

Lectionary for April

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter - April 4, 2021:

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43; John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8

2nd Sunday of Easter - April 11: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133:1–3; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31

3rd Sunday of Easter - April 18: Acts 3:12–19; Psalm 4:1–8; 1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36b–48

4th Sunday of Easter - April 25: Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23:1–6; 1 John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Arlene Besner

Stephanie Bennett

Dick Brown

Don & Sally Day

Vera Dice

Jim Berden

Heather Rousseau

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No.4

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Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter April 2021



Seeking and Serving Christ we are a Place for Growing Christians



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Worship

Our Maundy Thursday worship on April 1 at **7:00pm**, is a Service of Tenebrae. This is a solemn fourth century observance of the Lord's Supper. This service involves extinguishing candles as a reminder of the darkness that covered the face of the earth after the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We invite you to come celebrate the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in the Upper Room.

Good Friday Worship

This year we will participate in a shared Good Friday service with First Presbyterian Church and Countryside Trinity. This **live-stream only** service will be held on April 2 at **1:00pm** on the **First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw YouTube channel**, <https://tinyurl.com/bsuvhvnk>, **NOT** the Second Pres YouTube channel. We look forward to this shared ministry during Holy Week.

Holy Saturday Resurrection Prayer Vigil

Please sign up to pray together nonstop around the hour from **9:00am-4:00pm in the Sanctuary**. The purple sheet enclosed is for you to write what you would like to bring to the Cross on Maundy Thursday. Please drop it off in the offering box. The list will be prayed over during the Holy Saturday Prayer vigil.



Easter Sunday Worship

Come and worship with us on Easter Sunday on April 4! Our worship service will be at 9:30am.



Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications and requirements are available in the church office for the Mary Ann Geiersbach Scholarship, the Muriel Lakey Scholarship and the Alma College Scholarship. Please return applications by

April 12.

Greetings from your Session, to our Second Presbyterian Church Family!

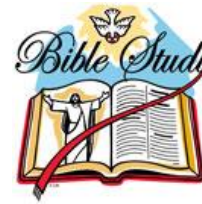
This information is to reach out and update everyone on our on-going **COVID-19** Response

The good news is that infection rates have trended down enough to allow in-person worship. It has been good to see each other, hasn't it? 50 percent capacity is now allowed by MDHHS, and we can accommodate that with 65 worshipers, while maintaining appropriate social distancing and following sensible guidelines. At any point, when infection rates and guidelines changes (either up or down), our response team will, as well as per Session and Head of Staff interpretation will keep you posted.

In-person worship has been our first step. Choir/music in some form is also evolving, as a part of the worship experience. Returning to group meetings (prayer group, Busy Hands and Hearts, etc.), will gradually be phased in as well.

In the meantime, any group may meet by "Zoom" by taking advantage of set-up through the church office.

Please note that your questions are always welcome by contacting a Session member or Pastor Philomena. Watch for "COVID" Highlights" announcements through the weekly congregational update emails and in the bulletin.



2nd at Second Lectionary Bible Study

We will continue to examine the lectionary at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. We will gather online for fellowship, Bible study on Sunday Scriptures, and prayer. This will continue to be a great way to deepen friendships and faith. Please join us, there is no commitment or homework. If you would like to join in for some light conversation and have a chance to study the Sunday Lectionary, simply follow this link. **The same link each week.** The meetings begin around 11:00 each Sunday. It will be great to "see" you!

Join the Zoom meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8198599266?pwd=WFJoYklyYlplEa3FtT1VYUldoeHBjdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 859 9266

Passcode: 2665

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 819 859 9266

Passcode: 2665

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/krXXYDTg0>

New Baby on Board!

The Millars are blessed with a new arrival!
Baby Theo Michael Millar was born
on 3/10/2021 at 11:03am
19.5 inches 6.2 pounds

Please read the weekly update for the most current information.

Mission News

Greetings from your Second Presbyterian Stewardship and Missions Committee!

