

# The Carillon

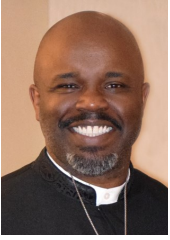
First Presbyterian Church,  
Battle Creek, MI  
firstpresbc.org  
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May 2023

*Happy Mothers Day!*





## Remind Me, Please Luke 24:1-12

I must admit I can forget things quickly, especially on Sunday mornings. My mind is moving a mile a minute and once I get focused on the preaching hour, anything you may have asked me to share with the congregation is lost. So, I have made it a habit of telling people to “remind me, please” during the service because there is a strong chance that I will forget. Given my situation, I am much more patient with the disciples who could not seem to remember what Jesus had been teaching them for nearly three years about his death and resurrection. Like me, maybe the disciples were so focused on what they wanted to do or what they wanted from Jesus at that moment that they could not hear him on this very important issue.

There is something about being in the heat of the moment that clouds our memory or impedes our listening. Can you imagine the heat of the moment after the turn of events that week? An entry into the city fit for a king, only to land Jesus, their teacher and the one whom they loved, on a cross, to be humiliated for all to see. All their hopes and dreams were crushed in a few short days. How could they remember that he taught them that this must happen and that he would rise in the face of such a tragedy? We certainly want to believe we would have done differently. That we would have been waiting by the tomb in joyful expectation of Jesus rising from the dead. However, I have little confidence that we would have done any different. See, I can’t even remember to remind the congregation of a change in the week’s schedule even though the clerk asks me to do so right before service begins. I forget every time. So, I am much more patient now with the disciples, unwilling to ridicule them for not remembering.

The hope in this text is that Jesus knew they would forget. So, he made preparations to remind them of all he had taught them regarding his death and resurrection. The women, the angels, and his appearances following his resurrection all serve this purpose. Think about it: every year we remember what took place that faithful week and the 50 days following his resurrection (Eastertide). I think it is more than just a tradition. It is how Jesus Christ reminds us now of what he taught them then. As we continue our celebration of Easter, let us again hear the voices of the angels to the women on that day, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” (Luke 24:5b-7). So, the next time you have to remind someone of something important be patient with them, remembering that your Lord is constantly reminding you of his love.

Pastor Lorenzo Small



### **Pentecost**

On May 21, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It’s often remembered as the church’s birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ’s resurrection.

To symbolize the “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3 NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people wear red on that day.



## Presbyterian Women

Thank you all for your generous donations of socks and underwear. Here are our totals: pairs of socks: 51 girls', 75 women's, 63 boys', 85 men's. Four men's t shirts, 7 men's underwear, 5 boys' underwear, 102 girls' underwear and 21 women's underwear. These were all donated to Charitable Union. We have a truly generous congregation.

Lydia/Miriam Circle is collecting items needed for Safe Place. They are in need of pillows, towels, twin sheets, reusable grocery bags and Sippy cups. These items can be placed in the Mission corner in the parlor.



A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage,

develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. The Pentecost Offering will be received on May 21.



The 41st Annual Community Prayer Breakfast is being held at 7:25 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9th at Kellogg Arena. This year's keynote speaker is Christian music artist Tauren Wells, a Battle Creek native. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at [bcprayerbreakfast.org](http://bcprayerbreakfast.org) or at the Battle Creek Community Foundation, 32 W. Michigan Avenue.



Carl McCune,  
Clerk of Session

This meeting started as a combined meeting with the Board of Deacons to welcome our new minister, the Reverend Lorenzo Small and become better acquainted with him. There was an extended time of sharing background information of all those present. Next was a time for questions for Pastor Small and he shared his thoughts with us.

During the separate Session Meeting, Session reiterated our desire to refurbish the Pastor's Office. Pastor Small already has some ideas concerning this and will work with the Property Committee to accomplish the renovation.

Ruth Hetletvedt brought a request from the Discipleship Ministry Team that we designate May 21 as Heritage/Education Sunday. We will honor our 50-year members and our High School graduates then.

Diana Golden of the Property Committee brought a quote from BC Sound for the replacement of our 4 wireless microphones and transmitter which have become illegal to operate under FCC regulations since they are in the 600mhz frequency band. The total cost of the project is \$4,835.02. A motion prevailed to approve the project providing no negative impact is made on our new sound system.

