

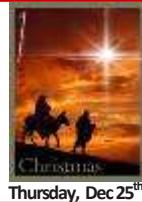


Come home
to God's love

Our Vision

The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn

December 2014 Newsletter



Christmas Caroling
Sunday, Dec. 7th at 4pm
See Page 6



Touch of Hope Christmas Offering
Angel Adoptions
See Page 5



Joy of the Season!



Children's Christmas Shopping
Sunday, Dec. 7th at 9am
See Page 4



NOEL FESTIVAL
Sunday, Dec. 14th at 6pm
See Page 4

Please join us for these special Christmas events:

Sun, Dec 7 Children's Shopping ~~~~~ 9am
Christmas Caroling ~~~~~ 4-7pm

Sun, Dec 14 NOEL Festival ~~~~~ 6pm

Wed, Dec 24 Family Christmas Eve Service ~ 5:30pm
Candlelight Christmas Service ~ ~ 11pm

Please bring a friend!



Celebration of Pastoral Service

*Please join us for a celebration
of*

*Pastor Dave's years of service
as our Senior Pastor*

Food and Festivities

*after morning worship
on
Sunday, January 18, 2015*

More to Follow.

*If you are willing to volunteer or help on any level, please see Mary Jo Miller,
or let the office know.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Pastor Mike Hoffman, CRE & Educational Coordinator

Sunday Morning

Adults: *Revelation Bible Study/Discussion* in the N. Parlor, Main Level, 9-9:50 AM & *Parenting Class* in room 12 Upper Level, 9-9:50 AM.

Teens: *Confirmation Class* in the Youth Lounge, Lower Level, 8:45-9:55 AM & *High School Class* in the Stage Balcony, Main Level, 9-9:50 AM.

Children: Sunday School Classes in various Upper Level rooms, 9-9:50 AM & Infant/Pre-School: Nursery, Upper Level, 9-9:50 AM & 9:50-11:15 AM

Sunday Afternoon

Middle School & High School Teens: *4:12 Youth Groups*, Lower Level Youth Lounge, 3-4:30 PM.

Wednesday Evening

Adults/Teens/Children: *FISH*, hot dinner & cool Fellowship, Mitchell Hall, 6-6:45 PM, \$7 donation.

Adult Class: 'Soul Detox', N. Parlor, 6:45-8 PM & Kids/Teens: *C.S. Lewis' Narnia Series: The Boy and His Horse*, 6:45-8 PM.

Friday, Jan. 23rd , 5:30 -9 PM and Saturday, Jan. 24th , 8:30-12 Noon – Men's Retreat. Call 313.274.1313 to register.

Various Days and Times during the Week – Adult Small Groups and Bible Studies. Call Pastor Mike at church: 313.274.1313, extension 14, home: 313.562.5961, or cell at 313.213.8319.

Children's Ministry

Children's Christmas Shopping: Christmas is coming! Our sixth annual kids' shopping galleria at the Treasure Chest will be Sunday, December 7. This has become a treasured tradition for our children and youth over the past several years. It's also lots of fun for the adult helpers to help the kids as they find precious presents for their loved ones. Children and youth will shop in the Treasure Chest during the Sunday School hour and in Children's church.



Help needed, blessings offered! Join in the fun and you'll be blessed with joy and fellowship. If you'd like to be a wrapper or shopping assistant, let me know. We'll need wrappers and helpers at both 9:00 and 10:20.

If you have items you'd like to donate that children can buy for their loved ones, please leave them in the Christian education office by Wednesday, December 3.

Carol Sing: On Sunday, December 27 during education hour, we'll have a carol sing in Mitchell Hall, . There will not be regular Sunday school classes that day.

~Beckie Dicks- Children's Ministries Coordinator

4:12 – Youth Group~ Sharing the Gospel Message

A pastor I know recently said something that caught my attention in a sermon. "Lots of people talk about how they want Muslims (and other non-Christians) in Dearborn to come to Christ. They pray about it, talk about it to other Christians, and even make it a ministry objective. But how many people have you personally shared the gospel with?" In Mark 4:21-25, Jesus describes the gospel of God's kingdom as a lamp that should be out in the open so everyone can see. Verses 24-25 then give a powerful mandate regarding that light.

