



First Presbyterian Church

Battle Creek

firstpresbc.org



ON MARCH 1

March 2020



The Carillon

Volume 27
Issue 3



From our Lead Pastor

Dear Friends:

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed (Proverbs 29:18 MSG).

Last fall we completed the Vision Summit Series. The purpose of the series was threefold:

1. Find encouragement in our life together
2. Discern what are our next steps in our ministry here in Battle Creek
3. Learn how to pass the torch of faith to the next generation.

The Session has charged the Ministry Advisory Council with the task of organizing the process of developing next steps in the Vision Summit follow-up. They are to be guided by this resolution:

"We, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, in order to fulfill the goals of the Vision Summit Series, do hereby:

1. Reaffirm our adherence to our Mission Statement and Core Values.
2. Pledge to follow a Spirit led, congregation informed process.
3. Commit to a strategy that builds on and refines the Turnaround Cycle."

Look for opportunities to participate in this process in the months ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Jeffrey S. Carlson



From our Associate Pastor

Change is a big stressor. If you attended the annual meeting, you know that my terms of call have changed, to allow more flexibility with my hours. Please continue to call me directly, but you may have a quicker response if you call the church office, to see if they know my schedule. Life is constantly changing and we need to change with it. (This is not my favorite thing, at all!)

One of the principles of the *Scrappy Church* is to "close the back door". The correlating First Pres statement is that we "build up" members' faith and commitment to God and the church. I'm offering basic training for any and every one to use when reaching out to those who cannot or are not worshipping with us regularly. The simplest way is to call and say, "I miss you". How are you?

Confidentiality is always important. Know that it is hard for people to share their problems, and impossible for anyone to solve *somebody else's* problem. If you can keep those thoughts in mind, you have the ministry of caring. Help us keep our members and friends involved. Reach out and call someone. Connect with me if you want to know more.

God loves you and so do I!

Pat Weatherwax

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



Photo DIRECTORY COUNTDOWN!

By Kathy Baker

6....Starting March 9th and running through May 1st, you will be able to go to the church website home page (www.firstpresbc.org) and make your photo appointment for the directory. If you are not able to make an appointment on the website, make sure to sign up on the "I NEED HELP MAKING A PHOTO APPOINTMENT" sheet located on the bulletin board by the elevator or the Parlor. Someone will contact you and make further arrangements.

5....Starting Sunday, March 15th and running each Sunday through April 26th, volunteers will be available after the worship service to help make appointments (Second Floor Children's Center).

4...Photo sessions will be at the Youth Center from April 28 to May 1st between 2PM and 9PM and on Saturday, May 2nd between 10AM and 2PM

3....Make sure you contact Kathy Baker (964-6642) before the end of April, if you aren't able to make the photo session dates to talk about other options.

2....Free Directories will be given to those who have a photo taken or submit one to Kathy Baker before end of April.

1...You do not have to purchase any individual photos or packages from the Lifetouch photographer. Your photo will be in the Directory whether or not you purchase anything.

BLAST OFF! Our goal is reached if you are part of the new Directory that includes our members and friends and you enjoy having this resource to connect you with your church family.

VOLUNTEER VIBE

- Pastor Pat is looking for volunteers to visit shut-ins, once a month. The goal is to have many, one -to- one connections, happening. She can give you guidelines for visiting.
- We are down to three prayer shawls in our supply. If you knit or crochet, please remember this option for your handiwork.
- Many volunteers are needed with the new PHOTO DIRECTORY.
 - starting March 9 making appointments for those without computer access (to be done at home on your own computer and/or after Sunday services).
 - Helping out at the Youth Center on photo days - April 28, 29, 30 & May 1, 2
 - Transportation for those needing help to get to/from their appointment
 - Filling out photo sit cards- requires good/legible penmanship
 - Proof reading member/friend information before sending to printer
 - Other tasks that may come up.

Contact Kathy Baker with questions, 964-6642.

- Volunteers interested in making our Palm Crosses should meet at NOON in Fellowship Hall on Friday, April 3rd.
- Help in getting our Sanctuary ready for Easter . Sprucing up the Sanctuary will start at 9am on Monday, April 6. Supplies and snacks will be provided.
- Charitable Union, which is one of our Mission Outreach groups, needs volunteers for its "Prom Dress Event" on Friday, March 13. Volunteers are needed for setting up on 3/6, 9 - 1:00 and on 3/13 from 11 - 2:00 for the Homer group and at 4 - 8:00. Location this year is at the Mall, close to where Sears was located. Contact Tammy at CU, 964-7234, ext. 108 to volunteer and arrange the hours that fit your schedule.
- Volunteers are needed to provide prepared finger-foods for Sunday morning coffee hour. Simply leave in the kitchenette next to the Parlor on Sunday a.m.

