

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Volume 65 No.12  
2665 Midland Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603

Periodical Postage USPS 686-170  
Paid at Saginaw, MI

## Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 2022



POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to:  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
2665 MIDLAND ROAD, SAGINAW, MI. 48603-3448

Join us on **Christmas Eve** for  
Services of Lessons and Carols  
7:00 p.m.

### Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 18th. This offering supports the work of Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and provides supplemental income and medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

### Lectionary for December

**December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12**

**December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10.**

Matthew 11:2-11

**December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7;**

Matthew 1:18-25

**December 24 – Christmas Eve – Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

**December 25 – Christmas Day – Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12] John 1:1-14**

### Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Stephanie Bennett	Dick Brown	Sally Day	Nancy Huegel
Carol Smith	Vickie VonBerg	Pat Perea	Heather Rousseau
Samuel Egbert	Mary Jo Mundel	Ed DeWyse	Myrtle Zietz

\*All those affected by both Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian.



### PNC Update and Transition Plan

As we reported last month, the PNC is in negotiations with a candidate. Additional information will be provided as soon as possible. In the meantime, the timing is now appropriate for the session and congregation to further prepare for a new pastor. As such, the session and Pastor Philomena have agreed that her last day as the Interim Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church will be November 30, 2022. We sincerely appreciate the two and a half years that Pastor Philomena has spent with our

congregation to prepare us for this next phase of ministry.

Until we call a new pastor the pulpit will be filled with supply pastors. The schedule for December is below:

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Dr. Andrew Pomerville

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Ted McCulloch

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Michael Hahn

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Ted. McCulloch – at 7:00 PM

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Combined worship at First Presbyterian – 10:00 AM

The church office will be open Monday – Thursday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm during this transition period. Folks needing congregational care should contact the office at (989) 792-1023 and the appropriate individuals will be contacted. Voicemails and emails will be monitored when the office is closed.

**The church office will be closed Monday December 26**

### Rescue Mission Lunches



Saturday, **December 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.

### Florence Gilmour Circle



All women of the church are invited to join us on Wednesday, **December 14** at Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot Rd. @ 9:00 a.m. for our annual holiday breakfast. We will NOT meet for our regular meeting until January 11<sup>th</sup> in the library.

### Music and Worship Committee



We need your help!! The Music and Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to help with Fellowship Hour after worship service on Sundays. Beginning Sunday School kick-off Sunday, we would like to offer coffee, juice, donuts or cookies after worship service. There will be a sign-up sheet available so please look for a Sunday service you would like to host! Thank you for supporting fellowship at Second Presbyterian Church!

### Sunday School News



There will be Sunday school this year during church service as always, but just 2 Sundays per month in hopes that more children are able to attend. December 4 & 18 will be the final two for 2022. Please mark your calendars! If anyone would like to facilitate in teaching Sunday school this year, please contact Christy Higley, Natalie Martinez or Pam Moran.



A huge thank you to all who worked hard at the fish fry and in the weeks leading up to the fish fry. We really couldn't do this without the help and support of our entire congregation and community. We have people out advertising, ordering supplies, shopping for supplies, peeling potatoes, making coleslaw, frying fish, and washing thousands of dishes...just to name a few things that make the fish fry a success. Our 55 volunteers

prepared and served: 300 pounds of fish, 300 pounds of potatoes, 80 pounds of coleslaw and 42 dozen cupcakes that served 309 meals to 135 vehicles that drove thru the parking lot. We netted a profit of \$2,539.24 – our best profit ever. It's not about the money made, it's about working together, getting to know each other and helping to share our Christian love. We hope you'll join the efforts in the spring. Please save the date of **March 17, 2023**, for our next fish fry.

### “Prepare the Way”



A voice cries out, “Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God! Fill every valley, level every mountain. The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth.” (Isaiah 40:3-4)

Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas and a reminder of God's kingdom. Advent is a time to reflect on what God has done for us and to invite us to see the grace of God in our lives now. In the season where we await with expectations of the coming and the arrival of the Lord our Savior, and to make the path of our lives straight. That every mountain and the hills should be made low, and every valley be lifted on high. This is a season where we prepare with smooth path for the Lord, clearing the way and all that stands in the Lord's way, so God has easy access to us.

In Isaiah 40:3-4, the prophet Isaiah reminds us to get ready by preparing the way to meet the Lord. For Israel was a nation in waiting for the Messiah after experience many obstacles. The people of Israel were a community in waiting, waiting with great expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Although we may not have experience the same obstacles as the people of Israel, we are still called to prepare for the Lord's coming. Be ready with enough oil in your lamps. For we do not know the hour of the Lord's coming and by being well prepared the door will not closed as it did for the bridesmaids who were not prepared and run out of oil for their lamps.

