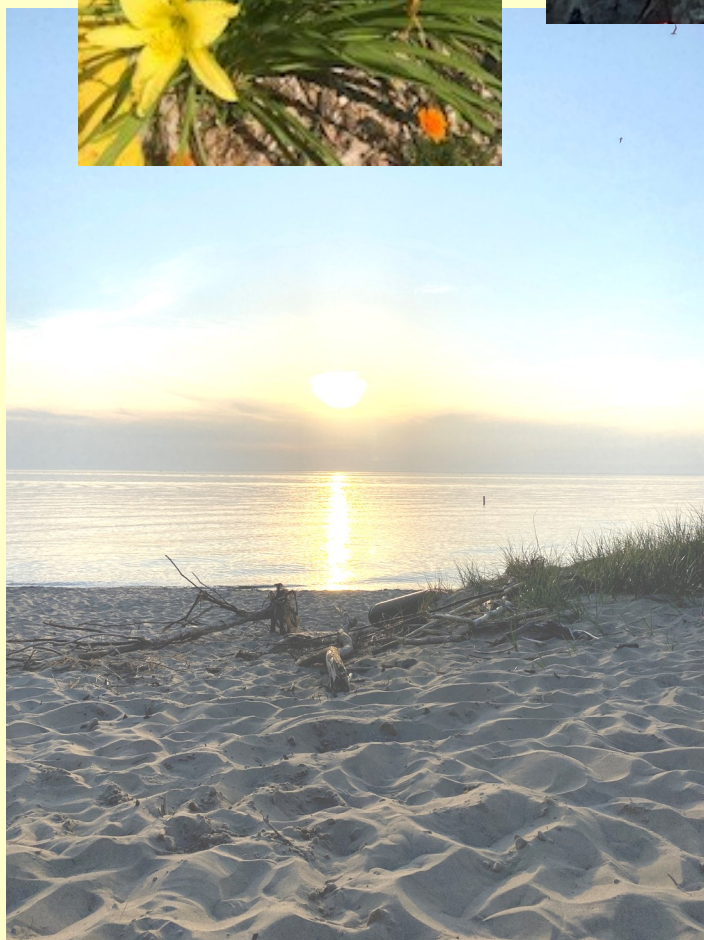


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BATTLE CREEK

firstpresbc.org

Carillon



Volume 27
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August 2020



From our Lead Pastor

Dear Friends:

*"The warriors of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do"
(1 Chronicles 12:32).*

In 1 Chronicles 12 we read of the various groups of people who were considered David's mighty warriors. After the death of Saul, the first king of Israel, David assumed the throne. The Chronicler describes how David's army grew from a handful of distressed and discontented stragglers to a massive force.

With the aid of these valiant warriors, David transformed the nation, unified the people, and brought prosperity. Name after name of great soldiers and great bands of warriors are listed here. Buried in this "Who's Who" of ancient warriors is one clan known as "the [warriors] of Issachar." A remarkable statement is made about them. The Bible says that the warriors of Issachar ". . . understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (1 Chronicles 12:32).

We need to be like the warriors of Issachar. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to the church. But it has also put new light on challenges we were facing even before the pandemic arrived. Now more than ever we need to follow the Spirit's leading and be open to new ways of worship, service, and outreach.

The church cannot afford to refuse to discern the times, for to do so can have catastrophic results. The warriors of Issachar understood the times, and they knew what Israel should do. We in the church of Jesus Christ must do no less.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Jeffrey S. Carlson



From our Associate Pastor

Another favorite musical offers another favorite song of hope.

From *West Side Story* :

Could it be? Yes it could!

Something's coming, something good

If I can wait!

Something's coming,

I don't know what it is

But it is going to be great!

CCLI# 637582

The coming year will be something different, We will find that there's always *something* good happening. I'm going to choose to use my voice in positive ways, with integrity and always with hope. God promises to make all things new. I can hardly wait to see what's coming!

God loves you and so do I!

Patricia Weatherwax

Notes from the July Meeting of the Congregation

Carl McCune, Clerk of Session

On July 19 a called meeting of the Congregation was held in the church parking lot due to the current public health emergency of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which includes limitations of public gatherings.

