

First Presbyterian Church

# Highland Herald

April 2023

## Mark your Calendar

- 5-7 GVSU Jazz Concert
- 5-8 Scholarship Application Deadline
- 5-14 Scots Sunday
- 5-21 Newsletter Deadline
- 5-28 Pentecost
- 5-29 Memorial Day

## Reminder

*FPC Art Project: Calling all artists and creative people! It's time to share your work! Friends and family pieces too! We'll be collecting original art during the month of April so we can change the art exhibit at the beginning of May. Please contact Mary Eschman, Pam Foster, or Susan Homan if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.*

## Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Our church is most fortunate to have two wonderful college scholarship programs to award to students from our church from the Lakey Family and Eva Nelson. We have been awarding scholarships for over 25 years! We plan on awarding scholarships in June, so now is the time to fill in the application and return it to the church. The Faith Development Council will review applications at its May 9 meeting, so time is of the essence. Applications can be obtained through Greg Boughton ([zekeboughton@aol.com](mailto:zekeboughton@aol.com)) and need to be returned to Greg by May 8, 2023.

The 2022 awards were the largest ever awarded and the amount available to be awarded looks to be in the same amount this year, so college students, make this opportunity a reality by getting your application filled out and in as soon as possible.

# *“Could We Start Again, Please?”*

*~ from “Jesus Christ Superstar”*

Dear friends,

Have you ever wanted a “do-over?” Maybe it was a serious discussion you were having with a loved one that went off the rails. Maybe it was in a relationship with a spouse, or child, or parent, or dear friend. Or maybe it was a project you were working on that was going fine until you or a colleague made a misstep or even a huge wrong turn. Maybe it was a mistake you made that has been haunting you. Maybe you were or are just feeling stuck in some pattern or routine.

In the musical “Jesus Christ Superstar,” both Mary Magdalene and Peter are concerned about the direction Jesus has taken them. This concern is mirrored in the Gospels, where we hear over and over again in Jesus’ last days the wondering of “Who is this Jesus anyway?” Mary and Peter weren’t banking on the reality that Jesus would be murdered and that their whole movement would seem to have been a huge waste of their time. So they sing this song, “Could We Start Again, Please?” You can find it on Youtube here:

[Could We Start Again Please | Jesus Christ Superstar](#)

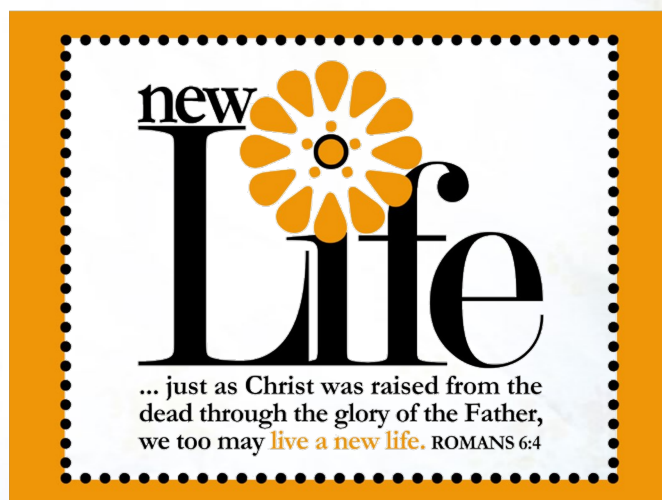
Now, of course, we know how the story ends. Jesus does get crucified. They can’t get a do-over on that part of the story. But what “Jesus Christ Superstar” doesn’t show and what they don’t realize is that, in the Resurrection, God announces a world altering do-over that they cannot even imagine. They cannot only start again; they can start again from a reality where God gets the final word and love will win.

As we live into the Easter season together, that is the Good News for us too. Every day God’s answer to “Could We Start Again, Please?” is YES! We cannot only start again, we can start again with love and grace holding us that are deeper than we imagine. And this starting again doesn’t mean we can go back to the beginning. No, we start again from where we are, having been formed by the joys and sorrows and ordinary moments of our lives. And in this place where we are, we start again to pray. We start again to be our best selves in our relationships. We start again to work for justice and hope in our broken world. We start again in our families.

And, as a church, each day we get the chance to start again, too. We can continue ministry in the ways we’ve done it before, but we can also be open to starting again in new ways, in new directions as God leads us.

