

# First Presbyterian Church of Alma

## A Note from Rev. Katrina

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July  
2025



Have you ever read the book of Revelation? It's a book that either gets too much attention (and usually it comes with some misinterpretations) or none at all. Because of the misinterpretations, because of the symbols that are so difficult to translate, most Presbyterians don't touch it. Or, at least most Presbyterians I know leave it alone. In

May a college student asked me to lead a Bible study about Revelation, so I bought a commentary to freshen my memory. The first heading states: "A book for troubled times." Sounds like we could use this sacred text these days, yes? So, during July I will be doing a sermon series on the book of Revelation, diving into the meaning behind the symbolism and what the author may have intended, as well as how it can impact our lives today, as a book for troubled times. I hope you'll join me each

week!

Peace,  
Rev. Katrina





# Check out Pennington Garden!

A BIG THANK YOU to Marsha Turner and Julie Fortino for all their hard work on Pennington Garden.



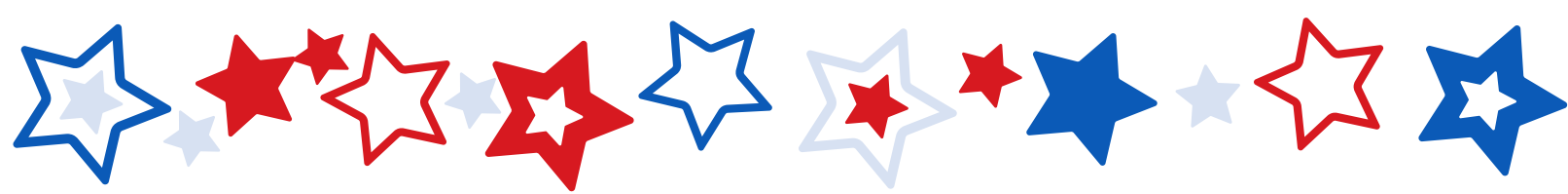
7-2 Ann Hall  
7-8 Barbara Hattery  
7-8 Chuck Fortino  
7-10 Mona Hirson  
7-13 Anne Lambrecht  
7-15 Daniel Fahey  
7-16 Sue Malone



**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.





### **Rummage Sale!**

The church rummage sale will be held on Tuesday, July 29 from 9am to 6pm and Wednesday, July 30 from 9am to 3pm. We will be collecting items on Saturday, July 26 from 10am to 4pm, Sunday, July 27 from 12pm to 3pm, and Monday, July 28 from 9am to 12pm. We will also accept items from the community, so spread the word! Please do not donate clothes or outdated electronics. Do you need help moving something? Call Carol Rosan (989-463-6679) or Jimm Lyon (989-463-6558). If you have any other questions, please call Sarah Horn (989-463-1178).



