



# The Soo Chimes

## Pastor's Message

Our weather this year has been a bit strange. Many of our winter days felt more like spring than traditional winter days. Google photos in the last couple weeks has reminded me of how much snow we still usually have on the ground as we move into spring. When spring started this year, the temperatures actually got colder than many of this year's winter days. Despite this slow start, spring is definitely coming. Spring has always been a time that symbolizes rebirth and renewal. It is easy to understand when one witnesses the changes in nature that spring brings.

Christ brings us promises us that God will one day bring about sweeping changes such that everything becomes new. We become new. The earth becomes new. Heaven becomes new. Jesus Christ's saving work on the cross doesn't just bring and end to sin and the gift of eternal life. His resurrection is a sign that one day God will change the very nature of what we consider reality at such a fundamental level that God promises in Isa 65:17 "the old things will no longer be remembered". In the New Testament John writes to us in Revelation 21:1-7;

"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"<sup>[a]</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death<sup>[b]</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

<sup>6</sup> He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Can we imagine such changes in our world and in us? And even in Heaven itself? The riches and the glories God has ordained for his children in Jesus Christ are indeed bewildering. Let us fill our hearts with the thankfulness that can be our only response to such gifts.

Peace in Christ,  
Rev. Mark Gabbard



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*Newsletters are sent by email unless you have made other arrangements.*



*“This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.”  
John 15:12*

## Requesting Prayers for..

Family of Mark Kennedy, Jan Cavender, Jamison Strange, Malin Maas, Annette Mailes, Dolores Leuvoy, Carolyn Trumble, Terry Mason, Scott Wallace, Nellie Harrington, Aaron Corbiere, Carolyn Shaw, Della Porter, Gina Gough, Jon Burgess, Kimberly (Swick) Jewell, Jeffrey Burgess, Donna LaPlaunt, Sandy Shaw, Patricia Farnhill, Geraldine Carnahan, Lillian Donelson, Dave & Leslie Henderson, Tara Jean Brody, and all members of missionaries, and the U.S. Armed Forces

**Please keep us up to date on your prayer requests.**

## Homebound Members

Please remember to stop and see these people— or drop them a card to let them know you’re thinking of them.

### In Service This Month

#### Transportation Deacons

Cathy Akre & Cheryl Thorensen

#### Pew Maintenance

Jeanne Shibley

#### Devotions

Mary Frances

#### Food Pantry Distribution

4/09-Pat Newhouse

Fracie Waybrant

Judy Bawks

4/23- Jeanne Shibley, Mary Frances Morden, & Judy Bawks

#### Shopping & Bagging

Doris Boogerd &

Tina Kay

### **Freighter View Assisted Living**

605 W Portage Ave

Audrey Bush

### **At Home**

Carolyn Shaw

### **McKinley Manor**

2023 W 4th Ave

Ardith Bawks

Mary Lee Schmidt

Mary Jane Bernier

### **Out of Town**

Della Porter

6600 Constitution Blvd

Room 605

Portage, MI 49024

## Deacons' Corner

Winter is here and the Deacons are ready to help keep the chill away from local area school children by collecting mittens, scarves, and hats on our mitten tree in the Narthex. Gently used coats/ outerwear are also welcome for the coat rack we set out during our Food Pantry distribution. The Deacons are always on the look-out for new members. Seek guidance in prayer as you consider how you will greet the New Year and give some thought to becoming a Deacon. Don't want to commit to a monthly meeting? Be a part of our volunteers who assist with food distribution and other tasks. You don't have to be an "official" Deacon to be a part of the Deacons' mission to help others.  
-Your Deacons

# Women's Bible Study: Mission Project

For our April mission project, we are requesting items of need for Presbytery Point Camp. Please see the wish list below. Our sincere thanks in helping to provide another fun and successful camp experience. Your generosity is appreciated by all!

