

# First Presbyterian Church of Alma

## A Note from Rev. Katrina

July  
2024

495 Charles Ave.  
Alma, MI 48801  
[www.firstpres.net](http://www.firstpres.net)



“In life and in death, and in all circumstances in life, we belong to God and we belong to each other - thanks be to God for these blessed connections.” My former Executive Presbyter, Rev. Susan McGhee, would often end emails or presbytery reports with these words - words originating from Romans 14.8 and repeated in the Brief Statement of Faith in our Book of Confessions (with a few additional pastoral words of her own added). These were words of comfort to me, partially because they were repetitive (I find hearing a compassionate message repeated over and over can calm anxieties) but also because I have found it to be true. Even as I opened up one of her emails from nearly a decade ago, I found these words warming my soul.

The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. This means that we are connected to God, to one another, to creation. We don't live in isolation, because faith is meant to be communal.

One of the questions I often get from people who were raised in the church as children, still believe as adults, but have stopped attending a church, is why they should go when they can pray and read the Bible at home. A great question! The answer I always give is community. We learn and connect with God on an individual level, but we also do so communally. It is in that community that we can seek support, comfort, and understanding of scripture. It is in that community we can also offer support and love.

As you read this I will be in Salt Lake City, Utah for the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I love GA for many reasons - I'm a polity geek, I enjoy the creative worship services, I love learning about the current issues of the church, but it is also a connectional time for me where I run into the various Presbyterians I've met over the course of my life. Sometimes I only see them every two years at General Assembly, but it reminds me I'm not the only one doing this work.

Maybe you need that reassurance once in a while - that you aren't alone, and that we're in this together. My hope and prayer is that you find that space in worship and fellowship. In life and in death, and in all circumstances in life, we belong to God and we belong to each other.

Thanks be to God.



# Session Notes

Session met on June 17, 2024.

Session removed Neil Rosan from membership.

Accepted (with regret) Al Bartholomew's resignation, approving Personnel to begin a search.

The next meeting of session will be July 15th at 6:30pm.

## Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30am-1:30pm

**WE HAVE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!!**

All church employees now have an email address to reach them at.

We will be phasing out both Office & Pastor@firstpres.net at the end of July



**7-2 Ann Hall**

**7-8 Barbara Hattery**

**7-8 Chuck Fortino**

**7-10 Mona Hirson**

**7-13 Anne Lambrecht**

**7-15 Daniel Fahey**

**7-16 Sue Malone**

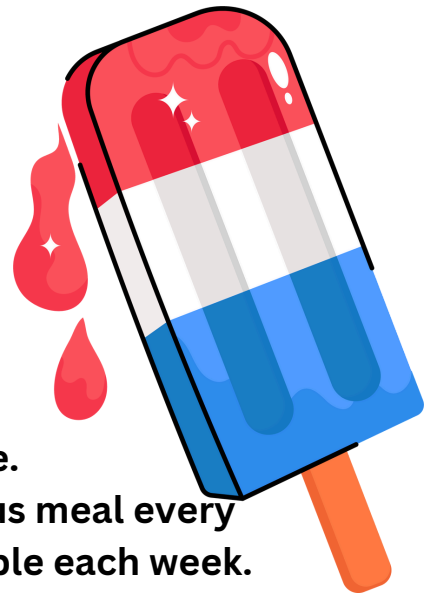


### Please Note:

If you do not see your Birthday or Anniversary listed on your month it is because we need you to update your information with the office for the Church Directory.

Please contact the church office for the information.

# JULY SPECIAL OFFERING



The special offering for July is Community Cafe.

Community Cafe has been offering a nutritious and delicious meal every Thursday night for over 30 years! We typically serve 40 people each week. The college dining service, Metz, prepares meals weekly when the college is in session. This summer they have graciously picked up summer meals, as well! We have a group of dedicated volunteers who cook desserts and prepare beverages each week, setting up and tearing down. We are grateful for our partners!

Please consider giving to this fund!

## Rummage Sale!

The rummage sale is planned for July 30th and 31st. Please consider donating your gently used items to the sale. (Please, no clothes or outdated electronics!) We will be collecting items on Saturday, July 27th from 9am to 4pm, Sunday, July 28th from 10am to 4pm, and Monday July 29th from 9am to noon. We will also accept donations from the community, so please spread the word. If you need help moving something, please call Carol Rosan (989-463-6679) or Jimm Lyon (989-463-6558). If you have any questions, please call Sarah Horn (989-463-1178) Help us make this event a success!