"Volunteer Vibe" is a monthly feature of the Connections Team, focusing on places where volunteers are needed and who to contact to offer your services. If your group or program has a special need for volunteers, contact Jan Emery Barney at 979-4734 or jyreme@aol.com



You are a very caring congregation and we thank you for your concern and prayers, visits, cards and food. All these meant more than you can know. Sincerely, Bill & Sadie Bauer

The Property Committee would like to send an industrial sized THANK YOU to Jana Turpin, Jean Parker, Marie Davy, Nancy Chapman, Paul Yettaw, Sharon Weaver and Tim Batterson for the recent deep cleaning of the kitchen and storage area. Every cupboard, shelf, drawer, appliance was touched, items were washed and returned to the proper space. This was the first step of the goal to make our kitchen user-friendly for those who will be using it for different events.

Thank you to the February 29th, Fifth Saturday St Thomas Breakfast Crew - Arden and Ruth Hetletvedt, Carl McCune, Finley McCrae, Jean Parker, Kathy Baker, Linda Holden, Mary Lusk, Paul and Judy Yettaw and Roger Koning. This extra day allowed these extraordinary volunteers to LEAP to the occasion of serving others.



Nichelle Wood 3/3
 Debbie Janz 3/3
 Lou Frey 3/7
 Linda Brandt 3/12
 Denise ter Avest 3/13
 Jan Emery 3/13
 Albert Einstein 3/14
 Jean Parker 3/16
 Alan Hicks 3/17
 Judy Angood 3/18
 Jan Ritter 3/19
 Carolyn O'Brien 3/19
 Tom Coleman 3/20
 Fred Rogers 3/20
 Liam Gault 3/21
 Ada Compton 3/22
 Diana Golden 3/23
 David Hopkins 3/26
 Mark Peevers 3/26
 Arden Hetlevetd 3/29
 Jeff Wolfe 3/30

St. Patrick and the Shamrock

Saint Patrick told the people that the shamrock was like the idea of the Trinity, that in the one God there are three divine beings: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The shamrock was sacred to the Druids, so Saint Patrick's use of it in explaining the Trinity was very wise.
St. Patrick died on March 17, 461AD.



PLANNING spring planting

As you plan for spring planting, plan to support CityLinc by purchasing their **K-Drive Greenhouse** Vouchers. For each \$20 voucher sold, CityLinc gets \$5. The vouchers are good for anything sold at K-Drive—flower baskets, flats, shrubs, bushes, trees, mulch, even lawn ornaments. And purchases made with the vouchers at K-Drive are sales tax free.

CityLinc is a local faith partners with First Pres. Their programs include Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption, Pathways Counseling Center, Women's Resource Center, Pregnancy Help Center, Mentor Houser, Community Connections, Ministry Network, and Second Wind Prisoner Re-entry.

All vouchers must be purchased by Sunday, March 29th. Voucher order forms are available in the church office.



MARCH!

The Mission Ministry Team will be collecting men's "jeans" - new and gently used - for the Charitable Union during the month of March. **SO THE MARCH IS ON FOR MEN'S JEANS!** Any size is appreciated! The Charitable Union is always in need of all men's clothing, both new and gently used..



It is time to begin thinking about Health Fairs! We will begin collecting the needed items in March. You can bring your donations to the Parlor and put them in the Mission Corner.

Items needed for Health Kits for the "Heart in the City" Health Fair at First Pres. on July 22nd and the Second Mile Center on July 16th.

- Toothbrushes (individually wrapped)
- Toothpaste – 6.4 oz.
- Dental Floss
- Shampoo – minimum size 15 fl. oz. (or close)
- Conditioner – minimum size 15 fl. oz. (or close)
- Bars of Soap – Bath Size
- Deodorant
- Chap Stick
- Washcloths

More information will be coming in the April Carillon.



Nichelle Wood continues to accept gifts for Bronson's Children's Hospital in Kalamazoo in honor of her sixteenth birthday. See the Youth bulletin board and the box in the Mission Corner for suggestions.



The Charitable Union Coat Drive continues through this month of March. You can bring your coat donations to the Mission Corner in the Parlor. The coats will be distributed in October. Thank you!

Easter baskets are being created and will be ready to deliver in April. Soup kitchen is doing well thanks to the volunteering of First Pres Congregation members. The Food Pantry gave over 30 bags of food for January. There is still a need for items like Mac-n-Cheese, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, and juices. Great job First Pres!!

