

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter May 2023



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

On Pentecost – Wear Red!

We hope that you will wear the color red when you come to worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. It is the day we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Red symbolizes the “tongues of fire” that were seen that day. We read in Acts 2:



“Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

On May 28 we will receive the Pentecost offering.

Lectionary for May

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 7: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 14: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Ascension of the Lord – May 18: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23;

Luke 24:44-53

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 21: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Day of Pentecost – May 28: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Stephanie Bennett

Dick Brown

Sally Day

Heather Rousseau

Vickie Von Berg

MaryJo Mundell

F.I.S.H.

Feeding Individuals



Sharing Hope

On communion Sundays, we invite you to bring non-perishable food items and personal care items. 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. We will receive communion on Pentecost Sunday, May 28.

Scholarship Sunday

On **Sunday, May 14**, we will be awarding scholarships during worship to the following:

Graduating Seniors

Ethan Hoepfner

Claire Rousseau

College Students

Alexis Martinez

Larry Long.

Please join us as we celebrate these students.



50 Year Member Recognition

Please join us on **Pentecost Sunday, May 28** as we recognize the following members of the congregation who have been a part of Second Presbyterian Church for 50 years.

Dick & Gerry Brown

Helen Hellman

Fred & Genie Herter

Tom & Carol Poole





Dear Friends,

I will never forget how appalled I felt as an 18-year-old college freshman when the Bible professor returned my paper. He had written a rather lengthy note at the bottom of the paper responding to how I had referred to the Holy Spirit as "it." My professor made it very clear that the Holy Spirit was not some impersonal "it," but a full-fledged member of the Trinity – God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I was not

appalled so much by my lack of understanding of the Holy Spirit, but by my fear that this professor might have thought I was not a knowledgeable, passionate Christian.

My professor's comments, however, did cause me to start thinking more deeply about the Holy Spirit and the Trinity. I struggled to figure it all out. I easily related to God as my Father. My earthly father had provided a wonderful example of a loving parent. His death when I was eleven years old caused me to relate to God as my Father in a deeper way. I also felt like I had a good grasp of Jesus, the Son. The Bible tells us a lot about Jesus. I fully embraced his virgin birth, the miracles and teaching of his ministry, and the significance of his death, resurrection, and ascension. But then there was the Holy Spirit. I had that image of "tongues of fire" coming down on the disciples at Pentecost. "Tongues of fire" sounded weird, confusing, and somewhat dangerous. What was I supposed to do with that? I was familiar with other Biblical references to the Holy Spirit. I knew about Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit, the leading of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and being filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit still seemed mysterious to me.

We will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday on May 28. It is the day when we remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, just as Jesus had promised. The power of God came upon them and on that day around 3,000 people believed and were added to this early church. And we celebrate that this same Spirit has been promised to all of us who believe. What a mysterious and wonderful gift!

I have come a long way in my knowledge and experience of God since I was 18 years old. I still do not fully understand the Holy Spirit and I am not ashamed to admit it. There is something good and right about embracing these mysteries of God. One thing that I do know, however, is that all of us who confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior are united by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in each one of us and empowers us to be the body of Christ. I praise God for this and I give thanks for each one of you!

In Christ,
Pastor Ruth



Homebound Communion Service

If you are homebound and unable to come to church when communion is celebrated, arrangements can be made for you to be served communion at your home or the facility where you live. If you would like to be included on this list, please call the church office.

Rescue Mission Lunches

Saturday, **May 6**, please join us in the church kitchen to assemble bag lunches for the Saginaw Rescue Mission. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the church kitchen to visit and share in the work of making sandwiches and lunches for those struggling with hunger. Many hands make light work! Next month's day to assemble lunches will be **Saturday, June 3**.



Busy Hands and Hearts

Will meet at the church **Monday, May 1 @ 1:00 p.m.** You do not have to sew or knit to join in. If you or anyone you know has yarn to donate, please place it in the Busy Hands box in the gathering area's Mission corner. If you have any questions, please call Pam Moran @ 989-792-7388.



