

The Carillon

First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, MI

firstpresbc.org

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APRIL 2023





The Joy and Dread of a New Pastor By Pastor Lorenzo Small, Sr.

The long-awaited moment has finally arrived. We have a new pastor! This certainly brings much joy. The season of waiting is over. We can now get on with it. But we also know once the excitement wears off then comes the dread. What type of pastor will he be? Will we like him? Will he like us? Will he stay well into the future? What will he change? These questions are unavoidable and to be expected. However, the beauty of what we are endeavoring upon is the work of our Lord Jesus by his Holy Spirit and this should bring all of us great comfort in the face of all the unknowns. Nonetheless, I wanted to share three things you can count on from me as your new pastor.

First, I will be a faithful preacher and teacher of the word of God, the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4:11-16 Paul writes the following: ¹¹“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, *the shepherds and teachers*, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, *makes the body grow* so that it builds itself up in love.” (*emphasis added*) Here we clearly see the pastor’s task and the key to growth. You can trust that I will hold to this.

Second, I will be patient. Undoubtedly there will be change, for with new leadership there always is. There must be. However, it will not be change simply for the sake of change. It will be Holy Spirit guided change. Change that will lead us to the accomplishment of all that God will set before us. Change that comes as a result of us growing together in the will and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. But this will not happen overnight. It cannot, nor can it be forced. As such, patience will be necessary on my part, as well as yours. Here again, I point us to words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:1-2: “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love*, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (*emphasis added*)

You have my commitment to model and exercise this patience, along with humility, gentleness, and love.

Finally, I will serve you and the broader community with zeal and energy, to the best of my ability by the indwelling power of God’s Holy Spirit. I will give you and Battle Creek everything God/Jesus Christ has put in me. I will hold nothing back. I will not give up on you or the community and prayerfully, you will do the same. Together we will shake the city in an effort to spread the “Good News” to all.

In closing, I am very honored to be your next pastor. My family and I look forward to our arrival and our journey together. Despite what the future may hold we know who holds us. Let this relieve us of any dread and leave us only with joy. To God be the glory for all that He will do in and through us!

In Your Service,

Pastor Lorenzo Small, Sr.

KCC'S CHORAL PROGRAM AREA PRESENTS

2023 Singing in the Spring

Making Our Musical Garden Grow

Dr. Gerald J. Case-Blanchard, director
Nancy D. Brown, accompanist/organist

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 • 3PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 111 CAPITAL AVE. NE., BATTLE CREEK

FEATURED ENSEMBLES
KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHORAL UNION, DR. GERALD CASE-BLANCHARD, CONDUCTOR
KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONCERT BAND, MR. CHRISTOPHER MOMCILOVICH, CONDUCTOR
THE BRANCH COUNTY COMMUNITY CHORUS, DR. GERALD J. CASE-BLANCHARD, CONDUCTOR
KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE, MR. ERIC CAMPBELL, CONDUCTOR
KELLOGG SINGERS, DR. GERALD J. CASE-BLANCHARD, CONDUCTOR

FEATURED FACULTY SOLOISTS
BETTY PICARD, SOPRANO (FACULTY ARTIST)
KATHY CARY, ORGANIST (RETIRED MUSIC FACULTY ARTIST)

FEATURED STUDENT HONORS SOLOISTS
ZACHARY FRANKLIN, PIANIST
CHIFUMI TSUKAGOSHI, SAXOPHONIST

FINALE COMPOSITION
O CLAP YOUR HANDS BY RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS FEATURING THE 4,500 PIPES OF THE DOBSON ORGAN AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, THE KCC CHORAL UNION AND THE KCC CONCERT BAND.



kellogg.edu/music




Be an April Fool

English essayist and poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834) once joked, "Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools than ever."

April fools' day is best known as a day for practical jokes, but it can be used in more beneficial ways. It can be a day of faith and fun—a day to thank God for the joyous times of life, for the days of laughter, for funny stories, for the antics of children and for other things that bring smiles to our faces.

There is opportunity for laughter every day. Laugh! Laugh heartily and often. You will find healing in mirth and levity. And remember, "He who sits in the heavens laughs . . ." (Psalms 2:4 NRSV).

Special Events This Month

PALM SUNDAY & FAREWELL to PASTOR WICKS: Following our Palm Sunday (April 2) worship, we will be hosting a Farewell Reception to express our appreciation to Pastor Wicks for his dedicated service to us as our transition pastor. There will be a place for cards if you wish to bring one. His final day with us will be Good Friday.

EASTER BREAKFAST: You are invited to gather at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and time of fellowship and to spend some time with Pastor Small and his family before our Easter service.

EASTER SUNDAY: Easter 2023 will be a special Sunday in many ways! First, and foremost, we will celebrate the risen Christ and the new life He offers. Our new pastor, the Reverend Lorenzo Small, will begin his time with us during worship. His family (wife, Alexis, their three sons, Antray, Lorenzo Jr. and Alexander) as well as some extended family will be joining us that day. We will have a time to welcome them at the front of the sanctuary at the conclusion of our 10:00 a.m. service.

Deacons' Corner

This 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.

 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help build strong communities. We set aside Palm Sunday (April 2) as the day we dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing Gifts.



