

# Highland Herald

*First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon's mission is to nourish minds, bodies, and spirits, crossing boundaries and devoting ourselves to serve in the name and the spirit of Jesus Christ. Rooted deeply enough to risk being reshaped, we will have the courage to continually explore new ways to move in the direction God calls us.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

MAY 2022



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## INTERIM UPDATE May 2022

Dear friends,

We have been given permission to call a Pastoral Nominating Committee! The Mission Study, written by our faithful Mission Study Group, was approved by the Committee on Ministry of the Lake Michigan Presbytery earlier this month.

The Session will formally receive this good news at our stated meeting on Wednesday, May 18 and, at that time, call a meeting of the congregation so we can formally elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee! More details will be coming soon!

Please continue to hold this process in your prayers.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Laurie



## **NEW FPC WEBSITE!**

Drumroll please! Our new website will be ready to launch near the end of May. It will be found at the same place on the web as before “[fpcmuskegon.org](http://fpcmuskegon.org).” Check it out!

Special thanks to Paul Helm, a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, who did the heavy lifting in creating this website as a gift to our church. Our Media Technician, Tom Chester, also helped significantly and continues to keep our current website updated.

## **FPC YOUTUBE PAGE!**

If you haven't checked out our YouTube page lately — DO! Chuck Hodson has updated and organized this page for easy use. If you've missed a worship service or sermon, or want to listen a second time, you can find those easily on this page. There is also a playlist of Arisha Coffee's Youth Devotionals. Feel free to share these.

## **LIKE FPC MUSKEGON ON FACEBOOK!**

We have an active Facebook page: *First Presbyterian Church, Muskegon*. Like us!!!

*“In the beginning, God created . . .”* – Genesis 1:1

*“Whenever you are creating beauty around you, you are restoring your own soul.”*— Alice Walker

Dear friends,

The first thing we read about God in the Bible is that God is a creator. Out of chaos and nothingness God created a world, and human beings, and all of life. Can you imagine God sitting on a stool one day, looking at this fragment of nothing, this bit of chaos, that swatch of darkness and pulling it all together to create all of life? Wow! Then, God blows the Spirit of life into all creation. God is a creator. God is an artist. God makes beauty out of chaos and nothingness.

As people created in God's image, we also have been given the gift of creating. When you walk into the church hallway, you will note that it is now full of art. Many of our church members sat on their stools with fabrics or paints or film or paper and created some glorious things with bits of color, a pair of scissors, a snippet of material, and more. The art pieces in our hallway are reflections of the glory of God in each artist. I hope you will take some time and let the beauty of each piece touch your soul.

Now, some of us don't have the gift of making art the way our friends whose creations are hanging in the hallways do. But as human beings created in God's image, we are all creators, nonetheless. What gifts of creativity are in you? The ability to pull together a fabulous meal from whatever is in your fridge? The ability to make music? To create conversation or community with people you love or even with enemies? To make sense of numbers and create new ways of getting things done? To organize your cupboards in an efficient way? There are so many ways that we, made in God's image, can express our creative connection to God. God is our creator and has made us to create as well.

As you walk the halls of the church these days, I hope that this beauty and creativity will also unleash in each of us some creative thinking and dreaming about who God may be inviting us to be as a congregation here on the corner of Wickham and Sherman.

Let's live into a season of creating and of allowing ourselves to be recreated by our living and loving God!

Grace and peace,

Laurie

# PENTECOST OFFERING

Dear Siblings in Christ,

God's vision for the world is that everyone finds their place in God's kingdom — in God's household.

At Pentecost, we celebrate God's pouring out of the Holy Spirit so that everyone may hear and know a word of welcome. We are all connected in God's household — living, learning, and celebrating as the church ... together.

