

# The Carillon

First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, MI  
firstpresbc.org  
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Rev. L. R. Small, Sr.

## **Phil 2:5-11** **“The Name of Jesus”**

*“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

As a pastor I have considerable amounts of conversation about God. And what I have found to be true in and out of the church is that people are very comfortable with ‘God talk’ but the moment you shift the conversation to Jesus things can get very awkward. I hear all sorts of talk around being ‘spiritual’. People say to me often, “I am a very spiritual person.” I have not found one person who professes to be so who has adequately explained to me what he/she means by that statement. Many tell me they believe in God or a higher power. They can often tell me quite a bit about God. And to be honest, most of what persons like this say jives with scripture. However, there is often enough to determine that the god such persons are referring to isn’t the God of scripture. I then usually ask, “What god or what power?” And I frame that question with this question, “The God of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?” And if the answer is no or no answer at all the conversation usually turns south or ceases all together. Have you truly ever given any considerable thought as to why people are offended by the name of Jesus? Jesus, the one who loved everyone, extended an invitation to all, neglected no one, prayed for forgiveness for the very ones who killed him while hanging on the cross. Jesus, the one who has conquered sin and death by his resurrection. The one who freely gives forgiveness and eternal life to all who put their faith in him. Who could be uncomfortable or even hate such a person? There is something about the name of Jesus that just rubs those who have yet to confess his name wrong. “Who have yet,” did you catch that? There is always hope.

So, what is it about this name that offends people? I cannot fathom any good reason. But I can certainly come up with some. How about pride, suspicion, and stubbornness.

I pray this is not the case for anyone reading this article. If it is, know that all hope is not lost. Jesus stands ready to receive you. Just come.

## Sunday Conversation

The congregation gathered Sunday morning, July 16, following worship service for a conversation with leadership on our future. We discussed goals and projects for the current operational year, which runs from June 2023 – May 2024. The highlights of this conversation are as follows:

### **Establishment of Ministry Centers:** Youth & Families, Young adults, and Seniors

The long-term goal would be to sunset our Ministry Team structure. However, in the interim, we would ask the Ministry Teams in their planning process to allow Ministry Centers to determine their work. In other words, what do you want to achieve in the coming year and with who? Allow the answer to this question to drive ministry output.

2023- 2024 Goals

### **Pastoral**

1. Pastoral care - Contact 80% of FPC membership every 90 days.
2. Bible for Lunch: BFL is a bible study program that will be developed and facilitated by Pastor Small and will target our Senior population.
3. Midweek Study: Midweek study will approach the study of scripture by engaging current events and issues through the lens of scripture. Will take place in the evening.

### **Operational**

1. Hire social media manager/intern
2. Improve weekly stream
3. Transition Director of Music position to full-time by January 1, 2024

### **New Initiatives**

1. Movie Night
2. Battle Creek Central High School Football Tailgate: This initiative aims to build relationships with the students and parents of BCCHS by providing an opportunity for fellowship on our blacktop prior to home football games.
3. Summer Camp 2024 (“Best Summer Ever” Day Camp, ages 6-14).

The hoped-for outcome of the above is 15 new members by end of May 2024.

### **Capital Projects**

The finance team presented a plan to address some needed facility maintenance and improvements that would support the above goals and new initiatives. The plan would result in FPC reducing its reserve fund by \$260,000 to fund these projects. We would also have a mission component that would be launched in September 2023, with a fundraising goal of \$26,000 for local missions. The projects are upgrade elevator, update telephone system, upgrade front sign, repair front entrance doors and railings, resurfacing driveway and resealing parking lot, and gym improvements (floor, lighting and paint).



The Caravan Mission Team asked for donations of various items that were needed at the Buckhorn Children's home in Kentucky. The members of First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek came through in a big way. **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

Many thanks for your cards, notes, thoughts and prayers during the past several months for Georgann and myself. They have been most appreciated. Blessings, Jean Parker



## Our Condolences

... to the family and friends of Norma Mawdsley following her death on June 7.

... to the family and friends of Jim & Jeannie Kerner after the recent death of a cousin in Tennessee.

