

# FIRST PRESS

## Newsletter 09.23

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs,

On June 13, Pastor Kip Murphy announced to session that he had received and accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church of Mason City, Iowa. It was then that our church became a church in transition. The Presbytery stepped in to assist and Rev. Dr. Lois Arioian became our Committee on Ministry (COM) Representative to guide us through the transitional process.

Your Session, with help from our COM Representative, is working to carry on the ministry of the congregation as we look forward to the next stage in our congregation's life together. 1) Session is securing guest speakers to fill the pulpit and provide pastoral care during the immediate vacancy until a transitional pastor is found. Rev. Tom Cook has agreed to fill this need. He will preach on August 27, most Sunday's in September and will provide pastoral care as needed. 2) Session has appointed a three person Transitional Team made up of Chairman Jerry Root, Kathy Bodzick and Sue Blevins. This team has the responsibility of finding a transitional pastor to serve in the interim. A transitional pastor is someone with special expertise and training in working with congregations in the midst of pastoral transition.

When the church is ready, the Presbytery will authorize the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (Search Committee). The Session will recommend the number of persons to serve on this Committee. The Nominating Committee will prepare a slate to be voted on by the congregation. A congregational meeting will be called and the members of the Search Committee will be approved and commissioned to begin prayerful process of searching for and nominating a pastor to be elected by the congregation.

We hope you will join us in this process: by supporting the church, welcoming a transitional pastor, praying for the Search Committee as they seek to determine God's will and finally, by helping us to elect a permanently installed pastor to serve at First Presbyterian Church in Harbor Springs.

“The question before us could be framed, ‘God whom are you  
calling this time to lead in this church? Show us your choice  
Selecting Church Leaders the Alban Institute, 2022

Sincerely  
Sue Blevins

# Pastor's COLUMN

There are no questions about a well-known statistic in church growth circles. By far and away, the most potent church growth comes when members of a church openly and often invite friends and neighbors to attend worship and church activities with them. It is called the “with-me” principle. It goes far beyond just growing a church, in fact more importantly it was Jesus’ approach to developing disciples. Jesus used the “with-me” principle often with his disciples and in his ministry. Just about wherever he went he brought disciples and others with him.

Jesus taught his disciples mostly by example... he brought them along with him and they watched and learned how he could heal, feed and witness to any number of folks. His classroom was the world, and he brought his disciples into it “with-him.” Then he sent them out on a pilot mission in pairs, two by two, so that one would be with another in supporting roles as they witnessed to the world. (Mark 6:6-13) When they returned, they told Jesus all they had done and taught. They were amazed by what they were able to accomplish. Then Jesus said to them: *“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”* (Mark 6:31)

How I ended up in the ministry has everything to do with the “with-me” principle. I spent two years studying biology at Alma College. For reasons I need not explain, I took a religion course my sophomore year and got hooked by a professor who played me like a trout to the net. He took me with him for two and a half years. Another teacher took me with him my junior year. One day, while we walked to class together, the second professor told me the church needed people like me in the ministry. I changed my major to religion that year and ended up in Divinity School. Upon graduation, I entered the ministry as an associate pastor in a large church and my colleague, the senior minister, took me alongside, with him, teaching me by example and all the while I experienced conversion and my calling into the ministry became clearer to me. Since those days I have become a mentor to many people, some of whom are now ordained as teaching elders and ruling elders.

So my question to you is who are you bringing with you? Is there a friend? A grandchild? Your own children? A neighbor? Someone you haven’t seen in worship for a while? Who will you bring with you to experience the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ?



Caption

## Housing Needed

As the transition team begins negotiations with possible Interim Pastors, it has become obvious that one of the stumbling blocks is affordable housing in the area. If any of you have rentals available or know of any, please contact one of the team members: Sue Blevins, Kathy Bodzick, or Jerry Root. Housing needs to be dog friendly.

**\* Missing from this months newsletter is our Session Minutes. We will send those out in a separate email once they're received. Sorry for the inconvenience, if you have further questions regarding the Session minutes please contact the office or staff personell. Thank you.**

## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE SUCCESS!

