

First Presbyterian Church

Experiencing the Joy of God's Love in Action!

April 2020



**Happening
This Month**

**Sunday Traditional
Worship – 10:00 a.m.
on Facebook Live**

**Saturday Praise
Worship – 5:30 p.m.
on Facebook Live**

Monday – April 6
7:00 p.m. “The Walk”
Lenten Bible Study Online

Tuesday – April 7
6:00 p.m.
Family Night Online

Thursday – April 9
7:00 p.m. Maundy
Thursday Worship on
Facebook Live

Friday – April 10
7:00 p.m. Good Friday
Worship on Facebook Live

Saturday – April 11
5:30 p.m. Easter Saturday
Worship on Facebook Live

Sunday – April 12
10:00 a.m. Easter
Celebration Worship
on Facebook Live

Friday – April 17
9:00 a.m.
Session Reports Due

Friday – April 24
9:00 a.m.
First Press Deadline

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year is already like no other. As we began 2020, just 90 days ago, no one would have expected the changes we have experienced as a country and world. How could a virus outbreak across the globe affect us? Doesn't that only happen in crazy sci-fi novels? And yet we are living it today.

In what feels like only a couple of weeks we have moved into a place where we are much more isolated from each other. We are trying everything we can to keep each other as healthy as possible while caring for one another and our community. How are we called to be the body of Christ in such an age as this?

We have made some adjustments and many of us have either been put on lock-down or are quarantining in our homes to help with the health of ourselves and others. We are created to be in relationship and that is still true even in this pandemic world.

The world feels so different, but we are still believers in our Almighty God who sent Jesus the Christ to redeem the world and the Holy Spirit to help us discern God's path for our lives. Over the past couple weeks, we have come to the belief that the least of these still needs to be fed and receive the glass of cold water. Care still needs to be delivered to sustain hearts, minds, and souls for God's glory.

We do this by continuing our regular Saturday Meal which is now a Meal to Go program outside the glass doors at 4:30 p.m. and providing groceries through the food cart for those who need them. NA (Narcotics Anonymous) continues to meet Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the dining room, at the appropriate distance of course.

We have also partnered with the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham to provide an Emergency Food Pantry for Families. First Birmingham and others have been providing bags and totes of Food and we have been distributing it during the week. We do this by passing the word through our channels with the families of NA, Centro Multicultural La Familia and the Southwest Detroit Immigration and Refugee Center's Free Law Clinic that meets at our church. We have currently passed out about 20-25 bags this week to families in need and 30-40 bags of food were given out the previous week.

God is so good to us. Tom Duffield has been an amazing force in working with Rev. Peerbolte, Associate Pastor at First Birmingham to provide food for those who need it most. If parents come, they may also select books for their children to read as well. Currently, the Emergency Food Pantry pickup is on Wednesdays and we receive food throughout the week. Appointment times for drop off of food can be made. Please check with Tom or me if you have questions.

Even as we serve through mission and service (at a 6-foot distance of course) we also never have forgotten to worship and praise God for all the provisions we have received during this great time of uncertainty. I have been reflecting a lot about how we care for one another during a time we must keep some physical distance. We are doing that by gathering through technology on Saturdays and Sundays for Worship on Facebook Live and our church website (www.fpcpontiac.com). We do this through Zoom Video Conference Meetings for Session and Deacons as well as Bible Study and a Weekly Family Night.
(Continued on page 3)



Lord, Hear Our Prayer

With Our People

Please keep the following
in your prayers:

Lois Donaldson, Pat Donaldson, Nancy Euler, William Fuqua, Heather Halls, Mike Hood, James & Joelle Jarrait, Steve Keith, Rosemarie McColl, Jane Page, Ben & Pat Pawley, Caitlin Smith, Derek Spry, and Justina Warren.

Our military: Lizz Huntoon, Dan Miller and Benjamin



04-05 Rev. Laura Kelsey

04-12 Rev. Laura Kelsey

04-19 Rev. Laura Kelsey

04-26 Tom Duffield

April Bible Readings

- 04-05 *Palm Sunday – Psalms:* Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2;5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
- 04-06 *Monday –* Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
- 04-07 *Tuesday –* Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
- 04-08 *Wednesday –* Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
- 04-09 *Maundy Thursday –* Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- 04-10 *Good Friday –* Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- 04-12 *Easter –* Acts 10:34-43; Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
Easter Evening – Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49
- 04-19 Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
- 04-26 Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35



PW Activities Cancelled

All Presbyterian Women and Renaissance Circle events are cancelled until further notice due to the order by Gov. Whitmer to stay at home. We will notify folks when we are able to resume some of our previously scheduled events and activities.