...to the family & friends of Carol Binger, who passed away on July 5.

...to the family & friends of Ralph Johnston Jr. following his death on May 28. (His service will be held August 12 in Grand Rapids.)

## Introducing...

Kelsey Peterson, our new Social Media Manager/Intern. Kelsey is a rising senior at Pennfield High School. Please welcome her to our First Pres family.

## August Birthdays



Kim LaFleur	August 1
Jack Budrow Jr.	August 2
Helen Noble	August 3
Nan Spindler	August 7
Jack Bulko	August 8
Nan Jones	August 8
Deane McCarthy	August 9
Tom Cole	August 10
Paula Colburn	August 14
Alex Burns	August 21
Marla Colburn	August 23
Laura Bradley	August 25
Pam Flanders	August 25
Dena Haas	August 26
Gerry Fox	August 28
Bill Winslow	August 28
Denise Rust	August 30

First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for your support,  
encouragement, and  
presence. We are  
moving through, moving  
forward because of  
people like you!  
The Covenant School



Following the Covenant Christian School shooting in Nashville, TN on March 27, 2023, First Pres members and friends donated \$1,259 to Covenant Church and School.



# Session Notes

Carl McCune,  
Clerk of Session

The combined meeting began with a time of introductions. Then Pastor Small shared his thoughts about what we want to achieve during the coming 12 months:

- We will not experience major changes to our current structure but will change how we think about ministry – shifting the approach from program-based to outcome-based.
- We will experience a shift in our focus: intentionally developing ministry outreach that will target youth and families, young adults, and seniors.
- Hopefully we will adopt and implement a process that will significantly improve how we care for our current congregation. We will continue to channel resources into expanding and developing our technological and social media platforms. The Session and Board of Deacons then broke into separate meetings.

The following people were nominated and elected for 2023-2024:

Carl McCune to be Clerk of Session, Tom Cole to be Church Treasurer, Ruth Hetletvedt and Carl McCune to be Commissioners to Presbytery.

A motion prevailed to designate Mary Burg and Carol Gault to be the Session representatives on the Nominating Committee.

**Committee Assignments** (Chairpersons/Moderators and Session Representatives)

Finance Committee: Bill Winslow (Chair)  
Personnel Committee: Pastor Small (Chair), Bob Bullard (Vice-Chair)

Property Committee: Diana Golden (Chair)

Connection Ministry Team: Carolyn Rex (Moderator), Tom Coleman, Diana Golden

Discipleship Ministry Team: Ruth Hetletvedt (Moderator), Gerda Van Stralen

Generosity Ministry Team: Bruce Davy (Moderator)

Mission Ministry Team: Jean Parker/Cindy Koerner (Co - Moderators), Carol Gault

Worship Ministry Team:

Jean Rost (Moderator), Bob Bullard, Julie Chapman, Sue Stetler

The newly formed Pastor Support Committee members are Francie Winslow, Sy Turpin, Jean Parker, Karen Rich and Tom Cole.

Kathy Baker reported from the Deacons' meeting: Kathy Baker (Moderator), Steven Case-Blanchard (Vice-Moderator), [Joy Miller](#) (Secretary/Treasurer), Arden Hetletvedt (Deacon representative on the Nominating Committee).

**Membership Update** We were saddened by the death of Norma Mawdsley on June 7, 2023. Current Active Membership is 216.

**Financial Report** Loren Rex presented a revised 2023 Annual Budget which recognizes some increased costs (many of which are one-time) and some shifts in priorities. A motion prevailed to accept the revised 2023 Annual Budget which shows a proposed deficit of \$34,098.

Loren Rex and Tom Cole gave an Invest to Grow presentation. Details of the proposed expenditures will be prepared by the Property Committee. There will be a time for conversations with the congregation on July 16.

