



FIRST a church for all ages
PRESBYTERIAN

October 2017
Newsletter



Worship SCHEDULE

9 and 10:30 am Worship

10/1	Luke 6:46 Why Don't You Do What I Tell You? Communion	Rev. Dan Birchfield
10/8	John 21:17 Do You Love Me?	Rev. Dan Birchfield
10/15		Pulpit Guest
10/22	Matthew 16:26 What Can One Give in Exchange for Their Life?	Rev. Dan Birchfield
10/29	John 6:5 Where Can We Buy Enough Food?	Rev Dan Birchfield

Prayer REQUESTS

Barb Crummel
Howard Yost
Bill Sidney, Sr.
Shirley Cotant
Pearl Stutz
Norm Noviskey
Carl and Mary
Belson
Jace, John
Resseguie's
grandson

With THANKS

Dear church family, I wish to thank you all for the visits, calls, cards, flowers, the treats, thoughts and prayers...and most of all, for making it possible for me to attend service on Sunday mornings once in a while. The little things help a lot to pass the time.

Pearl Stutz

Pastor's CORNER



We are holding a Stewardship Campaign from October 22 through November 5. I am not embarrassed to acknowledge that First Presbyterian exists with the vehicle of your financial generosity. I actually enjoy being able to say thank you for all that you give to God, and this particular church. Sincerely, thank you.

However, I do want to apologize that there have been more “asks” for financial support over the last year than what is common. Believe me when I tell you that I never sought the pastorate because I was excited about bringing up the subject of financial support for the church.

My discomfort with ever asking the congregation to consider giving more to the church is that I know we already feel that there are far more requests for our financial support than what we have to share. We honestly feel a bit of pain over the fact that we would like to give more, but struggle with finding the more. I don't like that when I preach stewardship sermons, or you receive a letter suggesting that we could use more money to adequately support the mission of the church, it can create a unintended sense of guilt in your heart.

I don't want any of you to feel guilt over not being able to give as your heart would like to give. I know this is an extremely generous congregation, and your financial support for our church is exceptional. Truly, it is exceptional. Again, thank you for your extreme generosity and your exceptional financial support of this church family.

Instead of guilt, what I want you to do in preparation for the Stewardship Campaign is enter it with a spirit of celebration over how much God has been able to use you and your financial gifts towards that which is eternal. Don't let guilt enter your heart during this campaign. While God may speak to us in manners of conviction, God doesn't use the language of guilt-tripping us into giving more.

Conviction is a life giving corrective. When you hear God convict you, love washes over you. Conviction is the realization that God can help you live life more abundantly, as you repent of life-choking sin. Conviction opens your eyes to a better way of life in the Lord's will. You are willingly walking out of darkness into the light. Guilt-tripping language, which God does not speak, pushes you out of the light and more deeply into darkness. Guilt doesn't produce repentance. To the contrary, guilt makes you doubt you can repent. Guilt makes you imagine you are forever stuck, trapped, and incapable of being any better off than you presently are.

Discern whether you feel guilt or conviction during the campaign, and this just might end up being a time when we all feel less discomfort during the subject of stewardship, giving, and even increasing our pledge.

God Bless!

Pastor Dan

Session MINUTES

Members received during worship on July 9: Sandra Billingsley, Dale Billingsley, Charles Billingsley, Cheryl Cole, Joseph Cole, Bruce DeVos, Scott Fletcher, Janice Mawson, Thomas Mawson, Carol Rase, Wayne Reed and Marshall Greenleaf. *Welcome All!* Recorded transfer of Betty and Roger VandeGriend to the First Allendale Christian Reformed Church, Allendale, MI, and Ron and Gwen Shavelier to the Inactive Roll since their recent move. Congratulations to Shali Clark and Jared Elenbaas on their September marriage.

The current financial report was received on motion. The Stewardship Campaign will begin October 22 with pledges received on November 5. The Non-Profit Corporation Annual Report was filed with State of MI on 8/1/17.

A motion to hold one united service at 10:00 AM on November 5, December 17, 24 and 31 was presented and approved. Trustees will provide a pancake breakfast on November 5, following worship.

On motion, a Women's Retreat featuring Sharon Garlough Brown is slated for October 14. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch.

A motion to hold a "Light Night" event in our fellowship hall on October 27 was supported and carried. Activities, games, cider & donuts will be offered.

CROP Walk is set for October 8, with Dave and Nancy Allerdig serving as our recruiters. On motion, an adult mission trip to Costa Rica was approved for Nov. 7-15.

Noah's Ark PRESCHOOL

FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL! LOTS OF SMILES & VERY FEW TEARS: We have a big crowd this year on the Ark, so our first days had a few adjustments. We often say the same things each year because they are just so true – some parents are having trouble separating from their children, and a few children have trouble separating from their parents. Mostly once our school day begins, there is just so much going on the children stay very happy. Our goals are to share God's love, model kindness and respect, and provide the very best appropriate early childhood education. September is about getting settled, and we are talking about how special we are to God. "I praise God because I am specially and wonderfully made" Psalm 139:14. In October we talk about God's amazing harvest...and how great we can go out back to our own church garden and see it first-hand!

