**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 School Schedule: 9:30 am. Adult Sunday School Everyone is welcome



11:00 am Worship Service Coffee & Fellowship Hour follows the service



#### Finance Committee Report ~\$\$\$\$

\*\*Monthly Needs for 2024 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: \*\*

NOVEMBER 2024 INCOME AND EXPENSES

PAYMENTS AND PAYROLL:

INCOME AND DONATIONS:

11-3~ \$2505

11-10~\$1777

11-17~\$1157

11-24~\$4527

## 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.



#### DECEMBER LITURGISTS

Dec. 1st- Bob Stewart

Dec. 8th- Tarina Macklem

Dec. 15th-Beth Montgomery

Dec. 22nd-Linda Stewart

Dec. 29th- Lorie Hershberger

#### DECEMBER COUNTERS

Dennis Farwell

Pete Metters

Carol Ludlow

#### January Liturgists

1-5~Linda Stewart

1-12~Chris Doll

1-19~ Beth Montgomery 1-26~ Tarina Macklem

#### January Counters

Bob Stewart

Beth Montgomery

Jan Breckenridge

# FROM PASTOR SUSAN'S DESK

Dear First Presbyterian Church friends,

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Advent and Merry Christmas! This newsletter covers a multitude of holidays and Holy days. We are indeed blessed to experience these joyous times and seasons together!

In considering what to write to you for the December newsletter I was struck by Eugene Peterson's Nov. 21 devotional utilizing Philippians 2:15 from The Message... "Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse . . . of the living God."

He goes on to say "People of faith live in a far larger reality than people without faith, "God so loved the world."

What does he mean by this? He says "The larger the world we live in, the larger our lives develop in response." In other words, when we are kind, forbearing, generous, loving, tender-hearted, quick to forgive, we are living more genuine Christ-like lives and we demonstrate Christ to the world that so desperately yearns for the Good News.

We HAVE the Good News. We cannot keep it to ourselves. People need the Lord. We sing a song like that:

"People need the Lord, at the end of broken dreams, He's the open door." Especially at Christmas people can be "blue" due to varying circumstances, especially around the death of a loved one. This is the very time to reassure folks that God loves their loved one too! We have so much to share. Let's use our time wisely.

I wish you a Merry Christmas, but more than that I wish you a blessed and a blessing Christmas! You are God's beloved!!

Rejoice, our Savior has come!

Love to all, Pastor Susan

#### SPIRITUAL MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SUSAN

# Pastoral Prayers - Advent

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come: At the outset of a new Christian year, we come to your house once again with adoration and thanksgiving, because you have come to us with seeking love through Moses and the prophets and supremely in the person of Jesus.

You have been worshiped in this church for more than 187 years. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we may meet the challenges of this dawning year in the spirit of him who came to us as a little child, but grew up to be a man with a mission: the proclamation of your justice and your mercy. We recall with grateful hearts his sublime teachings, his miracles of healing and the unique miracle of his victory over death. With the assurance of his resurrection, we also celebrate during this holy season the promise of his return in glory, his Second Advent.

Because he came to us, loved us, lived for us, died for us, rose for us, we pray that you will keep us faithful to him in both life and death. Help us to learn from him how to live differently, regardless of what people may say about us or do to us. Let our faith in him so shine from us that others may be intrigued, start asking questions and, by your grace, discover the answer to their quest in him, in whom alone life finds its full meaning.

Lord of the nations, whose Son we hail as the Prince of Peace: Help us to be more skillful, more useful in the cause of peace. Let our breadth of mind, mutual forbearance and acceptance of all kinds of people as children of Yours serve as a model of reconciling community. In a sharply, painfully divided United States, let us join with other peacemakers in building bridges between rich and poor, between black and white, between native and immigrant. Help us to keep in mind that the same Jesus who came to us on the first Christmas, and who promised to come back in Your own appointed time, is also with us now, at all times, encouraging us as agents of His mercy and heralds of His justice, expecting us to be builders of bridges, peacemakers, in response to His love for us and for all your children.

We offer this prayer, with thanksgiving, in His powerful name. Amen.