²⁴"Consider carefully what you hear," [Jesus] continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.²⁵Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them." Essentially, we are the light bearers to the world. We are the lamps shining in the darkness. If we walk in the will of God and spread his truth to others, he will increase his power and eternal blessing in our lives. If we keep the gospel to ourselves, it will not bear fruit and we will receive punishment from God for our disobedience. Evangelism is not an option. It is a command.

Fortunately, the gospel is simple enough for a child to understand. We are rebellious sinners against the holy Creator, and without forgiveness we are spiritually dead. Jesus took the punishment that we deserve by dying on the cross. He rose from the dead three days later to give life to all who trust in him for salvation. When we place our faith in Jesus as God, he promises to give us the Holy Spirit, make us new on the inside, and be with us forever.

This message of the gospel is the "power of salvation to everyone who believes". We have focused on this for the month of November in youth group, and December is an excellent opportunity to share the gospel with everyone we know. Who can you share with in your neighborhood, at school, or at work? What excuses have been holding you back from obeying Jesus' command to make disciples? Let's not put our light under a basket in the season of Advent, but rather share with everyone the amazing reason God came into the world as Jesus the Christ. Go forth, and let your light shine before all people.

Grace and Peace, Jonathan Mallard
Director of Student Ministries
Converge Discipleship Coordinator



Annual NOËL Festival

"The Best Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant Ever."

Sunday, December 14th at 6pm in Mitchell Hall

Come join us for our 6th annual NOËL Festival! In addition to our pageant, there will be lots of carol singing, with all of our choirs participating.

A great dinner begins at 6:00pm.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW IN THE NARTHEX!

Patron level: \$100 (includes 4 tickets)

Adult: \$10 each

Children ages 5-12: \$5 each

Children under age 5: FREE!

Children's Christmas Shopping

The Treasure Chest will open on **Sunday, December 7th** for Children's Christmas Shopping during Sunday School and Children's Church. Let your children do their Christmas shopping in the safe environment of the church.



Free gift wrapping.

See you there!





Touch of Hope Christmas Offering

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and a time to be grateful for God's blessings and love.

Many of our sixteen Touch of Hope families have had a difficult year. As a congregation we can help brighten their holiday season and show them God's goodness.

Gifts will be collected and dedicated on Sunday December 7. If you are unable to attend services on December 7, please drop your gift off at the church office before that date. Thank you to those who adopted angels for our Touch of Hope family members.

Non-perishable food, personal care items, paper products, and cleaning supplies will be collected on December 14. Sixteen of any item listed in the above categories would be appreciated. All donations of any amount are welcome. Please check the expiration dates. Items will be sorted on December 14. Sponsors and families will be picking up items after Sunday service on the 14th.

Help will be needed to sort gifts and donated food, personal care items, paper products, and cleaning supplies. This will mean sorting on both December 7 and December 14. Please consider donating time on those Sundays. Many hands make light work. If you have questions please contact Margie Johnston-Maurer at 313 563-9520. All volunteer help and donations of gifts, supplies and monetary donations are appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity. ~Margie Maurer

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Progress Report



We have completed the required church information report (now called the Ministry Information Report), and our Session has approved it. The Report was forwarded to the Detroit Presbytery, where it was approved. It will now be sent on to our Congregation's National Headquarters in Louisville. After that has been done, Louisville will computer match our needs to the capabilities of pastors, who are open to a new call, and their dossiers will be forwarded for our consideration. ~Pastor Nominating Committee



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

All Presbyterian Women are encouraged to join us in Bible study and discussion (Thursdays, 10-11:30am in the North Parlor) led by Charlie and Jane. The Horizons Bible study is **Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians**. The Horizons Bible Study book will be available to all participants. ~Jane Lewy



Music Corner

Welcome to one of the music ministries busiest times of the year, December!! We have lots of opportunities for music making, and for enjoying Christmas! First, though, let me express my thanks and gratitude for the recognition of the 10th Anniversary of my becoming music director at First Presbyterian. I have been blessed and touched by your comments and expressions of support for me and for the music program. Thank you very much.

