

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 2025 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 : ****
FEBRUARY 2025 INCOME AND EXPENSES
PAYMENTS AND PAYROLL: \$ \$14,751.37
INCOME AND DONATIONS: \$ \$9,823.00
 2-2~ \$3204
 2-9~ \$557
 2-16~ \$1529
 2-23~ \$4533

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.

MARCH LITURGISTS
 3-2~ Tarina Macklem
 3-9~ Pete Metters
 3-16~ Paul Hershberger
 3-23~ Lisa Renshaw
 3-30~ Beth Montgomery

MARCH COUNTERS
 Dennis Farwell
 Pete Metters
 Carol Ludlow

APRIL LITURGISTS
 4-6- Chris Doll
 2-13- Lorie Hershberger
 2-20- Pete Metters
 2-27- Tarina Macklem

APRIL COUNTERS
 Bob Stewart
 Tarina Macklem
 Beth Montgomery
 Jan Breckenridge



FROM PASTOR SUSAN'S DESK

Dear friends at First Presbyterian Church of Coldwater, Michigan,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I bring you greetings as we begin this Season of Lent together. A season of wonder, reflection, confession, meditation and awe. Lent is a 6 week period of journeying with our Lord, Jesus Christ, toward the end that had been set before Him from before the foundations of the world. . . His death on the cross and resurrection for our sakes and the worlds' sake. This is truly an awe-inspiring number of weeks for us to reflect upon the great love of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for us, children of the Most High God.

What could cause a person of the God-head to give up His kingly throne, take on the garb of a human child, grow up to preach good news to the poor and then obediently go to His agonizing death on the cross, the Romans' most deadly form of punishment and deterrence to those watching? Yet, Jesus took upon Himself our sins so that we can be redeemed! And we are redeemed through His work, His suffering, His triumph over death for our sakes!

This is the 6 weeks of reflection we are called upon to do. We are to spend time with Jesus, be in prayer more than usual, be reverent and honoring of His sacrifice. And it is joy for us! Great joy!

So, let's join together like never before to honor Jesus and to travel with Him on His journey through Judea onward to Jerusalem for His saving work, on our behalf.

See you in church.

God bless you all, Pastor Susan

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SUSAN

As we begin to look toward Lent this devotional seems “right on the mark”. Enjoy.

This devotion comes from a book that Lisa Renshaw gave me 2 Christmases ago. I love this book. I hope this short message will resonate with you too.

“God’s Message for Each Day” Eugene H. Peterson

1 Peter 2:24 “He used His servant body to carry our sins to the Cross so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way.”

Those years of association with Jesus for the disciples, years of “growing up,” were years of realizing in sharp and precise detail that life is what God gives us in Jesus: grace, healing, forgiveness, deliverance from evil, a miraculous meal, the personal presence and word of God. And now that they know what it is, they know it is not self-preservation, self-help, self-aggrandizement, self-importance.

Life is the Jesus revealed life that becomes plain as day on the cross-- the sacrificial life, the life that loves generously and extravagantly, the life that through voluntary and sacrificial death to self becomes resurrection for the world.

(This comes from the book “Like Dew Your Youth”)

~DEACON & SESSION INFORMATION~

MARCH DEACON IN CHARGE

Bob Montgomery

MARCH USHERS

Communion Dates

3-2

MEETINGS:

~ Next Deacon Meeting March 2nd following the worship service, during Communion clean up.

~Next Session Meeting March 13th 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

Peter Metters 313-244-1570

Carol Ludlow 517-279-9407



Love. Grow. Serve.



- † Virginia, Bob M.'s sister
 - † Karen Maxson
 - † Gale Fisher's family, Jessica's grandpa, as they mourn his passing⁽¹¹⁻¹⁸⁻²⁴⁾
 - † Peace in USA & world
 - † Ruby Merkle, as she mourns the lose of her sister in law and brother. ⁽¹¹⁻⁴⁻²⁴⁾
 - † Joy Reichenberg, Stage 4 liver & colon cancer⁽¹⁰⁻¹⁶⁻²⁴⁾
 - † Bruce Gregory's family, as they mourn his sister Virginia Bell ⁽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⁾
 - † 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.****

PRAYSE

2-2~
† Diaper Donations

2-9~
† Our congregation's love for one another

2-16~
† The beauty of winter

2-23~
† Healing for so many in our congregation

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COLDWATER
STATED MEETING OF SESSION THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

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 6:00 p.m. with a prayer.