PLAYGROUND: The children are having a wonderful time exploring God's big world in the new outdoor classroom up on the hill. They are using natural materials such as rocks and logs to engineer and create their own play inventions! They are also studying God's creations while they take hikes on the trails.

PUMPKINS & HALLOWEEN: The children will spend October learning about fall and the harvest. We are so grateful to John Resseguie and Todd Willard for planting/harvesting about 100 pumpkins for our preschool children! During the first week of October, the pumpkins will be set out around the outdoor area as a "pumpkin patch". The kids will be able to choose one to take home. During the week of Halloween we will have our dress up parties. We keep all the fun of Halloween, and none of the scary things! We dress up as our favorite characters or animals and have a fun time singing songs and playing games in the gym.

TID BITS:

September 26&27	Chapel in the Sanctuary with Jan DeVos
September 28	The Young 5 classroom will be touring the artwork/sculptures in Hastings.
October 10&11	Chapel in the Sanctuary with Jan DeVos
October 11	The Threes class will be going to Cotants.
October 12	The Young 5's class will be going to Harvest Time
October 19	The Fours and Three/Fours classes will be going to Cotants.
October 17&18	will be school pictures and Chapel in the Sanctuary with Jan DeVos
October 30&31	Halloween dress up parties

Family MINISTRIES

Women's Bible Studies began on Thursday, September 21. The morning group is meeting upstairs in the church library at 10 a.m. Yes, we'll have coffee ready! Yes, we'll have copies of the study book we are using, JESUS CALLING: LIVING A LIFE OF WORSHIP. Bring \$6 and bring a friend! The evening group also meets in the library for the same study. Jan De Vos leads in the morning, Debbie Storms in the evening. This is NOT a lecture-style study. Expect scripture reading, periods of prayer and silence, and a whole lot of great conversation. Each week is self-contained, so anyone can join the group at any time. Jan and Debbie are leading "in-sync" so if some weeks a different time of day works better for you, join the alternate group.

Noah's Ark Preschool Chapel has begun. We'll be gathering in the front of the sanctuary at 9:30, and again at 12:40 on Tuesday, October 10 and 17. We'll gather in the same place at 9:30 on Wednesday, October 11 and 18. Parents, grandparents, other significant adults in the lives of our preschoolers are always invited to our worship experience. The October stories are "The Beginning," and "The Special Helper/A Sad Day."

"Breathe: Finding Rest for Your Soul" A women's retreat led by Sharon Garlough Brown will take place here at FPC on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9-3 p.m. Come away for a day to slow down and practice disciplines that help us keep in step with the unhurried rhythm of Jesus. The cost for the day, including lunch, is \$20. As many of you know, Sharon Garlough Brown is the author of the Sensible Shoes series. We'll have copies of her books for sale and a signing at the retreat. Books are \$10 each. (And no, it's not cheating to bring your previously purchased book for Sharon to autograph!) Registration opportunities are available online and on the bulletin board just outside the gym. Sharon is a Princeton grad (M.Div.), a spiritual director, and co-founder of Abiding Way Ministries, which provides spiritual formation retreats and resources. She and her pastor husband currently live in West Michigan and have one son, David.

Night of Light on Friday, October 27, from 6-8, here at FPC. Calling all children and their adult family and friends for apple cider, donuts, games, and more! Wear your favorite Halloween costume, and get ready for a couple hours of great Fall fun as we celebrate a night of light! We are to "shine like stars in the universe" as we hold out the word of life. (Philippians 2:15-16)

Children (elementary ages) who are interested in taking communion, plan to meet with Pastor Dan and Jan De Vos for a "Communion Conversation" on Sunday, October 29, at 11:30, right after the second worship service. Pastor Dan and Jan will talk about what the Communion experience in worship is all about. On the following Sunday, Nov. 1, the children who attended the conversation will be able to experience the Sacrament of Communion in worship using their new-found understanding.

Stewardship UPDATE

The following provides a budget update through August 31, 2017:

Month-end August, 2017, budget snapshot:

Receipts

Budgeted Receipts: \$376,450*

Actual Receipts: \$425,034**

Expenses

Budgeted Expenses: \$399,685

Actual Expenses: \$391,044

*includes eight months (2/3) of prepaid pledges

**includes *Together Campaign* receipts

The calendar says Fall has arrived. The temperatures feel like mid-Summer!! With Fall, our annual Stewardship Campaign is around the corner. Please let this be a campaign of prayer as together we **Build our Ministries** through **Christ our Rock** to carry out our many missions of reaching those in need, both locally and abroad. Please keep this in your daily prayers.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!!

David Curtis, Stewardship Chair, and Committee Members:

Dave Arnold, Ned Brown, David Logan, Larry Winkler

Student MINISTRY



Student Release Form

Be sure to get your student release form in as soon as possible. This is required to attend events that we do during the year. If you turned one in for the UP Mission Trip 2017, you are good for the year. They can be found on our student ministry page on FPC's website, or if you click www.firstchurchhastings.org/students.html

Concerts!

