

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church
of Coldwater, MI is to:

- † Glorify God by bringing others into Communion with Him,
- † Nurture the spiritual, emotional, physical
and social needs of its congregation,
- † Encourage faithful stewardship of the God given gifts of time,
talent, and substance, and
- † Be sensitive to the needs of our greater community.



Sunday Schedule:

11:00 am Worship Service
Coffee & Fellowship Hour
follows the service

Sunday School Schedule:

9:30 am. Adult Sunday School
Everyone is welcome



DECEMBER LITURGISTS

12-7 ~ Tarina M.
12-14 ~ Beth M.
12-21 ~ Linda S.
12-24 ~ Pasor Susan
12-28 ~ ?

DECEMBER COUNTERS

Julie L.
Tarina M.
Velma C.

JANUARY LITURGISTS

1-4 ~ ?
1-11 ~ ?
1-18 ~ ?
1-25 ~ ?

JANUARY COUNTERS

Dennis F.
Pete M.
Carol L.

DEACONS IN CHARGE SCHEDULE

2025

December - All Deacons

2026

January - Stacey
February - Mary
March - Stacey
April - Chris & All Deacons
May - Bob M

Thank you to all who give their time
and hearts in service to our church.

thank you



FROM PASTOR SUSAN'S DESK

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church of Coldwater, MI,



December greetings to each of you with wishes for Gods' blessings to abound to you! This is the season that shores up our faith in a good God. This is when it all began for us, even though we know that the world began before Jesus was born as a boy. Still, God sought us and found us in that tiny child. God bought our redemption with the blood of that righteous man named Jesus. God restored our relationship with God through the resurrection of Jesus who was sinless but died so that we can have eternal life. All we have to do is believe. And that's what this message is about today. Believing. Some days believing easier han others. Some days we see the sparkles of the new snow and KNOW that God is caring for us. But, some days it seems the world is dark and we ask "is there no peace? " That is precisely when we need to trust God for our welfare and the welfare of the world. God has set all things in motion and it's outlined in His book. We do not have to fear, only be ready. Be ready, because Christ is coming again to each of us. Glory Hallelujah!!

Merry Christmas to all but more importantly, deep faith to sustain you,
with Love,

Pastor Susan



SPIRITUAL MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SUSAN

Receive the wonders of Christmas as a little child receives the wonders of Santa!

God is always with us and never forsakes us.

All of us are loved by God.

Nothing you can do can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus!

The God/Man came to live with us to show us how to be truly human, through justice, kindness and love for one another.

All of us have the opportunity and responsibility to be Jesus to someone else.

Ponder the Christmas story in its entirety this holy season and let it fill you with warmth, confidence and awe.

Treasure each other.

Make the stranger welcome this holiday, as Mary and Joseph longed to be welcomed.

Treasure the gifts God gives us: Gifts of faith, family, love, relationships, friends, church, companions, beauty, seasons, and struggles.

And finally, live into the person God created you to be, for the world's sake!!

~DEACON & SESSION INFORMATION~

DECEMBER DEACON IN CHARGE

ALL Deacons

JANUARY DEACON IN CHARGE

Stacey H.

Communion Date

Dec. 7th & 24th

~Deacon Board Members~

Bob Montgomery 517-278-5028
Hope Woods 269-275-9277
Stacey Hullinger 517-677-0074
Chris Doll 517-278-5259
Jackie Werkman 734-358-3250
Mary Daniels 517-278-7023

MEETINGS:

- ~ Next Deacon Meeting December 7th following the worship service, during Communion clean up.
- ~ Next Session Meeting December 11th at 6:00 pm

~Session Board Members~

Moderator Rev. Susan Reichenberg
567-242-8722
Clerk of Session Peter Metters
313-244-1570
Treasurer Paul Hershberger
903-767-3332

~Session Board Members~

Paul Hershberger 903-767-3332
Linda Stewart 517-617-1399
Jan Breckenridge 517-317-2554
Bruce Gregory 517-278-6502
Peter Metters 313-244-1570
Carol Ludlow 517-279-9407
Beth Montgomery 517-278-5028



Love. Grow. Serve.



- †Virginia, Bob M's sister.
- †Anja McPherson, age 11, as she begins chemotherapy on 12/1 to prepare for a bone marrow transplant on 12/10.
- † Jackie Werkman
- † Rita Snyder -† Children of Nancy Corwin
 - Tina Smith - awaiting several surgical procedures in the near future
 - Tammy Corwin - dealing with great pain from fibromyalgia
 - Danny Corwin - stage 4 liver cancer
- † Brian Reichenberg - multiple heart issues, surgeries, pneumonia
- † Stacey Hullinger, her grandma passed away
- † Jan Breckenridge, recovering from shoulder surgery
- † Joy Reichenberg, Stage 4 liver & colon cancer(10-16-24)
- † Everyone affected by the tornadoes, floods, fires, hurricanes and earthquakes***
- † The Middle East, Palestine, Israel, and Gaza.

