



**FIRST** a church for all ages  
**PRESBYTERIAN**

May 2017  
Newsletter



## Worship SCHEDULE

5/7	I Peter 2:13-25 A Better Freedom Communion	Rev. Dan Birchfield
5/14	I Peter 3:8-12 Life Together	Rev. Dan Birchfield
5/21	I Peter 3:13-18 Why I am a Christian	Rev. Dan Birchfield
5/28	I Peter 4:12-19 Ruthless Trust	Rev. Dan Birchfield

## Prayer REQUESTS

John Resseguie's  
grandson, Jace  
John Rutzen  
Shirley Cotant  
Barb Greenleaf  
Pearl Stutz  
Jeanne Pugh  
Norm Noviskey  
Carl and Mary  
Belson

## THANKS

God asks each of us to share and help one another. You have done a wonderful job of helping my family and me. Thank you for all the wonderful meals, the yummy desserts, and all the stacks of heart-felt cards. You are truly Gods' children and family. Though our hearts are hurting, our hearts are also full of joy and complete love because our son is with Jesus. How can we not smile and laugh? If you are missing dishes, there are many still in the kitchen. In Christ Jesus name, God bless you all. Bill, Brenda, and Eve Sidney

## Pastor's CORNER



Over our four Sundays in May I will be preaching on passages from the pastoral letter of I Peter. This letter was written from Rome in the early 60s of the First Century. It is written to churches spread out throughout the Roman Empire. The Church has been suffering a new onslaught of persecution from the Roman authorities, and Peter is anticipating that the persecution is only going to intensify. So Peter nearing the end of his life and ministry, wants to write a letter to those churches for the purpose of encouraging them so that they will remain faithful to their Savior and their calling.

He spends a great portion of the letter reminding them that their salvation is assured in spite of the suffering they are encountering. Peter points out that Christ, the chosen one of God, suffered unfair and awful persecutions. We should expect no less. The Church should not interpret from their hardships that God has forgotten they are His, or that their salvation was a farce.

Peter also challenges the Church to see that persevering through the suffering as witnesses adds authenticity to their faith, and supports the idea that the Gospel is relevant to the world. Personally anticipating his imminent martyrdom, Peter is encouraging the Church to understand that their persecution and suffering adds credibility to their message.

Topics being covered in the four Sundays of May that I am preaching through selected sections of I Peter will include Christian Freedom, Christian Fellowship, Christian Hope, and Christian Faith. Those are not the titles of the sermons, but the subjects that will be addressed on each Sunday in May.

I would encourage you to read I Peter each week of May. Reading all five chapters of I Peter each week will help you become familiarized with Peter's letter. That will prepare you to more fully appreciate the subjects we are addressing, and the context from which Peter speaks of those subjects. It's already a rewarding process for me to be focusing so much on this letter. I know it will be rewarding for you as well.

God Bless!

Pastor Dan

# Session MINUTES

Pastor Birchfield opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. It was recorded that Lake Michigan Presbytery approved Dr. James Spindler's Covenant as CRE for an additional three-year term.

On Motion, Session approved Nancy Allarding as Financial Manager, Wade Nitz as Church Treasurer, and Candace Holsted as Clerk to Session.

Communion was served at Thornapple Manor and at Woodlawn Meadows in March by Pastor Birchfield and Dr. Spindler. The 50 Day Spiritual Adventure Lenten suppers were well attended. Communion for young members will take place in September, following instruction by Pastor Dan. Celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation will take place on October 29.

Trustees reported a total of \$13,225.67 remains from the pole barn fundraising efforts. A motion was made, supported and carried to transfer this amount to the capital fund. The financial report was received, and discussion focused on ways to help balance the deficit budget.

Pastor Dan's vacation schedule was presented and approved. Session goals/objectives will soon be completed.

The March meeting of the Lake Michigan Presbytery focused on African American/Caucasian relationships and a desire for more diversity within our Presbytery.

The motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting closed in prayer at 9:36 PM.

# Stewardship COMMITTEE

The following provides a First Quarter budget update as the first 3 months of the year are complete:

## Month-end March 31, 2017, budget snapshot

### Receipts

Budgeted Receipts: \$160,508\*

Actual Receipts: \$154,606\*

### Expenses

Budgeted Expenses: \$155,529

Actual Expenses: \$159,644

\*includes three months (25%) of prepaid pledges

Thank you so much for your support!!

Please continue to pray as we journey together to address our deficit, which currently stands at \$54,821 (adopted budget included a \$44,804 deficit plus our first quarter shortfall of \$10,017 = \$54,821).

David Curtis, Stewardship Chair, and Committee Members:

Dave Arnold, Ned Brown, David Logan, Larry Winkler

# Family MINISTRIES

HEADS UP FOR GREAT THINGS COMING DOWN THE PIKE!

## **May 10**

Women's Book Club gathering: Join Deb Winkler and Jan De Vos in the church library at 5:30 for conversation around Sharon Garlough Brown's latest novel in the Sensible Shoes series: BAREFOOT. It's long but once you start reading you won't be able to stop—it's quite the page turner!

