

OCTOBER 2022

# Highland Herald

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## INTERIM UPDATE

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe we are in the middle of October already! Your PNC is diligently working and praying. I do know they have asked for a second batch of Personal Information Forms (PIFs – which are like a pastor's resume) from our denomination and continue the process of listening to sermons, seeking to set up interviews, etc. That's all I know!

Please continue to hold them in your prayers as they do this work!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Laurie

A publication of First Presbyterian Church - Muskegon, Michigan

*“God so loved the world that God gave ...”*  
– John 3:16

Friends,

Have you thought much lately about the connection of love and giving? When we love someone – really love them – we are able to dig down deep and give time and resources for them in ways we might not have thought possible. I've been moved and honored in the past weeks to watch Don Olson and his three girls give so generously of their time and focus and resources to care for Marie as she sought to recover from a number of strokes. Because they loved, they gave.

And that is what our God does for us. Because God loves us, God gave us not just any gift, but the gift of God's very own Son to come live among us in our joys and our messes. God gave us God's Son so that we may know what love looks like and be saved in Christ. God so loved us that God gave.

As you know, we are in stewardship season here at First Presbyterian Church in Muskegon. This is a season when we talk a lot about giving and we make decisions about the financial and time resources we will give to this church during the following year. Many of us crunch the numbers of our family finances and say, “OK, how much can I afford to give to the church in 2023?”

Being wise with our resources is important, of course. But, as followers of Christ, we are invited to consider our pledges and resources from a stance of love. The question we may wish to pray about is, “What is God inviting me to give this year?” Our giving is to grow from God's love within us and from our love for God, Christ's church and our community. We give because we have been loved and are invited to give back in love in return. We may arrive at the same amount of money and time if we ask, “What can I afford?” but it comes from a different place.

My prayer for each of us is that we will know how deeply we are loved and that we will give to the church and to other organizations doing the work of Christ from a place of generosity – longing to return the love that we have been given so generously.

I'm so honored to be walking with you during these days. As we live into 2023 and get ready to welcome a new pastor – whoever he or she may be – may we continue to be “A Place to Worship. A Place to Belong. A Place to Serve.”

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Laurie



## How does the Presbytery of Lake Michigan spend our apportionment/per capita dollars?

You have probably noted on your pledge cards this year that each member is being asked to pay, in addition to their pledge, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan's per capita amount, which is \$39.10 for 2023. This covers work done on our behalf by the presbytery, but also by the General Assembly and Synod.

Last month we looked at how the General Assembly's portion (\$9.85) of the money is spent. Next month we will explore how the Synod of the Covenant's portion (\$3.25) is spent. This month we will consider how the Presbytery of Lake Michigan spends its \$26.00 of that amount. Each day as a congregation we benefit from the support of our presbytery in ways we don't even realize. Similar to how our tax dollars pay for roads and other things we take for granted, per capita pays for things in the church that we assume will always be there.

Here are some of the things our presbytery does:

### 1. Congregational Support

1. The Commission on Ministry (made up of elders and pastors from the presbytery) supports churches going through transition, which includes looking for pastors, or experiencing struggles. The COM is supporting First Presbyterian of Muskegon and our PNC as we look for a pastor.
2. Mediation Team: Available for churches and individuals in churches that need help working through disagreements and challenges.
3. Congregational Vitality programs: Matthew 25 churches are among these. Grants are available to support churches in doing new things.
4. Offering seminars (like the church finance seminar that will be happening here in November) and other training opportunities to support church leaders.
5. The Korean Presbyterian Church in Lansing and North Presbyterian Church (a small church composed mostly of persons who struggle with mental illnesses) in Kalamazoo get special funding for their unique ministries.

### 2. Leadership Development and Support:

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry walks with people who are preparing for the ministry. It pays one-third of counseling assessment costs and helps support seminarians in a variety of ways that are not limited to helping pay for ordination exams and tuition support.
2. Boundary training for all pastors is mandated by the presbytery, and the Presbytery pays for it.
3. In a partnership with our synod, the presbytery provides training through Leaderwise, a top notch church leadership training organization, in many areas of leadership development.
4. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan sets money aside to support justice ministries in the presbytery and to help train leaders in these areas. The churches in Lansing and Benton Harbor have benefitted from these monies in the past.
5. Youth leadership development through offering support for Youth Triennium, Montreat Youth Program, Urban Plunge and more.
6. The presbytery maintains a resource center that offers a wide range of books, curriculum for Sunday School, youth and adult education, DVDs and other materials to anyone in the Presbytery.
7. The presbytery pays for speakers and other worship leaders who inspire us during presbytery meetings.

