

December
2018



The Carillon



From Our Lead Pastor



Dear Friends:

The year was 1990. There was not a week that went by that I did not want to quit the ministry. I felt like the man in the story whose wife was trying to get him out of bed for Sunday morning worship. "I don't want to go to church," he said, "The people are mean, the preaching is lousy and I feel like I'm wasting my time." "But you have to get up," she said, "You're the pastor!"

Later that year I attended a conference led by Eugene Peterson. He was, at the time, pastor of a church in Maryland. I explained to him my frustrations with endless committee meetings, too many expectations and too little time. He said he never went to committee meetings. I asked him how that was possible. He said the church officers handle the committees and he spends his time being pastor to the congregation. I said, "Gee, that's novel. It might even work!"

I thought long and hard about what he said. Imagine a pastor spending all of his or her vocational time as, well, a pastor! I would experience a more gracious ministry. I would have more time with my family. I could watch Monday Night Football!

But I was not Eugene Peterson. Every pastor is unique. What impressed me was that Peterson had his own clear understanding of pastoral ministry and was intentional about doing it.

The next year I began my doctoral work at Fuller Theological Seminary. Peterson was an adjunct professor for spirituality. I studied under him and learned a great deal from him. He came from a pentecostal background. I did not. Nor did his wife, Jan, for that matter. In a private conversation he jokingly referred to me as a "clinker" – the part of coal that does not catch fire.

Eugene was the author of over thirty books including the award-winning "The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language." He often spoke about joy. "The story of our faith, our very existence, begins and ends with joy," he wrote. I can still picture him breaking into a big, beaming smile. On October 22 of this year he entered the Church Triumphant. He will be greatly missed.

Yours in Christ,

Jeff



Jana Turpin	12/1
Carol Gault	12/2
Frances Gorman	12/2
Marian Martens	12/2
Chris Allen	12/5
Eric LeFleur	12/5
Pat Bulko	12/5
Opal Bell	12/6
Nathan Martens	12/6
Lauren LaFleur	12/6
Jodine Bandlow	12/8
Joyce Evans	12/9
Dan Budrow	12/11
David Tuls	12/12
Susan Hickman	12/12
Rynda Somers	12/12
Linda Holden	12/13
LeRoy Miller	12/14
Jim Hoglen Jr.	12/15
Jean Rost	12/16
Carrie Hoglen	12/18
Fran Matherly	12/19
Bruce Medaugh	12/22
Dan Janz	12/22
Finley McRae	2/24
Betsy Martens	12/25
Marilyn Sauder	12/26
Jim Woodman	12/27
Belinda Bullard	12/29

FRAN MATHERLY,

a member of First Pres for 70 years, was born on December 19, 1918. If you wish to send her a card to help celebrate her 100th birthday:

Frances Matherly
Autumn Care of Cornelius
#706A
19530 Mt. Zion Parkway



From Our Associate Pastor

As our culture gears up for a season of extravagance and our world leaders pursue power, we personally face advent with a huge list of tasks and expectations.

Sue Washburn, a PC(USA) pastor in Pennsylvania writes this:

"On that night so long ago, God did not come to meet our expectations, but to change our expectations. God came to show us what love, grace and power look like in the flesh. We gather to celebrate the dirt and the stones and the Word made flesh for our salvation."

I suggest approaching the holiday season knowing God is the extravagant giver who has the power to help us keep expectations reasonable! Let's enjoy the amazing grace of God, celebrate the Word, Jesus Christ. Let's accept the gift of the Holy Spirit and enjoy this time with hope for a blessed 2019.

May God's mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance!

NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF SESSION

Carl McCune, Clerk of Session

The meeting opened with a joint meeting including the Board of Trustees. Last month the Board Reorganization Task Force report showing how the church could function with the current responsibilities of the Board of Trustees transferring to the Session had been presented. After further discussion, there was consensus to proceed with this reorganization. A proposed change to the Church Bylaws was also discussed and will be voted on by Session in January for presentation to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in February. Commendation for the work of the Task Force members (Pastor Jeff, Mary Maley, Carl McCune, Jean Parker and Francie Winslow) was expressed.

The Trustees named Mary Maley and Jean Parker to an Ad Hoc Budget Task Force to prepare the 2019 Budget. Later in the meeting, Tom Cole and Loren Rex were named by Session to work along with Pastor Jeff on this Task Force.

The Safety Ministry Steering Committee reported on the successful training session on November 10 and announced that another training will be available in April or May. Efforts will be made to keep the Congregation informed as progress is being made regarding safety and security. A motion prevailed to rename the Steering Committee as the Safety Ministry Team which will be a standing committee of Session.

A motion from the Worship Ministries Team prevailed to have only one Christmas Eve service this year which will be at 7:00 p.m.

