

The Carillon



First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, MI
firstpresbc.org
Vol. 29 Issue 3

March 2023



The Pastor Nominating Committee Is Honored to Introduce Our Pastoral Candidate

Your PNC has felt the weight and importance of finding the right leadership to move us into the future. We have worked together to humbly discern what God's plans are for First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek. Throughout this process, we have sought God's wisdom through prayer both individually and corporately.

The PNC has been very patient and has prayerfully sought God's wisdom every step of the way. We sincerely believe that this process was very thorough and has led us to the candidate meant to lead our church into the future. We are honored that the *Reverend Lorenzo Small* and his wife *Alexis* felt the same call from God to come to Battle Creek and accept our call to lead us.



Reverend Lorenzo Small comes to Battle Creek from Charlotte, NC. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia but grew up in Dunn, North Carolina, the oldest of four children. He graduated in 1998 with highest honors from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina where he studied finance. After graduation, he moved to St. Paul, Minnesota to accept a position with 3M Corporation.

After working for a number of years in the corporate world (for such companies as 3M and Eli Lilly) he felt called to ministry. He served as a Baptist minister, and later was ordained and installed as pastor of Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, SC. He is a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary (Charlotte) and a member of the Foundation for Reformed Theology. He will be coming to us from First United Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC.



From our meetings and interviews with Reverend Small, we were taken with:

- † his enthusiasm, passion & kindness
- † his vision for the future
- † his priority on building relationships
- † his emphasis on preaching & teaching
- † his goal to contact members of the congregation on a regular basis

Reverend Small is happily married to *Alexis*. She is a recruiter of medical personnel for a large health system. They are the proud parents of three sons, *Antray* (a recent graduate from his father's alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University), *Lorenzo Jr.* and *Alexander*.



The Smalls' oldest son Antray



Rev. Lorenzo, Alexis, Lorenzo Jr. & Alexander



From Pastor Mike Wicks

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am still basking in the glow that comes from being present when there is a palpable sense of unity in the spirit and a new settled pastor is called for a community of faith. Wow. Those days don't come along very often either in terms of number or intensity. Let us rejoice in God's faithfulness rising to meet the good and faithful work done by the congregation. Whenever we find ourselves celebrating those marvelous "God Moments" you can almost always see a life-giving combination of the spark of our desire and efforts being fanned into holy fire by the accelerant of God's love and faithfulness.

What a wonderful new beginning. Of course, this happy moment is the starting gate and not the finishing line. The days ahead will be filled with God given opportunity with which we have shown we know how to partner. As partnership with God and each other becomes a strengthened habit in this community of faith, each of us will discover paths of living faithful lives of joy together. Hang on tight. It's going to be a great ride!

Pastor Mike



Spring Cleaning

Spring is in the air – FINALLY – so that means it's time to share for a little TLC in the Sanctuary, Narthex (and balcony if time/people allow) as we get ready to celebrate Easter.

The gathering time is Monday, March 27, at 10 am in the Sanctuary. Some cleaning supplies will be provided, but extra soft cloths are always helpful.

On the Cover—Our New Pastor!

Pastor Lorenzo Small and his wife, Alexis, spent the weekend of February 18 & 19 meeting their new congregation—us!

They were guests at a "Meet & Greet" Saturday afternoon in Fellowship Hall, where we got to ask them questions and get to know them.

Pastor Small preached Sunday morning, and the congregation approved his terms of call at a Congregational Meeting following the sermon.

His first official day as our new pastor will be Easter Sunday.

Many thanks to the Pastor Nominating Committee for its diligence and devotion in the search.

Deacons' Corner

Next month, First Pres is scheduled to help with the Saturday Breakfast provided by St Thomas Episcopal Church. We will be helping on the 5th Saturday which is April 29th. 3 people are needed 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 volunteers are need from 7:45 - 10:30 to help with serving breakfast and final clean up. Masks are optional for guests and volunteers.

This is truly a time to show a Heart for God in the Heart of the City. Please contact Kathy Baker (964-6642) for more information or to sign up.



Easter Baskets will be provided to 19 families from the Family Enrichment Center and 5 with Church connections (Luke 10)

in April. We are hoping that you might help us provide a bag of Easter candy that will be included with the non-perishable food items, and Meijer gift card for fresh foods they will be getting. There will be a marked box in Fellowship Hall for these Easter treats.

We thank you again for finding a way to show a Heart for God in the Heart of the City.



Nichelle Wood	March 3
Debbie Janz	March 3
Linda Brandt	March 9
Jan Emery	March 13
Jean Parker	March 16
Alan Hicks	March 17
Judy Angood	March 18
Dirk Van Stralen	March 18
Carolyn O'Brien	March 19
Jan Ritter	March 19
Tom Coleman	March 20
Liam Gault	March 21
Ada Compton	March 22
Diana Golden	March 23
Mark Peevers	March 26
Arden Hetletvedt	March 29
Jeff Wolf	March 30

Time to Make Palm Crosses



We are looking for some volunteers to help make the Palm Crosses to be given out on Palm Sunday. Join Kathy

Baker and Finley McCray in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 30th at 10 am. Contact Kathy (964-6642) with questions.



