

January 2020

THE GARDEN

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First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek

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From our Lead Pastor

Dear Friends:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take (Prov 3:5-6 NLT).

Throughout the Vision Summit series last fall we used modern mountain climbing as an analogy for the mission of the church. Mountain climbing is carried out in stages. Each week we looked at a different stage. The sixth stage is attaining the summit. But reaching the summit is not the end of the journey. After all, when you reach the summit you're only half way there! You still have to go back down the mountain. Many an expedition has failed because they did not adequately prepare for what happens after you reach the peak.

Reaching a summit can be very exciting, but what really matters in life is what you do when you come back down. For a church to reach a summit can be exciting – and in this extended metaphor that we have been using that means we see where God wants us to go. But the summit is not the destination. In order to reach that we need to go back down and continue on in the journey of faith.

With the aid of the Ministry Advisory Council, we as a church are discerning where God wants us to go. As of this writing we have already had two follow-up meetings and we expect to have more. We want to recognize that God is already at work in our midst. We want to try to discern what are our next steps in our ministry here in Battle Creek. We want to learn how to pass the torch to the next generation. Above all, we want to declare with the conviction of the saints of old – God is not done with us yet!

Yours in Christ,

Jeffrey S. Carlson



From our Associate Pastor

I love a good mystery, as long as it isn't too complicated. The mystery, "what will happen in 2019?" has been solved. Now a new mystery is unfolding: the year that will be 2020. While I can't predict the future, I am absolutely certain this year will bring changes to our lives, individually and as a church family. Change is inevitable. I propose we look back without regret and ahead without fear. I ended up an ordained minister because when I was fearful, God put the well-loved verse from Jeremiah 29:11 in front of me.

"For I know the plans I have for you", says the LORD,
'plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope'".

I hope 2020 is a year of clear vision, that you are filled with hope, and proceed without fear.
Live in the hope of Immanuel: God with us, now and forever.

God loves you and so do I.

Pat Weatherwax

P.S. "I am so very grateful for all the many kindnesses I've received this past year. Thank you.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM JANUARY 12th

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus presented himself to his cousin John for baptism. The Holy Spirit came upon him like a dove and God said, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (see Psalm 2:7). The Baptism of the Lord is celebrated in January of each year. We not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ.

On January 12, 2020 we will explore this idea in more detail featuring a message entitled, "Fight the Good Fight" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). We will also provide an opportunity, for those who wish to do so, to renew the meaning of their baptism.



We are created to be in community. Even if you are homebound or away from Battle Creek, there are ways to stay connected. A church-related small group can be anything that brings believers together for strengthening faith and increasing fellowship. If you are not a part of any small group, consider what you need to do to find others to be a part of your spiritual journey.

Talk to Pastor Pat. She is working on a list of groups and special interests of our members.

Who's that on the cover? (BEGINNING TOP RIGHT, GOING CLOCKWISE) Youth Group Party— Josh Liechty, Kennedy Allen, Marcus Peevers, Ada Compton, Katelyn Allen. Pictured enjoying soup at Anticipating Christmas are Jim Payne and daughter Becky Burns. Ny'Quaya Yore with holiday greens. December 15th Community Chorus Concert. Jana Turpin tries to steal Diana Golden's trophy. Leroy Miller shows off his U of M lining. Jim Nelson smiles at XYZ outing to English Inn. Shirley Sajtar, Jana Turpin, Amy Rosa Anticipating Christmas. Lisa Brown holding Sincere Holly with Jana Turpin (again trying to get that trophy). Pastor Pat Weatherwax. LeRoy and Bette Miller holding their new great granddaughter. In the center is Marquis celebrating his birthday with his new First Pres sweatshirt!



YOU DESERVE A BREAK! Consider a spiritual retreat. Michigan Pilgrimage is April 23-26, 2020 at the Amigo Centre in Sturgis Michigan. See Sue Keitel or Pat Weatherwax or visit mppilgrimage.org.



All committee, team, and ministry reports covering 2019 are due to the church office by **January 24th** please! These can be placed in the folder in the church office but if possible we prefer you [email your report to office@firstpresbc.org](mailto:email_your_report_to_office@firstpresbc.org). The Annual Meeting will take place on February 16th. Thank you!



Its time to begin collecting new winter coats and snow pants for the 2020 Winter Coat Drive for Charitable Union. The sales are on and new coats are needed for toddlers to teens. We will be collecting through March. Bring your purchase(s) to the Parlor Mission Corner. The coats will be stored and distributed in October.



