

**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 2022 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 : \*\***

JANUARY 2023 INCOME AND EXPENSES  
 INCOME AND DONATIONS: \$10,412.97  
 PAYMENTS AND PAYROLL: \$10,691.17

WEEKLY GIVING  
 1/1- \$2745.56  
 1/8- \$1949.66  
 1/15- \$3434.36  
 1/22- \$2283.36

*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.

FEBRUARY LITURGISTS  
 Feb. 5th- Lorie Hershberger  
 Feb. 12th- Bob Stewart  
 Feb. 19th- Lisa Renshaw  
 Feb. 26th- Tarina Macklem

FEBRUARY COUNTERS  
 Julie Lewis  
 Tarina Macklem  
 Linda Parr

MARCH LITURGISTS  
 March 5th- Tarina Macklem  
 March 12th- Pete Metters  
 March 19th- Doris Heinemann  
 March 26th- Julie Lewis

MARCH COUNTERS  
 Dennis Farwell  
 Pete Metters  
 Carol Ludlow

FROM PASTOR SUSAN'S DESK

Dear Friends at Coldwater First Presbyterian Church,  
WOW! It's February already and we just finished Christmas!!  
February brings the beginning of LENT with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22,  
2023. There will be a 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday service at our church.  
I hope you will all chose to come. Ash Wednesday is very meaningful  
in that we remember words from scripture about repenting with ashes  
and sackcloth. We no longer wear sackcloth but we do regularly confess  
our sins weekly to Almighty God. Ash Wednesday is a day to publicly  
identify with Jesus' passion, death and resurrection as we wear our ashes  
all day or evening as the schedule permits. The ashes are procured from  
the previous years' palms from Palm Sunday with Jesus' triumphal march  
into Jerusalem on the very week that He is killed.

We Christians take this very seriously.

On the Wednesdays following Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday, at 12 noon to  
1:00 we will serve a soup and bread lunch with a short devotional.  
Please plan to join us for these delicious meals and time together to reflect  
on our own Lenten journeys and Jesus' Lenten journey. This can be the  
most meaningful time of the Christian year for all of us. Please join us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Susan



Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to join me in a “Daniel Fast” for Lent (Feb. 22- April 8). What is a Daniel Fast? I will describe it for you.

The book of Daniel is in the Old Testament and is written by a man of God who, with his people Israel, were exiled to Assyria following the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. They were there 70 years. While there, Daniel gained prominence with the King. Daniel became one of his most trusted advisors (imagine that a slave could gain such reknown.)

This fast is a result of an early encounter with the King when the King insisted that all of his men servers partake of rich foods and wines and gravies. Daniel countered the Kings’ dictate with a suggestion that he and his 5 or so followers be allowed OUT of the Kings royal feasts and be allowed to eat their less sumptuous meals of fruit, vegetables, beans, grains. Daniel suggested a kind of a test--whether at the end of a certain period of time the Kings’ men were stronger or Daniel and his men were stronger following these two very different diets. Naturally you’ve already reached the correct conclusion--Daniels men were far more fit and healthy with a spartan diet. Consequently the King allowed Daniel and others to continue to eat as they had learned in Israel for healthier lives.

Below is the essence of the Daniel Fast--I have been doing this for years at lent and find it very rewarding.

Allowed:

fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes and whole grains.  
water or natural fruit juice.

NOT allowed:

no sweetners, breads, meat, eggs or dairy products. No caffeine.

Please let me know if you decide to try this diet with me.

Blessings to you during this holy season,  
Pastor Susan

# Your Deacon and Session Information

## DEACON IN CHARGE

February: Cheryl Metters  
March: Lorie Hershberger

## FEBRUARY USHERS

Pete & Cheryl Metters

## MARCH USHERS

Paul & Lorie Hershberger

## Communion Dates

February 19th & 22nd

## MEETINGS:

~ Next Deacon Meeting February 5th following the worship service.