## PRESBYTERY POINT CAMP



- ★ Food storage containers for leftovers
- ★ White laundry baskets (=2 bushes) for the walk-in fridge (Need 8)
- ★ Box of SOS pads
- ★ 2 level packaging center shelf
- ★ 12 napkin dispensers
- ★ 8 Plastic (stackable) Adirondack Chairs for the Beach
- ★ Bullhorn with batteries (Need 2)
- ★ 12 Gently Used Sleeping Bags
- ★ 4 Storage Bins for Sleeping Bags
- ★ 12 New Pillows with Pillow Cases
- ★ 3 Storage Bins for Pillows
- ★ 12 Children Sized PFD's
- ★ New Vacuum for the Mac Lodge
- ★ 1 Metal Garage Storage Cabinet with Wheels for Knox Hall
- ★ Sandbox Toys
- ★ Car Battery Charger for Golf Cart
- ★ New Toilet for Manager's Cabin
- ★ Cereal Dispensers (5L or more)
- ★ OVE Gloves (2 pair)

- ★ Laundry Detergent
- ★ Dryer Sheets
- ★ Tree Cookies (for name tags)
- ★ 3 Picnic Benches
- ★ Clear Contact Paper (4 rolls)
- ★ Printed Contact Paper (4 rolls)
- ★ 4 End Table Lamps with Shades
- ★ Full Size Bed and Mattress for Manager's Cabin
- ★ Bleach Wipes

More items can be found on our ...



Thank You for your consideration!!

### Service / Mission

*"PRESBYTERY POINT CAMP BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO LEARN AND GROW IN THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION BY REACHING OUT AND WELCOMING ALL TO JOIN TOGETHER IN FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND RECREATION!"*

*Presbytery Point is a very special place where the spiritual nature of our campers is recognized."*

[presbyterypoint.org](http://presbyterypoint.org)

## Food Pantry

Our church's food pantry is to be the recipient of the this spring's Simply Give campaign at Meijer. Please consider purchasing a \$10 Simply Give card when checking out at the store or online. Your funds will be matched by Meijer. The campaign runs from March 31 through June 29. Double match day is June 15 when your gift is triple its value. Our funds are running low and your participation will help us keep our doors open. Help us to continue to feed our community.

Thank you, Jeanne

**SIMPLY give**

together, we can help end hunger in our community.

**double match day**  
**June 15**

On **double match days**, Meijer will match Simply Give card purchases up to a maximum Meijer donation of \$10,000 per store.

Your donation will provide funds for the food pantry at First United Presbyterian Church

