



The Soo Chimes

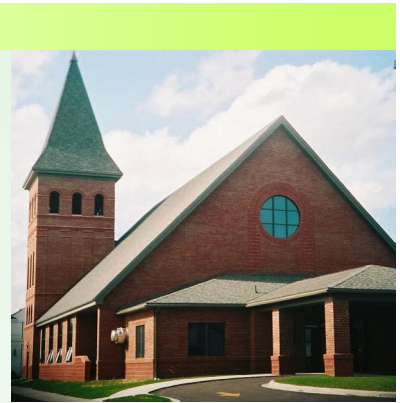
Pastor's Message

And so it begins.....the season of Lent. Lent is a 40 day period (excluding Sundays) that spans Ash Wednesday until Easter. Historically, this is a time for the faithful to prepare for the joys of Easter. To truly receive the good news of Easter, Christianity has always seen the necessity of preparing for the Holy Day. Easter Day is the gospel shrunk down to a single event and day. There is no Christianity without the empty tomb of Easter. Lent is the Church's way of making sure we don't miss the immeasurable grace of that day. Why are the Sundays of Lent excluded from the count of 40 days? The Church has always recognized each Sunday as a mini-Easter and as such stands beside the preparation for receiving Easter.

There are many ways to prepare for Easter. Some of these, fasting and self-denial, are not exactly the strong suit of Presbyterians. Presbyterians are far more likely to adhere to Paul's statement, 1 Cor 8:8 "But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do." It is a historic part of the Presbyterian tradition to take part in some of the other themes of Lent. Lent is a time when we engage in repentance. It is a time to engage in a spiritual evaluation. Are there areas of our life we are living outside the commands of God? Are we engaging in behavior our Lord would frown upon? Are there areas we can do better in? Lent is a time to remember to get back to the fundamental teachings our Lord has given us for our life.

A second theme in Lent that is part of the Presbyterian tradition is prayer. Lent is a time when we rededicate ourselves to prayer. Paul instructs us, 1 Th 5:16-19 "Be joyful always; {17} pray continually; {18} give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. {19} Do not put out the Spirit's fire;" Pray constantly, it is a command we have been given. Lent is a time when we remember this command and try to exercise the spiritual discipline of prayer in our lives.

Peace in Christ
Mark



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

Service / Mission



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

Requesting Prayers for...

Jan Cavender, Family of Victoria (Smart) Powels, 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, Jane Kellan, 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

Jeanne Shibley

Pew Maintenance

Jeanne Shibley

Devotions

Doris Boogerd

Food Pantry Distribution

3/12/2024

Cathy Akre &

Pat Newhouse

3/26/2024

Francie Waybrant &

Mary Frances Morden

Shopping & Bagging

Doris Boogerd

Freighter View Assisted Living

605 W Portage Ave

Audrey Bush

Medi-Lodge

1011 Meridian

Jame Kellan

At Home

Mary Jane Bernier

Carolyn Shaw

McKinley Manor

2023 W 4th Ave

Ardith Bawks

Mary Lee Schmidt

Mary Jane Berneir

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

WBS: Mission Project

Our March Mission Project is a food collection to help support Lincoln School's "Weekend Backpack Program". The program helps provide food for children during the weekend. The packs are returned to school on Monday and replenished for the next weekend. Following are suggested items:

- fruit cups
- Ramen noodles
- ravioli
- tuna
- Tuna Helper
- peanut butter and jelly (in plastic jars)
- spaghetti sauce (plastic jar)
- spaghetti
- SpaghettiOs
- canned vegetables
- baked beans
- canned soups (Chicken Noodle is a favorite)
- soda crackers
- granola bars
- oatmeal packets.

***Please no drink items or Mac n' Cheese
(presently an over abundance of these item).

Once again, THANK YOU for your generous spirit in support of the monthly missions. The recipients are always very grateful.