A motion prevailed to request Pastor Jeff recruit members for a new Personnel Committee which will be a standing committee of Session.

Membership Update The death of Norma (Mimi) Barker on October 20, 2018 was reported. Current Active Membership is 307.

Presbytery of Lake Michigan A communication was received announcing that the future of Camp Greenwood will be voted on during the December 4 Presbytery meeting. The recommendation will be that the property be sold (potential value of \$3.4 million) with the possibility of the Greenwood Ministries Association buying a portion of the property. The proposal includes 40% of the sale proceeds going to a fund for youth ministries, 30% to a fund to benefit congregations and worshipping communities within the Presbytery and 30% unrestricted.

Building Improvement A motion prevailed to express great appreciation to all the people who have worked on the Building Improvement Committee over the years. They will be honored during the November 18 rededication of the Sanctuary.

The next regular Session meeting will be January 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in room 14.



UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

December 2
First Sunday in Advent
Communion (Trays)

December 9
Second Sunday in Advent
Taize Style

December 16
Third Sunday in Advent

December 23
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Praise and Worship
Contemporary Style

December 24
Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m.

"TO US"



THE DEACONS CORNER

The Deacons invite your participation again in furnishing children's gifts, household cleaning items, and food for the 48 Christmas baskets which we will provide to families in our community. If you are willing to provide a gift or gift card of \$20, you will find gift suggestions listed on sticky notes on the kiosks at the east and west sanctuary entrances. Simply choose one or more notes, write your name on the blank beneath the note, and return the gift with the sticky note to the stage in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 16. Don't forget to note which family number is on the sticky note. These baskets will be packed on Sunday, December 16, following morning service in Fellowship Hall and distributed on Thursday, December 21, from 9 am to 12 pm. We welcome help in this preparation. Thank you for your participation.,,THE WHITE ENVELOPE IN THIS CARILLON IS FOR GIFTS TO THE DEACONS CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM TO HELP FEED THOSE IN NEED DURING THIS MOST SPECIAL SEASON, THANK YOU!

Annual Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea

Our annual PW Christmas Tea will take place on Saturday, December 1st, at 2PM in the church Sanctuary. We have two wonderful guest musicians for our program; Alexis Stark and Ramberto Bastell.

We invite everyone to come and enjoy this unique program of voice and guitar music. We encourage you to stay after the performance to enjoy refreshments in the Parlor.



ANTICIPATING CHRISTMAS
CHILI, CRAFTS AND CAROLS!
DEC 2RD 11:15 AM
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
COOKIES TO DECORATE
GREAT CRAFTS TO MAKE ON
SITE
CHILI COMPETITION,
TABLEWARE PROVIDED!
SOUP PROVIDED FOR NON-
CHILI LOVERS
BRING YOUR FRIENDS, BRING
THE WHOLE FAMILY!

MISSING SOMEONE?

Have you noticed someone not at church for several Sundays? Someone not making it to functions they regularly attend? If you do, please speak up and let the church office know. Or, better yet, give them a call!

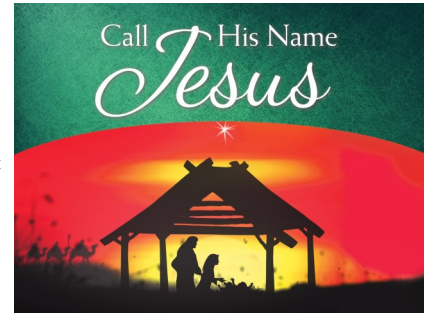


Hallelujah! Sunday, December 9, 11:15-12:15 in the choir room. We'll review the history, biblical background and musical splendor of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. Plan to sing-along with a video performance, no experience or musical ability is needed. Let's praise God together as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

ADVENT SERIES:

CALL HIS NAME JESUS

These services celebrate the wonderful name of Jesus as well as other names and titles by which we worship the Child of Bethlehem, our Savior: Lamb, Shepherd, Emmanuel, Son and Word.



December 2 (1) WHAT'S IN A NAME

Isaiah 52:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 1:26-38

December 9 (2) BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD

Exodus 12:1-7, 13; 1 Peter 1:17-21; John 1:29-34

December 16 (3) SHELTERED BY THE SHEPHERD

Psalms 23; Revelation 7:13-17; John 10:14-18

December 23 (4) GOD WITH US



The Christmas Special Offering goes to S.A.F.E. Place in Battle Creek. S.A.F.E. Place exists to provide safety to, empower and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their families. S.A.F.E. Place stresses early intervention, strengthening families, and providing a continuum of care through community resources and referrals. Please consider making a contribution to this most worthy community resource.

XYZ HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



On December 3rd we will travel to the beautiful WK Kellogg Manor on Gull Lake. Cost is \$28. We will meet at 10:45A in the Parlor and carpool. Call the office right away to make your reservation if you can attend!

