

# The Carillon

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





Rev. L. R. Small, Sr.

## *The Pastor's Page*



### “A More Excellent Way”

The great promise of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that God has done for us what we could not and cannot do for ourselves. God remedies our sin problem, and he has done so through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus. This great promise, that God makes all things right for the one who places his/her belief in his Son, is what separates the Christian faith from all other religion. At the same time this great promise creates a stumbling block for many because it relieves human beings of their own effort. See, we relish getting the credit. Paul certainly understood this and pens the following from **Ephesians 2:8-9**:

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

Every aspect of this promise is God’s work, including the believing part. Religion, at its core, relies on the one practicing the religion to make things right by one’s own efforts rather than trusting in the god of that religion to do so. The Christian faith, unapologetically, claims that one is made right with God by belief in what God has done thru his Son, Jesus. I see this juxtaposition play out very clearly in the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3. Nicodemus was perplexed by Jesus’ statement of what was required for entrance into the Kingdom of God. “You must be born again.” He questioned how such a feat could be accomplished by anyone and I quote, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”, “How can these things be?”, end quote. I am convinced that Christianity is a stumbling block for so many because its primary focus is belief, not works. Certainly, Christianity does not free us from taking very seriously what we do and how we live, but it does not start or end there. Hear Paul again in **Ephesians 1:13-14**:

*“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”*

Yes, what we believe has ultimate bearing upon what we do and how we live, but belief in what God has done for us through the giving of his Son, Jesus, is what makes us right with God. All else flows from here. Church, this is a more excellent way! So, believe it, trust it, embrace it!



## MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE FALL CAMPAIGN & DOUBLE MATCH DAY

The Meijer **Simply Give** fall campaign is now underway at both Battle Creek Meijer stores through the month of September.

Meijer shoppers are encouraged to purchase a \$10 **Simply Give** donation card at checkout. 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.

Cards purchased at Beckley Road Meijer benefit the local Neighborhood Food Pantry Ministries, which includes the Franklin Food Pantry, one of our mission partners.

Cards purchased at Meijer Columbia benefit the Battle Creek Salvation Army, another mission partner where a crew of First Pres members prepares and serves lunch every month.

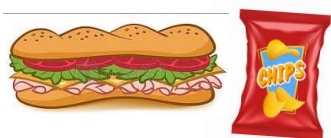
**ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**, Meijer will double match each \$10 card purchased in these two stores, resulting in \$30 going to the designated agency.

Online customers using Meijer pickup or home delivery can also purchase **Simply Give** donation cards on their orders, which will also be double matched on **SEPTEMBER 9**. This means your \$10 donation becomes \$30.

If you are a regular Meijer shopper, you can add a \$10 **Simply Give** card to your order any day during the campaign. But we especially encourage you to **"SIMPLY GIVE"** on **SEPTEMBER 9** to take advantage of the double match.

If you are not a Meijer shopper or are unable to shop on Double Match Saturday, the Mission Ministry Team will be happy to collect your donation dollars & shop both stores on these days to buy the cards. There is a sign up sheet posted in the hall across from the chapel. Or contact Sue Keitel at (269) 964-1043 for information or to coordinate your donation.

Thanks for helping feed those in our community facing food insecurity because no one should have to go to bed hungry.



## AFTER CHURCH Fun! Fellowship! Fun!

First Pres is offering an exciting new event the third Sunday of each month **AFTER CHURCH** in Fellowship Hall. Fill out the card you'll find in the pews with your name, the number in your party, and your choice of sandwich(es). Our selections will be gluten free, vegetarian, and meat. The cost is \$10 per person and \$25 per family. Beverages will be provided. Just fill out the card and drop it into the offering plate by the second Sunday of each month. Payment is due upon your arrival for lunch. Come join us on September 17 **AFTER CHURCH**. Direct any questions to Nancy Chapman, Helga Carpenter or Marie Davy.



Dr. Small & Congregation,

Thank you for inviting us to share with you all communion, prayer, fellowship and light meal on Sunday, August 6, at the Retreat Center.