We received a communication from the Retreat Center Committee that, after gathering information about similar venues, they have decided to raise the rental rates. Daily use by church member groups is increasing from \$60 to \$100. Daily use by other organizations is increasing from \$125 to \$200.

**Pastor's Report** Pastor Small expressed his thankfulness for our start together on this new journey for our congregation. He emphasized his intention to become acquainted with all church members.

The next regular meeting of Session will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2023 in Fellowship Hall.



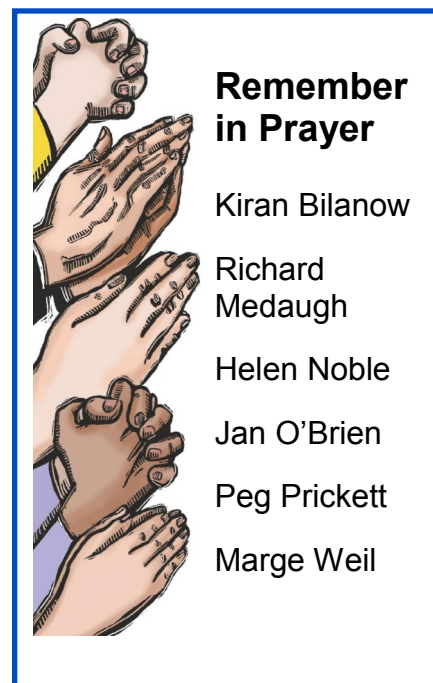
# Deacons' Corner

Monday, April 2nd the Deacons passed out 24 Easter Basket/ Boxes that were distributed to 4 Luke 10 families, 1 individual at Kellogg Manor and 19 families chosen by the Family Enrichment Center\*. The boxes contained non-perishable food items purchased at the Food Bank of South-Central Michigan, located in Fort Custer. \$40 Meijer gift cards were provided for each family to purchase perishable items, with the 4 largest families getting an extra \$50. The congregation was **extremely** generous this year in donating Easter candy - each family was able to choose at least 2 packages plus there were several extra, extra large packages that were given to the larger families (8 - 13members). We were also able to share some of the large packages with Charitable Union, S.A.F.E Place and Inasmuch House! (The Inasmuch House director had been wondering how they would fill their Easter baskets when I walked in with our donation of candy - a God thing for sure.)

As always, this is a ministry of many hands - ordering and picking up the food; assembling, packing, labeling and distributing the boxes. Thanks to Deacons Jim Kerner, Joy Miller, Judy Yettaw, Kathy Baker, Steve Case-Blanchard (and William Rasier), Marty Shroll, Tom Coleman and Finley McCrae plus Sharon Dewey from Kinship Care (whose reminder phone calls to families that day were very helpful).

We are often able to learn of some of the challenges these families face (at least two individuals had recent amputations of toes due to diabetes) and felt blessed to be able to offer them a little extra help in the service they provide to their adoptive, foster or personal families. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family. Our "Heart for God in the Heart of the City" gave many the chance to have a Happy Easter dinner.

\*The family Enrichment Center is a non-profit organization serving Calhoun County. It exists to fill the gaps in the child welfare system by providing training, support, mentoring and various other services to all families, with an emphasis on adoptive, foster and kinship families (grandparents and other caregivers raising a related child). Our contacts are Johni Bunch, Administrative Assistant and Sharon Dewey, Basket Family connection.



## Remember in Prayer

Kiran Bilanow

Richard Medaugh

Helen Noble

Jan O'Brien

Peg Prickett

Marge Weil

## Devotionals

Weekly Wednesday devotionals are available on line.

If you are among those who don't have internet access, you can find a printed copy of each week's message posted on the bulletin board across from the Kitchenette.

## Summer Carillon



The next issue of the Carillon will be our summer June/July issue. Please submit your articles no later than May 15. Photos are always welcome!



Each year on or near the anniversary of our church's founding (May 25, 1883) we celebrate Heritage and Education Sunday. We honor those who have been members for fifty or more years. This year, our celebration will be on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

As part of our celebration, we will honor our high school graduates for this year, Katie Allen, Ada Compton, Justin LeFleur, and Marcus Peevers.

Continuing to grow as Christians, we will also honor those who participate in ongoing education and those who teach Sunday School classes, Circles and the Discipleship Ministry Team members.

This is the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Presbyterian Church in Battle Creek, Michigan. Please plan to attend and share in this special day.



## Our Condolences

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

. . . the family and friends of Steven Owel, Jr., who died April 13.



## Waiting on God

On May 4, Americans observe the National Day of Prayer.