The following people were elected to serve as Ruling Elders on **Session** in the Class of 2023:

Ruth Hetletvedt, Jeannie Kerner, Jean Parker, Loren Rex and Francie Winslow.

The following people were elected to serve on the **Board of Deacons** in the Class of 2023:

Tom Coleman, Sue Hutson, Jim Kerner, Bruce Medaugh and Judy Yettaw and in the Class of 2022: Steve Owel and Carolyn Rex.

The following people were elected to serve as at-large members of the **Nominating Committee** in the Class of 2023: Lisa Brown and Bruce Davy and in the Class of 2022: Sally McCune.

A motion prevailed to accept the retirement of Dr. Jeffrey S. Carlson, effective December 1, 2020 and on that date dissolve the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek and Dr. Carlson.

The photo below was taken during the meeting held in the parking lot behind the main church building.



Notes from the July meeting of Session

Carl McCune, Clerk of Session

A motion prevailed to appoint Tom Cole to the **Ministry Advisory Council (MAC)** class of 2023.

Carrie Hoglen presented a report from the **Worship Ministry Team (MT)** which divided the improvement of our online presence into defining a long-term goal and sustaining our current online worship experience. A motion prevailed to charge the **Connection MT** with the task of developing a Communications Strategy for First Presbyterian Church and submitting it for Session approval by November 9, 2020. A motion prevailed to affirm that the **Worship MT** will continue to be in charge of providing an online worship experience until we can return to worshipping in the Sanctuary. A motion prevailed to allocate \$1,800 for an independent contractor to record and edit weekly worship videos through September 13. The **Worship MT** was commended for the improvements they have made in the Worship Moments over the past weeks.

Session received recommendations from the **Safety MT** and the **Worship MT** who have been meeting jointly. They advised that there be no Congregational (from the pews) singing when we resume worship inside (they believe singing from the Chancel with appropriate distancing will be safe). There is strong evidence that singing is a significant method of spreading COVID-19 due to vocal force that distributes any infection. A motion prevailed to cancel the outdoor worship at the Retreat Center held annually on the first Sunday in August. The concern is that there is not enough space under the canopies for social distancing.

Membership Update The death of Edward McCrory on July 1, 2020 was reported. Current Active Membership is 293.

Financial Reporting Financial reports through June were made available. YTD income now trails expenses by \$26,975, which is still better than the YTD Budget. It is important to remind people that their contributions are needed to keep the church functioning. So far \$17,000 of the \$20,000 allocated for financial aid during the Pandemic has been given to members and community organizations.

The next regular Session meeting will be August 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in Fellowship Hall.

This is an inspiring statement by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow a PC(USA) minister in Palo Alto. Thanks to Francie Winslow for sharing.



We never closed.

*We have shifted, we have adapted, we have changed
We have struggled, we have had technical difficulties, we have extended grace*

We never closed.

*We have laughed, we have wept, we have wondered
We never closed.*

*We have celebrated, we have grieved, we have yearned
We never closed.*

*We have lost connections to some, we have found new relationships with others, we have lived the fullness of the Table of God
We never closed.*

We have worshiped in new ways together

*Praying together, confessing together, hearing together,
singing out of sync "together," being sent into the world to serve together*

We never closed.

Someday we will gather again

Someday we will hug again

Someday we will fully rejoice in this expanding Body of Christ that God is revealing before us.

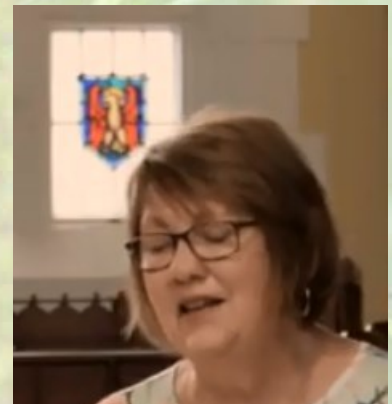
But that day has not yet come.

*So for now, we will continue being the gathered church
Called together, praying together, exploring the Word together, seeking justice together, serving together.*

We are the church.

We are the Body of Christ.

We never closed.



