



*Come home
to God's love*

Our Vision

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
April 2016 Newsletter



Think Spring!

GrouPeru
Pancake Lunch
&
Flower
Flat Ordering
Sunday, April 17th

Installation Service
for
Reverend Chris Thomas

Sunday, April 10th



See page 4

Friends of the Opera
present
Mascagni Messe de Gloria
Sunday, April 17th
Sanctuary ~ 4pm

Small Group Lunch
with
Pastor Chris & his family

You are invited to sign up for a small group luncheon with Rev. Chris Thomas and his family

See sign-up sheet on
Chris' office door

F.I.S.H.
resumes
Wed. April 6th

Christian Education	5	Parish Nurse	10
Young Adult Ministry	7	Calendar	8 & 9
Children's Ministry	3	Announcements	12-15
Music Corner	6	Reflections on the Word	11



No One Likes Change

A very wise person once mused, "The only constant is change". This observation has been heard and chuckled at by many of us because we know it is true. Though we desire after unchanging consistency and security, the truth is that change is a bigger part of our reality than we would like.

My adult life has been filled with change after change. Recently I began to reap some consistency in my life when God threw a new challenge my way and changed everything. As I have thought about this change in my life and work I have been forced to realize that change is scary because it reminds me that there are things in life outside of my control. Things happen that change my reality and comfort that I have very little say in. Fortunately, my recent change allowed me to have a say but I know our Church has had some changes in recent years that are outside of our control.

The important thing to remember in times of change is that there is one constant you can always count on, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17 ESV) God is the one constant we can count on. Scripture is filled with promises that the God we serve is consistent and does not change. Even the quasi disobedient prophet Balaam found in the book of Numbers knew this truth, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Numbers 23:19 ESV)

When changes in our life begin to cause us to fear it is a reminder to us to cling ever more to the unchanging God who is Lord of those changes. Let us embrace the change and cling to the unchangeable God that he may work his great mysteries among us.

~ Rev. Chris Thomas

Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible School is coming! Mark it on your calendar! Plan to join us from July 11 to 15 for music, games, crafts, Bible stories and more. Volunteer and participant sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex. We are currently seeking a snack coordinator. If you would like to be a part of the planning team for this exciting ministry, please talk to Beckie Dicks.



Sunday School meets at 9:00 every Sunday. If your family hasn't come to Sunday School yet, give it a try! Kids' Sunday School is similar to what your children have already experienced in Children's Church, but with smaller groups and a longer class time. That means more fun, learning and friendship! While your kids are in Sunday school, you're invited to take advantage of our church's adult education offerings.

Our Wednesday night FISH kids' class continues! This year, we're concluding our Narnia Series with the final book in the series, *The Last Battle*. All ages are welcome - come for a great story, discussion, crafts and more.

See you in church!

~ Beckie Dicks, Children's Ministries Coordinator



Friends of the Opera of Michigan
present
Pietro Mascagni's
Messe de Gloria and Regina Coeli from Cavalleria Rusticana

Sunday, April 17th - in our Sanctuary

We will be hosting a concert on Sunday, April 17th, to highlight two greatly lauded works of composer, Pietro Mascagni. Please join us as our Adult Choir, the choir from Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and the Aeolian Chorale perform these master works. There will be three outstanding soloists and organist, Aaron Tan, will be accompanying.

*You will not want to miss this opportunity to experience
an outstanding ensemble performing these classics!*

Sunday Night Bible Discussion Group

The Sunday night Bible study group is discussing the book of Daniel (*a book of personal biography and apocalyptic visions concerning events in both secular and sacred history*). Please call Bert Ebi (562-5156) or the Leslie's (336-8238) if you plan to participate.





Rev. Chris Thomas

**Installation Service
for
Reverend Chris Thomas**

Sunday, April 10th

during morning worship

Please join us for the installation service of our new senior pastor, Rev. Chris Thomas. We invite you to share with us this important event in the life of our church family. Representatives from the Presbytery of Detroit will be with us to participate in the service.