**meijer**

visit [meijercommunity.com](http://meijercommunity.com) for more details

## Read the Bible in a Year



**Women's Bible Study**  
 Each Wednesday-9:30a  
 (except the 2nd Wednesday)  
 Westminster Room

**Men's Bible Study**  
 Each Friday-9:00a  
 Westminster Room



**Communion Sunday**  
 May 5th

1	Matthew 25:1-30	Numbers 30-31	Job 1
2	Matthew 25:31-46	Numbers 32-34	Job 2
3	Matthew 26:1-25	Numbers 35-36	Job 3
4	Matthew 26:26-46	Deuteronomy 1-2	Job 4
5	Matthew 26:47-75	Deuteronomy 3-4	Job 5
6	Matthew 27:1-31	Deuteronomy 5-6	Job 6
7	Matthew 27:32-66	Deuteronomy 7-8	Job 7
8	Matthew 28	Deuteronomy 9-10	Job 8
9	Acts 1	Deuteronomy 11-12	Job 9
10	Acts 2:1-13	Deuteronomy 13-14	Job 10
11	Acts 2:14-47	Deuteronomy 15-16	Job 11
12	Acts 3	Deuteronomy 17-18	Job 12
13	Acts 4:1-22	Deuteronomy 19-20	Job 13
14	Acts 4:23-37	Deuteronomy 21-22	Job 14
15	Acts 5:1-16	Deuteronomy 23-24	Job 15
16	Acts 5:17-42	Deuteronomy 25-27	Job 16
17	Acts 6	Deuteronomy 28	Job 17
18	Acts 7:1-22	Deuteronomy 29-30	Job 18
19	Acts 7:23-8:1	Deuteronomy 31-32	Job 19
20	Acts 8:1-25	Deuteronomy 33-34	Job 20
21	Acts 8:26-40	Joshua 1-2	Job 21
22	Acts 9:1-25	Joshua 3:1-5:1	Job 22
23	Acts 9:26-43	Joshua 5:2-6:27	Job 23
24	Acts 10:1-33	Joshua 7-8	Job 24
25	Acts 10:34-48	Joshua 9-10	Job 25
26	Acts 11:1-18	Joshua 11-12	Job 26
27	Acts 11:19-30	Joshua 13-14	Job 27
28	Acts 12	Joshua 15-17	Job 28
29	Acts 13:1-25	Joshua 18-19	Job 29
30	Acts 13:26-52	Joshua 20-21	Job 30

You shall love the Lord your God, therefore, and keep his charge, his decrees, his ordinances, and his commandments always.

**Deuteronomy 1:1**

## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women met on March 19th. We discussed our Summer Gathering which takes place on June 18th from noon to 2:30p.m. We will have our salad and sandwich luncheon followed by two presentations. The first presentation will be by Brenda Ransom, Mrs. Global United Lifetime Queen. She will discuss "Helping Hands", a group created by a local parent who wanted a way to bring girls together beyond pageant weekend and incorporate community service activities for them. We look forward to hearing about this mission. Also, Kathy Dowd from Sault Realism will be with us to guide us through an art project of making crystal suncatchers. Everyone will have the opportunity to design and make a suncatcher. We are working on our invitation to all the local churches from Newberry to Neebish Island and south to Pickford.

Our Annual Rummage Sale has been changed from August 3rd to July 20th. We have several workers unavailable for the August date and found it necessary to change our schedule. Please mark your calendars now and remember to start sorting and boxing up all your slightly used but no longer needed items. We look forward to another successful sale.

Our Annual Tea and Bazaar has the official title of "Angels Among Us". We are excited about the theme and need lots of ideas and help to make it a success.

## What is Per Capita and Why Do We Pay It?

As we move further into 2024, we want to take a moment to remind each of our church members about Per Capita. Per Capita is an apportionment, a means of fairly sharing the costs of governance across the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Per Capita is how we support our denomination; it's the glue that holds us all together. It is used to cover ecclesiastical costs required in the running the greater church. It enables the governing board council to administer mission dollars without having to use any of those funds for administrative costs. Now, more than ever, this source of funding is needed.

Per Capita allows PC (USA) to function; from the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbyteries, down to the local churches. Sue Krummel, Presbyter for the Presbytery of Chicago, gives an excellent explanation to the title of this article in this video: [Sue Krummel - Per Capita Sunday Minutes for Mission on Vimeo](#)

(type this url into your browser if the link doesn't work:  
<https://vimeo.com/651749875>)

### **What's that blue envelope for?!**

If you receive a box of offering envelopes, the blue colored envelope is designated for your Per Capita giving. If you are a member, but don't receive envelopes because you give a different way, you can reach out to Nicole in the office and she can provide you with the "special envelope" or directions on how to process your Per Capita payment. The amount requested this year is \$39.

Please feel free to reach out to your Trustees if you have questions.

Peace be with you, Your Trustees

### Church Meetings/ Gatherings

4/14—Deacons

4/15—Session

4/15—Trustees

4/11—Circle 3

4/16—PW

### Textile Social

Each Thursday-9:00a  
Social Hall



Vacation Bible  
School  
June 24-27

### Hiawathaland Community Chorus

The Hiawathaland Community Chorus, under director Dave Erfourth, has started rehearsals for their Spring/Summer concerts! Join us Mondays at 6:30pm at the Rudyard Christian Reform church on Tilson Road - no experience needed, just a love of music and singing required!



