

SEPTEMBER
2022

Highland Herald

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church

The 2022 First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon Team will join the 2022 Muskegon CROP Hunger Walk starting at 1:00 PM Sunday, October 2, 2022, at Central United Methodist Church at 1011 Second Street in Muskegon.

The FPC Team and supporters may make donations and join the team by control-clicking on the first website below. For info on the Muskegon-wide CROP Hunger Walk, open the second website.



[2022 CROP Hunger Walk - First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon
https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-presbyterian-church-of-muskegon](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-presbyterian-church-of-muskegon)

[2022 Muskegon CROP HUNGER WALK INFO \(muskegoncropwalk.com\)
https://www.muskegoncropwalk.com/crop-hunger-walk-info](https://www.muskegoncropwalk.com/crop-hunger-walk-info)

For those of you who prefer donating by check or cash, there are envelopes at the Mission Council table near the chapel. Please take an envelope which is numbered and write your name on the corresponding line on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Inside each envelope is a Donor Tracking Form and a small slip of paper with the above websites.

Otherwise, encourage donors who are computer-comfortable to donate online on the first website above.

Please submit donation envelopes to Jean or Pastor Laurie when done collecting or before 11 am Sunday, October 2.

Good luck with fund raising and we look forward to walking with you to fight hunger locally and globally.

Jean and Pastor Laurie

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR:

Dear Friends,

Our Session adopted a new mission statement in April at its stated meeting. It also voted to expand the statements/taglines that come after our name:

First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon
A place to worship. A place to belong. A place to serve.

For six weeks in September and October I will be preaching on Scripture texts that coincide with each of our taglines. My hope is that we can prayerfully and joyfully live deeply into worshiping, belonging and serving as followers of Jesus and as a congregation here in this place.

Let's take a brief look at each of these lines:

First, a place to worship. Worship is foundational to who we are as followers of Christ. Worship is the core of what we are about in Christ's church. Who we are and what we do as God's people flows from worship of our God. Our PCUSA Book of Order contains an entire section on worship. The opening statement in this section says, "Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God. We gather in worship to glorify God who is present and active among us ..." (W-1.0101). May we at First Presbyterian Church in Muskegon always be a community that worships God first and foremost. May all of who we are and what we do flow from our worship as the Holy Spirit leads us.

Second, we are a place to belong. In life and in death, and in life beyond death, we belong first and foremost to God. Our belonging to the church is born from who we are and Whose we are. An important part of our journey together as followers of Jesus is to continue to offer space for each and every person who comes into our fellowship to know that they belong to God and belong to us. May we at the First Presbyterian Church in Muskegon always be a place where—amid all the divisions and pain in this world—all people are welcome and can find a true sense of belonging.

Finally, out of our worship and our sense of belonging we are called to serve. We are a place to serve. A place to serve God, each other and our community. Servanthood is the stance that Christ took in the world, and it is what we are called to. Faith and gratitude always lead to service. May we at First Presbyterian Church in Muskegon always be a place where a heart to serve is primary.

What a joy to worship, belong, and serve with you!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Laurie



INTERIM UPDATE

Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in Muskegon,

Now is the time in the 'interim' process when we will have limited information about what is happening. You see, the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is receiving Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from prospective candidates to be our pastor. These forms come through our denomination's Church Leadership Connection. Some candidates hear about our church and refer themselves for the position. Others are matched through the system.

Currently, our PNC is going through almost 50 PIFs – reading them carefully, listening to sermons, etc. — as they discern who they wish to engage with online and then, in person interviews.

This process is meant to be confidential. Please keep the PNC in your prayers during this exciting season of selecting and interviewing prospective pastors!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Laurie



Per Capita Apportionment

Each year, our church pays an apportionment to our Presbytery for each member. There have been questions and concerns about the purpose of this money and how it is spent. Therefore, we will have some articles in the next couple "Highland Herald" editions about this per capita apportionment.

To help us understand per capita, let's review the structure of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). Our church, the First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon is one of 64 churches in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. Every PCUSA congregation belongs to a presbytery in their region. The main purpose of the Presbytery is to support local congregations in their ministries. Each pastor is a member, not of the congregation they serve, but of the Presbytery. The Presbyteries are pulled together into larger groupings called Synods. The PCUSA has 18 Synods. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan is part of the Synod of the Covenant. All the Synods together form the body called the General Assembly (GA). The GA offices are in Louisville, Kentucky. Every other year, delegates (pastors and elders) from each Presbytery gather from around the country and world, come together in a meeting of the General Assembly. This Assembly does business and sets policy for the church. You can learn a lot about the PCUSA by spending time on the PCUSA website: pcusa.org.