Special Thanks to Marshall Dicks, Tim Huth, the choirs and all the musicians for the special Lenten Concert held on Sunday, March 13th.

We thank them for their musical gifts which they share to the glory of God.

Christian Education

Written by Pastor Michael J. Hoffman, CRE, & Christian Education Director



So what is “GrouPeru! ? GrouPeru! is our annual international mission trip open to all teens, young adults, and adults from FPC-D, the community, and beyond. We have been a part of this Scripture Union mission for over 10 consecutive years now, longer than any other church involved in this world-wide ministry. Kate and Billy Greenman are very proud of us!

Why do you continue to return to the same boys homes? My wife Lynn and I are of the mind-set that mission trips are not totally for the participants and certainly are not vacations. If so, we would pick a new and exciting international spot to travel to each year like many other churches do. Instead, we realize that mission is mostly about RELATIONSHIPS, that is, people who are willing to listen about Christ because they see us returning and transforming each year.

Isn’t this costly to our church’s budget? Absolutely, **not!** It is rare that any committee continuously supports us (although M&O & the Treasure Chest have cut us a donation a couple of times). All of the costs are bore by the participants and money earned from fund-raisers that give members of our church a chance to participate monetarily while they have a monthly opportunity to fellowship with each other. Likewise, some members and organizations outside of FPC-D who have been moved by our ministry give money in excess of their pledge amounts.

How many individuals are going this year? Nine from our team and 4-5 others will join us from S. Carolina. Team members are: JJ Lewy, his cousin Kim Lewy, her videographer friend, Catherine and Elizabeth Dicks, Mike, Lynn, and Elissa Hoffman, & Stella Doverspike, all representing FPC-D, and 4-5 others from a S. Carolina church that needs to piggy-back.

What does the team do when they are there? Manual labor (painting, cement work, sanding, scraping, making foundations, anything that we are asked to do/needs to be done), daily devotions, Bible lessons, skits, crafts, games, and sharing Christ’s love with the rescued boys.

Couldn’t we just write a check and mail it in order to have greater impact financially? Yes we could, but we prefer to model the love of God who sent his Son for us. While we are not claiming in any way to be the “saviors” of these boys, we are in fact relationally living out the Great Commission, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19-20. -Amen

Lamkin Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study

Thursday’s 10-11:30am in the North Parlor. In March and throughout the summer, join us as we follow Beth Moore’s DVD entitled, “Breath: Examine the Work of the Holy Spirit in Your Life.” Charlie Aronson and Jane Lewy-Mykytenko will continue to lead our discussions.



Music Corner

Welcome to spring! Now that Easter is over we are well into our Eastertide journey to Pentecost! We have some wonderful upcoming events we hope you can be a part of.

On Sunday, April 17th, we will be hosting a concert sponsored by Friends of the Opera of Michigan. On this concert will be the Pietro Mascagni Messe de Gloria, and his Regina Coeli from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Three choirs will be involved: our own Adult Choir, the choir from Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and the Aeolian Chorale, a local community chorus which I direct. There will be 3 soloists, all outstanding and local organist Aaron Tan will be accompanying! I hope you can all make it!

On Sunday, May 1st, we will be hosting a concert by the Cantata Academy Chorale. This is a great local choir that is very excited to be able to sing in our Sanctuary. The concert is entitled “Spring Reflections” and will begin at 3:00pm. If you love great choral music, don’t miss this opportunity to hear an outstanding ensemble perform!

Now is a great time to join our choirs! The children, youth and handbell choirs will begin working on music for Mother’s Day! Mother’s Day is a service where the youth and children provide almost all the elements of the service, including the music. It’s also a great time to join the adult choir. We are not working towards a concert or special holiday, so the rehearsals are a little more relaxed. We’ll be looking at music through Pentecost and Father’s Day, when we’ll begin our summer break.

