

## The Soo Chimes

First United Presbyterian Church



July 2023

Volume 55 Issue 7

## Pastor's Message

In our Sunday worship service, it is a tradition to recite the Apostles Creed. As part of the creed we say about Jesus, "...he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead...". What do we mean by "descended into hell". Why do we say it? There are a couple verses in the New Testament that indicate Jesus was busy between his death and resurrection. 1 Peter 3:19 tells us that Jesus went and preached to the souls who were disobedient in the days of Noah. Peter mentions they are "bound" but does not specify what that means. So, did Jesus go to hell to preach to these souls and is that why we say Jesus descended into hell in the Apostles creed? Peter never stipulates that these souls were in hell and indicates, depending on their response to Jesus' message, they can be released from their confinement. This does not sound like hell from which there is no escape as a soul.

One of the issues we have is our view of the afterlife, of either heaven or hell. While the Bible does speak of these, it is a bit simplistic. Or if not simplistic, a bit rushed. Let's back up a little and ask, "What did the ancient Israelites believe about the afterlife?" When a person died, their soul went to Sheol (Job 7:9). It was neither heaven nor hell but a shadowy place where souls went to wait. What did they wait for? The last judgment: Daniel 7:9-10; 9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened." The people waited for that day when all would be gathered before the Throne of Judgement and be judged by God." Daniel 12:2, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

This timing is consistent in the New Testament. Jesus tells us that everyone is gathered for a final judgement and then souls either enter heaven or are cast into hell (Matthew 25:31-

46). So why did Jesus tell the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)? Paul answers this in Philippians 1:23. Paul tells us, "I desire to depart (die) and be with Christ for that is far better". For those who believe in Jesus, death is not Sheol a shadowy world awaiting judgement, but an existence of being in the presence of God. While this is not the fully formed "heaven" the Bible speaks of, it is a paradise since we will be in the presence of God while we await the final judgment. Not to mention that, since we have been forgiven of our sins, we can wait in confidence of what the final judgement will hold for us. Returning to the timing of all these events in the New Testament, in Revelation, John also tells us souls wait for that day when all are judged (Revelation 20:11-15). This agrees with what we have in Matthew 25:31-46; souls are only cast into the lake of fire after the last judgement. Jesus would have had no reason to go to hell to speak to the dead as in the case of 1 Peter 3:19.

Jesus also did not need to enter "hell" for our sins to be forgiven. Jesus himself told us with his own words that his work on the cross completed what was necessary for our forgiveness; "It is finished" (John 19:30). So why do we say "descended into hell"? The Apostles Creed was written in a language that had words for a place of the dead. But English really doesn't. There are other versions of the Apostles Creed that translate it, "...he descended into the dead, and on the third day rose from the dead". This is probably a better translation to get at the meaning of what Jesus really did. It does bring up a whole lot of questions about what "descending into the dead" means. The choice was made to just keep it simple and believe Jesus has conquered death for us, will take care of us in the afterlife and give us entrance into heaven. Trying to nail down exactly what all that means gets very complicated.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Mark

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



Dee Leuvoy, Robert Corbin, Erick Florip, Terry Mason, Karen Brook, Scott Wallace, Nellie Harrington, Tom Woodgate, Gina Gough, Kimberly (Swick) Jewell, John Burgess, Joyce Cross, Sandy Shaw, Jane Kellan, Jeffrey Burgess, Carolyn Shaw, Della Porter, Donna LaPLaunt, William Kellan, Lillian Donelson, Patricia Farnhill, Dave & Leslie Henderson, Geraldine Carnahan, Tara Jean Brody, Wendy (Menard) James and all members of missionaries and the U.S. Armed Forces.

Please keep us up to date on your prayer requests.