Deacons appreciate the work of volunteers for various church activities. There is a need for some volunteers to help with our church directory photo shoots and if you are available please sign up on the sign up sheets throughout the church. We need you to make this directory successful! Thank you for your volunteer contributions! GOD BLESS!

Submitted by Deacon Amy Rosa

First Presbyterian Church Retreat Center

Now is the time to consider using our Retreat Center for your Spring and Summer needs. Receptions...Graduations... Wedding Showers..... Baby ShowersReunions....and, yes even Retreats! All will be enhanced by surrounding yourself and your group with nature and the beauty of the Retreat Center. Contact Jenny Moore in the church office, 269-964-3700 to reserve your date and time. And remember, if your place of employment or your friends need a place for that special gathering, staff meeting or conference be sure to mention us to them.

Thank you,

Your Retreat Center Committee.



Wednesday Night Bible Study is starting a new session on March 11. It will be a great time to join them. They meet in the parlor at 5:30. And you are welcome to join them!

Please pray for our **High School Seniors**. They are nearing the finish line!

Kaylee Janz

Kyle Trainor

Lauren LaFleur

Nick Martens

Register now for the **Michigan Pilgrimage Spring Retreat** April 23 to 26 at the Amigo Centre in Sturgis. See Sue Keitel or Pat Weatherwax for a form!



Game night continues to be a big hit. We are averaging about 16 people each month. If you haven't come down to check it out yet, you definitely should. We have had several new games and new puzzles donated to the collection for us to try. The next game night will be Wednesday March 4th. We get started at about 6pm. We will be starting a new puzzle, possibly two this month. Feel free to bring any favorite games and snacks along. It is always a good time!



Back by popular demand! **Up the Creek Jazz Ensemble** is performing Sunday, March 1st at 4PM in the Sanctuary with a reception following in the Parlor. No admission fee. Free will offering will be collected. Bring your friends and family!

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, April 25

First Presbyterian Church, a proud supporter of the **19TH ANNUAL HBCU (HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES) CHOIR CONCERT**, asks you to save the date April 25 at 4:00 PM at the First Congregational Church. The guest choir will be from Clark Atlanta University of Georgia.



Off the Pres!

Back by popular demand! The 2020 Youth & Adult Buckhorn Mission Team invite the young and young at heart to attend the 2nd annual Hanging with my Peeps!!

Sunday March 29th following worship service in Fellowship Hall

This mini-FUND raiser will again feature

- Dessert Auction
- Card Making
- Cross Creativity
- Colors of Easter
- Easter Baskets
- Peeps-Peeps-Peeps
- Sharing with our Saints
- Finger Foods – some healthy, some sweet and some just good!!!



We hope you'll make a point of joining us in this lead-up to another celebration.

Youth dates to remember: On **Saturday March 28th** the youth need to meet at church at 2:00 pm to get things set up for **Hanging with my Peeps**.

Notes from the February Meeting of Session

Carl McCune,
Clerk of Session

Session approved the following resolution brought by the Ministry Advisory Council:

We, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, in order to fulfill the goals of the Vision Summit Series, do hereby:

1. *Reaffirm our adherence to our Mission Statement and Core Values.*
2. *Pledge to follow a Spirit-led, congregation-informed process.*
3. *Commit to a strategy that builds on and refines the Turnaround Cycle (The Turnaround Cycle is drawn from Thom Rainer's book, Scrappy Church, with the terms: Outward Deluge, Welcome Readiness and Backdoor Closure. This is not unlike our previous Action Statement: Go Out, Bring In, Build Up.)*

Work is ongoing to implement this strategy.

Acting on Pastor Pat's request to reduce her hours and become a part-time Associate Pastor, a motion prevailed to recommend to the congregation at the February 16 Annual Meeting that her call be changed to part-time and that the Position Description be revised to reflect a workload of thirty hours per week on average.

A motion from the Personnel Committee prevailed to propose for congregational action at the February 16 Annual Meeting the 2020 Terms of Call for Rev. Jeffrey Carlson and Rev. Patricia Weatherwax. These Terms represent a 1.6% salary increase.

Annette Tribbett, Pete Christ and Mary Maley are working as a Liaison Committee to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) regarding Pastor Jeff's upcoming retirement December 1. Initial contact has been made with the new COM Moderator, Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon, who will appoint a transition counselor to work with our church. There have been significant changes in the pastoral search process since we last needed a pastoral search and this Committee is investigating the changes.

It was announced that Pastor Jeff will be going before Presbytery on Saturday September 19 at Spring Lake in the process of dissolving the pastoral relationship and becoming Honorably Retired. The Session would like representatives from the Session and Congregation to attend this meeting in appreciation of Pastor Jeff. We will designate a member from our church to speak at that Presbytery Meeting. A member of Presbytery will also offer words of appreciation.

