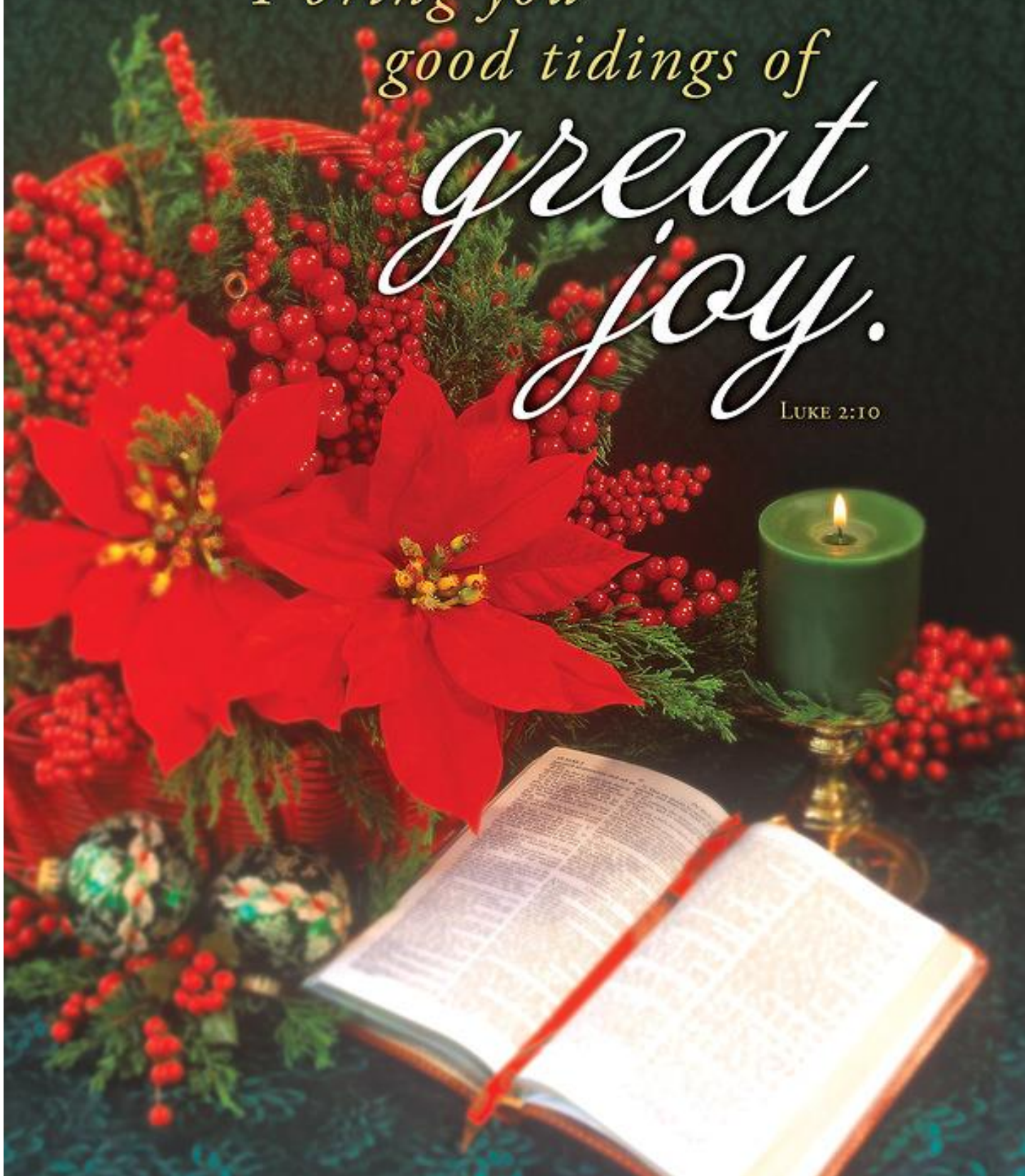


*I bring you  
good tidings of  
great  
joy.*

LUKE 2:10



**A Service of Lessons & Carols  
Candlelight & Communion**

**December 24, 2019**

**7:00pm**

*\* indicates that the congregation may stand as they are able.  
**Bold text** indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude & Ringing of the Bells**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship & Lighting of the Christ Candle** Vanderbeek Family

We gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

**We are here to worship God – and his Son Jesus – born this night in Bethlehem of Judea.**

We light the candle of hope to remind us of the promises made by all the prophets that God would raise up a savior for his people Israel.