The holidays are a busy time for everyone and your Deacons were happily busy too. This year the

Christmas Baskets were filled for 49 families. Because of the generosity of First Pres members the baskets were filled with food, Christmas gifts, gift cards, and Christmas candy. Thank you to all participating Deacons, under the direction of Paul and Judy Yettaw and the help of the entire membership. This year was a tremendous success.

We delivered over 1,396 units of food on Dec. 17, 2019. The Soup Kitchen was pleased to announce the volunteers helping serve food were well represented by our membership. Deacon Tom Till is the contact person.

Deacon Finley McRae said the Food Pantry is doing well with the generosity of our members helping with needed supplies. As a reminder: the Pantry is in need of mac-n-cheese, tuna fish, canned fruits and vegetables, and peanut butter. Keep up the good work and thank you!!

The Deacons continue to support the St. Thomas community breakfast. There were over 70 people served on Dec. 7th. First Pres members will again have a chance at serving on Feb. 29. Sign up sheets will be available next month.

Hope you had a Blessed Holiday Season!

Submitted by Deacon Amy Rosa

JANUARY

Birthdays

Richard Black	1/1	Arthur Angood	1/16
Mary Ellen Hayward	1/1	Barbara Randolph	1/16
Martin Ashley	1/8	Wayne Chapman	1/17
Elvis Presley	1/8	Marilyn Cagle	1/17
Fredrique Klooster	1/9	Nicholas Sharp	1/24
Christian Brown	1/11	Charlotte Nagel	1/25
Jackie Allen	1/12	Jennifer Garver	1/26
Benedict Arnold	1/14	John Mairs	1/27
Laura Miller	1/15	Mary Kate Henry	1/28
Kathy Sawchuk	1/15	William Hammons	1/30

Anticipating Christmas Winning Soup Recipes

CHICKEN MULLIGATAWNY

- 2 tbs butter
- 1 tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 tsp yellow curry powder
- 1 1/4 lb boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 cups water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/4 cup uncooked basmati rice
- 2 cups tart apples, cored, peeled, and chopped
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/4 cup plain yogurt for garnish
- 1 tablespoon minced chives for garnish

Sauté onions, celery, carrots in olive oil and butter on medium high heat in a 4 to 5 quart, thick-bottomed pot for 5 minutes until just starting to soften. Add the bay leaves, then the curry powder, and mix to coat.

Add chicken, stock, and salt. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover and cook for 20 minutes.

Remove chicken and let cool. **Add rice and apples.** Return to a simmer on high heat, then lower heat to a low simmer. Cover and cook for 15 minutes, or until the rice is cooked through.

Shred the chicken, return to soup, add cream.

SUPER EASY CHICKEN CHILI

- 32oz jar Great Northern Beans
- 16 oz salsa
- 1t cumin
- 2 chicken breasts, cooked & shredded
- 2C shredded Monterey jack cheese

Heat all ingredients except cheese until hot, stirring frequently. Add cheese and stir until it melts & blends in.

Thanks to Diana Golden and Lisa Brown for sharing their winning recipes!

SAFETY MINISTRY



In 2019 we continued to make progress in keeping our visitors and guests safe. One example of our progress was the purchase of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and training of 15 members of our congregation in the use of the AED and CPR on November 9, 2019.

A new addition to our First Aid supplies is a box of nasal-spray NARCAN.

NARCAN is for the emergency treatment for known, or possible, narcotic overdose. Symptoms may include unusual sleepiness or slow/shallow/absent breathing. If someone has serious symptoms but you are not sure if he or she has overdosed, give this medication right away anyway, and call 911, to potentially save their life. The medicine is readily available from pharmacies. The NARCAN is affixed to the wall above the AED, in the church main hallway. Easy instructions are on the box.

More volunteers are needed to greet in our parking lot, especially during the winter months. This is a great opportunity to extend a friendly greeting to members and visitors, as well as ensure the safety of those who need help getting out of their cars and entering the Church. Please let Larry Turpin know if you would like to volunteer (lturpin103@aol.com)!



VOLUNTEER VIBE

Keep the cookies and finger food coming for **Sunday Morning Coffee Hour**. If you can contribute any, simply leave these in the kitchenette next to the Parlor on Sunday morning.