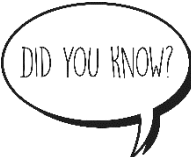
We now have a final count on the delivery of **Hope & Care Totes for the Saginaw Rescue Mission**. We were able to donate 20 Totes. This was approximately half the amount that was collected last year, but still something to be proud of, considering the pandemic. So a Huge Thank You is still in order!

In March we collected a number of baby items for our annual donation to the Old Town Baby Pantry last month. We'll have that final tally figured out in next month's newsletter.

April's Mission Focus is a month-long collection of non-perishable foods (or money) for the First Presbyterian Food Pantry. We have communion on the 1st, but we're extending the collection until the end of the month.

NOTE: With the upcoming Special Pentecost Offering, we wanted the congregation to know that the 40% that our church uses for Children at Risk, will be going to the Forgotten Youth Ministry of Saginaw County. Here's their website for more information: <https://forgottenyouthministries.org/>



 This newsletter can be delivered to you electronically and it typically arrives before the print version! Visit <https://www.spcsaginaw.org/publications> to sign up for electronic delivery and have the newsletter delivered straight to your inbox. No more waiting, get the most up-to-date information as quickly as possible.

Financial Update

At the recent Annual Congregational Meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed the 2021 budget with the congregation. The Finance Committee, and Session, are committed to keeping the congregation abreast of the budget and financial health of the church. However, as expressed at the annual meeting, the committee does not desire to dwell solely on the budget. The budget is an important part of ministry here at Second Presbyterian Church, but not the only part of ministry, it is a ministry tool. It is our prayer that we all will be conscious of the budget, and prayerfully consider how to make a difference in the life of Second Presbyterian Church.

2021 Budget		Financial Report as of 02/28/2021	
Income	214,831.97	Income	29,906.37
Expense	294,869.34	Expense	44,158.65
Deficit	(80,037.37)	Deficit	(14,252.28)

SPC YouTube Channel

If you have yet to see our YouTube channel be sure to check it out. We post videos weekly in addition to our Live-Streamed worship.

Sunday	9:30am	Live-Streamed worship
Wednesday	9:00am	Midweek Devotional Message
Friday	9:00am	Friday Morning Conversation

Concerts and other events may also be live-streamed. Always be sure to check out the video description as we include bible verses to read along with and other helpful information regarding things discussed in the video.

Don't forget to Like, Subscribe, and hit the little bell to get notifications of our uploads. This will also give you an easy way to get to the live-stream on Sundays.

Find us on YouTube at: Second Presbyterian Church SPCSaginaw

Staffing Update

It is with great regret that the session has accepted the resignation of our longtime Christian Education Director, Peggy Knutson. We thank Peggy for her many years of dedicated, faithful, and creative service to Second Presbyterian Church. We wish Peggy all the best.

Thank you so much to the families who have allowed me to be a part of their children's lives. It has truly been a pleasure, and I feel I have learned as much or more from them than they have from me. You all have become a tremendously important part of my life, and I do not take this decision lightly.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Christian Educator and have been immeasurably blessed by the support of all the members. I very much regret leaving all the people I have grown so close to but trust that the future holds blessings for myself and this church as well. I wish all at Second Presbyterian Church every happiness. God bless!

Yours sincerely and promise in Christ,

Peggy Knutson

Staffing changes can be difficult, but with the leadership of the Session, Pastor Philomena, and prayers from all, Christian Education at Second Presbyterian Church will continue to be strong. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact Pastor Philomena or a member of the Session.

From the Pastor's Desk continued..

because of Christ love for us. Let us go and share this good news in the faith and trust in God, who sent the Beloved Son to bring redemption to all who believe. May the Easter Hope in Christ Jesus, lead us to share that Christ the Lord is Risen Today. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let us Pray: Risen Lord, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to give us eternal life. May the humility shown to the disciples and us be a sign of the new creation that bring renewal, restoration, and above all peace. May the love of God and the fellowship of Jesus Christ abide with us now and forever more. Amen!

Happy and a Blessed Easter to you!

In Christ Peace!
Pastor Philomena

Resurrection Prayer Vigil Holy Saturday April 3, 2021



The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective (James 5:16b).

