



The First Pres Release

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



SEPTEMBER 2019

From Pastor Christina's Desk



One of the strange things about being a “church” person is the number of times and ways we celebrate the “new year.” There’s calendar new year, which is in January. There’s church new year, which is the first Sunday in Advent. And then there’s the start of program year - and that’s September. The start of program year coincides with the start of the school year - everything starts back up after the 3-month summer vacation. Kids go back to school, and churches start up all of the things that have been on hiatus since Memorial Day.

Here at First Pres, there are a multitude of things that are starting up, and you’ll read more about them in the pages that follow. There are a few things I want to highlight and make sure you’re aware of in the coming days and weeks.

On Sunday, September 1, we will have our blessing of the bags. Tabitha Circle starts up again September 3. Our annual church picnic is September 8. Chancel Choir and Sunday School start up again. Mid-week adult study begins October 2. And before you know it, it will be Advent - and another new year celebration.

Are you ready to jump back into the schedule? I know I am!

It truly is my joy to be your pastor!

Love, *Pastor Christina*

Notice of a Congregational Meeting - September 1, Following Service

There will be a BRIEF Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 1, immediately following the service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a Nominating Committee for 2019. Please plan to attend this meeting, and stay for potluck after!

Backpack and Workbag Blessing – September 1

Calling all backpacks, lunch bags, work bags, and satchels – and the people who carry them! We will be having our 2019 Blessing of the Bags on Sunday, September 1 during worship service. During this special time in the service, all who carry a bag - backpack, briefcase, lunchbox, diaper bag - will be invited to come forward, receive a blessing, and a tag that indicates you've been blessed for the year. Please plan to join us!



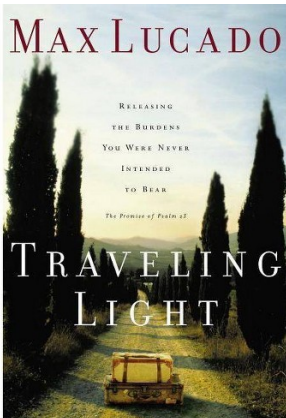
Heifer Update

As of August 19, we have raised \$189 for Heifer International! Remember, you can give as you feel led throughout the year - the change bucket is out on the table in the hallway. Well done, church!

Labor Day - Monday, September 2

The church office will be CLOSED, Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. There is no Women's Breakfast that day.

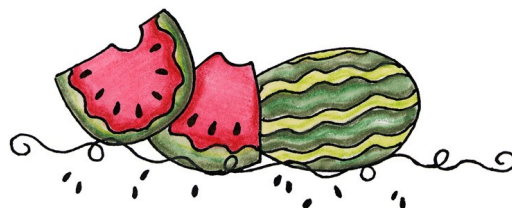
Tabitha Circle Returns September 3



Our next Tabitha Circle meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3, at 7:00pm in the downstairs lounge. We will begin a study of Psalms 23 using the book *Traveling Light* by Max Lucado. In this study we will be given a better understanding of the words of Psalms 23 and we will be guided and encouraged to release burdens that God has never intended for us to carry. There is no age restriction for Tabitha Circle nor is attendance required every month. We do have a good time studying together and invite all of our church women to join us! If you would like to have the book *Traveling Light* ordered for you, please sign the sheet by the bulletin board or call the church office on Monday morning between 9:00 and noon. For more information, see Joy Heinlein.

Church Picnic at Reed's Park - Sunday, September 8

Our annual church picnic at Reed's Park will be held Sunday, September 8 at 2pm. Join us for worship in the morning at church, and meet us as we gather for a picnic and fun at Reed's Park at 2pm. The picnic is potluck - so bring a dish to pass, and your own table service. For more information, see Karen Emery.



Adult Midweek Study Begins October 2

For our fall mid-week adult study, we will be reading, studying, and discussing John Ortberg's book, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat*, which, according to Amazon, is an award-winning book that uses the New Testament account of Jesus walking on water as a conceptual framework for discussing leaps of faith and encouraging readers to make them. This 6-week class will meet Wednesdays at 7:00pm, beginning October 2. If you'd like to participate, please sign up on the sheet on the table before September 11, so we can order enough books.

