



# *HAPPENINGS*

**IN AND AROUND  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Court at Harrison, Saginaw, MI 48602

[www.FirstChurchSaginaw.Org](http://www.FirstChurchSaginaw.Org)

**989-793-9890    USPS 666-210    Vol. 187, Issue 3**



*Mail Date March 21, 2024*

# Thoughts From Ted



Recently I surprised (maybe even scared) a number of the people I work with. What did I do that surprised them so much? I committed what my mother used to call “a neat-ness.” By that she meant that something that normally was, at best, disorganized or, at worst, a complete mess, was straightened out.

That’s what happened in my office. Normally my desk is full of stacks of paper, random items from people, the odd book or three, and folders of meeting minutes and records. Frankly, most of the time, it is simply a mess. But then I committed “a neat-ness.” Old papers were thrown away or a few of them filed. Extra kids toys were returned to their place. Borrowed books were returned to their owners. Desk surfaces that hadn’t been seen in a long time were visible and could be cleaned themselves.

And every person I worked with who came into my office and saw it said something along the lines of “I don’t even recognize it anymore!” This was my “neat-ness.”

But as I put things back in order, I found myself wondering how it happened. I didn’t intend for it to get that messy or leave any of it there over the months on purpose. I really didn’t notice that it was getting messier and messier. But it did.

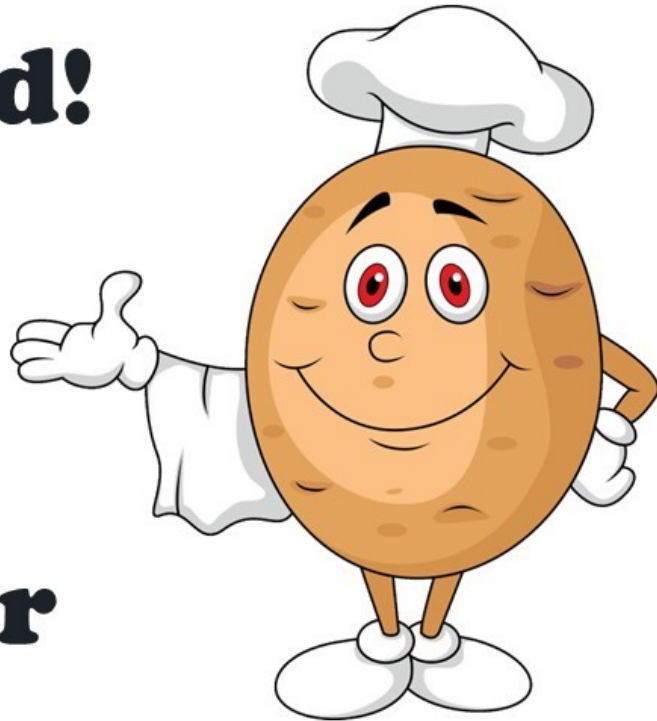
Which made it a good reminder that even in the life of the church, things can get messy—can get out of control—and we don’t even really notice. A little repair in the church gets put off. Why would we support that new mission—we’ve got our things to support. We’ll check on our neighboring church when we have the time. And before we know it the “desk” of our church is covered with junk that covers up where Christ might normally be found.

As we head into spring and past Easter, may we keep the “desks” of our lives clear of anything that might cover up what Jesus is calling us to do. And who knows what surprises we might find?!

Yours in Christ,

Ted

# Get Loaded! Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser

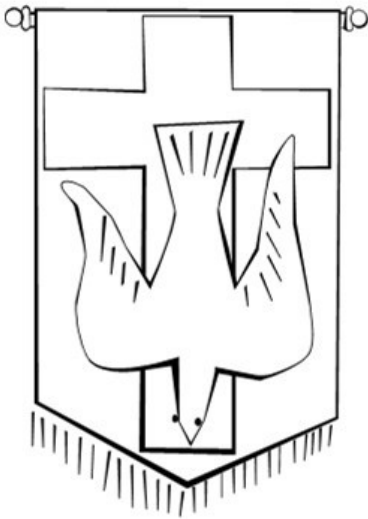


Sunday School & Youth Group will be hosting a Baked Potato Bar fundraiser on Sunday April 28th in Fellowship Hall following service. A \$10 donation gets you a hot baked potato with all the fixings! All donations will go to the Deacons and the Food Pantry.