What an amazing end to an amazing summer. We completed our second school supply drive as your active CYF Director. I want to thank everyone who brought in school supplies this year. WHAT A BLESSING!! We gave out 17 backpacks total and helped over 8 families prepare for school this year. One mom was so grateful, as she has been to several SSD recently but had no luck securing backpacks for her 4 kids. She stated she even waited for over an hour at the Verizon backpack drive and walked away emptied handed, so this was a true blessing for her kids. We did not have a lot left over but what we did have our committee took to the Nehemiah House. They too were extremely filled with gratitude for us donating to the children in the Mary Margaret House. So they too can begin this school year with confidence.



### Blessing of the Backpacks

## Kids Club Kick Off

**SEPTEMBER 27**

**JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 3:30-4:30 FOR GAMES, CRAFTS, STORY TIME, MUSIC AND MORE. REVOLVED AROUND A CHRIST CENTER ENVIRONMENT BUS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED THROUGH HARBOR SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR KIDS WHO CURRENTLY RIDE THE BUS.**



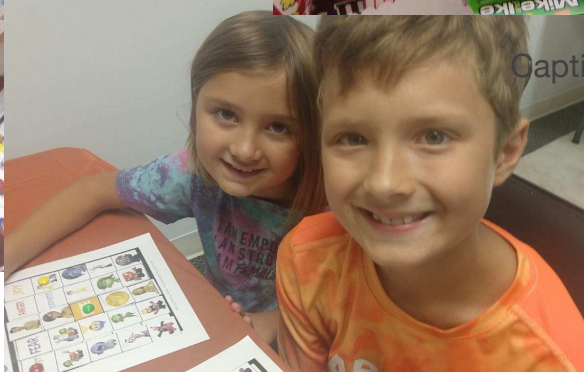




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Some fun photos from our Parent's Night Out- Movie Night on Aug 25. We had 15 kids in attendance!! They had an amazing time watching Disney's Pixar "Inside Out" but they all said their favorite part was our open concession stand with Popcorn, Movie theater candy and beverages!

Dear Friends and Members of First Presbyterian Church,

As we embark on a new chapter in the life of our church I am reminded of one of the three pillars of the Three-Year Action Plan created by session, over 100 members of our church family, and the Center Consulting Group which is *connectedness and belonging*. Taking this to heart after much prayer, the Stewardship Campaign for 2024 is **Connecting and Belonging**. Think about all the ways we connect and why it's so meaningful.

We connect on a weekly basis at Sunday Service by gathering in the Narthex before service. You feel the sense of belonging by the greeters as soon as you walk in the door; A simple pat on the back, or a smile, or best of all a hug. During Sunday service we connect through prayers of the people. We further connect through music, a hallmark of our church, and the leadership of Director of Arts & Music Ministry Monica Pavel Kissinger. Singing allows us to express our love to God with our whole being – heart, soul, mind, and body.

We connect during service with the joy of seeing youngsters once again in our sanctuary. Reneé Morris, Director of Christian Education, is creating new programming for children and youth providing spiritual nourishment. It's making a difference. We connect during the week with a variety of small group gatherings that are open to all.

We connect and feel a sense of belonging through the giving of time, talent, and treasures. In the coming year this takes on added meaning and importance. The challenges churches face today are well known and financial stability and church membership are inter-connected.

While we have begun the search for an interim minister we are profoundly grateful to Rev. Dr. Tom Cook who will be our guest preacher until an interim is confirmed thus providing stability and continuity. Tom & Martha's connection to our church spans decades.

A member of our church and I were chatting a few Sundays ago and she said, my husband and I have decided during this transition we're going to provide a bit more giving than we have in the past. Her comment is timely and thought provoking and one that we need to prayerfully consider.

You will receive in September this letter in the mail and your pledge card for prayerful consideration for the coming year. Your pledge allows finance to have a clearer picture in setting the budget for 2024. *Your pledge is strictly confidential*. Or simply go to our website: <https://fpchs.org> and click the tab "donate". God will lead you in determining what you can give. We are all in this together supporting the mission of our church.

