

# The Prairie Pres

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SCHOOLCRAFT, MI

Vol. 19 Issue 12

December 2015

office@fpcos.org

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#### **CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Harriett Swartz

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Alyson Cameron

#### **PARISH NURSES**

Sherrie Anderson, Nikki Hulinek

#### **TREASURER**

Peg Crissman

#### **CUSTODIAN**

Marion Compton

## November Session Notes

A regular session meeting was called to order by Moderator Pastor Brooks, November 19, 2015 at 7:15 PM. Elders present were: Kim Maxam, Barbara Barnett, Theo deBoer, Sue Brooks and Jackie Skinner. Teresa Maxam was excused. Church Treasurer, Peggy Crissman was a guest. A quorum was present and the agenda was approved.

As usual, the question "How do we see God working in our Congregation?" was the first topic of discussion. Responses included: 1. This was a busy week for our church with a Memorial Service, Sunday services and hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service. We are thankful that all the pieces came together when needed. 2. After speaking with Pastor Bruce, Randy Sizelove felt a calming peace.

Sue requested a correction to the wording of her motion regarding the Sewer Project. The wording was corrected and the minutes of October 21<sup>st</sup> were approved as corrected.

Deacons submitted a written report. They are working on finalizing assignments for Thanksgiving coffee hour and assignments were listed in their report. Hand written Thank You notes were received from Ally and Andrew for their Target gift card. Discussed possible "game night" in February. Certain folks are bringing snacks for everyone's enjoyment for the Sunday, November 22, Thanksgiving Service.

Peggy Crissman attended the meeting to discuss the Treasurer's Report. She reported that the New Covenant Fund went down, and that Clyde Springer was going to look into the decline and who our representative is. Peggy feels we need to contact the representative for further information. Building and

Maintenance is way over budget, probably due to purchasing a new refrigerator and stove, air conditioner, and dehumidifiers. Cost of inspections have increased, as well as Pest Control costs, all of which add to being over budget. A motion to let the Rose Pest Control contract expire at the end of the contract term carried. Peggy will check on Workers Comp as it seems to be a bit out of line. Raises for staff were considered and voted upon. Sue continues to work on the 2016 budget.

The Pre-School contract will be reviewed in March.

Christian Education Report was presented by Barbara Barnett. Nikki Hulinek and Jill Strake are in charge of the Christmas children's program which will take place on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mission Report was given by Kim Maxam who recommended that we put the Itapagipe Church mission project on hold until she has an opportunity to investigate the current status. A motion to support the "Child Safety of America Program", supported by the local Police Department was passed. The sum of \$125.00 will be donated from our church. Donations for Cedar Park Senior Housing Christmas gift certificates were received from The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Donation cards will be on the little Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary as usual.

The Worship Committee report was given by Barbara Barnett. She reported that on November 1, 2015, Communion was served to 64 people in our congregation. The Committee has been very busy planning many events. The schedule includes: Nov. 19, Decorating the sanctuary for Thanksgiving; Nov. 21,

Memorial Service for Dixine Sizelove; Nov. 22, Stewardship Commitment and Appreciation Sunday; Nov. 22, Hosting the Evening Community Thanksgiving worship service; Nov. 28, 9:00 am Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary (help needed). Nov. 29, First Sunday of Advent and joy offering insert; Dec. 6, Second Sunday of Advent we will welcome Candice Shearer into membership and the Children's Nativity will be set up; Dec. 13, 3:00pm Third Sunday of Advent, we will have a Christmas Carol Sing in the church; Dec. 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent, joy offering insert, Children's Christmas Program during worship; Dec. 24, Christmas Eve service and lighting of the Luminaria downtown; Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

Building and Grounds – Theo deBoer shared that he had been shown a pellet hole on the left side, yellow square, in the front stained glass window. Theo will look into getting it repaired.

Stewardship – No further information available.

Pastor's report: Pastor Bruce will be attending a "Mental Health Awareness Workshop" on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Library. Pastor Brooks serves on the board. A discussion on ordering Poinsettia's for the sanctuary resulted in a motion to offer them for the same price as last year, \$7.95 each. Another motion followed, to order poinsettia's in the traditional red color. The motion carried. By motion the session agreed to purchase 4 cases of #6 Luminary candles. Pastor Bruce requested vacation for January 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was granted. Rev. Robert Rassmussen will fill the pulpit on that Sunday.

After further discussion on the Sewer Project, a motion to reaffirm last month's motion to support the project was made and it carried.

Next meeting will be December 16, 7:00 PM at Westminster Hall.

