

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter February 2024

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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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Seeking and Serving Christ, We are a Place for Growing Christians.



Due to inclement weather postponing the January Session meeting, The Second Presbyterian Church Session has moved **The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation to Sunday, February 11, 2024 immediately following worship.** Any business of the congregation or corporation can be conducted.

Lectionary for February

Sunday, February 4: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

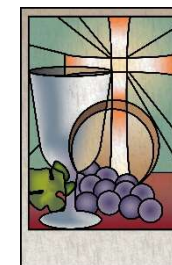
Transfiguration of the Lord - February 11: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday – February 14: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent – February 18: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent – February 25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Ash Wednesday is February 14. A combined service with First Presbyterian Church will be @ 7:00 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church.



Sunday, February 18, communion will be celebrated during the worship service. We hold an open communion at Second Presbyterian Church which means all believing Christians are welcome to participate. We also invite you to bring non-perishable food items for **The Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church.** We do so knowing that it is our privilege to feed the hungry and care for the poor as we are fed and sustained by the grace of God.



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite childhood memories of Valentine's Day is sitting around the dining room table with my mom and sisters as we traced, drew, cut, pasted, and constructed the most amazing Valentine's Day cards you could ever imagine. I tried to make each one

unique. In my mind, my cousins, aunts, and uncles would all be comparing and admiring my finely crafted Valentine's Day cards, so it was important that not any two were the same.

This year, Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. While some people may be thinking of chocolate, flowers, and the ones they love, others will be receiving ashes on their foreheads as they enter this solemn season of repentance. What a contrast! The reds and pinks versus the gray ash. The sweetness of candy versus the bitterness of our sin. The beauty and vibrance of flowers versus the reminder that we are but dust. But there is one thing that ties these days together – love.

It was the love of God that sent Jesus to this earth. Christ willing took that journey toward the suffering and shame of the cross because of love. We are offered the forgiveness of sins because God loves us and desires to be in relationship with us for all of eternity! And so, let us not try to separate these two days – Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. Love surrounds us as we enter this season of Lent.

To be honest, my Valentine's Day cards were probably not all that amazing. The hearts were misshapen, pieces were coming unglued, and eraser marks showed my struggle to spell "Valentine." But the cards had been made and sent with a whole lot of love and that is why my family treasured them. As you decide how to observe Lent this year, know that God is looking at your heart. Whether you give something up, add something new, or simply take moments to reflect and pray on the significance of this season, may it be a heartfelt expression of your love for God.

In Christ,
Pastor Ruth

Sunday School

Sunday School will meet the following Sunday's: **February 4 & 18; March 3, 17 & 24.** Please let the Christian Education Committee know if you are interested in helping out on Sunday mornings. The members are; Pam Moran @ 989-792-7388, Laura Bosley @ 989-780-1420, and Christy Higley @ 989-798-6678.

Inclement Weather Policy

When Saginaw Township Schools are closed due to inclement weather (snow, ice, temperatures, etc.), any church programming for that day will also be cancelled. This includes any activity of the church or outside groups that use church facilities. Examples are (but not limited to): Session, Committee meetings, Choirs, Bible Study, Women's Circle, Community events. The church office will also be closed.



For The Hearing Impaired



The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

Fish Fry – Save the Date!



Our next Fish Fry is less than 50 days away! Please mark your calendars for **Friday, March 15, 2024!** We always need help to make our fish fries a great success. Proceeds from the sale go to the Presbyterian Men's Group, which provides funding for many of the maintenance jobs around the church.

Most recently the Presbyterian Men contributed \$9,000.00 towards our new roof. This was made possible by your hard work on the fish fries!

Thank you for your support!

Busy Hands and Hearts

Will meet at the church **Monday, February 5 @ 1:00 p.m.** You do not have to sew or knit to join in. If you have any questions, please call Pam Moran @ 989-792-7388.



Florence Gilmore Circle

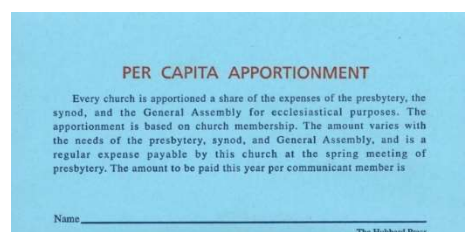
All women of the church are invited to join us on **Wednesday, February 14,** at 9:30 a.m. as we continue watching and discussing the DVD "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey.





We thank you for your dedication and gifts to Second Presbyterian Church during 2023. The year ended with our income exceeding our expenses by over \$43,000.00. As you know, each month a Financial Report is published in the newsletter. The financial report is a snapshot of our finances at the end of each month. Each month can vary greatly, depending on expenses and income, as we have many one-time large expenses each year (such as property insurance). We thank you for your commitment to the ministry and your ongoing support for the programs here at Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication. With the help of your generosity and controlled expenses we ended 2023 on a very positive note. This excess will help in 2024 if income or expenses are not according to budget.