Soles for Souls

Our Soles for Souls campaign to raise funds to benefit Charitable Union’s steel–toed boot program continues through this month. Every \$55 donated buys one new pair of boots for people needing such footwear for work, but without the means to purchase them. Please make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with “Soles for Souls” written on the memo line. Donations can also be made on line at firstpresbc.org.



Winter Coats Wanted!

The Mission Ministry Team is collecting winter coats and snowpants for the Charitable Union’s 2023 October Winter Coat Distribution. Coats and snowpants are needed for children and teens (boys and girls), Watch for those good sales in stores or online!!!

We’ll continue to collect through March and store the items for them. Bring your donations to the Mission Corner in the Parlor.

Second Missionary Baptist Church Virtual Lenten Series

“Walking and Working in the Light”

Matthew 5:13-14

A Time of Reflection!

A Time of Renewal!

A Time of Redemption!

Wednesdays at Noon :



www.facebook.com/SMBCBC



YouTube

YouTube - Second Missionary Baptist Church, Battle Creek, Michigan



Imagine the joy when your gift positively affects someone’s life—both the joy someone feels as their burdens ease and the joy you feel when you realize your gift has helped. As Christians, we speak of God providing us with blessings in abundance, but there are many in the world who live without the basic necessities of life.

Surely God calls us to share.

By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you make a conscious

decision to bring the joy and love of Christ to some of the most vulnerable and desperate places and people around the world. With your generous gift to One Great Hour of sharing, you can be a channel through whom God satisfies the hungry, comforts the distressed, and brings hope to the poor and oppressed.

Please give generously on Sunday, April 2.



Thank you, Ruth, for the kind words and thank you to the congregation for the very generous gift. It meant a great deal to me. I have really enjoyed the last 6 years leading the youth group. There were lots of fun times and, of course, loads of laughter. Hopefully, in the near future we will be able to bring back some of the silly activities and games for both the young and the young at heart.
Doug McCune

First Pres Worshippers,

The flowers were so fresh and like a breath of fresh air. Bruce Medaugh delivered them and it was good to see people other than my family since I was not out and about much. Thank you for the flowers and also the cards sent. It was good being thought of during this time.
Blessings, Marilyn Sauder

Dear Church,

Thank you for thinking of us and delivering flowers on two very cold Sundays recently. I am doing much better after good care and physical therapy. It seems good to be out and about more. Your prayers and thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. Lovingly, Pete and Carolyn Christ



Franklin Food Pantry is in need of bathroom tissue,, bars of soap, large containers of juice (gallon-size—any kind of juice), boxes of crackers and cans of soup. You may leave your donations in the basket near the west entrance to the church.



**Time to order your Easter Lilies
@
\$25.00 each**

Order by March 23
Call Kathy Medaugh—269-832-2758

First Pres Calendar

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



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1		2 Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	3	4
5 Worship 10A (Communion) Lenten Study 11	6 Property Team 9:30A Retreat Ctr. 5:30P	7 Prayer 8:30A (Zoom) Exercise 10A	8	9 SewNSews 9:30A Elizabeth 10A Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	10	11
12 Worship 10A Lenten Study 11	13 Deacons 6:30P Session 7P	14 Prayer 8:30A (Zoom) Exercise 10A Lydia/Miriam 1P	15	16 Mission Min 5P Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	17	18
19 Worship 10A Lenten Study 11	20 Office Closed Cabinet 6P Worship Team 7P Discipleship 7P	21 Prayer 8:30 A (Zoom) Exercise 10A	22	23 SewNSews 9:30A PW CT 10 A Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	24	25
26 Worship 10A Lenten Study 11	27 Spring Cleaning Men's Fellowship 7P	28 Prayer (Zoom) 9A Carillon 9:30A Exercise 10A	29	30 Palm Crosses 10A Handbells 5:30P Choir 6:30P	31	

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

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Battle Creek, Michigan

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Palm Sunday

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.
(One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication)

Maundy Thursday

Service with Communion @ 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Hosting Community Service @ 12:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

YOU'RE INVITED TO
SMBC VIRTUAL LENTEN SERIES

Second Missionary Baptist Church - 485 N. Washington Ave. Battle Creek, MI 49037



March 2

Rev. Jerry Koller,
First Baptist Church
of South Haven



March 9

Rev. Jubulani
McCalister
Covenant Baptist
Church of West
Bloomfield



March 16

Chaplain
Brent Folkema
Calhoun County Jail



March 23

Pastor Monique French
Washington Heights
United Methodist
Church



March 30

Pastor Paul Prochazka
Lakeview Baptist
Church



April 6

Pastor Jeremy Simpson
First Baptist Church
Kalamazoo



April 13

Min. Roxie Perry
Second Missionary
Baptist Church



*"Living in the Light -
In a World of Darkness"*

*Wednesdays at
Noon & 7 p.m.*

1 John 1:7



March 2 - April 13



A Time of Reflection!
A Time of Renewal!
A Time of Redemption!

All are welcome to share in the journey!



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