Presbyterian Women

PW met on February 20th. We worked on plans for our June Summer Event and will have more information after our March meeting. We also discussed our 2024 Bazaar and have decided that the theme will be about Angels. We hope to have the final title next month but, in the meantime, keep your eyes open for decorating ideas using Angels. We are also looking for new ideas for our bazaar to make it more appealing and more profitable. If you have any suggestions, please plan to attend our next meeting (March 19th at noon) and share your ideas. If you are unable to attend, please pass your ideas on to Alegria Soorus or Jessica Kuenzer so they can be on the agenda for our next meeting. We would love to have more women attend our meetings because new ideas are always needed to make for successful fundraisers for our mission projects. We have picked up some new mission projects, so we will need to make every event successful to succeed.

Mark your calendar now - March 19 at noon – bring a sack lunch; dessert and beverage provided.

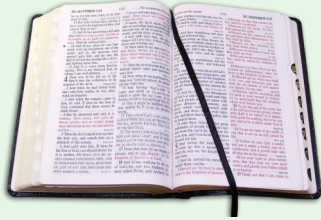
Service / Mission

BackPack Program



Backpack food programs offer families free groceries for weekends and school breaks. Food backpacks include healthy, easy-to-prepare food for kid-friendly meals. Food banks partner with schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, and community centers to distribute backpacks to kids.

The Feeding America network hosts over 10,000 Backpack Programs across the United States.



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
 March 3rd

Read the Bible in a Year

1	Matthew 8:14-34	Leviticus 1-2	Proverbs 19
2	Matthew 9:1-17	Leviticus 3-4	Proverbs 20
3	Matthew 9:18-38	Leviticus 5-6	Proverbs 21
4	Matthew 10:1-25	Leviticus 7-8	Proverbs 22
5	Matthew 10:26-42	Leviticus 9-10	Proverbs 23
6	Matthew 11:1-19	Leviticus 11-12	Proverbs 24
7	Matthew 11:20-30	Leviticus 13	Proverbs 25
8	Matthew 12:1-21	Leviticus 14	Proverbs 26
9	Matthew 12:22-50	Leviticus 15-16	Proverbs 27
10	Matthew 13:1-23	Leviticus 17-18	Proverbs 28
11	Matthew 13:24-58	Leviticus 19	Proverbs 29
12	Matthew 14:1-21	Leviticus 20-21	Proverbs 30
13	Matthew 14:22-36	Leviticus 22-23	Proverbs 31
14	Matthew 15:1-20	Leviticus 24-25	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
15	Matthew 15:21-39	Leviticus 26-27	Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26
16	Matthew 16	Numbers 1-2	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
17	Matthew 17	Numbers 3-4	Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16
18	Matthew 18:1-20	Numbers 5-6	Ecclesiastes 5
19	Matthew 18:21-35	Numbers 7-8	Ecclesiastes 6
20	Matthew 19:1-15	Numbers 9-10	Ecclesiastes 7
21	Matthew 19:16-30	Numbers 11-12	Ecclesiastes 8
22	Matthew 20:1-16	Numbers 13-14	Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
23	Matthew 20:17-34	Numbers 15-16	Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20
24	Matthew 21:1-27	Numbers 17-18	Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
25	Matthew 21:28-46	Numbers 19-20	Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14
26	Matthew 22:1-22	Numbers 21	Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7
27	Matthew 22:23-46	Numbers 22:1-40	Song of Solomon 2:8-3:5
28	Matthew 23:1-12	Numbers 22:41-23:26	Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1
29	Matthew 23:13-39	Numbers 23:27-24:25	Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3
30	Matthew 24:1-31	Numbers 25-27	Song of Solomon 6:4-8:4
31	Matthew 24:32-51	Numbers 28-29	Song of Solomon 8:5-14

Proverbs 20:7

The righteous walk in integrity—
 happy are the children who follow them!

**Church Meetings/
Gatherings**

3/10—Deacons
3/18—Session
3/18—Trustees

3/14—Circle 3
3/19—PW

Textile Social
Each Thursday-9:00a
Social Hall



**Leitha getting her crown at the
Miss International 500 Pageant**

What Does That Mean?

Communion Table

Referred to as an altar in many churches, it is the table in the chancel that the clergy uses for Communion. During the Protestant Reformation, some people felt that the traditional term of "altar" was theologically misleading. As a result, many people preferred to call it a Communion Table. Anglicans decided that both terms were correct because it is the altar from which we receive the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and because it is, literally, the table on which we celebrate Communion. Today, Anglicans and Lutherans generally call it the altar, while churches in the Reformed tradition tend to call it a Communion Table.



