

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter January 2025



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

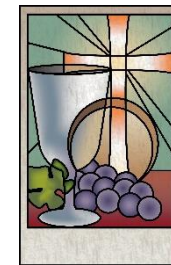
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### Rescue Mission Lunches

Saturday, **January 4**, please join us in the church kitchen to assemble bag lunches for the Saginaw Rescue Mission. We will meet at 9:00 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. We look forward to seeing you as we gather to help those in need.



### Communion



**Sunday, January 5**, 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.

### Lectionary for January

**Sunday, January 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas:** Jeremiah 31:7-14 and Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9)10-18

**Epiphany of the Lord - January 6:** Isaiah 60:1-6 and Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday, January 12 – Baptism of the Lord:** Isaiah 43:1-7 and Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Sunday, January 19 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany:** Isaiah 62:1-5 and Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

**Sunday, January 26 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

### Taking Down the Greens

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, January 5, and help us take down the greens. After worship we will “un-deck” the halls. The more people we have helping, the quicker we will finish. Lunch will be provided.



### Florence Gilmour Circle



**All women of the church** are invited to join us on **Wednesday, January 8**, at 9:30 a.m. as we continue to study “12 Women of the Bible” focusing on Leah, while enjoying some treats and fellowship. If you have any questions, please call Carol Poole @ 989-793-7485.

**The office will be open Monday December 30, Tuesday December 31, and Thursday January 2, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. As always, please call the office before driving to the church as unforeseen circumstances can occur.** Pastor Ruth will be on vacation December 25-January 1.

**\*The office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1.**



Dear Friends,

It is that time of year when our Christmas decorations start coming down. It always makes me a little sad. I do not put away all my Christmas decorations, however. Anything that is snow-themed gets to stay out. That seems quite appropriate for the wintery month of January.

Although snow was not very common in the land and times of the Bible, it is mentioned several times. One way snow is used in the Bible is to represent purity. Imagine the brilliance of freshly fallen snow as it reflects the sunshine. God says in Isaiah 1:18, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." The psalmist prays in Psalm 51, "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin... wash me, and I will be whiter than snow... create in me a pure heart, O God."

As the snow falls in January, let it be a reminder of yourself and the state of your soul. The dirty snow that has been plowed and pushed to the side of the road could be an illustration of our lives in our sinful state. The dazzling, white, fresh snow on a sunny day is a symbol of our lives when we have been forgiven of our sins. Through the blood of Christ, we have been washed clean. We are whiter than snow!

The Christmas decorations may be coming down, but as you enjoy the sparkle of the sunshine on freshly fallen snow this month, continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Jesus Christ was born to save us from our sins and make us whiter than snow. Praise be to God!

In Christ,  
Pastor Ruth

### Inclement Weather Policy

When Saginaw Township Schools have been 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.



### 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.

### New Directory for 2025

A new directory will be printed in the first quarter of 2025. There will be an editable copy for you to verify your information on the table in the gathering area. Please write "ok" next to your name if all the information is correct. The sooner we get everyone's information correct; the sooner we can make the directory available. Thank You!



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 11/30/2024	
Income	212,161.82
Expense	193,504.84
Excess	18,656.98

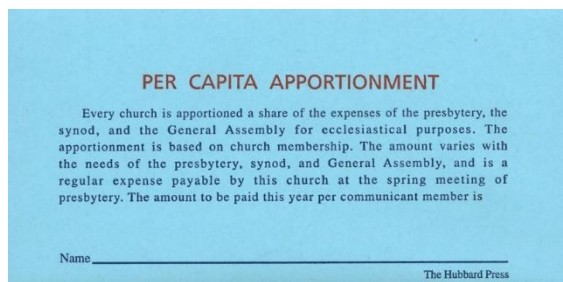
### Give Online!



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](http://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!



### Per Capita



The special envelope for January is the Per Capita envelope. 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 2025 Per Capita for our church is \$6,875.00, which equates to **\$30.69 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.

### Estimate of Giving

We have received 50 Estimates of Giving for 2025. If you have not already done so, please turn in your **2025 Estimate of Giving** slip by either mailing it to the church or dropping it in the offering plate. We are working on our budget for 2025 and many programs of the church depend upon your Estimate of Giving. Thank you for your faithfulness!



# Second Presbyterian Church

## January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Office Closed 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Rescue Mission Lunches 9:00 a.m.
<b>5</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School Communion Taking Down the Greens	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Florence Gilmore Circle 9:30 a.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Session 7 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Happy New Year, everyone, from your Mission and Stewardship Committee.

Through your support in 2024, we were able to contribute to many missions and ministries, involving “Worship of God” (missionaries, prison ministry), “Teaching” (theological schools and education funds), “Caring” (hunger and homelessness remediation), “Christian Witness and Outreach” (food pantry, suicide prevention, youth aging out of foster care, livestock mission, women’s and men’s shelters), and “Church-Wide Collections” (Angel Tree, Hope and Care totes, Rescue Mission lunches, supplies and winter-wear for school children, Baby Pantry supplies, food drives, Bibles and books for It’s All About the Cross, veterans stockings for I Support the 1%, 2 Coins a Meal collection, and many knitted and sewn items).  
THANK YOU.

To wrap up December, you chose, purchased, wrapped, and returned 50 Angel Tree gifts, which were delivered to 28 families by elves Pete Brucker, Mike Patton, and Jim Mundell. Reactions of happiness, gratefulness, joy, and appreciation were reported.



January’s Mission is “2 Coins a Meal,” the hunger ministry of Presbytery of Lake Huron, supported by all the congregations within the Presbytery. Stayed tuned for more information. (Coins and paper accepted )

As always, if you are interested in becoming a member of the Mission/ Stewardship Committee, reach out to Chair Kitty Myers or other members, Ruth Anderson, and Linda Mattson. Meetings are typically the second Tuesday of the month. New ideas and enthusiasm are welcome.

## *Christian Education Director*

We are happy to announce that the new Christian Education Director is Marsha Bennett, who has been a member of Second Presbyterian Church since 2015. Marsha will start in January.

## **Busy Hands and Hearts**

In 2024, the Busy Hands group was able to donate:

- 67 knit hats to local schools and the Rescue Mission
- 18 scarves, and 7 pairs of mittens to local schools
- 11 baby blankets to the Baby Pantry
- 2 Prayer shawls
- 34 lap blankets to local nursing homes

Thank you all who knit for these causes.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**