So, say it with me, “Christ is risen! Alleluia!” And because He is alive, we can start again, if we need to and are called to. We can start again, over and over again.

Thanks be to God!  
Happy Easter Time to all of you,  
Pastor Laurie



## *April Mission Box Muskegon Rescue Mission*

A project of First Presbyterian Church is donating food and personal items to four agencies on a monthly, rotating basis. Items are collected in the four tubs in the Wickham hallway. The four agencies thankfully receiving donations are Every Woman's Place, Mission for Area People, Love INC, and Muskegon Rescue Mission.

This month items will be collected and delivered to Muskegon Rescue Mission. Donations of the following foods and personal items, placed in the MRM tub in the Wickham hallway, are appreciated:

Food, such as . . .

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

Personal items, such as . . .

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

Thank you for your donations.

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Knitters continue to provide prayer shawls for people in our community every month. Please call on a member of the knitting team to request a shawl for a friend, neighbor, or relative: Julie Anderson, Joan Barnes, Dona Demirjian, Betty Dunn, Pam Foster, Carol Giblin, Sue Kacprzyk, and Ellen Prowant.

**Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 2, at 11:30 am.**  
**Newcomers are welcome.** We have supplies available for you to use.



## *Great Start for Reading*



Do you have precious children's books lying around your house and your kids are adults? Please consider donating children's books to Great Start, a Michigan preschool program. Books are collected in the green tub next to the Mission table (the tub has a Talk, Read, Sing yard sign in it). Great Start uses these books in literacy activities for young readers in our community. Thank you.

# *Feeding America Food Trucks and Needs Supported by Cents-Ability Offering*

FPC will be recruiting 12-15 volunteers to help sort and package boxes of food for hungry people in Muskegon about a month before the following two Feeding America Food Truck dates:

**June 3, 2023 & October 7, 2023**

We usually start between 9:00-9:30 AM on the first Saturday of the month and finish between 11:00-11:30 AM. Please mark your calendars and join us for these two volunteer opportunities!

The FPC-sponsored food truck of May 7, 2022 provided fruits, vegetables, potatoes, milk, some meat, etc. to 104 households of 279 people, including 118 seniors, 67 children and 26 veterans. The need has increased since the recent April 1, 2023 Mobile Food Pantry provided needed food to 152 households of 329 people, including 132 seniors, 78 children and 39 veterans.

Why is there an increased need? Have you noticed that your grocery store receipts are higher, but the amount of food in those grocery bags seems less? Yes, the prices of most food items have gone up substantially. Some people blame inflation, poor supply chains, higher demands, bad crop years, stagnant wages and/or decreased benefits in the federal SNAP or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program). Whatever the reasons for the more expensive food, more low-income people in Muskegon have been going to the Feeding America Mobile Food Pantries or Food Trucks this year.

As we have done for years, we are partnering with the First Congregational Church of Muskegon (FCC) to split the \$780 cost of each of our two Food Trucks in June and October. Your Cents-Ability Offering each month of the year is used to help fund the \$390 cost per Food Truck for FPC. The Food Truck program is locally coordinated through the Muskegon County Cooperating Churches. Despite the greater need in our community, a few local, struggling churches may not be able to support the Food Truck program this year.

After communication with FCC staff, they need help supporting two additional Food Trucks this year. The Mission & Hunger Council met to discuss this situation and decided that we could support one new truck this spring with the currently available Cents-Ability Offering funds and a second new truck in the summer or fall with future Cents-Ability Offerings.

Please consider giving a Cents-Ability Offering on the first Sunday of each month or on any Sunday throughout the year to help support these two additional Food Trucks in 2023. In addition to Feeding America Food Trucks, your offerings also support the local, hunger missions of the Supper House and Family Promise.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support! Please join us.  
Mission & Hunger Council

# Dollars & Sense

General Fund Financial Figures 2023 Dollars and Sense Summary		
	March	Year-to-Date
Actual Income/Expense		
Income	\$ 26,770	\$ 70,857
Expense	\$ 27,572	\$ 86,904
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$ (802)	\$ (16,047)
Budgeted Income/Expense		
Income	\$ 24,055	\$ (16,047)
Expense	\$ 24,854	\$ 82,706
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$ (799)	\$ (13,225)

Thank you for your support of our church. ~ Finance & Stewardship Council

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND GREEN ENVELOPES ARE PLACED IN THE BACK OF THE PEWS.**

- Please take a green envelope from the back of the pew and make a donation.
- Donations received are used for maintenance and repair type expenses for the church building and grounds.