We are going to be attending two concerts in Grand Rapids in October and November. These will be a high-school student only events. In October, we will be heading to the Intersection to join the Friends and Family Tour. This show will include Social Club Misfits, Wordsplayed, and Andy Mineo. The date will be Sunday, October 15th with the cost being \$20. We will be leaving at 5pm, doors open at 6 pm, and getting home around 11. Money needs to be in by October 8th.

In November, we will be heading to 20 Monroe Live to check out Needtobreathe. The date is November 11th, with the cost being \$35. We will be leaving at 5:30 pm, doors open at 6:30 pm, and getting home around 11. Money needs to be in by November 4th.

*Scholarships are available for any event, be sure to talk to Patrick if you have questions

Mission COMMITTEE

Hurricane Clean-Up. The Mission Committee has accepted the challenge from Church World Service to fill fifty (50) Emergency Cleanup Buckets. Each bucket will contain fourteen specific items. See the bulletin board in the Narthex for a list of items, grab a tag, and return your donation between September 17th and October 6th. Buckets will be packed October 7th. Let's make this part of our contribution to help our southern neighbors get back on their feet.

Rosa's Circle Tutoring – ESL. This fall we have three students with English as a Second Language who are tutored Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM at the Church. The students are 2nd, 4th, and 6th graders and need help with math and reading skills. You do not need to speak a foreign language to help them. Instructions and materials are provided to volunteers. Select a day(s) you can help. Contact Karen VanDenBerge 616-834-5069 for further information.

The Annual Barry Co. CROP Hunger Walk is coming to Hastings once again on Sunday, Oct.8. The 2-Mile walk starts from and returns to Grace Lutheran Church, 239 North St. Hastings. It will be a great afternoon for some exercise and fellowship. Contact Dave & Nancy Allarding if you want to sign-up & solicit donations for your individual effort or, Join the FPC Striders team online. If you can't make the walk, please consider donating to support any individual in person, or support the FPC team where you can donate on line at: www.crophungerwalk.org/hastingsmi

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First Presbyterian MINISTRIES



FAMILY MINISTRY

Jan De Vos x 3005

jdevos@firstchurchhastings.org

Jan is our Family Ministry Director, and plans education and events within the church for nursery-grade school children, and adults.



NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

LeeAnn Miller-Busson x 3008

noahsark@firstchurchhastings.org

LeeAnn is our Noah's Ark Preschool Director. The preschool is celebrating its 22nd year serving the Hastings Community this school year!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Patrick Tyrrell x 3010

ptyrrell@firstchurchhastings.org

Pat leads the students, Middle High through College. The kids are very active in Sunday School and Youth Group, and get involved in Mission and Fellowship events.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Todd Willard and Matt Callaghan x 3006

twillard@hassk12.org

mcallaghan@firstchurchhastings.org

Todd leads the First Presbyterian Praise Team, a contemporary group of musicians and vocalists.



Matt leads the Church Choir in traditional hymns and music during the program year.

All the Ministries of First Presbyterian welcome and rely on the congregation throughout the year. To get more involved, please talk to the Ministry Directors about how you can help.

Click the calendar for the monthly church calendar

OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM PATH Youth Group	2 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 7:00 PM Knit WVa - Lounge	3 8:00 PM NAPS Ministry Meeting	4 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choe	5 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Bible and Brew-Seasonal Grille	6 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	7 10:30 AM Praise Team
8 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM PATH Youth Group	9 1:00 PM Staff Meeting-Roult Gc 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:00 PM Mission and Student Ministry Meetings 7:00 PM Family and Worship Ministry Meetings 7:00 PM Knit WVa - Lounge	10 9:30 AM NAPS Chapel 12:40 PM NAPS Chapel 8:30 PM Deacons	11 9:30 AM NAPS Chapel 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choe	12 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Bible and Brew-Seasonal Grille	13 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym 8:00 PM Praise Practice	14 8:30 AM Women's Retreat
15 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM PATH Youth Group	16 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Sewership 7:00 PM Knit WVa - Lounge 7:00 PM Trustees	17 9:30 AM NAPS Chapel 12:40 PM NAPS Chapel	18 9:30 AM NAPS Chapel 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choe	19 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Bible and Brew-Seasonal Grille	20 Newsletter Deadline 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	21 10:30 AM Praise Team
22 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM PATH Youth Group	23 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:00 PM Personnel 7:00 PM Knit WVa - Lounge 7:00 PM Session	24	25 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choe	26 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Bible and Brew-Seasonal Grille	27 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym 8:00 PM Light Night	28 9:00 AM Costa Rica Packing-Gym 10:30 AM Praise Team
29 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM NO PATH Youth Group	30 8:45 AM NAPS Halloween Party 12:00 PM Staff Lunch 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 7:00 PM Knit WVa - Lounge	31 8:30 AM NAPS Halloween Party	1 8:30 AM NAPS Halloween Party 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choe	2 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Bible and Brew-Seasonal Grille	3 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	4 10:30 AM Praise Team

Special Birthdays:

Ken Feighner is turning 91 on October 7th!

If you see him, please wish him a very Happy Birthday!