

YOUR PRESBYTERIAN NEIGHBOR

January 2018



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**Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> Family Movie Day  
 WORSHIP, PIZZA LUNCH AND "CARS 3" (MOVIE AT IONIA  
 THEATRE)**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT 10AM  
 ALL FAMILIES ARE WELCOME FOR THIS FUN, FREE  
 EVENT**

**Please note that Family Night will not be held in January  
 2018 as the Movie Day will take it's place. It will resume  
February 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 with our guest speaker Ron Wilson, IPS  
 Superintendent. Series topic: Overcoming Adversity. Taco  
 Tuesday dinner begins at 5:30 followed by supervised  
 children's activities. ALL ARE WELCOME...COME HAVE  
 SOME FUN!**

**CALENDAR**

- 1/1 Happy New Year
- 1/3 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 1/4 10:30 A.M. Travelogue for  
Presbyterians on the Go  
2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group
- 1/7 8:30 A.M. Harkness Hand Bells  
practice  
10:00 A.M. Worship, Missions  
offering  
11:00 A.M. Fellowship & Refreshments
- 1/10 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 1/11 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group
- 1/14 8:30 A.M. Harkness Hand Bells  
practice  
10:00 A.M. Worship  
11:00 A.M. Fellowship & Refreshments  
Family Movie Day
- 1/15 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting
- 1/17 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 1/18 9:00 A.M. Deadline for February  
Newsletter  
2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group  
5:00 P.M. Soup Kitchen, Team #3  
Cindy Rozich, Captain
- 1/21 8:30 A.M. Harkness Hand Bells  
practice  
10:00 A.M. Worship  
11:00 A.M. Fellowship & Refreshments
- 1/24 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 1/25 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group
- 1/28 8:30 A.M. Harkness Hand Bells  
practice  
10:00 A.M. Worship  
11:00 A.M. Fellowship & Refreshments
- 1/31 9:30 A.M. Quilters

**Birthdays**

- 1/2 Jen Furman
- 1/4 Natalie Furman
- 1/6 Jan Arnold
- 1/9 Elizabeth Wilson
- 1/12 Tyler VanSyckle
- 1/19 Nola Patterson
- 1/26 Emily Sykes
- 1/29 Norma Kilpatrick



\*\*\*\*\*

**Zion Soup Kitchen**

January 18th

Team #3

Captain, Cindy Rozich

Mary Lou Hopkins

Jan Arnold

Judi Emlinger



### January Worship Stewards

**1/7 - Communion Preparers:** Judi Emlinger, Evelyn Ransom; **Communion Servers:** Ami Cox, Bill Robinson, Marilyn McKay; **Liturgist:** Lee Hunsberger; **Ushers/Greeters:** Duane and Judi Emlinger, Linda Steele; **Children's Message:** Sue Thompson

**1/14 - Liturgist:** Sue Reglin; **Ushers/Greeters:** Kathy and Jim VanSyckle, Shelly Reglin; **Children's Message:** Kathy VanSyckle

**1/21- Liturgist:** Marilyn McKay; **Ushers/Greeters:** Keith and Lynn Sterner, Evelyn Ransom; **Children's Message:** Marilyn McKay

**1/28 - Liturgist:** Perry Gregory; **Ushers/Greeters:** Pat Gustafson, Megan Ransom, Sue Reglin **Children's Message:** Judi Emlinger

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### PRESBYTERIANS ON THE GO

We will continue meeting the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M. for a travelogue. Everyone is welcome to come, young or old.

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There will not be a Family Night held in January, 2018. We will be hosting a **FAMILY MOVIE SUNDAY on January 14<sup>th</sup>**. Worship begins at 10:00 am, followed by a pizza party. The complimentary movie, **CARS 3** will be shown at Ionia Community Theatre after the party. Of course you will have a small soda and popcorn. Joins us for a fun day focused on FAMILY. Guests welcome.

February Family night will be held on February 6th.

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### Living Waters For the World

Living Waters for the World allows people to see the world through a new set of eyes, and invariably changes them. God empowers people of faith to be agents of change. First Presbyterian Church is committed to supporting Living Waters with Mission Offerings collected in January and June. The money collected supports communities that have available, but contaminated, water. Living Waters has developed water purification systems that filtrate and disinfect the water in communities removing bacteria, chlorine-resistant organisms and other impurities. More clean water means more lives changed and more lives saved. Jesus Christ is Living Water for our bodies and souls.

We ask that the members of this church extend your generous support to the ministry of Living Waters for the Word on Sunday, January 7th with your Mission Offering.

Mission Committee

Session Minutes  
First Presbyterian Church  
Ionia, Michigan  
November 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with a quorum declared.

**Moderator:** Rev. Helen Havlik, Pastor at North Park Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids

**Elders present:** Dr. Jan Arnold, David Hanson, Lavonna Hoover, Evelyn Ransom, Cindy Rozich, Dr. Keith Sterner, Dr. Warren Thompson and Kathy VanSyckle

**Elders excused:** None

**Elders absent:** Sue Reglin

Margaret lit the Christ candle. Rev. Havlik talked about the best way and things you need for a church, which is people who loves Jesus. People that are there to love each other and are willing to share the good news with other people. Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor Helen gave the opening prayer.