## Deacon Board Members

Bob Montgomery 517-278-5028  
Sue Paarlberg 517-279-7731  
Lorie Hershberger 517-227-9030  
Cheryl Metters 517-736-4040  
Bob Stewart 517-617-0626

## Session Board Members

Paul Hershberger 903-767-3332  
Velma Cole 517-639-7272  
Linda Stewart 517-617-1399  
Jan Breckenridge 517-317-2554  
Julie Lewis 517-278-2647  
Chris Doll 517-278-5259  
Bruce Gregory 517-278-6502.  
Lisa Renshaw 517-278-8070

## Session Board Members

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

~Next Session Meeting Feb. 16th at 6:00 pm

## LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY:

**Feb. 5th-** *Isiah 58:1-9a; Psalms 112:1-9;  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20*

**Feb. 12th-** *Deuteronomy 30:15-20;  
Psalms 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9;  
Matthew 5:21-37*

**Feb. 19th-** *Exodus 24:12-18; Psalms 2; 2  
Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9*

**Feb. 26th-** *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalms  
32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11*

.HAPPY.  
*Valentine's  
Day*



# Prayers and Praises

## PRAYERS FOR:

- † Stonna Spalding, as she mourns the loss of her husband, Dick
- † Kathy Spalding, as she awaits a bone marrow transplant, a friend's daughter of Bob and Linda Stewart.
- † Nancy Burkeen's family as they grieve her passing, coworker of Dennis Farwell,
- † Quetzaly & Jenny Esteban & Kimberly Oakes, Hope Woods family
- † Dennis Farwell
- † John & Sue Dogan
- † Pastor Susan's healthy quick recovery
- † Darlene Corey's family, Sister in law of Chuck & Jan Corey, as they mourn her passing.
- † Norma Stewart's family, sister in law of Bob & Linda Stewart, as they mourn her passing.
- † Jim Fisher, Jessica Schneider's father
- † Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church Congregates of Fort Meyers Beach, Fl. Sanctuary was destroyed in Hurricane Ian. (Stewart's attend in Spring)
- † Virginia Bell, Bruce Gregory's sister
- † Donald Paarlberg's family and friends as they grieve his passing
- † Carolyn Yoder, Rev. Julie Elemore's mother
- † Monte Reichenberg
- † Cindy Picard, Bob Montgomery's niece.
- † Kim Simpson, cousin of Linda Stewart.
- † Ukraine<sup>1</sup>

## PRAISES FOR:

1/1~

- † New beginnings
- † Longer days & more sunshine
- † God's plan

1/8~

- † Fresh air
- † Sunshine
- † Holidays

1/15~

- † Smiles
- † Our ability to learn and grow
- † Healing

1/22~

- † The power of prayer
  - † All the helping hands of the congregation
  - † Our caregivers
-

# FPC Presbyterian Women

February, 2023

February comes with snow and storms. For the Presbyterian Women, February brings Lent. More to come on Lent and lunches/suppers! Our circles continue to meet. Sarah Circle is continuing to work on What My Grandmothers Taught Me . We wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas Tea and Boutique. We have had some great feedback from people. It would not be possible without dedicated helpers at all stages of the tea. We continue working on prayer shawls. Everyone is encouraged to be a part of this wonderful mission. Thanks for participating in the life of this church!

Jan Corey, Chris Doll, Lorie Hershberger, Beth Montgomery,  
Sue Paarlberg, Linda Stewart

Deborah Circle resumed meeting on January 9th after taking off the month of December. It was reported by our treasurer, Carol Ludlow, that in November, Deborah Circle members personally donated \$335.00, which was equally divided and sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund for victims of Hurricane Ian, and locally, to Family Promise. Our study of Celebrating Sabbath, written by Carol Bechtel, will be led by Ruby Merkle at our February 13th meeting. Coincidentally, Carol Bechtel will be the featured speaker at the annual Lake Michigan Presbytery Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering on April 22 in Holland, MI.

~To My First Presbyterian Church Family~

I'm touched beyond words! Your kindness, understanding and generosity you have given me over the years leaves me humbled and grateful. I cherish my time spent at FPC and will hold all of you in my heart. You are all very special.

Love & Blessings, Cindy

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 our 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 36,261 (2002-2022) 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**

Halie Zartman- Feb. 2nd  
Dennis Farwell- Feb. 3rd  
Mike Renshaw- Feb. 5th

FPC's Outreach Report

**DIAPER PANTRY WORK SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY**

**Feb. 2nd-** Lois & Dean W.

**Feb. 9th-** Jan C. & Jan B.

**Feb. 16th-** Beth & Haley

**Feb. 23rd-** Chris & Sue 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!

The Diaper Pantry continues to serve our community in need. To date for 2023, we have handed out 135 packages, which include 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**

70 pounds of food has been collected to date for the Food Pantry. Thank you so much for your donations!