Unable to attend or not a fan of baked potatoes, but would still like to contribute? Please reach out to a Sunday school teacher or a Youth Group Leader.

Or if you would like to make a donation for supplies; monetary or food (potatoes, cheese, sour cream, etc.) Please reach out to Katie Stanley at 989-245-7609 or [krstanley3123@gmail.com](mailto:krstanley3123@gmail.com) by April 14th.





## CONFIRMATION CLASS

On Saturday, April 27, there will be a confirmation class for any interested youth sixth grade and above. We will begin at 9:30 AM and will end no later than 2:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. We will learn about the Bible; some of the important points of Christian faith and history especially baptism and the Lord's Supper; the history of First Presbyterian; and what it means to be a member of a church.

Signing up ahead of time is required so we can plan for the day. Please let either Pastor Ted, Jenny Agans or the church office know if you plan on coming!

Those who do attend would be confirmed in worship on Sunday, May 12.

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### *In Our Thoughts and Prayers...*

Known to be recently hospitalized, had surgery, had tests, or have been ill:  
Greg Straebel

#### **Recent Deaths:**

Kathryn "Ann" Ecarius (Mary McQuinn's sister and Katie Stanley's aunt) passed away on Thursday, February 22, 2024 in Texas. A Memorial service was held on Monday, March 11, 2024 at Snow Funeral Home, N. Center Rd. with Rev. Ted McCulloch officiating.



[www.saginawstrings.com](http://www.saginawstrings.com)  
989-780-0178

## SPRING SESSIONS SATURDAYS

Violin—Viola—Cello—  
Bass Classes for  
Children & Youth  
**2024 Spring Session:  
March 16 to May 18**

All sessions held at  
First Presbyterian Church  
Saginaw

## APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>
<b>April 7</b> New Usher team #3	<b>John 20:19-31</b>	<b>"Be Like Thomas?"</b> Deacon Greeters: Ann Marie Larson/Carrie Lich
<b>April 14</b> New Usher team #4	<b>Luke 24:36b-48</b>	<b>"Seeing Jesus"</b> Deacon Greeters: Kathy TenWolde/Marti Wesley
<b>April 21</b> New Usher team #5	<b>Pastor Ted will be out of town. Dr. Robert Emrich will fill the pulpit.</b> Deacon Greeters: Jenny Agans/DeAnn McCulloch	
<b>April 28</b> New Usher team #1	<b>John 15:1-8</b>	<b>"Gardening Is Not Easy"</b> Deacon Greeters: Kate Sulfridge/Becky Sulfridge

### "THE CHOSEN" BIBLE STUDY

We will continue our study of "The Chosen" series in April. We will NOT meet on Tuesday, April 2 but will resume on Tuesday, April 9 at 7 PM in the chapel. We will finish the first season on either April 16 or 23. As always, whether you've seen every episode or not, you'll understand what's happening. Looking forward to continuing our study!



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The usher teams are here to greet everyone, to take the Sunday offering, and to be of assistance in case of an emergency. Because we had some ushers who are unable to serve any longer we have had to make adjustments to the schedule and the teams are left short if someone can't be here on Sunday. The Youth Group is going to be forming a team which will help out tremendously but we can still use ushers to add to our other teams. Please consider being a part of this important service for the church. Teams rotate every 5 or 6 weeks. If you are interested you can let Wayne Miller or Pastor Ted know and we will put you on the next schedule. A brief training will be provided. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and we thank our ushers for the excellent service they provide all year!