The per capita apportionment money is paid directly to the Presbytery. The Presbytery keeps some of it and shares portions with our Synod and the General Assembly. This year, our church will pay \$39.10 for each member of our congregation in per capita apportionment. In this article I will help us understand how the portion of that which is sent to the General Assembly is used.

Of that \$39.10, the Presbytery will send \$8.95 to the GA offices in Louisville. Nearly everything the Office of the General Assembly does, from identifying and developing leadership for the PCUSA to maintaining judicial and legislative services for the denomination comes from per capita. Our own Pastor Nominating Committee is benefitting from the Church Leadership Connection that operates in our denomination connecting churches and pastors. At the writing of this article, the PNC had received more than 40 applicants for our pastor position through this system.

Breaking down the \$8.95/per person sees some going for General Assembly operational expenses. This includes all costs to hold the GA meetings, including travel, worship, and staff. The Presbyterian Historical Society gets some from each member. They store and preserve more than 300 years of history of the denomination and predecessor denominations. Records and History of Louisville receives some. They keep the statistics of the church and produce the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions.

Ecumenical Allocations also come out of the \$8.95/per person sent to the GA. Through this support Presbyterians are connected to Christians nationally and globally. By joining together our voice and witness is amplified. Some of the support goes to the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and Church World Service, and Christian Churches Together in the USA.

Some of this \$8.95/per person is for Communications and Technology which includes the website, all web-based systems and subscriptions, education, and publishes the General Assembly News.

Other portions of this \$8.95/per person are used to train and support new pastors and staff for a variety of offices and new initiatives – including the Vital Congregations and Matthew 25 initiatives.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency gets money for their work from this \$8.95/per person. The Presbyterian Mission Agency supports mission efforts around the world, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and more.

Friends, there is a lot of good work that happens from the \$8.95/per person that goes to the General Assembly from our per capita apportionment.

In the October newsletter, we'll look at the part of the apportionment that stays in our Presbytery and how that money is used. In November, we will learn about how the Synod uses their portion of the per capita funding.

Meanwhile, if you're interested in finding out more detail about the denomination check out www.pcusa.org. You can find out more about the work of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan at lakemichiganpresbytery.org. The Synod of the Covenant's website is synodofthecovenant.org.

Cents-Ability Offering

The Cents-Ability Offering received the first Sunday of the month is one component of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The Cents-Ability Offering has netted \$1,674.61 through August.

The Cents-Ability Offering is used only for Hunger Programs within our local community. Supper House, serving meals five days per week, receives over \$2000.00 per year. Feeding America trucks that are scheduled for spring and fall receive approximately \$1000.00.

MAP Healthy Foods Pantry receives approximately \$600.00 per year. The Salvation Army and Meals on Wheels receive contributions when possible.

Please keep these agencies in mind when the offering is received on October 2nd. Quarters may be placed in the coin tube, or you may place your donations in the bread pan. When writing a check, please place your check in an envelope designated "Cents-Ability Offering." Individual contributions may also be mailed directly to the church or donations may be given through the FPC website.

breadfortheworld

HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World is a Christian Citizens grass roots organization which serves as an advocate for hungry persons in our country as well as other parts of the world. BFW is one of the five components of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

We have been a Covenant Church member of BFW since 1983 paying our pledge with our bread sales and an occasional individual contribution. We thank all our generous bakers and buyers who have been so faithful to this important commitment of First Presbyterian Church.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 2nd, as this will be our first Bread for the World Bake Sale for the fall.

We welcome donations of bread, pies, cookies or any other baked goods!

NOTE: The church mission boxes are now located in the hallway leading from the Wickham entrance. Thanks for faithfully filling them with good food and personal items.

October 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



Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, October 11
11:30 a.m.

Come join us and knit a shawl for another person in our community who deserves to be "wrapped in love." We can provide knitting instructions, yarn, and needles. We'll also listen to what you might teach us.



Dear Members,

Sometimes it feels like the world is coming at us so quickly that we don't know which way to turn, where to look, what to do next. In a chaotic world, we find strength in knowing that no matter what, God is always with us. We wonder how we can live into Isaiah's call that we are to "go out in joy and be led forth in peace" (Isaiah 55:12).

