

First Presbyterian Church

Battle Creek

firstpresbc.org



The Carillon



July
2021



Volume 28
Issue 6



From our Lead Pastor

Dear Friends,

I have been asked how long I will be here as your transitional minister. I can't honestly answer that question because it is an open-ended arrangement. I have been asked if the Pastoral Nominating Committee is working. The answer is, "Not yet." I have been asked how we all go on when staff leave one after another. The answer is, "By the grace of God." At this point people are prone to ask me, "You don't know much, do you?"

We have been working away at the tasks for the minister and congregation during the time of transition. It may have been hard for you to notice because we have been dealing with a worldwide pandemic. It is a joy to worship once again in the "space" which is home to this faith community. We look forward to this privilege in the weeks ahead which we once took for granted. Yet, the work of transition isn't really tied to the pandemic...hampered by it perhaps, but not tied to it.

The phone calls we have had one with another, the history zoom meetings and coming in August, our World Cafe' on identity – these are all a part of the process of being ready to elect a PNC and look for a new pastor. The time which passes while we do these things does not hurt us, but prepares us, to do well selecting a new pastor and transitioning into a new adventure of faith in this place.

Pastor Mike



From our Associate Pastor

Sometimes the best way to prepare for a change is to do the familiar things that can be sustained throughout the changes. For ~12 years we've encouraged a "Summer Read." Let's read together! The Discipleship Ministry Team has two books to recommend to the congregation. The first is *The NY Times* bestseller: "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo, described as "fascinating, real and necessary."

Our Lake Michigan Presbytery recently passed an anti-racism document that encourages churches to actively address racial discrimination. So even if you'd rather not (talk about race) we are encouraged to do so. Look for that book and read it in June/ July. I'll be using it in some upcoming sermons.

In August and into September you are encouraged to find the book "Growing Young". Authored by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder (who went to preschool with one of my daughters) and Brad Griffin. What really attracts younger people to Christian churches?? It's got some good insights for us to consider.

There's a lot pending on the church calendar right now, so we haven't set any dates to discuss books, but we will! Enjoy this summer of opportunity with the new ability to be together again.

Grace and peace,

God loves you and so do I.


Pat Weatherwax

First Pres Calendar

First Presbyterian Church 111 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
269-964-3700 firstpresbc.org



July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 27 Worship 10A	June 28 Connection Team 7P	June 29 Prayer Group 9A	June 30	July 1	2	3
 4th of July	5 Office Closed Retreat Ctr. Com. 5:30P	6 Prayer Group 9A Staff Meeting 11A	7	8 Property Mtg. 1P	9	10
11 Worship 10A Congregational Mtg. 11A	12 Session/Deacons Joint Mtg. 7P	13 Prayer Group 9A	14	15 Men's Fellowship 7P	16	17
18 Worship 10A	19 Cabinet 6P Discipleship 7P Worship Com. 7P	20 Prayer Group 9A Staff Meeting 11A	21	22	23	24
25 Worship 10A	26 Connection Team 7P	27 Prayer Group 9A Carillon Assembly 10A	28	29	30	31



Session Notes

Carl McCune, Clerk of Session

Session is calling a Congregational Meeting on July 11 to hold the election of church officers and at-large Nominating Committee members and also to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Pastor Pat due to her coming retirement. Also, we are calling a joint meeting of Session and the Board of Deacons on July 12 to organize the new Session and the new Board.

Session is advising the church office to begin accepting reservations for use of the church buildings by outside groups when the CovidActNow.org website returns to green for at least two weeks consecutively or if the requesting group affirms that all attendees who enter our buildings have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

The June 8 Presbytery Meeting approved a Sin of Racism resolution that urges all congregations to make education available to members regarding being more active in combatting inequality and in working for a more just, merciful and peaceful society that allows all of God's children to flourish.

Carol Gault volunteered to lead the planning of a celebration of Pastor Pat's retirement. Contact Carol if you would like to be involved. Possible dates for activities are August 22 or 29.

Lead Pastor The resignation of Jodine Bandlow as Director of Music Ministries has been announced with her last Sunday being June 20. Pastor Mike is working with Bob Bullard, Carrie Hoglen and Chris Owel to find replacements in the short-term. There was consensus that this group would be the core of a search team for new long-term music leadership.

Associate Pastor Pastor Pat will coordinate with the LaFleur family to set a date for Alex's public confession of faith and welcome into church membership. She also informed us of plans for Memorial Services for Dave Hopkins on August 10 and Eleanor Boston on August 21. Session approved a suggestion from Eleanor's family that there be a silent auction of some of Eleanor's artwork with the proceeds going to the church. The place of the auction will be determined.