- Notes of Gratitude, From Our Church Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely prayer shawl. The variegated blue yarn looks so nice and I think of all of you when I see it.

Upon the loss of my brother Andrew, my sister Julie and I remain from our immediate family, and also a dear niece and nephew. I know that we all experience loss and that we do not know the length of our days, and that is right and good. Yet at this time it is especially good to know that your love and support are with me in my walk of life. Fred and I are both pleased that I am among such good and kind people of God.

*Many thanks,
Chrisann*

11-~
PRÄISE

† Grateful Hearts, Generous Hands

11-9~

† Our church family

11-16~

† The beautiful fall weather

11-23~

† Thank you to everyone who gives their time and energy to help—your efforts make a real difference, and we're grateful for all you do.

11-30

† 1st Sunday of Advent begins our preparation to receive the Christ child again.



F.P.C. PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women - December 2025

We are well into the holiday season. Our Christmas Tea is December 6, 2025. We have decorated the fellowship hall for the season. We have women from 10 churches celebrating the start of the Christmas season. The women of First Presbyterian Church participate in setting up, making items for the Boutique, bringing treats, bringing guests, and cleaning up. It is a special gathering for everyone.

We continue to serve the church in any way we can. Sarah Circle sent 2 goodie boxes to our college students to help them study for exams. The students enjoy the boxes. We enjoy putting them together.

Both circles are continuing to participate in Bible study.

We also make weekly and monthly gifts of paper products for the Shelter house. We support ReRe, who lives in India. We post pictures on our bulletin board by the entrance door.

We collected \$1,200.00 for the Food Pantry for cake mixes. Thank you all for your donations to help with this project.

There are many activities going on in December. Check your newsletter and weekly bulletins.

As we go forward into December, we wish you and yours the very best of Christmas. May you spend this wonderful season with family and friends. We sometimes get so busy during this season that we overextend ourselves. Stay focused on the reason for the season. Take care of yourselves so you can be an active participant in this wonderful season.

Jan Corey, Chris Doll, Carol Ludlow, Beth Montgomery, Sue Paarlberg, and Linda Stewart

~F.P.C. OUTREACH REPORT~

Diaper Pantry Work Schedule for December

- *12-4 ~ Beth & Rita
- *12-11 ~ Jan C & Sue P
- *12-18 ~ Lois & Dean
- *12-25 ~ Closed

Diaper Pantry Volunteers: We appreciate you so much and we have a favor to ask... During the time between clients, if possible, please restock diapers, wipes, and bags. Thank you!

Thank you

~The Diaper Pantry continues to serve our community in need. In 2025, we have handed out **1635** packages!!! Included in that is one week's worth of diapers and wipes. If we have the supplies of lotion, shampoo and baby wash and there is a request, these items are included. We welcome new volunteers, if you would like to volunteer in this outreach please talk to Beth Montgomery or call the church office.

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## Branch County Food Pantry

**681** pounds of food have been collected this year for the Food Pantry!! Thank you so much for your donations!

-Food Pantry Items needed for **December:**  
Toothpaste and toothbrushes, soaps- shampoo, body soap, laundry detergent, dish soap, feminine personal items. In addition, we are often looking for larger quantities of peanut butter, baked beans, one dish meals like spaghetti-o's.

Clients are always thrilled to receive household items that they may not be able to purchase on their own.

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A Note from the Office

We love to hear from you! How can we pray for you this month? How can we celebrate the Lord's blessings in your lives?!

Free Medical Clinic

The clinic hours are: Thursdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Thank you so much for the immeasurably valuable work you have done for our community for the past 20 years, serving 38,419 (2002-2024) To all the volunteers who have supported the clinic for 20 years, Thank you! If you have questions about the clinic you can call the church office during church office hours or the clinic during clinic hours at 517-278-6068.



12/12 - Gary Male
12/20 - Peter Rufenacht
12/22 - Randy Zorn
12/23 - Chris Doll



Dean & Lois Williams

Advent Prayers for December *Walking together in faith this season*

Week 1 – Hope

Isaiah 9:2 — “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.”

Prayer: Lord, shine Your light into our waiting hearts. Fill us with hope in Your promises. Amen.

Week 2 – Peace

John 14:27 — “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”

Prayer: Prince of Peace, calm our fears and make us instruments of Your peace. Amen.

Week 3 – Joy

Philippians 4:4 — “Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Prayer: God of Joy, let gladness overflow in us, bearing witness to Your goodness. Amen.

Week 4 – Love

1 John 4:9 — “God sent His one and only Son...that we might live through Him.”

Prayer: Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus. Teach us to love as You have loved us. Amen.

Closing Blessing

May these prayers guide us through Advent and prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.