#### ~DEACON & SESSION INFORMATION~

#### **DECEMBER DEACON IN CHARGE**

**Bob Montgomery** 

#### **DECEMBER USHERS**

#### **Communion Dates**

12-8&12-24

#### **MEETINGS:**

- ~ Next Deacon Meeting December 8th following the worship service, during Communion clean up.
- ~Next Session Meeting December 19th at 6:00 pm

## ~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~

~Deacon Board Members~

517-617-0626

269-275-9277

Bob Montgomery 517-278-5028

Lorie Hershberger 517-227-9030

Stacey Hullinger 517-677-0074

Bob Stewart

Hope Woods

 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

 Lisa Renshaw
 517-278-8070

 Peter Metters
 313-244-1570

 Carol Ludlow
 517-279-9407





- † Gale Fisher's family, Jessica's grandpa, as they mourn his passing(11-18-24))
- † Peace in USA & world
- † Megan, overdosed
- † Ruby Merkle, as she mourns the lose of her sister in law and brother. (11-4-24)
- † Jerry Nakoneczny, infection in knee replacement(10-24-24)
- † Joy Reichenberg, Stage 4 liver & colon cancer(10-16-24)
- † *Mattie*, Brain tumor (10-16-24)
- † Bruce Gregory's family, as they mourn his sister Virginia Bell (9-24-24)
- † Dorothy, friend of Pastor Susan<sub>(9-24-24)</sub>
- † Robert, friend of Kate Simpson<sub>(9-24-24)</sub>
- † 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)
- † Sara Semmelroth's family, as they mourn her passing(8-1-24)
- † The family of Elizabeth Mettler-Garner in her passing on 7/3/24
- † Jeff Glore, cancer & diabetes (7-9-24)
- † 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.\*\*\*

# PRÄĽSE

11-3~

†The beautiful fall creation of our Heavenly Father

11-10~

†Diaper Donations!

11-17~

† Loving Congregation

11-24~

†Our Guest, Rev. Dr. Nancy Weatherwax

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COLDWATER STATED MEETING OF SESSION THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2024

Present: Chris Doll, Bruce Gregory, Paul Hershberger, Pete Metters, Carol Ludlow and Linda Stewart.

Excused: Jan Breckinridge and Lisa Renshaw

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 Carol Ludlow, supported by Chris Doll.

DEACON'S REPORT: No report.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Minutes of the September 19, 2024 Session Meeting were approved with changes on a motion by Bruce Gregory, supported by Chris Doll.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Susan reported on the use of her time. She discussed her proposed time away for 2025. Session discussed a handout from Pastors.com titled "Embracing Creative Outreach in Your Ministry." Session also discussed Chapter 2 of the book 10 Dumbest Things Christians do. Pete Metters made a motion, supported by Linda Stewart, to accept the Pastor's Report. The motion passed.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

September 30, 2024

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN BANK \$30,903.69 MINUS DESIGNATED FUNDS (\$12,170.10) EQUALS GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$18,733.59 AMORTIZED ANNUAL GIFT BALANCE (\$5,250.00) CURRENT AMOUNT \$13,483.59

MEMORIAL INTEREST EARNED \$20.12 VANTAGE POINTE MONEY MARKET \$1.20 VANTAGE POINTE MUTUAL FUND \$6,939.40 BRINKER CAPITAL \$3,177.50 TOTAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS (INCOME/(LOSS) \$10,138.22

The Treasurer's Report was gratefully received. COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Building & Grounds</u>. The snowplowing contract is set for this winter. We received an invoice for \$2,600 for the elevator. The cost for annual certification of the elevator is \$960.

<u>Stewardship.</u> The 2024 Stewardship letter was sent last week. Stewardship Sunday will be on October 27, 2024.

<u>Personnel.</u> Jessica had her second anniversary as Administrative Assistant on August 29, 2024. The Personnel Committee made a motion, that did not require a second, to increase Jessica's pay by \$1.50 an hour. The motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Session reviewed and discussed the list of doorbell receiver duties on Sundays.

The peace offering totaled \$500.20. The Presbytery recommends that churches donate 25% of the offering to PCUSA disaster relief for hurricane victims. Paul Hershberger made a motion, supported by Linda Stewart, to adopt the Presbytery's recommendation and donate 25% of the peace offering to PCUSA disaster relief. The motion passed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Boundaries Training. Kim Hemker is working on an agenda for in-person 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 6:57 p.m. with a prayer.

Herry Christmas of

From Your Staff

Mith lone,
Syran

Wishing you Season!
Christmas Season!
Christmas Season!
Christmas Season!

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to my church family for the lovely remembrances for Pastor Appreciation Month-the delicious cake and goodies, the beautiful personalized leather notebook and card that everyone signed and the well-wishes. All are greatly appreciated. It is my honor to serve with you! Love to all, Susan

#### F.P.C. PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We are well into the holiday season. Our Christmas Tea is December 7, 2024. We have decorated the fellowship hall for the season. We have women from 10 churches celebrating the start of the Christmas season. The women of First Presbyterian Church participate in setting up, making items for the Boutique, bringing treats, bringing guests, and cleaning up. It is a special gathering for everyone. Our theme this year is *Home for the Holidays*.

We continue to serve the church in any way we can. Sarah Circle sent 5 goodie boxes to our college students to help them study for exams. The students enjoy the boxes. We enjoy putting them together.