God's blessings,  
David Crouse  
Stewardship Team

# ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, September 3, during fellowship hour will be having an Ice Cream Social in the Gathering Place. Please come and enjoy the Labor Day Weekend service with us and end the summer on a delicious note! Invite your friends, neighbors and especially your kids and grandkids to this fun family fellowship hour.





## New Bible Study to Begin!

Every week in worship, we pray “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. As we go out, we say, “God calls us to be a Christ-centered, missional church that proclaims the Word of God and demonstrates the relevance of his Word to all people.” What exactly does this mean and how do we know how to do it? We turn to the bible.

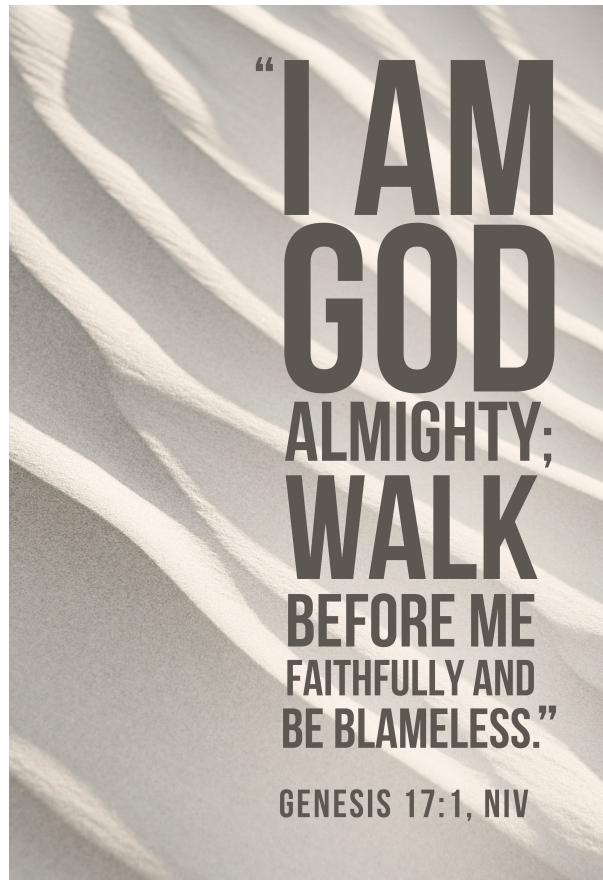
Bible study and discussion are an important part of life in our church. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us about doing Kingdom work by feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, giving clothing to the naked, taking care of the sick, and taking care of those in prison.

We invite you to come study this bible chapter with us and explore what following Christ in this way might look like here at First Presbyterian.

The study will begin after worship, 11:20-12:30. We will meet October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19.

We really hope to see you for this study!

Susan Affhalter, Tracy Beckly, Kathy Bodzick, Paula Funk, Viki Moser



## Let's Go On A Prayer Walk!

If you, a loved one or an employee have looked for housing recently, you know what a struggle folks are facing. Habitat for Humanity is working on one solution to this problem with their 32 home Meadowlands development in Alanson. This church has the opportunity to tour the project and offer prayers for all the families who are or will be future home owners.

The Prayer Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at noon. You can join the group there or meet at the church at 11:30 to carpool.

**Address: Hem Street, Hem St, Littlefield Township, MI 49706, USA**

**Directions: Take 68 towards Indian River, turn right on Lakeview, continue down the road until you see the subdivision on your left. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Bodzick, (231)526-5667, [kathy5141@gmail.com](mailto:kathy5141@gmail.com)**





Pastor Moses from Kenya will be our guest preacher on Sunday, September 24th.

Moses is the director of Echoes Of Mercy School. The school is located in his home village in western Kenya. He listened to God 13 years ago and started the school with 2 classrooms. Now the school has 600 students! The school has made a huge difference in this very poor community. The children of widows and poor families can attend school for free! Many of the students have graduated and gone on to higher education. They will be the people who will help their area prosper. You can help by sponsoring a child or donating money to run the school.

The money is first donated to Fruit of the Vine, a 501c3 organization, and then they wire transfer 100% of the donations to the school. Be sure to come to coffee hour so you can get to know Pastor Moses.

