

# First Presbyterian Church of Alma

## A Note from Rev. Katrina

## September 2024



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



Every September my friend, Dr. Marcus Hong, who also teaches at Louisville Seminary (and is an Alma grad - go Scots!) creates a list of prompts that include a Psalm for every day of the month. He calls it "Psalmtember" and invites anyone who is interested to join him in following along. Each day you are invited to draw, color, write, or meditate on the Psalm or word listed below. I've done this for a few years now and have found this to be a great spiritual practice. You might remember that I put it in the newsletter last year, and thought I would do it again.

You don't have to be an artist, and your pictures/poems/art do not need to be perfect. They are meant for a meditation to bring you closer to God. I hope you'll consider participating, and let me know if you do! I'd love to hear your feedback.



## PSALMTEMBER 2024

Sep 1	Ps 61	CRY	Sep 16	Ps 76	ROUSED
Sep 2	Ps 62	TOTTERING	Sep 17	Ps 77	WHIRLWIND
Sep 3	Ps 63	THIRST	Sep 18	Ps 78	ANCESTORS
Sep 4	Ps 64	ARROW	Sep 19	Ps 79	POUR
Sep 5	Ps 65	WAVES	Sep 20	Ps 80	BRANCHES
Sep 6	Ps 66	SPACIOUS	Sep 21	Ps 81	MOON
Sep 7	Ps 67	SHINE	Sep 22	Ps 82	SHAKEN
Sep 8	Ps 68	FLOCK	Sep 23	Ps 83	CHAFF
Sep 9	Ps 69	SINKING	Sep 24	Ps 84	NEST
Sep 10	Ps 70	HASTE	Sep 25	Ps 85	KISS
Sep 11	Ps 71	WOMB	Sep 26	Ps 86	HEART
Sep 12	Ps 72	SUN	Sep 27	Ps 87	DANCERS
Sep 13	Ps 73	NECKLACE	Sep 28	Ps 88	DEEP
Sep 14	Ps 74	BROKE	Sep 29	Ps 89	ANOINTED
Sep 15	Ps 75	FOAMING	Sep 30	Ps 90	DREAM

# Session Notes

Session met on August 19th, 2024.

Session approved the Eagle Scout project of Bennet Radley. Bennet will be tearing down the shelving behind the stage in fellowship hall, and rebuilding some of it in the walk-in where the freezers are located. We're excited for this project!

Session spent the majority of time discussing the future of the church, asking "what do we need right now, and what does the community need?" Obviously more conversation will happen, including the congregation.

The next meeting of session will be September 16th at 6:30pm.

## SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING

The special offering for September is the Choir. Any money given to this fund helps pay for our choir director and any new music purchased.

Please consider giving to this fund!



9-8 Joanne Allman

9-11 Molly Remsberg

9-15 Charles Hicks

9-25 Ben White

9-30 Tamanda Store



9-4 Roger & Joanne Allman

9-14 Rich Frutiger & Sara Wassenaar

9-15 Jimm & Carlene Lyon

9-15 Les & Carol Rosan

9-29 Ray & Kathy Simcox

Please Note:

If you do not see your Birthday or Anniversary Listed on your Month it is because you did not update your information for the Church Directory at the beginning of the year and we do not have the information on file.

# Coffee Hour



## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS - 2024 (September to December)

### SEPTEMBER

01 Sue Malone, Joyce Elsea Sue Deel  
08 Welcome Back Luncheon DFCL  
15 Susan & Bryan Dinwoody, Deb & Mark Jewell  
22 Tim & Anne Lambrecht, Denise & Chris Murray  
29 Sue Malone, Mary Hurley

### OCTOBER

06 Les & Carol Rosan, Mona Hirson  
13 Nick & Jeri Piccolo  
20 Topher & Tincy Goggin  
27 Michael Selmon & Sarah Horn, Sheryle Dixon

### NOVEMBER

03 Joanne & Roger Allman, Doug & Angie Ballard  
10 Carlene & Jimm Lyon  
17 Jeff & Joyce Elsea  
24 Julie Frick

### DECEMBER

01 Sue & Bobby Deel, Darcy Hodge  
08 Art of Christmas DFCL  
15 Chuck and Julie Fortino Jean Kimball  
22 Sue & Maggie Malone, Sue Beckett  
24 Christmas Eve Deacons for Parish Care  
29 Ron & Marsha Turner, Kathy Smith





# SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 6:30pm Pine River Arts Office Closed	3 1:30pm Food Pantry  6:30 Hooks and Needles	4	5 5:30pm Community Café	6	7
8 11:30 Welcome Back Luncheon Fellowship Hall	9 5pm Spiritual Growth	10 Rev. Katrina out of office 1:30pm Food Pantry  6:30 Hooks and Needles	11	12 5:30pm Community Café	13	14
15  Matthew 25 Worship	16  6:30 Session	17 Presbytery 1:30pm Food Pantry 4:30 Outreach 6:30 Hooks and Needles	18	19 5:30pm Community Café	20	21 FALL
22	23	24 1:30pm Food Pantry  6:30 Hooks and Needles	25	26 5:30pm Community Café	27	28 Alma College Homecoming
29	30					

