

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter March

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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER
2665 MIDLAND ROAD, SAGINAW, MI. 48603-3448



Seeking and Serving Christ, We are a Place for Growing Christians.



Move your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 12

Dear Friends,

My heart is filled with gratitude as I am writing my first message for this monthly newsletter. It hardly seems possible that it has already been one month since I started as your new pastor. Your warm welcome, excitement, and encouragement have meant so very much to me. Thank you! I am grateful to God for you and for this opportunity to journey together in seeking and serving Christ.



Speaking of journeys, we are at that time of year when we observe another kind of journey – the Lenten journey. Lent began on Ash Wednesday. It is the 40 days leading up to Jesus' suffering on the cross and the celebration of Easter. It is a time of confession, repentance, prayer, and fasting. It is a time when we journey toward the cross, reflecting on the suffering that Jesus endured out of love for us. And for many people, it is a time when they observe the practice of giving up something.

As a young adult, I was a little put off by this practice of giving something up for Lent. I had friends who gave up things like chocolate or even all foods with sugar. It was a sacrifice for them...and for everyone around them! I remember thinking that I did not need to give up anything for Lent because my suffering was to listen to their constant reminders of how hard it was for them to not indulge in such things. It felt like we all suffered because they chose to give up chocolate for Lent.

I am not saying this practice of giving up something for Lent is wrong. It is a good practice, as long as it points us toward Christ. It is meant to remind us of the suffering Jesus endured because of our sin. It is meant to lead us to repentance, reflection, and prayer.

So, as we begin this Lenten journey, I would encourage all of us to find some way to make this journey spiritually meaningful. Perhaps we could consider giving up something like gossip or resentment. Perhaps we could give up watching a certain TV show, devoting that extra time to prayer or to serving others. Perhaps we could add something to our lives – add the practice of taking 10 minutes a day to pray through a Psalm, or add the practice of praying with a family member or friend daily. There are so many possibilities! However you decide to journey through Lent this year, it is my prayer that these practices would draw all of us closer to Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Ruth

Lectionary for March

Second Sunday in Lent – March 5: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Third Sunday in Lent – March 12: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 19: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 26: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Stephanie Bennett

Dick Brown

Sally Day

Heather Rousseau

Vickie Von Berg

MaryJo Mundell

Ray Shepherd

Dick Rice



Rescue Mission Lunches

Saturday, **March 4**, 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.

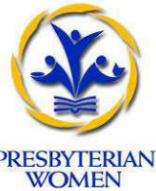
Busy Hands and Hearts

“We have been very busy the past year. This is what was distributed in 2022. 42 lap robes to several nursing homes, 8 hats sent to Ukraine, 8 hats donated to Covenant Healthcare for those going through Chemotherapy, 6 prayer shawls, 8 baby blankets, 7 baby hats, 1 baby sweater(to the Baby Pantry) 56 hats, 12 scarves, and 3 pair of mittens to several schools. Thank You to all our knitters and sewers.”



Will meet at the church **Monday, March 6 @ 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 Gilmour Circle



All women of the church are invited to join us on Wednesday, **March 8**, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. We will continue our study of “Bad Girls of the Bible” moving onto chapter 9, “Out of Step” Come for a time of women’s fellowship and fun!

Sunday School

Sunday School will be following the Lectionary for 2023. The dates are as follows: **March 12; April 2(Palm Sunday) 9(Easter Sunday)& 23; May 7 & 21(last day of Sunday School until September)** 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, Natalie Martinez @ 989-714-1011; and Laura Bosley @ 989-780-1420.

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 on Sundays. There are sign-up sheets available so please look for a Sunday service you can help! Thank you for supporting Second Presbyterian Church!

We also need people willing to learn and help with the Live-Stream operations. Please see Linda Poplewski, Fred Herter, Karen Schadel or Bruce Smith if you are interested in learning the live-stream process.



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 01/31/2023	
Income	20,079.54
Expense	13,621.97
Excess	6,457.57

Mission Offering



Each March the “Missions Offering” envelope is in our box of offering envelopes. Any contributions given in this envelope are deposited directly to the Mission Committee Dedicated Fund account and are used for various mission projects. A few of the missions supported in the past using these funds are Community Village, Underground Railroad, Mustard Seed Ministries, and the Saginaw Rescue Mission. If you do not use offering envelopes, but wish to

contribute, simply mark the memo line of your check as “Mission Offering.” We thank you for the continued support of all our mission projects.

Give Online!



We thank those of you who have utilized our new online giving option! As you have 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!



