

First Presbyterian Church of Alma

A Note from

April
2025

Rev. Katrina



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Alma, MI 48801
www.firstpres.net



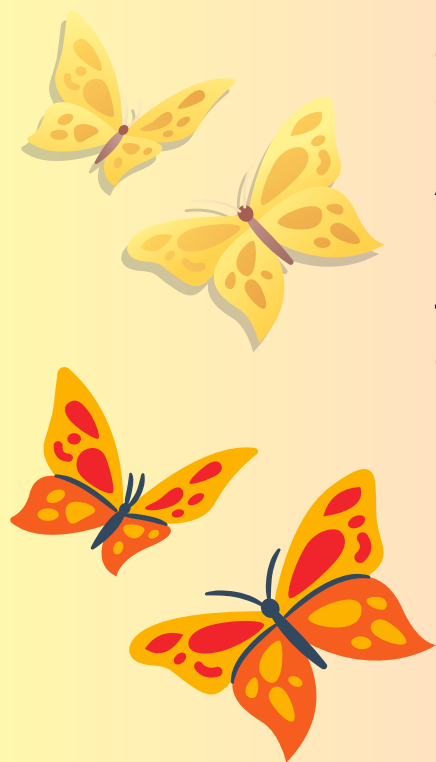
When I first realized Alma College's graduation was the same weekend as Easter this year, I groaned. Ok - more than groaned - I complained a little bit. As I sat with it, I realized how incredibly appropriate it is - probably because ministers are great at stewing over something until we solve it theologically.

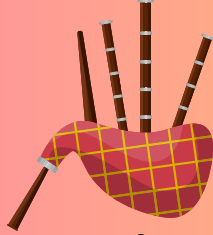
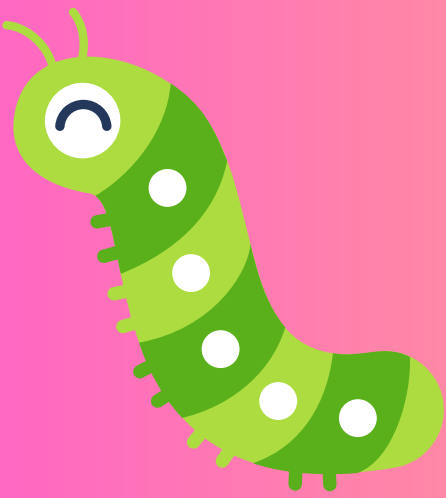
Graduations and Easter have much in common. Both are emotionally full. The disciples weep over the death of Jesus, and they grieve as they arrive early at the tomb, only to be surprised and overjoyed to see him arisen! (Spoiler alert - he doesn't stay in the tomb!)

At commencement, there are tears shed over parting with friends and professors and mentors. There is grief at leaving a place of growth and learning, maybe even growth or regret over things undone, experiences not taken. And there is absolute joy at celebrating the accomplishments from the past four years.

The resurrection represents so much of our lives, our emotions, because God came to be with us humans, to experience life with us, and remind us we aren't alone. Knowing that Jesus has experienced what we have, reminds us we do not go this road alone.

And so as we approach Holy Week let us give ourselves permission to feel all the feelings, express all the emotions, to know that God is with us in all of it. We need not face Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday alone, and we especially gather in celebration at the Resurrection.





The Highland Festival is coming up in a couple months, which means we will do our parking fund raiser! We need one or two people at both front entry drives from 7:00 am until noon. Please consider setting aside an hour of your Saturday morning for this effort. We'll have a sign up sheet next month. Our best year, we raised almost \$4000! The money raised will go to our food programs.



4-3 Ann Baker
4-11 John Pavlik
4-16 Darcy Hodges

Coffee Hour:
4-6 Joyce Elsea & Sue Beckett
4-13 Palm Sunday Breakfast
4-20 Joanne Allman & Julie Frick
4-27 Susan Dinwoody & Jean Kimball



Holy Week:
7pm Good Friday Service
Easter Sunday: 8am and 10:30am

Introducing our new custodian!



Louie says he's been called "Louie" since the day he was born, so let's get to know our new Custodian, Louie Castellon. Louie started the part-time Custodian job at the beginning of January and has had to adjust to fewer duties having previously worked at Alma High School.

Louie worked at Oxford Automotive until it closed and then was responsible for maintaining the shop area at the high school until he retired. Shortly after that, he was asked to return to the school on a part time basis and continues to work there in addition to cleaning the church. Louie is an Alma native and has lived here all his life. He and his wife, Brenda, are still "newlyweds" having been married 2 years. He and Brenda knew each other all their lives but went their separate ways after high school and only re-connected 8 or so years ago. When Louie isn't working at his two jobs, he is watching football or baseball on TV. He's an avid Tiger fan but, unfortunately, backs the Cowboys but, regardless, we are happy to have him with us.

APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING

The special offering for April is One Great Hour of Sharing.

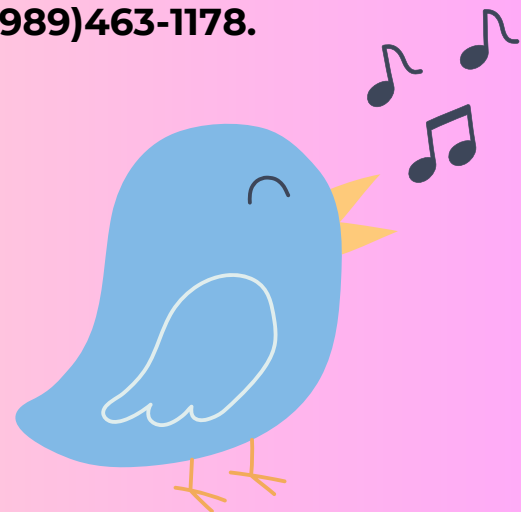
Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Please consider giving to this fund!

**Deacons for Fellowship and Congregational Life
are hosting brunch after church on Palm Sunday.**

Spring Cleaning?

The rummage sale group is back again and planning on holding a sale in late July! Please remember to donate those gently used items that you no longer need to the sale. Please do not donate clothes or outdated electronics. If you have any questions, call Sarah Horn at (989)463-1178.





APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	2 5:30 Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Choir Practice	3 5:30pm Community Café	4	5 Emma Adams Cello Concert Chapel 3pm
6	7 9:30-noon Linus Ladies 6:30pm Pine River Arts	8 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	9 5:30 Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Choir Practice	10 5:30pm Community Café	11	12
13 Palm Sunday	14 9:30-noon Linus Ladies	15 1:30pm Food Pantry 12-6pm Blood Drive 3pm Sabbath Group	16 6:30pm Choir Practice	17 5:30pm Community Café	18 7pm Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter Sunday 8am and 10:30am services	21 9:30-noon Linus Ladies Rev. Katrina on study leave	22 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	23 6:30pm Choir Practice	24 5:30pm Community Café	25	26
27	28 9:30-noon Linus Ladies 6:30pm Session	29 3pm Sabbath Group	30			