Easter Lilies

Due to the temporary closing of our local florists, we will be unable to have our usual Easter Lilies. For those of you who have already paid for your orders, Tom and Julie will make sure that you receive refunds. If you would like us to save your funds for flowers at our big Welcome Back to Church Celebrations, please let us know. Like the lilies you will be able to take them home and enjoy and will be seasonally appropriate.



Cheerful Givers

A gift to the Anniversary Fund has been given in memory of Corenna Aldrich by Laura Sartell.

A gift to the Memorial Fund has been given in memory of Corenna Aldrich by Joan Irish.



We do this through sending out the Home Touch which is designed for folks who may be homebound, the church newsletter, the bulletin and continuing to provide inspiration and hope using U.S. mail service, email, and phone calls and texts.

This is a new day for many of us. None of us have received our Pandemic Training prior to this hands-on learning we are experiencing day by day. Still, we believe that this too will pass. Life will return to the building, but our faith, our gifts to serve and care, our ministries with others are not defined by 99 Wayne St. but by the Living God who is faithful still, who walks through disease and fire, through trials and ills to bring healing to our broken world and life back to our weary and dry bones..

In Ezekiel 37, God asked Ezekiel, "Son of Man, can these bones live?" He responded, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Ezekiel was called to prophesy to the people and tell them, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live..."

Today, we are reminded that we worship a God that is a God of healing, renewal, and new life. When this pandemic is done and we are all back together, we plan on having a great celebration with lots of flowers and hopefully a wonderful meal as the Body of Christ. I know that when we get the all clear some will return first and for others it will take a while. We understand that. This is why some of the practices we begin now will continue of at least the next 6 months as we sort through our present and yearn toward our future that is full of blessings, hope and joy. And as we seek after the future we can't quite yet see, may we allow ourselves the time to reflect and live into our present. Many you find peace, hope, and love while encouraging one another in the name and by the power of Jesus Christ

Prayers for Good Health and Abundant Blessings,



Rev. Laura C. Kelsey

Session Actions for February 2020

The following motions were approved at the 02-18-2020 Session meeting:

- ◆ The motion to amend Pastor Laura's 2020 Approved Terms of Call to increase the Housing from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and decrease Salary from \$38,050 to \$33,050 and adjust all other applicable items as necessary due to this amendment effective with the next payday, was approved.
- ◆ The motion made to use the Anniversary Offering for the repair of the building towers was approved.
- ◆ The motion to use the 3rd floor room in the CE building as a music recording studio was approved.
- ◆ The motion for TurnerOund Ministries to use the dining room for a baby shower on April 5 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. was approved. (Cancelled)
- ◆ The motion made for John "Zack" Cantor to provide adult music lessons and music practice in the 3rd floor CE room starting 04/01/2020 was approved for a 90 day trial.



Temporary Closure

Due to the current circumstances, and for the safety of our staff, the church office will be closed until further notice. Pastor Laura is available by phone and the church email is being checked regularly. Currently, the church phone will forward to Pastor Laura's cell after six rings.



Steve Todd
Fred Walsh
Dan Walsh
David Irwin
Mark Smith
Aaron Kelsey
Perry Fischer
Lois Donaldson
Julie Ogg
Logan Ogg
William Fuqua
Joseph Smith
Laura Sartell

If you would like to have your name on this birthday list, please call the church office, (248) 335-6866.