Please sign up to pray together nonstop around the hour from **9:00am-4:00pm in the Sanctuary.**

Purple Sheet: The Purple sheet enclosed is for you to write what you would like to bring to the Cross on Maundy Thursday. Please drop it off in the offering box. The list will be prayed over during the Holy Saturday Prayer vigil.

From the Pastor's Desk

Grace and Peace!

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here—he has been raised! Look, here is the place where he was placed. ⁷Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: 'He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.'" (Mark 16:6-7, GNT)

For the past 40 Days we journey with Jesus to cross. Along the way, we made stops with Jesus and met others as we travelled. Just as Jesus was tired at some point in the journey, he rested, and we also rested too. At the end of the journey, Jesus ministered to people and was well received by some and others did not receive him. In the end He suffered, crucified, and died on the cross. Tears were shared by those who sat at the feet of Jesus even as he tells them including his mother, not to weep for him. Three days later, he rises from the grave to give us redemption. Indeed, the Tomb is empty just as he said.

Each year Easter comes to remind us of the passion of Jesus Christ and for renewal of our faith journey with God. This particular year is a bit different from the previous one due to the Pandemic which forced all things to be closed. However, our hope in the Lord has carried us thus far. As a community of faith, we will be able to celebrate the Holy Week in person together and witness again the Empty Tomb of the promised Christ to the disciples and us. The question is how are we preparing for this special celebration? Perhaps in the preparation, we have made some changes in our houses as part of Spring cleaning to make room for Jesus' visit as he did when the women came to the Tomb and did not find him lying in there. Or we will be the first to tell others that Christ has risen as he said. The stone has been rolled away, so we are able to see the light through the darkness of Good Friday all

Continued...



We are having Vacation Bible School this summer, but this year VBS will look a little different than any other year! We will be experiencing most of VBS outside! "ALL ABOARD" for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! At this VBS, kids will discover that Jesus' power can pull them through life's ups and downs. This theme seems particularly appropriate as we navigate the difficulties of living through a world health crisis. Rocky Railway is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids can see, hear, and touch! We will also be observing all COVID regulations when inside and outside the church building. Vacation Bible School will take place **June 21 - 25 from 9:00AM to 11:30AM each day.** While it can be a challenge to modify the way we have always done VBS, we know that your child/children will thoroughly enjoy being with others that they haven't seen for some time and learn to trust that Jesus can pull them through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop.

Please call or email and tell us, as soon as you can, if you are interested in coming, so we can get an idea of how many will/can attend!! We'd love to SEE all of you there! We miss you ALL!

Second Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Maundy Thursday 7:00pm In-person & Live-Stream	2  FRIDAY 1:00pm Live-Stream Only	3 9:00am-4:00pm Prayer Vigil
4 <i>Easter Worship!</i> 9:30am Worship - In-person & Live-Stream	5  ALLELUIA!	6	7 9:00am Midweek Devotional Message Live-Stream	8 7:00pm Mission Study Focus Group Zoom Only	9 9:00am Friday Morning Conversation Live-Stream	10 11:00am Mission Study Focus Group Fellowship Hall
11 9:30am Worship - In-person & Live-Stream 2nd @ Second	12 	13	14 9:00am Midweek Devotional Message Live-Stream	15 	16 9:00am Friday Morning Conversation Live-Stream	17 
18 9:30am Worship - In-person & Live-Stream 2nd @ Second	19	20 7:00pm Session Meeting	21 9:00am Midweek Devotional Message Live-Stream	22	23 9:00am Friday Morning Conversation Live-Stream	24
25 9:30am Worship In-person & Live-Stream 2nd @Second	26	27	28 9:00am Midweek Devotional Message Live-Stream	29 	30 9:00am Friday Morning Conversation Live-Stream	

IMPORTANT Mission Study News

Your Attendance is Requested!