### **Coffee Hour**

**All of July Deacons for  
Parish Care:**

**July 6<sup>th</sup> Sheryle Dixon**

**July 13<sup>th</sup> Joanne  
Allman**

**July 20<sup>th</sup> Darcy  
Hodges**

**July 27<sup>th</sup> Kathy Smith**

**All of August Deacons  
for Fellowship:**

**Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> Mona Hirson,  
Sarah Horn**

**Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> Sarah Horn**

**Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> Tincy Goggin,  
Mona Hirson**

**Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> Nick Piccolo**

**Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> Carlene Lyon**



**Updated Liturgist List. If you can not serve on your day please find a replacement and notify the church office.**

Jul 6, 2025	Chuck Fortino
Jul 13, 2025	Michele Armstrong
Jul 20, 2025	Jimm Lyon
Jul 27, 2025	Tim Lambrecht
Aug 3, 2025	Roger Allman
Aug 10, 2025	Julie Frick
Aug 17, 2025	Nick Piccolo
Aug 24, 2025	Bryan Dinwoody
Aug 31, 2025	Sheryle Dixon
Sep 7, 2025	Sue Deel
Sep 14, 2025	Chuck Fortino
Sep 21, 2025	
Sep 28, 2025	Bryan Dinwoody
Oct 5, 2025	Jimm Lyon
Oct 12, 2025	Michele Armstrong
Oct 19, 2025	Roger Allman
Nov 2, 2025	Nick Piccolo
Nov 9, 2025	Tim Lambrecht
Nov 16, 2025	Sheryle Dixon
Nov 23, 2025	Sue Deel
Nov 30, 2025	Chuck Fortino
Dec 7, 2025	Michele Armstrong
Dec 14, 2025	Bryan Dinwoody
Dec 21, 2025	Roger Allman
Dec 24, 2025	
Dec 28, 2025	Jimm Lyon





Introducing....


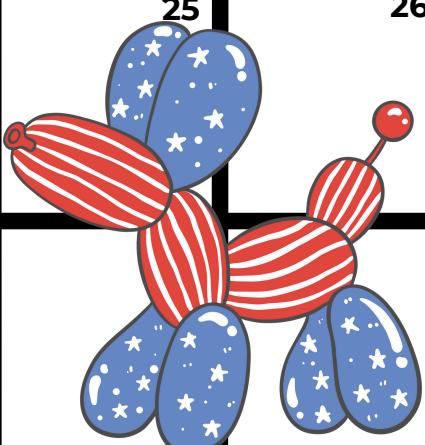


Ebay Merlin, our organist and collaborative pianist. Ebay was gifted with that nickname 13 years ago by fellow campers at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp when attending to play clarinet. The reason for the nickname is no longer remembered but it “fits” and is their preferred moniker. Ebay has always been musically inclined, taking after their father who is also a musician. Ebay plays piano and organ for us but also plays clarinet, trombone, bassoon, accordion and hammer dulcimer, and can play flute and saxophone “tolerably”. Ebay initially enrolled at CMU majoring in mathematics, flirted briefly with Business Information Systems, and then auditioned for Vocal Music. After two years of intensive study, they presented a portfolio (the equivalent of an “audition”) to be accepted as a Music Composition major, and graduated after three years of study. We can find two albums at [emryslayne.bandcamp.com](https://emryslayne.bandcamp.com), one is a compilation of original piano solos and the other is music electronically composed specifically for their sister’s master’s thesis in dance. Speaking of their sister, Ebay is the third of four siblings all of whom are living in Michigan and who annually gather for a weekend of fun. Ebay has lived in Mt. Pleasant with their partner of 3 years, Nikola, and 2 cats (Merlin and Arthur).

Ebay openly identifies as transgender and is a strong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. They are one of the founders of the Mt. Pleasant Pride Center (MPPC) and currently serve as President of the Board of Directors. MPPC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to “empower and uplift the Pride community of Mid-Michigan”. More can be found about the organization at [www.mppridecenter.com](https://www.mppridecenter.com) and, on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/mppridecenter>. We are amazed and grateful to find such an accomplished musician as our organist/pianist, but Ebay says they are the more fortunate in this relationship. Even though their time with us is only part of their musical career which is shared with teaching private lessons in piano and composition, it has provided them with an opportunity to play for a welcoming community and to experience working with a choir. Regardless, we think “this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship” and will keep asking him to “play it again”!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1:30pm <b>1</b> Food Pantry	<b>2</b> Rev. Katrina out of the office July 2-6 Office Closed	<b>3</b> Rev. Katrina out of the office July 2-6 Office Closed	<b>4th</b> 	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	1:30pm <b>8</b> Food Pantry	<b>9</b>	5:30pm <b>10</b> Community Café	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	1:30pm <b>15</b> Food Pantry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:30 Outreach 5:30pm Community Café	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Session Meeting	1:30pm <b>22</b> Food Pantry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Community Café	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Worship in the Sanctuary	<b>28</b>	No <b>29</b> Food Pantry on 5th Week Church Rummage Sale	<b>30</b> Church Rummage Sale	5:30pm <b>31</b> Community Café		