**Christ is our hope and our salvation.**

**He calls us to share our hope in him with each other.**

We light the candle of peace to remind us that it is only with God and by following in his path that true peace can be found.

**Christ brings the peace of God to us.**

**He calls us to share the peace he gives with each other.**

We light the candle of joy to remind us that God gives joy to every heart that abides in him.

**As Mary rejoiced in the birth of Jesus, so his birth in us brings us joy.**

**God calls us to share the joy he gives with each other.**

We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus is God's gift of love to us – and that in him, the light of love triumphs over darkness.

**Love never fails – it transforms all those who give it and receive it.  
God calls us to share his love with each other.**

We light the Christ candle to remind us  
that the light of the world was born this night.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those  
who dwelt in a land of deep darkness – on them a light has shined.**

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

**His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**\*Carol #41**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant***

***O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!***

***Come, and behold Him, born the king of angels!***

***O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,***

***O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

***Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,***

***Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;***

***Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!***

***O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,***

***O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

***Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!***

***Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!***

***Glory to God, all glory in the highest!***

***O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,***

***O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### *The Light Foretold*

**Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jamie Sanders

Isaiah 40:9-11

Lydia & Evelyn Gilbert

**Carol #48**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.*

*It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter  
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior  
When half spent was the night.*

### *The Light Announced*

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:26-38

Heidi Vanderbeek

**Carol #16**

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

***“For now a blessed mother you shall be,  
All generations praise continually,  
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!***

***Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said,  
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!***

***Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!***

### ***The Light Is Given***

**Scripture Reading**

**Luke 2:1-7**

**Rick Teal**

**\*Carol #30**

***Born in the Night, Mary’s Child***

***Born in the night, Mary’s Child, a long way from your home;  
Coming in need, Mary’s Child, born in a borrowed room.***

***Clear shining light, Mary’s Child, your face lights up our way;  
Light of the world, Mary’s Child, dawn on our darkened day.***

***Truth of our life, Mary’s Child, you tell us God is good;  
Yes, it is true, Mary’s Child, shown on your cross of wood.***

***Hope of the world, Mary’s Child, you’re coming soon to reign;  
King of the earth, Mary’s Child, walk in our streets again.***

## *The Light Is Shared*

**Scripture Reading**

Miles Woodman & Lucy Shemes

Luke 2:8-20

**Carol #23**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Responsive Reading**

John 1:1-14

Joy Heinlein

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

**He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through  
Him, and without Him not anything was made.**

In Him was life, and the life was the light of all. This light shines in the  
darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.**

He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might  
believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness  
to the light.

**The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.**

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not.

**He came to His own home, and His people received Him not.**

But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as the only Son from the Father. Amen.**

**Christmas Meditation**

Pastor Christina Jensen

**\*Carol #40**

*Joy to the World!*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

## **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**Presentation of the Christmas Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

**God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.**

## **GOD'S WORD IS SEALED IN US**

*The Word Became Flesh*

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Prayers of the People**

**Words of Institution**



## **Litany of Remembrance and Consecration** *(responsive)*

God of light, in whom there is no shadow, Your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

**They began with creation, when Your spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when Your word brought forth light on the face of the earth.**

They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom You blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow.

**And like Sarah and Abraham, whom You blessed with a child, whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.**

In the desert, You gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom You led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

**At last, You sent Your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth, revealing Your glory on earth.**

We thank You, O God, that You have sent Jesus to bring life and immortality to light. Help us to receive Your gifts with joy and humility.