The Agenda was approved on a motion by Paul Hershberger, supported by Jan Breckinridge.

DEACON'S REPORT: Lorie Hershberger said her and Bob Stewart's terms as Deacons end in May. She would consider serving a second term and suggested Stacey Hullinger in the same Class of 2028.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Minutes of the December 19, 2024 Session Meeting were approved with changes on a motion by Bruce Gregory, supported by Carol Ludlow. Jan Breckinridge made a motion, supported by Chris Doll, to accept the Clerk's Report. The motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Susan reported on the use of her time. She suggested waiting to have an Officers Training Meeting until new officers are elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting in May. She suggested the Church consider a new mission for 2025. She mentioned Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Doctors without Borders or Operation Smile as possibilities. She's open to other suggestions. Susan suggested a signup sheet for volunteer greeters at both doors of the Sanctuary. She recommended a planning session to consider the long term viability of the Church building.

Susan recommended the book "Canoeing the Mountains" for Session to study next.

Cheryl Kidle moved to Grand Vista and is doing great. Susan sent a note to Jim Evans.

Reverend Scott Marsh suggested an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday at the Church.

Lisa Renshaw suggested we look into joining the Chamber of Commerce (if churches are eligible) for outreach and exposure.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:
December 31, 2024

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN BANK	\$16,651.71
MINUS DESIGNATED FUNDS	(\$12,827.97)
EQUALS GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$3,823.74
AMORTIZED ANNUAL GIFT BALANCE	_____ -
CURRENT AMOUNT	\$3,823.74

MEMORIAL INTEREST EARNED

\$16.06

VANTAGE POINTE MONEY MARKET \$.71

VANTAGE POINTE MUTUAL FUND (11,122.35)

BRINKER CAPITAL (\$6,014.23)

TOTAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS (INCOME/(LOSS) (\$17,119.81)

The Treasurer's Report was gratefully received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building & Grounds. Bruce Gregory reported no problems with boilers in the last month. We need to replace two aluminum doors. Bruce will get quotes. The timing will be spring or summer.
Christian Education. Sunday school is going well.

Fellowship. The Fellowship Committee is working to a soup luncheon.

Finance. The Finance Committee will work on the 2025 budget.

Worship. Paul Hershberger said the Advent readings this year were too long. He said the ideal length of the Christmas Service is about 40 minutes. The Service this year was twice that long and had too many songs. Susan said the reason was she included all of the songs requested by the Congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

Pete Metters recommended asking the Congregation to approve the proposed Bylaws amendment reducing the quorum for Congregational Meetings from 20 to 12 at the Congregational Meeting on February 2, 2025. Pete Metters made a motion, supported by Linda Stewart, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed. Session reviewed the Presbyterian Women's 2024 Annual Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Linda Stewart sent thank you notes to those who provided the Boundaries Training.

CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT: Chris Doll made a motion, supported by Carol Ludlow, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. Pastor Susan closed the meeting at 7:34 p.m. with a prayer.

F.P.C. PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our Lenten Lunches begin on Wednesday, March 12, and the last on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. Join us if you can, for soup, fellowship and inspiration. They begin at noon, and last an hour or so. We have devotions for each Wednesday of Lent. Come once, twice, or whenever you can. There is a signup sheet for volunteering to bring a soup and/or bread for one of these Wednesdays on the kitchen counter.

Easter is Sunday, April 20th, 2024.

Both Sarah and Deborah Circles continue our Bible studies. Deborah circle meets on the second Monday of the month at 10am. Sarah Circle meets the second Tuesday at 3:00pm. You can always join us for Bible study and fellowship.

We have been on a rollercoaster of weather this month. Wishful that we smooth things out as we head into March. Maybe Winter will go quietly and a fast Spring will come loudly shining through! We can hope for a quiet time between now and then!

