

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



Finance Committee Report ~\$\$\$\$
****Monthly Needs for 2024 budget**
 Needed Monthly to meet budget: \$12,772.00
 Needed weekly to meet budget \$3,193.00
 Annual Per Capita: payment \$3,680.00

****FINANCIAL REPORT FROM : ****

DECEMBER 2024 INCOME AND EXPENSES

PAYMENTS AND PAYROLL: \$18,114.97

INCOME AND DONATIONS: \$8,841.00

12-1~\$2262
 12-8~\$1615
 12-15~\$1104
 12-22~\$1333
 12-24~\$787
 12-29~\$1740

A Note from the Treasurer
 Please be in prayer about financial giving... Offerings seem to be on the decline, we have not been receiving enough tithes to cover basic expenses. Thank you.

JANUARY LITURGISTS
 1-5~ Linda Stewart
 1-12~ Chris Doll
 1-19~ Beth Montgomery
 1-26~ Tarina Macklem

JANUARY COUNTERS
 Bob Stewart
 Beth Montgomery
 Jan Breckenridge

FEBRUARY LITURGISTS
 2-2- Pete Metters
 2-9- Tarina Macklem
 2-16-Bob Stewart
 2-23-Lorie Hershberger

FEBRUARY COUNTERS
 Julie Lewis
 Tarina Macklem
 Velma Cole



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church, Coldwater, Michigan;

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The Lord has given each of us another year to trust His promises and experience His love!

How very blessed we are!

Last year was a year of love expressed in various means and methods, among our church family. I feel so extravagantly blessed by each of you that it's hard to express my joy in you. Please know how very special all of you are to me!

This church has done so many marvelous things in the last few years (as well as before) and I truly expect even greater ideas, commitments, missions, generosity and worship in this coming year. You are an extraordinary group of believers and I am truly blessed to share Christ with you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this privilege of serving our Lord with you!!

New Year blessings,

Pastor Susan

Dear Church Family,
Thank you very much in your vote of confidence with a Christmas bonus. Your generosity is a shining light and very much appreciated. Love, Pastor Susan

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SUSAN

John Wurster, pastor of a church in Houston, Texas and a classmate of mine at PTS writes for The Outlook magazine these words which I think matter.

“The church exists because of Jesus Christ. Christ has called the church into being. Christ is the source of its life, its purpose and its mission.

The church is not a sociological project to see how a group of dissimilar people will organize themselves. The church is not a psychological experiment to understand how individuals move towards greater self-awareness when they come together with others each week. The church is not an anthropological study to observe the effect of ritual over a sustained period. The church is about responding to the call of Jesus Christ who has gathered us together. We have no reason to come together except that we’ve been called by Jesus Christ.

We’re not in the church to be a part of a social welfare agency or educational entity. We’re not in the church to collectively make a profit or improve dividend payments to shareholders. We’re not here because people need something to do. We’re here because of Jesus Christ.”

WE are ALL “Called” by Jesus Christ to believe, to share, to give, to sustain, and to nurture others. Jesus calls us to LOVE as He loved—completely, without prejudice. We ARE THE CHURCH on this corner. We have a mission set out by Christ for each of us. Let us live into that mission this year 2025! I pray we are led to do so.

Blessings,

Pastor Susan Reichenberg

~DEACON & SESSION INFORMATION~

JANUARY DEACON IN CHARGE

Lorie Hershberger

JANUARY USHERS

Communion Dates

1-5

MEETINGS:

~ Next Deacon Meeting January 5th following the worship service, during Communion clean up.

~Next Session Meeting January 16th at 6:00 pm

~Deacon Board Members~

Bob Montgomery 517-278-5028

Lorie Hershberger 517-227-9030

Bob Stewart 517-617-0626

Hope Woods 269-275-9277

Stacey Hullinger 517-677-0074

~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

Chris Doll 517-278-5259

Bruce Gregory 517-278-6502

Lisa Renshaw 517-278-8070

Peter Metters 313-244-1570

Carol Ludlow 517-279-9407



Love. Grow. Serve.



- † *Gale Fisher's family*, Jessica's grandpa, as they mourn his passing⁽¹¹⁻¹⁸⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Peace in USA & world*
- † *Megan*, overdosed
- † *Ruby Merkle*, as she mourns the lose of her sister in law and brother. ⁽¹¹⁻⁴⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Jerry Nakoneczny*, infection in knee replacement⁽¹⁰⁻²⁴⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Joy Reichenberg*, Stage 4 liver & colon cancer⁽¹⁰⁻¹⁶⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Mattie*, Brain tumor ⁽¹⁰⁻¹⁶⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Bruce Gregory's family*, as they mourn his sister Virginia Bell ⁽⁹⁻²⁴⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Dorothy*, friend of Pastor Susan⁽⁹⁻²⁴⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Robert*, friend of Kate Simpson⁽⁹⁻²⁴⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Rita Snyder & family*, as they mourn her son Peter's passing. ⁽⁹⁻¹⁰⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Kim Simpson*, as she continues to fight cancer after many rounds of chemo and has begun a new round. ⁽⁸⁻²⁸⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Jeff Glore*, cancer & diabetes⁽⁷⁻⁹⁻²⁴⁾
- † *Ukraine, Israel, Palestine*
- † *Everyone affected by the tornadoes, floods, fires, hurricanes and earthquakes***

** -If you have added anyone to our prayer list, please let us know when they can be removed.***

PRÄISE

12-1~

† 1st Sunday of Advent

12-8~

† A GREAT Tea!!!