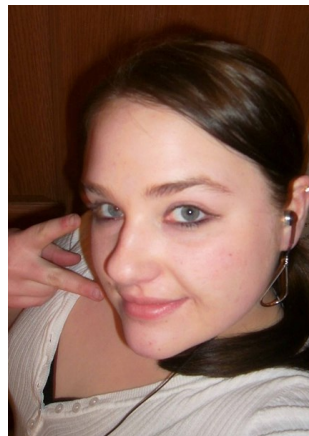
## APRIL Birthdays

Rich Campbell	04/01	Dennis Rutledge	04/13
Amie Lawson	04/01	Ashtin Kay	04/14
Mary Frances Morden	04/01	Alicia Cottle	04/16
Kent Nicholls	04/01	Bonita Lawson	04/16
Lucy Huskey	04/03	Wendy Pearce	04/17
Christina Kay	04/04	Abigail Reattoir	04/17
Michaela Carnahan	04/06	Patricia Whyte	04/17
Cynthia Howson	04/07	Thomas Martin	04/18
Gary Deuman	04/10	Susan Hovie	04/23
Justin Kelsey	04/10	Sara Jones	04/23
Carol Rohweder	04/10	Jennie Mccain	04/24
Margaret Sabourin	04/11	Donna Laplaunt	04/26
		David Deatrck	04/30



Earl & Tina Kay	04/02
Jackie & Kevin Tastor	04/13
Leanne & Gary Dueman	04/25

### Victoria Janell Smart



May 14, 1991 – February 20, 2024

The family of Victoria Janell Smart wishes to thank our church family for all the amazing outreach during our recent loss. The kind words, heartfelt cards, great meals, face to face visits, telephone calls, donations, and the awesome emotional support and the amazing love shown was truly felt and appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Gabbard, Melissa Gabbard, the ladies of the Textile group for the beautiful blanket, Presbyterian Women, the choir, and our entire church family.