Both circles are continuing to participate in their Bible study.

We also make weekly and monthly gifts of paper products for the Shelter house. We support ReRe, who lives in India. We post pictures on our bulletin board by the entrance door.

There are many activities going on in December. Check your newsletter and weekly bulletins.

As we go forward into December, we wish you and yours the very best of Christmas. May you spend this wonderful season with family and friends. We sometimes get so busy during this season that we overextend ourselves. Stay focused on the reason for the season. Take care of yourselves so you can be an active participant in this wonderful season.

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

#### ~F.P.C. OUTREACH REPORT~

DIAPER PANTRY WORK SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

12-5~ Beth & Rita

12-12~Lois & Dean

12-19~Linda & Bob

12-26~Closed

**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 2024, we have handed out **1484** 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**

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

-Food Pantry Items needed for December 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!



# Please join us for Christmas Eve service @7pm





12/20~ Peter Rufenacht 12/22~ Randy Zorn 12/23~ Chris Doll

# Anniversaries /

12/23~ Lois &Dean Williams

# **LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY:**

**12-1**~ *Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

**12-8~** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

**12-15**~ Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**12-22**~ Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

**12-24~** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

**12-29**~ 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

#### Sicilian Brussels Sprouts

I love to make this dish because the flavors jumping around in your mouth keep you coming back bite after bite.

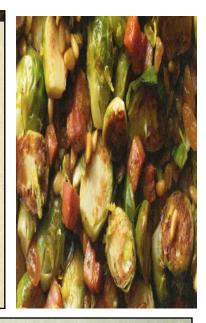
—Marsha Gillett, Yukon, OK

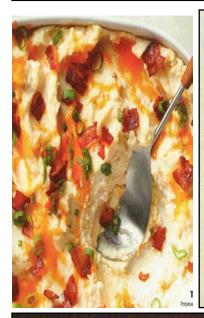
Prep: 30 min. • Bake: 20 min. Makes: 12 servings

- 12 oz. pancetta, diced
- 2 lbs. fresh Brussels sprouts, halved
- 3 Tbsp. capers, drained

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 Tbsp. champagne vinegar
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 34 cup golden raisins
- ½ cup pine nuts, toasted
- 1 tsp. grated lemon zest
- 1. In a large cast-iron or other ovenproof skillet, cook pancetta over medium heat until browned. Remove to paper towels with a slotted spoon.
- 2. Add Brussels sprouts to pan; cook and stir until lightly browned. Remove from heat. Stir in capers, oil, vinegar, lemon juice, salt and pepper.
- **3.** Bake, uncovered, at 350° until caramelized, stirring occasionally, 15-20 minutes. Add the raisins, pine nuts, lemon zest and pancetta; toss to coat.

**% CUP** 235 cal., 17g fat (4g sat. fat), 23mg chol., 723mg sod., 15g carb. (8g sugars, 4g fiber), 9g pro.





# Creamy Make-Ahead Mashed Potatoes

My recipe takes mashed potatoes to the next level with a savory topping of cheese, onions and bacon.

—JoAnn Koerkenmeier, Damiansville, IL

Prep: 35 min. + chilling • Bake: 40 min. Makes: 10 servings

- 3 lbs. potatoes (about 9 medium), peeled and cubed
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ cup butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup 2% milk
- 11/2 tsp. onion powder

- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
  Optional: Shredded cheddar
  cheese, crumbled cooked
  bacon and chopped green
  onions
- 1. Place potatoes in a Dutch oven; cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook, uncovered, 10-15 minutes or until tender. Drain potatoes; return to pan.
- 2. Mash potatoes, gradually adding the cream cheese, sour cream and

butter. Stir in milk and seasonings. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. If desired, sprinkle with cheese and bacon. Refrigerate, covered, up to 2 days.

3. Preheat oven to 350°. Remove potatoes from refrigerator and let stand while the oven heats. Bake, covered, 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 10 minutes longer or until heated through. If desired, sprinkle with green onion.

% CUP 354 cal., 20g fat (12g sat. fat), 56mg chol., 400mg sod., 40g carb. (3g sugars, 5g fiber), 7g pro.

# Spiced Pistachio Pumpkin Bread

This savory loaf is a nice surprise compared with sweet pumpkin loaves. Serve it with soup and salad, or toast a slice and slather it with butter.

—Mary Leverette, Columbia, SC

Prep: 30 min. • Bake: 65 min. + cooling Makes: 2 loaves (16 pieces each)

- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 1 cup chopped shelled pistachios
- ½ tsp. ground turmeric
- ½ tsp. ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- BATTER
- ²/₃ cup butter, softened

- 2⁴/₃ cups suga
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin
- ²/₃ cup water
- 3½ cups self-rising flour
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Cook until butter is golden brown, 5-7 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in the pistachios, turmeric, cumin and cayenne. Let cool.