Memorial Easter Lilies are available this year, at a cost of \$10.00 each. Dedications will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The deadline to order your lily is March 17. Please have your forms turned in to the office by then so we may acknowledge your lily on Easter Sunday.

March Birthdays!

Carolyn Trumble	03/02	Abby Gazvoda	03/14
Kathy Gerrish	03/05	James Mackie	03/15
Mary Jane Bernier	03/06	Claudia Bernier	03/16
Pat Newhouse	03/06	Lucas Moening	03/17
Ronald Meister	03/09	Everley Rath	03/17
Suzanne Stevenson	03/09	Lamar Styer	03/20
Janet Cardinal	03/10	Catherine Akre	03/23
Mathew Deuman	03/10	Ardith Bawks	03/23
Lee Mason	03/10	Thomas Woodgate	03/24
Tom Corbin	03/12	Delaney Hill	03/24
Sharyn Faunt	03/12	Rachel Sabourin	03/25
Judy Bawks	03/13	Gregory Gorsuch	03/28

Special Birthday!

Ardith Bawks is turning 92 on March 23rd! If you would like to send her a birthday card please address it to:

Ardith Bawks
2023 West 4th Ave. 103-E
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783



Ron & Lisa Meister	03/10
David & Cheryl Bernier	03/11
Lee & Kristeen Mason	03/19
Terry & Danna Sanderson	03/25

Alegra Soorus

Alegra Soorus is a serious person and not prone to frivolous things. She likes things done a certain way and it is difficult to stay in her good graces unless you can meet her fastidious expectations. But if you need something done with attention to detail and quality, put Alegra in charge. She had a loving but rigorous upbringing and, as is true with all of us, her life has been influenced by her extraordinary and remarkable life journey.

Alegra's parents were Francis Eunson and Edith Curran. Let's be clear, Eunson is a Scottish name and it is pronounced "Unson". Alegra's ancestry is from the Orkney Islands archipelago north of Scotland. Both of her parents were born in 1918, the year that World War I ended (22 million deaths) and the year that the Spanish Flu began (eventual 50 million deaths.) Her older brother was born in 1941 (he has passed away) and her younger sister Dorothea was born in 1951 and now lives in Knoxville, TN.

August 25, 1943 is the day Nazi Germany imposed a 72 hour work week in occupied territories and the day Alegra Soorus (nee Eunson) was born in Saco, Maine. Saco is a beautiful coastal town on the Atlantic seaboard about 95 miles north of Boston and 12 miles north of the George H.W. Bush summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

When Alegra was born, Saco was a bustling textile industry town but after most textile manufacturing moved south to the Carolinas the town diminished to around 20,000 people and has defense contracting businesses today. Alegra's father worked in the shipyards and eventually became a contractor. Alegra's parents divorced when she was young and she was raised by her aunts (that's pronounced "ahh-nts"...NOT ants...!) She grew up in the family 14 room home-stead in town. She attended the prestigious Thornton Academy until she graduated. She did not say this, but I am sure this school was strict and rigorous and helped Alegra flourish into the focused and disciplined person we know.

Alegra attended The First United Baptist Church as a child, and sometimes she walked to church to maintain her PERFECT ATTENDANCE (I added the capital letters). She only added emphasis when she said, "Northern Baptist and American Baptist Conventions- -NOT Southern Baptist!

A day after our interview I received an email from Alegra which I will copy and paste:

"Good Morning Tom,

I forgot two items yesterday. First, I was baptized by full immersion at age 12. That is the Baptist way. You are dedicated as a baby and baptized when you are ready and know what you are doing. Second, I am named after Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "The Children's Hour." Longfellow was from Portland, Maine and I think his home is still an Historical sight in Portland.

*"Grave Alice, **Laughing Allegra** and Edith with golden hair"*

My Grandmother filled out my birth certificate and used only one L in my name. Just more trivia.