Here is a listing of those things that are coming up in the month of December. I hope you can make all of them!

Sunday, November 30 – 4:00pm – HANGING OF THE GREENS

Join us as we decorate the Chrismon Tree and the Sanctuary. A great time of fellowship for all ages. Followed by a Chili Supper in Mitchell Hall

Sunday, December 7 – 4:00pm – CHURCHWIDE CAROLING TO SHUT-INS

On this evening we travel out to various homes and Care Facilities to sing Christmas Carols to those of our members who can't make it to church regularly. It's always a great amount of fun, as we sing together and drop off a special gift. This is another wonderful fellowship opportunity for young and old!

Sunday, December 14 – 6:00pm – NOËL FESTIVAL

Come join us for our 6th Annual NOËL Festival! Tickets are already on sale! This year our centerpiece is a short work entitled "The Best Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant Ever."

Lots of carol singing, and all of our choirs participate. A great dinner begins at 6:00pm.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for Children ages 5-12. Children under 5 are Free. We also have a "Patron" package which gets you 4 tickets for \$100 dollars, and helps us to defray the cost of the evening.

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – 5:30pm – FAMILY SERVICE. 11:00pm – CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICE. Our 5:30 Service features our Children's Choir, and Special Music. All the children receive a special Christmas Gift from Pastor Dave. Our Candlelight Service features more special music, the Adult Choir, and a special Christmas Message.

I hope to see all of you at some or all of these great events!

God Bless ~Marshall

CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries:

Happy Anniversary to John and Doris Matthews, who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, November 20th.

They were married at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, OH.



Musings from Pastor Mike - December 2014

Lay Pastor – I have been blessed to be able to give the message at Converge most weeks, preach a few times on Sunday in “Big Church”, and preach on a regular monthly basis at *Saturday Night Alive*. I also have been “stretched” to visit some in the hospital and nursing facilities and have found that something I usually try to avoid (not really in my job description) has become most rewarding. I am also “Pastor” to many of the International Students at U of M-D who are away from their home churches in their native countries. I have performed a couple of weddings recently for a former 3rd grade student of mine who is now in his twenties as well as Alan and Marisa Hall’s wedding (son of David and Linda Hall). Recently, I was able to baptize a new Christian as well as re-affirm the baptism of a 5th generation Christian. I praise God for all these opportunities!

Director of Christian Education – I have been blessed by Jane Dearth, Adult Education Volunteer, Beckie Dicks, Director of Children’s Education, and Jonathan Mallard, Director of Student Ministries/Confirmation (along with Sue Young, Volunteer). These folks make education happen on Sunday mornings for all ages, Sunday afternoon Youth groups, and Wednesday evenings for adults. What a wonderful and creative group it is! Thanks to members of our congregation that have stepped up to teach classes and run small groups as well all of you who attend classes and small groups. Remember, spiritual transformation only comes through education, practice, accountability, and evaluation. Are you a part of this movement? If not, call me!

Young Adult Ministries – My messages at Converge this season have centered on *The Basic Truths of Christianity*. Working with so many international students have made me write lessons that are easy to understand (“church talk” defined) but meaty enough for those who are strong in their faith to be interested and challenged. We have been doing many missions and will continue to through 2015. Jonathan and friends are providing worship through music and singing and I am doing alternative worship once a month through art, writing, or craft.

Pray for all the ministries in our community of faith and especially for the international young adults at U of M-D who are far from family and home. Consider being a part of the Converge ministry that reaches out to them. Stop in on a Saturday evening from 6-7:30 at Panera Cares to meet these students over a bowl of soup and talk to me about how to get plugged in to this ministry. Your life will never be the same. – Amen!