*“So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”*

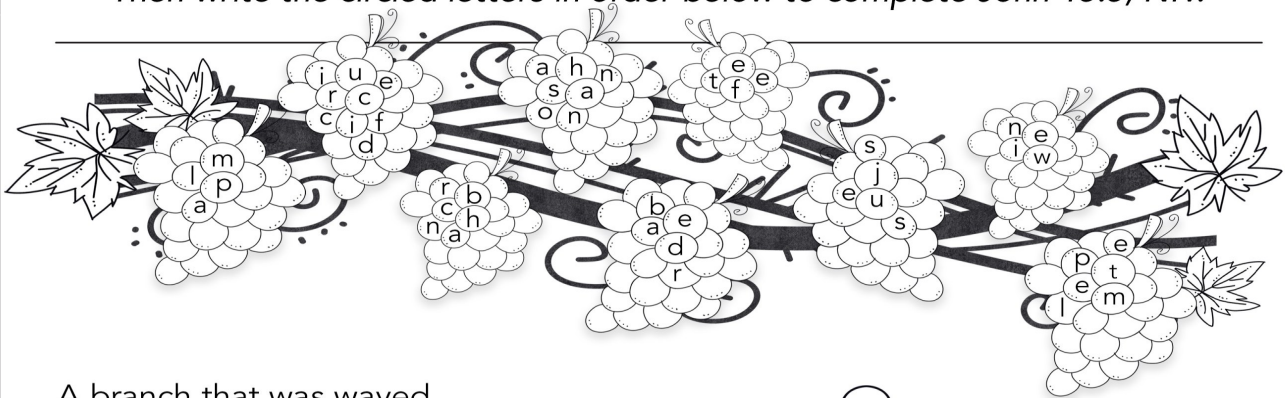
*John 16:22*



# A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

*Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.*



A branch that was waved

— — — ○

How Jesus was put to death

— — ○ — — — — —

A stick attached to the vine

— — — — ○ —

People shouted this to Jesus

○ — — — — —

Jesus washed these



○ — — —

This was broken and eaten

— — — — ○ — — —

The Messiah

— — — — ○ —

A drink from grapes

— — — — ○ — —



Jesus drove the money changers from here

○ — — — — —

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5, NIV*


Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	<b>1</b> 7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	<b>2</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service  <b>Soup &amp; Sandwich</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	<b>9</b> 3:30p Food Pantry
<b>14</b> 9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service 11:15a Deacons Mtg (LB)	<b>15</b> 5:30p Session Mtg (WR) 5:30p Trustee Mtg (LB) 7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	<b>16</b> 12:00p PW Mtg (SH)
<b>21</b> 9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service  <b>Coffee &amp; Cookies</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	<b>23</b> 3:30p Food Pantry
<b>28</b> 9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service	<b>29</b> 7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	<b>30</b>
LB—Library MR—Music Room S—Sanctuary SH—Social Hall WR—Westminster Room		



# 2024

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>6</b>	
9:30a Women's Bible Study (S) 6:00p Choir Practice (S)		9:00a Textile Social (SH)		9:00a Men's Bible Study (WR)		7:00p A.A. (WR)	
<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>13</b>	
6:00p Choir Practice (S)		9:00a Textile Social (SH) 9:00a Circle 3 (WR)		9:00a Men's Bible Study (WR)		7:00p A.A. (WR)	
<b>17</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>20</b>	
9:30a Women's Bible Study (S) 6:00p Choir Practice (MR)		9:00a Textile Social (SH)		9:00a Men's Bible Study (WR)		7:00p A.A. (WR)	
<b>24</b>		<b>25</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>27</b>	
9:30a Women's Bible Study (S) 6:00p Choir Practice (MR)		9:00a Textile Social (SH)		9:00a Men's Bible Study (WR)		7:00p A.A. (WR)	
 <p><b>Celebrating Our Graduates</b></p>		<p>If you have a graduate this year, please turn their information, and picture in to the church office as soon as possible so we can celebrate our graduates!</p>					
<p>LB—Library MR—Music Room S—Sanctuary SH—Social Hall WR—Westminster Room</p>							

First United Presbyterian Church

### Core Values

- 1) Biblical Preaching / Teaching
- 2) Involved Congregation
- 3) Godly Leadership
- 4) Christian Education for All Ages
- 5) Care for People
- 6) Prayer / Spiritual Growth
- 7) Awareness of God's Presence
- 8) Celebration of Sacraments
- 9) High Quality Programs / Ministries
- 10) Lordship of Christ in Our Lives
- 11) Commitment
- 12) Thankfulness of God

## Who We Are and What We Value...

**The Purpose of the First United Presbyterian Church is to:**

*Invite people to know and glorify God  
Grow together as followers of Christ  
Serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit*

### Vision Statement

- Quality Christian Education for all ages
- Congregation caring for itself and others
- Worship and preaching that is biblically grounded and currently applicable
- Ministry to our community and those in need
- Support of world mission and local outreach ministries
- Spiritual growth of members by encouraging the practice of spiritual disciplines

Our Motto

*A Joyful Past - A Hopeful Future - A Celebration of Today*

First United Presbyterian Church

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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

906/632-7771  
Fax: 906/632-4666  
office@soopresbyterian.org  
pastor@soopresbyterian.org  
www.soopresbyterian.org

**Office Hours:** 9:00a-1:00p Mon-Thur

**Sunday Worship:** 10:00a

#### Church Staff:

Rev. Mark Gabbard, Pastor  
Brenda Ransom, CRE  
Kay Boyne, Music Director/Organist  
Nicole DuFresne, Administrative Assistant  
Jason Fuller, Sexton

*Deadline for Newsletter Articles: 15th*

