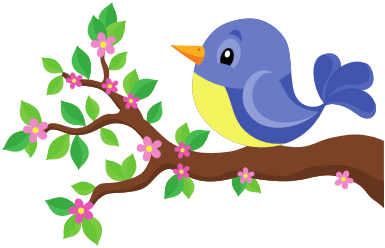


# First Presbyterian Church of Alma

## A Note from Rev. Katrina

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May  
2025



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

**Deacons for  
Fellowship &  
Congregational Life  
annual Ice Cream  
Social Sunday  
May 18**

Last month I started a worm farm, also known as vermicomposting. Essentially, little worms live in a bin and I feed them food scraps, and they create dirt. Or, that's what is supposed to happen. My dad gave me his worm bin (also known as the "Worm Condo") and I bought some red wiggler worms and wished them the best of luck.

Then the worms died. I'll spare you the details, but I learned that worms are delicate creatures that need an environment that is not too wet, and not too dry, not too acidic, and not too hot. It gave me a new appreciation for the beautiful balance of our ecosystem, and how God delicately keeps us all going. After dumping the worms into my garden, I found myself raking up leaves from my driveway, grateful for spring. Under those leaves, on top of the concrete, were thriving worms. Maybe the ecosystem isn't quite so delicate and I just shouldn't be in charge of worms.

As the seasons change I always become more aware of creation, flowers blooming or leaves changing. It reminds me that the world is bigger than my small corner, and that God loves not only me, but those wiggly worms, and the groundhogs (pictured in the left lower corner). God loves us all, and cares for us in this complex world.



# Highland Festival



**Kirkin' o' the Tartan will be  
Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am  
in the Alma College Chapel.**

Golf cart shuttles will be available  
from the church parking lot to the  
Chapel. If you are interested in helping  
with any set up for the service please  
contact Rev. Katrina



**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**

**You are invited! Please join us for  
Nick and Jeri Piccolo's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary Celebration!  
Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at First  
Presbyterian Church.**

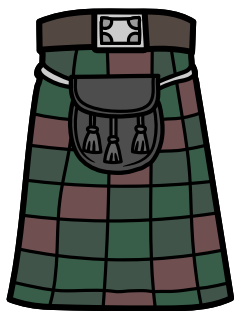
**RSVP or send memories to  
[piccoloanniversary@gmail.com](mailto:piccoloanniversary@gmail.com)**



# MAY SPECIAL OFFERING

The special offering for May is to purchase Glory to God hymnals. We originally purchased just enough for the congregation, but often find ourselves short a few hymnals! We'd like to order more, and they are approximately \$20 each.

Please consider giving to this fund!



## **Volunteers Needed:**

The Highland Festival parking fundraiser is coming fast! MDOT mandates the location of the barricade at Charles and Superior, so we will block off the east entrance to the parking lot and will only staff the west entrance. We're asking for volunteers to sign up for an hour (or more if you can!) any time between 8:00 and noon. There is a sign-up grid on the white board in the narthex, or you can call Matthew in the church office (M-Th, 8:30 - 1:00) and he'll do it for you. We're hoping the Charles Avenue paving doesn't hurt us too badly because all funds raised will go to Community Cafe and Food Pantry.



## **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



# Introducing...



**You're probably wondering why we're introducing a long-time member and very familiar face in this newsletter. What you may not know about Carlene Lyon is that she is our first employed Community Café Operations Director. Between unusual operations during COVID and Roger Allman's retirement, we found that Café needed someone dedicated to the program up to 20 hours a week. Session realized that meant hiring someone with cooking, operations, marketing and supervision experience. After careful thought, Carlene agreed to try the position for 6 months. That was 9 months ago and she's agreed to stay with the program. With her dedication and direction, all the stock was inspected and stored or discarded, new shelves were erected in the storeroom and food was purchased with a \$5,000 grant from the Gratiot Community Foundation, freezers were cleaned and organized, menus were created and volunteers were recruited. Funding cuts to local food programs are anticipated in the near future and Carlene is already planning for ways to not only keep Community Café operating but thriving. In her spare time, she does her usual tasks of being wife, Mom and Grandma, being a domestic goddess and cooking, freezing and canning food for her home use. Recently, one of our familiar café diners approached her and said, "I love you, Carlene"...a sentiment we all share for her agreeing to take on this position!**



## **"ICE CREAM TIME!**

**May is here, and that means it the time in the traditional liturgical calendar for: the consumption of frozen dessert. Join the Deacons for Congregational Life after church on May 18 for the annual Ice Cream Social, with ice cream\*, brownies, sprinkles manufactured in 1995\*\*, and who knows what other delectables we'll find. See you there!**

**\*We will have a sugar-free option too!**

**\*\* Sarah actually replaced the sprinkles, but if you really want the vintage ones, they might still be in the cupboard somewhere!"**





**Session**  
**Class through 2026**  
**Nancy Gallagher**  
**Sue Deel**  
**Michael Selmon**

**Class through 2025**  
**Sue Malone**  
**Joyce Elsea**

**Deacons for Fellowship and Congregational Life**

**Class through 2026**  
**Carlene Lyon**  
**Tincy Goggin**  
**Mona Hirson**

**Class through 2025**  
**Sarah Horn**  
**Nick Piccolo**

**Deacons for Parish Care**

**Class through 2026**  
**Susan Dinwoody**  
**Darcy Hodges**

**Class through 2025**  
**Sheryle Dixon**  
**Kathy Smith**

## **Coffee Hour**

**May 4th Carol Rosan & Sarah Horn**  
**May 11th Sue Malone & Darcy Hodges**  
**May 18th Ice Cream Social -DFCL**  
**May 25th Carlen Lyon & Mary Hurley**  
**All of June Session**  
**All of July Deacons for Parish Care**  
**All of August Deacons for Fellowship**



# May



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>APRIL SHOWERS</b> <b>Bring</b> <b>MAY FLOWERS</b>				1 10:30am Outreach 5:30pm Community Café	2	3 1-3 Session Elder Training
4	9:30-noon 5 Linus Ladies  6:30pm Pine River Arts	1:30pm 6 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	7 6:30pm Choir Practice	8 5:30pm Community Café	10	9
11 	9:30-noon 12 Linus Ladies  5pm Spiritual Growth	1:30pm 13 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group 5:30pm Child Advocacy	14 5pm Spiritual Growth 6:30pm Choir Practice	15 5:30pm Community Café	16	17
18 	9:30-noon 19 Linus Ladies 6:30pm Session Meeting	1:30pm 20 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	21 6:30pm Choir Practice 4:30 Outreach	22 5:30pm Community Café	23	24 Highland Festival
25 Kirkin' o' the Tartan 9:30am in the Chapel	26 Office Closed	1:30pm 27 Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	28	29 5:30pm Community Café	30	31 