**As we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to receive Your love and grace in Jesus Christ, and receive the love and support of one another. Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

*All who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to feast at his table. Please come forward to receive a piece of bread, and the cup, either of wine (red) or juice (white). A gluten-free option is available. Empty cups may be set in the baskets next to the communion servers. You are then invited to take a candle for the candlelight service as you return to your seat.*

## **Prayer After Communion**

**We give thanks, O God, that You have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world, rejoicing, ready to share Your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME**

### ***The Light Spread Abroad***

*At this point in the service, the candles you received when you came forward for communion will be lit. The minister will light a candle from the Christ candle and light the candles of the servers, while doing a reading. The servers will move from pew to pew, lighting the candles of the first worshipper in each pew, who will, in turn, light the candle of the one sitting next to them, tipping the unlit candle into the lit one, and so on until all candles are lit. Please extinguish your candle before exiting your pew, after the benediction. Deposit your extinguished candle in the baskets available at each sanctuary entrance.*

**\*Carol #60**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

***Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!"***

***Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.***

***Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!***

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**\*Postlude**



**Announcements:**

**Poinsettias**

If you ordered a poinsettia and would like to take it home, please do so after this evening's service. The poinsettias that are left will be distributed to our shut-in members and friends.

**Office & Pantry Closed Through January 4**

The church office will be closed through January 4. Pastor Christina will be stopping in occasionally to check messages. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor on her cell phone (248-217-7178).

**Cookies & Carols – December 29 at 10:30am**

Join us for a fun service of Christmas carols and cookies (and other treats), as we continue to celebrate Christmas in a laid-back, relaxed way. Church-appropriate pajamas are ENCOURAGED!

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – February 16, 2020**

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration next year. A year of jubilee kicks off on February 16, when we celebrate our anniversary with a special service of thanksgiving, at 4:00pm. A catered dinner will follow.

*The music printed in this bulletin is covered under CCLI #11388530.  
Some of the prayers and responsive readings came from the Book of  
Common Worship from the Office of the General Assembly.*

# *2019 Poinsettias*

## **Given By**

Phil & Cheri Booth  
Phil & Cheri Booth  
Marian Bouchey  
Barb Mephram  
Tom & Sally Nester  
Tom & Sally Nester  
Ken & Nola Owen  
Bertha Pendell  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek  
Gary & Nancy Vernon  
Gary & Nancy Vernon  
Hal Williams

## **In Memory Of**

Clif & Clair Booth  
Willard, Jane, & Sue Dilts  
Jack Bouchey  
Lee Mephram  
Art & Violet Burk  
Tom & Verna Nester  
Edy Owen  
Loved ones  
Mildred Kroshinsky  
Richard & Anna Randel  
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek  
Ken & Louise Carter  
Don & Vera Vernon  
Betty Williams

## **Given By**

Dale & Marion Nester

## **In Honor Of**

Elijah Harrison Nester



# 2019 *Luminaries*

## Given By

Penny Arnold  
Penny Arnold  
Penny Arnold  
Penny Arnold  
Phil & Cheri Booth  
Phil & Cheri Booth  
Phil & Cheri Booth  
Phil & Cheri Booth  
Bill & Jackie Bowen  
Cecille Bowen  
Cecille Bowen  
Cecille Bowen  
Chuck & Karen Emery  
Chuck & Karen Emery  
Chuck & Karen Emery  
Chuck & Karen Emery  
Chuck & Karen Emery  
Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck  
Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck  
Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck  
Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck  
Tom & Joy Heinlein  
Tom & Joy Heinlein  
Tom & Joy Heinlein  
Tom & Joy Heinlein

