

YOUR PRESBYTERIAN NEIGHBOR

May 2017

TACO TUESDAY AND LINE DANCING

2 Samuel 6:14-16 refers to dancing before the Lord. He must have been smiling down upon us as we had a line dance lesson graciously given by Deb Steele. All ages enjoyed the April 11th evening and thank you Deb for your patience.

Eating is a favorite activity of our fellow Presbyterians. We are good cooks as well, thanks to those who have provided dishes over the last few months for our families. They have been appreciated. Kids loved the craft projects as adults were able to spend group time together.

Thanks be to God for our sharing of faith and fellowship.

Sue Thompson

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CALENDAR

- 5/3 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 5/4 10:30 A.M. Presbyterians on the Go
Travelogue in the Memorial Room
12:00 P.M. National Day of Prayer
festivities on the Court House lawn
2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group
- 5/7 8:30 A.M. Harkness Handbells
practice
10:00 A.M. Worship, Guest Minister
Dr. Chris Dorn
11:00 A.M. Fellowship, Refreshments,
Sunday School
- 5/9 9:30 A.M. Membership and Care meet
- 5/10 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 5/11 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group meet
- 5/14 Mother's Day, 8:30 A.M. Harkness
Handbells practice
10:00 A.M. Worship, Guest Minister,
Dr. Chris Dorn
11:00 A.M. Fellowship, Refreshments,
Sunday School
- 5/15 7:00 P.M. Session stated meeting
- 5/17 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 5/18 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl group meets
5:00 P.M. Soup Kitchen, Team #4
Captain, Sue Thompson
- 5/21 8:30 A.M. Harkness Handbells practice
10:00 A.M. Worship, Guest Minister,
Dr. Chris Dorn
11:00 A.M. Fellowship, Refreshments,
Sunday School, Christian Ed Students
Bowling @ Ionia after church
- 5/24 9:30 A.M. Quilters meet
- 5/25 9:45 A.M. Christian Ed meeting at
Aunt Stephanie's restaurant
2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group meets
- 5/28 8:30 A.M. Harkness Handbells practice
10:00 A.M. Worship, Guest minister,
Dr. Chris Dorn

5/28 11:00 A.M. Fellowship, Refreshments,
Sunday School

5/31 9:30 A.M. Quilters

Birthdays

- 5/3 Emily Furman, Ami Cox
- 5/6 Jeremiah Helsius
- 5/9 James Bosley
- 5/10 Jean Smith
- 5/16 Marsha Kohloff
- 5/18 Evelyn Ransom
- 5/19 Kathy VanSyckle
- 5/21 David Kohloff
- 5/23 Beryl Bishop, Jim McKay
- 5/24 Wade Arnold, Marilyn McKay
- 5/25 Marcia Brown, Robert Sykes, Jr.
- 5/27 Oscar Johnson
- 5/28 Laela Agostini



May Worship Stewards

May 7 - Communion Preparation: Keith Sterner; **Communion Servers:** Lee Hunsberger, Norma Kilpatrick, Kathy VanSyckle; **Liturgist:** Keith Sterner; **Ushers/Greeters:** Pat Gustafson, Jim VanSyckle

May 14 - Liturgist: Lee Hunsberger; **Ushers/Greeters:** Perry and Margaret Gregory; **Children's Message:** Judi Emlinger

May 21 - Liturgist: Megan Ransom; **Ushers/Greeters:** Warren and Sue Thompson; **Children's Message:** Lee Hunsberger

May 28 - Liturgist: Kathy VanSyckle; **Ushers/Greeters:** Bill Robinson, Norma Kilpatrick; **Children's Message:** Kathy VanSyckle

Zion Soup Kitchen

Thursday, May 18th, 5:00 P.M.

Team 4, Captain, Sue Thompson

Diane O'Mara and Janice Ferguson



Pastor's Pen

Growing up in St. Petersburg, Florida, my home church was Garden Crest Presbyterian on the corner of Ninth Avenue and Tyrone Boulevard. It's not there any longer, having been razed to the ground just this past February to make way for a gas station/convenience store.

I will always have fond memories from the people who made up the community at GCPC: Wednesday night's Youth Clubs, Bell Choir, Sunday school and VBS in the hot Florida sun and so on. And of course one of the great enduring gifts that I have "inherited" and, as you all know, I use to this day, is a benediction. I heard it week in and week out from one of my pastors, the Rev. Dr. Sam Warr. He was a kind, unassuming man; genuine and down to earth. At the end of every Sunday worship service he spoke the words of the same benediction that I speak when we conclude a Sunday service. I leave them with you as a charge:

Go forth into the world in peace;
Be of good courage,
Hold fast to that which is good.
Do not return to anyone evil for evil;
Strengthen the faint-hearted,
Support the weak,
Help the afflicted,
Honor all people.
Love and serve the Lord,
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And...
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Amen!

Shalom,
Bruce

Session Highlights

These minutes are of the March 13, 2017 and March 20, 2017 meetings.

The March 13th meeting was a week earlier than it was originally scheduled. At this meeting, Pastor Bruce informed the Session he has accepted a full-time call at the Palm Harbor Presbyterian Church in Palm Harbor, Florida. His last Sunday at Ionia First is April 30th. The session member's reaction was one of sadness for our church and joy for Pastor Bruce and Jean.

Rev. Dr. John Best, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, and Elder Jud Ross, Committee on Ministry (Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids) were guests at the meeting. Pastor Bruce has arranged pulpit supply through August with Dr. Chris Dorn and Rev. Mark Veldt. When Pastor Bruce has been on vacation or study leave, both have filled the pulpit.

The session's meeting on March 20th was a special meeting for the purpose of an exit interview with the Committee on Ministry.

During the March 13th meeting, a motion was made and seconded to schedule a congregational meeting for April 23rd for the Covenant of Closure with Pastor Bruce. All were in favor. The motion carried.

The Presbytery will help our church moving forward.

Jud Ross and Rev. Nancy Clodfelder, Committee on Ministry (Honorably Retired) attended the March 20th meeting as well as Rev. Dr. John Best, who was the moderator. This was a special meeting to discuss the plans moving forward. Rev. Best indicated there are several possibilities. We can do pulpit supply, stated supply, hire a temporary pastor, or we might be better off with an interim pastor. Another possibility is collaborating with another church. There are a couple students at Calvin, and Rev. Clodfelder will check on a student she knows. We are looking for a pastor, who has effective communication skills and people skills.

The next meeting is April 17, 2017 at 7PM.

Submitted by:

Margaret Gregory, Clerk of Session



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Ionia County Courthouse, 12:00 P.M.

Reading of Presidential Declaration es-
tablishing the National Day of Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Singing of the National Anthem, First Reading: 11 Chronicles 7:14, Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-25, prayers for various needs: the United States Government, for churches and church leadership, for the strengthening of families, for schools and educational institutions, for the media and the entertainment industry, for the members of our armed services, for our hospitals and the health care system, singing of *God Bless America*, closing prayer and benediction.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Newsletters, Calendar and more at www.ioniafpc.com

Email: ioniafpc@kellyscomputer.com

Church Office Hours - Monday through Thursday

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