The question for us is, how are we getting ready? Are we busy shopping for the best gifts for Christmas or are we preparing to receive the best gifts from God, the Messiah?

The season of Advent may be a great time, but short journey to look forward to meeting the Lord. In this short time, may you be renewed, revived and in reflecting on the story of Jesus's birth being retold to us in Scriptures. In our meditations for Advent may we experience God becomes man, God with us, and given through the signs of who he is in our lives and in our spiritual journey.

*Prepare a road for the Lord through the wilderness*, let us therefore prepare our heart to meet the one who is to come, God Emmanuel to be with us in our wilderness.

**Prayer:** God of the stars, mountains, valleys, and hills, in the stillness of this season of Advent, we wait, in the stillness of this moment we listen. In our preparation, may we wait for your living Word, may listen to your voice. Break into our lives of wilderness with eternal light and teach us your ways that we may walk in your smooth path of truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

In Christ Peace!  
Pastor Philomena

**Our congregation mourns** with the family of Maxine Burden who passed on into the Church Triumphant on Saturday, November 5. Let us keep the Berden family in our prayers.

**Our congregation mourns** with the family of Adam Wells who passed into the church triumphant. His mother, Carol, was the secretary of the church for many years. Please keep the Wells family in your thought and prayers. Carol's new address is:

**Carol Wells**  
**4405 Melody Ct. NE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49525**

## Mission Highlights

**"Go also the second mile" Matthew 5:41**

As the cold weather rolls in, the families and staff of Brethren and Arthur Eddy Academy have expressed a HUGE THANK YOU to the congregation for the coats and winter wear that have been donated to students in need. Thanks to your generosity of the congregation, many kids will have a much more pleasant winter enjoying the snow! And a special thank you to Dick Brown and Linda Mattson for making sure these coats were delivered to the kids before winter arrived. THANK YOU!!

And again, thank you to the congregation for supporting the "I support the 1%" Veterans Food Pantry in providing stockings to Veterans in need. Forty-One (VERY STUFFED) Stockings were provided to homeless veterans in the Saginaw area on November 14th.



The mission committee is also continuing to collect Meijer, Target, Amazon, and Walmart gift cards (or cash donations) through the month of November to support refugees resettled to Michigan. There is a collection box set up in the front hallway; donations may also be dropped off at the church office (Please label your donation for "Refugee Mission."). Any donations made to this mission project will be matched up to \$500 by the mission committee. The liaison of this collection will be St. Vincent Catholic Charities ("STVCC"), which is working directly with refugee families in the area. Refugees resettling in the area have a desperate need for hands-on

resources including housing, furniture, transportation, employment assistance, school orientation, education in the English language, medical services, counseling, and legal aid. STVCC has the infrastructure in place to assist refugees in settling into their new homes. The gift cards will assist refugees in obtaining tangible items: shoes/boots, cleaning supplies, household goods, laundry supplies, linens, some furniture items, kitchen items, etc. If you would like more information on the mission that we are supporting, including the specific needs and the process of resettlement, please visit the St. Vincent Catholic Charities website link, <https://stvcc.org/services/refugee-services/>. The information there includes a breakdown of countries from where refugees arrive, reasons why people become refugees, the specific needs being addressed, and much more.

## 2022 End of Year Contributions



The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2022) to claim a deduction for 2022. Giving in 2023 and predating a check for 2022 does not qualify for a 2022 deduction.



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 10/31/2022	
Income	168,726.13
Expense	190,636.62
Deficit	(21,910.49)

## 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!



## Stewardship



We have received 38 Estimates of Giving for 2023. If you have not already done so, please turn in your **yellow 2023 Estimate of Giving slip** (one is included in this newsletter) by either mailing it to the church or dropping it in the collection box. We are working on the budget for 2023 as many of the programs at the church depend upon your estimate of giving. Thank you for your faithfulness.

## 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.



**"Looking for volunteers to help with shoveling snow this year. Please call the church @ 989-792-1023 -Thank you"**



# Second Presbyterian Church

## December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	2	3  Rescue Mission Lunches 9:30 a.m.
4  Angel Tree Gifts are Due 9:00 a.m. Worship	5	6	7  Florence Gilmore Circle 9:00 a.m. At Sullivan's on Gratiot Rd.	8  Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	9	10
11  9:00 a.m. Worship	12	13	14	15  Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	16	17  
18  Christmas Joy Offering 9:00 a.m. Worship	19	20	21	22  Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.
25  Combined Service at First Presbyterian Church 10:00 a.m.	26  Office Closed	27	28	29  Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	30	31