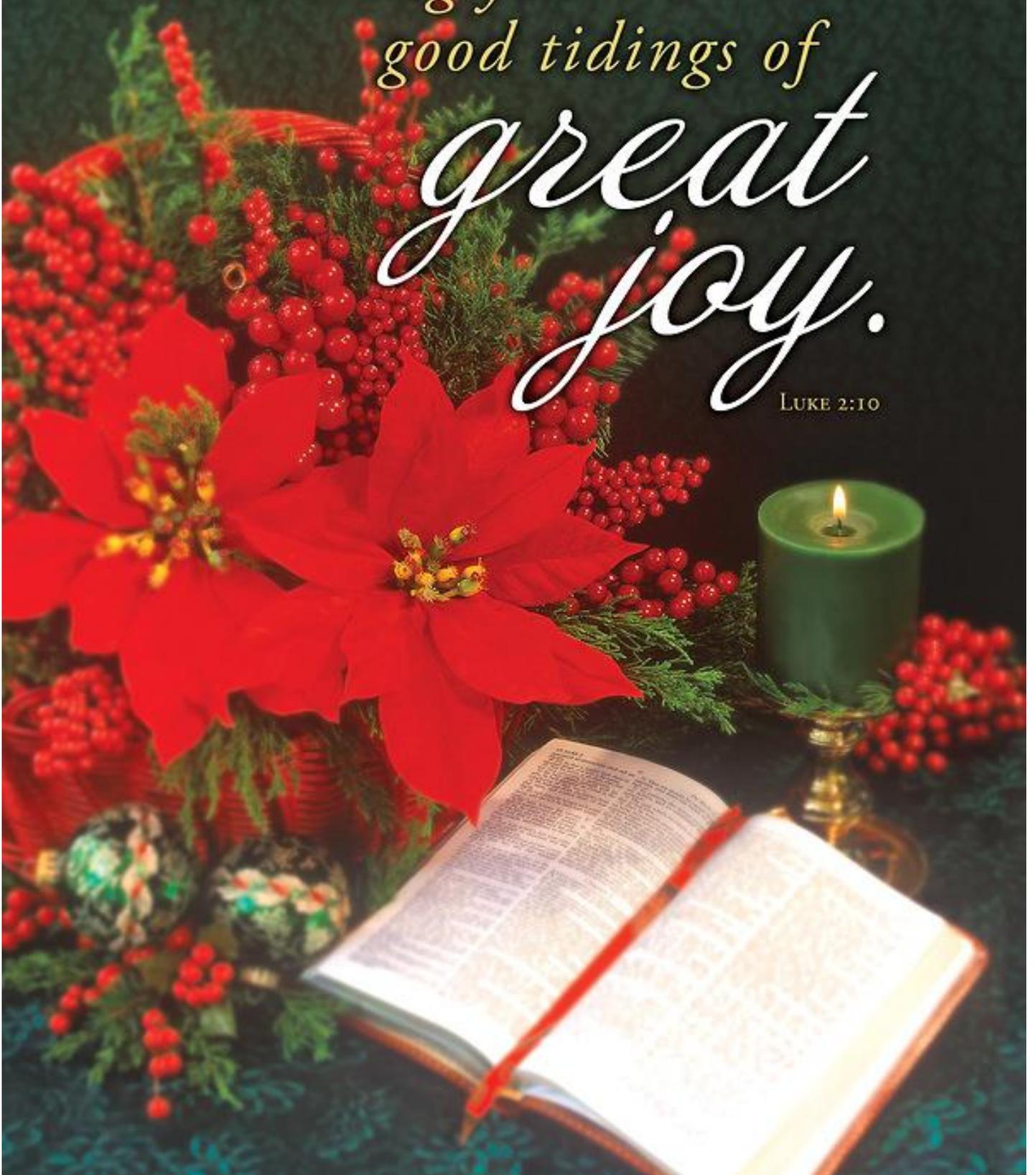


*I bring you
good tidings of
great
joy.*

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!

150th Anniversary Celebration – February 16, 2020

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our 150th 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
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
Cynthia Smith
Randy Smith
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
Larry & Coleen Trexler
Larry & Coleen Trexler
Larry & Coleen Trexler
Larry & Coleen Trexler
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 50th 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

150th 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

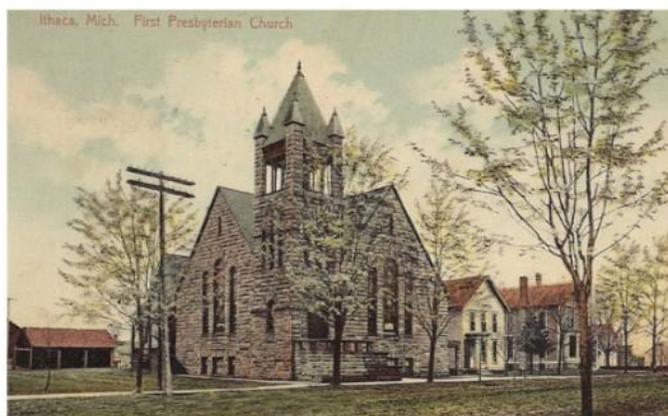
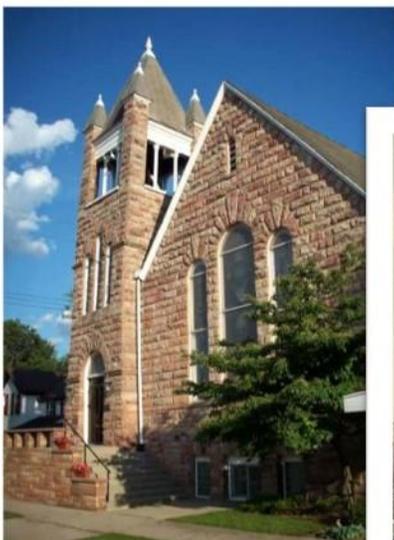
Sunday, 8/23/20 - Block Party/Ice Cream Social

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

To learn more about our congregation, visit our website:
www.ithacapres.org
and our Facebook page: 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).