Simply Give – Through September 28

Meijer is having another Simply Give campaign August 18-September 28. Each \$10 Simply Give card purchased is a donation to the Gratiot Hunger Network, of which our pantry is a member. Double Match Days are August 30 and September 13.

New Member Classes Coming Soon

If you're interested in becoming a full-fledged member of Ithaca First Presbyterian Church, then we have the class for you! A New Member's Class is being planned for later this fall. Please call the church office at 875-4437 if you might be interested in participating!



Elijah Harrison Nester

Monday, July 29, 2019 at 8:52pm

9lbs, 6oz 21" long

Proud Parents:

Kyle and Andrea Nester

Proud Grandparents:

Dale and Marion Nester

Proud Great-Grandparents:

Tom and Sally Nester



Ellery Philip Booth

Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 4:00pm

7lbs, 2oz 19" long

Proud Parents:

Patrick & Emily Booth

Proud Grandparents:

Phil & Cheri Booth



Prayer List

Loving God, we lift the following in prayer to You. Hold these people and situations in Your hands, and in them, may Your will be done. Amen.

Concerns:

The Thum family on the loss of Cousin David; The Yonker Family; Sharon Froom; Fred Grasley; Nola Owen; Shelly's friend Beth; Reshawn Whetstone; Bonnie Smith; Garret Miniard; Lois Palmer; Al Bartholomew; The Rev. George Gillette; Mackenzie Brown; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Geneva Foster; Soulemayne Galadi, serving in the Congo; Those who make decisions that affect others; Those living with mental illness; Our military and veterans; Our police, fire, and other emergency responders; Our country; Students and teachers going back to school

Thanksgivings:

The birth of Ellery Philip Booth on 8/15; The birth of Elijah Harrison Nester on 7/29; Miracles and healing mercies granted; Expected grand-babies in the church family this year; Our church family; The church office volunteers; New jobs and the opportunities that come with them; For birthdays and anniversaries; For those who help others in crisis; For the angels in our church family

Continuing Prayers:

John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Randy Jenison; Christina Latoski & family; Barb Pharr; Rick & Mary Rimmel; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Randy Smith; Shelley Zamarron & family

If you would like someone added to the prayer list and announced during the Prayers of the People, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Christina.

September Worship Volunteers

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Communion
9/1/19	Joy Heinlein	Dale & Marion Nester	Dale & Marion Nester	Dale Nester & Tom Heinlein	Art Faustmann & Carolyn Gruesbeck
9/8/19	Rick Teal	Cynthia Smith & Joy Heinlein	Sandy Parr & Rick Teal	Tom Heinlein & Rick Teal	
9/15/19	Vickie Thum	Brad & Vickie Thum	Cynthia Smith & Joy Heinlein	Rick Teal & Kathy Vanderbeek	
9/22/19	Val Melow	Ken & Nola Owen	Ken & Nola Owen	Carolyn Gruesbeck & Kathy Vanderbeek	
9/29/19	Karen Emery	Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck	Sandy Parr & Cheri Booth	Carolyn Gruesbeck & Vickie Thum	

SEPTEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 COMMUNION Worship 10:30a Potluck 11:45a Choir 6p	2 Labor Day	3 Tabitha Circle 7pm	4 Pantry 9:30a	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:30a Picnic @ Reed's 2p Choir 6p	9	10 Men's B'fast 8:30a Team Meetings 7p	11 Pantry 9:30a	12	13	14
15 Worship 10:30a Coffee Hour 11:45a Session 12p Choir 6p	16 Women's B'fast 9a	17	18 Pantry 9:30a	19	20	21
Pastor Christina on Study Leave						
22 Worship 10:30a Coffee Hour 11:45a Choir 6p	23	24 Men's B'fast 8:30a	25 Pantry 9:30a	26	27	28
Pastor Christina on Study Leave						
29 Worship 10:30a Coffee Hour 11:45a Choir 6p	30					

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 6 - Elizabeth Lytle
- 11 - Sally Nester
- 13 - Hillary Shemes
- 14 - Harrison Shemes
- 18 - John Allen
- 19 - Bertha Pendell
- 23 - Carolyn Gruesbeck
- 26 - Bob Crist

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Rick & Kathy Vanderbeek
- 12 - Gary & Val Melow