Alegra"

Church Treasures

*"so in Christ we
who are many
form one body,
and each mem-
ber belongs to
all the others."
Romans 12:5*



Alegra's Daughters

(Continued on page 8)

Church Treasures

Alegra Soorus

(Continued from page 7)

During our interview, my personal observation was that Alegra enjoyed her childhood. I say this because she was glowing when she spoke of making her aunt read Longfellow's poem to her night after night before bedtime. Alegra's joy in speaking about the poem made me go find it and read it. It is a lovely tribute to the love a parent feels for children. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "The Children's Hour" was not familiar to me before our interview but I am sure that many of you are familiar with his poem, "The Song of Hiawatha", about an Ojibwe warrior named Hiawatha and the tragedy of his love for Minnehaha, a Dakota woman. The story takes place in the Pictured Rocks area of Lake Superior.

Sorry for the digression, let's get back to Alegra. After graduating from Thornton Academy, Alegra attended Westbrook College in Portland, Maine. She graduated with an Associate of Science degree in Secretarial Studies. Westbrook College became co-educational in 1973 and merged with the University of New England in 1996.

While attending college, Alegra took and passed the Civil Service Exam. At the age of 19, she moved to Washington, D.C. and was hired by the Commerce Dept. to work with the Bureau of the Census doing what she referred to as "early computer work". She did that for 5 years and then in 1968 was hired by the Air Force Data System Design Center in Washington, D.C. There was much civil unrest at the time with riots and bomb threats and in 1970 the Air Force decided to move everyone to Gunter Air Force Base (now renamed as the Gunter Annex of Maxwell Air Force Base) near Montgomery, Alabama.

In Washington D.C. she met Donner Dowd, an Air Force captain, originally from Rudyard, MI. and also a part of AFSDSC. They were mar-

I am named after Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "The Children's Hour."

ried at the Base Chapel in Alabama a year after they met. Kimberly Dowd (Vincek) was born in 1973. Kimberly is the mother of son Skyler and she works for the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) in Cassopolis, Michigan and resides in Dowagiac. Skyler is now 16 and he is in training to be one of the Varsity quarterbacks for Dowagiac High School (see picture).

In 1974, Alegra and Donner were transferred to Offutt Air Force Base, Strategic Air Command (SAC) headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. There, in 1975, they were blessed with twin daughters, Kathryn and Kelly. Kathryn Dowd lives here in the Soo and owns Sault Realism Art Gallery on Portage Ave. Her twin sister Kelly Dowd lives in Kinross and, like her older sister Kimberly, she works for the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) in the Sault. Kelly's daughter Jordyn (see picture) is 16 and plays volleyball for Rudyard High School. The photo Alegra included of her three daughters together, shown left to right, Kathryn-Kimberly-Kelly is on the 1st page of this article.

The family eventually transferred to West Point, New York where Donner (now a Lieutenant Colonel) became an Exchange Officer at the United States Military Academy. While there, they sponsored 4 cadets.



(Continued from page 8)

The family would do anything from playing Old Maid cards or doing gymnastics to learning to ski.

Donner retired in 1982 and they moved to Sault Ste Marie and purchased the "Doc Webster" house at 408 Dillon. They visited his parents in Rudyard on weekends and joined FUPC where Donner sang in the choir, Alegra joined PW, and the girls attended Sunday School until they graduated high school.

Alegra "dipped her toes in the water" through the years by teaching Sunday School for 3-year olds, being on the Anchor House board of directors at LSSU, 2 terms on Session, 1 term on Trustees, was involved with lunches for weddings and local service for Presbyterian Women, and buying supplies for the church kitchen. Then, in her spare time, while raising three daughters, she decided that Sault Ste. Marie needed to have some Girl Scout troops. She learned and then provided Camp training and went from 4 to 15 troops in 1 year. She then found time to become a ParaPro/Teacher's Aide for remedial Math and Reading. Okay, she doesn't dip her toes...she swims in deep waters!

Then she turned 50. A traumatic year. There were school budget cutbacks and she lost her job, her oldest daughter was in college, and twin daughters were graduating and getting ready to go to college. Then

Donner left. But God stayed with her and her church family was

supportive. She had previously seen an opportunity to invest in the house next door and that became a viable choice. Then her job had funding again and she was called back. Then she saw an advertisement for USDA Rural Development Loans for Elderly and Low Income people. She interviewed for the job and was hired the same day.