This is why we're grateful for our commemoration of A Season of Peace culminating with the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday. In a time when violence and war seem to be coming at us from all sides, the ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation witness to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. It is good to be reminded that with all the discord, pain and conflict in our communities and in the world, we serve a God who promises harmony and responds to violence with reconciliation and peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to siblings in Christ who are doing this work every day. Your support of the offering has helped support our church partners in Lebanon recover emotionally from the trauma after a bombing in Beirut. It has helped congregations begin to address the growing mental health crisis and the increase in number of suicides in their communities. It provides resources for congregations seeking to address issues of gun violence in their communities.

We ask that you give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We give because we know that every level of society is in need of Christ's peace. From our congregation, where we retain 25% of this Offering; to the region, where 25% is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the earth, where the remaining 50% is deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website (presbyterianmission.org/peace-global) to learn how your support of this Offering helps peacemaking efforts both in the U.S. and around the world. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community. I challenge each of us to consider how we might increase our witness and increase our giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We pray that the God of Peace might open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, October 2, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

As Presbyterians, we claim Jesus Christ as Prince of Peace and pattern our lives in the compassion, kindness and grace that he shows us. May we joyfully bring that peace to all those we care for, love and serve.

OCTOBER Worship Assistants

LAY LEADERS:

10/02 Jon DeVoogd
10/09 Yvonne Friel
10/16 Scott Stewart
10/23 Norma Reynolds
10/30 Shirley McCartney

CHILDREN'S TIME:

10/09 Roxanne Deibel

OFFERING COUNTERS:

10/02 Mark & Pam Schumaker
10/09 Darlene Pawlak & Gina Nielsen
10/16 Bob & Cheryl Hartman
10/23 Mark & Pam Schumaker
10/30 Bob & Cheryl Hartman

HOSPITALITY:

10/02 Kathy Dilts and Darlene Pawlak
10/09 Vic & Ellen Prowant
10/16 Ruth Nielsen & Bev Spiwak
10/23 Ron & Mary Rop
10/30 Deacons/Brunch Potluck

USHERS:

10/02 Quinn & Linda Champion
10/09 Mark & Pam Schumaker
10/16 Clark & Pat Ganson
10/23 Joan Barnes & Jeanne deVette
10/30 Mike & Pam Foster

GREETERS:

10/02 Joan Barnes & Jeanne deVette
10/09 Robin Schroeder & Kristi Clark
10/16 Carol Giblin & Ruth Nielsen
10/23 Kristi Clark & Suzanne Carl
10/30 Mitzi Bixler & Bev Spiwak

COMMUNION SET UP: October 2

Mary Eschman

COMMUNION SERVERS: October 2

Quinn & Linda Champion
Joan Barnes & Jeanne deVette



We are so happy that Marriage Fellowship will resume in October!

Marriage Fellowship is a time when married couples of all ages eat, play, and converse for the benefit of our relationships. This tradition at First Presbyterian Church has been ongoing for forty years and has been one of our most popular events.

Please join us for a fun-filled evening. We meet monthly. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

Event: Marriage Fellowship
Place: FPC Chapel
Date: October 9, 2022
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Hosts: Ron & Mary Rop



10/06 Joan Bengston
10/08 Rebecca Kinney
10/09 Scott Stewart
10/10 Greg Boughton
10/21 Jim Watson
10/22 Leanne Swick
10/22 Mervin Young
10/24 Dona Demirjian
10/24 Nicole Kary
10/27 Shane LeRoux
10/28 Hanna Scofield



10/07 Mervin & Katherine Young
10/12 Don & Pam Correll

NEW ADDRESS:

Mrs. Lee Gannon
Grandhaven Manor
3215 W. Mt. Hope Ave., #119
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 580-9303

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>10am - Men's Swap 1pm - Back to School Planning 2pm - O & C Council Meeting 6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3pm - Neighborhood Walk</p>	<p>11am - Hackley Postpartum Group 3:45pm - Supper House</p>		<p>10am - Feeding America Food Truck</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9:30am - Staff Meeting 12:30pm - Book Club 2pm - Faith Development Meeting 6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - Worship & Music Council 7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>11am - Hackley Postpartum Group 3:45pm - Supper House</p>			<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality 11:30am - MC&S Council Meeting 5pm - Marriage Fellowship</p>	<p>6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Prayer Shawls Ministry 12:30pm - Sarah Circle 6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship Council</p>				
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>12:30pm - Book Club 6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>11am - Hackley Postpartum Group</p>		<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>2pm - O & C Council Meeting 6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>				
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Branch Poduck</p>	<p>6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>All Saints' Day 10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>5:30pm - Worship & Music Council 7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>11am - Hackley Postpartum Group 3:45pm - Supper House</p>		<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>