### 3. Mission and Outreach

1. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan offers substantial support to two campus ministers whose work supports campus ministries at Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College and K College.
2. Grants are available to local congregations that wish to try new mission initiatives.

*Continued on Page 3*

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#### 4. Judicatory Support

1. Our per capita helps pay legal expenses for the Presbytery.

#### 5. Maintenance of presbytery operations and office

1. Our per capita dollars help pay the salaries of our executive presbyter and stated clerk and other presbytery staff.
2. Our presbytery office is located at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portage. Our presbytery pays a little rent to use this facility. It is a very cost-effective use of space and also helps support the ministry of the Portage church.

You can learn more about the mission and call of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan by scouring its website: [lakemichiganpresbytery.org](http://lakemichiganpresbytery.org).

Even if you do not pledge, you are strongly encouraged to pay your per capita amount to the church so we do not need to cover your portion from our general operating expenses.

## DOLLARS & SENSE

Our redesigned pledge cards were sent out and everyone should have received them by now. Finance Council is in the process of meeting with each council moderator to discuss their current expenses compared to their budget, and to project their needs for the 2023 budget. Much of this depends on our pledges coming in. We face many challenges ahead, chief among them is inflation. We have done well reviewing and reducing church expenses over the last few years, as well as redirecting our long-term funds into conservative income generating investments. But our pledges make up over 85% of our operating budget and receiving your pledges early in the budgeting process provides considerable clarity going forward. Please thoughtfully consider the financial needs of our church in your pledges and return them as soon as possible.

Over the first nine months this year, our expenses are lower than expected due in part to a vacant staff position and cost conserving in other areas, but the energy intensive three months remain. We are currently under budget by \$13,911 and revenue is ahead by \$11,042. The increased income was due in large part to non-pledge gifts received in the last few months. Many thanks for those generous gifts.



**You are invited to a  
“Thanks-for-Giving”  
Brunch Potluck  
following worship on  
Consecration Sunday  
October 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Please consider sharing  
a dish with your church family  
as we celebrate and grow  
in our faith together.**



Knitters continue to provide prayer shawls for people in our community. Thirteen prayer shawls have been given in 2022, six in September and October. Please call on a member of the knitting “team” to request a shawl for a friend, neighbor, or relative.

Our meeting time is 11:30 am on the first Tuesday of the month. Newcomers are welcome. **We will meet again on Tuesday, November 1, from 11:30-12:30 in the youth room.**



## Coat Drive



*Share the Warmth*

The Moms' Group in partnership with First Presbyterian Church will be having a winter coat drive October through December 5<sup>th</sup>. New or clean gently used coats, hats, gloves, boots, scarves and new socks are needed. You may also contribute monetarily.

Questions? Call the office or email [pastor@fpcmuskegon.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmuskegon.org).

## October Mission Box—Every Woman’s Place

Every Woman’s Place provides emergency shelter for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault and their children. The facility is a safe haven with support groups, individual counseling, and advocacy services. All services are free of charge to clients.

Every Woman’s Place seeks 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

Thank you for your faithful contributions.



# Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantry 9-11 AM, Saturday, October 1, 2022: FCC Volunteers at FCC



Left to right: Jean, Don, Kathy, Jim, Jason, Mary, Mark, MHS Student, FCC Friend, Mike, FCC Friend

Top left & clockwise: Nicki, Jason Quinn, Linda, Gina, Ron, Mary



Blessing of the FPC-Muskegon Team for the CROP Hunger: Pastor Laurie, Jim C, Cammie H, Pam S, Don S, Kristi C, Jean C, Jon M, Mary Ellen W, Yuri M, Harper M & Kendra M



FPC-Muskegon Team for CROP Hunger Walk ready to start 2.5-mile on October 2, 2022:

Jean, Harper, Kendra, Pam, Yuri, Kristi, Jim, Cammie, Don, Mary Ellen, Jon, Brewster, Pastor Laurie, and John

## Glenside Neighborhood Halloween Party

Friends, instead of doing our own Trunk or Treat this year, we will be joining our neighborhood at McGraft Park on Saturday, October 29 to help with, and participate in the Glenside Neighborhood Halloween Party. This is a great opportunity for us to meet some of our neighbors and participate in our community.