# Stewardship



The Finance and Stewardship Council will focus on Finance and the aspects of Stewardship on a monthly basis this year along with the benefits it offers the donor and the church.

The Presbyterian Foundation provides the following definition of Stewardship. **STEWARDSHIP IS HOW** we use our God-given gifts; it is how we use our talents, our time, and our resources. Stewardship is the way we use all our resources to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world.

# *The C.E.E.D. Corner*

FPC members and friends turned out to help make Glenside Neighborhood Association's 50<sup>th</sup> annual Easter Egg Hunt a huge success. The generosity of this congregation provided four (!) bikes as raffle prizes for the kids. Dozens of you helped to stuff eggs, spread the word, and even work at the event. We were able to be a blessing to our neighbors (and beyond!) while connecting with hundreds of "little ones." We passed out VBS flyers, entertained and fed the children and even helped clean up. Thank you to all of FPC.

We are excited to begin preparation for our VBS –"Wilderness Escape" for this summer. Save the dates : July 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Join us as we enter God's Story of Escape from Egypt and Moses and the Grumbling Israelites. We will need lots of volunteers. if interested please email Adam at [ceanded@fpcmuskegon.org](mailto:ceanded@fpcmuskegon.org).

April and May also feature our inter-generational Bible Study of Luke/Acts. Join us in Room 9 Sundays at 11:20. It is our hope to offer a summer series of adult Sunday studies beginning in June. These would be brief ( 4-5 week) studies with a lay leader that would fit in with our summer messages. If you are interested in leading a study, please contact Adam Bell.



The date of Saturday June 3 has been set for the annual Glenside Yard Sale. Our church is often the first stop for shoppers who come from near and far to shop for bargains throughout the Glenside neighborhood. What makes our sale so attractive is the huge number of items with reasonable prices that we offer, so we need to start doing some spring house cleaning to put aside your donations for our sale. More information will be upcoming in future Highland Heralds regarding the particulars of the week before and the actual day of the sale. For now, please start collecting items so that our 2023 Glenside Yard Sale will be the best ever!

## *Our Building is a GIFT!*

Friends, with the COVID restrictions lifting in the past months, our building is getting more use. In addition to the Girl Scouts and the Moms' Swap group, the Actors' Workshop of West Michigan has been meeting here every Thursday night. The Glenside Neighborhood Association has used our building for their meetings. Other exciting partnerships are in the works. This is God's building and we are so excited to have it be used.

We also want to be good stewards of the building and want to remind everyone that we have procedures and policies for building use that have been approved by our Session. If you or your organization would like to use the building for a meeting or event, there is a building use form that must be completed and submitted. If you have any questions, please be in touch with Clark Ganson, Moderator of the Property Council, or Joan Bengston in the office.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Black History</p> <p>11:20am - Bible Study</p>	<p>12:30pm - Book Club</p> <p>6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the</p> <p>11:30am - Prayer Shawls</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>	
<p>Cents-Ability Offering/BFW</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship</p> <p>11:20am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - Worship &amp; Arts</p> <p>2pm - Community Jazz</p>	<p>10am - Moms' Clothing Swap</p> <p>5pm - O.C &amp; T Council</p> <p>6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the</p> <p>11:30am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:30pm - Sarah Circle</p> <p>2pm - Faith Development</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30pm -</p>		<p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>		
<p>Mother's Day</p> <p>Scots Sunday</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship</p> <p>11:20am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - MC&amp;S Council</p>	<p>12:30pm - Book Discussion</p> <p>2pm - Backpack Event</p> <p>6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the</p> <p>6pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3pm - Shepherds' Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>	
<p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship</p> <p>11am - Deacons Meeting</p> <p>11:20am - Bible Study</p>	<p>6pm - Disciple Class</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the</p>	<p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>			
<p>Pentecost</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship</p>	<p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>10:30am - Dwelling in the</p>	<p>3:45pm - Supper House</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>		<p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>	

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*The Worship and Arts Council is very happy to extend an invitation to all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to enjoy a concert of the Grand Valley Jazz Combo on Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 pm. The event, which is free of charge, will be held in the sanctuary. The foursome will present the music of a wide variety of jazz composers, as well as original compositions. We hope you'll join us for a unique opportunity to hear this exciting ensemble!*