For us it was a very spiritual uplifting experience—being welcomed by new and old friends sharing the love of God.

When I was young I thought rain was God’s way of showing either his caring or disappointment with us.

I believe that Sunday’s rain was God’s way of showing his Joy and Blessing.

May the blessings and love of God be with you all. May God’s love continue to shine with you and in you.

David & Shirley Burlingame  
Westlake Presbyterian

**Many Thanks** to our congregation for the volunteers, participants and amazing donations for our Heart in the City Health and Fun Fair. You made it happen and what a wonderful blessing for our community!

### √ Shutterbugs Wanted

Photographers are needed to capture the action at Firs Pres’ many special events. Just snap some pics and e mail them to [firstpresbattlecreek@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbattlecreek@gmail.com).

## September Birthdays



Sue Hutson	September 1
Colleen Burke	September 3
Shirley Sajtar	September 3
Kiran Bilanow	September 5
Arlene Moore	September 10
Kinzy Turpin	September 11
Kayla Aimesbury	September 18
Rebecca Burns	September 18
Nancy Bodiford	September 20
Ed Scheinfeldt	September 20
Alex LaFleur	September 21
Marc Peevers	September 21
Gerald Case-Blanchard	September 22
Brian Trainor	September 23
Cecil Young	September 23
Kathy Baker	September 26
George Price	September 27

### Woodworker/ Carpenter Needed



Do you like to work with wood? We are looking for someone to design and build a frame for a large piece of artwork that will be put up in the Youth Center. Please see Doug McCune for more info



Sew 'n Sews  
Etc.

### Could You, Would You Join Us???

Sew 'n Sews is open to First Presbyterian women and friends who have a desire to be involved in a truly 'hands on' ministry. Named Sew-n-Sews etc – **Sew N Sews** covers the quilts (baby & lap) along with extremely practical walker totes. The **etc** is for those who **knit or crochet** and would like to make **baby caps** and/or **Prayer Shawls**; **non-sewers** can help in matching and cutting fabric for projects, along with sandwiching & tying quilts; **sewers** are needed to stitch walker totes and prepare the baby and lap quilt tops for finishing. **Sew-n-Sews to Go (SnS2Go)** is available for those who can't join us on Thursdays but would like to be involved with this ministry. Donations of material and/or money are always appreciated. We welcome and are open to new ideas and places that might have a need we can meet.

You'll find this group meeting in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 -1:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays starting September 14th going thru May 9th. You are welcome to come on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday as often as your schedule allows. At the end of our work session (11:45ish), many bring their own lunch and then share a wonderful dessert provided by a member.

Questions - Kathy Baker (964-6642) or Sharon Weaver (963-5634)

Coordinators

#### **We Sew For**

**Church** – College Freshman, Friends Members, Grand & Great Grand babies

**Local Agencies** - Alternatives, Evergreen Senior Care & Rehab, Fresenius Kidney Dialysis Centers, Grace Health, Nurse Family Partnership and Senior Care Partners/P.A.C.E.

**In State Agency** – CS Mott Children's Hospital/ Ann Arbor



A HUGE note of thanks to this awesome group from First Pres who helped with the St Thomas Breakfast program the week of August 13 - 18: Paul Yettaw, who was

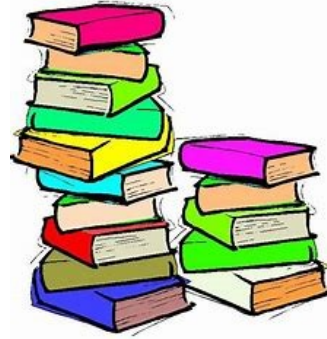
Kitchen Manager for the week, and daily volunteers Carl McCune, Denise Rust, Finley McRae, Joy Miller, Judy Yettaw, Kathy Baker, Linda Holden, Mary Lusk, Nan Spindler, Pastor Small, Randy May, Sue Hutson and her granddaughters Brooklyn, Evelyn & Lucy, Sue Keitel, Arden & Ruth Hetletvedt, Chris & Steve Owel, Dave Buresh & Jan O'Brien, and Jim & Karen Rich. The kindness they showed to those who came for a hot meal was a blessing to all involved. The last time we helped for a week in the summer was prior to the COVID outbreak - so being able to help in this community outreach last month has special significance. Unfortunately, St Thomas will be taking a break from offering breakfasts on Saturdays and next summer. The SHARE Center has agreed to pick up the task of preparing and serving breakfast along with the other meals they provide. St Thomas is in the process of looking for a replacement for Father Brian Coleman and will use this time to evaluate the breakfast program. We have been blessed to have been involved in their Breakfast Ministry - truly offering many cups of cold water to those who need hope and words of encouragement.