**Donations and Volunteers** are needed for the Health and Fun Fair on **August 26**.

Check the easels in the Parlor for post-it notes with suggestions for Game Prizes, Food Station Items, and Health Kit Items. We're collecting wash cloths, bars of soap, dental floss, chap sticks, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste (no larger than 6.2oz.), shampoo (max size 12.5 oz.), and conditioner (12.5



"Heart in the City"  
Health & Fun Fair



## Presbyterian Women

This year's PW Bible Study is "Sacred Encounters," starting in September. If you have never been to a circle get together, please consider checking it out. We would love to have you join us. We meet once a month in the Parlor. Sarah Circle meets at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month and Elizabeth Circle meets at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month.



On Sunday, September 24th, Leila Arboretum will be the place for this year's CROP Walk. Local churches are starting to find those who will walk, donate money, and pray

in the gathering of monies raised to end hunger and poverty locally, in the U.S. and around the world. Finley McRae and Kathy Baker will be looking for those willing to walk, collect money and pray - Please let them know how you would like to participate.



The Meijer **Simply Give** fall campaign is now underway at both Battle Creek Meijer

stores. Meijer shoppers are encouraged to purchase a \$10 **Simply Give** donation card. Once purchased, the donation is converted into a Meijer **FOOD-ONLY GIFT CARD** and donated directly to the local food pantry partner chosen by each store. Once again Meijer will double match each \$10 card purchased in these two stores, resulting in \$30 going to the designated agency. **DOUBLE MATCH DATES ARE AUGUST 12 & SEPTEMBER 9.** Online customers using Meijer pickup or home delivery can also purchase **Simply Give** donation cards on their orders. If you are unable to shop those days, the Mission Ministry Team will be happy to collect your donation & shop both stores. Contact Sue Keitel (269-964-1043) for details.

## Breakfast Volunteers



St Thomas Episcopal Church has returned to serving a weekly breakfast - First Presbyterian is helping the week of August 14 - 18.

Please check your calendar and see if you can be part of the team that will be helping that week. We are looking for 5-6 volunteers each day from 7:45/8:00 - 10:30 to help serve breakfast and do the final clean up. Masks are optional for guests and volunteers. (The last time we helped for a full week was in 2019.) This truly is a time when we show our Heart for God in the Heart of the City. Please call Kathy Baker (964-6642) with questions or to sign up.



The Mission Ministry Team has shared God's love this summer with monetary contributions in the community to the Juneteenth Day celebration and the Washington Heights Family Fun Carnival.

The MMTEAM also collected and delivered nonperishable food items for the Share Center's meals and pantry in May.

The Salvation Army Soup Kitchen and Pantry received \$500 in food and pantry items in June. Also in June, a \$500 donation was given to the Southwest MI Food Bank for feeding children in the summer.

\$300 purchased "Simply Give" cards from Meijer, which became \$900 and went toward the Neighborhood Pantries -including Franklin Pantry.

A donation of \$500 was sent to St. Thomas Episcopal Church for its community breakfast program.

Many thanks to our congregation for their generosity and to our MMTeam for their energy, caring and compassion!

# First Pres Calendar

# August 2023



First Presbyterian Church 111 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, Michigan  
49017 269-964-3700 [firstpresbc.org](http://firstpresbc.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Women Who Care 11:00 A Bells 4:30P	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Outdoor Worship & Annual Picnic 10A	<b>7</b> Retreat Ctr. Com. 5:30P Session/Deacons 6P	<b>8</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bells 4:30P	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Worship 10A	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>16</b> Connection/ Health Fair 9A	<b>17</b> Bells 4:30P	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Worship 10A	<b>21</b> Connection Team Zoom 7P	<b>22</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Bells 4:30P	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Health & Fun Fair 1P
<b>27</b> Worship 10A	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Bells 4:30P		

First Presbyterian Church  
111 Capital Avenue NE  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

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## Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 6 @ Retreat Center

Worship @ 10:00 a.m. followed by

The Picnic

(All food provided)

(Golf cart available for rides from the parking  
lot to the Worship/Picnic site.)

Retreat Center Memorials will be dedicated

## "Heart in the City" Health & Fun Fair

Saturday, Aug 26

1:00 - 4:00 pm



Health Screenings Shots  
Food Games  
Free Health Kits



The Carillon is a free monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church  
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