- Children’s Choir is open to all in grades 2-5 and meets on Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm.
- Handbell Choir is open to all in grades 2-12 and meets on Sunday afternoons at 4:30pm.
- Youth Choir is open to all in grades 6-12 and meets on Sunday afternoons at 5:00pm.
- Adult Choir is open to all in High School and above (High Schoolers must also sing in the Youth Choir to be eligible). Adult Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

We’d love to have you come join us!

In Christ, ~Marshall

Noteworthy

- Treasure Chest is open Wednesday’s 10am to 4pm. We have great bargains!!
- Physical & Spiritual Fitness class meets in the Youth Center Tuesday’s at 10:00am.
- Officers’ training is Sunday, April 24th at 1-3pm, North Parlor (for Elders & Deacons beginning their terms of service in June). Installation will be Sunday May 15th.
- The Martian Marathon returns Saturday, April 9th. Road restrictions will be in place so please use caution!

Musings from Pastor Mike, CRE

Young Adult & Adult CE Director and Youth Groups Leader

A few weeks ago, at both *Converge* and in my Pastor's Class, the message was one and the same, that is, that Jesus calls us to **stop playing it safe**. Our visual metaphor was that **our cross does not come equipped with an air bag**. Is this really Biblical? Let's turn to Scripture to find out the Truth.

“Lord, if it's you”, Peter replied, “Tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come”, he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus.”
– Matthew 14:28-29

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”” - Matthew 16:24-26

“Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these.” – John 14:12

We have a new idol in “the world” as well as in Christianity. **It is the idol of safety**. Safety discards dreams, shrinks hearts, diminishes faith, and stunts growth. We live in a generation that is hyper-insured, massively medicated, valet-parked, has a security system for their security system, is inoculated to excess, is tradition-bound, inwardly focused, denomination-worshiping, event-centered, and has a “we have always done it this way” mentality. I am not suggesting that we blind-fold ourselves and walk on ponds with thin ice, but instead that we pray and listen to what new wine-skins God is calling us to construct and what new wine God is fermenting.

As Christians, we don't serve because our recliners are tilted back, we don't dream great dreams because they might not come to fruition, we don't share our faith because we might offend someone, we don't tithe because the economy may take a downturn, and we don't bring “fringe” people to church because they may not fit-in. Anyone else imagine a God that is angry and full of wrath? Playing it safe limits our impact, shrinks our faith, stunts our growth, and shrivels our hearts.

So how do we break free from this idol? To begin with, we stop saying no to everything just because it's scary. We start saying some dangerous prayers. We get out our wallets. We stop watching and we try living. We really grasp what is at stake. R.G. Chesterton said: “We need a new kind of prophet, not like the prophets of old who reminded people that they were going to die, but one who reminds them that they are not dead yet.”

It's time for our Christian leaders to once again become as bold as the early followers of Christ. Let it be so. – Amen! As usual, I would invite you to share your comments and dreams with me. Talk with me after worship, email me at pastormike929@gmail.com or drop a note in my box in the office.

