

FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2024

CLERK'S CORNER – OCTOBER 2024

Greetings! As I begin this article, the heat has disappeared with a beautiful rain. I can't ever remember so many hot days in a row in September.

As Clerk, I have spent many hours trying to fill our pulpit for the next three + months. I really appreciate seeing you in the congregation, and I also appreciate those who are still streaming.

We have scheduled a Congregational meeting for after worship on October 20. Please plan to attend as we need a quorum (16) There are two purposes of the Congregational meeting: to seek nominations for the Deacons and the Elders, and to decide if we will have a Stewardship campaign. The meeting will be moderated by the pastor who is filling the pulpit that Sunday; Rev. Mark Pawlowski.

We have 36 active members with an average of 34 attending each Sunday with in -person and streaming. Communion was served to 30 in worship on Sept.1. Home Communion was not served in September, but the Deacons will arrange home communion for October. We will continue to provide pastoral care for our homebound members.

If any of you have questions about the future of Fairplain, please feel free to ask any member of Session any questions that you have. Or, if you have comments that you may want to express, please let Session members know what you are thinking. We are unable to have a Townhall meeting without an Administrative Committee (AC) in place, and at this point, we have no idea when the AC will be assigned, but it looks like it might be as late as December. Session members are Pete Wendel, Robert Smith, Lew Burchard, Bill Cundiff and J. Michael Hall. Marlene Smith is Clerk.

The good news is that we have Pulpit Supply in place for the next two months. The following is a listing of pastors that have agreed to come and preach.

Oct. 6, Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham, serving communion - *World Communion Sunday*

Oct. 13, Amalia Goulbourne, student in final year of seminary at Andrews University

Oct. 20, Rev. Mark Pawlowski – He was here for David's last Sunday

Oct. 27, Marlene Smith reading a sermon written by **Leslie Gilreath** on the Reformation. It is *Reformation Sunday*

Nov. 3, Rev. Janet or Jerry Duggins, serving communion We don't know which pastor until their church sets their calendar. *All Saints Sunday* Chris Corbitt is preparing a PowerPoint with pictures to recognize those who have died this year.

Nov. 10, Amalia Goulbourne - Veterans' Day - Chris Corbitt is preparing a salute to all in the church who served in our Armed Forces.

Nov. 17, Rev. Janet or Jerry Duggins

Nov. 24, Lisa Buesing - Studying with Synod to become pulpit supply.

Dec. 1, Rev. Chrissy Westbury, Associate Presbyterian for Lake Mi Presbytery, serving communion

Peace be to all of you – Marlene Smith, Clerk

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Judy Machalleck
- 20: Robert Smith
- 24: Jo Ann Hartzell



CONDOLENCES – VISITATION – MEMORIAL SERVICE

Greg Powell passed away Sept. 16 - Visitation will be the evening of Wednesday, October 2 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Rd., St. Joseph, MI 49085, 269-556-9450. A Memorial Service will not be held until the following month on Saturday, November 9 at 1:00 at First Presbyterian Church (475 Green Ave, Benton Harbor, MI 49022). Memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Cycle-Re-Cycle of Benton Harbor, or the Michigan Parkinson Foundation. Please feel free to share a memory with the family online at www.starks-menchinger.com.

SECRETARY SUPPLY

While Linda Cogswell is on vacation Thursday, October 31 – Tuesday, November 5 and the church office will be open from 9 am-noon on the following days. The church office will be closed in the afternoon and closed all day on Wednesday, November 6.

Thursday, October 31
Friday, November 1

Monday, November 4
Tuesday, November 5



Fairplain Presbyterian volunteers prepared chicken casserole for 125 patrons. We also had mixed greens, applesauce, Oreos for dessert and bags of chips along with cold juice which was a big hit on a hot day. George Pica, Robert Smith, Judy Machalleck, Sonja Stormo and Marlene Smith prepared and served.



MUSIC NOTES - OCTOBER

Greetings to all from Job 21:12

“They rejoice with tambourine and lyre and make merry to the sound of the flute.”

There were 5 Sundays in September. The following musicians warmed our hearts during our church services.

- September 01 – Vladimir Slavujevic (2 piano solos)
- September 08 – The Praise Team “Wherever Two ...” (2 songs)
- September 15 – Chancel Choir (Introit and 2 anthems)
- September 22 – Trudean Scott Elliott (2 vocal solos)
- September 29 – Sarah and Elizabeth Alicea with Ina Villafane (2 vocal songs)

Late in August I was asked by the church leadership and accepted to serve as our church pianist. I decided to play our church organ again. From September 01 you were able to listen to the organ played “live.” Many musicians call the organ “The king of music instruments” because of its power and ability to produce different sounds with 2 or more keyboard manuals using many “stops” – registers that imitate various music instruments. In addition, there is another set of “keys” – pedals played by feet that give extra richness to the bass sound. Playing organ requires much more preparation than playing the piano, but its specific sound gives a special “church feeling.”

