

# Highland Herald

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Looking for Adventure?



### SAVE THE DATES:

Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>  
5 - 7 p.m.

Join us at Wilderness Escape Vacation Bible School, where we'll explore what life was like for the ancient Israelites. They've escaped captivity in Egypt...but now what?

Many volunteers are needed to help with games, crafts, registration, etc. Please contact Adam Bell at [ceed@fpcmuskegon.org](mailto:ceed@fpcmuskegon.org) if you can help!



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. Your donations for the sale can be dropped off to the church beginning Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers are also needed to collect the donated items and help the day of the sale. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

VISIT US ONLINE [fpcmuskegon.org](http://fpcmuskegon.org)



## Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

The Friday before writing this "Pastor's Corner," I had the privilege of officiating at the Witness of the Resurrection/Celebration of Life service for David Anthony Caruso. In that service, Nick, Dave and Vella's son, mentioned a piece of David's life philosophy. He said that when someone asked David for something, he most always said, "Yes."

Saying "yes" is an act of faith and an act of stewardship, isn't it? It is an act of faith because we trust we will always have enough. It is an act of stewardship because we recognize that we are given gifts of time, treasure and talent – not to keep for ourselves, but to share with our world. God has said "yes" to us in so many ways, and we are invited to say "yes" back to God. This prayer by Walter Brueggeman in his book of prayers, "Awed to Heaven; Rooted to Earth," expresses this well, I think:

*You are the God who is simple, direct, clear with us and for us.  
You have committed yourself to us.  
You have said YES to us in creation,  
YES to us in our birth,  
YES to us in our baptism,  
YES to us in our awakening this day.*

*But we are of another kind,  
More accustomed to "perhaps, maybe, we'll see,"  
Left in wonderment and ambiguity.*

*We live our lives not back to your YES,  
But out of our endless "perhaps."*

*So we pray for your mercy this day that we may live YES back to you,  
YES with our time,  
YES with our money,  
YES with our sexuality,  
YES with our strength and with our weakness  
YES to our neighbor,  
YES and no longer "perhaps."*

*In the name of your enfleshed YES to us, even Jesus who is our YES into  
your future. Amen.*

Friends, as individuals and as a church, may we courageously continue to step out in "YES" to God. "Yes" to our community and others. "Yes, yes, yes."

With gratitude and love,  
Pastor Laurie

### All God's Children are Safe

In light of recent upticks in gun violence and recognizing a need to update some of our general safety protocols, the Session appointed a small group of people – Bob Hartman, Mike Foster, Suzanne Carl, and Pastor Laurie – to come up with some recommendations to continue our legacy of being a welcoming congregation while also keeping our congregants safe.

Here are some of the things that have been done as of mid-May:

1. Emergency exit cards are now in the pews. In case of fire or other emergency, the laminated gold cards will help people know how to exit safely.
2. All First Aid kits have been updated and additional materials (tourniquets, bleeding bandages) have been added.
3. A floor bolt and window shade have been installed in the library and volunteer office space so people can lock themselves in there if necessary.
4. Session has approved the locking of entry doors shortly after worship begins. We've created signs at the entrances so that people know they are welcome and where they can enter if they arrive at church late for services.
5. A small safety/security team is being formed and trained so that we have a volunteer each Sunday morning tending to the doors and other safety/security needs.
6. While we have a number of retired doctors and nurses in the congregation, we also hope to have more people trained in First Aid procedures, in use of the AED, and in a "Stop the Bleed" program.
7. You can expect some "Minutes for Safety" in the announcements before worship this summer. The "Minutes" will give the congregation tips on what to do in case of fire, someone falling or getting ill in church, active shooter, etc.

This is an ongoing process. If you have thoughts or concerns or ideas, please speak with Bob, Mike, Suzanne, Pastor Laurie or a Session member.



## May 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.



The prayer shawls knitting group will meet on Tuesday, June 6, at 11:30 am in the youth room. We are glad to honor all requests for shawls.

## BACKPACK BONANZA



The Mission Council and our church are again sponsoring a backpack drive for school children in Muskegon County. The Backpack Bonanza is scheduled for Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 10 am to noon. There will also be school supplies, free haircuts, outdoor games, books, and community agencies at the event. Large bins to collect donated backpacks will be in the narthex and mission area at the Wickham entrance beginning June 11. Your generosity and concern for local school children is greatly appreciated.

Here are some tips for choosing a sturdy, effective backpack\*:

**Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps.** Narrow straps can dig into shoulders, causing pain and restricting circulation. They are also less sturdy and more likely to rip after just a few weeks or months of use.

**Look for padding.**

The part of the pack that rests on the child's back should also be well padded. This adds comfort and provides protection from any sharp edges or objects inside the pack.

**Select a backpack that is lightweight, but sturdy.**

Look for strong zippers and tough nylon fabrics that will resist rips and tears without adding extra weight. Reflective fabric is a good idea, especially if your child is walking, riding his or her bike, or going to and from the bus stop.

**Wheels may not be a good idea.**

Some schools do not allow backpacks on wheels. Wheels make navigating crowded areas more difficult.