-Food Pantry Items needed for February: oatmeal, spaghetti O's, canned stews, spam & corned beef hash

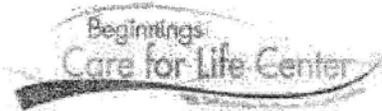


*This prayer guide is designed for repeated use on the corresponding day of the month. You can start anytime!*

**On July 7, pray from day 7. On September 21, pray day 21. We will be sending a new prayer guide every 6 months.**

**NOTICE:** *We are starting from scratch with our mailing list.*

**If you'd like to receive future prayer guides by mail or email, please call 517-278-3355 and leave a message for Cynde, or email [Cynde@BeginningsCare.com](mailto:Cynde@BeginningsCare.com), indicating your postal address for physical mail, or email address for a digital version you can print yourself. Or, download it from [BeginningsCare.com/support](http://BeginningsCare.com/support).**



- 1** Thank God for giving us the opportunity to meet the needs of many young families in our community. Pray that we can be both a physical and spiritual guide to them.
- 2** Pray for the front office staff (Deborah, Tammy, Julia and Janet) and volunteers to be wise, gracious, and bold in the ways we interact with each other and our clients. May He use us in spite of our weaknesses.
- 3** Ask the Lord to teach our clients to cast all their cares on Him — even the small ones — realizing that He cares for them. (1 Peter 5:7 NIV)
- 4** Thank Him for over 25 years of provision and protection! Pray that we would be able to keep operating safely and effectively. He always lives to intercede for us!
- 5** Ask the Lord to heal the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3 NIV)
- 6** Pray the Lord guides Jane, Karen, and many others in planning the details of our fundraising events. Ask for safety, encouragement and provision for all who participate.
- 7** Thank God for His love for all the children and families of the world, and His desire that they would not be hindered to come to Him.
- 8** Pray we each will remain in Christ and bear much fruit, apart from Him we can do nothing. (John 15:5 NIV)
- 9** Pray for families in our community to grow closer together and teach the next generation about sharing the love of Jesus with others.
- 10** Thank the Lord for Pam and others who keep our building clean and maintained. May He bless and encourage them.
- 11** Pray for our area churches to be beacons of light, love, and hope to the dark and hurting world around us.
- 12** Ask the Lord to provide humility, healing and reconciliation to broken relationships within marriages and families.
- 13** Pray that we each use our gifts to serve others, faithfully stewarding God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10 NIV)
- 14** Thank God for the opportunities Jane and Tiffany have to teach area school health classes practical truths about healthy relationships. Ask the Lord to provide more opportunities and to open students' hearts and minds to what is presented.
- 15** Pray God would teach us to number our days and spend them as we should. (Psalm 90:12 TLB)
- 16** Ask God to raise up more laborers for the harvest. Pray for those who have accepted the call to volunteer — that we can train them well and simply.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

- 17** Thank the Lord for our Fatherhood Involvement Program mentors. Ask God to continue to provide connections with the clients who come in, and to transform them into the dads He created them to be.
- 18** Pray the Lord teaches us to rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV)
- 19** Pray for the health and wellness of all of our volunteers, staff, and clients.
- 20** Thank God for our volunteer sonographer, Julie. Ask Him to bless and encourage her willingness to serve. Pray that He uses Julie and Mary as they meet with clients to be light in their darkness.
- 21** Ask God to let no unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up. (Ephesians 4:29 NIV)
- 22** Pray for those who work in our Blessing Shop (Vicky and Nancy) and Earning & Learning Shop (Connie), that God gives them endurance, creativity, strength, and help as they sort, organize, and display free items for our clients.
- 23** Thank God for the churches who host Diaper Drives, Baby Bottle Campaigns, and Life Essentials Campaigns. Pray He blesses their endeavors, encourages those who participate, and raises awareness of the needs in our community as they partner with us.

