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

Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter May 2022



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

From the Pastor's Desk

And I will always guide you and satisfy you with good things. I will keep you strong and well. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water, like a spring of water that never goes dry (Isaiah 58:11).

One of my earliest memories of feeling fully spiritually alive beyond the church was in my school project at Middle School gardening. My agricultural science teacher often entertained the students to make a garden of cabbage or carrots or sweet pepper, and the time put into preparing the garden was a gesture of creation exercise and caregiving of the earth. Such experience has continued to draw me to nature and getting my hands dirty, while cultivating an ongoing relationship with God.

I still look forward to the time of the year when the field is prepared for the planting Season. The rain is falling yet the temperature does not feel like its Spring yet. There is wonder in the air, "When will Spring be here?" Perhaps you are wondering when you can begin to plant in your garden without losing the crops and flowers to the cold days?

Our spiritual life is like that of planting Season, we look forward to the time when we can clear our hearts, souls, and minds to make room for Spiritual growth. Whether we are going to plant new crops or repeat the same crops, tomatoes, sweet peppers, flowers and so forth with the hope for a good harvest. Every year you go back, and you check what you've done, and you're looking to what you might do; it's a good discipline. In our faith journey, we may also be replanted repeatedly with nutrients, water, and sunlight from God, for the purpose to maintain our relationship in Jesus Christ.

This desire for more direct connection with the agricultural images of Scripture is what inspired to think about gardening as a spiritual exercise in the month of May when the focus is about earth care. What about taking care of the creation entrusted to us? When we do garden, we not only prepare for the fruits that will be harvested but in so doing, awakens us to a deep love and compassion for planet earth.

So, as you we enter the Season of clearing the land, turning the soil, and getting ready to plant in your small gardens, pots gardening or the big field (for the farmers), may you know that the beautifully crafted vision honors the blessings of sunlight, earth, water, and air found in our own gardens.

Prayer: Dear Lord, you have given us the land to grow our crops and plants. As we look forward to the season of getting our hands dirty, may we draw more closer to you in our spiritual growth in you through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever more. Amen.

Lectionary for May

May 1 – Acts 9:1-6[7-20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 8 – Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:2-30

May 15 – Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 22 – Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29

May 26 – Ascension of the Lord – Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23;
Luke 24:44-53

May 29 – Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Arlene Besner	Stephanie Bennett	Dick Brown
Jim Berden	Sally Day	Barbara Easton
Carole Fowler	Vera Dice	Dorrine Buddle
Nancy Huegel	Carol Smith	Vickie VonBerg
Pat Perea	Heather Rousseau	



Busy Hands and Hearts

Busy Hands will meet the first Monday, May 2 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. We would like to welcome anyone interested to come and see for themselves what we are about. You do not need to knit or sew to come! Please come and share with us your ideas so we can create items to share with us your ideas so we create items to share with others in our community.

Florence Gilmour Circle

All women of the church are invited to join us on Wednesday, May 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Sullivan's Restaurant 5235 Gratiot Rd. for the end of year luncheon. We will resume our monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 14. Have a wonderful summer!



Scholarship Sunday

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 22. We will hand out the scholarships to this year's recipients during worship. 2022 seniors are encouraged to drop off, send in the mail or email a picture we may use along with the school you are graduating from and what your future plans are so that we may decorate the bulletin board in the main hallway.



2nd @ Second

2nd @ Second will continue to meet on Sunday after worship with the continuation of "The Story of the Bible" one of the Great Courses of Religion and Theology by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. Join us in the church library for a time of discussion after watching a short video, sharing and reflection. **We will not meet after worship on Easter Sunday.**



Mission News

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

For the month of May, the mission focus will be collecting books for Reach the Forgotten (formerly called "Forgotten Man Ministries"). These books will be provided to inmates at the Saginaw County Jail as a means to share the grace and love of Christ. Books that may be accepted include soft cover inspirational reading, devotions, and bibles. They may also accept puzzle books or magazines, such as crosswords or word-searches. Reach the Forgotten is unable to accept any hard-cover books or books with staples.