Presbyterian Men’s Communion and Advent Breakfast Saturday, December 13th ~ from 7:30am to 11am

First Presbyterian Church
701 Church St., Plymouth, MI 48170-1613 (734)453-6464

**Tickets are available from Jim Barber or Dan Kutt for \$15 each
and must be purchased by Dec. 4, 2014**

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	<p>7-9pm Outreach & Missions- SP 7-9pm Greeting Card- R14 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scout Troop- YC DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</p>	<p>1 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 12pm Treasure Chest Christmas Lunch- MH, K 7pm Property- Library 7-9pm Worship & Arts- SP 7:30-9pm AA- MH</p>	<p>2 10am Stephens-Currie- NP 10am-4pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12pm ALL Staff- SP 6-6:45pm FISH (dinner)- MH, K 6:45-8pm Class- NP 7-9pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turco</p>
<p>Communion/2nd Sunday of Advent T. of Hope Angel gifts returned- Narthex, Bride's Room Children's Shopping in T. Chest 8:45-9:57am Confirmation Class- YL 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 1-2:30pm Hoffman Small Group- R16 4:12 Youth Group- Caroling No Children's Choir 4-7pm CAROLING (MH, K) No Handbell Choir, No Youth Choir 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's</p>	<p>7 11:30am-2pm Garden Club- MH 6:30pm NAMI- NP 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop- YC DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</p>	<p>8 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 11:30am-1pm Office Volunteer & Work Crew Luncheon- N&SP 7:30-9pm AA- MH</p>	<p>9 10am-4pm Treasure Chest 6-6:45pm FISH (dinner)- MH, K 6:45-8pm Class- NP 7-9pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turco DEADLINE FOR VISION</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Advent T. of Hope Angel food & gifts sorted & distributed- Mitchell Hall, Bride's Room 8:45-9:57am Confirmation Class- YL 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11:30am Blood Pressure Screening- Narthex 1-2:30pm Hoffman Small Group- R16 4:12 Youth Group Christmas Party- YL, YC 6-9pm NOEL FESTIVAL- MH, K 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's</p>	<p>14 No Boy Scout Troop 6pm Staff Christmas Party- offsite Poinsettia Order Deadline  DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</p>	<p>15 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 5:30-6:30pm Finance- SP 6:30pm SESSION/DEACONS -NP 7:30-9pm AA- MH</p>	<p>16 10am Stephens-Currie- NP 10am-4pm Treasure Chest 10:30am-12pm PROGRAM Staff 6-6:45pm FISH (dinner)- MH, K 6:45-8pm Class- NP 7-9pm Adult Choir- Sanct., Turco</p>
<p>4th Sunday of Advent 8:45-9:57am Confirmation Class- YL 9am Education Hour 9:25am Adult Choir 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 1-2:30pm Hoffman Small Group- R16 3-4:30pm 4:12 Youth Group- YL, YC 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</p>	<p>21 6:30pm NAMI- NP No Boy Scout Troop DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</p>	<p>22 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 7:30-9pm AA- MH</p>	<p>23 CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICE OPEN TILL NOON Treasure Chest Closed No Keenagers No FISH No Adult Choir 5:30pm Family Service 11pm Candlelight Service</p>
<p>No Confirmation Class 9am Carol Sing- M. Hall 10am Worship Service- Sanctuary 11:30am Blood Pressure Screening- Narthex 1-2:30pm Hoffman Small Group- R16 No 4:12 Youth Group No Children's Choir, no Handbell Choir No Youth Choir 7pm Bible Study- Bert Ebi's</p>	<p>28 No Homeschool Class No Boy Scout Troop DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN</p>	<p>29 9am Men's Fellowship Work 10am Physical & Spiritual Fitness- YC 7:30-9pm AA- MH</p>	<p>30 NEW YEAR'S EVE CHURCH OFFICE OPEN TILL NOON Treasure Chest Closed No FISH No Adult Choir</p>

2014

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 6-8pm PNC- NP	4	5 Set up Communion 9am-11am Rebekah Circle- MH or R12 6-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares
10	10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 11am C.O.M. (Pastor) offsite 6-8pm PNC- NP NOEL set up- ALL DAY (MH)	11 6:30-9pm Game Night- YC NOEL set up- ALL DAY (MH)	12 10am-2pm Treasure Chest 6-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares NOEL Rehearsal- 10am-2pm (MH)
17	10-11:30am PW Bible Study- NP 6-8pm PNC- NP	18	19 9am PW Board- NP 6-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares
24	CHRISTMAS DAY <u>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (NO ACTIVITIES)</u>	25	26 6-7:30pm Converge at Panera Cares
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Notes from our Parish Nurse

Practical Ways to Decrease Your Stress During the Holidays

Hike your mood with sunlight. It stimulates the production of feel-good serotonin and also helps relieve seasonal affective disorder (SAD). To ease SAD symptoms, spend time outdoors or near a window on sunny days, or ask your doc about phototherapy (a treatment using a box that emits full-spectrum light).