**Additions to the agenda:** Under unfinished business, a pastoral search update will be discussed.

**Minutes:** The October 16, 2017 minutes were reviewed. **There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes. All were in favor. The motion passed. The minutes of the special session meeting on October 16, 2017 were reviewed. There was a motion and a second to approve these minutes. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

**clerk's Report:**

Communion was served on October 1, 2017.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Evelyn and Margaret attended the "Pruning the Vine" meeting at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids. Rev. Havlik chaired this meeting and explained that 9 gatherings were being held in various churches in September and October. She ask "What are the most important things that Presbytery can do for congregations" and "What should they focus on". The meetings have a lot to do with communication. Ways for Presbytery to connect and share things. A lot of people would like some training opportunities as well as ways of connecting people and congregations. A summary form of the meetings will be available at the next Presbytery meeting December 5<sup>th</sup>.

A report of the Ionia Ministerial Association's meeting November 2, 2017 was e-mail to the church. Restore Church had a community Thanksgiving Service November 19 at their church. There was a discussion about how to maintain security during church services. Restore Church is happy to share their protocols. Margaret will contact them.

The Friends of Jesus fund report was reviewed. All agreed the number of help calls has increased, especially for homeless individuals and families. There is some indication that Have Mercy may be purchasing the old Friend of the Court building and turning it into a homeless shelter. The Advent Walk this year is December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM starting at the First Christian Church.

Recorded the November 18, 2017 death of member #159, Nancy Nichols. Dr. Chris Dorn officiated at her funeral/memorial service November 25<sup>th</sup> at 3PM in the church sanctuary. There were drinks and cookies immediately following the service in the fellowship hall.

**Pastor's Report:** None

**Action Item:**

Approve the 2017 Clerk's Questionnaire

Because the questionnaire was 67 questions and 29 pages long, it was not copied for any of the session members. Via e-mail, a blank questionnaire was sent to session members; however, there was no way to complete the answers on-line without submitting it. It was discussed at the meeting. **A motion was made to approve the 2017 Clerk's Questionnaire. There was a second. The motion passed.**

Approve First Presbyterian participating in the Advent Walk on December 10<sup>th</sup>. **There was a motion and a second for our church to participate in the Advent Walk. As they have in the past, the Harkness Bell Choir will be playing. As yet, we have not received information from the coordinator, Adam Rewa, of the SSPP church. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

The Membership and Care Committee is recommending Cheryl Kidle's membership be transferred to the Coldwater First Presbyterian Church. Her transfer form was signed by Rev. Havlik at the October session meeting and sent to the Coldwater church the following day. The official register reflects she has transferred her member and is no longer an active member of our church.

Under new business, see item a. An October 25, 2017 letter was received from the City of Ionia and indicates the Downtown Development Authority plans to wrap the historic lampposts with fresh garland. The cost is \$20 per lamppost. One of the lampposts in front of our church already has garland and was sponsored by the new bakery downtown.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Please report only the information that the whole Session needs to hear.

**Budget and Finance:** Lavonna Hoover, Chairperson, provided the financial Balance Sheet along with the Profit and Loss Budget Vs Actual. She said we are doing OK. A question was asked about the General Fund Checking Account and the Memorial Funds #1055 Due from the General Fund. Lavonna explained the church only has one checking account. Therefore, the memorial money is in this checking account and that amount is \$65,000.00, which is memorial money.

**Building and Grounds:**

Dr. Warren Thompson, Co-chairperson, submitted a third quarter written report at our last meeting. There was nothing new to report.

**Christian Education:**

Judi Emlinger, Chairperson, submitted the March, May, August, September, October, and November reports from the meetings. Marcia Kohloff has joined this committee. The committee sponsored coffee fellowship September 17, October 29, and November 19<sup>th</sup>. The student outing in November was to Anderson Girls Orchard north of Stanton. Everyone attending had a great time. The committee has been planning the activities for the children at each of our family nights.

**Membership and Care:**

Margaret Gregory, Co-chairperson, reported that at the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the rolls were reviewed. The recommendation is to update the official roll register book to reflect that Cheryl Kidle's membership has been transferred to the First Presbyterian Church in Coldwater. The following membership have not been active nor have they contributed financially in over two years: Diane Barnes, and Frederick Fuhrman. Marley Marrs has moved to an adult foster home in Riverdale. The committee is recommending all three members be placed on the inactive rolls.

**A motion was made to place Diane Barnes, Fred Fuhrman and Marley Marrs on the inactive rolls and transfer Cheryl Kidle's membership. There was a second. All were in favor. The motion carried.** Additionally, Nancy Nichols died on November 18, 2017 and has been removed from the active membership rolls. With this review, there are 69 active members. The committee continues to send birthday cards, get well cards, sympathy cards and thinking of you cards. The committee will also be hosting coffee fellowship in December.

