

The Carillon



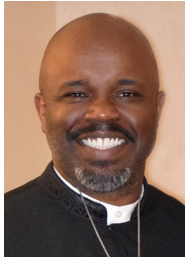
First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, MI

firstpresbc.org

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“Please Don’t Ask”

By Rev. L. R. Small, Sr.

“...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.....” 1 Peter 3:15

Prior to my arrival in Battle Creek, I was an Uber driver. I loved to Uber. It not only provided me a good source of supplemental income, but it was relaxing, and in many ways therapeutic for me. Being a pastor in the age of this pandemic and having to exert myself mentally in ways that I never imagined I would, being a rideshare driver provided me a welcomed outlet. No significant thought needed, creative prowess not necessary and mental laziness acceptable. Not only that, but driving is also something I have years of experience doing and, thus, am thoroughly prepared for. When I would drive it is like a giant exhale from all the stress of ministry in a very unexpected and complicated context.

Despite my best efforts to keep my role as pastor secret while driving, often it would be uncovered. I must admit, I avoided telling riders what I did professionally like the plague. When I picked up a talkative and friendly rider, I would become like that young lady in the horror movie hiding in the shed who could see her pursuer hoping her pursuer would not find her. But, almost like clockwork the question would come. “Do you do this full-time?” My quick and short response would be, “No.” Immediately I would start reciting to myself silently, “Please don’t ask.” They would always ask. I guess the pain of having to hear the varied responses that are more than often negative towards God, religion and/or the church had waned on me and the mental capacity it required to engage the riders on this subject in a faithful and joyful way; I just didn’t want to do it. I really wanted to save that for Sunday morning, “Game Day,” where I had thoroughly prepared myself to engage in spiritual warfare. And when I drove, I simply wanted to drive and separate myself from that aspect, that primary aspect, of my identity.

Once, I had an encounter with a gentleman who uncovered my calling. He stated to me, “I have never had a problem with God, just religion,” among many other things he shared, which were the typical things I heard from riders. “I was raised in the church. Some of the meanest people and some of the nicest people I know are part of the church.” The conversation seemed to go on and on and I did everything in my power to limit the number of words in my responses. After dropping him off with much relief, the words of Peter hit me. “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” This rider’s line of questioning did not go exactly like that, but his questions certainly created the opportunity for me to do what Peter instructs. I wonder how often we, as disciples, attempt to compartmentalize our lives and in doing so close ourselves off from clear opportunities we so often are told to be on guard for. Like many of you, I certainly have times where I need a reprieve from the toil of ministry, but never from my identity as a disciple of Jesus Christ called to proclaim his goodness to everyone who asks in every facet of my life. So, if there is ever a time in the future that I find myself behind the wheel of an Uber ride, and I am found out, I will do what Peter instructs. How about you?

Cover photos: (Clockwise) Retreat Center cleanup crew enjoys lunch; Decorated tables event; Mission Sunday visitors Ruth Azar and the Second Mile Center kids; Leadership Training session with Pastor Small; Prayer Breakfast

Deacons' Corner

Kathy Baker, Moderator

St Thomas Episcopal Church is going to return to a weekly breakfast starting the week of June 5. Area churches are providing the necessary help to make and serve a breakfast for an entire week, with First Pres taking the week of August 14 - 18. Please, Please, Please check your calendar and see if you can be part of our team that will be helping that week. 3 people are needed each day to help make the hot items (oatmeal, sausage, eggs or pancakes) starting at 7am and staying to help with serving and clean up. Another 5-6 helpers are needed each day from 7:45 - 10:30 to help with serving breakfast and final clean up. Masks are optional for guests and volunteers. The last time we covered a week was in 2019 - so we truly are looking for those able to show our Heart for God in the Heart of the City. Sign up sheets will be up in July along with a reminder note in the Sunday bulletins plus another note in the August Carillon. Want to be first on the list??? - call Kathy Baker NOW!

THANK YOU to the crew that helped with the St Thomas Breakfast on Saturday, April 29 which included Paul Yettaw (kitchen manager), Finley McRae, Chris & Steve Owel, Ruth & Arden Hetletvedt, Linda Holden, Tina Johnson and Kathy Baker. There is always a sense of gratitude from those we serve - we don't know what they face on a daily basis, but it is nice to know that for a short time - they are eating a healthy meal and are enjoying the company of others.