Sunday School



Sunday School will be following the new program from The Sunday School Store. The dates are as follows: **May 7 & 21 (last day of Sunday School until September)** Please let the Christian Education Committee know if you are interested in helping on Sunday mornings. The members are Pam Moran @ 989-792-7388, Natalie Martinez @ 989-714-1011; and Laura Bosley @ 989-780-1420.



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 03/31/2023	
Income	37,168.19
Expense	47,799.14
Deficit	(10,630.95)

Pentecost – PCUSA Special Offerings

 PENTECOST OFFERING

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. — James 1:17

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Our support today helps nurture the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. 40% stays with this congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community. 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV),

serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. 25% supports Ministries with Youth to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word. 10% is devoted to children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens.

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.



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!



Ways to Give

Over the years, our congregation has been extremely generous and kind in their financial support of our Church. Here are several additional ways to provide financial gifts that may benefit the Church and the giver.

Appreciated Stock

- A gift of appreciated stock held over a year offers two tax benefits to the giver - it qualifies as a charitable income tax deduction (if you itemize), and you pay no capital gains tax on the stock appreciation.

Will or Trust

- A gift can be designated to the Church when a will or trust is set up or modified. It can be monetary or specific property.

IRA

- If you have reached your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) age and have an IRA, you can transfer a gift directly from the IRA to the Church as a gift. There are no taxes on the gift up to \$100,000 annually.
- Additionally, it can count toward your required minimum distribution if one is due.

Please consult your tax advisors prior to giving such gifts.

Thank you again for your kindness, generosity, and support,

The Finance Committee



Community Village needs volunteers for the annual Strawberry Festival

June 19- 8a.m. to 5p.m. for set up.
 June 20- 8a.m. to 11p.m. Work any and as many hours as you can.
 June 21 – 9a.m. – 1p.m.

Please call 989-792-5442 for further information or to sign up to help.

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.

"The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregations for the donations to support of the Old Town Baby Pantry. We were able to provide diapers, wipes, and clothing as well as many special handmade items to new parents in Saginaw"

May Mission Project



National Foster Care Month is celebrated in May, and the Mission Committee has chosen to acknowledge this important subject by supporting "River Jordan, Inc.," located in Bay City, Michigan, and serving surrounding counties. River Jordan's mission statement reads: "to empower current and former foster youth to take responsibility of their own individual lives and become productive members of society." This is particularly important to those youth 18-21 years of age who have "aged out" of foster care and require "a safety net, including shelter and support services . . . building safe relationships, and find safety, education, employment . . . transitional housing, peer support, and transportation assistance, to thrive as youth transitioning into adulthood."

Pamphlets concerning River Jordan's mission and services will be available on the Mission table, and you may also explore their services online at www.riverjordan.org and view the YouTube video "I changed my story" of the founder's life story and how this organization came into being. Cash/check donations will be collected during the month of May. There are also volunteer opportunities (if interested, information and specifics found in web site/pamphlet).

Please contact any Mission Committee member for more information. Thank you!

Summer Special Music






Do you like to sing or play an instrument? If so, please consider signing up to provide special music for a Sunday service over the summer! The sign-up sheet will be posted in the main office hallway. You can contact music director Collin Whitfield at collin.whitfield@gmail.com. Thanks!



Second Presbyterian Church

May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 p.m. Busy Hands and Hearts	2	3	4 8:30am Prayer Group	5	6 Rescue Mission Lunches 9:30 a.m.
7 9:00 a.m. Worship	8	9	10 	11 8:30am Prayer Group	12	13
14 Mother's Day & Scholarships awarded 9:00 a.m. Worship	15	16	17	18 8:30am Prayer Group	19	20 
21 9:00 a.m. Worship	22	23	24	25 8:30am Prayer Group	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. Worship Pentecost, Communion, Celebrating our 50-year members	29 Office Closed 	30	31			