One day in 2003, while walking the track at the Big Bear Sports Arena she met a Vietnam veteran named Jim Soorus and on December 13th they were married with Rev. Dave Henderson officiating. Two years later, Alegra retired and they had 8 more wonderful years before the effects of Agent Orange took Jim away from her. Alegra truly enjoys her daughters, her grandchildren and her church. Life is good.

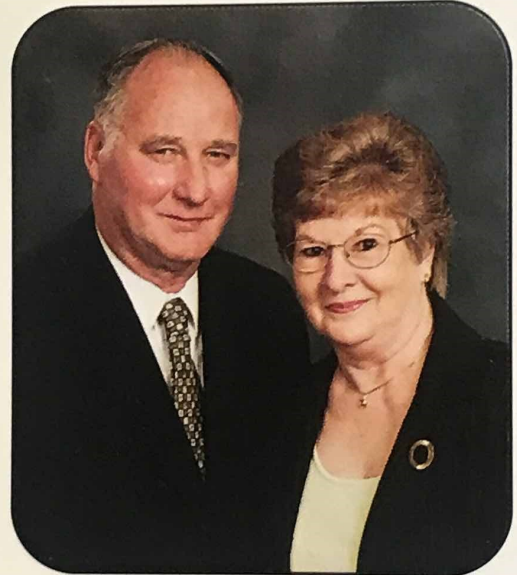
Our beloved Alegra does not need introduction. But when you see her, share your smile and nod your head in thanks. Thank you Alegra. You are definitely FUPC royalty.

Tom Corbin



Church Treasures

Alegra Soorus



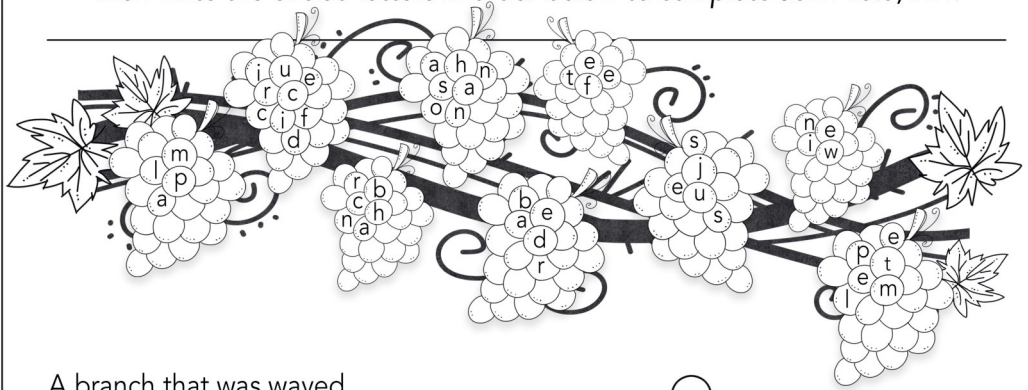
SOORUS, Jim & Alegra




A LASTING LESSON

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

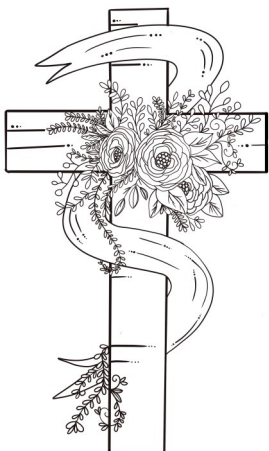
Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2024</h1>					1	2
					9:00a Men's Bible Study (WR)	7:00p A.A. (WR)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion 9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service	7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)		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)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service 11:15a Deacons Mtg (LB)	7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	3:30p Food Pantry	6:00p Choir Practice (MR)	9:00a Textile Social (SH) 9:00a Circle 3 (WR)	9:00a Men's Bible Study (WR)	7:00p A.A. (WR)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service	5:30p Session Mtg (WR) 5:30p Trustee Mtg (LB) 7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105	12:00p PW Mtg (SH)	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)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service	7:00p Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	3:30p Food Pantry	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)
31						
9:00a Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15a Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service						

LB—Library MR—Music Room S—Sanctuary SH—Social Hall WR—Westminster Room

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

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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