Freighter View Assisted Living 605 West Portage Avenue Audrey Bush

Out of Town
Della Porter
Cross Roads Village
6600 Constitution Blvd
Room 605
Portage, MI 49024

At Home

Mary Jane Bernier Carolyn Shaw

McKinley Manor 2023 West 4th Avenue Ardith Bawks John and Barb Kenn Peg Zenda Mary Lee Schmidt Flora Fortin

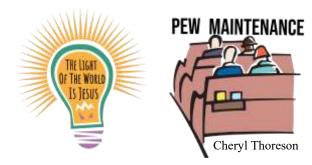
> *Medi-Lodge* 1011 Meridian Jane Kellan



- Cathy Akre
- **†** Cheryl Thoreson
- **†** Jeanne Shibbley



If you need a ride to church, please contact the office





### What Does That Mean?

#### Narthex

The historic term for what might otherwise be called the foyer or entryway of the church.

#### Nave

The architectural term for the place where the congregation gathers for worship, as opposed to the front part of the church from which the service is led. In churches with a lecture-hall floor plan, the term 'sanctuary' is often used to mean both chancel and nave because the two are not architecturally distinct.

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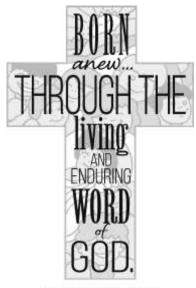


If you would like anything placed in the newsletter, please provide all of the information, in written form, to the office no later than the deadline each month. Emailed items are best.



A Special Birthday to Peg Zenda!





1 PETER 1:23, NRSV

## How is the First United Presbyterian Church of Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan Organized?

Greetings. Last month I shared with you how our local congregation is organized by the Book of Order. We discussed Session, Deacons, Ruling Elders, Ministers and Trustees. Most activities in our congregation are planned, discussed and executed by Committees. Here are the names of the Committees I have been able to compile. I have abbreviated the descriptions of the individual Committee responsibilities and assembled them into one alphabetical list:

- 1. AUDIT Responsible for annual review of church finances.
- 2.BUDGET/FINANCE Prepares annual budget and then sends to Session for adoption.
- 3. <u>BUILDINGS and GROUNDS</u> Responsible for the physical upkeep of church property that falls under the tax-exempt status.
- 4. <u>BUILDING USE</u> Oversees requests for use of the church building by members and non-members, outside of regularly scheduled events.
- 5. <u>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</u> Organizes adult and youth Christian education including Sunday School, Adult Bible Studies, VBS and Curriculum.
- 6. <u>COUNTER and ALTERNATE COUNTER</u> Though not really a committee, our bylaws require 2 people to be present to count the Sunday offering. The counters assist the Administrative Assistant with this duty.
- 7.EVANGELISM and COMMUNITY OUTREACH Supports various mission projects.
- 8. <u>INSURANCE</u> Responsible for reviewing all insurance policies on church property and keeping them up to date.

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### WHAT ARE THE TRUSTEES AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

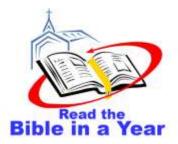
What we know today as the First United Presbyterian Church was established in 1854. In 1891 the congregation founded a ecumenical corporation. The election to take corporate powers has remained in full force and effect to this day. There have been various changes to reflect changes the denomination (mainly name changes) and various changes to the resident agent. Article Third provides:

The Corporate power (this as identified in the original document) shall be vested in the ruling elders and deacons of said Church, who together constitute the Board of Trustees, and the Pastor of said Church shall not be a member of such corporation, subject to the provisions of Chapter one hundred and seventy two (172) the elders, deacons, board of trustees and Pastor of said Church shall at all times be governed by the standing rules of said Church and the customs and usages of the Presbyterian Church at large.

In 1909 Act 265 provided the requirements for corporations of United Presbyterian Churches including requirements of the Articles of Incorporation. Changes included an elected Board of Trustees, an annual meeting and the requirement that the trustees manage and control the property and secular affairs of the church. So it would seem the more things change the more they remain the same. (First article in a series by Leanne Deuman)