EASY 30-MINUTE RECIPES

www.ToSimplyInspire.com



GROUND BEEF STROGANOFF

- 12 ounces wide egg noodles cooked
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion diced
- 12 ounce mushrooms baby bella, 4-5 cloves garlic
- 3 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 2 cups beef broth low sodium, divided
- 1.05 ounces cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper



MEXICAN BEEF & RICE SKILLET

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion
- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 yellow bell pepper
- 3 garlic cloves
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 ½ tablespoon taco seasoning
- 2 Roma tomatoes
- 10 ounces canned corn
- ¼ cup white rice uncooked
- 2 cups beef broth
- 15 ounces black beans
- 1 ½ cups Mexican style shredded cheese



LEMON PARMESAN CHICKEN

- 1 ½ pounds chicken breasts
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 large eggs
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- For Lemon Garlic Sauce:
 - 4 tablespoons butter
 - 4 garlic cloves
 - ¼ cup lemon juice
 - ½ cup chicken broth



BUTTER STEAK BITES & HERBED POTATOES

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound Yukon Gold or Red Potatoes potatoes
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 ½ pounds sirloin steak



SHRIMP SCAMPI

- 1 pound linguine, spaghetti or angel hair
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound medium shrimp
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 4 cloves garlic
- ½ cup white wine
- Juice of one lemon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional



RASTA PASTA WITH CHICKEN

- 1.5 pounds chicken breasts
- 3 tablespoons jerk seasoning
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 large onion
- 1 large red bell pepper
- 1 large green bell pepper
- 3-5 cloves garlic
- 1 ½ cups chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 ½ cups Monterey Jack cheese
- 16 ounces penne pasta, dry
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional





Why the Poinsettia?

*The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.
The poinsettia should be called the plant of HOPE!*

Each year, the Poinsettias in our sanctuary are a beautiful tribute to those we honor, whether as a memorial, or an opportunity to say “we love you” to our family and friends.

These beautiful poinsettias are purchased through Neitzert’s Greenhouse and the cost of each poinsettia is \$15.00

Please return order form (to the office by Tues. December 16th and make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church.

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Celebrate the season by sharing beauty and blessing. Poinsettias may be taken home or left for distribution to those in our church family who are more restricted. Deacons will lovingly deliver these gifts.

Your Name: _____

I would like to:

- Take my poinsettia home
- Leave my poinsettia to be distributed

In honor or memory of (optional): For each name, please check one:

Name: _____ In Honor In Memory

Payment: Cash \$ _____ Check # _____

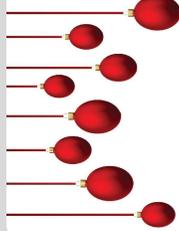
Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Christmas Day



CANDY, CANE, CAROLING, CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER, HOLLY, LIGHTS, MERRY, MISTLETOE,
NORTH, POLE, PEACE, PRESENTS, REINDEER, SANTA CLAUS, SLEIGH, SNOWMAN, STAR,
STOCKING, SUGARPLUM, TREE, WREATH.

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>1 10 am - Basket Workshop in the small dining room.</p>	<p>2 Prayer - Noon</p>	<p>3 10:30 - 12 Book Club</p>	<p>4 Prayer - Noon 4 - 6pm DP & Clinic</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Christmas Tea 1:30 pm </p>	
<p>7 Holy Communion Deacon Meeting 3 pm - Christmas Choral - St Marks.</p>	<p>8 Deborah Circle 10 am</p>	<p>9 Prayer - Noon Sarah Circle-3 pm Clinic Board Meeting 4 pm</p>	<p>10 10:30 - 12 Book Club</p>	<p>11 Prayer - Noon 4 - 6pm DP & Clinic Session - 6 pm</p>	<p>12 </p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 2 pm- "We The People" Beech House Community Center</p>	<p>15 Prayer - Noon  Poinsettia orders due</p>	<p>16 Prayer - Noon Your paragraph text 10:30 - 12 Book Club</p>	<p>18 Prayer - Noon 4 - 6pm DP & Clinic</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 </p>
<p>28 2 Cents a meal offering Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>22 Prayer - Noon Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>23 Prayer - Noon 7pm Worship Service Holy Communion Christmas Joy Offering</p>	<p>24 Merry Christmas Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>25 Office closed Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>26 </p>	<p>27 Pastor Susan away</p>
<p>29 Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>30 Prayer - Noon Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>31 <i>Cheers to a New Year</i> Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>Office closed Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>Office closed Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>Office closed Pastor Susan away</p>	<p>Office closed Pastor Susan away</p>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
52 MARSHALL STREET
COLDWATER, MI 49036

December 2025 NEWSLETTER



Come Join Us On Sunday

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
11:00 am ~Worship Service
12:00 pm Coffee and Fellowship

Handicapped accessible building

Meet our Church Staff

PASTOR, *Rev. Susan Reichenberg*
ADULT BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR, *Rita Snyder*
ACCOMPANIST, *Chrisann Lowe*
ADM. ASSIST. *Sharon Richardson*

First Presbyterian Church 52 Marshall Street, Coldwater, MI 49036

Phone: 517-278-6068

Church & Administrative Assistant E-mail Address: ColdwaterFPC@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.firstprescoldwater.org>

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