VOLUNTEER VIBE

“Volunteer and Enjoy Holiday Cheer”

A CARING PERSON IS NEEDED TO VISIT OUR PATIENTS at Bronson Battle Creek Hospital on WEDNESDAYS. Visitation guidelines will be provided. See Pastor Pat.

THE DEACONS WELCOME SUPPORT FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM. Kiosks will be placed at the Sanctuary entrances for those who wish to provide gifts, canned goods, food cards and household items to the families we are supporting.

Help would be appreciated with BASKET PREP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, directly after worship.

Also come help with the BASKET DELIVERY from Fellowship Hall to recipient's vehicles in the parking lot starting December 21st. Contact Steve Owel to help if you have questions.

Volunteers are needed to deliver poinsettias to our home bound members sometime after Christmas Eve services. Let the church office know, 964-3700, if you are able to visit one or more person this year.

Keep the cookies coming for our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. Prepared finger-foods: fruit, veggies, sweet and/or salty treats can be left in the kitchenette next to the parlor on Sunday a.m. Many thanks to those providing these treats

If you can provide rides to worship or any of our church events for those who need them, be sure the church office has your information.

Want to volunteer and don't see your niche? Go to the church website, firstpresbc.org and click on “serve” If this won't work for you contact Lisa Brown (968-2020) or Jan Emery (979-4734) and they will be happy to help you with it.

“Volunteer Vibe” is a monthly feature from the Connections Team. If your group has a need for volunteers, contact Jan Emery Barney at 979-4734 or jyreme@aol.com

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE SAFETY MINISTRY TEAM?

and why are some people wearing those weird looking earrings?!

First of all, those “weird looking earrings” are likely to be radio ear pieces to allow for communication around the Church and Parking Lot on Sundays (and special events). People wearing radios include Parking Lot servers, Ushers, and the Sunday Safety Lead. We also have radios in the Balcony, the Church Office and the Nursery to allow communication to/from those locations. Not everyone wearing a radio is an active member of the Safety Ministry Team, but they are active participants in Sunday safety.

The Safety Ministry began after Session officially sanctioned it at their November 2018 meeting. Session agreed that First Presbyterian Church needs a more robust safety program, not just a security program.

A safety program includes the following:

Safety Equipment: first aid kits, fire extinguishers, evacuation tools, alarm systems, security cameras, communication systems

How we respond to medical emergencies

How we respond to fires and electrical outages

How we respond to slips and trips in the parking lot (and throughout the buildings)

and yes, how we respond to security concerns

The purpose of the Safety Ministry Team is to develop and administer a program of safety and security for the congregation, staff and visitors of First Presbyterian Church thus “watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service”. This ministry team of Session will provide programs and capabilities to use before, during and after worship services and other scheduled events, as well as weekday/night operations. The vital work of the Safety Ministry Team will be done while maintaining a friendly and welcoming environment at First Presbyterian Church.

Current members of the Safety Ministry Team are: Belinda Bullard, Bob Bullard, Sue Healy, Jim Hogen, Mary Lusk, Jenny Moore, Jim Nelson, Mike Scheid, Pat Scheid, Larry Turpin (Chair), Pat Weatherwax. Feel free to reach out to anyone on the team if you have questions or concerns, we are trying to be better prepared but need everyone's help in doing so.

The prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. (Proverbs 27:12 NLT)



OFF THE PRES

For Your Calendars:

Sunday December 9th 4 pm - youth thinking about 2019 Caravan and/or Pres-

byterian Youth Triennium THEN work on goodies for our special saints Sunday December 16 - 3:30 pm deliver goodie bags to saints at North Pointe Woods then back to the Youth Center for the Christmas party -

Sunday December 30th - early welcome the New Year - time to be determined Off The Pres...

Thoughts from last year with a few tweaks...

The must have, want and wish lists - should help us focus on shopping in a blessed to be a blessing way

The latest gadget to bring Christmas Joy - probably not

The decorations that are in stores starting in July - not a favorite sight

The push for us to spend \$\$\$ for . . . restraint needed

The music meant to help celebrate the Birth of Our Lord - especially if it reflects the REAL reason

The first Sunday when the Sanctuary has been decorated - always, always, always brings joy

The big fluffy snow that covers EVERYTHING - it just doesn't get any prettier

The Christmas cards and notes from friends -

The lighting of each Advent candle - meaningful - introspective - preparation for what will come

The candles on Christmas Eve in the darkened Sanctuary - peaceful, enveloping, enlightening

The many blessings shared with us and that we share with others - so meaningful - to give and receive

Christmas morning and the Best Birthday Party EVER - Happy Birthday, Jesus

THANKS AND ROSES

Many thanks to our congregation for their blanket contributions to the **Community Homeless Health Fair**, to Jeff Wolf for delivering the blankets, to Carol Gault, Susan Keitel, Arden Hetletvedt, and Belinda Bullard for cakes, and to Arden Hetletvedt for delivering the cakes, and to Jana and Larry Turpin for baking the beans and delivering them!