*\*Information originally published in the article, "How to Choose and Use a Backpack," posted by Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital on Aug 19, 2019. <https://www.hopkinsallchildrens.org/ACH-News/General-News/How-to-Choose-and-Use-a-Backpack>*



Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."



John 21:15, NIV

In Jesus' last conversation with the disciple Peter, Jesus said, "Feed my lambs," "Take care of my sheep," and "Feed my sheep."

This was the very end of Jesus' time with his followers. It was after His crucifixion and rise from the dead. Jesus and the disciples went fishing, had fish for breakfast on the beach, and then Jesus told Peter to feed His lambs.

Jesus had already empowered his apostles with The Great Commission—to spread the gospel—and the promise of receiving the Holy Spirit, which would guide them in the difficult road ahead. His church-building message was complete.

Jesus' final advice to Peter was to love and care for His people, His lambs. And food is God's love poured out.

**Your Cents-Ability Donations Fund  
Feeding America Food Trucks in Muskegon**

Mission Council would like to increase our church's participation to sponsoring four trucks a year, due to rising food insecurity in our community. First Presbyterian now sponsors two trucks a year. We pay half the cost of a truckload of food (\$390) and First Congregational Church pays the other half of the cost.

# Stewardship



The Finance and Stewardship Council will focus on Finance and the aspects of Stewardship on a monthly basis this year, along with the rewards of donating to the church.

This month I will write about stewardship in my family, as a youth. My mother would say at various times, as we all have heard, that we need to support the church and "God will reward us many times over." I had many siblings (eleven) in my family and volunteering was the way we kids supported the church throughout our childhood years.

A memorable time for me was one summer when my father volunteered to take old bricks off the side of our two-story church and replace the bricks with new aluminum siding. He offered his and our time, with the understanding he could have the removed bricks for salvage. Dad was a contractor, and we would help him on some of the small jobs he would undertake. The hardest part of this job was cleaning the old mortar off the bricks with a hammer and chisel, being careful not to break the bricks. We would transport the cleaned bricks in the back of a pickup truck to a job site, where Dad used the salvageable ones to build a fireplace in a cottage under construction.

I remember my parents contributed to the church in various ways; by donating, repairing items at the church, or providing a meal to a sick member.

I have been a member of FPC for 14 years. It is great to belong to an active church, where the members take stewardship seriously and make FPC a vibrant place to worship, belong, serve, and grow in my faith. Thank you all!

**General Fund Financial Figures  
2023 Dollars and Sense Summary**

Actual Income/Expense	April	Year to Date
Income	\$ 21,331	\$ 92,189
Expense	<u>\$ 23,725</u>	<u>\$110,630</u>
Net Increase (Decrease)	<u>\$ (2,394)</u>	<u>\$(18,441)</u>
Budgeted Income/Expense		
Income	\$ 21,087	\$ 90,569
Expense	<u>\$ 21,914</u>	<u>\$104,620</u>
Net Increase (Decrease)	<u>\$ (827)</u>	<u>\$(14,051)</u>

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Sat
<p>28</p> <p><b>Pentecost</b></p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>11am - O C &amp; T Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>Memorial Day</b></p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>		<p>1</p> <p>3:45pm - Supper House</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am - Feeding America Food Truck</p> <p>9am - Glenisde Yard Sale</p> <p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>
<p>4</p> <p><b>Camie's Ability Offering</b></p> <p><b>Family Sunday</b></p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>11:30am - Worship &amp; Arts Council</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>Rev. Hartzell - Vacation</b></p> <p>10am - Moms' Clothing Swap</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30am - Prayer Shawls Ministry</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p><b>Rev. Hartzell - Vacation</b></p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>11:30am - IMCAS Council Meeting</p> <p>1pm - Baby Shower</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>Rev. Hartzell - Vacation</b></p> <p>5pm - O, C &amp; T Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p> <p>12:30pm - Sarah Circle</p> <p>2pm - Faith Development Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship Council</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am - Girl Scouts</p>
<p>18</p> <p><b>Father's Day</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Juneteenth!</b></p> <p>12:30pm - Book Discussion Group</p> <p>2pm - Backpack Bonanza Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - After Worship Hospitality</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>1</p>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3:45pm - Supper House 7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality 11:30am - Worship &amp; Arts Council</p> <p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9pm - Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 2pm - Faith Development Meeting 6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:30pm - Book Discussion Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>10am - Worship 11am - After Worship Hospitality</p> <p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:30am - Dwelling in the Word 11:30am - Prayer Shawls Ministry 1pm - Wiersma Internment</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - Property Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3:45pm - Supper House 7pm - Actors' Workshop</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7pm - AA Big Book Study</p>	<p>5</p>

## First Presbyterian Church

2577 Wickham Drive  
Muskegon, Mi 49441-3182  
[www.fpcmuskegon.org](http://www.fpcmuskegon.org)

Join your church family  
on June 4<sup>th</sup> for  
Strawberry Sunday!  
We will have strawberries, shortcakes,  
and ice cream in the chapel.