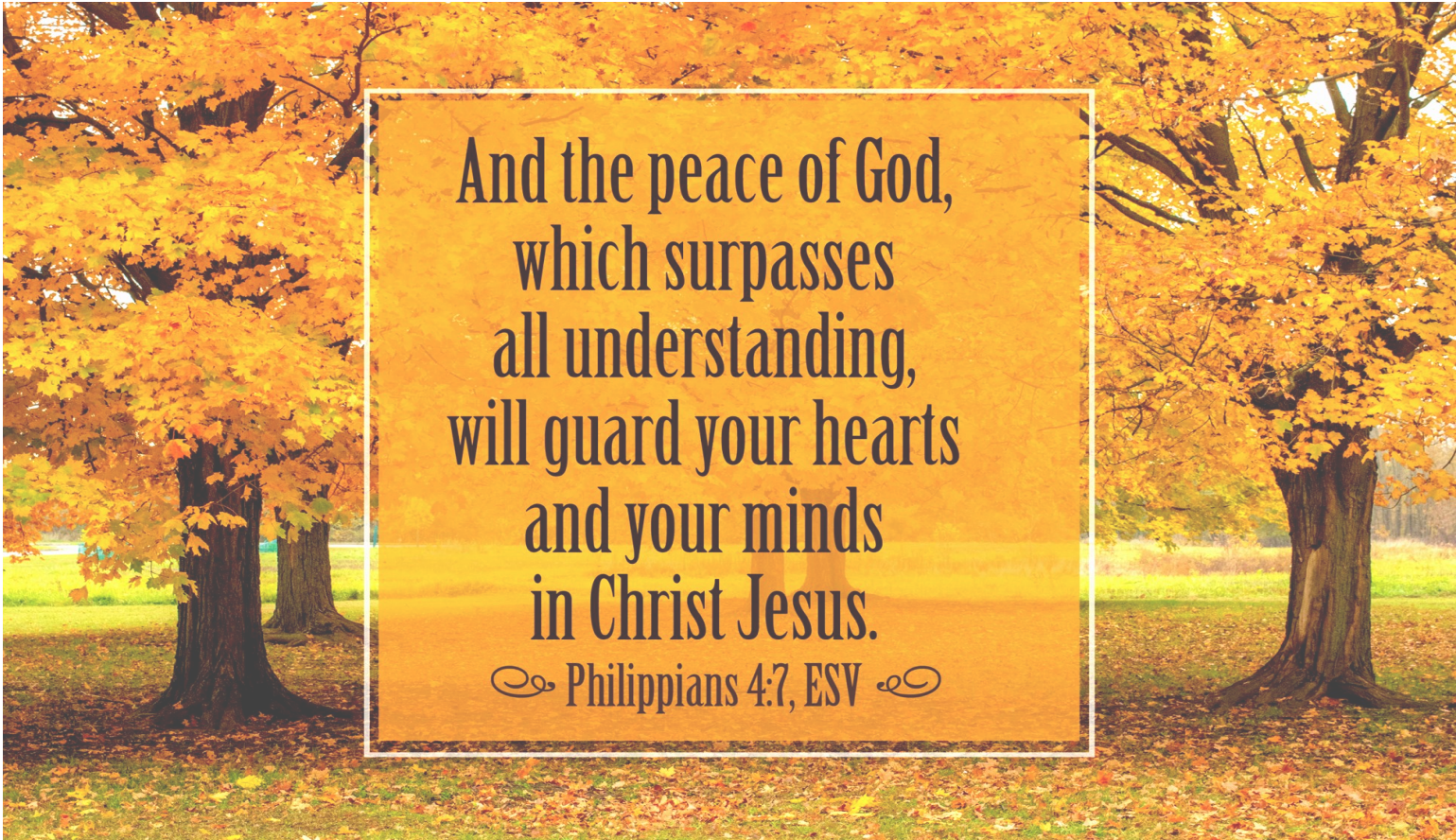
First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcmuskegon.org



And the peace of God,
which surpasses
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.

☞ Philippians 4:7, ESV ☞