~Pastor Mike

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDN
9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11:30am Property- Library 3-4:30pm Youth Groups- YL, YC, 2A 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Bell Room 5-6pm Youth Choir- Sanctuary 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	3 10am Card Ministry- R14 DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	4 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 4:30-5:30pm Sewing Class 7-8pm Deacons- NP 7-9pm Worship & Arts- SP 7:30-9pm AA- MH	5 10am Stephens-Currie- 10am-4pm Treasure Cr 10:30am Staff Meeting 6-6:45pm FISH (dinner) 6:45-8pm Adult and K 6:45-8:30pm GriefSha 7-9pm Adult Choir- San
Rev. Chris Thomas Installation Service Communion 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11:45am Pastor's Brunch (BY SIGN UP ONLY) - NP 3-4:30pm Youth Groups- YL, YC, 2A 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Bell Room 5-6pm Youth Choir- Sanctuary 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's DEADLINE FOR VISION	10 11am-2pm Garden Club- MH 6:30pm NAMI- NP DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	11 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 4:30-5:30pm Sewing Class 5:30pm Outreach & Missions- SP 7:30-9pm AA- MH	12 10am-4pm Treasure Cr 6-6:45pm FISH (dinner) 6:45-8pm Adult and K 7-9pm Adult Choir- San
9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11am GrouPeru Pancake Lunch & Flower Flat Ordering- MH 11:45am Pastor's Brunch (BY SIGN UP ONLY) - NP 3-4:30pm Youth Groups- YL, YC, 2A 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary 4pm Friends of the Opera present the Mascagni Messe de Gloria- Sanct. 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Bell Room 5-6pm Youth Choir- Sanctuary 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	17 DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	18 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 4:30-5:30pm Sewing Class 5:30-6:30pm Finance- SP 7pm SESSION -NP 7:30-9pm AA- MH	19 10am Stephens-Currie- 10am-4pm Treasure Cr 10:30am Staff Meeting 6-6:45pm FISH (dinner) 6:45-8pm Adult and K 7-9pm Adult Choir- San
9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11:45am Pastor's Brunch (BY SIGN UP ONLY) - NP 1-3pm Elder/Deacon Training- NP 3-4:30pm Youth Groups- YL, YC, 2A 3:30-4:30pm Children's Choir- Sanctuary 4:30-5pm Handbell Choir- Bell Room 5-6pm Youth Choir- Sanctuary 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's	24 1-4pm Home School Class- MH, Kit. 6:30pm NAMI- NP DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN	25 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 4:30-5:30pm Sewing Class 7:30-9pm AA- MH	26 11am-1pm Keenagers- 10am-4pm Treasure Cr 6-6:45pm FISH (dinner) 6:45-8pm Adult and K 7-9pm Adult Choir- San

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Set up Communion 2 9am-11am Rebekah Circle- NP 2pm Kesteloot Baby Shower- MH, K 5:30-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares
6 Currie- NP tre Chest eting- SP (dinner) MH and Kids' Classes efShare- SP (last one) ir- Sanct., Turco	7 10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP	8 6:30-9pm Game Night- MH	9 10am-2pm Treasure Chest 10am-12pm Girl Scouts -R14 2pm Friends of the Opera Rehearsal- Sanctuary 5:30-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares Dearborn Martian Run
13 tre Chest (dinner) MH and Kids' Classes ir- Sanct., Turco	14 10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP	15	16 10am PW Board- NP 10am-1pm Setup for Peru lunch- K 5:30-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares
20 Currie- NP tre Chest eting- SP (dinner) MH and Kids' Classes ir- Sanct., Turco	21 10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 3-9pm Boy Scout Mahican Dinner- MH, K	22	23 5:30-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares
27 agers- MH (K) tre Chest (dinner) MH and Kids' Classes ir- Sanct., Turco	28 10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 7-9pm Knitting Grp.- NP	29	30 Set up Communion 5:30-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares

Parish Nursing

From: Presbyterian Church USA

Parish nursing is a growing specialty practice of nursing, recognized by the American Nursing Association. It is also a ministry that is embraced by many different Christian denominations. Registered nurses also serve in similar capacities in several other faith traditions.

Parish nurses are registered nurses, most of whom have several years' (or more) nursing experience in hospital-based or community-based settings. Parish nurse basic preparation classes are available in many locations, from coast-to-coast in the continental US (as well as Hawaii and Alaska), and in several other countries on five continents.

Philosophy of Parish Nursing

Parish nursing is a recognized specialty practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry. Parish nursing emphasizes health and healing within a faith community. The philosophy of parish nursing embraces four major concepts: spiritual formation; professionalism; shalom as health and wholeness; and community, incorporating culture and diversity.