Easter Flowers



We will decorate our sanctuary this year with Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinth for the Easter Sunday service. If you would like to order one in honor or memory of someone, there are order forms and envelopes on the table in the gathering area. Flowers are in 8” pots with foil for \$10 each and **must be ordered** by March 19. Easter Sunday is April, 9.



Fish Fry

Mark your calendars for our Fish Fry on **Friday, March 17, 2023!** Please consider distributing the enclosed flyer to a friend or business and sharing our event on Facebook!

We will need plenty of help to make this fish fry a success. Sign-up sheets are in the gathering area. Proceeds from the sale go to the Presbyterian Men's Group, which performs many of the maintenance jobs around the church.

Please let one of the following individuals know if you are willing the help:

Paul DeWyse	(989) 284-7975	pdewyse@aol.com
Adam Engel	(989) 781-1218	schmiel42@aol.com
Alan Poplewski	(989) 928-7957	alanpoplewski@hotmail.com



Thank you for your support!

Mission News "Go the Second Mile" Matthew 5:4

Are you interested in joining the mission committee? We are looking for more members with a mission-minded heart to join our group as we plan and organize the church's various mission projects through the upcoming year. We meet monthly (by ZOOM throughout the winter months). If you would like more information, please reach out to Rebecca LaLonde or any other members of the mission committee or sign up on the sheet on the mission table.

THANK YOU to the congregation for your ongoing support to the missions of Second Presbyterian Church. So far for 2023, we have been able to raise funds(\$336.50) to fight hunger both locally and abroad through the "Two Coins a Meal" mission, and we have collected numerous hygiene and personal care items for the Saginaw Rescue Mission "Operation Hope and Care Totes." These collections will truly make an impact in our community and allow us to share God's love to those in need.



For the month of March, our mission focus will be the Old Town Baby Pantry, which helps parents who need a hand with items for their new babies. We will have a crib set up in the hallway to accept any items that would be useful to new babies. Some suggested items include sleepers, onesies, outfits, snowsuits/jackets (all size 0-12 months), crib sheets, receiving blankets, hooded towels, wash

cloths bibs, bottles, newborn diapers, wipes, diaper bags, shampoo/baby wash, baby powder, lotions, bassinets, pack-n-plays, highchairs, bouncy seats. We will be collecting items through March 26th.



"Lord, here I am, send me..."

Second Presbyterian Church invites you to share with us in the joy of installing Rev. Ruth Estell as the solo pastor of our church. This celebration will be held on **Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We are excited about the future ministry of our church under the leadership of our new pastor. We desire that you join with us as we welcome her to our church.

A Pastor's installation service is an important event for both the pastor and her congregation. It is a festive, welcoming ceremony to recognize the calling of the pastor, to acknowledge his responsibilities and duties, and to celebrate the end of the interim period, and a new chapter in a congregation's life. There will be a cake and coffee reception in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

"On behalf of my wife MaryJo, who has been dealing with and fighting thru her cancer diagnosis, treatment, surgery and now post operative treatment and recovery, we wish with a heartfelt thanks to everyone for their cards of inspiration and encouragement, as well as their prayers and well wishes. We know that without our faith in God and all the prayers from the congregation, the outcome would have been different. Thank You One and All and may God Bless You." - Jim & MaryJo Mundell



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Boy Scout Troop 321

The Scouts of Troop 321 would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations for the pancake breakfast they hosted on Sunday February 19. We are so grateful for your continued support of our troop. A special thanks goes out to the Presbyterian Men for their sponsorship of the supplies needed for the breakfast and to Troop 312 from Nouvel for giving support and providing help at the breakfast.

We need a couple more members to join our Green Team. Joining the team would mean mowing, trimming, blowing the grass off the sidewalks all using the equipment we have at the Church. If you are interested, please call the church office @ 792-1023.



The church office will continue to be open Monday -Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please call (989) 792-1023 if you need to schedule a different time to come and conduct any church business.

March 2023 Second Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Rescue Mission Lunches 9:30 a.m.
5 9:00 a.m. Worship	6  Busy Hands 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	7	8 9:30 a.m. - Florence Gilmour Circle	9	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship Installation Service 3:00 p.m.	13 	14	15	16	17 Fish Fry 4:30-6:30p.m.	18
19 9:00 a.m. Worship	20	21	22 	23	24	25 
26 9:00 a.m. Worship	27	28 7:00 p.m. Session	29	30	31	



JOIN US!
Friday,
March 17, 2023

4:30 - 6:30 PM

\$15.00 - DINE IN

\$14.00 - TAKEOUT

DINE IN & TAKEOUT

Meal includes: Fried Fish (Alaskan Pollock),
Potatoes, Coleslaw, Bread, and Dessert

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Saginaw, MI 48603