**COMMUNITY NEEDS CONTINUE
AMID COVID19 PANDEMIC.**

YOU CAN HELP

Our **"HEART IN THE CITY" HEALTH FAIR** was cancelled due to COVID 19 but you can still help. Collect Health Kit items including **Toothbrushes- individually wrapped, Toothpaste – 6.4 oz., Dental Floss, Shampoo and/or Conditioner (minimum size 15 fl. oz. or close) , Bars of Soap, Deodorant, Chapstick, and a Wash Cloth.** Bring these items to church when we reopen in September. We put these items in gallon zip lock bags for individuals in need. Donations of money are also greatly appreciated. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and write 'Health Kits' on the memo line.

The back to school, **"STUFF A BUS" CAMPAIGN** sponsored by CityLinC Ministries is in progress. Because of COVID-19, our church cannot be a collection site this year. Still, donations of school supplies or money are needed by **August 17th** and can be dropped off or mailed to CityLinC, 70 Calhoun Street, Battle Creek, MI 49017. Please put 'Stuff a Bus' on the memo line if sending a check. Needed: **rulers, washable markers, small bottles of hand sanitizer, 3 x 5 notecards and back packs for high schoolers.** If you have an Amazon membership, you can shop the Amazon Smile program and have your order mailed directly to CityLinC plus a .5% donation from Amazon. If you are comfortable volunteering, call CityLinC, 969-9181.

VOLUNTEER VIBE

We could use a few more **prayer shawls** in our supply if you knit or crochet. Questions? Please check with Pastor Pat.

August 10 - 15 is when First Pres Volunteers will staff the **St. Thomas Summer Breakfast** program. If you are interested in working one of these days, please contact Kathy Baker, 964-4642.

If you are interested in **making masks** for community requests, look at the Facebook page for SWMI Protective Gear Project - Battle Creek Zone. This group coordinates mask requests for greater South West Michigan and has made 47,000+ masks towards a 50,000 mask goal. Cheryl MacKinder, 979-1927, can answer questions..

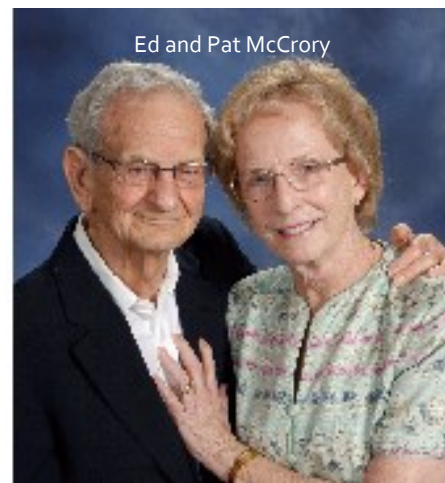
If you have **pictures of First Pres people or activities** please send to office@firstpresbc.org for use in the Carillon.

"Volunteer Vibe" is a feature from the Connections Team, focusing on places where volunteers are needed.

ANNUAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP

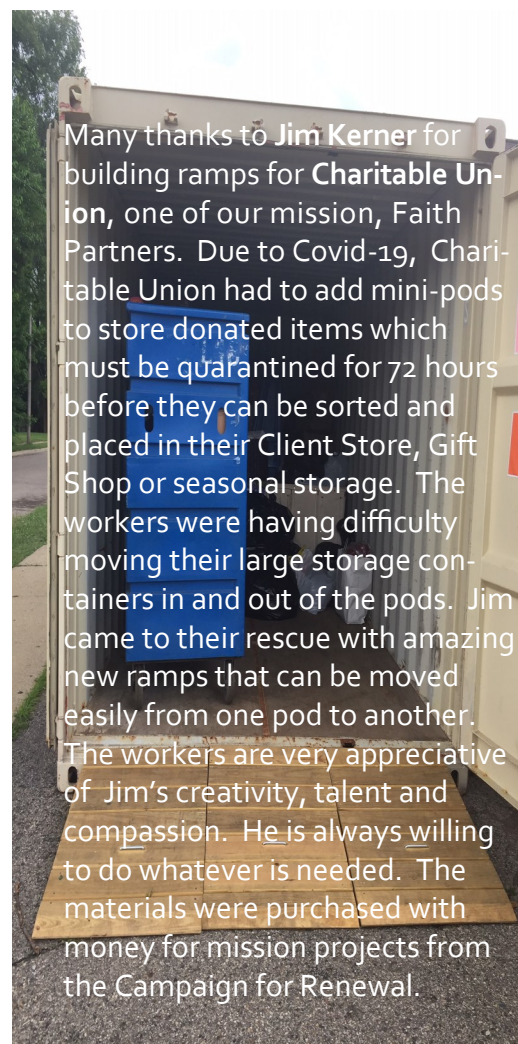
Not unexpectedly, our annual outdoor worship and picnic at the Retreat Center scheduled for August 2, has been cancelled.