### The Bottom Shelf

I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other and that the taller we grew in Christian character, the more easily we could reach them. I find now that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other and that it is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower, and that we have to go down, always down, to get his best gifts.

F. B. Meyer





**The Church Library** has a wide variety of books available. Check out the selections in the Parlor and in the second floor Library.

It is hard to grasp the concept of food insecurity faced by people in Battle Creek, when so many of us have relatively easy access to food - with transportation we can go to any number of food stores; we can get water with the turn of a handle and we can choose to skip a meal if we want. Then, if we think globally, we hear of those with NO access to water, drought that affects food availability for people and animals; weather that causes havoc with daily living. Our ability to choose to walk for others is a testament to our desire to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

With fingers crossed and prayers being raised again this year -the 2023 Battle Creek Hunger Walk is happening on Sunday, September 24 in our lovely Leila Arboretum. **8 local churches** will gather and walk with the goal of raising money that will help fight hunger challenges around the world. Additionally, 25% of the total money raised will be donated to 3 local programs – Urbandale SDA Food Pantry/Salvation Army Meals, SHARE Center and Second Missionary Baptist’s New Vision Outreach Ministry.

Walk Registration will start at 2:30 with the Walk beginning at 3:00

How can you help?

•Donate on-line at [www.crophungerwalk.org/battlecreekmi](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/battlecreekmi) - (look for the First Pres Team)

\*Donate to a First Pres Walker (Finley McCrae, Mary Burg, Mary Lusk, Kathy Baker, Steve Case-Blanchard •**Checks are encouraged - make PAYABLE to CWS/CROP** •Donation deadline is October 6. 2023

•Pray for all who are helping to make a difference in hunger programs at the local and international level.

Questions/Additional Information – Kathy Baker/964-6642.



**Share the Warmth** by donating clean (new or used) twin or full sized blankets for the homeless and veterans. The Mission Ministry Team is collecting them in the Mission Corner of the Parlor all this month.

**Prayer Shawls and Walker Totes** - ready to be shared with others.



Now that we are returning to cooler temperatures, we have a lovely selection of **Prayer Shawls** that are available for you to give to another church member, a co-worker, friend or neighbor. Prayer shawls can be of great comfort to someone needing an extra hug. You will find them in gift bags on the top shelf of a bookcase in the main hallway. Please indicate on the sheet who will be receiving the shawl.

**Walker totes** will fit over the main bar of a walker - they have a large pocket and two half pockets – great for carrying a book, wallet, cell phone, snacks, Kleenex, etc. Contact Kathy Baker to see the current choices.

# First Pres Calendar



# September 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 10A	4 Office closed 	5 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A Retreat Ctr. Com. 5:30P	6	7 Bells 4:30P	8	9
10 Worship 10A	11  Deacons 6:30P Session 7P	12 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A Sarah Cir. 1P Property Com. 4:30P	13	14 Elizabeth Cir. 10A Bells 4:30P	15	16
17 Worship 10A "After Church" 11:15A	18 Cabinet 6P Discipleship 7P Worship Com. 7P	19 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	20	21 Bells 4:30P	22	23
24 Worship 10A	25 Men's Fellowship 7P Connection Team 7P	26 Prayer Zoom 8:30A Exercise 10A	27	28 Bells 4:30P	29	30 Pilgrimage Team 8A

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Battle Creek, MI 49017

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