- 24** Ask God to work in us, giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. (Philippians 2:13 NLT)
- 25** Pray for our business office staff as they use their administrative gifts to handle finances, donations, fundraising efforts, and client files. Ask God to give them clarity, help, and blessing as they faithfully serve.
- 26** Ask God to give our peer counselors His eyes and ears to understand our clients' underlying needs. Pray for wisdom and careful words to communicate God's grace and truth.
- 27** "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever!" Psalm 118:1
- 28** Thank God for our Board members (Bev, Tiffany, Kathy, Joe, Gary, & Sondra). Pray for God's wisdom, vision, unity, and creativity in solving problems.
- 29** Ask God to use our Bright Course lessons to teach our clients how to be better parents & spouses, and to understand Him better too.
- 30** Pray for Jane as she provides direction and supervision for the center. Ask God to instruct and teach her in the way we should go, counsel her with His loving eye on her. (Psalm 32:8 NIV)
- 31** Pray God helps us not to worry about anything but pray about everything, telling Him our needs and thanking Him for what He has done. (Philippians 4:6 NLT)

# ~Recipes~

## ~VALENTINE SANDWICH COOKIES~

### INSTRUCTIONS~

Combine the butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl, and beat on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla, and beat until well incorporated. Whisk together the flour, cocoa, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add the dry mixture to the creamed mixture, beating on the lowest speed. Continue to mix on the lowest setting until the dry ingredients are just incorporated.

Divide the dough in half, and shape it into two discs. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour.

When the dough is chilled, preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a baking mat. Set aside. Taking only one portion of dough out of the refrigerator at a time, turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll the dough to 1/8-1/4 inch thickness. Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out cookies and transfer them to the prepared baking sheet.

Bake the cookies for 9-10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Once the cookies are cooled, prepare the filling. Combine the softened butter, half and half, vanilla, and salt and beat until combined. Add the powdered sugar slowly until the filling is smooth. It should be slightly stiffer than cupcake frosting. Add pink or red food coloring until the desired color is reached.

Transfer the filling to a piping bag fitted with a large round tip (or a freezer zip-lock bag with the corner snipped off.) Pipe the filling onto half of the cookies, and top with the remaining cookies to form a cookie sandwich.



### INGREDIENTS~

#### FOR THE COOKIES:

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup dutch process cocoa powder  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt

#### FOR THE FILLING:

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened  
2-3 tablespoons half and half (or milk)  
2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
3 cups powdered sugar

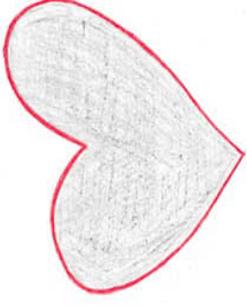
## ~Cupid's Vanilla Berry Smoothie~

### Ingredients

8 ounces Low-Fat Vanilla Milk  
1/2 cup Plain Yogurt (can substitute with vanilla flavored yogurt for a sweeter smoothie)  
1/2 cup Red Berries (frozen, a combination of strawberries and raspberries)  
1/2 cup Ice



# February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Pastor Susan Gone	2 Pastor Susan Gone 4-6pm D.P. & Clinic	3 Pastor Susan Gone	4 Pastor Susan Gone
5 Pastor Susan Gone Deacon Mtg Congregation Mtg	6 Pastor Susan Gone	7 Pastor Susan Gone	8 Pastor Susan Gone	9 Pastor Susan Gone 4-6pm D.P. & Clinic	10 Pastor Susan Gone	11 Pastor Susan Gone
12	13 Deborah Circle 10am	14 Happy Valentines Day Sarah Circle 3pm	15 Book group 11-1230	16 4-6pm D.P. & Clinic Session Mtg 6pm	17	18
19 Holy Communion	20 Presidents Day	21	22 Book group 11-1230 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Worship Services 6pm	23 4-6pm D.P. & Clinic	24	25
26 Lent	27	28				

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
52 MARSHALL STREET  
COLDWATER, MI 49036

## February 2023 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*  
ADM. ASSIST. *Jessica Schneider*  
ACCOMPANIST, *Liz Mowan*

**First Presbyterian Church 52 Marshall Street, Coldwater, MI 49036**

**Phone: 517-278-6068 2nd# 517-278-7848**

**Church & Administrative Assistant E-mail Address: [ColdwaterFPC@gmail.com](mailto:ColdwaterFPC@gmail.com)**

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

**Rev. Susan Reichenberg (567)242-8722 [sreichenberg8227@gmail.com](mailto:sreichenberg8227@gmail.com)**