# Financial Update

This report reflects **ONLY** the needed funds from the Congregation to meet the budgeted expenses—does not include Endowment or pass thru such as Food Pantry, OGH, etc.

	January 2024	February 2024	Total 2024
Amount needed for our ministry	20,800	20,800	41,600
Amount Collected	38,217	21,288	59,505

**We are grateful to you for your faithfulness in giving!**

## FEBRUARY SESSION REPORT

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 28, the Session...

...opened with prayer at 7 PM.

...elected Bambi Straebel to serve as Clerk for the meeting.

...approved the church statistical report for 2023. Noting that the church had 17 members pass away in 2023 plus additional 8 regular participants in the life of First Presbyterian. The church membership now stands at 284.

...received the Financial Secretary's report and noted that I&E hopes to add some funds back to the endowment at their April meeting.

...Christian Education reported about the "Cupcake Wars" event on March 17 and that a Confirmation Class will be held on April 27 with the plan to receive the confirmands on May 12.

...noted Pastor will be helping out by preaching April 21 in Brooklyn, Michigan.

...noted the beginning of work along Adams Street in removing dead and overgrown hedge.

...heard about the sump pump repairs and leaks out front. Both are being worked on.

...adjourned with prayer at about 7:35 PM.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULED

The next Christian Education meeting takes place on Sunday, April 7 in the Sunday School room following the worship service.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

We will have our annual congregational and corporation meeting on Sunday, April 28, during the beginning of worship. We will receive the annual reports, elect this year's Nominating Committee and authorize the officers for the corporation report. The Annual Reports for 2023 are being finished and will be available by April 21. One note that the salaries and FICA for the new Director of Music are not included in the back under staff salaries as they were not known when the budget was finished in late 2023. Details on those costs are available in the church office from either Pastor Ted or the Financial Secretary, Jessica Schira.

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## **APRIL OFFICE SCHEDULE**

Due to out of town meetings and a vacation the office hours for April have been shifted quite a bit—here is a rundown of the schedule...

### **OFFICE IS OPEN ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

#### **Jessica in Office:**

Monday & Tuesday, April 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16, 22 & 23

#### **Marianne in Office:**

Wednesday & Thursday, April 3 & 4

Monday & Tuesday, April 8 & 9

(Marianne is on vacation the week of April 15)

Wednesday & Thursday, April 24 & 25 & May 1 & 2

### **OFFICE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES**

Wednesday thru Friday, April 10—12 and April 17—19

Monday & Tuesday, April 29—30 (Pastor Ted and Financial Secretary Jessica Schira will be out of town for a meeting at the Board of Pensions in Philadelphia for changes to the benefits plan for all clergy)

Thank you for making note of these schedule changes.

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## **DEACONS FUND**

Over the years, our Deacons have helped out many people and groups both in the church and the community. What some of us may not know is where those funds come from. For decades, the loose offerings (not in envelopes) given during Communion services went to the Deacons. And will continue to do so.

Recently, the Deacons continue to have a number of opportunities to help those in need. But with smaller in-person attendance since Covid, their funds are lower. So, if someone feels so led, contributions to the Deacons Fund are very welcome. It is a great way to help those in need both here at First Presbyterian and in the greater Saginaw community.

Recently, there has been an interest shown in the First Presbyterian Church T-shirts and sweatshirts. The shirts are white with a large Presbyterian cross on the back and the words "First Presbyterian Church Saginaw, MI" in small letters on the left front. They are a 50/50 blend. They are made at WorkWear which is owned by one of our church members. The pricing is as follows:

T-shirts

Youth-Adult XL	\$12.00
Adult 2XL	\$15.00
Adult 3XL-5XL	\$18.00

Sweatshirts

Youth-Adult XL	\$20.00
Adult 2XL	\$20.00
Adult 3XL-5XL	\$22.00



If you are interested in getting your own FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH shirt, please contact Barb Lumsden (989-284-6507) or [barb.l.lumsden@gmail.com](mailto:barb.l.lumsden@gmail.com). I will also take orders in church on Sunday mornings. Let's show the community our pride in our church!