Could you come for all or part of the afternoon and help out? Maybe help with a First Presbyterian table that has a craft, and some candy, and some information about our church?

There is a sign up sheet at church or call the office so we can gather volunteers! This is going to be a blast!

**We are also seeking donations of candy to pass out during the party. If you can contribute, please leave your bags of candy in the box near the office. Thanks!**



## ART PROJECT

It's that time of year already to switch the art in our Art Project exhibit!

We are planning to install new art in November and want your help. If you, a friend, family member, or neighbor have original art you'd like to share, let us know.

In our first exhibit we really wanted to showcase art from our members. Now we'd like to reach out and include with members, anyone who likes to CREATE! Art can take on many forms and our main criteria is that a piece be appropriate for our building, and that it be an original. All pieces need approval from the Art Project Committee as well. We're looking forward to seeing what God brings to us this time!

Contact Mary \_\_\_\_\_, Susan \_\_\_\_\_ or Pam \_\_\_\_\_ if have a piece to share.



- 11/01 Julie A
- 11/02 Wanda B
- 11/07 Katherine Y
- 11/07 Nate C
- 11/12 Jim D
- 11/12 Harper M
- 11/14 Evan H
- 11/17 Phyl M
- 11/23 Carol G
- 11/26 Joan H
- 11/16 Eliza P
- 11/29 Karen M

## Heart Art



Don't miss being part of the Art Project!

On October 23 and October 30 after church, everyone will have the opportunity to share their heart by painting a heart on a small canvas. All the canvases will be collected and installed in our Art Project exhibit as the " Heart of First Presbyterian Church." This is a "zero talent" project, it's the joining of the hearts that's important. Supplies and guidance will be provided. So, come get your art on and share your heart in this fun project!!



- 11/29 Mike & Carol G



THANK you!

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, well wishes, and cards in these last months. It has meant a lot to me.  
Ara

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### LAY LEADERS:

11/06 Sheila  
11/13 Vella  
11/20 Jeanne  
11/27 Pam

### CHILDREN'S TIME:

11/13 Greg

### OFFERING COUNTERS:

11/06 Mark & Pam  
11/13 Vic & Ellen  
11/20 Ara & Mike  
11/27 Darlene & Gina

### HOSPITALITY:

11/06 Kathy & Darlene  
11/13 Mark & Pam  
11/20 Bob & Cheryl  
11/27 Quinn & Linda

### USHERS:

11/06 Vic & Ellen  
11/13 Bob & Joan  
11/20 Mike & Pam  
11/27 Clark & Pat

### GREETERS – Sherman Entrance:

11/06 Kristi  
11/13 Joan  
11/20 Kristi  
11/27 Bev

### GREETERS – Wickham Entrance:

11/06 Ruth  
11/13 Jeanne  
11/20 Robin  
11/27 Mitzi

### COMMUNION – November 6:

Set-up: Jeanne  
Servers: Vic & Ellen  
Kristi & Mark

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Friends,

We joyfully announce that the Session has approved the hiring of a new "Community Engagement and Education Director," Adam !

This Spring when Arisha resigned, the Personnel Committee prayerfully considered what we might need as a church going forward in this position. The numbers of youth and children in our church are minimal and our longing to more intentionally engage our community feels like part of our call right now. Adam will work with our youth and children , and also help us discern ways to connect and engage our community --- in our building and outside our building. We are excited for the energy, faith and vision he brings. Welcome Adam!