THANK YOU to Presbyterian Women for the very **unexpected** Honorary Membership last month. I understand that the look of shock and surprise on my face was quite evident!!! I struggle to find proper words to express my appreciation for this recognition so a heartfelt simple thank you will have to do. I am blessed beyond measure to be a part of this special family.



The Caravan Mission Trip team is collecting the following items for **Buckhorn Services** during the month of June:

Women's Cabin Needs List: Yarn for knitting and crocheting, Word find/Sudoku/Crossword/ adult coloring books, colored pencils, twin sheet sets, pillow cases, mattress covers, towels and wash cloths.

For the **Boys' Cottage:** twin sheet sets, towels (white), wash cloths (white), shower curtains, notebooks (no spiral bound), and pencils. These donations we will take down with us when we go in July. Please place these donations in the Mission corner in the Parlor.

We are also collecting monetary donations to purchase storage totes for both cottages (prices range from \$6-12 per tote). Please include "**totes**" on the memo line if you send a check to the church office. We will purchase and send the totes directly to Buckhorn.

SUMMER Birthdays



Kennedy Allen	June 3	Sue Keitel	July 6
Tyler Hagist	June 6	Larry Turpin	July 6
Bruce Davy	June 9	Mary Scheinfeldt	July 7
Malachi Janz	June 9	Pat McCrory	July 9
Pete Christ	June 12	Sally McCune	July 9
Josh Liechty	June 12	Mary Lusk	July 9
Andrew Johnson	June 19	Stephanie Sherk	July 14
Richard Colburn	June 22	Kathy Medaugh	July 14
Tad Randolph	June 23	Jim Kerner	July 14
Marcie Reynolds	June 23	Mike Scheid	July 15
Alex Bullard-Marshall	June 23	Mary Beth Shivley	July 16
Chuck Bodiford	June 25	Karen Rich	July 18
Joy Miller	June 27	Pat Brewer	July 28
Shawn Aimesbury	June 28	Jackie Wells	July 28
Sarah Hopkins	July 2	Emilee Janz	July 28
Mary Ann Price	July 5	Norma Mawdsley	July 29
Carolyn Christ	July 6	Carl McCune	July 29
Kathleen Strang	July 6	Neil Sharp	July 29

Soles for Souls- Members of the Mission Ministry Team presented a pair of steel toed work boots and a check in the amount of \$3,088 to the Charitable Union for the purchase of work shoes and boots for their clients beginning new employment with this requirement. A HUGE thanks to our congregation for their generosity, caring and compassion for this project. The Charitable Union brings "hope and help" to many in our community.



Women's Life Recovery Program - The Mission Ministry Team provided the WLR Program with twenty new tray tables which will provide individual work spaces for each of the women in the program. They were thrilled and felt very blessed to receive this donation.

Spring cleaning was a happy day indeed!!! Thanks to the efforts of Carl McCune, Finley McRae, Jean Rost, Jim Kerner, Jim Rich, Mary Burg, Mary Lusk, Steve Owel and Tom Cole - the Sanctuary received TLC as pews and wood surfaces were vacuumed and polished and Narthex windows were cleaned. And extra time was given in a long overdue cleaning of the wood pews in the balcony - we have the best volunteers!

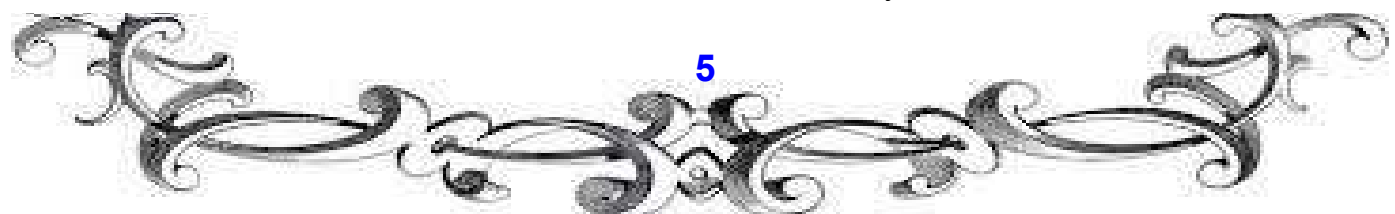
March 30 found Finley McCrae, Jean Rost, Judy Yettaw and Kathy Baker making the more than 200 crosses that would be given out at the Palm/Passion Sunday Service on April 2nd. With a little review about how to make them, - each person worked steadily and surely to make each cross- large or small - knowing that it is a visible reminder of Holy Week and the journey that we must take to get to Easter and beyond.