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## Drive-Thru Food Giveaway Back to Weekly Schedule Beginning in April

Our Ecumenical Food Pantry will be returning to a weekly schedule starting in April. Every Wednesday they will begin handing out food boxes at 10:00 AM until the boxes are gone.

Our ministry is growing weekly and if you are thinking of making a monetary donation it would be much appreciated! If you can help please make checks out to *First Presbyterian Church* and indicate it is for the Food Pantry. Thank you very much!



*Winter Reminder: When the Saginaw City Schools are closed due to inclement weather the Pantry will be closed.*



# April Birthdays

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>1st</b> Jameson Bishop                  | <b>15th</b> Jared Wesley<br>Jeanette Roe   | <b>25th</b> Roger Schneider<br>Kinsley Lumsden |
| <b>2nd</b> Roberta Bidwell                 | <b>16th</b> Vicki Engel  | <b>26th</b> Emily Angliss                      |
| <b>3rd</b> Larry Hoffman Jr.               | <b>18th</b> Nancy Burdick<br>Thomas Sanderson  | <b>27th</b> Gregory Largent<br>Caroline Emrich |
| <b>4th</b> Jamieson<br>Greenough           | <b>20th</b> Kathy Brush<br>Molly Rosebush<br>Tyler Bluhm<br>Chloe Curnutt<br>Rita Jackson<br>Cassie Lubitz | <b>28th</b> Sara Hahn                          |
| <b>6th</b> Natasha Schira                  | <b>21st</b> Susan McKibben<br>Alysa Yax  | <b>29th</b> Nancy Hawkins                      |
| <b>8th</b> Jackson Smith<br>Eliseo Friebe  | <b>22nd</b> Andrew Irwin   | <b>30th</b> Anthony Carroll                    |
| <b>10th</b> Jack Pittwood<br>Meghann Smith | <b>23rd</b> Jim Smerdon  |  |
| <b>11th</b> Ray Hayes, Sr.                 | <b>24th</b> Noah Zissler   |  |
| <b>12th</b> Margaret Keaner                |  |  |
| <b>13th</b> Nancy Kelly<br>Zaylee White    |  |  |
| <b>14th</b> Barb Lumsden                   |  |  |

**CELEBRATING  
SPECIAL BIRTHDAY  
MILESTONES**

**11th** Mary Lou Morse  
*94th birthday!*

**18th** Nancy MacRae  
*92nd birthday!*



## and Anniversaries

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>3rd</b> Roger & Darlene Schneider (48) | <b>10th</b> Michael & Kathy Brush (48)     |
| <b>4th</b> Alec & Gayle Laorr (32)        | <b>25th</b> David & Patti Ostler (43)      |
|   | <b>30th</b> Jeffrey & Jessica Schocker (8) |



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**The Gooding Family Memorial Scholarship**—The Gooding family, comprising of Perry L. & Lillian Gooding, Dale P. Gooding, & Margaret L. Gooding, valued the desire of young people to achieve a higher degree of education. To support these efforts and specifically for the members of First Presbyterian Church, the Gooding family has established a scholarship to help young people pay for their college education, trade and vocational schooling, and other education which obtains degrees or certification.

**Grace Fisher Endowed Scholarship**—The Grace Fisher Scholarship is an endowed scholarship, which was established by the Women’s Association of the First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, MI to honor Grace Fisher, the wife of Henry Fisher D.D. who served the congregation from 1920 to 1957 as pastor. Grace Fisher exhibited a constant effort to build the Women’s Association and was faithfully devoted to its aims.

**Muriel Lakey Scholarship Available**—This scholarship is provided by the family of Muriel Lakey, and is available to active members of First Church who are pursuing post-high school education at a 2- or 4-year college or university, at a vocational or trade school, or at a theological seminary. The scholarship is renewable and is not limited to undergraduate study or to any particular institution. The scholarship will be awarded to eligible candidates on the basis of their participation in the church’s work and worship and financial need.