## **May 15**

Coffee, Tea, and Thee: 10 a.m. in the narthex. Whether you are coffee drinker or a tea sampler, you will enjoy the company around the tables. And speaking of tables, Dave Storms will be the presenter of the day, teaching us some basic magic tricks to confound and astound family members and friends around the dining room table. Be ready to munch, laugh, and learn!

## **June 5**

VBS Family Leader Training: 6:30 pm. Have you signed on as a Roman Family leader for VBS? We want you to know EXACTLY what's yours to do during the week of "Paul and the Underground Church," our Vacation Bible School experience this year. Join Jan De Vos for a fast and furious explanation that will leave you breathless, laughing, informed and equipped. Marcia Leedy will be providing a little preview of the Roman snack specialties that will be part of our VBS week. You don't want to miss that!

## **June 6**

VBS Marketplace Crafts Shopkeepers Training: 6:30 pm. During Jan's informative tsunami of information and direction, you will receive your craft assignment. Tracy Solmes has gathered EVERYTHING you need for a wonderful crafting experience with the children. All you have to do is COME to this meeting to be instructed in the ways of the Roman Marketplace! And Marcia Leedy has preview snacks for you, too!

## **June 7, 14, and 28**

Summer Women's Bible Study on the attributes of God, led by Debbie Storms. Meet at Debbie's home, 1421 Anne Drive, at 9:30, for an hour of rich study and conversation. The study will continue through July.

## **June 19-23**

Vacation Bible School, "Paul and the Underground Church." We need a boat load of volunteers for this week long experience for 4 year olds through graduated 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Go look at the bulletin board outside the gym and sign up TODAY!!! We'll travel back in time, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-times projects, play high energy games, sample tasty Mediterranean snacks, and hear unforgettable music!

## Student MINISTRY

Can you remember your graduation day? The fear of the unknown, but at the same time the accomplishment! I remember this time of year (back then) to have flown by. I would make a case that ever since that point, life has flown by faster.

To graduates who want to get out fast, enjoy the ride for the next month. You will never get to have a time like this in your life again. A time where you have a conclusion, and your responsibilities are minimal.

You should feel no need to stress, but it is naturally going to happen. The unknown is a scary thing, but you shouldn't worry. Why is that? Because God has got you. As we find written in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." God has a path for you, and it is good. Trusting in God's plan and the journey He has prepared is key to easing your anxiety. New chapters are a mixture of emotions and feelings. Knowing that God will give you only what you can handle should be a relief. Congratulations on your accomplishments, and beginning of your future success!

A poster for an "UP HS Mission Trip" featuring a map of Michigan in orange. The text is white and includes details about the cost, dates, and contact information. A small logo of a church steeple is in the top right corner.

Cost: \$75      July 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

UP HS Mission Trip

Due June 4<sup>th</sup>

Student Release Form  
Habitat for Humanity Form  
Money

Questions? Talk to Pat  
ptyrrell@firstchurchhastings.org  
(269) 945-5463 x 3010

### ***Summer Events to put on your calendar!***

June 9<sup>th</sup>- Last day of school outing to the West Michigan Whitecaps

July 25/26- Overnight trip to Cedar Point

More information to come!

# Noah's Ark PRESCHOOL

## **MAY-The end of another great year!**

We have had a wonderful year and I have been so blessed to be included in it! My first school year as Noah's Ark Preschool Director has truly been a life changing and amazing year! I am so grateful for all the help and welcome smiles I have received this year.

Our last week of school will be May 9-12<sup>th</sup>. The year has sped by so quickly!

The teachers have been busy planning for our summer Explorer's Camp. This year's theme is "Woodland Wonders- Exploring God's World". The children will be with us for three days from 9am to Noon. During that time they will be exploring the great outdoors with hiking trips behind the church and making projects each day. This year we will be working on sun baked clay pots and bird houses.

**End of the Year Celebrations:** This year, each classroom is doing something different to celebrate the end of the year. Mrs. Pena's class is going to Boulder Ridge on May 10. Mrs. Lumbert's class is having a picnic on the trails and Mrs. Walsh's class is having a pizza party! The teachers have also been busy getting those beloved Memory Books ready to give as Year End Gifts! Those are something the parents can treasure for a lifetime!

## **Pavilion and Outdoor Classroom:**

We are so excited that our projects will be wrapping up soon. The concrete for the Pavilion will be poured in May and our picnic tables will arrive in June! The fence is up for our Outdoor Classroom and the process of planning has begun! The Noah's Ark Staff will be taking our own field trip to visit other outdoor nature areas. After we return, we will be asking for help! We would like to work on this project over the summer to create a natural and fun learning space for children in God's great outdoors. We will need help with things like garden planning, shed building, and donations of seeds and other materials. **We appreciate all that the congregation does to support our school!! Thank you!**

## **DATES & BITS:**

Last Week of Preschool: May 8<sup>th</sup>

May Ministry Meeting: May 2<sup>th</sup>

Final Staff Meeting: May 16<sup>th</sup>

Camp Dates: May 23-25 & May 30-June 1

# The Church LIBRARY

## **OUR LIBRARY HAS HAD A FACELIFT!!**

What Library? Did you know we have a church library? If you haven't wandered the upstairs halls, or had a meeting of some kind in that room, perhaps you don't know. It is the room directly across from the first Adult Classroom, going straight ahead, then right, at the top of the stairway.