*Carolyn Whittle*



## Lunch Bunch:

Lunch at area restaurants on the third Wednesday of the month. There will be a sign up sheet on the welcome table or, contact Carolyn Whittle know you are interested.

*Carolyn Whittle*

# Welcome



Brenda Hasse is our new Office Manager here at First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs. Please give her a great welcome by emailing, calling or stopping in to say HI!

My Name is Brenda Hasse and we live in the Petoskey area now for five years. I am married to Darin for twenty years and have two boys Peter eighteen who is dual enrolled in North Central Michigan College and a senior at Petoskey high school and Christian ten years old in fourth grade at Sheridan elementary school. I am very excited to join the First Presbyterian Church family! I love helping people. While I was in college getting my Applied Science in Computer Information Systems Degree I worked for Ford Motor Company doing Tech Support. I also have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

I supported people at Ford Customer Service Division. I am on the Board of Evangelism and Education now for five years.

I organize many events and get people involved. If you have the event the people will come. For example, I was asked to advertise for the church rummage sale and we brought in 3000 dollars just from advertising our event! I also attend Zion Lutheran Church in Petoskey. I Love to cook, I love to garden and grow strawberries. Bird watching is fun also.



<https://fpchs.org/worship/live-stream/>



<https://engage.suran.com/fpchs/s/give/new-gift>



*Whatever you do, work at it with*  
**ALL YOUR HEART,**  
*as working for the Lord.*

— Colossians 3:23, NIV —

## When Labor Day started

Labor Day was first celebrated unofficially by labor activists and individual states in the late 1800s, according to the US Department of Labor. New York was the first state to introduce a bill recognizing Labor Day, but Oregon was the first to actually codify it into law in 1887. Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York had followed suit by the end of 1887.

It wasn't until June 28, 1894, that Congress passed an act naming the first day of September a legal holiday called Labor Day.

Today, Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer, but worker-oriented Labor Day parades and festivities are still part of the federal holiday.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. Our office will be closed in observance of this Holiday on Monday, September 4, 2023



# GREAT LAKES CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

GREAT LAKES  
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

*Presents*

## *Women Composers Night*



*Jessie Montgomery*



*Amanda Maier*



*Florence Price*



*Ethel Smyth*



*Joan Tower*

*Saturday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*Great Lakes Center for the Arts*

*Tickets on sale NOW - 231-487-0010*

Scan Me



*Maestro Dr. Libor Ondras - Conductor*



*Soloist Karisa Chiu*

*6pm - Pre - Concert lecture - 7pm Concert*

*glcorchestra.org*

# PRAYER

## list...

*Please honor the confidentiality of this list. If you have additional prayer requests, or feel it is time to remove your name or request, please contact the church office.*

### **At Home/Long Term Care:**

Shirley Clarke (Dave Clarke)  
Michael Baity (Pineview)  
Diane Burns (Pineview)

### **Sympathy to the Family and Friends of:**

David Heinz (Kaye Frang)	Tom Spooner
Ciara Raymond (Judy Wilson)	Ed Stolt
Sharon Thorton	Kabel Sheehan (Karen Bezilla)
Doug Brautigam	Andy Lasley (Debra Root)
Marion Lamy (Laurie Ford)	Andrew Busch
Jerry Kaiser (Sharon Van Buren)	Kathy Bultman
Jim Harp (Melanie Manary)	Dave William
Bob Brown	Dave Borchers

### **General Support**

Karen (David and Gail Clarke)  
Midge Miller (David and Gail Clarke)  
Dorothy Litzer  
Lizann Donley  
Nate Rice  
Irene Wehner (David & Sharon Knoodle)  
Angie Snyder  
Malcolm Snyder (Ima Williams)  
Jacob Malley (Kathy McCreight)  
Carrigan & Christian Warner (Kathy Bodzick)  
Bette Shelton  
Truda Kruger  
Amy Richardson (Linda Rosenow)  
Jamie & Deb Sears (Lizann Donley)  
Jessica, Joseph, Jasper, V'en Venohr (Kathy Bodzick)



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## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HARBOR SPRINGS

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