Sunday school

There will be Sunday School on May 1, 15, & 22. May 22 will be the last Sunday School class until fall! **Many thanks to the CE committee who made this year of Sunday School successful.**

The definition of a volunteer Sunday school leader:

Men and women who love Jesus and passionately use their God-given gifts to make Sunday morning the very best hour of the week for the kids He sends their way, and in so doing..... change the world!



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 03/31/2022	
Income	50,684.01
Expense	60,911.24
Deficit	(10,227.23)

PENTECOST OFFERING

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

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

Pentecost – PCUSA Special Offerings

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

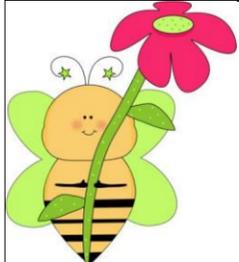
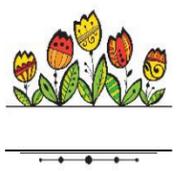
in our own church and community. 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. 25% supports Ministries with Youth to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word. 10% is devoted to children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens. **Pentecost is June 5.**



Online Giving!

We are excited to announce we have 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!



 <h1 style="text-align: center;">Second Presbyterian Church</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">May 2022</h2> 						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 1:00 p.m. Busy Hands and Hearts	3	4	5 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group	6	7 
8  9:00 a.m. Worship	9	10	11 11:00 a.m. Florence Gilmour Circle Meet @ Sullivan's	12 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Worship	16	17	18 	19 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. Worship	23	24	25	26 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Worship	30  Office Closed	31				

Fish Fry Update

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 of our entire congregation and community support. We have:

- people out advertising,
- people ordering supplies,
- people shopping for supplies,
- people peeling potatoes,
- people making coleslaw,
- people washing thousands of dishes!



Our 62 volunteers served; 275 pounds of fish, 340 pounds of potatoes, 80 pounds of coleslaw, and 40 dozen cupcakes. To folks who drove 195 vehicles through the parking lot and purchased 469 meals.

We netted a profit of \$4,016.17 – our best profit ever.

It's not about the money made, it's about working together and getting to know each other and helping to share our Christian love.

We hope you'll join the efforts in the fall. Please save the date of October 21, 2022 for our next fish fry!

PNC Update



The PNC continues to review the Pastor Information Forms. We have scheduled initial interviews via Zoom according to the candidate and PNC availabilities. Please continue to pray for the Second Presbyterian Church PNC as we continue our efforts to find the best Pastor for our church.

Music Notes

Attention youth, strummers, pluckers, and instrumentalists! If you would be interested in offering your musical talents for our worship services, please contact music director Collin Whitfield at the following email address: collin.whitfield@gmail.com. As we seek to expand the variety of music for our services, we hope you will consider joining or rejoining to become a part of our music program!

The office will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.



CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA

The IRA charitable transfer is a great way to make a gift to a mission or ministry that you care about. Consider making the most of your IRA as you plan your required annual minimum distribution. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are gifts to charities made directly from an individual retirement account. This is an easy, tax-advantaged way for Presbyterians to support their favorite mission or ministry.

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REQUIREMENTS

- Donor must be 70½ or older at the time the distribution is made (age provision unaffected by the SECURE Act of 2019)
- The distribution must be otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA)
- Distributions must be made **directly to an organization** eligible to receive tax deductible contributions (certain exclusions apply)
- \$100,000 annual limit
- Charity receiving gift must provide donor proper substantiation of the gift
- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are reported on your Form 1040 tax return in the section for IRA distribution

BENEFITS

- Can satisfy Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) in year QCD is made
- QCD amount is not included in the donor's adjusted gross income, helping to potentially avoid increased taxes on SSI, higher Medicare premiums, and the loss of deductions/exemptions
- Provides donors that use the standard deduction a tax efficient way to make a charitable gift

EXAMPLE

Sandra, 71, wants to make a contribution to her local church. She has \$500,000 in her IRA and she wants the contribution to be \$20,000. She can authorize the administrator of her IRA to transfer \$20,000 to her church. Since the QCD is excluded from income, Sandra will not be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction, but she will still receive tax savings. The \$20,000 distributed to her church will be counted toward her annual minimum required distribution and she will not pay income tax on the portion given to charity.

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