Take a whiff of citrus. Researchers studying depression have found that certain citrus fragrances boost feelings of well-being and alleviate stress by upping levels of norepinephrine, a hormone that affects mood. For an all-day pick-me-up, dab a little lemon or orange essential oil on a handkerchief to tuck in your pocket.

Walk away from worries. The rhythm and repetition of walking has a tranquilizing effect on your brain, and it decreases anxiety and improves sleep. Aim for a brisk, 30 min. walk a day.

Sleep better with 5-HTP. This plant extract (available in capsules at most drugstores) is thought to increase serotonin, reduce anxiety, and improve sleep. Doctors recommend 150 milligrams daily. **If you take antidepressant medications, talk to your doc before trying it.**

Squeeze here. The fleshy place between your index finger and thumb is called the *hoku* spot in traditional Chinese medicine. Applying firm pressure there for just 30 seconds can reduce stress and tension in your upper body. So if you start to feel overwhelmed by the holiday chaos, give your hand a squeeze and take a deep breathe.

Do less, enjoy more. We go overboard to please others during the holidays: shopping, cooking, sending cards, and attending every event. Instead, take care of yourself by saying “no” at least once—and maybe more.

Don't neglect whatever cracks you up. Laughing like crazy reduces stress hormones. That, in turn, helps immune cells function better.

Forget perfection. Stop obsessing over doing it all! Don't sweat the small stuff and your holiday will be much more enjoyable.

Consider abandoning old customs. Abandoning old customs can be a good strategy if you're lonely or grieving. Experiment with a different culture's customs, or invite isolated colleagues over and start some new traditions.

Go tech-free. Constant cell phone buzzes and email alerts keep us in a perpetual fight-or-flight mode due to bursts of adrenaline. Not only is this exhausting, but it contributes to mounting stress levels, especially in women. What better time to turn your gadgets off than during a holiday get-together? Enjoy spending time with your family and friends without worry.

Savor a spicy meal. Hot foods trigger the release of endorphins—the natural chemicals that trigger feelings of euphoria and well-being.

Turn up the tunes. Anxious? Listen to your favorite music. Research from the University of Maryland shows that hearing music you love can relax blood vessels and increase blood flow. **Don't overschedule.** If you're feeling stressed and overwhelmed by your holiday agenda, don't over schedule your time and take on more than you can manage. Remember: It's OK to slow down a bit.

Think positive. The holidays may drive you to your breaking point, but don't focus on the bad. Negative thinking can trigger the body's stress response, just as a real threat does. Remember, it's time to celebrate with your family and friends (even if they do stress you out!). An optimistic outlook will help you cope with challenges that come your way.

Info taken from **Health Magazine: “25 Ways to Fight Holiday Stress”**.

Source: <http://www.health.com.health/gallery/0,,20306655,00.html>

~Chris Mayer, Parish Nurse



But God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Jesus taught that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend (*John 15:13*). Christian husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up (died) for her (*Ephesians 5:25*). Soldiers put their lives at risk for their country. Soldiers, firemen, and policemen have died to save others. We might die to save those we love or admire. Who do you love enough to die for?

God's Son died for enemies, not friends. They were sinners who disobeyed and rejected Him. Why did He die? He died for sinners to remove their sin because He loves them despite their sin and knows what can happen if they turn to Him. God's great love produced the grace behind His plan of salvation by faith instead of works or merit. There is no greater unconditional love than God's love. Like the Prodigal Son's father, God's love embraces us when we come to our senses (*Luke 15:17, 20-24, 32*).