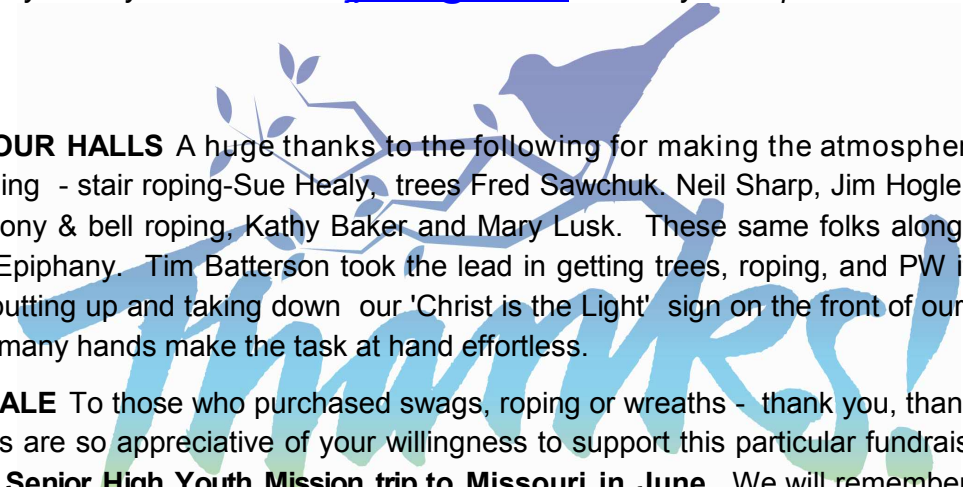
Substitutes are needed for the **Franklin Food Pantry**. Please sign up on the sheet in the main hall.

Nursery volunteers are needed to help in our crib and walker nursery. Sign-up sheet is available in the main hall or call church office.

Our Mission Partners' programs held here at First Pres need volunteers. These are Early Childhood Connection (ECC), Charitable Union, CityLinC, Women's Life Recovery and SAFE Place. Information and sign up is in the main hall.

More volunteers are needed to **greet in our parking lot**, especially during the winter months to ensure the safety of some folks getting out of their car and into church. . Please let Larry Turpin know if you can help.

"Volunteer Vibe" is a monthly feature from the Connections Team. If you have a special need for volunteers, contact Jan Emery Barney at 979-4734 or jyreme@aol.com to have your request listed in the next Carillon.



DECKING OUR HALLS A huge thanks to the following for making the atmosphere for Jesus' Birthday so festive and welcoming - stair roping-Sue Healy, trees Fred Sawchuk, Neil Sharp, Jim Hoglen, Daniel Kring (master fluffer), swags, balcony & bell roping, Kathy Baker and Mary Lusk. These same folks along with Jim Rich took everything down after Epiphany. Tim Batterson took the lead in getting trees, roping, and PW items in place and working with CityLinc in putting up and taking down our 'Christ is the Light' sign on the front of our church - it is so true with these people that many hands make the task at hand effortless.

GREENS SALE To those who purchased swags, roping or wreaths - thank you, thank you thank you. The youth and adult leaders are so appreciative of your willingness to support this particular fundraiser - the profit goes toward the costs of the **Senior High Youth Mission trip to Missouri in June**. We will remember this sign of encouragement as we work to share God's love with all.

The third annual '**ANTICIPATING CHRISTMAS**' fest was a great success. Many thanks go to the kitchen staff, folks who prepared crafts, those who brought chili and soup, those who provided items for the raffle and everyone who came out to enjoy the day! When putting away your Christmas items in January, see if you have any items for December 2020's raffle. Next year's event is already scheduled for December 6th. Mark your calendars now.

Thanks to everyone who read and wrote for our **ADVENT DEVOTIONAL!** It was well received. Do we want to write one for LENT?

Thanks to the members and volunteers of the **2019 SAFETY MINISTRY TEAM**: Elizabeth Aimesbury, David Brown, Belinda Bullard, Bob Bullard, Pat Gault, Sue Healy, Jim Hoglen, Sue Keitel, Cindy Koerner, Mary Lusk, Jenny Moore, Mike Scheid, Pat Scheid, Brian Trainor, Jana Turpin, Larry Turpin and Pat Weatherwax!



Today, most people looking for a church to visit will start online with Google. Help them find First Pres! Open Google on your computer, type in First Presbyterian Church, and put in a review! Stars or words are accepted. And you can share the opportunities to learn, socialize and worship with your friends on Facebook also. Go to our page at www.facebook.com/FirstPresBC/ You can "Like" or "follow" our page and "share" the posts for our events with your friends on facebook.



MOVIE NIGHT

There will be a potluck dinner/ movie night on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing the movie "Overcomer". Please bring a dish to pass and join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and food!