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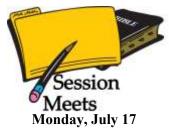
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1	Mark 11:1-14	1 Kings 1	Hosea 4:1-5:4	
2	Mark 11:15-33	1 Kings 2	Hosea 5:5-15	
3	Mark 12:1-27	1 Kings 3	Hosea 6:1-7:2	
4	Mark 12:28-44	1 Kings 4-5	Hosea 7:3-16	
5	Mark 13:1-13	1 Kings 6	Hosea 8	
6	Mark 13:14-37	1 Kings 7	Hosea 9:1-16	
7	Mark 14:1-31	1 Kings 8	Hosea 9:17-10:15	
8	Mark 14:32-72	1 Kings 9	Hosea 11:1-11	
9	Mark 15:1-20	1 Kings 10	Hosea 11:12-12:14	
10	Mark 15:21-47	1 Kings 11	Hosea 13	
11	Mark 16	1 Kings 12:1-31	Hosea 14	
12	1 Corinthians 1:1-17	1 Kings 12:32-13:34	Joel 1	
13	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	1 Kings 14	Joel 2:1-11	
14	1 Corinthians 2	1 Kings 15:1-32	Joel 2:12-32	
15	1 Corinthians 3	1 Kings 15:33-16:34	Joel 3	
16	1 Corinthians 4	1 Kings 17	Amos 1	
17	1 Corinthians 5	1 Kings 18	Amos 2:1-3:2	
18	1 Corinthians 6	1 Kings 19	Amos 3:3-4:3	
19	1 Corinthians 7:1-24	1 Kings 20	Amos 4:4-13	
20	1 Corinthians 7:25-40	1 Kings 21	Amos 5	
21	1 Corinthians 8	1 Kings 22	Amos 6	
22	1 Corinthians 9	2 Kings 1-2	Amos 7	
23	1 Corinthians 10	2 Kings 3	Amos 8	
24	1 Corinthians 11:1-16	2 Kings 4	Amos 9	
25	1 Corinthians 11:17-34	2 Kings 5	Obadiah 1	
26	1 Corinthians 12	2 Kings 6:1-7:2	Jonah 1	
27	1 Corinthians 13	2 Kings 7:3-20	Jonah 2	
28	1 Corinthians 14:1-25	2 Kings 8	Jonah 3	
29	1 Corinthians 14:26-40	2 Kings 9	Jonah 4	
30	1 Corinthians 15:1-34	2 Kings 10	Micah 1	
31	1 Corinthians 15:35-58	2 Kings 11	Micah 2	











Clean out your attics, basements, garages, and cupboards of your overflow and unused items. Please keep the rummage sale in mind as you downsize this summer, as this is one of our best fundraising events for our yearly mission projects. We can <u>not</u> accept T.V's with tubes, old computers, mattresses, or box springs.

**<u>Drop off:</u>** Monday July 31— Thursday August 3

9:00 a.m. until noon

**Evening drop off:** Wednesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.



#### Volunteers needed!

We need lots of help setting up the week prior and during the day of the sale

Unpack, & set up, price, work the sale, clean & pack up. Also pick-up truck's & drivers needed to take things away after the sale.



Please contact Doris Boogerd or Anita Weinrick to signup.

Doris (616)901-4299 Anita (906)440-8849



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#### How is the First United Presbyterian Church of Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan Organized?

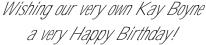
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- 9. MEMBERSHIP Maintains records/categorization of church members.
- 10. **MEMORIAL** Assures correct administration of memorial money gifted in memory of a loved one.
- 11. <u>NEWSLETTER</u> Responsible for getting articles to the church office for the monthly Chimes newsletter.
- 12. **NOMINATING** Prepares slate of people nominated to Session, Deacons, Trustees, Nominating Committee for election by the congregation.
- 13. PERSONNEL Manages staffing/performance of church employees and Called Pastor.
- 14. <u>PROPERTY MANAGEMENT</u> Oversees rental property owned by the church and the Sugar Island Retreat Cabin.
- 15. **STEWARDSHIP and MISSION** Responsible for encouraging the full participation of the membership in time, financial and mission activities
- 16. WORSHIP Responsible for all aspects of the worship service.

That is a lot of information. If approved, next month I would like to share with you a chart showing who the current members are on the above Committees. If clarifications, corrections or addendums are needed, I am sure I will have them in time to provide them to you in part IV of our Church Organization series next month.