Still, we are thankful for the many continuing to volunteer their time working on this special place in nature so that we can offer its setting for spiritual growth and celebration in the future. Let us pray that we can return next year.



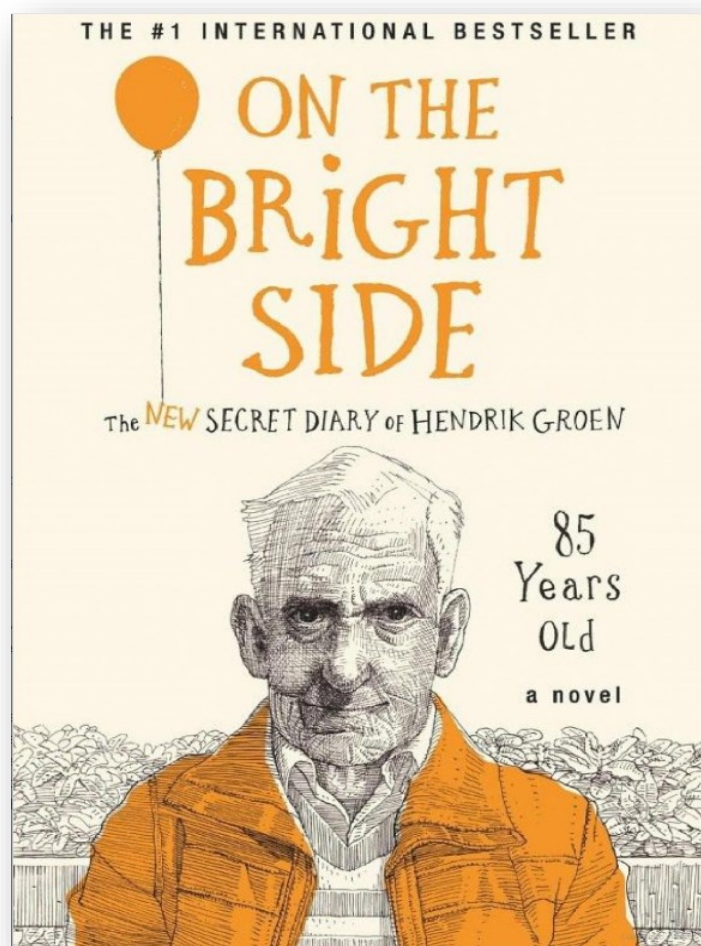
Ed and Pat McCrory

Ed McCrory, a member of our church since 1959 passed away on July 1st just a few days after turning 99. We extend our sympathies to his wife, Pat, and their loved ones. Memorial donations honoring Ed have been directed to our Retreat Center.



Many thanks to **Jim Kerner** for building ramps for **Charitable Union**, one of our mission, Faith Partners. Due to Covid-19, Charitable Union had to add mini-pods to store donated items which must be quarantined for 72 hours before they can be sorted and placed in their Client Store, Gift Shop or seasonal storage. The workers were having difficulty moving their large storage containers in and out of the pods. Jim came to their rescue with amazing new ramps that can be moved easily from one pod to another. The workers are very appreciative of Jim's creativity, talent and compassion. He is always willing to do whatever is needed. The materials were purchased with money for mission projects from the Campaign for Renewal.

