

# FIRST PRESS



**First Presbyterian Church in Harbor Springs, Michigan**

## *How to celebrate Holy Week with your family*

As we move into Holy Week, some may wonder how do we introduce and teach our children or grandchildren about the significant importance of this time? We have put together a few ideas you and your family can do at home to teach your little ones about the different days of Holy Week

- 1) Palm Sunday- Attend church service. We pass out palm branches for little ones to wave during service. Have your kids reenact the story of Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. Play worship music all week (specifically about Jesus death and resurrection)
- 2) Clearing the Temple Monday- Have your kids help spring clean while telling them about Jesus clearing the temple
- 3) Maundy Thursday- Create a seder meal for you and your family. Read about Jesus last supper with his disciples
- 4) Good Friday- Make hot cross buns. Attend Good Friday Service.
- 5) Resurrection Sunday- Attend Church Service. Make banners saying HE IS RISEN! Watch a family movie on Jesus' resurrection such as "The Greatest Adventures of the Bible: The Easter Story"

## Change Is in the Air

As I write this, it's March. The winds are blowing, it's still cold, and there are snow flurries. For a lot of people, March is not their favorite time of year and they leave if they can. But March is a season of change. The days are growing longer, the temperatures are warming, and there is occasionally a hint of Spring in the air.

Change is often challenging, but it also carries the possibility of something better to come. Change is in the air here at First Presbyterian Church. Our long-time office administrator, Linda O'Dell, has departed for Florida to be closer to family. Our new Children's Ministries director, Reneé Morris, has added a playgroup and is building our midweek program. She is also serving as our Acting Office Manager which means she is having to learn new programs and procedures, including putting together this newsletter. Tisha Cone is our new Financial Manager. Monica Pavel continues to do excellent work with our musical groups and is also putting together bulletins and slides for worship. Bob Hamil, who does tech for worship (audio, visual, streaming, etc.) continues to improve our systems and to make things more streamlined. Our staff has done a wonderful job in the midst of all the changes, and I am grateful for each one of them.

I am also working on some changes. In addition to working with a coach from the Center Consulting Group, I have begun doing Transitional Ministry training. Unlike Interim Ministry training, which is designed for working with churches to help them prepare to call a new pastor, Transitional Ministry is designed to provide pastors with skills and knowledge to lead congregations through change. I would be grateful for your prayers as I do this work.

In conjunction with this, I am looking for opportunities to connect with all of you. If you would like to meet with me or have me visit you, please call or email me to set that up. Additionally, I am planning to start a Brown Bag with Pastor Kip where anyone who would like to can join me at noon on Wednesdays in the GatheringPlace. You are invited to bring a lunch or just to come and chat.

Change is in the air. As people return from being away for the winter or from "mud season", and rejoin with those who have stayed Up North, Winter is changing to Spring and Spring will change into Summer. If you have been away from church, or if you have continued worshiping and being involved in the life of our congregation, I hope we can rejoin each other in pursuing the healthy change we seek here at First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs.

God bless,  
Kip

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

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### **Palm Sunday April 2**

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Palm Sunday will be at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where he was welcomed with open arms by his faithful followers.

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### **Maundy Thursday April 6**

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Maundy Thursday will be at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday is the day Jesus celebrated his last passover with his disciples, or more commonly known as the last supper

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### **Good Friday April 7**

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Good Friday will be at  
7:00pm  
Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

Good Friday is the day we observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

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### **Resurrection Sunday April 9**

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Resurrection Sunday Service will be at 10:00am in the Sanctuary

Easter Morning marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion.

## ***It's Time to Update the Church Directory***

Our church directory serves as a live database of pictures and contact information of, and for, our members and patrons. We use it to stay in touch with the church and with each other.

Our congregation is a busy bunch. Many people have multiple addresses, phones and emails and we found that the directory needed to be proactively updated. Kenny Stewart has taken on this mission, to work to make sure everyone's records are up to date.

You are always welcome to send your updated address, cell phone, email updates and digital pictures directly to the church office at [office@fpchs.org](mailto:office@fpchs.org).

In addition to that, there will be various ways we will be coming to you, to make sure we get things updated properly and conveniently. Stay tuned.