# SAYING GOODBYE

In June we said goodbye to our beloved organist, Al Bartholomew, who retired. Al began working as organist at First Pres in 1994. He continued through many pastors, many ups and downs in the church. He began as administrative assistant in 2018 for a while, also being organist. Through the pandemic he recorded and shared videos of worship, handbells, and the choir, keeping this congregation together. We are grateful for his gifts and wish him the best in retirement!



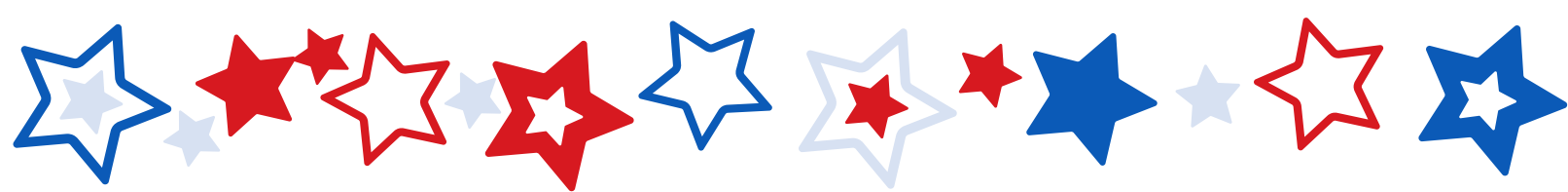
## Volunteer Sign Up!

The recent hot weather reminds us to update our volunteer sign up to staff emergency shelter occasions. We have agreed to be on-call as an emergency shelter in the event of prolonged utility disruptions. We would host people from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers would oversee people's needs, serve meals, provide entertainment such as movies, puzzles, and games. If you are willing to volunteer, please call the church office and leave your name, contact information, and how long (hours) and how frequent (days) you'll be willing to volunteer.

# July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	6:30pm 1 Pine River Arts Rev. Katrina at General Assembly - July 6	1:30pm 2 Food Pantry	3	4th 4 JULY 4th of July graphic with American flag and fireworks	5	6
7	8	1:30pm 9 Food Pantry 5:30pm Child Advocacy	10	5:30pm 11 Community Café	12	13
14	5:00pm 15 Spiritual Growth	1:30pm 16 Food Pantry	17	5:30pm 18 Community Café	19	20
21 Matthew 25 Worship	6:30pm 22 Session Meeting	1:30pm 23 Food Pantry	24	5:30pm 25 Community Café	26	27
28	29	No 30 Food Pantry on 5th Week Church Rummage Sale	31 Church Rummage Sale			



**Class of 2024**  
**Sue Beckett**  
**Sue Deel**  
**Michael Selmon**

**Class of 2025**  
**Sue Malone**  
**Joyce Elsea**

**Deacons for Fellowship and Congregational Life**

**Class of 2024**  
**Carlene Lyon**  
**Tincy Goggin**  
**Joanne Allman**  
**Mona Hirson**

**Class of 2025**  
**Sarah Horn**  
**Nick Piccolo**

**Deacons for Parish Care**

**Class of 2024**  
**Susan Dinwoody**  
**Jean Kimball**  
**One Open Spot**

**Class of 2025**  
**Sheryle Dixon**  
**Kathy Smith**  
**One Open Spot**

**Coffee Hour**

**All of July Deacons for Parish Care**

**All of August Deacons for Fellowship**



**Neil and his wife Nicole had a baby girl on April 17 named Addison Shea. She weighed 5#4oz and was 18" long. Everyone is doing great**

# New Communication

Starting mid-July we will no longer use OneCallNow because it is cost-prohibitive. Earlier this year we sent out a survey asking your preference for communication. Below are the results of that survey. If this is incorrect or you do not see your name, please contact the church office.

Phone Call	Text Message	Email	
Baker	Hurley	Abernathy	Goggin x 2
Marble	Freed	Allman	Hodges
Daily	Frick	Bartholomew	Hall
Fortino	Grimnes	Blandford	Horn
Garey		Caputo	Armstrong
Kimball		Everett	Maslovich
Geuder		McCormack	Orihel
Godfrey		Jewell	Pavlik
Gump		Ronk	Piccolo
Remsberg		Deel	Murray
Hattery		Dinwoody	Hammond
Hopper		Dixon	Smith
Lambrecht		Fahey	Sanford
Rockafellow		Wassenaar	Selmon and Horn
Timmins		Lippert	Setterlund
Weis		Store	Turner
Justin and Evans-		Knarr	White
Justin		Elsea	Malone
Lyon		Garringer	Rosan
Rowland			