Nearer my God to Thee is a 160 year old hymn describing the joy of climbing Jacob's Ladder, a pathway stretching from earth to heaven that Jacob saw in a dream. It's never been one of my favorite hymns, in fact it's considered a pretty mournful song and is believed to be the song the Titanic musicians played as the ship went down. I'm not sure that would have given me comfort—hard to see a heavenly ladder arising from a sinking ship when you're feeling terrified. But the foundation of faith that the song is based on gave me a lot of comfort this summer because you, my church family, spent a lot of time thinking about me, praying for me, visiting me, sending me flowers and showering me with cheery cards. I spent a total of 35 days as an inpatient and part of that time I wasn't able to do much of anything on my own and wasn't sure I would leave the hospital alive. When it became clear that I was going to survive, I spent my time listening to music from past glory days and shedding tears for the loss of my right hand—my bow hand. Somewhere I have a little sign that says music is not what I do, it's who I am. Facing the possibility of never playing again was heart-rending. I have been close to death before, my own possible demise in the past as well as the loss of those I loved, and music sustained me through those times. My biological family is quite small but supportive though geographically distant. My music family is huge and making music with them, including musicians here, is how I get through the stresses of life. I started playing long slow scales and hoping I wouldn't drop my bow. I prayed that I would recover enough to at least play chamber music with friends and when that happened I cried tears of joy. This month I performed in the Soo Opera Orchestra, an annual event for me, and I'm back to my quartet and regular orchestras and playing here at church. God has given me back the joy of my life and you all helped me find it. Thank you.

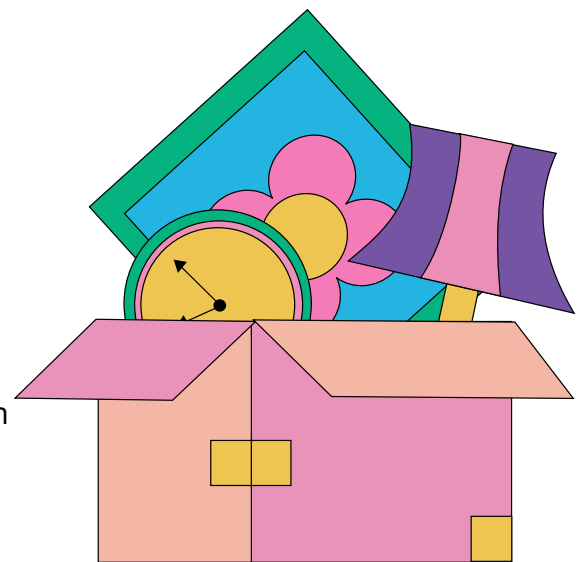
Jan Caputo

Thank  
you! :)

### Rummage Sale Thanks!

We held a successful rummage sale at the end of July and cleared a little over \$2400 which will be used to support the programming of the church. And thanks to all who donated and shopped! I would like to thank the following individuals without whose help this event would not be possible: Ann Baker, Sally Geuder, Joyce Elsea, Jeff Elsea, Jan Davis, Sue Deel, Bobby Deel, Carol Rosan, Les Rosan, Jeri Piccolo, Nick Piccolo, Carlene Lyon, Jimm Lyon, Katrina Pekich-Bundy, Dave Pitts and Michael Selmon I would also like to thank Carol Rosan for putting the sale on the local garage sale site and Sue Malone for advertising the event on the church's sign.

Sarah Horn





**Join us!**

**Be sure to come to coffee hour on September 1st as we celebrate Roger Allman's "retirement" as Director of Community Café! Roger has overseen Café for decades and asked to step down last January. It's taken us this long to find a person able to take Community Café into the future and we are very pleased to announce Carlene Lyon as its new Director! We celebrated with the Community Café patrons on August 29th and now want to extend the recognition to our church community during September 1st coffee hour.**

## **HOOKS AND NEEDLES!**

**Want to learn to knit or crochet?  
Or looking for an hour out of your schedule  
to devote to creating and chatting?**



**Join us as we relax with crafty Alma College students**

**Begins August 27, 2024**

**Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Alma College basement (elevator available)**



**Welcoming beginners to advanced crafters.  
Come every week or as your schedule allows.**

**Questions? Email: [pekich-bundyk@alma.edu](mailto:pekich-bundyk@alma.edu)**



# Start saving those mittens and hats

We will, again, have a mitten tree along Superior Street in December for ***Come Home to Alma for the Holidays!*** Start setting aside mittens and hats for people of all ages so we can give them out during the festivities.



If you want to learn to knit or crochet, come to Hooks and Needles! If you want company while you create, come to Hooks and Needles!