## Children & Youth Happenings

Being my first year as CYF director for FPCHS, I'm so excited for Holy Week! We have already been discussing the aspects of Jesus' journey to the cross in Kids Club and will be starting the Children's Church through this journey all through this Easter season as well. On Resurrection Sunday we will not be having Children's Church. We will have an activity bag for all the kids who attend church service. After service we will be meeting in the Gathering Place where each family will receive a flower pot, soil and a lily bulb to decorate, plant and take home. Lilies are mentioned or alluded to several times in the Bible. and folk tales have arisen, one says white lilies that sprouted in the Garden of Eden as Eve's remorseful tears fell to the ground. Another is that Easter lilies grew where Jesus's tears and blood fell from the cross, and lilies were supposedly found in the Garden of Gethsemane after the crucifixion. We hope you will join us for this special event.

Also happening this month for our community is our Parent's Night Out. The theme this month will be Game Night. We will have games, crafts and loads more fun for kids ages 5 and up! A hot dog supper will be provided for the kids as well. Join us Friday April 14, 2023 from 6:00pm -8:30pm. Volunteers as always, are needed and welcomed.

Our children from Kids Club and Sunday church will also be performing a small skit on April 23rd during Sunday Service. The skit is called " A Word on the Resurrection". Please join and support the children on this special performance.

## Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds will be contacting those interested in reserving a Community Garden Plot in Mid April.

*To bloom, you must  
first plant the seeds.*

**Join us Sunday April 9,2023 for Easter Service. Each family will receive a flower pot to decorate and a lily bulb to plant inside it to take home.**

First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs  
7940 Cemetery Rd.

10 am Service -11 am fellowship hour



## Your Mission Committee

Your Mission Team would like to tell you what we are doing to be a Christ centered missioned church. Our church donates to many needy people in our community and in the world. We donate to St. Vincent DePaul at Holy Childhood. They have a very good system in place, that if a person in need comes to them, they talk to the person and determine the problem. They work with the person to help them and provide the good they need. We do not have to reinvent the wheel as they have a good system in place. We donate to our local food pantry and provide many volunteer hours to serving in our community. Some of our donations have been provided to

\$10,000 in food coupons to families in need.

The Crop Walk

Habitat for Humanity

Our sister Church in Gaylord for Tornado relief

Young Life

Manna Food Backpack program

PCUSA Disaster Fund

Our newest donation is Coupons for laundromats, which families can pick up at the food pantry

Salvation Arm

Northern Den

Harbor Springs Friendship center

Christian groups in Africa

SAME, this organization adopted a community in South Africa and is providing food, medical help, education and counseling to the community there.

Echoes of Mercy School is located in an extremely poor area in Kenya. Pastor Moses started a school there 13 years ago with just two classrooms. Now there are over 600 students who attend the school. Orphans and widow's children attend for free. They provide two meals a day that are cooked in the kitchen with money we donated to build. These children take national test yearly and are the top scoring school in their region! Both Same and Echoes of Mercy receive 100% of the money we donate and are Christian base and teach these children about Jesus. These children will be the leaders in their communities and will make a difference!

We donate to a nursing school in Haiti. They have US academic standards. The money we donate provides a year's tuition for one student. Their graduates are making a difference in their own country

We have 3 teas at Hillside and Perry Farms. Our most recent was a St. Patrick's Tea. Our Bell choir, led by Monica, played lovely music and we sang Iris songs. The ladies enjoyed tea and cookies. Our next tea will be at Hillside on Friday May 12. It will be a Mother's Day Tea. Mark your calendars to help

## **New Small Group Forming**

Bible study and discussion are an important part of life in our church. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us about justice as we are called to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, give clothing to the naked, take care of the sick, and take care of those in prison. Therefore, as Christians following the words and example of Christ, it is as important to move from understanding to action (James 1:22). The purpose of this small group is to assist our church in understanding the biblical call for justice and identifying ways we can be actively involved within our community, sharing the love of Christ and the vision of the Kingdom of God through acts that lead to justice and reconciliation for all people.

If you are interested in joining this group, contact Kathy Bodzick, (231)526-5667 (call or text); [kathy5141@gmail.com](mailto:kathy5141@gmail.com).

Come and join us as we follow God by living the group's mission: To share God's love and the relevance of his word, one relationship at a time, by reducing barriers that keep persons from being all that God intends them to be.

## **The Lunch Bunch**

The lunch bunch ladies will be meeting the third Thursday of every month. This month they will be meeting April 20, at 12:00pm at Vernales. For more info contact Carolyn Whittle at [crosewhittle@gmail.com](mailto:crosewhittle@gmail.com)