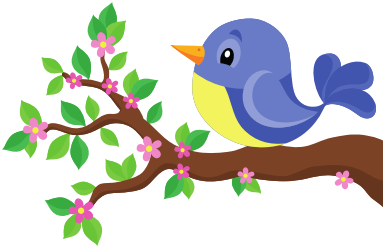


First Presbyterian Church of Alma

A Note from Rev. Katrina

May
2024



During Lent I lead evenings with art and spirituality. Each week we did a different kind of art to connect with God. One of those nights we had the opportunity to make candles. People talked about how the church used to make candles! People once brought their used candle wax and made it! If I looked somewhere in the church, I was told, I'd find candle making materials. It made me smile, because the materials we were using had come from a closet in the church basement. We were reusing something that had sat for many years in the closet, waiting to be used.

I also used the same candle making materials in Chapel one night at the college. We led a worship service about light and students had an opportunity to make candles to take home (because we all know college students can't light candles in their dorms!). During and after that service, I had students tell me that making candles had been their favorite service all year.

Sometimes I think we all fall into the flashy program model of ministry: buy a curriculum, hold large events, invite the world! There was a time and place that worked. And maybe it still does in some places. But I have often found the most value out of offering a space where people can talk about their faith, specific to a topic they are interested in, maybe something to do with their hands (crafting, drawing, writing), and a place for conversation. These have been the most rich faith moments. What I valued even more so, was that everything that was used (except the wicks) was found in a closet, reused. Even the wax was from old candles. And, you may not have realized it, but you helped facilitate that. You provided the resources for that worship service to happen.

Throughout the year I've been asking the church to re-envision what church looks like, taking inventory of our gifts and resources and "upcycling" our faith, or doing it in a different way. This is a simple, yet important way - taking resources we already have and connecting with new people. Right now the college is in Spring Term, which happens throughout May and is a concentrated area of focus. But we have some time to think about how we might connect with the college when it starts up again in August. We can always make those connections, but I think it is especially important as students enter college, because their first impression of the community is important. Do you have a talent or hobby you'd be willing to share? For example, do you enjoy baking or knitting or welding, and want to connect with students to teach them for fun? Please let me know, and we're hoping to create a way in which students can learn a new trade and connect with the church. It's more than upcycling things, it's connecting with people.

I hope we can continue to find ways to connect with the community using our gifts, because we have been given so many.

495 Charles Ave.
Alma, MI 48801
www.firstpres.net



**Deacons for
Fellowship &
Congregational Life
annual Ice Cream
Social Sunday May
19th!**



Session Notes

Session met on April 15th.

The Parish Deacons needs two more people, and there was discussion of the roles of deacons and how we might lessen their responsibilities. Approved reduced fee for non-profit using fellowship hall space for event, also approved liquor license for that event with stipulations.

The next meeting of session will be May 20th at 6:30pm.



5-2 Marsha Turner
5-3 Kate Setterlund
5-4 Peggy Ronk
5-7 Jean Fahey
5-7 Rob Pekich-Bundy
5-11 Eli Hall
5-12 David Justin
5-13 Carolyn Near
5-14 Jo Garey
5-18 Ellie Freed
5-20 Jordan Hodges
5-21 Bill Hurley
5-21 Sylvia Kinoshita
5-22 Les Rosan
5-24 Mary Hurley
5-24 Ralph Grossbauer



5-11 Bryan and Susan Dinwoody

5-24 Nick and Jeri Piccolo

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30am-1:30pm

Closed Friday - Sunday

If you would like to get in contact with Matthew, please call or send an email. If you leave a note on his desk or in his mailbox, please sign it so we know who it is from!



MAY SPECIAL OFFERING

The special offering for May is for the Pentecost Special Offering through the PCUSA! A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Please consider giving to this fund!



Volunteers Needed:

The Highland Festival is moving back onto the Alma College campus which means we can, once again, do a parking fundraiser! We need one or two people at both front entry drives from 7:00 am until noon. We'll have a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex or you could call Matthew in the church office to volunteer. We'll have half hour time slots but feel free to sign up for longer! The money raised will go to our food programs.

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



DIVERSITY RESOURCES

The diversity library is expanding to digital resources! Look here in the newsletter each month for a new topic and resources.

May is Mental Health Awareness month.

According to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), 1 in 5 adults live with a mental health condition.

For more information on NAMI and Mental Health month, you can go here:

<https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month/>






Child Advocacy holds trainings:
<https://childadvocacy.net/events/>

Gratiot Integrated Health Network holds training and has resources:

<https://www.gihn-mi.org/>

May



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL SHOWERS Bring MAY FLOWERS			6:30pm 1 Choir Practice	5:30pm 2 Community Café	3	4
5 	9:30-noon 6 Linus Ladies 6:30pm Pine River Arts	1:30pm 7 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	8 10am Building and Grounds 6:30pm Choir Practice	5:30pm 9 Community Café	10	Graveside 11 Service Nan Greening 11am Ridgelawn Cemetery
12 	9:30-noon 13 Linus Ladies	1:30pm 14 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group 5:30pm Child Advocacy	5pm 15 Spiritual Growth 6:30pm Choir Practice	5:30pm 16 Community Café	17	18
19  Pentecost Matthew 25 in Fellowship Hall	9:30-noon 20 Linus Ladies 6:30pm Session Meeting	1:30pm 21 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	6:30pm 22 Choir Practice 4:30 Outreach	23 5:30pm Community Café	24	25 Highland Festival
26 Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10:30am	 Office Closed	1:30pm 28 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	29	5:30pm 30 Community Café	31	



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

May 5th Carol Rosan & Sarah Horn
May 12th Tincy Goggin & Darcy Hodges
May 19th Ice Cream Social
May 26th Sue Dinwoody & Cindy Austin
All of June Session
All of July Deacons for Parish Care
All of August Deacons for Fellowship

