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Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter August 2022



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From the Pastor's Desk

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:1, 23-24

Grace and Peace Friends!

This Summer the Youth Triennium could not take place for the Youth due to once again COVID-19 virus still lingering around. So, what did the Youth do after the cancellation of the program which usually takes place every three years at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana?

Although I have been wondering about the alternative to such awesome program, where many of our youth gather for a few days before returning to school in the Fall. I decided to take look at the theme that was supposed to be for the Gathering. The theme of "When Did We See You?" is such an important one for the church and us, as people of faith, to consider. This was based on Psalm 139 and Matthew 25, with the emphasis for the first day as, "Seen & Be Seen". The first thing that came to mind when I read this was what youth wants to be seen or not to be seen? When we have not seen our friends for a long time, the first thing we say is "Good to SEE You". The joy, the excitement and the all the good hugs and catch-up is included in the simple words of "Good to SEE You". For many of us we look forward to seeing our friends again at gatherings, whether its Sunday worship or other activities that unit us, it makes us feel very valuable to each other. Especially the youth who are interested in having their conversations with friends about their everyday lives from the last time they met.

The Psalm 139, not only reminds us that we have each searched, seen, and known by our Creator, but it also calls us to confess and repent. When the Psalmist asks, "Search me and know my heart, test my thoughts..." he is laying himself bare, inviting God to reveal the shifts he needs to make in his thoughts and actions. Such are some of the questions we like to ask each other when we see each other. Through the words of the Psalmist, we acknowledge where God may be inviting the youth and us to see and acknowledge others.

In the end when the gathering is to see each other as a child of God is over, some of the things we like to say and hear others say are; good to See you, Let's See you next time, See Ya and so forth. What is next for our Youth now is to wait for another three years for another Triennium to take place so we can See each other. That will be 2025.

So, then Youth of Christ's church, you may have to wait to see each other in three years, yet with God you can hear and read about God's presence each and every day. May the Lord who searches us and see us and know us well continue to see you in your waiting!

Prayer: Dear Lord, in our waiting to see our friends, help us to wait in patience, knowing your grace is sufficient to see us wherever we are. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!
A Blessed School Year to You and To You! See You!

In Christ Peace,
Pastor Philomena

Lectionary for August

August 7 – Isaiah 1:1,10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:32-40

August 14 – Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 21 – Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 28 – Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

July 31 – Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Stephanie Bennett	Dick Brown	Sally Day
Barbara Easton	Vera Dice	Nancy Huegel
Carol Smith	Vickie VonBerg	Pat Perea
Heather Rousseau	Samuel Egbert	Mary Jo Mundel

Mission Highlights

"Go also the second mile" Matthew 5:41

Hands-On Mission Opportunity

The Mission Committee invites the congregation to join us on Saturday, August 13th as we volunteer with the Old Town Christian Outreach Center food & clothing distribution line. We will be helping to show the love of God through our work in sharing food and clothing with those in need. We plan to arrive to the site at 9:30 AM and expect to wrap up around 12:30 PM. Those interested in helping can meet at the church at 9:00 AM to carpool together, or feel free to meet us right down at the Old Town Christian Outreach Center (600 Gratiot Avenue, Saginaw). There will be a sign up sheet on the mission table for those who are interested.

Keep an Eye Out for School Supply Deals!

We are continuing to collect school supplies for the children of Arthur Eddy Academy and Brethren Schools. Please return any donations to the little schoolhouse in the front hallway by August 21st so we can get them to the kids before classes begin!



To keep the congregation abreast of the budget and financial needs of the church we will continue to update the congregation monthly in the church newsletter. We thank you for your commitment to the ministry and your ongoing support for the programs here at Second Presbyterian Church.

Financial Report as of 06/30/2022	
Income	105,356.41
Expense	122,482.52
Deficit	(17,126.11)

Give Online!



We thank those of you who have utilized our new online giving option! As you've heard, we partnered with the Presbyterian Foundation for a new, easy to use, online giving tool! You can scan this QR code with your smart phone to set up online giving. You can also visit our website, www.spcsaginaw.org, and click the "Give Now" button. You can use this for one-time giving, or to set up recurring giving! Thank you for your gifts to Second Presbyterian Church!



Updates To Our Church

The fence replacement project, that separates the neighbor's property from the church's, has begun. The old wooden panels have been removed and sold. The area has been prepped by tilling up the ground, laying fresh weed block and new dirt has been spread. The next step will be the installation of new vinyl fence panels which have been ordered. We'll keep you updated as the process continues.

Summer Pledges



Don't forget your pledge this summer. As we move into the summer, the Session would like to remind everyone to stay current on your pledges. While you may be on vacation, the church still has ongoing expenses for our programs, facilities, and staff during the summer. We really appreciate your ongoing support for programs here.

Rescue Mission Lunches



Saturday, August 6, please join us in the church kitchen to assemble bag lunches for the Saginaw Rescue Mission. This will be a recurring event on the **first Saturday of each month**. We will meet at 10:00 A.M. in the church kitchen (Please enter from parking lot through Fellowship Hall door) to visit and share in the work of making sandwiches and lunches for those struggling with hunger. Many hands make light work! We look forward to seeing you as we gather to help those in need.

White Elephant Sale

Clean out your garages and closets this summer and keep in mind we'll have our annual White Elephant Sale on **Saturday, October 1**. Don't bring your items yet but keep the date in mind. All proceeds from the sale are used to support many non-profit groups in our area and abroad.



Eagle Scout Project @ Second Presbyterian Church



Life Scout Ethan Hoepfner has been approved to build a bell house for the Second Presbyterian Church bell from 1883. All funds for this project must come from donations. The estimate for the project is \$600.00. The bell house will be located next to the Second Presbyterian Church sign as you drive into the parking lot.

Upcoming Events

August 23 – Session Meeting 7:00 p.m

September 11 – Kickoff Sunday 9:00 a.m. Details to follow in weekly updates, bulletin announcements and September newsletter.