Birthdays

Kennedy Allen	June 3
Tyler Hagist	June 6
Bruce Davy	June 9
Jan Horton	June 9
Malachi Janz	June 9
Pete Christ	June 12
Josh Liechty	June 12
Nancy Bartlett	June 14
Richard Colburn	June 22
Alex Bullard-Marshall	June 23
Tad Randolph	June 23
Marcie Reynolds	June 23
Chuck Bodiford	June 25
Joy Miller	June 27
Shawn Aimesbury	June 28



Birthdays

Virginia Burke	July 2
Sarah Hopkins	July 2
Scott Scofield	July 4
Mary Ann Price	July 5
Carolyn Christ	July 6
Susan Keitel	July 6
Kathleen Strang	July 6
Larry Turpin	July 6
Mary Lusk	July 9
Pat McCrory	July 9
Sally McCune	July 9
Jim Kerner	July 14
Kathy Medaugh	July 14
Stephanie Sherk	July 14
Mike Scheid	July 15
Ray Luts	July 16
Mary Beth Shivley	July 16
Karen Rich	July 18
Chris Hickman	July 20
Joe Bulko III	July 26
Pat Brewer	July 28
Emilee Janz	July 28
Jackie Wells	July 28
Pearl Hickey	July 29
Norma Mawdsley	July 29
Carl McCune	July 29
Neil Sharp	July 29
Jim Nelson	July 31



This is the kind of story we love to share! For her 17th birthday, Nichelle Wood decided that instead of receiving gifts for herself, she would pay it forward and request her family and friends to give gifts for our pediatric patients at Bronson Children's Hospital. Nichelle raised \$300 and collected dozens of toys and blankets for our youngest patients! Thank you for your amazing generosity, Nichelle!

Congratulations to Martin Ashley! Sunday, June 13, marked Martin's 39th anniversary as a First Pres staff member. We celebrate you, Martin, for your service and dedication to this congregation!

The First Presbyterian family is delighted to offer CONGRATULATIONS to 2021 Lakeview High School Graduate Halaina Peevers. Daughter of Jennifer Carver & Mark Peevers, Sibling of Rebecca Garver, Ada Compton & Marcus Peevers, Granddaughter of Chris & Steve Owel, Great Niece of Sue Healy and GREAT GREAT Granddaughter of Ginny Wilber, she is also a friend of several First Pres members. Halaina participated as a helper in VBS and several Youth Group activities along with being active at Lakeview High School. She intends to start college at Kellogg Community College then transfer to a four-year college to pursue a degree in Trauma Therapy. We wish her a constant sense of God's blessings and protections as she starts on the next part of her life's journey.

Many Thanks to Sally and Carl McCune and family, Lori Kneeland, and Ruth and Arden Hetletvedt for staffing the Health Kit item donation drop-off on May 27th. Also to those members who donated items.

A huge thank you to Chris & Steve Owel, Jan Barney, Jean Rost, Joy Miller, Judy & Paul Yettaw, Lisa Brown, Lori Kneeland, Mary Lusk, Susan Hutson for the special Sanctuary cleaning in preparation for our in-person service on Sunday, June 6. There was extra excitement in this project, knowing that our church family would again be able to worship and praise God in person.

Deacons'

Corner

St. Thomas Summer Breakfast Program is operating again this year in a get-and-go format. First Pres has signed up to help the week of August 9—13. We'll be in need of 6 or 7 volunteers each day: 3 to make the hot foods (eggs, pancakes, sausage) from 7 'til 10 am and another 3 or 4 to make up the go-bags, help with set up and serving from 7:45 until 10:30. St. Thomas plans to have some outside eating areas, so there'll also be some sanitizing and cleaning in those areas. For more information....or to SIGN UP...please call Kathy Baker (964-6642).



Exercise Class Is Back!

We'll meet in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. on July 13. Contact Marie Davy (269.274.4141) for details.



Consider taking a retreat! The Michigan Pilgrimage this fall will be held at beautiful Camp Newaygo, October 14-17. See Susan Keitel or Pat Weatherwax for information and an application.



Covid -19 Generosity

Our church doors were closed due to Covid-19 for many months. We give thanks to God that we are now able to open our doors and worship in person again. Even though our doors were closed, our hearts were not! Through our love and generosity, the community felt that love through many wonderful gifts and prayers. We shared \$30,000 in Covid-19 assistance during 2020, which was reported in our 2020 Annual Report. The following are the gifts shared since January 2021 to meet the Covid-19 needs in our community. "A Heart for God in the Heart of the City."