**Memorial and Investments:** No report

**Mission:** No report

**Nominating:** No report

**Personnel:**

Keith Sterner, Chairperson, reported the committee met and discussed the annual employee reviews for Mike Kauffman, Steve Slaughter and Deb Montgomery. The committee met with Deb the same day for her review. Her review was satisfactory. When asked what would make her job easier, she stated having a pastor. For Christmas, the committee is recommending a \$50 gift card for each of our three employees. **A motion was made to purchase a Meijer gift card in the amount of \$50 for each employee. There was a second. A suggestion was made to also compensate Cindy Rozich for all her work as the hand bell choir director. While she is appreciative of the offer, she declined. All were in favor. The motion passed.** Steve and Mike's review will be scheduled soon.

**Stewardship:**

Margaret informed the session that Barb Klink has provided her with a draft copy of a possible stewardship letter to mail to the congregation. Barb also provided a copy of the 2017 letter that was sent for the last stewardship drive. She has said she and Lee are willing to help; however, she requested someone on the session chair this committee.

Warren made the suggestion to wait until after the holiday season, and that we maintain the current budget. Then, base the budget on the year-end figures. Lavonna was in agreement with this. Therefore, the stewardship letter was placed on hold. No one volunteer to chair this committee.

### **Worship:**

Kathy VanSyckle, Chairperson, has been scheduling pulpit supply. Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema was scheduled to preach October 29 and November 5<sup>th</sup>; however, she had to cancel due to a crisis at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Lansing, where she and her husband attend. Their pastor, Rev. Jenkins, is in the hospital, and she has felt it necessary to fill their pulpit. Kathy made arrangements with Dr. Chris Dorn to fill our pulpit through the end of the year. Kathy stated the only date he was not available was Sunday December 24. She said for the morning service there will be a Christmas pageant, and we will not need a pastor. This leaves Christmas Eve without scheduled pulpit supply. Kathy, Warren, Keith and Margaret, as the small pastor search committee, had discussed not scheduling a Christmas Eve service this year. While it has been our tradition to have a Christmas Eve candle lightening worship service without a pastor, it would be difficult. **A motion was made to cancel the Christmas Eve night service this year. There was a second. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

### **Unfinished Business:** Pastor Nominating Committee Report

Keith gave the report. He explained that Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema has decided to withdraw as a possible candidate because of the hospitalization of Rev. Jenkins at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Lansing. Her husband is a member there and this is the church where they attend. She has been called upon to help them in their time of crisis.

Another candidate is John Curphey, who retired from the ministry in June. He is looking for a part-time position. He has preached once in our church and served communion. He is from the Chicago area. He is in the process of setting up his own psychotherapy business and is an artist. He would only like to preach three Sundays a month. He and his wife live in Grand Rapids.

The other candidate is Rev. David Veldt, who is the son of Rev. Mark Veldt. Pastor Bruce had scheduled Mark for three pulpit supply Sundays. Mark received a call from a church in downtown Grand Rapids. David is presently employed as a chaplain in a care facility in Muskegon. He was married in June and lives in Grand Rapids. He will need health insurance. At this time, David is the candidate that best meets our needs. Keith has contacted him, and he responded to Keith's text that he would call him. As of our meeting, he has not heard back from him. It is the recommendation that we see what we can work out with him. **A motion was made for the session/PNC to pursue David as our part time pastor. There was a second. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The motion carried.**

### **New Business:**

The Downtown Development Authority plans to wrap the historic lampposts with fresh garland. The cost is \$20. We have two lampposts in front of the church. One of them has already been sponsored by the new bakery in town.

**A motion was made and seconded to contact the DDA, provide the \$20 and have the lamppost wrapped in fresh garland. David Hanson said he would sponsor the lamppost. Margaret will make the arrangements. Thank you David and Sarah Jane. All were in favor. The motion carried.**

Approve an elder to attend the December 5 Presbytery meeting in Mason. Margaret and Evelyn volunteered to attend the meeting. **A motion was made and seconded to approve Evelyn, as the voting elder, to attend the December 5 Presbytery meeting in Mason. There was a second. All were in favor. The motion carried.**

General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. John Best, sent an e-mail to the churches regarding placing inserts in our Sunday worship bulletin. It is a way for presbytery to communicate more with the people in the pews. To help small churches with the extra printing costs, the Presbytery is offering a grant to any church that needs help with this cost. The maximum is \$30 a year. The e-mail did not indicate how many there would be each year. The first insert is the Presbytery's 2018 Narrative Budget. Session agreed to apply for this grant. Margaret will inform Deb to do so.

The Michigan State Police is offering security training for places of worship January 11, 2018. Class size is limited and registrations are accepted on a first-come basis. To attend, the registration needs to be completed and returned by January 5, 2018. Warren and David volunteered to attend.

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Next meeting: December 18, 2017 at 7:00PM in the conference room.

Motion to adjourn: **Motion was made and seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:46PM.

Closing prayer: We all joined hands and recited the Lord's Prayer.

Signed,

Margaret Gregory

Clerk of Session

Newsletters, Calendar and more at [www.ioniafpc.com](http://www.ioniafpc.com)

Email: [ioniafpc@kellyscomputer.com](mailto:ioniafpc@kellyscomputer.com)

Church Office Hours - Monday through Thursday

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., Phone 527-2320