Mission Study Conversations

Please Save One of These Dates and Join Us

Sunday, March 28th After Worship (Sanctuary)

Thursday, April 8th @ 7:00 PM (Zoom Only)

zoom.us – Meeting ID: 819 859 9266 – Passcode: 2665

Saturday, April 10th @ 11:00 AM (Fellowship Hall)

Have you heard the words “Mission Study” come up in weekly updates, the newsletter, and in announcements, but aren’t quite sure what it is? Don’t worry; here’s an explanation.

A Mission Study is a process in which a committee of congregants from the church come together to STUDY the church. This is part of the process every Presbyterian church goes through when looking for a new minister. In case you don’t remember, here are the steps:

1. Form an Interim Pastor Search Committee
2. Hire an Interim Minister
3. Conduct a Mission Study
4. Our Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry Approves our Mission Study
5. Form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
6. PNC uses the Mission Study to Guide the pastor search

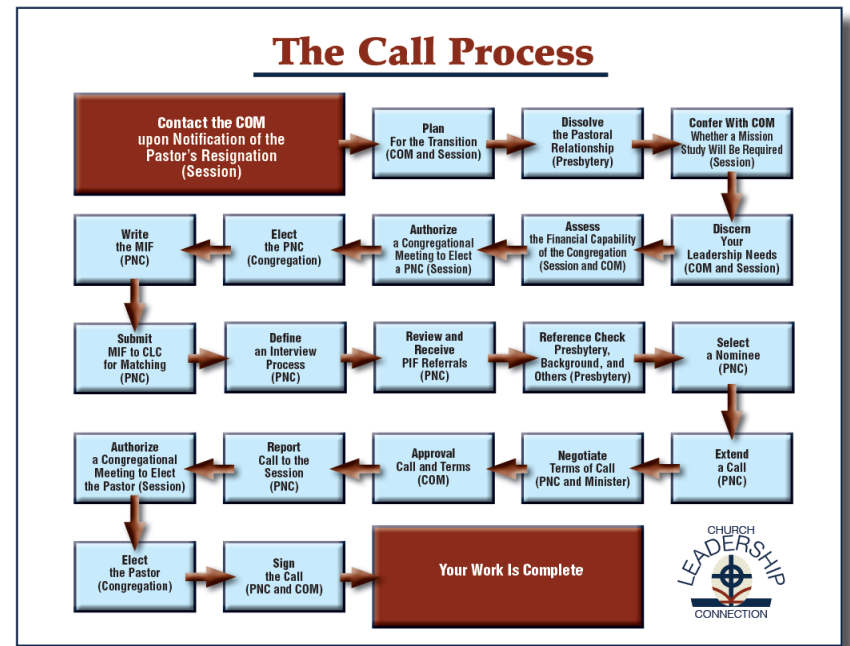
This seems like a long process, but it’s very important for churches to go through this, especially after a long-serving minister leaves. The congregation takes time to reflect on their time with the previous minister, take care of those memories, and dream about the future.

During this time, the Mission Study works to understand how congregation members feel about the church’s past and present and what they are dreaming about for the future. This is a time to survey and hold conversations that help to discern the path to which God is calling the church. Our church has changed in the past 25 years, so what is it we need to successfully navigate the

next 25? What strengths do we want our next minister to possess? Where do we want them to lead us? What kind of impact do we want to have in our community? These are just a few examples of the kinds of questions the Mission Study is trying to answer.

At this point, the Mission Study committee has conducted a survey which helped us gauge where the church has been and where it is at present. We have begun drafting the final report of the Mission Study, but we have a few holes we need to fill and YOUR VOICE IS CRITICAL. Last Sunday we asked for individuals to volunteer to meet with us and had only one volunteer. The importance of your voice and your input in the process can not be stressed enough. We should all consider it our responsibility to have these conversations as we move through this discernment process.

We will begin a series of conversations with the congregation, the first of which will be on Sunday, March 28th following worship. Please stick around after worship and help us plan for the future of OUR church and consider some of the questions and topics listed in the above paragraphs. If you have questions contact Samantha Engel at (989) 492-8228, or another mission study committee member regarding these meetings





Prayer Request



Prayer Request



Prayer Request



Prayer Request