Jackie Skinner, Clerk

## "Who Comes to the Manger ... With You?"

Remember last year's ~~Sunday School~~ ALL CHURCH FAMILY Christmas program? You know, it was the one in which the participants in the Christmas story WERE NOT JUST OUR CHILDREN, but included anyone and everyone in the congregation who was willing to step into the role of Mary, or Joseph, or one of the many animals in the stable, or a shepherd, or an angel, or a wise person! Do you remember thinking about which role most fit you? Do you remember seeing how well the roles others chose to play, fit them?

Do you remember who came to the manger...with you!

This Christmas season, we will again have that opportunity, not only to watch the Christmas story ...but to be in it! For in truth, that is why Jesus Christ was born; to tell us that we each and all are part of his story, part of God's wonderful story.

*So, on Sunday, December 20 at our 10:00 service of worship...*

COME TO THE MANGER ....AND SEE WHO COMES WITH YOU!

COME! COME TO THE MANGER!

Come Joseph's and Mary's. Come, please do not tarry.

We await and we pray for the Savior you carry.

COME! COME TO THE MANGER!

Come angels on high whose bright wings fill the sky.

Whose voices, "Fear Not!" bid the shepherds nearby.

COME! COME TO THE MANGER!

Come donkey, come cow, come pigeon, come sheep.

Though night is upon you, 'tis no time to sleep

COME! COME TO THE MANGER!

Come wise ones, you seeking from distances far.

Come seekers, you near ones, you know who you are.

COME! COME TO THE MANGER!

Come young and come old,

for to you on this day is Christ's birth story told.

COME! COME TO THE MANGER!

Come short and come tall.

Come near for God loves you ...and there's room here for all.

The blessings of Christmas to and through each of you! Bruce Brooks, Pastor

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Children's Sunday School (grades PreK-4th)

Dec 6 The Annunciation

Kim Maxam

Dec 13 The Magi

Nikki Hulinec

Dec 20 **PAGEANT**

Dec 27 Christmas Break

### Youth Sunday School (grades 5th-12th)

Jill Strake

Dec 6

Dec 13

Dec 20 **PAGEANT**

Dec 27 Christmas Break

# DECEMBER 2015

**SUNDAYS ↓**

**THE REST OF THE WEEK ↓**



**SUN DEC 6**

Liturgist: Deb Musselman  
 Usher/Greeter: Skip and Jackie Fox  
 Coffee Hour: Jim and Rita Parker  
 Counters: Jackie Skinner and Kim Maxam  
 Communion Team A: Barbara Barnett (P), Sue Brooks,  
 David Krum, Martha Gammill

**TUES DEC 1**

6:00 pm Co-op Preschool Board Meeting  
 \* Chris Desmond, Sophia Musselman

**WEDNES DEC 2**

\* Joe Erdos

**THURS DEC 3**

7:00pm Choir Practice  
 \* Brooke Crissman

**FRI DEC 4**

11:00 Cedar Park Bible Study  
 \* Zachary Bosma  
 6:00-9:00pm Christmas Walk DeVries Law Offices

**SAT DEC 5**

9:00am-3:00pm Christmas Walk Westminster Hall

**MON DEC 7**

4:30pm Girl Scouts  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts  
 \* Harriet Burch

**WEDNES DEC 9**

\* Larry Radke

**THURS DEC 10**

7:00pm Choir Practice

**FRI DEC 11**

\* Sue Chapman, Brian Crissman

**SAT DEC 12**

9:00am Cookie Walk at Kalamazoo County State Bank

**SUN DEC 13 3:00pm CAROL SING**

Liturgist: Dick Rafferty  
 Usher/Greeter: Peg and Bob Crissman  
 Coffee Hour: Linda Bosma and Sherrie Anderson  
 Counters: Sue Brooks and Teresa Maxam

Deacon's Meeting

**MON DEC 14**

7:00pm Boy Scouts  
 \* Adam Hulinec

**TUES DEC 15**

\* Dick Rafferty, Tim Hulinec

**WEDNES DEC 16**

7:00pm Session Meeting  
 \* Henry Hess Cameron

**THURS DEC 17**

7:00pm Choir Practice  
 \* Todd Knudsen, Wyatt Bosma

**FRI DEC 18**

11:00 Cedar Park Bible Study

**SUN DEC 20 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Liturgist: Martha Gammill  
 Usher/Greeter: ??????????????  
 Coffee Hour: ??????????????  
 Counters: Barbara Barnett and Theo DeBoer

**MON DEC 21**

4:30pm Girl Scouts  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts  
 \* Mina DeBoer

**TUES DEC 22**

\* Carol Schuck

**THURS DEC 24**

7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

**SUN DEC 27**

Liturgist: John Bambacht  
 Usher/Greeter: Linda Bosma and Mike McNally  
 Coffee Hour: Dick and Nancy Rafferty  
 Counters: Teresa Maxam and Kim Maxam

FROM Parish Nurse  Sherrie Anderson

## DECEMBER IS SAFE TOYS AND GIFTS MONTH

### Toy Safety

Read all warnings and instructions on toys.