SPIRIT - The spiritual dimension is central to parish nursing practice. Personal spiritual formation is an ongoing, essential component of practice for the parish nurse and includes both self-care and hospitality, through opening the heart to self and others. Spiritual formation is an intentional process of intimacy with God to foster spiritual growth.

ROOTS - The parish nurse role reclaims the historic roots of professional nursing. Aspects of health and healing found in many faith traditions are embodied in the role of the parish nurse. The parish nurse practices under the scope and standards of practice and the ethical code of nursing as set forth in their country.

SHALOM - The parish nurse understands health to be a dynamic process that embodies the spiritual, psychological, physical, and social dimensions of the person. Shalom, God's intent for harmony and wholeness, serves as a foundation for understanding health. A sense of well-being can exist in the presence of imbalance, and healing can exist in the absence of cure.

COMMUNITY - The practice of parish nursing focuses on a faith community. The parish nurse, in collaboration with the pastoral staff and congregants, participates in the ongoing transformation of the faith community into sources of health and healing. Through partnership with other community health resources, parish nursing fosters new and creative responses to health and wellness concerns. Parish nurses appreciate that all persons are sacred and must be treated with respect and dignity. The parish nurse serves the faith community, creates safe and sacred places for healing, and advocates with compassion, mercy, and dignity.

Root Assumptions of Parish Nursing

Parish nursing is rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition, and the historic practice of professional nursing, and is consistent with the basic assumptions of many faiths that we care for self and others as an expression of God's love.

Parish nursing is an idea born out of the understanding of the healing ministry of the church and the need to return to health care that focuses on the whole person to emphasize wellness, disease prevention, and health promotion.

Because they focus on wellness, disease prevention and health promotion, parish nurses often provide health screenings for congregations.

Sometimes called the *Minister of Health*, a parish nurse is a registered nurse with additional training who serves members of the congregation and often people in the community as well. The role of a parish nurse is not primarily to deal with sickness but more significantly to be:

- a health educator and teacher to promote healthy lifestyles and help people understand the relationships between lifestyle, faith and well-being
- a personal health counselor to help people sort out health problems and make appropriate plans for handling them
- a communication link and support for community health resources and services, to provide referrals and be a liaison for the church and its members
- a teacher of volunteers to recruit members and train them to carry out a range of supportive services
- an organizer of health support groups to assist groups in the congregation with particular concerns
- a resource to assist with the assessment of congregational and community health needs.

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The parish nurse program affirms the church as a place for prevention of illness or "disease," as it teaches and supports us in living with "ease" physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

Churches struggle in ministry in many areas in which the parish nurse can open new opportunities. For example, developing ministry to and with families affected by mental illness, health concerns of elderly people, and nurturing young families are ways in which the church is called upon to minister to its parishioners in new ways.

Substance abuse, addictions, and violence within the family are areas in which the parish nurse can be an initial contact point in ministry to develop or strengthen education programs.

There are a variety of models in which churches are able to obtain registered nurses to be on the church staff, such as:

- Congregation as sponsor
- Hospital sponsor
- Community agency as sponsor
- Joint sponsorship
- Volunteer

Larger churches have employed the parish nurse full time, while smaller congregations typically join in sharing a nurse as a part time staff.

Each of these models offers a different set of advantages to the church. Some will provide strength by creating alliances in the community or with other churches. Others offer a strong support system for the parish nurse and clergy. One model will work will in your church.

Source: www.caregiverslibrary.org



This
Month's
Reflection

[Jesus]: Today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43)

on the Word Two criminals were sentenced to die with Jesus. One of them derided Jesus, saying sarcastically, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other rebuked him and then said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The penitent one showed an amazing faith in the dying Jesus, addressing Him as a king, and receiving a kingly promise. God's grace was working on this man's faith, for he knew he was justly condemned, he knew Jesus was suffering unjustly, and he rebuked the other sinner's sarcasm. The hard-hearted one rejected God. He lacked faith so his thinking became futile and his heart darkened (Rom. 1:21) He had little understanding of sin and guilt.