Thank you., Tom Corbin







# Presbyterian Women Celebrate Summer





Our "Summer Celebration" was a great success! We had many ladies from our congregation, as well as ladies from several of our local churches and outreaching Presbyterian churches, who attended. We received lots of praise for putting the program together. You never know how many to expect and wonder if it is worth all the effort and then on the actual day it just blossoms.

We had about 60 in attendance and all enjoyed the good food, fellowship and very informative presentations from Tracey Holt of Hospice of the EUP and our own Brenda Ransom representing HOPE and dog therapy. Doris Boogerd led us in devotions and provided a wonderful uplifting message. Thank you Margaret Eagle for sending out our invitations and being our reservation contact.

Thank you one and all for attending this event, for helping with food, setup and cleanup. It was a success because of you. Ladies are already asking about next year's event, so it is not too early to get planning.

**Upcoming events:** Rummage Sale, August 5, 2023 chaired by Doris Boogerd and Anita Weinrick. Annual Tea and Bazaar, November 4, 2023 "The Light of the World is Jesus".

Our next scheduled PW meeting is July 18th at 12:00 Noon. We will be finalizing our Rummage Sale plans and working on Bazaar plans. We need all the help we can get so please put it on your calendar now. Enjoy these beautiful summer days. God Bless you all



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Circle 3 had their last meeting for the 2022-2023 season on June 8 at Applebee's. It was a wonderful luncheon with fun and games.



### Tea & Bazaar

Our Annual Tea and Bazaar is scheduled for November 4, 2023. Our theme is "The Light of the World is Jesus". Decorating ideas are needed and welcomed. We are looking for all different kinds of lights so keep your eyes open to anything you think would work with our theme.





Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

A present A high body temperature To take a long walk Something you open to go into a room Part of a stove used for baking Items used to build or fix things Opposite of soft (sound) Clothing a girl wears Color made by red and yellow Shape that symbolizes love 32 20 19 2 7 t 12 4 15 4 A 8 23 8 24 **3** ð 00 29 27 17 37 47

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Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tools, shore, hive; Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV 8 8

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30 9:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Early Social Hour 10:00am Worship Service 10:15am Sunday School	23 9:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Early Social Hour 10:00am Worship Service 10:15am Sunday School	16 9:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Early Social Hour 10:00am Worship Service 10:15am Sunday School	9:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Early Social Hour 10:00am Worship Service 10:15am Sunday School	2 9:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Early Social Hour 10:00am Worship Service 10:15am Sunday School	25	Sunday
31 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2.4 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 5:30pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7:00pm Boy Scouts  7:00pm Boy Scouts  7:00pm Boy Scouts	26	Monday
	25 3:30pm Food pantry	18 5:30pm Trustee Meeting	11 3:30pm Food pantry	JULY ON FICE  FOR SHIP  ON FICE  ON FIC	3:30 <b>**</b>	Tuesday
2	26	19	12	CLUSED OFFICE	**★ LY	Wednesday
3 9:30am Textile	27 9:30am Textile	20 9:30am Textile	13 9:30am Circle 3	9:30am Textile  9:30am Textile  CLUSED  CRURCY  CLUSED	202	Thursday
9:00am Mens Bible Study	28 9:00am Mens Bible Study	21 9:00am Mens Bible Study	14 9:00am Mens Bible Study	9:00am Mens Bible Study	ِ رحی ا	Friday
5 7:00pm AA	29 7:00pm AA	22 7:00pm AA	15 7:00pm AA	7:00pm AA	7:00pm AA 7:00pm AA Canada	Saturday

### First United Presbyterian Church

555 Bingham Avenue Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



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

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1p.m. Monday—Thursday

#### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (all grades) 10:00 a.m.

#### **Church Staff**

Rev. Mark Gabbard, Minister Brenda Ransom, CRE Kay Boyne, Music Director Nicole Mckelvie, Administrative Assistant Jason Fuller, Sexton

## Deadline for Newsletter inserts: 15th of each month