Kim LaFleur	8/1	James Alex Burns	8/21
Jack Budrow Jr.	8/1	Marla Colburn	8/23
Helen Noble	8/3	Pamela Flanders	8/25
Nan Spindler	8/7	Beverly Frey	8/25
Jack Bulko	8/8	Laura Bradley	8/25
Nan Jones	8/8	Dena Haas	8/26
Deane McCarthy	8/9	Margaret Fox	8/28
Steve Heeter	8/13	Bill Winslow	8/28
Paula Colburn	8/14	Megan Hagist	8/30
Melva Zaharion	8/14		
Robert Moore	8/16	Denise Rust	8/30
Joel Ritter	8/18	Megan Johnson	8/31



Many enjoyed discussing the antics of Hendrik Groen and his cronies two summers ago and Pastor Pat thought he's just what we need to brighten up 2020!

Now, have you read the new international best-seller "**On the Bright Side: The New Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 85 Years Old**" ? There are a few copies left at the church , or you can buy your own copy or download it. If you've read the book, the church office can send you an email or snail mail copy of the quiz to see how much like Hendrik **you** are!

Pastor Pat is scheduling a September 2 (tentative date) ZOOM group book discussion. There's sure to be some interesting insights and some laughs.

Contact the church office Monday to Thursday from 9a.m. to 3p.m. at 964-3700 or office@firstpresbc.org to get a copy of the book reserved or the quiz sent to you.

WORSHIP THEMES for AUGUST

Preparing for our weekly Worship Moments

August 2 VIRTUAL COMMUNION "Out of the Storm" Matthew 14:22-33

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you are the one to brighten our darkness. You give us the rainbow after the storm and the daffodil to cheer our morning. Kindle a flame in us. Let us be expressions of your love and instruments of your peace. Awaken in us that holy space that knows wonder, awe and amazement. We bow before you and rise to praise you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

August 9 "You Do It" Matthew 14:13-21

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for caring about our earthly needs. Help us to be more caring about others' needs. Thank you for the generosity of First Presbyterian Church in caring for our community. Help us each to follow your instructions and example. Amen.

August 16 "Examining Your Priorities" Haggai 1

Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, our God. You watch over all who love you, and are near to all who call on your name. You are the God of the living, calling us to bring the good news of your grace and love: to a world that lives in fear of destruction, to a world that is filled with heartache and pain. As we gather to praise and bless you, fill us with your Spirit, and give us the courage to be your people, the body of Christ. This we pray, in Jesus' name, who died and rose, and lives in us and through us. Amen.

August 2 "You Say It" Matthew 16:13-20

Prayer

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

August 30 "Lessons in Basic Christianity: (1) Introduction" Acts 17:1-12

Prayer

Blessed you are, Lord, great God, for the testimonies of the prophets we bless you. For the statutes of the law we bless you. For the gospel of Christ and the witness of the apostles we bless you, O glorious God. Grant to us the Spirit of your glory and the brightness of your presence that we might read your Word and understand. Through Jesus Christ, our gracious Lord. Amen.

Pictured in this month's Carillon. On the cover: yellow lilies along the entryway and parking lot of the church are part of the many lovely gardens around the church and Youth Center that are planted and maintained by Kathy Baker and volunteers. Pastor Pat shared her picture of the fountain at Freedom Park and a pretty Lake Michigan beach from her vacation. The photo of flowers and trees among the grounds at our Retreat Center provided by Dena Haas. Page 4 from top: Cindy Koerner reads scripture during July 19's Worship Moment. Deacons Findley MacRae, Steve Owel and Tina Johnson making out birthday cards to members, the weekly masked meeting of the staff (Mary Christian, Jenny Moore, Pastor Pat Weatherwax, Pastor Jeff Carlson, Tim Batterson). Pastor Pat delivering a sermon. Jan Ritter sings for the July 19 Worship Moment. Other photos are labeled.



Join us for FIRST PRES WORSHIP MOMENTS each Sunday at 10a.m. on our Facebook page and YouTube. Worship Moments can also be viewed throughout the week from our website firstpresbc.org.

If you would like to receive a printed copy of the sermon each week by mail, let the church office know and we will be happy to send you one. You can also download a printed copy from our website at firstpresbc.org/sermons.

You can contact the church office between Monday and Thursday from 9a.m. to 3p.m. at 269-964-3700 or at office@firstpresbc.org.

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