

**March  
2025**



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Alma**



## **A Note from Rev. Katrina**

Many years ago I took some palm branches from one worship service to another on Palm Sunday. I put the leftovers in my van and left them to take back to the church the following day.

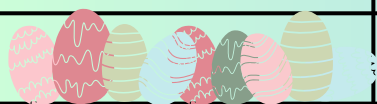
When I sat in my car that Monday after, I was hit with a stench much like I imagine Lazarus at the tomb was anxious about as he emerged. The palm branches had already begun to rot. As if the palm branches knew that one day they would become dust, dust for the following year's ashes, they simply gave up and began rotting.

Ash Wednesday and Lent are solemn times. We are reminded of how much we rely on God, and that one day our own ashes will return to the earth. But we do not go through this ritual of ashes to simply give up like the palm branches. We do so to remember the grace God has given us and so we can live our lives within the freedom of Christ.

Yes, we are human. Yes, we will mess up. And we can only make it in this world with the love of Christ. We need not rot because Christ gives us new life, purpose, and reminds us of the abundant life we are offered.

Let us begin this journey of Lent with the intention of growing spiritually, rather than rotting. Let us dig deep to plant new seeds rather than cursing the plants that refuse to grow.

I hope you'll join us for the Wednesday evening conversations and soup during Lent as we discuss Kathy Escobar's book, "Turning Over Tables."





Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30-1:30

Rev. Katrina's Office Hours:

Monday 9-11

Thursday 9-11

Tuesday and Wednesday by  
appointment, Friday is  
Sabbath

**Ash Wednesday Services**  
Services at the Alma College  
Chapel:  
8am, 10:30am, noon, and 2pm  
Service at First Pres:  
Dinner at 5:30pm  
Ashes at 7pm

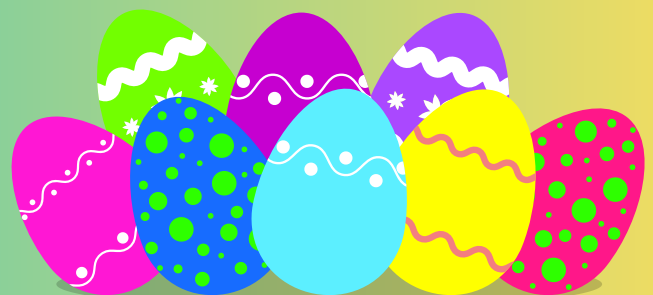
A note about voicemail at the church: We have received some feedback that people have called the office during office hours and not had anyone answer. We have checked the phones and voicemail. The voicemail is working, but do know that we don't have call waiting. If you call and no one answers, we might have stepped out of the office for a second! Please leave a voicemail and we'll call you back. If the voicemail doesn't pick up, it means we are on the other line, and we ask that you try again in a few minutes. Thank you! Your calls are important to us!



*Happy  
Anniversary*

3-5 Barbara Marble  
3-6 Virginia Blandford  
3-17 George Orihel  
3-18 Joyce Elsea  
3-21 Roger Allman Sr.  
3-28 Dave Knarr

**3-28 George & Sherry Orihel**



# MARCH SPECIAL OFFERING

The special offering for March is per capita. Some people have considered per capita to be a “membership due” to the presbytery, but per capita is not about membership dues, but about supporting the good work in the presbytery, the synod, and general assembly. Rev. Katrina was able to work with Young Adult Advisory Delegates last summer because of the support of per capita. Much of the work that comes from general assembly and the presbytery is because of per capita. Your per capita dollars help create educational opportunities, support resources to be printed in languages other than English, and to do outreach. Please consider not only giving to this fund, but also “sponsoring” someone else by paying one extra per capita this year, if you can.

**The 2025 Per Capita Apportionment General Assembly \$10.84 Synod of the Covenant \$ 3.40 Presbytery \$16.45 Total \$30.69**

For more information: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/account-media/3647/uploaded/2/0e18880954\\_1736345715\\_2025-bulletin-insert.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/account-media/3647/uploaded/2/0e18880954_1736345715_2025-bulletin-insert.pdf)





	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Presbytery Meeting
2	3 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies 6:30pm Pine River Arts	4 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	5 7pm Ash Wednesday	6 10:30 Outreach 5:30 Community Café	7	8 Daylight Saving Time- Clocks Ahead!
9	10 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies	11 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group 5:30pm Child Advocacy	12 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Choir Practice	13 5:30 Community Café	14	15
16	17 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies	18 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	19 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Choir Practice	20 5:30 Community Café	21 Rev. Katrina vacation 03-21-03-29	22
23  30	24 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies 31	25 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	26 No Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Choir Practice	27 5:30 Community Café	28	29





### **Annerose Charlotte White Obituary**

**Annerose Charlotte White, age 84, of Alma, passed away Friday, January 31, 2025, at My Michigan Medical Center in Alma. She was born February 15, 1940, in Berlin, Germany the daughter of Victor and Kaethe (Gohla) Paluch. She attended a secretarial school in Germany and worked as a legal aid.**

**Annerose married Benjamin E. White on December 6, 1958, in Berlin, Germany.**

**She worked as an Administrative Assistant at Universal Houdaille in Frankenmuth and later retired as an Engineering Assistant from Alma Products in 2002 after 16 years of service.**

**Annerose was a faithful and devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church in Alma, where she served as a Deacon. She was also a member of the PEO Chapter DE in Alma. Annerose volunteered in her community with the Hospital Auxiliary and as a Reading Buddy at Hillcrest Elementary School. She enjoyed swimming, gardening, reading, and playing cards, especially Bridge, Hearts, and Euchre. She cherished the memories shared with family and friends as a world traveler and summers on Lake Charlevoix.**

**Annerose is survived by her husband of 66 years Benjamin White; her children Cynthia (James) Webb, Diane (Matthew Shaw) White-Shaw, Glenn (Rossana) White; grandchildren Claire (Arryn Panagos) Panagos-Webb Esq., Catherine (Clay DuVal) Webb, Alex (Dylan Mander) Shaw, Ian Shaw, Tyler (Dr. Jill) White, Connor White; great-grandchildren Zoe and Liam White, with one more on the way; and her sister Almuth Scheible.**

**She was preceded in death by her parents Victor Paluch, Kaethe and Kurt Baessler; a sister Astrid Blasdel; and maternal grandparents Josef and Klara Gohla.**

**A Celebration of Annerose's Life will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 11 am at the First Presbyterian Church 495 Charles Ave. Alma, MI 48801. Visitation will be held from 10 am until the time of services at the church. Interment will be held at a later date in the First Presbyterian Church, Pennington Memorial Garden. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to Alma College Performing Arts or the First Presbyterian Church.**