linda Champion
08/21 Mark & Pam Schumaker
08/28 Mark & Pam Schumaker

AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY

08/07 Worship in the Park Potluck
08/14 Ruth Nielsen & Bev Spiwak
08/21 Kathy Dilts & Darlene Pawlak
08/28 Quinn & Linda Champion

USHERS

08/07 Clark & Pat Ganson
08/14 Bob & Joan Bengston
08/21 Don & Marie Olson
08/28 Mike & Pam Foster

GREETERS – SHERMAN ENTRANCE

08/07 Worship in the Park
08/14 Kristi Clark
08/21 Joan Barnes
08/28 Robin Schroeder

GREETERS – WICKHAM ENTRANCE

08/07 Worship in the Park
08/14 Suzanne Carl
08/21 Jeanne deVette
08/28 Carol Giblin

COMMUNION – AUGUST 7

Set-up: Mary Eschman



Birthdays & Anniversaries

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 08/02 Cheryl Hartman
- 08/04 Peggy Schaefer
- 08/08 Bob Prierer
- 08/15 Libby Kara
- 08/16 Deryl Boughton
- 08/17 Nan Weather
- 08/18 Charlie LeRoux
- 08/21 Bob Bierenga
- 08/24 Colbie LeRoux
- 08/26 Bob Bengston
- 08/27 Don Olson
- 08/29 Don Swick
- 08/31 Richard Eschman

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 07/01 Lynn Schaner
- 07/05 Murdock Mills
- 07/07 Mat Moore
- 07/09 Dave Caruso
- 07/10 Larry DeVoogd
- 07/11 Jack Slimko
- 07/16 Mary Rop
- 07/20 Bob Page
- 07/22 Edythe Wierda
- 07/24 Karlie Arntz
- 07/26 Kristi Clark
- 07/29 Suzanne Carl

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 08/12 Greg & Deryl Boughton
- 08/13 Steve & Cammie Hussey
- 08/14 Richard & Mary Eschman
- 08/14 Mat & Carol Moore
- 08/17 Clark & Patricia Ganson
- 08/27 Jack & Wanda Bonham

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 07/03 Bill & Joan Barnes
- 07/03 Bob & Cheryl Hartman
- 07/07 Jeanette Reckell & Shawn Perry
- 07/16 Chuck Hodson & Roxanne Deibel
- 07/26 Don & Marie Olson

New Website Launched!!

Check out our new website at fpc-muskegon.org! Poke around and see what you can see. A number of things are still under construction, but we think you will love it!!



26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>10am - O & C Council Meeting 5:30pm - PNC Meeting</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 5:30pm - PNC Meeting</p>	<p>9am - Neighborhood Walk</p>		
<p>General Assembly</p>					
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>Independence Day</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 11:30am - Prayer Shawls Ministry</p>	<p>Pastor Laura Harrell - Vacation</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p>	
<p>Pastor Laura Harrell - Study Leave</p>					
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>10am - Moms Swap 12:30pm - Book Club</p>	<p>12:30pm - Sarah Circle</p>	<p>10am - Moms Workout Group</p>		
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>		<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>12pm - Hackley Postpartum Group 3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p>	<p>11am - Hackley Postpartum Group</p>	
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>		<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>9am - MusicWorship Planning 10am - Moms Workout Group</p>		
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>2pm - Faith Development Meeting</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 11:30am - Prayer Shawls Ministry</p>	<p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p>	<p>11am - Hackley Postpartum Group 3:45pm - Supper House</p>	

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6
31	10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality	2pm - Faith Development Meeting	10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 11:30am - Prayer/Shawki Ministry	3pm - Neighborhood Walk	11am - Headley Postpartum Group 3:45pm - Supper House	
7	CRAFTS ROOMY DORING 10am - Worship in the Park @ Elie Park 11am - Potluck	10am - Moms' Swap 6:30pm - Session Meeting	10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 12:30pm - Sarah Circle 6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship Council	PASTOR LAURIE HARTZELL - VACATION 10am - Moms Workout Group		
14	PASTOR LAURIE HARTZELL - VACATION 10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality 11:30am - MCGS Council Meeting	12:30pm - Book Club	10:30am - Dwelling in the Word	12pm - Headley Postpartum Group	11am - Headley Postpartum Group	
21	PASTOR LAURIE HARTZELL - VACATION Newsletters Deadlines 10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality	2pm - O & C Council Meeting	10:30am - Dwelling in the Word	10am - Moms Workout Group		
28	10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality	10am - Staff Meeting	10:30am - Dwelling in the Word	3pm - Neighborhood Walk	11am - Headley Postpartum Group 3:45pm - Supper House	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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