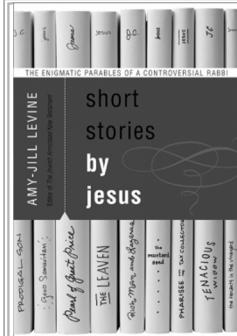
Jesus' response confirmed the existence of Paradise (2 Cor.12:4) and it would soon be confirmed again by His Resurrection. One sinner entered Paradise by grace through faith, not merit; the other sinner rejected faith.

It is never too late for true repentance; but sadly, late repentance is seldom true. None can be sure of having time to repent at death. It is far better to enjoy living by faith in Christ here than to live without God here expecting to turn to Him at the moment of death.

Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32). He did not come to call the righteous because there weren't any (Rom. 3:10-20) -- and there aren't any today.

Turn to Him and live while you still can!

~ John Holden



Book of the Every Other Month Club

Next Meeting: Sat, May 14th

Our book to be discussed: **“short stories by Jesus”** by Amy-Jill Levine

“Amy-Jill Levine offers new translations of the parables, recovering the sense of provocation and challenge they would have presented to their first-century audiences. The Jesus we see here came up with inventive ways to challenge his listeners, and didn’t allow them easy answers or room for self-congratulation.” (Boston Globe)

Come join our discussion of this New York Times Bestseller!

3. Thank You 3

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for kind thoughts, encouraging words, acts of kindness, and especially your prayers. My heartfelt thanks to God for His constant presence and for each one of you. I am truly blessed.

*One in Christ,
Shirley Painter*

DEACON CARD MINISTRY INTERESTED?

We meet the first Monday of the month at 10:00am upstairs in Room 14.

All are welcome!

*For further information, please contact
Nancy Barber, (313) 565-2741*



**If you are KEEN... and over 50 years of age,
YOU ARE A ~ Keenager**

Please join us the fourth Wednesday of each month for Christian Fellowship and Information as we go for lunch, or meet in Mitchell Hall. Check the Keenager bulletin board for details and sign-up sheet.

Giggles & Goodies!



Nancy and her friends took us on an amazing journey where you just can't "talk the talk", you gotta "walk the walk" to be prepared in all aspects of our lives.

"Blessed Assurance" Hymn History

[Fanny] Crosby was visiting her friend Phoebe Knapp as the Knapp home was having a large pipe organ installed. The organ was incomplete, so Mrs. Knapp, using the piano, played a new melody she had just composed. When Knapp asked Crosby, "What do you think the tune says?", Crosby replied, "Blessed assurance; Jesus is mine..."

The popular song reflects Crosby's walk of faith, as expressed in Philippians 1:21, "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (KJV) (God's Holy Word)

Reflect on the words:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blessed_Assurance

Louisville

Registration is open for the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), where some 3,000 Presbyterians and others will gather to conduct the business of the denomination, worship, and fellowship.

Mid council staff, theological institution staff, and observers can now go online to sign up for the biennial assembly set for June 18–25 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. Commissioners, advisory delegates, General Assembly agency staff and elected members, and other invited guests are receiving emails with special links to use for assembly registration.



Attendees are encouraged, among other things, to review the assembly docket, information about, assembly hotels, and the schedule of events prior to registering. Many optional events will require a ticket, which can be purchased during registration. Among them will be a dinner celebrating the ministry of retiring Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons on Wednesday night of the assembly.

Paul Raushenbush, senior vice president for public engagement at Auburn Theological Seminary, will give the address honoring Parsons' thirty-seven years of service to the denomination. "I'm honored to speak at the dinner recognizing the important contributions of the Reverend Gradye Parsons' leadership and to address this extraordinary Kairos moment for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Church as a whole," he said.