January also means it's almost time for the Super Bowl. Be sure you are ready for the big game by ordering Super Bowl Subs assembled by the Youth Group.

The subs are \$3.50 each or 6 for \$18.00. You have a choice of ham, turkey, or a combo sub with both. Order forms will be on the first floor bulletin boards. The subs will be ready for pick up in the Parlor after worship on Sunday February 2nd. Proceeds benefit the youth summer mission projects.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT(s) This month you will have TWO chances to come down to play some games at the Youth Center. On January 1st we will start 2020 off with games, puzzles, food, and laughter. I will be opening up the Youth Center from noon till about 6pm for anyone who wants to come down. Please feel free to bring a snack or favorite game to share. You can stay the whole time or just part of it. Then on Wednesday January 8th we will have our normal Game Night starting at 6pm. Doug McCune



OFF THE PRES!

On Saturday January 4th at 5pm come on down to the Youth Center to see if you can solve the puzzles of a New Year's themed **escape room**. Can you do it in 60 seconds? Dinner will be provided.

On Sunday January 19 we'll be heading out to Bolero Lanes for some bowling fun. Please watch the bulletin or Facebook for more information.

Doug McCune

New MEMBER PHOTO DIRECTORY Coming

In preparing for the new photo directory, here are some helps

- Photo sessions will be held at the Youth Center on April 28, 29, 30, May 1 & 2
- Each family having their photo taken (or submitting one) will receive the new directory
- Sign-ups will start in mid-March. You will be able to sign up on line, at church on Sundays prior to the above dates, or by contacting Kathy Baker.
- If you aren't able to make the dates listed, contact Kathy for other options
- Please, please, please make sure the office has your main phone number – land line or cell and a correct address
- We will be looking for volunteers to help with some important tasks. Look for these in the February or March Volunteer Vibe
- Please direct questions to Kathy Baker (964-6642)



"Gladys, you really need to update your picture for the directory"

FirstPies Calendar January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 EPIPHANY 10A Worship 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship	<i>If it's necessary to cancel Worship or programs, notices will be broadcast on WWMT, Channel 3 & WBCK 95.3 FM. You can also sign up for e-mail/text notifications by going to http://wwmt/weather/closings.</i>		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! 12N Games 12N OFFICE CLOSES	2 7:45A Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Prayer Group 6:15P Hand Bells Practice 7:30P Choir Practice	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
	6 3:30P Music First 3:45P CIR 5:30P Retreat Center Com 6:30P Boy Scouts	7 7A Prayer 10A Exercise 10A Safety Team 1P Property Com 6:30P Cub Scouts	8 9:30A PW Bible Study 6P Game Night	9 7:45A Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Prayer Group 8:45A MAC 11A PEO Chapter 6:15P Hand Bells Practice 7:30P Choir Practice	10 9:30A Sew N Sews	11
12 10A Worship Renewal of Baptism 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship 6P Praise Team	13 3:30P Music First 3:45P CIR 6:30P Deacons 6:30P Boy Scouts 7P Session	14 7A Prayer 10A Exercise 10A Toddler Play 12:30P Lydia Circle 12:30P SAFE Place 4P Miriam Circle 6:30P Cub Scout Den	15 11A Staff Meeting 12:30P SAFE Place	16 7:45A Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Prayer Group 12:30P SAFE Place 4P Elizabeth Circle 6:15P Hand Bells Practice 7P Men's Fellowship 7:30P Choir Practice	17	18 MLK Breakfast
19 10A Worship Fuloit Exchange 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship 6P Praise Team	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 3:30P Music First 6p Cabinet 6:30P Boy Scouts 6:45P Mission Ministry 7P Discipleship Ministry	21 7A Prayer 10A Exercise 10A Toddler Play 5:30P Parent Coalition	22	23 7:45A Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Prayer Group 6:15P Hand Bells Practice 7:30P Choir Practice	24 9:30A Sew N Sews ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE!	25 5P Escape Room
26 10A Worship 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship	27 3:30P Music First 3:45P CIR 7P Connection Team	28 7A Prayer 9A Carillon Mailing 10A Exercise 10A Toddler Play 6:30P Cub Scouts	29 11A Staff Meeting 5:30 Potluck and Movie Night	30 7:45A Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Prayer Group 6:15P Hand Bells Practice 7:30P Choir Practice	31	

The Carillon is a free monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church Battle Creek

First Presbyterian Church

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A Heart for God in the Heart of the City