Waiting on God is an important component of prayer. It's hard to understand why God delays when we cry out for help. Why does he allow us to suffer, when he could just say the word and make it all better? Why must we wait?

Consider a child whose parents always give her whatever she asks, as soon as she asks for it. The child has little opportunity to learn patience or gratitude. Because she doesn't know what it's like to not have, she cannot appreciate the true value of something.

God may have some of these things in mind when our prayers go unanswered for a time. As the psalmist exhorts, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage, wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14, NRSV)



The Mission Ministry Team sends hugs and a huge thank you to our congregation for their very generous donations that totaled, \$3,186.00 for steel toed work shoes and boots for the Charitable Union. These boots and shoes are a requirement for many to obtain employment and enter the work force in our community. The Charitable Union provides the boots and shoes at no charge to those who are in need.

Comments from an article and a Charitable Union employee: "One of my most gratifying jobs is to check in a person who needs steel toed boots. Why? It signals that someone is beginning a new job, a new start to possibly moving out of poverty."

And the **THANK YOU's** continue as 59 new winter coats and 6 gently used winter coats were donated for the "Charitable Union's 2023 Winter Coat Distribution." We also store these items for them as well as all of their "Back to School Clothing." Our storage provides a clean dry area at no cost to the Charitable Union.

The love, caring and generosity of this congregation is amazing! God's love is seen in these essential gifts for our community friends and neighbors.



Thanks for the prayers and cards and flowers while I was recovering from my knee replacement surgery. Feeling blessed to be a part of this church. Sue Hutson

**Flower Donations Needed**

These dates are available for flower dedications:  
 May 21 & 28  
 June 4, 18, & 26  
 Kathy Medaugh is waiting for your call! 269-671-5533  
 269-671-5553



### Birthday Card Shower

Margaret "Peg" Prickett celebrates her 102nd birthday on May 4. Let's help her mark this very special milestone with a Card Shower! You can send her a birthday card at:  
 Pineview Assisted Living  
 700 North Avenue,  
 Apartment D9  
 Battle Creek MI 49017  
 Raised in Battle Creek, Peg graduated from BC Central in 1940; received a cosmetology degree in 1942; worked at the Diane Beauty Salon (owned by her sister Rosemary) for over 25 years. Her family of 2 daughters, 1 son-in-law, 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grands and 1 great-great grandchild love to celebrate the role model she is as she continues to show a positive attitude, an unwavering faith that acknowledges and relies on the power of prayer in every situation.



Mary Burg	May 1
Ruth Hetletvedt	May 1
Diane Sharp	May 2
Judy Yettaw	May 4
Julie Chapman	May 4
Peg Prickett	May 4
John Stetler	May 11
Paul Yettaw	May 11
Heidi Yarger	May 11
Pat Scheid	May 13
Mary Maley	May 15
Jim Rich	May 23
Josh Sherk	May 27

### Volunteer Opportunities

It is important that we update our list of volunteers as we're going to begin giving needed attention to our facilities along with helping fellow church members who request assistance with home projects. Please consider the following needs and let the office know that you would like to be called when help in these areas is needed.

Transportation to Sunday services or medical appointments - varies as to how often

Painting - we'll be working on the list of where and when

Outside work around main building and Youth Center - once or twice a month as needed

Special request for those who love to DUST - much needed TLS to stair base boards and metal spindles (some painting might also be included) - this project will be starting soon!

You may call the church office (964-3700) or add you name to the I'll HELP sheet that will be on the sign up bulletin board in the main hall near the Kitchenette. You will be called to confirm your interest and we'll answer any questions.




# First Pres Calendar

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



# MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship 10A	<b>8</b> Deacons 6:30P Session 7P	<b>9</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A Elizabeth Cir. 12:30P Lydia/Miriam Cir. 12:30P	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Sew N Sews 9:30A	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Mothers' Day</b> Worship 10A	<b>15</b> Cabinet 6P Worship Team 7P Discipleship 7P	<b>16</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Heritage Sunday</b> Worship 10A	<b>22</b> Connection Team Zoom 7P Men's Fellowship 7P	<b>23</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> PW CT 10A	<b>26</b> Building Closed for holiday	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Pentecost</b> Worship 10A	<b>29</b>  Memorial Day	<b>30</b> Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	<b>31</b>			

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

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**May 21, 2023**



**Pentecost**  
**(Wear red to church)**



**Heritage/Education Sunday**