In this season of new awakening, we look particularly to children, youth, and young adults for their new thoughts, approaches, and questions. The psalmist reminds us that faith is established in our earliest years, saying, *"For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth."* These youngest members of the household of faith need our support to reach their full potential in faith and life. We all have important roles to play in their journey. And while we teach and lead, we often find that these younger ones give us new insights into our own faith and in how the Holy Spirit is moving in our world. Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering support ministries with children, youth, and young adults in our community, across the nation and around the world.

As we prepare to receive the Pentecost Offering, remember that 40% of your gifts remain in our community to support ministries with younger people. The remainder of your offering is forwarded to the denomination so that young adults can form a

foundation for their lives through a year of service in the Young Adult Volunteer Program; youth can be among the 5,000-plus having mountaintop experiences in worship, play and faith formation at events like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium; and children can receive educational support through the Educate a Child, Transform the World initiative.

During this Pentecost season, as we celebrate God's gift to the church of Spirit-led energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, we invite you to join in celebrating our part in building lives of faith among our children, youth, and young adults. These younger members of the household of faith are not just the future of the church — they ARE the church. Please give generously.



## BELLS RING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

The carillon bells ring for more than the worshippers at First Presbyterian Church.

In a neighborhood walk, Pastor Laurie met a woman who lost her husband four years ago. Hearing our church bells ring out "How Great Thou Art," and "He Lives," were a great comfort to this neighborhood woman while she mourned her husband. She said the bells reminded her of God's presence in her life in the midst of her sorrow. She is now moving to Fennville and starting a new life with a wonderful man, but she

wanted our church community to know how much the bells have meant to her.

Joan Bengston shared that the staff at the physical therapy office across Sherman called to ask what hymn has been playing at noon. Every weekday they listen to the carillon bells when they go out for lunch.

First Presbyterian's presence in the neighborhood blesses people in ways we may not even know.

## June 2022 Mission Box Every Woman's Place

The personal care items donated by First Presbyterian Church assist Every Woman's Place in providing emergency shelter for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. This assistance is given free of charge to clients and their children. The facility is a safe haven with support groups, individual counseling, and advocacy services.

Every Woman's Place appreciates donations of the following new and unopened, personal care items:

- Deodorant
- Combs and hairbrushes
- Shampoo, conditioner, and hair spray
- Hand soap and body wash
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Towels and wash cloths
- Twin sheet sets and pillowcases
- Toilet paper

**NOTE: The church mission boxes are now located in the Wickham entrance hallway.**

Thank you for your faithful contributions.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry June 2022

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, Ruth Clark, Dona Demirjian, Betty Dunn, Pam Foster, Carol Giblin, Sue Kacprzyk, or Ellen Prowant.

The prayer shawl knitters will meet again Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the youth room. Come join us.

For the month of April income, continued to slip against expenses. Below, you will find the Income & Expenses the Month to Date Actual, Month to Date Budgeted, Year to Date Actual, and Year to Date Budgeted. Please note that the Month, and Year to Date Budgeted are estimated for each month when our annual Budget is approved. As a result, some income and expenses may fall differently each month as the year progresses. Our actual income, verses actual expense however, does reflect our current status. As we continue to recover from the restrictions placed on our worship services and mission work, it is important for all of us to understand that the work of the church continues and so to the expense incurred.

Finally, I would like to once again remind everyone that the budget approved by Session projects annual spending for staff salaries and each council. However, from time-to-time unforeseen needs may arise. With those circumstances in mind, Session, in 2020. approved the Project Proposal Form for requesting additional non-budgeted money. This provides a structured path for requests for funding in excess of \$1,000, to include three quotes, signed by the requesting council moderator, submitted to Finance Council, and then presented to Session. This gives Finance the opportunity to review the request, determine if funds are available to meet the request, and submit the Project Proposal and its recommendations at the next Session meeting. I envision this process will be followed for funding our Pastor Nominating Committee once their appointment is official. Following this process will ensure that requests are presented at Session with the least delay.