From 2009 to 2015, Raushenbush was executive editor of global spirituality and religion at *The Huffington Post*. The dinner is free for commissioners and advisory delegates, and arrangements will be made for those who wish to attend the celebration without taking part in the meal.

General Assembly attendees will receive an email notification from General Assembly Meeting Service once payment is processed and registration is confirmed; normally within one business day. Those requesting a reservation in an assembly hotel will receive a lodging assignment notice at a later date.

Registration deadlines are:

- April 15 for commissioners, advisory delegates, agency staff, and mid council staff and seminary staff who will have assigned seating,
- May 9 for other participants requesting assembly housing,
- June 3 for advance registration and ticket sales,
June 3 for cancellation deadline (registration fees, less a cancellation fee of \$25 or 15 percent of total registration/ticket fees, whichever is greater, will be refunded if notice of cancellation is received by this date). *Other than for canceled events, General Assembly Meeting Service does not refund payment for ticket orders canceled after May 30.*

Source: www.pcusa.org

NEED A LIFT? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!

We will try to accommodate members who need a ride to a medical appointment or Sunday Service. Contact Nancy Barber at (313)565-2741, or call the church at (313)274-1313. Also, if you are free to occasionally help with driving, we'd like to hear from you too.

~Nancy Barber, Deacon Moderator.

Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."



FPC Knitters



Calling all knitters and those who want to learn: April showers mean more time to stay indoors and knit! Make time to join us, rain or shine, Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7 pm. Bring whatever project you are working on, or come and learn some basic stitches. Hope to see you!

~ Lynn Hoffman

Reflection on Spring

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another..."

(Henry Van Dyke)

Meals for the Homebound

Some of our homebound congregation could use assistance with meals. The next time you are preparing something that is easily frozen, just make a little extra. Freeze enough for two people in a nonreturnable container and drop it off at church, letting the office know. The Deacons will deliver it. This small gesture will mean a lot to the recipients and what a wonderful way to show our Christian love. Nancy Barber - Deacon Moderator

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am

April 3 / - Communion, *Out of Eden: In the Beginning* - Rev. Chris Thomas

April 10 / - Installation of Rev. Thomas

April 17 / - *Out of Eden: From the Dust of the Ground* - Rev. Chris Thomas

April 24 / - *Out of Eden: Their Eyes were Opened* - Rev. Chris Thomas

April Birthdays

- 04/03: Alan Brailsford, Roger Hayman, Mark Guinn
- 04/05: Sydney Hemp
- 04/06: Kay Erickson, Kerry Higgins
- 04/07: David Pempeit, Aiden Rehbein
- 04/08: Johnston Cummings, Dale Romeo
- 04/09: Jack Evenhouse, Jacob Samuel
- 04/10: Adrienne Young
- 04/11: Jacqueline Wolter
- 04/12: Ivie Morris, Clare Maloney
- 04/13: Peter Masouredis
- 04/15: Heather Cummings
- 04/17: Elaine Fellows
- 04/18: Louis Orcutt, Kim Doverspike
- 04/19: Jim Shearer
- 04/21: Catherine Dicks, Elizabeth Dicks
- 04/22: Patsy Knoop, Kenneth Isaacson
- 04/23: Dan Kutt
- 04/25: Sumie Satoh
- 04/27: Hannah Knoop
- 04/29: Dan Saylor, Andrew Mayer, Grace Doverspike
- 04/30: Lauren Christian, Kendall Nagy

Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
600 North Brady Road
Dearborn, MI 48124
(313) 274-1313 / Fax (313) 274-4852
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Our Vision

16

Sent with a Prayer

Are you praying for a Vision?

Rev. Chris Thomas

Pastor
Rev. Chris Thomas

Parish Associate & Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Don Wright

Children's Ministries Director
Beckie Dicks

Education & Young Adult Coord.
Mike Hoffman, CLP

Organist
Dr. Timothy L. Huth

Director of Music
F. Marshall Dicks, M.M.

Parish Nurse
Chris Mayer, B.S.N.