Saturdays 5:30 p.m. – April 2020

Worship Series – The Walk

April 4, 2020 – Week of Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 23:26-49

Message: The Five Practices of the Cross

April 11, 2020 – Week of Easter

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 37:1-14;
Romans 6:3-11

Message: Looking Towards Resurrection,
Claiming New Life in Christ

Catching Up with the Spirit

April 18, 2020 – Week 1: What God Has Done

Scripture: Acts 1:3-11, 2:1-36, 3:11-26

Message:

What God Has Done through Peter's Eyes

April 25, 2020 – Week 2: What God Does

Scripture: Acts 8:4-8, 14-17; 8:26-40

Message: God's Movement through Apostles,
Coverts and Open Hearts

May 2, 2020 – Week 3: Discernment and Change

Scripture: Acts 6:1-6, 11:1-18

Message: When God Changes Your Direction

May 9, 2020 – Week 4: Opposition

Scripture: Acts 1:15-20, 5:17-42

Message: When Opposition Finds You

May 16, 2020 – Week 5: Saints Around the Edge

Scripture:

Acts 1:12-14, 2:43-47, 6:8-15, 7:54-60, 9:36-43

Message: The Saintly Walk

May 23, 2020 – Week 6: This Changes Everything

Scripture: Acts 14:8-20, 16:11-40

Message: Confusion and Hostility

***All Worship Services are being
broadcast on Facebook Live! Please
tune in at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays
and at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays***

***Come as you are! Pajamas, slippers,
coffee mugs and pets welcome!***

Sundays 10:00 a.m. – April 2020

Worship Series – The Walk

April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1

Message: Prayer and Presence

April 9, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a; John 13:21-32

Message: The Heavy Air in the Upper Room
With Holy Communion (Please ready your bread
and cup (juice or wine) at your home for
communion via Facebook Live)

April 10, 2020 – Good Friday – 7:00 p.m.

Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, John 18:1-19:42

Message: "Finished"

April 12, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Easter Celebration Worship

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Message: It's Easter! Seeing Hope through Grief

Catching Up with the Spirit

April 19, 2020 – First Sunday after Easter

Scripture: Acts 1:3-11, 13:13-43, 17:16-34

Message:

What God Has Done through Peter's Eyes

April 26, 2020 – Second Sunday after Easter

Scripture: Acts 9:1-20, 10:1-48

Message: Conversion on the Road

May 3, 2020 – Third Sunday after Easter

Scripture: Acts 15:1-21, 21:1-6

Message: Bending to God's Will

May 10, 2020 – Fourth Sunday after Easter

Scripture: Acts 8:9-13, 18-24; 13:4-12; 25:1-12

Message: Bending to God's Will

May 17, 2020 – Fifth Sunday after Easter

Scripture:

Acts 11:19-26, 12:1-17, 13:1-3; 18:1-4, 24-28

Message: The Amazing Miraculous Work of God

May 24, 2020 – Sixth Sunday after Easter

Scripture: Uproar and Resistance

Message: Acts 17:1-9, 19:11-41



April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Outside Groups Online Deadlines			1 11:30 NA Emergency Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Prayze Band	2 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Property Management Online	3 11:30 NA	4 4:30 p.m. Food to Go 5:30 p.m. Worship Online
5 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Online	6 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study Online	7 11:30 NA 6:00 p.m. Family Night Online	8 11:30 NA Emergency Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Prayze Band	9 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service Online	10 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service Online	11 4:30 p.m. Food to Go 5:30 p.m. Worship Online
12 EASTER 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Online	13 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Book of Acts Bible Study Online	14 11:30 NA 6:00 p.m. Evangelism (Phone) 7:00 p.m. Finance	15 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Prayze Band	16 11:30 NA	17 9:00 a.m. Session Report Deadline 11:30 NA	18 4:30 p.m. Food to Go 5:30 p.m. Worship Online
19 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Online	20 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Book of Acts Bible Study Online	21 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Session Online	22 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Prayze Band	23 11:30 NA	24 9:00 a.m. First Press Deadline 11:30 NA	25 4:30 p.m. Food to Go 5:30 p.m. Worship Online
26 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Online	27 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Book of Acts Bible Study Online	28 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Deacons Online	29 11:30 NA 7:00 p.m. Prayze Band	30 11:30 NA		



First Presbyterian Church
99 Wayne Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
Address Correction Requested

Our Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Laura Kelsey
Director of Music/Organist..... Ava Janus
Praise Worship Music Leader.....Steve Keith
Administrative Assistant.....Julie Smith

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a Christian fellowship, firmly grounded in the Word, ministering to the whole person, and serving the community by sharing the good news of the Gospel in worship, word and deed.

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