In Christ, God absorbed the punishment for our sins so He could justly give sinners eternal life (*Romans 3:24-26, 31*), instead of judgment and condemnation. What an enormous gift!

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Romans 6:23*)

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him... As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him;" (*Psalm 103:11, 13*)

As the hymn says: "Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God shouldst die for me?"

Let us praise God for His great gift and love others as He has loved us (*Romans 5:5*).

~John Holden

Thankful Help for Wounded Veterans



MANY thanks for the items brought to church for our wounded veterans. Today I am delivering 2 quilts, 1 lap robe, 2 afghans, 4 blankets, and 15 throws for a total of 24 soldiers receiving your gifts! It's never too late to give back to them and any donations you wish to make can be dropped off at the church office or given to Bill and me at church on Sundays. The question was asked how many I need? The answer is how many wounded soldiers are there? Thanks again for your generosity. ~Dottie Kennedy

Sunday Bulletin Announcements: Please submit your announcements for the **Sunday Bulletin** to Vicki no later than noon the Monday prior to the service at vickidfpcd30@gmail.com. Please use Microsoft Word format when sending your articles via email. There is also a bin in the front office of the church for your submissions. ~ Thank you, Vicki Davidson—Administrative Assistant.

Our Vision is the monthly newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn. Articles are to be turned in to the office or emailed to Jim Barber at jimb@firstpresdearborn.org no later than the 10th of the month. Please date your articles & keep them brief - one page or less. Longer articles will result in smaller font. We reserve the right to edit as needed.

**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.



Christmas Joy Offering

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, your generosity provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church, as well as racial ethnic leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Follow in the tradition of the wise men and give this Advent season.

~Outreach and Mission Committee

Presbyterian Women ~ A Celebration

It was in April of 1942, that the "Women's Association" was formed. Earlier the group was called the "Women's Society", then the "Women's Missionary Society." The name changed in 1978 to First Church Women, and shortly after to Presbyterian Women.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Every woman of this church is AUTOMATICALLY a member.

As in the past and currently there is a board of officers, and two Circles, which meet monthly. During the year the events sponsored are numerous. On Thursday there is a weekly Bible Study. Events such as the Silent Auction, Galleria (Craft Show), Bake Sales, Mission Sewing, and recently a Catered Tea and Knitting/Crochet Group, all of which are Mission oriented.

We celebrate because after 72 years of service, the Mission continues. There is much to do and to be done. Celebrate with us.

Come join us as we continue to praise God through work and study. Follow our Announcements through the Vision, Bulletins, and our Bulletin Board.

We are grateful for all the support you have given us.

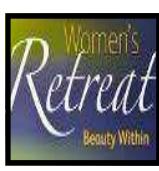
Online Christmas Gifts

In this season of gift giving to family, friends, and those less fortunate, we hope you will also consider your gift to The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work. To help us achieve a more consistent level of funding, we encourage you to contact Nancy Setterlun through the church office to schedule an automatic recurring contribution.



'Garden Getaway' Women's Retreat

The women's retreat explored how God walks with us through all of our stages. The days activities involved fun, fellowship, and great food!!



Trunk or Treat ~ 2014

Even though goblins, witches, and black cats were prowling about... a good time was had by all at this year's Trunk or Treat!





Singles Outreach And Renewal (S.O.A.R.)

The singles group that began with the encouraging words of Pastor Dave on my first visit in September 2011 has really taken off!

We have had the opportunity to reach out and plant seeds to single adults in Dearborn and surrounding communities. There are currently 200 members in the online community. New people show up often and make connections with other single adult Christians. Every Tuesday we meet at Panera at The Heights for Food & Fellowship from 6-7:30 pm and every Sunday at Panera Cares from 11:45 am-1 pm. These casual meeting have about 12 people in attendance. We talk about all the usual things that single adults talk about- current events, food, dating, kids, dances, work, home repairs, and the like, but in an atmosphere where the teachings of Christ are a part of the discussion. Friendships are build and relationships with God are strengthened. It has been wonderful to witness!