12-15

† Diaper Donations

12-22

† This holy season

† Our loved ones and friends across the years

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COLDWATER
STATED MEETING OF SESSION THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Present: Jan Breckinridge, Chris Doll, Bruce Gregory, Paul Hershberger, Pete Metters, Carol Ludlow, Lisa Renshaw and Linda Stewart.

Clerk of Session: Pete Metters

Pastor Susan opened the Meeting at 6:03 p.m. with a prayer.

The Agenda was approved on a motion by Pete Metters, supported by Carol Ludlow.

DEACON'S REPORT: The Deacon in Charge will lock the Church doors after Sunday services. The Deacons are updating their shut-in list. Sue and John Dogan moved to Atlanta and will be removed from the list. Bob Montgomery wants to know more about the new Communion procedures. We need to have a gluten free option.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Minutes of the October 17, 2024 Session Meeting were approved with changes on a motion by Lisa Renshaw, supported by Linda Stewart.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Susan reported on the use of her time. She discussed her approach to Session book study. She will suggest 8 spiritually uplifting book titles for Session to consider.

Karen Maxson's gift of her electric piano to the Church is now in Fellowship Hall. Session discussed removing the old piano. Susan suggested that Chrisann make sure the electric piano is in good working condition before deciding what to do the old piano.

Session discussed making a gift to support the construction of the Mosque as a show of the Church's neighborliness. The Muslim community is having trouble completing the Mosque because of the prohibition on charging or paying interest on loans. Session decided to suggest the Congregation make a Christmas offering to the Mosque or to the Unhoused Persons Fund. Offerings that don't specify which will be divided evenly. Pete Metters made a motion, supported by Chris Doll, to agree to this suggestion. The motion passed.

Susan suggested we keep a short list of must have items in Ziplock based in the Nursery ottoman for needy visitors.

Susan suggested the Church accept St. Mark's Episcopal Church's invitation to join them for an Ecumenical Service for Peace on December 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Several member of the Congregation participated in last year's Service. Chris Doll made a motion, supported by Pete Metters, to accept the invitation. The motion passed.

Jan Breckinridge made a motion, supported by Chris Doll to accept the Pastor's Report. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

September 30, 2024

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN BANK \$31,589.39
MINUS DESIGNATED FUNDS (\$12,114.14)
EQUALS GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$19,475.25
AMORTIZED ANNUAL GIFT BALANCE (\$3,500.00)
CURRENT AMOUNT \$15,975.25

MEMORIAL INTEREST EARNED \$19.64
VANTAGE POINTE MONEY MARKET \$1.16
VANTAGE POINTE MUTUAL FUND (\$8,082.00)
BRINKER CAPITAL (\$4,001.06)
TOTAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS (INCOME/(LOSS) \$10,138.22

The Treasurer's Report was gratefully received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building & Grounds. Otis Elevator submitted a budget of \$175,000, but much of it is for things that are unnecessary.

NEW BUSINESS

The price of this year's Christmas poinsettias will be \$15.00.

Lisa Renshaw discussed the Choir Room. It is cluttered with things like old telephones, projectors and file cabinets. It also has a lot of rodent droppings. Session discussed how to dispose of the items and clean the Choir Room.

OLD BUSINESS

Boundaries Training. In-person boundaries Training will be on 12/11/24 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Someone other than Kim Hemker will do the training. .

CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT: Chris Doll made a motion, supported by Lisa Renshaw, supported by Jan Breckinridge, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. Pastor Susan closed the meeting at 7:25 p.m. with a prayer.

F.P.C. PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We had a very successful Christmas tea!

Our monthly meetings resume in January. Deborah Circle meets at 10am the second Monday. Sarah Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 3pm! Both circles continue with Bible Studies and fellowship!

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

~F.P.C. OUTREACH REPORT~

DIAPER PANTRY WORK SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

1-2~ Closed
1-9~ Beth & Jan C.
1-16~Jan B. & Chris
1-23~ Linda & Bob
1-30~Mary & Sue P.

<p>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!</p>

~The Diaper Pantry continues to serve our community in need. In 2024, we have handed out **1577** 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.

BRANCH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

875 pounds of food were collected this year for the Food Pantry!! Thank you so much for your donations!

-**Food Pantry** Items needed for January are: Any and All cereals

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 37,810 (2002-2023) 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.

Stay safe and healthy!