Financial Report as of 12/31/2023			2024
	Actual	Budget	Budget
Income	232,354.41	205,905.66	233,000.00
Expense	189,107.43	233,269.25	233,000.00
Excess Income/Expense	43,246.98	(27,363.59)	0.00



Per Capita is part of being a Presbyterian and connecting to the Presbyterian Church as a whole. It is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. The total 2024 Per Capita for our church is \$6,726.00, which equates to **\$29.50 per member** (not per household). This goes to General Assembly, Synod of

the Covenant, and the Presbytery. If each member pays their Per Capita amount above their regular giving, then pressure on our budget is reduced. Please mark Per Capita on your check or envelope.



Fuel Offering

Each February the "Fuel Offering" envelope is in our box of offering envelopes. Any contributions given in this envelope are used to help defray costs of Consumers Energy bills. Each year we spend approximately \$17,000 on gas and electricity. As always, we thank you for your continued support!

Give Online!



We thank those of you who have utilized our new online giving option! We partner with the Presbyterian Foundation for this, 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! **If you changed your Estimate of Giving for 2024, and you give online, you'll need to update your information online.** Thank you for your gifts to Second Presbyterian Church!



Fourth Quarter Contribution Statements

Fourth quarter contribution statements were distributed by email on January 31, 2024, to those with an email address on file. The emails came from adam@spcsaginaw.org with your contribution statement as an attachment. Please check your junk or spam folders if you didn't receive a statement. Paper statements have been distributed to those requesting paper copies. Remember, there are many email scams, we will not ask for donations via email, this is simply an email containing your statement.

Rescue Mission Lunches



Saturday, **February 3**, 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 9:30 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.

Music and Worship Committee

We need your help!! The Music and Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to help with Fellowship Hour, Liturgists, Greeters, and Ushers for Sundays. There are sign-up sheets available so please look for a Sunday service you can help! Thank you for supporting Second Presbyterian Church!



Mission News

"Go the Second Mile"
Matthew 5:41



For the month of February, we are highlighting the Saginaw City Rescue Mission's Outreach Project, **Operation Hope and Care Totes**. The Rescue Mission's goal, through the **Operation Hope and Care** project, is to provide basic, personal hygiene items to hundreds of needy men, women, and children in the Mid-Michigan area. These hygiene items can bring a sense of relief to those desperately in need in our community.

Please fill a bag or tote to bring the items to church. Here is a list of items that the Rescue Mission has requested. Please bring items to the church by Sunday, February 25.

- Kids 3-in-1 Wash
- Body Wash & Scrubby
- Antibacterial Liquid Soap
- Lip Balm
- Shaving Cream (Men's & Women's)
- Hand & Body Lotion
- Deodorant (Men's and Women's)
- Tissues
- Anti-bacterial Wipes
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste

You do not have to fill a bag; we will take whatever you can donate.

160th Anniversary

This year, February 7, 2024 marks the 160th anniversary of Second Presbyterian Church. Here is a little history: On January 24, 1864, 17 men and women gathered at McLellan School (later to become White School), at what is now State and Midland Roads. These individuals came together under the leadership of Reverend J. A. Griffes, a Presbyterian clergyman, to discuss the formation of a church. They signed a request to organize into a church "upon condition that a sufficient number should be found

willing to unite together as a Christian church". Two weeks later the same group met at the Ure School and officially formed the First Presbyterian Society of Saginaw Township, the predecessor of our Second Presbyterian Church.



We will have a Lenten Bible Study based on the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth Caldwell. She introduces this book as follows:

The culture in which we are embedded doesn't invite or encourage us to pause, to lay aside our perpetual activity. It seems that we are always rushing to the next thing. Pausing is truly countercultural. Think of Lent as a refreshing pause in your life to nourish your soul. As you read the psalm of the week, you'll begin to see how an ancient poem/hymn can connect with your own life and circumstances. You will also explore new ways to nurture your life of faith during the Lenten season.

This Lenten Bible Study will be held on the following five Thursdays: February 22 & 29, March 7, 14, & 21. Participants are invited to bring a snack to share and come at 6:45 pm for a time of fellowship leading up to the Bible Study which will begin around 7:00 pm. You do not need to purchase or read the book. Each week, there will be a lesson based on one chapter of the book and then a time of reflection and discussion. A different Psalm and theme will be explored each week, so it does not matter if you miss one of the lessons. All are invited to come and take this time to pause during the Lenten season.

Director of Music Ministry

We are pleased to announce that after several months of searching, Thomas Heidenreich will be joining us as our new Director of Music Ministry. He will be moving here from Wisconsin and should be joining us around the first of March. He will be serving at both First and Second Presbyterian Churches. Thomas is a life-long Presbyterian and grew up in Cincinnati. Thomas currently serves as the Organist in Residence at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in southeastern Wisconsin,

where he plays for daily chapel services as well as other liturgies and concerts. Thomas recently completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. He is a highly accomplished musician with a heart for the Lord. We are pleased to have him joining our Second Pres family!



God Loves
YOU!



John 3:16



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Rescue Mission Lunches 9:30 a.m.
4 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School 2nd @ Second	5 Busy Hands 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. 	6	7 	8	9	10
11 9:00 a.m. Worship 2nd @ Second Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation	12	13	14 9:30 a.m. - Florence Gilmore Circle Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School 2nd @ Second Communion 1st Sunday in Lent	19	20	21	22 Lenten Bible Study 6:45 p.m.	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Worship 2nd @ Second 2nd Sunday in Lent	26	27 7:00 p.m. Session	28	29 Lenten Bible Study 6:45 p.m.		