It was a wonderful Mission Sunday having Pastor Ruth Azar preaching and the girls from the Second Mile Center signing to "Lord, You're Most Holy." The word of Christ is shared in word and example at the Second Mile Center as they minister to the families participating in the programs. Many thanks to all of our volunteers who graciously shared their time and love throughout the weekend with food preparation, sharing meals, activities at the Retreat Center and Mooville.



HERITAGE MEMBERS 2023

Barbara Smith	April 21, 1946	Cynthia Nunn	May 17, 1964
Shirley Sajtar	October 5, 1947	George Price	October 4, 1964
John Stetler	December 10, 1950	Mary Ann Price	October 4, 1964
Patricia Brewer	December 10, 1950	Marilyn Sauder	April 15, 1965
Gerry Fox	April 4, 1954	Cecil Young	June 6, 1965
Lois Leist	March 29, 1956	Neil Sharp	June 5, 1966
Jack Mawdsley	March 29, 1956	Judy Van Zanten	October 2, 1966
Norma Mawdsley	March 29, 1956	Nancy Chapman	October 2, 1966
Annettie Tribbett	April 3, 1958	Bette Miller	December 4, 1966
Sally Roberts	October 5, 1958	Pam Flanders	June 4, 1967
Patricia McCrory	October 4, 1959	Sally McCune	June 4, 1967
Owen Van Winkle	October 4, 1959	Marilyn Cagle	June 4, 1967
Kathy Baker	April 14, 1960	Bill Winslow	October 1, 1967
Judy Angood	April 14, 1960	Francie Winslow	October 1, 1967
Dale Dittmer	April 14, 1960	Jean Parker	December 3, 1967
Karen Dittmer	April 14, 1960	Michael Hayward	May 19, 1968
Helga Carpenter	February 5, 1961	Randy Miller	April 3, 1969
Gretchen Bursley	March 30, 1961	Sally Gubitz	December 7, 1969
Sandra Nowicki	February 4, 1962	Thomas McClure	October 4, 1970
Carolyn Christ	February 3, 1963	Jan Ritter	April 8, 1971
Pete Christ	February 3, 1963	Jim Ritter	April 8, 1971
Jean Black	April 11, 1963	Margaret Prickett	June 6, 1971
Richard Black	April 11, 1963	Richard Colburn	October 3, 1971
Mary Shivley	April 11, 1963	Nan Spindler	June 4, 1972
Opal Bell	October 6, 1963	Marge Weil	June 4, 1972
Laura Miller	October 6, 1963	Linda Holden	October 1, 1972
Katie Graham	December 1, 1963	Bruce Davy	February 4, 1973
Sydney Wenzler	December 1, 1963	Marie Davy	February 4, 1973
Joyce Evans	February 12, 1964	Marcie Reynolds	December 2, 1973





To my Church Family
 I have felt so blessed and touched by all your prayers, well wishes, meals, cards and rides. I could not have done this without you. Thank you SO much!
 May God bless you all.

Gratefully,
 Kiran Bilanow

I just want to thank everyone for the many prayers, kind words, hugs, and cards I received after the death of my son, Steve Jr. Your kindness has really helped me during this difficult time. I feel so very blessed to be a part of such a caring community of faith.

Steve Owel

We are now streaming every Sunday to Youtube @firstpresbyterianchurchbat9610, directly to our webpage - firstpresbc.org, and FPC's Facebook page, FirstPresBC.

You can now follow us on Instagram @firstpresbc



. . .to the family and friends of Francie Gorman, who passed away on April 12.



Presbyterian Women

Thank you for your generous donations to Safe Place. We collected 5 twin sheet sets, 2 pillows, 6 towels, 6 sippy cups and 13 reusable grocery bags.

PW Annual Salad Supper will take place Monday, June 12, at 6:00 pm. Pennfield Presbyterian Church is hosting this year. You can bring a salad if you desire but it is not necessary. Please RSVP to Sue Hutson by June 5 so they will know how to plan.

Congratulations to Kathy Baker as recipient of this year's Honorary Life Membership for her tireless service to PW and to the church and community. Sue Hutson also received this recognition for her role of moderator of the PW Coordinating Team.

There will be a memorial service for Leon White at the Pennfield church on June 4th at 2:00 pm. He was a pastor at that church for 25 years.