## In Memory Of

Willard & Jane Dilts  
Sue Dilts  
Florence Arnold  
Jack Arnold  
Willard, Jane, & Sue Dilts  
Clif & Clair Booth  
Marge Mielock  
Joan McGarry  
Loved Ones  
Lee Smith  
Elijah Bowen  
Barbara Jo Bowen  
Ivan & Vivian Emery  
Max & Mary Cole  
Harold & Ann Emery  
Marjorie Emery  
Bob Cole  
Pete & Margaret Wilcox  
Howard & Myrna Gruesbeck  
Pat Wilcox  
Martha Derry  
Margaret & Reuben Heinlein  
Alice & Miles Lucas  
James Heinlein  
Lucas Hurd

## **Given By**

Pastor Christina Jensen  
Pastor Christina Jensen  
Pastor Christina Jensen  
Barb Litwiller  
Tom & Sally Nester  
Ken & Nola Owen  
Ken & Nola Owen  
Ken & Nola Owen  
Richard & Barb Pharr  
Richard & Barb Pharr  
Karen Rozen  
Karen Rozen  
Chris & Hillary Shemes  
Chris & Hillary Shemes  
Chris & Hillary Shemes  
Chris & Hillary Shemes  
Chris & Hillary Shemes  
Cynthia Smith  
Randy Smith  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal  
Rick & Lori Teal

## **In Memory Of**

William Jensen  
Grandma & Grandpa Dellinger  
Grandma Jo & Grandpa Henry  
Jack Bouchey  
Loved Ones  
Jennie Vozar  
Edy Owen  
Richard Heathcock  
Our Parents  
Patty Jo (Pharr) Velnetske  
Joe & Betty Rozen  
Loved Ones  
Elmo Negro  
Agnes Negro  
Thomas Shemes  
Betty Shemes  
Florian Konrad  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Randy Jenison  
Tim Ellsworth  
Dick Teal  
Don & Lorena Eichorn  
Liz Eichorn  
Nola Havelka  
Betty Williams  
Virginia "Ginny" Williams  
Janet Wittbrodt

## Given By

Rick & Lori Teal  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Brad & Vickie Thum  
Larry & Coleen Trexler  
Larry & Coleen Trexler  
Larry & Coleen Trexler  
Larry & Coleen Trexler  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek  
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vanderbeek

## In Memory Of

Fallen Soldiers  
Lawrence Garzelloni  
Marvin Thum  
Belva (Thum) Knapp  
David Thum  
Phyllis Glynn  
Molly Thum  
Theresa Wright  
Randy Jenison  
Stu Coleman  
Ian O'Hara  
Norman & Margaret Trexler  
Bernard & Nilah Cumming  
Ed & Alta Cumming  
Iva Larry  
Mildred Kroshinsky  
Bill Vanderbeek  
Grace Vanderbeek  
Anna Randel  
Richard Randel





## Given By

Penny Arnold  
Phil & Chari Booth  
Tom & Joy Heinlein  
Tom & Joy Heinlein  
Pastor Christina Jensen  
Pastor Christina Jensen  
Pastor Christina Jensen  
Barb Litwiller  
Dale & Marion Nester  
Larry & Coleen Trexler  
Larry & Coleen Trexler  
Larry & Coleen Trexler

## In Honor Of

My Grandchildren  
Our Children & Grandchildren  
Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Juliette Rose Heinlein  
Mom & Johnathan  
Lydia & Evelyn  
Norah & Stella  
Marian Bouchey  
Our Church Family  
Scott & Terrie Trexler  
Dave & Glenda Trexler  
Josh & Stephanie Trexler