As Mary Jane Davenport spent most of this summer in Michigan, I asked her to volunteer – prepare and record piano accompaniment for some anthems our Chancel Choir will sing during this season. We wish to thank her as well as Michael Hall for coming and spending extra hours doing this important project.

Here is an interesting article about a well-known majestic hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (# 267 in our church hymnal) adapted from Randy Petersen’s quality book “Be Still, My Soul.”

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.” So begins the Apostles’ Creed, and early declaration of Christian faith. Ancient legends suggest that the apostles actually wrote or dictated an early version, though that is up for debate.

All we really know is that Christians have used this simple statement of faith for centuries, possibly going back to the 400s or even earlier. Each sentence of the creed is based on Scripture, and it’s generally free from theological controversy, so it’s a great way to teach children what Christians believe.

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That’s what an Irishwoman named Cecil Frances Humphreys was doing in the mid-1800s, using the Apostles’ Creed to instruct her Sunday school class in the basics of the faith. (In 1850, two years after writing this hymn text, she married Rev. William Alexander and took his surname.) As most teachers do, she was looking for creative ways to get ideas across to her students, so she decided to write a song for each part of the creed. The children would learn each essential truth by singing it.

The entire church – adults as well as children – has been blessed by the result. The phrase “born of the Virgin Mary” was presented by the Christmas carol “Once in Royal David’s City.” To teach “crucified, dead, and buried,” Cecil wrote, “There Is a Green Hill Far Away.” But she started off the whole project with this majestic hymn of creation.

Like the rest of the creed, it contains a simple idea: God is Creator. All the elements of the natural order that we see around us – the Lord God made them all. Though many adults take it for granted, that truth – *God made that, and that, and you, too!* – becomes an “aha” moment for many children. The Bible itself presents this truth as a sort of launching pad for faith: “The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship” (Psalm 19:1). That psalm goes on to hail the value of God’s Word, but the response of faith starts with an appreciation of creation. The apostle Paul picks up the same theme in Romans 1: “Through everything God made, [people] can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature” (Romans 1:20). He goes on, of course, to discuss sin and sacrifice and righteousness – but the starting line for faith is right here with creation. Every blessed thing in this bright and beautiful world, “God made them everyone.”

May God bless us all abundantly – grant us protection, guidance, good health, prosperity, and an opportunity to be a blessing to others.

Vladimir Slavujevic
Director of Music

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is probably the most important job of a pastor, other than a weekly sermon. If you are admitted to the hospital, having surgery, or someone in your family has died, then you need Pastoral Care. Those are jobs that the Deacons and Elders are not trained to administer.

Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham, who was an interim pastor at First Presbyterian in BH a few years back, has agreed to be our pastoral care in the coming months. Pastor Scott and his wife have planned a trip to Africa for Sept. 20 - Oct 4, and on weekends he preaches in Hesperia, MI.

If you need **Pastoral Care** on a weekend or during Pastor Scott’s trip, **Rev. Sheth LaRue**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Benon Harbor has agreed to cover during those times. Please notify Linda in the church office or Marlene Smith first and then they will make a contact to Pastor Scott Paul-Bonham or Pastor Sheth LaRue.

DEACONS

THESE DAYS DEVOTIONALS: These Days devotionals, large print copies, are available on the cart in the narthex.

Deacons General Fund:

Goes towards the purchase of communion cups, oil for candles, Advent wax candles, flowers for homebound (Christmas and Easter), printed support materials for members: These Days devotional, Care Notes (various topics), greeting cards and postage for members; CD players for shut-ins. The Deacons have decided that any donations received for the Funeral Fund will go into the General Fund.

Checks for donations to the Deacons General Fund and/or Funeral Fund should be made payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church. Include "Deacons" in the memo line.

CHURCH STAFF

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary – church email: office@fairplainpc.com

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music – email: vladimirslavujevic5@gmail.com

Robert Smith, Treasurer – email: robertlynsmith@gmail.com

Jody Pauley, Nursery Attendant – email: jodypauley1@gmail.com

Jill Wendel, Financial Secretary – email: jillannwendel@yahoo.com

Bud Cornelius, Custodian

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary, is in the church office during the following days/hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:30 am-noon and 1:00-3:00 pm

Wednesday: Church Office closed

Friday: 9:00 am-11:30 am