  2. For batter, in a large bowl, beat

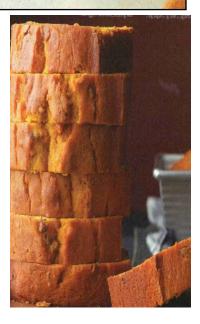
the butter and sugar until crumbly.

Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well

- after each addition. Beat in pumpkin and water. In another bowl, whisk flour and pie spice; add to butter mixture just until moistened. Fold in pistachio mixture.
- 3. Transfer to 2 greased 9x5-in. loaf pans. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 65-70 minutes. Cool in pans 10 minutes before removing to wire rack to cool completely.

**FREEZE OPTION** Securely wrap cooled loaves in foil, then freeze. To use, thaw at room temperature.

**1 PIECE** 193 cal., 7g fat (4g sat. fat), 36mg chol., 228mg sod., 29g carb. (18g sugars, 1g fiber), 3g pro.





# Glad Gidings: Hidden Word Puzzle for CHRISTMAS

ANGELS
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
CAESAR AUGUSTUS
CENSUS
CITY OF DAVID
FLOCKS
FRANKINCENCE
GALILEE

GABRIEL
GLORY TO GOD
GOLD
GOOD WILL
GOSPEL
HEROD
HOPE
HOST
IMMANUEL
JESUS

INN
JEWS
JOSEPH
JOY
LIGHT
LUKE
LOVE
MANGER
MAGI
MARY
MESSIAH

MIRACLE MYRRH PEACE ROOM SHEPHERDS SON STABLE STAR SWADDLE TAX WISE MEN

G	G	С	В	Е	T	Н	L	E	Н	E	М	М	T	S	0	Н
S	L	1	0	Н	0	P	E	A	C	E	L	A	1	S	0	N
U	0	T	Y	L	1	G	H	T	S	1	X	N	N	V	U	M
T	R	Y	C	E	N	S	U	S	T	A	G	G	N	G	X	Y
S	Y	0	J	U	M	M	1		A	C	L	E	J	A	E	R
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U	G	A	R	M	A	P	P	Υ	S	U	E	Н	G	1	S	1
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R	D	1	Н	1	R	A	T	S	0	1	P	P	0	L	S	W
A	S	D	R	R	C	L	E	J	T	G	Н	H	D	0	N	A
S	F	R	A	N	K	1	N	C	E	N	C	E	W	V	E	D
E	I	L	K	L	E	L	В	A	T	S	A	R	1	E	C	D
Α	N	G	W	1	S	E	М	E	N	F	U	D	L	0	G	L
C	R	0	0	M	0	E	F	L	0	C	K	S	L	L	1	E



Why the Poinsettia?

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

The poinsettia should be called the plant of HOPE!

Each year, the Poinsettias in our sanctuary are a beautiful tribute to those we honor, whether as a memorial, or an opportunity to say "we love you" to our family and friends.

These beautiful poinsettias are purchased through Neitzert's Greenhouse and the cost of each poinsettia

\$10.99 will go to the cost of the poinsettia & \$4.01 will be donated to The Unhoused Persons Fund.

is \$15.00

Please return order form(on the back) to the office by Tues. December 17th and make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church.

Name:				
I will: □	take	mine home	;	
(Deacons	will de	eliver to some	e distributed. e of our more restricted friends, those unable to get mory or Honor	out and about.)
InMemor Of	y l	Honor Of		
		Name	::	
		Name	;:	
		Name	::	
		Name	::	
		Name	<b>:</b>	
		Name	::	
		Name	:	
Cash		Oı	r Check (#)	
Total am				



# December 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
0		n	4 10:30-12 Book Group	5 4-6pm D.P.& Clinic	V	7 1:30pm Christmas Tea
Pastor Susan Away	Away	Pastor Susan Away		Pastor Susan Away	Pastor Susan Away	
6		10 12pm Staff Christmas Lunch	11 10:30-12 Book Group	12 1-4pm Boundary Training 4-6pm D.P.& Clinic	13	14
16		71	18 10:30-12 Book Group	19 4-6pm D.P.& Clinic 6pm Session	20	21
23		24 Holy Communion 7pm Worship Service Christmas Joy Offering	25 Office Closed Offiching you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS ***	26	27	28
30		31				

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 52 MARSHALL STREET COLDWATER, MI 49036

# December 2024 NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church 52 Marshall Street, Coldwater, MI 49036 Phone: 517-278-6068

Church & Administrative Assistant E-mail Address: ColdwaterFPC@gmail.com
Website: https://www.firstprescoldwater.org

Rev. Susan Reichenberg (567)242-8722 sreichenberg8227@gmail.com