*Merry  
Christmas*



# Ithaca First Presbyterian Church

218 E. Newark St., Ithaca, Michigan 48847 989.875.4437 www.ithacapres.org

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

**Sunday, February 16, 2020 - Anniversary Sunday**

Anniversary Thanksgiving Service - 4:00pm

**Sunday, June 14, 2020 - Family Reunion Sunday**

Church Family Reunion Party Following Service at 10:30am

**Sunday, October 11, 2020 - Homecoming Sunday**

Church Homecoming Celebration - Service at 10:30am

## Other Festivities

Sunday, 3/15/20 - Cookbook Potluck #1

Saturday, 5/16/20 - Chicken Dinner

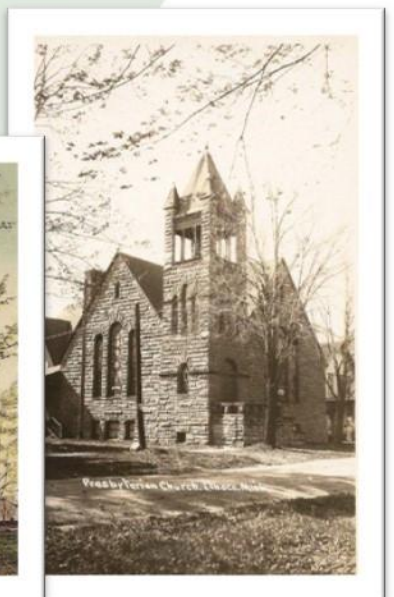
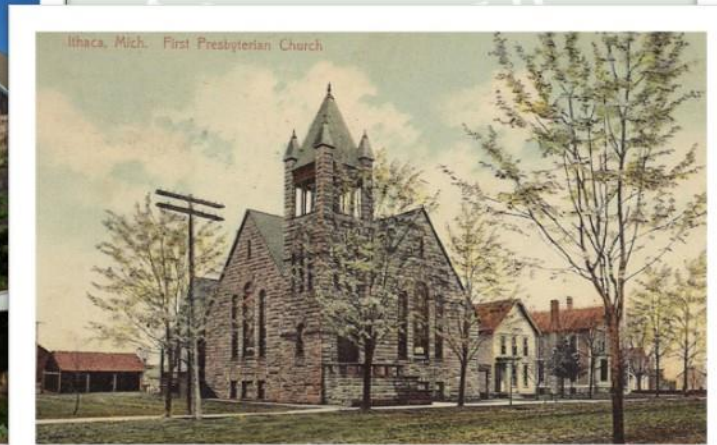
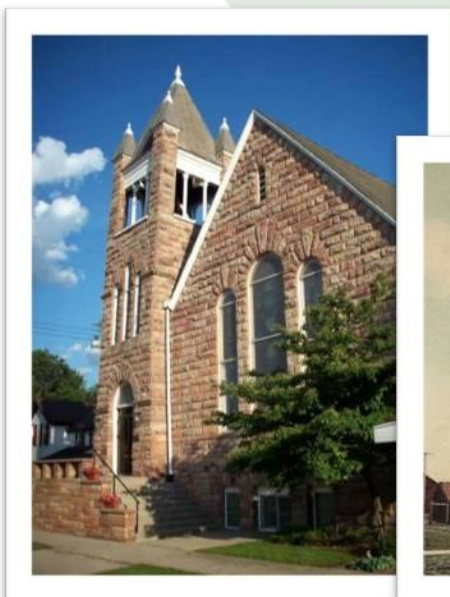
Sunday, 8/23/20 - Block Party/Ice Cream Social

Sunday, 9/27/20 - Community Tailgate Party

Sunday, 11/22/20 - Pie Raffle Fundraiser

Sunday, 12/6/20 - Cookbook Potluck #2

Saturday, 1/23/21 - Dinner and a Movie



**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca**  
218 E. Newark St., Ithaca, Michigan 48847  
989-875-4437 [info@ithacapres.org](mailto:info@ithacapres.org)

To learn more about our congregation, visit our website:  
[www.ithacapres.org](http://www.ithacapres.org)  
and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ithacapres](http://www.facebook.com/ithacapres)

**Leading Worship Today:**

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor  
Bob Crist, Music Director  
Brad & Vickie Thum, Greeters  
Brad & Vickie Thum, Ushers  
Joy Heinlein & Rick Teal, Communion Servers

**Staff:**

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor  
Bob Crist, Music Director  
Chris Shemes, Treasurer  
Shelley Zamarron, Custodian



The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan, is a congregation of the Presbytery of Lake Huron of the Presbyterian Church (USA).