Session Notes

Carl McCune,
Clerk of Session

A motion prevailed for our church to match (up to \$500) the special offering on April 30 which was designated for the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, (which runs the school where three children and three staff were killed recently). The designated offering that Sunday was \$919.

Jean Parker reported from the Mission and Connections Ministry Teams that Saturday August 26 has been selected for a community event with a flu (and possible COVID vaccine) clinic, food and fellowship (games) to be held at the church. This will be scaled down from the Health Fair which has been held in the past.

Membership Update: We were saddened by the death of Frances Gorman on April 12, 2023. Current Active Membership is 217.

Financial Report: Loren Rex reviewed the financial reports which showed that April YTD revenue trailed YTD expenses by \$15,829, even though contributions are running ahead of the budget.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Small presented an extensive report of his recent activities and vision for the future. One item which will be acted on before the next Session meeting is to prepare a job description for a full-time Director of Music Ministry. A motion prevailed to approve the establishment of Instagram and Twitter accounts for the church.

Great thanks were expressed to Ruth Hetletvedt, Jeannie Kerner, Jean Parker, Loren Rex and Francie Winslow who are all leaving Session after serving the last 6 years.

The next regular Session meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 12, 2023 in Fellowship Hall and will be a combined organizational meeting with the Board of Deacons.



Katelyn Allen is a member of Lakeview High School's Class of 2023.

Katelyn joined First Pres in May of 2018.

Her parents are Chris and Jackie Allen and she has an older sister, Kennedy.

Among her high school activities she lists Dance Team, Studio Dance, theatre, Chamber Choir, Spartanaires, National Honor Society, LINK Crew, Pep Club, Student Government, Mentoring Middle School theater.

Her activities at First Pres included Youth Group, Caravan, Health Fair, Christmas Programs, and she participated in worship services. Her favorite youth group or church memory is going on Caravan.

Katelyn says her faith got her through many hard social and academic scenarios.

She gives a shout out to Kathy Baker for always being there and Tom Till for helping her through Confirmation.

Katelyn plans to attend Michigan State University to major in Kinesiology and go into physical therapy.

Justin LaFleur is graduating from Harper Creek High School. He's been a member of First Pres since 2018. His parents are Eric and Kim LaFleur; he has an older sister, Lauren, and Alex is his younger brother. His high school activities included cross country, swim team, LINK crew, swim club, National Honor Society, and he was a lifeguard/swim instructor at the YMCA.

Justin's First Church activities have included Caravan, Navarac, Vacation Bible School and Confirmation. His favorite church memory is participating in the 2019 Caravan where he got better acquainted with other church members and had the opportunity to "help others in a major and impactful way."

Justin says his faith has taught him to persevere and keep moving forward. Caravan and Confirmation taught him that obstacles can be overcome.

He gives a shout out to his parents for helping him through many difficult times.

Justin plans to attend Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in Computer Science.

First Pres Calendar

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

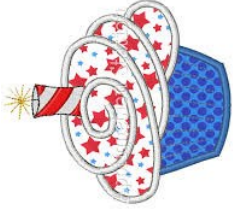


JUNE 2023


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	
4 Worship 10A	5 Retreat Center 5:30P	6 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	7	8 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	9	10
11 <i>Ordination/ Installation of Officers</i> Worship 10A Lemonade Stand 11A	12 Session/Deacons 6:30P PW Salad Supper 6P	13 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	14	15 Mission Min. Team 5P Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	16	17
18 Worship 10A Lemonade Stand 11A	19 Cabinet 6P Worship Team 7P Discipleship 7P	20 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A Parent Coalition 5P	21	22 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	23	24
25 Worship 10A Lemonade Stand 11A	26 Men's Fellowship 7P	27 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	28	29 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	30	

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JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 10A Lemonade Stand 11A	3 Building Closed for holiday	4 	5	6 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	7	8
9 Worship 10A Lemonade Stand 11A	10	11 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	12	13 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	14	15
16 Caravan departs Worship 10A Lemonade Stand 11A	17	18 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	19	20 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	21	22
23/30 Worship 10A Lemonade Stand 11A	24/31 (24) Connection Team 7P	25 Prayer 8:30A Carillon Mailing 9:30A Exercise 10A	26	27 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	28	29 St. Thomas Breakfast 8:30A

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**PW Salad Supper
Monday, June 12
@ 6:00 p.m.
Penfield Pres**



**Open for the summer!
Starting June 11
In the Parlor
Right after worship**