Blessings to all,

Mark Schumaker

General Fund Financial Figures April 2022 Dollars and Sense Summary		
	April	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Total Income (Actual)	\$ 15,809.24	\$ 87,455.76
Total Expenses (Actual)	19,583.18	98,646.72
Net Increase (Decrease)	-3,773.94	*Note -11,190.96
Budgeted Income	\$ 19,281.07	\$ 87,710.52
*Note: YTD Expenses include annual payment for Per Capita Apportionment and annual premium of church insurance. Expense levels for these items will level out by year end.		
Please donate by regular mail or online at: <a href="http://www.fpcmuskegon.org">www.fpcmuskegon.org</a> , then click on "Contribute to FPC" at the top left. Special charitable donations may be entered under Mission and use the memo line to show designated organizations.		
Thank you for your continued financial support. ~ Financial Stewardship Council		



JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

LAY LEADER:

- 06/05 Mary Ellen Willcox
- 06/12 Leanne Swick
- 06/19 Bev Spiwak
- 06/26 Roxanne Kinney

CHILDREN'S TIME:

- 06/12 Vella Caruso

HOSPITALITY:

- 06/05 Ruth Nielsen & Bev Spiwak
- 06/12 FPC Youth
- 06/19 Clark & Pat Ganson
- 06/26 Ron & Mary Rop

OFFERING COUNTERS:

- 06/05 Mark & Pam Schumaker
- 06/12 Quinn & Linda Champion
- 06/19 Mark & Pam Schumaker
- 06/26 Vic & Ellen Prowant

USHERS:

- 06/05 Bob & Joan Bengston
- 06/12 Mike & Pam Foster
- 06/19 Don & Marie Olson
- 06/26 Vic & Ellen Prowant

GREETERS:

- 06/05 Robin Schroeder & Mitzi Bixler
- 06/12 Quinn & Linda Champion
- 06/19 Kristi Clark & Suzanne Carl
- 06/22 Jeanne DeVette & Joan Barnes

COMMUNION SET-UP:

- 06/05 Joan Bengston

COMMUNION SERVERS:

- 06/05 Vella Caruso, Robin Schroeder  
Mark Schumaker, Bev Spiwak



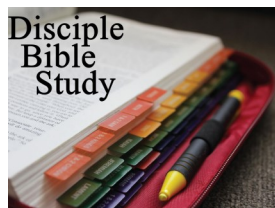
- |       |                 |       |                          |
|-------|-----------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 06/03 | Quinn Champion  | 06/12 | Mike & Pam Foster        |
| 06/05 | Ron Witzke      | 06/13 | Hank & Sue Kacprzyk      |
| 06/08 | Pam Correll     | 06/13 | Bob & Mary Ann Page      |
| 06/10 | Travis Piper    | 06/15 | Jim & Jolene Cloutier    |
| 06/11 | Linda DeVoogd   | 06/24 | Jack & Becky Slimko      |
| 06/12 | Jason Cloutier  | 06/25 | Brent & Annette Scofield |
| 06/14 | Barbara Foster  | 06/28 | Sam & Joan Hollar        |
| 06/15 | Ara Demirjian   |       |                          |
| 06/18 | Bonnie Watson   |       |                          |
| 06/18 | Mary Seieroe    |       |                          |
| 06/20 | Sylvia Paquette |       |                          |
| 06/22 | Richard Wierda  |       |                          |
| 06/24 | Ruth Clark      |       |                          |
| 06/26 | Mitzi Bixler    |       |                          |
| 06/26 | Marie Olson     |       |                          |
| 06/30 | Bob Hartman     |       |                          |

Dear FPC friends,



What a joyous occasion when many of you visited us recently on a Sunday afternoon and brought a beautiful, professional photograph of our Chancel stained glass windows. We will cherish this lovely photo taken by Kendra Mills. We also cherish your friendship and the time you took to travel to our home. We appreciate your many thoughtful notes. Thank you for sending them. Some of you have asked for our new address beginning May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings,  
 Sam and Joan Hollar  
 4001 Glacier Hills Drive  
 Apartment 346  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105  
 Our new home phone will be 734-773-3028



If you are interested in reading through the Bible with a group from the church starting next September and were not able to attend the informational meeting on May 15 after worship, please let Pastor Laurie or Amber Petersen

know **by May 31**. You can get more information about the study from Amber or Laurie and/or on this website: <https://beadisciple.com/disciple-bible-study/>

In early June, all those who have expressed interest will receive a survey from Amber to help us determine the time and day of the study. The class will be available in person and by ZOOM.