Thanks to those who helped with decorating the Sanctuary—it always feels so warm and inviting and helps set the mood for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

A **HUGE** thank you to all that purchased **swags, roping or wreaths**. The profits will go towards youth mission expenses in the trip to West Virginia this summer. The youth continue to be humbled by the support you show them in this annual activity.

Doug & KB

On October 31, Finley McRae had the honor and pleasure of turning in \$2,155.00 in **CROP** donations from members of our congregation. 25% of that will stay in Battle Creek to support local needs. If you donated—if you walked—if you offered your prayers—**THANK YOU!** With the resources at our disposal, hunger should not be a problem. We will continue to do our part in tackling this situation.



Books have changed location in the Parlor to the West Wall. Look for new additions as well as “oldies but goodies” for your reading enjoyment.

Also, revisit our main library located on the second floor. Books and shelves have been updated and rearranged to make your search easier.



Our condolences to the family and friends of our member Norma “Mimi” Barker upon her passing October 20, 2018.

We offer our sympathy to the loved ones of Norma Baas who passed away on November 13, 2018.

Dear Pat,

The memorial service for Harold was all I hoped it would be. The church looked so good, all clean and painted. Even though the chancel was different, many of our choir friends were sitting there and John was at the organ. Perfect.

You were wonderful, my heart felt thanks for the attention and shepherding us through the service and its planning. Your remarks were much appreciated by the family.

Tim was his usual self, being where he was needed and taking care that everything was where it should be and at the right time.

Thanks Tim. And many thanks to Nancy Chapman and her helpers for the reception.

When I called on the phone with a question or request Jenny was happy to take care of me. It was so nice to renew the friendship we had.

It was perfect to be in the church where we had so many memories and friends and to renew old friendships. Even though Harold never wanted to be the center of attention he would have liked the day.

Blessings
Nadine Grieve
Nadine Grieve



First Presbyterian Church

111 Capital Avenue, NE

Battle Creek, MI 49017

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

There will be one Christmas Eve service this year at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

We will feature the traditional candle lighting but also provide the option of “glow sticks” for worshipers.

Child care will be provided. In our Christmas Eve worship, we will rejoice in the birth of the Son of God and Mary's son, Jesus, who is truly God and truly human. He came to die on the cross and rise from death so that we can be adopted as sons and daughters into the family of God.

Issue 11

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111 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017 firstpresbc.org

FirstPres Calendar



DECEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>10A Worship</p> <p>11:15A</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:45A XII Kellogg Manor House CIR</p> <p>3:30P Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7A Pray for the Church</p> <p>10A Exercise Class</p> <p>6:30P Cub Scouts</p> <p>6:30P Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9A PW Bible Study</p> <p>11A Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7A Church at Prayer</p> <p>8A Sr Pastors' Prayer Group</p> <p>6:15P Hanbell's Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30P Choir Practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>10A Worship</p> <p>11:15A</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3:30P CIR</p> <p>3:30P Ad Hoc Budget Meeting</p> <p>6P Facilities Committee</p> <p>6:30P Deacons</p> <p>6:30P Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7A Pray for the Church</p> <p>10A Safety Ministry Team</p> <p>10A Exercise Class</p> <p>12:30P Lydia Circle</p> <p>6:30P Cub Scouts</p> <p>7P Merit Circle</p> <p>7P Boy Scout Committee</p> <p>7P Concert Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11A Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7A Church at Prayer</p> <p>8A Sr Pastors' Prayer Group</p> <p>6:15P Hanbell's Rehearsal</p> <p>7P Elizabeth Circle</p> <p>7:30P Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30A Great Start</p> <p>9:30A Sew N Sews</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4P Community Chorus Concert</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10A Worship</p> <p>11:15A Deacon Basket Assembly</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:30P CIR</p> <p>6:30P Boy Scouts</p> <p>7P Worship Committee</p> <p>7:15P Benevolence Com.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7A Pray for the Church</p> <p>10A Exercise Class</p> <p>3:30P Parent Coalition</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11A - 1:30P Staff Christmas</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7A Church at Prayer</p> <p>8A Sr Pastors' Prayer Group</p> <p>6:15P Hanbell's Rehearsal</p> <p>7P Men's Fellowship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9A Basket's Picktop</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10A Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Church office closes at noon</p> <p>7P</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9A Carillon mailing</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7A Church at Prayer</p> <p>8A Sr Pastors' Prayer Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10A Worship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>January 1 2019</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>				



Snowbirds, please be sure to let the church office know when you're flying south for the winter!