With hope,

Vic , Mark , Pam , Mary ,  
Greg and Rev. Laurie -- FPC Personnel Committee

Adam has an extensive background in the Hospitality and Arts Community. He is the Executive Chef at Ryke's bakery, Catering and Café and manages all of their event business. He also has served on the staff of Covenant Life Church (CRC) in Grand Haven as the Upper Elementary Coordinator for their Children's Ministry. Adam was very involved in Covenant Life, helping to plan and organize their first ever Community Dinner, cooking and performing for their Wednesday night "Merge" program, and planning curriculum and lessons for K-4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Adam has also been an active member in the West Michigan Theatre Community. He has appeared in plays for Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, Heritage Theatre, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Central Park Players, and Muskegon Civic Theatre. He is the founder of the Actors' Workshop of West Michigan.

Adam is married to the amazing Anne and is grateful for her support and encouragement. They have two adult children, Tristan and Jim

Adam is excited to join the FPC Muskegon staff and to be a part of the Spirit of renewal that is flowing through our congregation.



Muskegon Community College Theater Premieres ***A Super Happy Story (About Feeling Super Sad)***, a cabaret musical that lets you know it's OK not to be OK, on the Overbrook Theater stage October 27 – 30, 2022. **CONTENT WARNING:** Depression & Suicide

A TALKBACK, following each performance will be led by MCC counselors and the cast. Director Sheila explains, "This play is a great springboard for discussions about mental illness. As Tash, a character in the show, says to Sally, 'Don't keep it a secret. Everyone pretends like it didn't happen to them. Talking's the only way to let someone else know they're not the only one. You deserve to get better.' and so do we all. So, let's talk."

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27, 28 and 29, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30. Tickets are \$15 for the public and \$10 for MCC students and staff.

Tickets are available ONLY online until the day of each show. Tickets will be sold at the Overbrook Theater Box Office one hour prior to each performance. Call (231) 777-0324 for more information. ONLINE TICKETS, visit <https://mcoverbrooktheater.ludus.com>.

- **WHAT: A SUPER HAPPY STORY**  
***(About Feeling Super Sad)*** a musical comedy on mental illness,  
**CONTENT WARNING:** Depression & Suicide
- **WHEN: Oct. 27 – 29@7:30 pm and Oct. 30@3:00 pm**
- **WHERE:** Overbrook Theater, Muskegon Community College, 221 S. Quarterline Road
- **TICKETS:** \$15 for the public, \$10 for MCC students and staff. Call (231) 777-0324 or order online

MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTER FOR THEATER PRESENTS THE MICHIGAN PREMIER OF

# A SUPER HAPPY STORY

(About Feeling Super Sad) A hilarious cabaret musical about depression, that lets you know it's OK not to be OK!

BOOK AND LYRICS BY **Jon Brittain** | MUSIC BY **Matthew Floyd Jones**



**OCTOBER**  
**27-29**  
@7:30 PM  
**30**  
@3:00 PM

**OVERBROOK THEATER**

Muskegon Community College

**TALKBACK**  
immediately following the performance

**TICKETS**  
\$10 MCC/\$15 PUBLIC

**CALL**  
231-777-0324 or  
scan below to purchase online

This production is presented with permission of Curtis Brown Group



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship 11am - Alter Worship Branch Potluck</p>	<p>6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p><b>All Saints Day</b> 10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 2pm - Shepherds' Meeting</p>	<p>5:30pm - Worship &amp; Music Council 7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p>		
<p>6</p>	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p><b>CONFESION OF FAITH</b> 10am - Worship 11am - Alter Worship Hospitality 12:30pm - Presbytery Financial Forum</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 11:30am - Prayer Shawls Ministry 12:30pm - Sarah Circle 6pm - Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship Council</p>	<p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>			<p>10am - AGO Organ Master Class</p>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p><b>PARSONS' PRIMAES DENNIS</b> <b>NOVEMBER VESPER</b> 10am - Worship 11am - Alter Worship Hospitality 11:30am - MCKS Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>PARSONS' LUNCHEON - VACATION</b> 6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p><b>CHRISTIE KING SERVICE</b> 10am - Worship 11am - Alter Worship Hospitality</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIE KING SERVICE</b> 12:30pm - Book Discussion Group 6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p><b>Thanksgiving Day</b></p>			
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<p>10am - Worship 11am - Alter Worship Hospitality</p>	<p><b>JOHN BARRINGTON - VACATION</b> 2pm - O &amp; C Council Meeting 6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p>			

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – MUSKEGON  
STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN JUST TITHING!