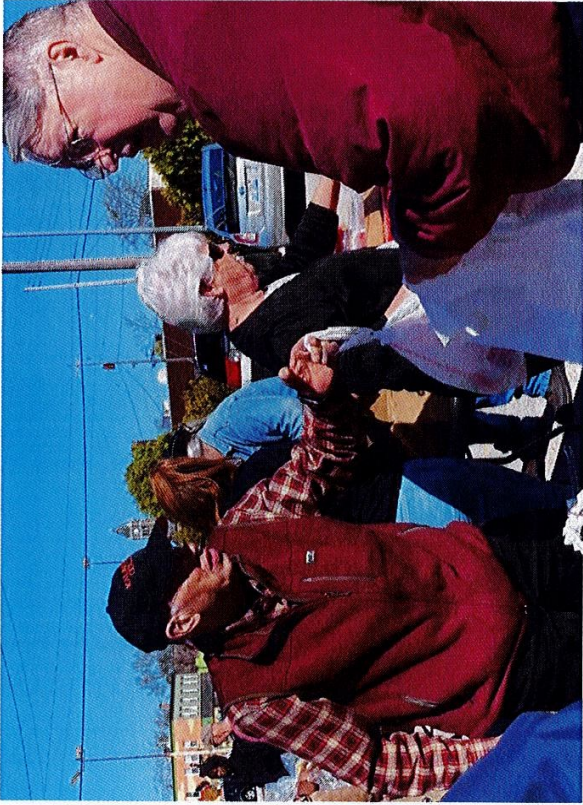
# FPC VOLUNTEERS AT THE FEEDING AMERICA WEST MICHIGAN MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

at First Congregational Church on SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 2022



Muskegon High School Students 1 & 2, Jean Chin, Carol Giblin, MHS-3, Mike Giblin, FCC Mary, Norma Reynolds, Nicki Schneider, Kathy Dilts, Don Schneider, Jim Cloutier, Jason Cloutier (behind Jim), Pam & Mark Schumaker, MHS-4 & 5 (Muskegon High School [MHS] Student Names Withheld at this Time due to Potential Privacy Issues)

We packaged and distributed almost 5,000 pounds of food, greeted 104 household representatives with enough food to feed 279 individuals. Of these, 118 were seniors, 26 were veterans, and 67 were children.



**Don & Jim packaging 10 peach cups per bag**



**Mike and Jason bagging peach cups for Mark**



**Mark preparing bags for boxes for our guests**



**Emptying food pallets; boxes for re-using or recycling**



Carol & Pam filling boxes with Swiss Cheese



Kathy, Nicki, Norma, Pam & Carol waiting for walker & cars



Norma & Nicki with potatoes, Kathy with frozen eggs & Mark



Jason with chopped celery, near bread & cold milk





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
**JUNE 26-30**  
5:00-7:00P  
2577 WICKHAM DR MUSKEGON MI 49441

Join us at the Castle of Courage, a Medieval themed Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience for ages 6-12! At the Castle of Courage, children will learn about the true courage that comes from trusting God, through activities and stories of courage in the Bible. This five-day VBS will *courageously* happen June 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> from 5-7PM.

Registration is open! *Be strong and courageous* and sign up to volunteer or register children at

<https://vbspro.events/p/fpcmuskegonvbs2022>

Contact Arisha by calling the church office 231-759-1275 or emailing [yff@fpcmuskegon.org](mailto:yff@fpcmuskegon.org)