Birthdays

1/13 Bob Stewart
1/17 Darryl Eichorn
1/20 Julie Zorn
1/23 Cindy Fickle
1/29 Beth Montgomery
1/29 David Best

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY:

1-5~ *Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12*

1-12~ *Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

1-19~ *Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11*

1-26~ *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21*

~RECIPES~



Pomegranate & Pear Salad

Street Corn Casserole



Ingredients

- 3 cups green leaf lettuce, rinsed and torn
- 1 Bartlett or Anjou pear - halved, cored, and cut into slices
- ½ cup pomegranate seeds
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate juice
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon prepared Dijon-style mustard
- ½ tablespoon honey
- ground black pepper to taste

Directions

Step 1

Divide lettuce, pear slices, and pomegranate seeds between two bowls and mix gently.

Step 2

Combine vegetable oil, pomegranate juice, lemon juice, mustard, honey, and pepper in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat and simmer, stirring frequently, until dressing thickens slightly, about 2 minutes. Pour warm dressing over salads and serve.

- 6 ounces cream cheese, cubed
- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup whole milk
- 2 cups corn kernels, frozen, canned or roasted
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly coat a 9 x 13 baking dish with nonstick spray.
- 2 Combine cream cheese, butter and garlic in a medium saucepan over medium high heat. Stir in milk until smooth, about 2 minutes. Stir in corn until well combined, about 2 minutes. Stir in thyme; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
- 3 Spread corn mixture into the prepared baking dish; sprinkle with cheese. Place into oven and bake until bubbly, about 15-17 minutes.
- 4 Serve immediately, garnished with parsley, if desired.

Sweet Potatoe Casserole



Method

1. Preheat oven:

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Butter a 2-quart baking dish and set aside.

2. Cook the sweet potatoes:

Peel the sweet potatoes and cut them into 2-inch chunks. Place the chunks in a large pot and fill it with enough water to cover the potatoes.

Bring everything to boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes, or until the sweet potato chunks can be easily pierced with a fork. Drain the sweet potatoes and let them cool for 5 minutes.

3. Blend the sweet potatoes:

Working in batches, transfer sweet potatoes to a food processor and blend to make a smooth puree.

Makes about 4 cups of puree. (At this point, the puree can be refrigerated for several days until you're ready to make the casserole.)

4. Make the sweet potato filling:

Add the sweet potato puree into a large bowl. Mix in the milk, maple syrup, egg, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, salt, and orange zest.

Pour the sweet potato puree into the prepared baking dish and spread to an even layer.

5. Make the topping:

In a separate bowl, mix the pecans, flour, brown sugar, butter, and cinnamon together for the crumble topping. It should form large floury clumps. Sprinkle crumble over the sweet potatoes.

6. Bake:

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, until the topping is a nice golden brown.

Let the casserole cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Believe It or Not!

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



Y J M N P S M B J D J Y D J S
 C X I T A T F M L H O Y W A X
 W X R K N Y G X P O F O M E D
 X M A D V Y G E A X C O R E H
 R X C C J V D R L X H K V S A
 T L L U V E D A E T N E E D M
 T K E S H E H I R C I N S D S
 O X S C W B A S S L O C Y N T
 G R U O L K N Z E C L R G D N
 E O H D Q Z D B H J I I D E P
 T S I U J J S A S R S P F E Z
 H N T F E K D P I A M I L B D
 E T W U S N K D D U L G E E E
 R S R N U K P S E S L V H N S
 R P T V S V D O U B T I N G B

JESUS
 MIRACLES
 DOORS
 TOUCHED

TOGETHER
 SIGNS
 LIFE
 THOMAS

DOUBTING
 SHOWED
 HANDS
 SIDE

RECORDED
 BELIEVED
 DISCIPLES
 LOCKED

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Office Closed	<i>2</i> First Thursday Prayer	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Holy Communion Deacon Mtg	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 10:30-12 Book Group	<i>9</i> 4-6 D.P. & Clinic	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 10am Deborah Circle	<i>14</i> 3pm Sarah Circle	<i>15</i> 10:30-12 Book Group	<i>16</i> 6pm Session 4-6 D.P. & Clinic	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Pastor Susan Away
<i>19</i> 2 cents a meal offering Pastor Susan Away	<i>20</i> Pastor Susan Away	<i>21</i> Pastor Susan Away	<i>22</i> 10:30-12 Book Group Pastor Susan Away	<i>23</i> 4-6 D.P. & Clinic Pastor Susan Away	<i>24</i> Pastor Susan Away	<i>25</i> Pastor Susan Away
<i>26</i> Pastor Susan Away	<i>27</i> 10am P.W. 10am Family Promise Pastor Susan Away	<i>28</i> Pastor Susan Away	<i>29</i> 10:30-12 Book Group Pastor Susan Away	<i>30</i> 4-6 D.P. & Clinic Pastor Susan Away	<i>31</i> Pastor Susan Away	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
52 MARSHALL STREET
COLDWATER, MI 49036

January 2024 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. *Jessica Schneider*

First Presbyterian Church 52 Marshall Street, Coldwater, MI 49036

Phone: 517-278-6068

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

Rev. Susan Reichenberg (567)242-8722 sreichenberg8227@gmail.com