People who have come to the Panera meetings and to FPC for Euchre & Community Game Night have visited our Sunday service, Group Peru Luncheons, Saturday Night Alive!, Bible studies, and most recently, Trunk or Treat.

Although this group technically falls under DNA, it has relied on private funding and has been completely self-supporting. With continued prayers and encouragement from all the wonderful people here at FPC- many of whom I've yet to meet- we will continue to **SOAR!**
Please continue to send singles you know to join in our growing mission.

Thank you, ~Lynn Campbell

40 Bales of Straw

Again this year, the bales of straw used to decorate for Halloween were put to good use. A wonderfully dedicated organization called C.H.A.I.N.E.D. (Continuing Helping Animals In Need & Educating Dog owners) picked up our 40 bales of straw that will be used to keep many dogs in Southwest Detroit warm this winter.



This non-profit organization strives to enhance the lives of dogs chained up 24/7. One dog at a time is unchained when they install fencing, a warm dog house, educate the owners and even take many dogs for their first vet check up. These volunteers are very special people who not only handle the physical work needed but they often face many emotional situations.

Check out the CHAINED website to read the stories of the dogs they have helped. 100% of the money donated goes directly to improve the lives of many dogs.

Sunday Night Bible Discussion Group

The Sunday night Bible discussion group began a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Sunday, September 8th. Rev. John Sefcik started and ran this class for many years prior to his death. His wife, Delphine sent John's notes to us, so we still have the benefit of John's Biblical insights. Join us at 7:00PM at Bert Ebi's house (501 Kingsbury). The meetings last one hour.



NEED A LIFT? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!
 Not just to church. If you or someone you know needs a ride to an appointment, the store, Sunday service or a church event, your FPC family would like to help. Contact Nancy Barber at (313)565-2741, Bob Missler at (313)791-0377, 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. ~Bob Missler, Deacon Moderator. *Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*



Winter Addresses

Please notify the church office if you would like your VISION Newsletter and other church mail sent to a different address during the winter months.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SOON

All Committees, Staff, and Groups wishing to submit an Annual Report for the Congregational Meeting on February 1, 2015 must email them to Vicki Davidson at vickidfpcd30@gmail.com

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. Bob Missler - Deacon Moderator

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am

December 7 / - Communion, Rev. Dave Bleivik
December 14 / - Rev. Dave Bleivik
December 21 / - Mike Hoffman, CLP
December 28 / - Mike Hoffman, CLP

December Birthdays



- 12/01: Michael Watson
- 12/02: Susan Williams
- 12/05: Marcia Meyer
- 12/07: Noreen Macdonald, Gregory Fink, Kaitlin Fink
- 12/08: Robert Buell, Margaret Richards, Marcia Scott
- 12/09: Pauline Fink, Robert C. Miller, Lochlan Cole
- 12/10: David Monroe
- 12/11: Tom Kopke, Edward Beers, Steven Britz, Elizabeth Saylor, Eric Jones
- 12/13: James M. Jones, Sheila Mistecki
- 12/14: Bert Ebi, Carol McFadden, George Hyma, Ronald Doan, Abraham Hughes
- 12/15: Bob Brinton, Alexander Best
- 12/16: Robert Putnam, David Williams, Gary Mayberry
- 12/17: Stella Doverspike
- 12/18: Vivian Foster, Christine Bassett
- 12/20: Peggy Hoblack, Beckie Dicks, JoAnn Isaacson
- 12/21: Sarah Duggan
- 12/23: Duane Schmatz, Jessica Romeo
- 12/25: Beverly Reiter
- 12/26: Joan Cahow, Marilyn Joachim, David Setterlun
- 12/27: Mary Ellen Mitchell
- 12/29: David Reid
- 12/30: Margaret Blair
- 12/31: Jared Hoffman

Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn
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Our Vision

Sent with a Prayer

Have a blessed Christmas!

Pastor Dave

Pastor
Rev. Dr. David Bleivik
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Don Wright

Children's Ministries Director
Beckie Dicks
Youth Ministries Director
Jonathan Mallard

Education & Young Adult Coord.
Mike Hoffman, CLP

Parish Nurse
Chris Mayer, R.N.

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