Battle Creek Share Center - \$1,000/meals at the Share Center and the new Homeless Center Shelter

Battle Creek Homeless Shelter - \$500/needs at the center, \$400/coffee & supplies, \$100/bus passes

Charitable Union - \$300/diapers, \$500/personal products for girls/women

Bronson Hospital Covid-19 Workers - \$460/meals for AM and PM shifts

Salvation Army/Soup Kitchen Meals - \$1,000

Safe Place - \$500/laundry supplies and costs for clients

Second Mile Center - \$1,000/food for families

Second Missionary Baptist Church – \$300/Streaming Equipment

Women's Life Recovery - \$300/paper products

South Michigan Food Bank - \$1,000

First Presbyterian Families - \$300

Early Childhood Connection - \$1,000/cleaning supplies/sanitizers for families

Encourage BC Homeless Coalition - \$500/Homeless Health Fair/fall of 2021

Budget designations for local, area, world, and designated Presbyterian missions continue to be distributed thanks to the amazing love and generosity of this congregation.

What Kind of Café?

On August 16th at 6:30 in the evening we will be having a World Café in our Fellowship Hall. The Café is an opportunity for us to listen to and speak with one another. It is a highly interpersonal and fun opportunity to be together thinking about issues related to the identity of our church. Some of you have done a World Café before and for others it is a new notion. We will gather in Fellowship Hall around tables – four to a table – then we will be given a question to discuss. The tables will be covered with paper and when you hear something you believe is important, interesting or fun, you can write it down on the paper covering the table. After 15 minutes of discussion, we will change tables so that each of us is now sitting with different people than we were before and discuss a new question for the next 15 minutes.

This is one of those events you can't do justice to in the description. People find these opportunities enjoyable and energizing. Please make the time and effort to come and be a part of this event. The more people we have, the more helpful our time will be as we chart our course for the future. What kind of café are we having? The kind that helps us to understand more deeply who we are as God's people in this place and time.

*The Church Office Will Be
Closed July 5*



... to the family and friends of Peggy Woodman, former First Pres member, who passed away on May 23.

... to the family and friends of Bill Carpenter, Helga Carpenter's son, following his sudden death on June 9.

... to the family and friends of Luella Sovern, who passed away June 18.



Caravan 2021

reminder: Caravan will be the week of July 12-16. Like last year, we'll start the day at 9:00 a.m. out at the Retreat Center. Lunch will be provided. We'll work until 3:30 p.m. or so, depending on the

weather. We'll be doing several landscaping projects around the main building, repairing and cleaning up "Joe's Place" (aka the shed), and possibly doing one or 2 things inside the building. If we get all the projects done at the Retreat Center, we'll look into other local projects to do. For 2021, Caravan is again open to all youth going into 7th grade and up. It's also open to any recent grads or any other adults who would like to join us.

At this point we expect Game Night to start back up on Wednesday, August 4th, at 6:00 pm at the Youth Center. For those who don't know, Game Night was started in 2019. It's held on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:00-8:00pm. We were seeing an average of 12-15 people each time. There'll be card games, board games, and maybe some puzzles available. There'll also be snacks! If you have a favorite game, bring it along! Come on down and check it out. There's always lots of fun and laughter. The whole church family is welcome. Please stay tuned for more details on the Church website and Facebook page.



In our sanctuary:

For David Hopkins on August 11 at 10 am

For Eleanor Boston on August 21 at 11 am



What's NARCAN?! In the main church hallway, above the AED (used to assess and treat a cardiac arrest) is a box of Narcan. Our pharmacist, Chris Allen, says Narcan is "used for opioid overdose emergencies much like a fire extinguisher is used for fire emergencies." It's a nasal spray for use if someone isn't breathing well, but doesn't need the defibrillator. We'll probably never need it, but it could save a life. Look for it!



Parking lot project in progress.



The (almost) finished product.

Cover Photos

Top: Chris Owel, Kathy Baker, Steve Owel, Sally McCune, Carl McCune, Josh Liechty.

Center Left: Jodine Bandlow

Lower Left: Charlotte Nagel

Center Right: Nichelle Wood (Story on page 5)

Lower Right: Halaina Peevers

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Battle Creek, Michigan

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting has been called for July 11 to elect church officers and at-large Nominating Committee members and also to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Pastor Pat due to her upcoming retirement. The meeting will follow the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Pandemic Precautions

Larry Turpin

It has certainly been a challenging time over the past 15-16 months, but finally it appears that life is getting closer to normal! We appreciate everyone's patience and continued vigilance as we are still in "Yellow" status for Covid-19, as of June 15, 2021. Maybe we will be "Green" by the time you read this?!

Anyway, we still encourage mask wearing in our Church buildings and social distancing as much as possible, until Calhoun County reaches "Green" status (as reported in CovidActNow.org) for at least two consecutive weeks. When we achieve that status, and assuming we do not regress, we will be able to relax our mask wearing policy.

Additionally, the Session approved use of our buildings by external groups when we have achieved "Green" status, or if the external group agrees to abide by a requirement that only people who are

The Carillon is a free monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church

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