All Applications, qualifications, and instructions for the **First Presbyterian Scholarships** above are available near the visitor’s desk (or request by email) and should be returned by **May 15, 2024** to: **First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee, 121 S. Harrison St., Saginaw, MI 48602-2193.**

## GIVING SLIPS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

We have been very blessed in our financial life of the church through everyone's faithful giving. Please know how much all the thoughtfulness and different contributions have meant to keeping things going here at First Presbyterian!

<b>First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw</b>	<b>Giving Slip June 2, 2024</b>			
	Name:	_____		
	Amount:	_____	Giving #	_____
Please Indicate Fund: <b>General Fund</b> <b>Deacons</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Mission</b> <b>Per Capita (\$29.50 for 2024)</b> <b>Building</b> <b>Utilities</b> <b>Snow Removal</b> <b>Funeral Fund</b>				
<b>First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw</b>	<b>Giving Slip June 9, 2024</b>			
	Name:	_____		
	Amount:	_____	Giving #	_____
Please Indicate Fund: <b>General Fund</b> <b>Deacons</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Mission</b> <b>Per Capita (\$29.50 for 2024)</b> <b>Building</b> <b>Utilities</b> <b>Snow Removal</b> <b>Funeral Fund</b>				
<b>First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw</b>	<b>Giving Slip June 16, 2024</b>			
	Name:	_____		
	Amount:	_____	Giving #	_____
Please Indicate Fund: <b>General Fund</b> <b>Deacons</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Mission</b> <b>Per Capita (\$29.50 for 2024)</b> <b>Building</b> <b>Utilities</b> <b>Snow Removal</b> <b>Funeral Fund</b>				
<b>First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw</b>	<b>Giving Slip June 23, 2024</b>			
	Name:	_____		
	Amount:	_____	Giving #	_____
Please Indicate Fund: <b>General Fund</b> <b>Deacons</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Mission</b> <b>Per Capita (\$29.50 for 2024)</b> <b>Building</b> <b>Utilities</b> <b>Snow Removal</b> <b>Funeral Fund</b>				
<b>First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw</b>	<b>Giving Slip June 30, 2024</b>			
	Name:	_____		
	Amount:	_____	Giving #	_____
Please Indicate Fund: <b>General Fund</b> <b>Deacons</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Mission</b> <b>Per Capita (\$29.50 for 2024)</b> <b>Building</b> <b>Utilities</b> <b>Snow Removal</b> <b>Funeral Fund</b>				



## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT FIRST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 AM + Child care provided +**

**Sunday School for children ages 3—12 years old after Children's Sermon**

Happenings In and Around First Presbyterian Church

(USPS 666-210) is a monthly publication of:

First Presbyterian Church

121 S. Harrison

Saginaw, MI 48602-2193 (989)793-9890

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Happenings In and Around First Presbyterian Church,

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### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Ted McCulloch, Pastor

Dr. Robert L. Emrich, Pastor Emeritus

Bambi Straebel, Parish Visitor

### **MUSIC STAFF**

Thomas Heidenreich

Director of Music Ministries

Gregory H. Largent

Minister of Music Emeritus

### **ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT STAFF**

Marianne Lycka, Publishing/Communications

Jessica Schira, Financial Secretary

George Dembinski, Security

Jennette Hoffman, Child Care Provider

### **CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

Pastor Ted: Revted@msn.com

General Church Email (Marianne): generalfirstchurchsaginaw@yahoo.com

Financial Office (Jessica): JJStraebel@yahoo.com

Visit our website: [www.FirstChurchSaginaw.org](http://www.FirstChurchSaginaw.org) Church Phone: (989) 793-9890

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**First Church Weather Policy Reminder—When Saginaw City Schools have been closed due to inclement weather, any church programming for the day will also be cancelled (e.g., Bible Study, Meetings, Concerts, Food Pantry, Events)**

