

# FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

### CLERK'S CORNER

I do hope that the Congregational meeting met your needs as far as knowing where the church is headed. I'm sorry we could not get an opportunity to talk earlier. If you did not have an opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings, please do share those feelings.

Our membership stands at 35 active members. Janet Spicer entered the Church Triumphant on October 10, 2024.

Rev. Janet Duggins will be preaching on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. She is the co-pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portage, MI where Fred and Sandy Welch are now members. Rev. Janet shares the pastorship with her husband Rev. Jerry Duggins. Rev. Duggins will be serving communion and Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham will follow up with home communion later that week.

Even though session voted to fill the pulpit through Dec. 29, 2024, I found that many were unsure of what the plans are for Fairplain. At the last session meeting, members voted to close worship on Dec. 29, 2024. We are planning a celebration for that last Sunday. We are going to send invitations to all members who have left in the past several years, including past ministers, and members of the Presbytery. Our plans are to show a slide show of the history of Fairplain, using the scrapbooks that Mary Bartels so lovingly put together over the years. I am hoping to find a minister to preach that Sunday.

We are planning a potluck for after worship on that day, with an RSVP so we know how many to expect and in which room to hold the potluck.

I write all of the above without a clue of what the Administrative Commission is going to expect of us.

May God help us to deal with ambiguity—together—as we continue to find our way forward.

Marlene Smith, Clerk



## BIRTHDAYS

November 12 – Ted Pietruszka

November 30 – Chris Corbitt

## CONDOLENCES AND SERVICES

Condolences to the family of Janet Spicer and Greg Powell. Visitation and Memorial Service information listed below:

Janet Spicer passed away Oct. 10 and visitation will be 1-2 pm and service @ 2 pm, on Fri., November 1, at Heritage Chapel, 8747 U.S. 31, Berrien Springs, with Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham officiating.

Greg Powell Memorial Service will not be held until the following month on Saturday, November 9 at 1:00 pm 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](http://www.starks-menchinger.com).



## PASTORAL CALL

**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.

If you need **Pastoral Care** on a weekend or if Pastor Scott is not available, **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.



Greetings to all from Judges 5:3

***“Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I will sing to the Lord, I will sing. I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel.”***

The following music groups and soloists enhanced our worship experience:

October 06 – Vladimir Slavujevic (2 clarinet solos)

October 13 – The Praise Team “Wherever Two ...” (2 songs)

October 20 – Chancel Choir and Family Slavujevic Chimes, Bells and Voices

October 27 – Victoria & Juliette Goluch, (2 violin duets)

While staying in Michigan during the summer, I contacted Mary Jane Davenport to volunteer and record some piano accompaniments for our choir. She accepted gladly my invitation and I sent to her the chosen anthems. Mary Jane practiced them diligently and came well-prepared. I wish to thank her and Michael Hall who was our sound technician for coming twice and spending several hours recording. Our joint effort was successful.

Even though shrinking in size, our choir continued to provide music in September and October. Recently I recorded new anthems tenor and bass parts to compensate for the lack of male singers. It is a blessing to have Michael Hall, who with his knowledge, skill and patience helps us use modern technology for the benefit of our choir sound.

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Here is an interesting article about a well-known hymn ***“For All the Saints”*** (# 526 in our church hymnal) adapted from Randy Petersen’s quality book “Be Still, My Soul.”

These days, Halloween gets more attention than All Saints’ Day, even among Christians. Ironically, we’ve made a holiday out of All Hallows’ Eve and pretty much forgotten about the original holy day on the first of November. Fortunately, William W. How remembered.

Of course, different churches treat “saints” differently, but the idea of saints is still a biblical concept. The apostle Paul greeted the “saints” in the churches he wrote to, referring to all those made holy by the blood of Jesus. The book of Hebrews hails Old Testament heroes who suffered for their faith and depicts them as a “huge crowd of witnesses” watching us run our race (see Hebrews 12:1-3). Revelation 7 paints the scene of a white-robed multitude of believers who have come through hardship to worship at the throne of Jesus. “For All the Saints” picks up on all those images.

William How was an Anglican bishop who wrote dozens of hymns, including “We Give Thee but Thine Own,” “O Word of God Incarnate,” and “O Jesus, Thou Art Standing.” This one, first published in 1864, was written specifically as a processional anthem for All Saints’ Day. At first it had 11 verses – no doubt there were a lot of people who had to march in – but modern hymnals have whittled them down to a manageable 5 or 6. (Stanzas that specifically hail the apostles, evangelists, and martyrs generally don’t make the cut.)

For some time these words were set to a very martial 1868 tune by Joseph Barnby (1838-1896). Then in 1908 composer Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote some more-fanciful music for the hymn, with hints of syncopation, and mixture of unison and harmony. He named the tune *Sine Nomine*, Latin for “without a name,” possibly referring to all the nameless saints who have suffered for the cause of Christ.

Bishop How would probably like that title. Though he rose through the ranks to attain a level of prominence in the church, he reportedly avoided calling attention to himself. Known as a man of the people, he spent much time caring for the needy in his parish. In one of the several books How published, he listed qualities of a good minister, including “wholly without thought of self.” Even his hymn texts reflect a simple functionality. He didn’t choose flowery or flashy language that would exalt his own artistry but, like the saints he wrote about, kept the focus of his worship on Christ.

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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

## SECRETARY SUPPLY



While Linda Cogswell is on vacation from Wednesday, October 30-Wednesday, November 6, the following ladies will be in the church office from 9 am-noon. The church office will Be closed on Wednesday, October 30, Tuesday, November 5 and Wednesday, November 6 as well as the afternoon of October 31, November 1 and November 4.

Thursday, October 31 and  
Friday, November 1:  
Monday, November 4:

Sonja Stormo  
Linda Zitta

## SOUP KITCHEN

Fairplain Presbyterian volunteers prepared beef casserole for 110 patrons. We also had mixed greens, applesauce, Oreos for dessert and bags of chips along with cold juice. George Pica, Robert Smith, Judy Machalleck, Sonja Stormo and Marlene Smith prepared and served. John Kauffman rounded up the food and delivered it to the Soup Kitchen.

## 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](mailto:office@fairplainpc.com)  
Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music – email: [vladimirslavujevic5@gmail.com](mailto:vladimirslavujevic5@gmail.com)  
Robert Smith, Treasurer – email: [robertlynsmith@gmail.com](mailto:robertlynsmith@gmail.com)  
Jody Pauley, Nursery Attendant – email: [jodypauley1@gmail.com](mailto:jodypauley1@gmail.com)  
Jill Wendel, Financial Secretary – email: [jillannwendel@yahoo.com](mailto: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