April Birthdays

Lisa Brown	April 2
Sue Healy	April 4
Nancy Chapman	April 5
Marie Davy	April 9
Christy Johnkoski	April 11
Katie Graham	April 12
Pat Gault	April 12
Steve Case-Blanchard	April 13
Bob Bullard	April 14
Hannah Feathers	April 15
Sy Turpin	April 16
Tina Johnson	April 16
Cheryl Luts	April 17
Cathy Lucas	April 19
Keegan Aimesbury	April 23
Barbara Bulko	April 28
David Brown	April 29





PW Recognition

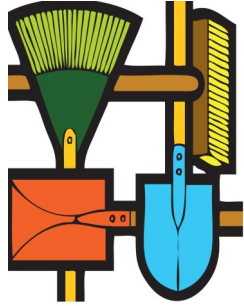
On Sunday, April 30, our Presbyterian Women's annual Recognition ceremony will be part of the worship service.



The Mission Ministry Team will be **collecting paper products** for the Second Mile Center during the month of April. Ruth Azar, director and pastor of the Second Mile Center will be our Mission Sunday speaker on April 30, 2023. Some of the children from the Second Mile Center will be with her and participating during worship.

The items needed are: toilet paper, paper towels, Styrofoam cups, napkins, divided paper plates, plastic silverware, Kleenex, individual hotdog holders, gallon size baggies, and quart size baggies. Bring your items to the Mission Corner in the parlor.

Thank you!



Roll up Your Sleeves!

April 22nd is Earth Day and it is also the Retreat Center Spring Clean Up. Work will get started about 9:00 am and go until we are done. We will be cleaning up the

leaves, trash, cleaning and planting the gardens and trimming some of the trees. There is also work to be done inside the building too Lunch and snacks will be provided. Please bring work gloves. If you have a leaf blower and/or chain saw feel free to bring those too. "Many hands make light work"



Just a reminder that we have a nice supply of Prayer Shawls and Walker Totes that are available to give to relatives, friends, neighbors or ??? The Prayer Shawls are in the main hall across from the Chapel. Contact Kathy Baker for the Walk Totes. Sew N Sew members are pleased to share these items with you or those you know.



A New Spring

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves. Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

Jane Truax



Dear First Pres,

Thank you for your love and warmth during our recent visit. We look forward to our journey together!

In Christ, Rev. & Mrs. Small

Dear Church Family,

So very nice to receive the pretty floral arrangement and visit from Bruce Medaugh on behalf of our congregation following my surgery. How uplifting it was to feel all the prayers of support to challenge me forward in the recovery process. — Diana Cole

Roses to Steve & Chris Owel, Mary Ann & George Price, Marla Colburn, Julie Chapman and Jean Parker for their assistance with the Early Childhood Connection/ Parent Coalition Meal.



Session Notes

Carl McCune,
Clerk of Session

A motion prevailed to allow the **PNC** and our new minister, the Reverend Lorenzo Small, to create a **Pastor Support Committee** made up of four members of the PNC and two members from the congregation.

A motion prevailed to put the **Ministry Advisory Council** on hiatus until such time as Reverend Small or Session reactivates it.

Pastor Small will advise us on the timing for his Installation Service which will be coordinated with the **Presbytery Commission on Ministry (COM)**.

A motion from the **Property Committee** prevailed to accept the bid from Power Engineering & Supply of Mattawan, MI (with great thanks to a donor who will cover the cost of \$4,345) to:

- Install an Automatic Chemical Feed System for the boiler.

Equip the boiler system with a remote bulb thermostat.

A motion prevailed to resolve that:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek Michigan gives thanks to the Reverend Mike Wicks for his time as moderator of Session and leadership of the congregation during his Transitional Ministry, for his guidance coping with the public health emergency of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and for his service to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, Michigan with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Our church will host the Community Good Friday Service at noon on April 7. Carl McCune and Bette Miller will greet at the entrances and Bob Bullard will coordinate an usher team. It was decided not to offer a meal this year, which has also not been offered the last few years.

[Financial reports through February were made available. Loren Rex reviewed the reports which showed that February YTD revenue trailed YTD expenses by \\$643. There were \\$7,352 of unforeseen maintenance expenses in February.](#)

Jean Parker reported that Mission Sunday will be April 30 with representatives from the Second Mile Center of Detroit being our guests for the weekend.

Membership Update We are saddened by the death of William Hammons on February 24, 2023. Current Active Membership is 218.

The next meeting of Session will be a joint meeting with the Deacons on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. After the joint meeting the boards will meet separately.

First Pres Calendar



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Palm Sunday Worship 10A (Communion) Pastor Mike Reception 11A	3 Basket Pick Up 9A Nominating Team 12P Property Com. 7P Retreat Ctr. 5:30P Maundy Thurs. Reh. 6P	4 Prayer 8:30A Exercise 10A	5	6 Maundy Thursday Worship 6P	7 Good Friday Community Worship 12P	8
9 Easter Sunday Worship 10A Pastor Small Welcome 11A	10 Session/Deacons 6:30P	11 Prayer 8:30A Exercise 10A Lydia/Miriam Cir. 1P	12	13 Sew N Sews 9:30A Elizabeth Circle 10A	14	15
16 Worship 10A	17 Cabinet 6P Worship Team 7P Discipleship 7P	18 Prayer 8:30A Exercise Com. 10A	19	20 Men's Fellowship 7P	21	22 Retreat Ctr. Cleanup 9A
23/30 Worship 10A 23: KCC Concert 3P 30th: Mission Sunday	24 Connection Team 7P	25 Prayer 8:30A Exercise 10A	26	27 SewNSews 9:30A	28	29

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Palm Sunday

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication

Farewell reception for Pastor Mike

Maundy Thursday

Service with Communion @ 6:00 p.m.

FPC Players present

"Maundy Thursday in the Kitchen"

Good Friday

Hosting Community Service @ 12:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Pastor Small!