Thanks to the work of several volunteers, there are comfy couches and chairs for sitting with a pile of books to either "research" something related to the Bible or biblical times, or to select books to check out and take home with you for leisure or inspirational reading.

How do we use this library? It is SO simple! The books are alphabetized by author (except for biographies, which are alphabetized by the last name of the subject ("G" for Billy Graham, for example) within categories, also in alphabetical order, labeled on the shelves. There is or soon will be, a large sign depicting the names of the categories, and you simply must **sign your name and the date you are taking the books** on the card from the pocket in the back of the books, leave the card in the small basket on the windowsill, and read, learn and enjoy!

**When you return the books, please put them on the (perhaps) empty shelf labeled "Returned Books" and a volunteer will return them to their proper places on the shelves.**

We have a wonderful research section with commentaries and helps for studying every single book in the bible; book on culture of bible times; histories of the bible, and varied translations of the Bible. There are sections on Grief, Devotional Guides, Family Living,. Psychology, and Comparative Religions, among others, and we are returning "Christian Fiction" to the shelves. This is a small group now, but if you have gently used fiction written with a Christian perspective to donate, we will be happy to process the books and put them on the shelves for others to enjoy.

Some newly processed books are displayed on a table in the back of the room. Among them are a few highlighted here, to hopefully pique your interest:

**TREASURES OF ENCOURAGEMENT; WOMEN HELPING WOMEN IN THE CHURCH**, by Sharon Betters. The author, "... explains how the freedom that springs from a secure identify in Christ can enable you to reach out to others . . . she offers inspiring stories, key principles and specific examples of how to build up each other – and the church as a whole – through the ministry of encouragement."

**THREE STEPS FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK**, by Charles Swindoll. This is not a "new" book, but a timeless one, in this writer's/reader's opinion. Swindoll presents tools for the rocky journey that is "life". "According to C. S. Lewis", he says, "Life is a task. A tough one. Sometimes absolutely unbearable. . . ." This book can "help you face problems, walk into them, through them and come out stronger in Christianity on the other side. You CAN persevere through pressure."



## Staff CONTACTS

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## First Presbyterian MINISTRIES



### FAMILY MINISTRY

Jan De Vos x 3005

[jdevos@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto: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](mailto:noahsark@firstchurchhastings.org)

LeeAnn is our Noah's Ark Preschool Director. The preschool is celebrating its 21st year serving the Hastings Community this school year!



### STUDENT MINISTRY

Patrick Tyrrell x 3010

[ptyrrell@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto: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](mailto:twillard@hassk12.org)

[mcallaghan@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto: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

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM PATH Youth Group	1 1:00 PM Staff Meeting-Adult Ed 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 7:00 PM Knit Wits - Lounge	2 6:00 PM NAPS Ministry Meeting	3 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 6:30 PM Chor	4 8:00 PM Bible and Brew	5 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	6 10:30 AM Praise Team
7 Communion Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM PATH Youth Group	8 1:00 PM Staff Meeting-Adult Ed 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 6:00 PM Mission and Student Ministry Meetings 7:00 PM Family and Worship Ministry Meetings 7:00 PM Knit Wits - Lounge	9	10 11:00 AM NAPS Pizza Parties-Gym 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 5:30 PM Women's Book Club 6:30 PM Chor	11 11:00 AM NAPS Pizza Parties-Gym 8:00 PM Bible and Brew	12 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym 11:00 AM NAPS Pizza Parties-Gym	13 10:30 AM Praise Team
14 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM PATH Youth Group	15 10:30 AM Coffee, Tea, and Treats 1:00 PM Staff Meeting-Adult Ed 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 7:00 PM Knit Wits - Lounge 7:00 PM Trustees	16	17 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 6:30 PM Chor	18 8:00 PM Bible and Brew	19 Newsletter Deadline 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	20 10:30 AM Praise Team
21 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM PATH Youth Group	22 1:00 PM Staff Meeting-Adult Ed 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 6:00 PM Personnel 7:00 PM Knit Wits - Lounge 7:00 PM Session	23	24 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 6:30 PM Chor	25 8:00 PM Bible and Brew	26 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	27 10:30 AM Praise Team
28 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM PATH Youth Group	29 Holiday-Office Closed 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 7:00 PM Knit Wits - Lounge	30	31 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 6:30 PM Chor	1 8:00 PM Bible and Brew	2 9:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	3 10:30 AM Praise Team 11:30 AM Open House

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**Special Birthdays:**

Art Steward will be 91 on 5/18!

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