Membership Update The deaths of Marguerite Dewey on November 18, 2019 and Frederique Klooster on January 20, 2020 were reported. Current Active Membership is 299.

The next regular Session meeting will begin in a joint meeting with the Deacons on March 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor.



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on March 7th so you make it on time to church on March 8th when Daylight Savings Time ends.

All Are Welcome to Annual Lenten Lunch Series

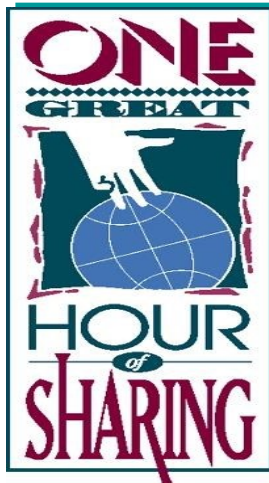
"The Joy That Lives Within Us" (John 16:33) will be the theme of this year's Lenten Lunch Series held each Wednesdays in Lent at Second Missionary Baptist Church located at 485 N. Washington Avenue in Battle Creek.

Each week a different pastor from churches throughout our community will speak on the theme. There will also be some singing, lunch, and great fellowship. Several First Pres members regularly attend these gatherings.

No reservation is needed (but its best to get there before noon for a good seat) and there's no charge (but donations are accepted). All are welcome to attend.



If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, call Kathy Medaugh at 269-671-5553 by April 1. The price this year is \$16. The lilies will adorn the chancel on Easter Sunday then can be taken home or to a home-bound friend following the worship service.



A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. We will dedicate the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020.



MARCH 2020

First Presbyterian Church Calendar

MARCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 10A Worship 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship 4p FIRST PRES PRESENTS	2 11:15A XYZ 3:30P ECC Music First 3:45P CIR 5:30P Retreat Ctr Com 6:30P Boy Scouts	3 7A Prayer 10A Exercise Class 10A Toddlers' Group 1P Property Com. 6:30P Cub Scouts	4 9:30A PW Bible Study 11A Staff Meeting Noon Lenten Luncheon 6P GAME NIGHT	5 7:45A Church at Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Group 6:15P Handbells Practice 7:30P Choir Practice	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Ends 10A Worship 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship 6P Praise Team	9 3:30P ECC Music First 3:45P CIR 6:30P Boy Scouts 6:30P Joint Meeting of Deacons & Session	10 7A Prayer 10A Exercise Class 10A Toddlers' Group 12:30P Lydia Circle 4P Miriam Circle 6:30P Cub Scouts 7P Boy Scout Com.	11 11A Staff Meeting Noon Lenten Luncheon 5:30P Bible Study	12 7:45A Church at Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Group 4P Elizabeth Circle 6:15P Handbells Practice 7:30P Choir Practice	13 9:30A Sew N Sews	14
15 10A Worship 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship 6P Praise Team	16 3:30P ECC Music First 3:45P CIR 6P Cabinet 6:30P Boy Scouts 6:45P Mission Ministry 7P Discipleship Ministry	17 7A Prayer 10A Exercise Class 10A Toddlers' Group 5:30P Parent Coalition	18 11A Staff Meeting Noon Lenten Luncheon 5:30P Bible Study	19 7:45A Church at Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Group 6:15P Handbells Practice 7P Men's Fellowship 7:30P Choir Practice	20	21
22 10A Praise Worship 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship	23 3:30P ECC Music First 3:45P CIR 6:30P Boy Scouts 7P Connection Team	24 7A Prayer 10A Exercise Class 10A Toddlers' Group 6P Sign Language 6:30P Cub Scouts	25 11A Staff Meeting Noon Lenten Luncheon 5:30p Bible Study	26 7:45A Church at Prayer 8A Sr. Pastors' Group 10A PW Coordinating 6:15P Handbells Practice 7:30P Choir Practice	27 9:30A Sew N Sews	28 2P Youth - Set Up Hangin' With My Peeps
29 10A Worship 11A Hangin' With My Peeps 11A Christian Ed 1P Deaf Fellowship	30 3:30P ECC Music First 3:45P CIR 6:30P Boy Scouts	31 7A Prayer 10A Exercise Class 10A Toddlers' Group 6P Sign Language 6:30P Cub Scouts	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BATTLE CREEK 111 Capital Ave NE Battle Creek, MI 49017 269.964.3700 Firstpresbc.org			



MARCH 1ST AT 4PM
UP THE CREEK
JAZZ ENSEMBLE

A reception with the band will follow the performance. There is no admission fee for this concert. Free will offering for Habitat for Humanity. All are welcome! Bring your friends!



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THANK YOU