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

~F.P.C. OUTREACH REPORT~

DIAPER PANTRY WORK SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

3-6~ Jan C. & Sue
3-13~ Jan B. &
3-20~ Lois & Dean
3-27~ Mary & Beth

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. In 2025, we have handed out **260** 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

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

-**Food Pantry** Items needed for March 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

3/1 Dorothy Burrows
3/13 Velma Cole
3/13 Rev. Monte Reichenberg
3/16 Jan Breckenridge

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY:

3-2~*Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)*

3-9~ *Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2,
9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13*

3-16~ *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35*

3-23~ *Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9*

3-30~ *Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

~RECIPES~



Contest-Winning Black Bean Soup

Contest Winner ★★★★★ 28 Reviews

Save Print Rate Email

PREP TIME 20 min | COOK TIME 25 min | YIELD 8 servings (2 quarts)

Ingredients

- 3 cans (15 ounces each) black beans, rinsed and drained, divided
- 3 celery ribs with leaves, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 medium sweet red pepper, chopped
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) reduced-sodium chicken broth or vegetable broth
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes with green peppers and onions, undrained
- 3 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground coriander

Directions

- In a small bowl, mash 1 can black beans; set aside. In a large saucepan, saute the celery, onion, red pepper and jalapeno in oil until tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer.
- Stir in the broth, tomatoes, cumin, coriander, hot sauce, pepper, bay leaf, mashed black beans and remaining whole beans. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15 minutes.

Taste of Home Login | Join Search

Contest-Winning Three-Bean Soup | Roasted Tomato Soup | Black Bean-Pumpkin Soup | Taste of Home | Homemade Black Bean Soup

- 1 teaspoon lime juice
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions

TEST KITCHEN APPROVED

Pesto Flatbread

★★★★★ 2 Reviews

Save Print Rate Email

PREP TIME 20 min | COOK TIME 20 min | YIELD 8 servings

Ingredients

- 1 loaf (1 pound) frozen bread dough, thawed
- 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup prepared pesto
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Directions

- Preheat oven to 425°. Place dough on a lightly floured surface; let rest for 10 minutes. Knead in 1/4 cup cheese.
- Spread pesto over crust. Sprinkle with mushrooms, mozzarella cheese and the remaining Parmesan cheese. Bake pizza until golden brown, 8-10 minutes longer.

Taste of Home Login | Join Search

Flatbread Pizza | Pesto Bread | Pesto Pizza | Pesto Meat loaf



TEST KITCHEN APPROVED

Quick Bean and Rice Burritos

★★★★★ 9 Reviews

Save Print Rate Email

PREP TIME 10 min | COOK TIME 15 min | YIELD 8 servings

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1-1/2 cups uncooked instant brown rice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium green pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup salsa
- 10 flour tortillas (8 inches), warmed
- Optional: Avocado slices, bean wedges

Directions

- In a small saucepan, bring water to a boil. Add rice. Return to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Let stand until water is absorbed, about 5 minutes.
- Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add green pepper and onion; cook and stir until tender, 3-4 minutes. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in chili powder.
- Spoon about 1/2 cup filling off-center on each tortilla. Fold sides and ends over filling and roll up. Serve with optional toppings as desired.

Taste of Home Login | Join Search

Quick Black Bean Burritos | Corn, Rice & Bean Burritos | Bean Burritos | Beef and Bean Burritos



Lent
A Sacred Time of
Reflection & Tradition

What will you take on for Lent, rather than giving something up?

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion Deacon Meeting	3	4	5 12pm Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service at United Methodist Church 10:30-12 Book Group	6 1st Thursday of the month Prayer 4-6 D.P. & Clinic	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time 1st week of Lent	10 10am Deborah Circle	11 3pm Sarah Circle	12 10:30-12 Book Group 12pm Lenten Lunch	13 4-6 D.P. & Clinic 6pm Session	14 Pastor Susan Gone	15 Pastor Susan Gone
16 2nd week of Lent Pastor Susan Gone	17 Pastor Susan Gone	18 Pastor Susan Gone	19 10:30-12 Book Group Pastor Susan Gone 12pm Lenten Lunch	20 4-6 D.P. & Clinic Spring! Pastor Susan Gone	21 Pastor Susan Gone	22 Pastor Susan Gone
23 3rd week of Lent Pastor Susan Gone Guest Pastor	24 Pastor Susan Gone 10am P.W. Mtg	25 Pastor Susan Gone	26 10:30-12 Book Group Pastor Susan Gone 12pm Lenten Lunch	27 4-6 D.P. & Clinic Pastor Susan Gone	28 Pastor Susan Gone	29
30 4th Week of Lent	31 10am Family Promise					

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
52 MARSHALL STREET
COLDWATER, MI 49036

March 2025 NEWSLETTER



Lent

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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