We are called to be stewards of our time and talents, as well as our money. Here are some areas in the church that could use your time and talents. Where would you like to help serve this year? Please fill this out and turn it into the church office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve the church in these areas:

\_\_\_ Choir Member

\_\_\_ Office Volunteer

\_\_\_ Instrumentalist

\_\_\_ Moms' Group Support

\_\_\_ Lay Leader

\_\_\_ Tech Team

\_\_\_ Usher

\_\_\_ Shepherd

\_\_\_ Greeter

\_\_\_ Mission – Walk-Abouts

\_\_\_ Coffee Host

\_\_\_ Mission – Hunger Ministry Support

\_\_\_ Offering Counter

\_\_\_ Mission – Supper House Volunteer

\_\_\_ Faith Development

\_\_\_ Fellowship Events

\_\_\_ Finance

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Feel free to dream of ways you can serve the church and community here!)*

\_\_\_ Property

\_\_\_ Outreach

\_\_\_ Stewardship

\_\_\_ Worship & Music

\_\_\_ Youth

\_\_\_ Women's Circles

\_\_\_ Church School Leader

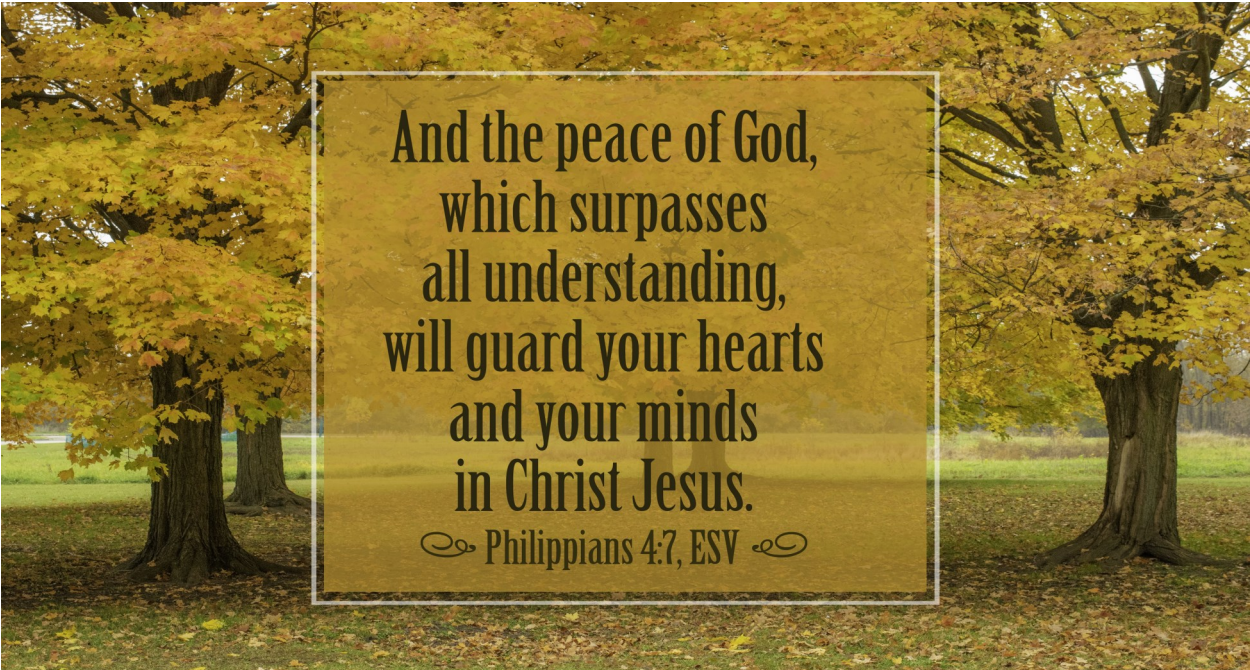


# First Presbyterian Church

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(231) 759-1275



Highland Herald



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

☞ Philippians 4:7, ESV ☞