Avoid toys with sharp or rigid points, shafts, spikes, rods, and dangerous edges.

Keep toys intended for older children away from younger children.

Avoid flying toys and projectile-firing toys; these pose a danger to all children, particularly those under five years old.

Be aware of items in playgrounds and play areas that pose potential eye hazards.

Keep BB guns away from kids.

Read our Safe Toy Checklist for more children's eye safety tips Safe toy checklist

Too often, accidents involving children and toys occur and may result in eye injuries. Each year, thousands of children age 14 and younger suffered serious eye injuries, even blindness, from toys.

There are three important ways you can protect your child's eyes from injuries while playing with toys:

Only buy toys meant for their age.

Show them how to use their toys safely.

Keep an eye on them when they play.

### Toy selection guidelines

Before you purchase a toy:

Read all warnings and instructions on the box.

Ask yourself if the toy is right for your child's ability and age.

Avoid purchasing toys with sharp or rigid points, spikes, rods, or dangerous edges.

Check the lenses and frames of children's sunglasses; many can break and cause injuries.

Buy toys that will withstand impact and not break into dangerous shards.

Look for the letters "ASTM." This means the product meets the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off.

Remember that BB guns are NOT toys.

## December 7-13 is National Influenza Vaccination Week:

Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The flu is different from a cold. The flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

Fever\* or feeling feverish/chills

Cough

Sore throat

Runny or stuffy nose

Muscle or body aches

Headaches

Fatigue (tiredness)

Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

*\* It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.*

### Flu Complications

Most people who get influenza will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, but some people will develop complications.

Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus and ear infections are examples of complications from flu. The flu can make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have the flu, and people with chronic congestive heart failure may experience worsening of this condition that is triggered by the flu.

### What are the benefits of flu vaccination?

While how well the flu vaccine works can vary, there are a lot of reasons to get a flu vaccine each year.

Flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick from flu. Protecting yourself from flu also protects the people around you who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness.

Flu vaccination can help protect people who are at greater risk of getting seriously ill from flu, like older adults, people with chronic health conditions and young children (especially infants younger than 6 months old who are too young to get vaccinated).

Flu vaccination also may make your illness milder if you do get sick.

Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of more serious flu outcomes, like hospitalizations.

Since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against influenza virus infection, it is best that people get vaccinated so they are protected before influenza begins spreading in their community.

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Before letting children play with toys: Inspect toys for safe, sturdy construction. Explain how to use the toy. Fix or throw away broken toys. Always keep young children away from toys meant for older children. Supervise your children while playing. Store toys properly after play to avoid risks or falls. Supervise children's craft projects (scissors and glue can be extremely dangerous to a child's eyesight). Have children wear the right eye protection for sports (face shields, helmets, eyeguards).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHRISTMAS WALK

The Christmas Walk is only 4 DAYS away! It's Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9 pm at DeVries Law Office and Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am-3 pm at Westminster Hall. A delicious lunch will be served from 11 am-2 pm. Everyone's participation is needed to have a successful year. Whether you can provide items for the clothing boutique or white elephant sale, donate a raffle prize, bake something yummy, have a craft item you made, or can volunteer as a worker, anything you can do is appreciated.!

## THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH 2015

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four Special Offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). During Advent we remember God's promises to us, we gather together and wait in hope for the coming of the promised Emmanuel, God with us. And God, who has promised, is faithful (Heb. 10:23), so on Christmas Day we celebrate that the promise is kept in the birth of Jesus Christ!

The Presbyterian Church USA provides the opportunity for congregations to join this celebration of God's faithfulness by supporting those in need of help and hope.

The Christmas Joy Offering supports pastors, missionaries, and church workers in special need. These gifts enable the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to support active and retired church workers. This program receives half of the Offering to benefit those who have unexpected needs they cannot meet. The Sundays before dedicating the Christmas Joy Offering you will read their stories and learn how the CJO has made a difference in their lives today.

The second half of the Offering goes to support education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Your gifts through the CJO will allow these schools and colleges to continue the ministries we have carried out for decades, even in an ever-changing, increasingly mobile and high-tech world.

Thank-you, Kim Maxam, Missions Elder



## 2015 POINSETTIAS

The Session invites individuals and families to order poinsettias to grace our sanctuary during our Christmas worship. Price per plant is \$7.95. The plant is traditional red, 6 1/2" tall with gold pot covers. Please return your order with payment to the office by Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Forms available at church office, and sanctuary.

## The Prairie Pres

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**