



June 2022

First Presbyterian Church

What a wonderful celebration we had on the Kirkin' o' the Tartan Sunday! Thank you to all who participated, who carried banners, made delicious treats, organized, sang, and especially to those who helped me with the details, such as "stand here"! I enjoyed my very first Highland Festival and look forward to many more with you all!

It was a time to celebrate with friends, neighbors, and strangers. "This is what the church once looked like!" I heard from many, looking at the seats filled. We have lost many church members over the past few weeks: people who had a great impact in the community and in the church. Many of these people I haven't met because they had moved out of state for loved ones to be able to care for them in their last years of life, but you all continue to tell me their stories, and I appreciate being able to see them through your eyes, and the ways First Presbyterian has been shaped through the years.

A few months ago a member told me that when they arrived many years ago, the church was quite full, and there was an open space on an edge pew, and so they sat there because it was the only open space. Many years later, the people in the surrounding pews have died, but this person still sits in that same pew they sat in their very first Sunday here.

This happens in nearly every church. We have our "assigned" seating (I sit in the same pew each week, too, so this isn't an expectation for you to move!). What I reflected on when I heard that story was that I could envision those empty pews surrounding them – those gaps. I thought, "those saints are surrounding them now." Some might see empty pews. And I see them, too. I also see the support of the saints who have paved the way for many years. I'm reminded of a quote by Belton C. Lane: "What are canyons but absences, losses, vast places for pouring out grief?" These spaces in the pews – they're joyous reminders of those who have gone before us. They're also places in which we lament those who have died, and perhaps lament what the church once was, many years ago.

I don't see you all as being "territorial" of the pews or of the church. I've seen that other places – and you all are so welcoming! I appreciate the hospitality you show. As we grieve the losses, what is it that you miss, and what will you take moving forward? Obviously, you grieve that the relationship with that person has ended. Perhaps we grieve that there are fewer people to do the work of the church. Nearly every church is doing this work, as well. What do you hope to take moving forward?

Being in the church, we can reflect on the losses. We also can remember that we have great opportunity in the world. Pews are very permanent. They don't move. They always remind us of who has been there. As much as I love moveable chairs in a worship space (for flexibility in how one worships) it doesn't give us that sense of who is missing. When a good friend in worship isn't in her pew – we notice! Maybe you've noticed some friends not in worship – because of COVID, because of life circumstances, for many reasons. I hope you'll reach out to them – not just to bring them back to church, but to show them love and care. Send a card, give them a call, email them, just remind them they're loved. Because God loves them, and God loves you – and God cares deeply for this community.

Peace,

Rev. Katrina

Session Notes:

- Met May 23, 2022
- Finance and Endowment recommended moving funds from Raymond James to DLP Financial, motion passed.
- Next Meeting TBD

Committee Restructuring (C= Chair; L = Liaison to Session)

Personnel—Sue Malone (C) Joyce Elsea (L)

Nominating—(currently open)

Outreach—Sue Malone (C & L)

Spiritual Growth—Jeri Piccolo (C& L) - *includes worship, Presbythespians, Christian Ed, and Stewardship*

Building and Grounds—Mark Jewell (c) Bryan Dinwoody (L)

Finance and Endowment—Chuck Fortino (C & L)



Worship will be in Fellowship hall from June 12-September 5. Our next Matthew 25 service will be June 19!



Alma College Happenings:

The 2021-2022 college year is complete! A few students are staying on campus or in town for work over the summer. The Outreach committee is working toward having a meal a week for students. A time when they can visit with members, eat yummy food, and connect with others in the community. More information to come - please contact Rev. Katrina if you are interested in participating!



Rosemary Fisher, age 86 of Alma passed away Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at Masonic Pathways in Alma. She was born February 8, 1936, in Jackson, Michigan the daughter of Earl and Bernice (Osborne) Jones. Rosemary married Leonard "Joe" Fisher on January 1, 1955. She was a longtime member of the Alma Elks Lodge #1400 and the Alma Women's Club. Rosemary was a faithful and active member of the Alma First Presbyterian Church, where she served for several terms on the Board of Deacons. Rosemary worked in the Accounting and Payroll Department of Alma College, from February of 1961 until her retirement in May of 2000. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, cooking, reading and especially loved shopping. Rosemary is survived by her children, Greg (Lisa Manning) Fisher, Jeff (Cindy) Fisher, Timothy (Deb) Fisher, Christina (Christopher Wymer) Fisher; ten grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Shirley Grandy, Donna Fisher, Martha (Elmer) Johnson, Peggy Mikek, Maryruth (Mike) Reichard and Carmen Fisher. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Joe in 1989; a half-brother, Herschel Buzzard; her longtime companion, Ormond Walsh; and brothers-in-law, Doug Fisher, Lee Grandy, Charles Fisher and Dan Mikek. Funeral services will be held on Monday, May 23, 2022, at 11 am at the First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Katrina Pekich-Bundy officiating. Interment will follow in Riverside Cemetery, Alma. Visitation will be held on Sunday, May 22nd from 2 to 4 pm at Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma and on Monday, from 10 am until the time of services at the church. Those desiring may make memorial contributions in Rosemary's memory to the Alma Women's Club Scholarship Fund. To view Rosemary's obituary online or to leave a condolence for the family, please visit www.luxfuneralhomes.com



Donna Jean Austin (Dickman), 88, died peacefully in her sleep on May 22nd, 2022 in Lady Lake Florida. She is survived by her two son's Todd and David Fortune, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth L Austin, her brother, William Dickman, her sister, Marian Thompson (Dickman) her mother, Bertha Dickman (Waters) and her father, William Dickman and a son, Daniel Wade Fortune. Donna was born on 8 June 1933 in Flint Michigan to parents, Bertha and William Dickman. She graduated from Flint Northwester High school in 1951. She moved to Saginaw Michigan in 1958 and became a homemaker for her three sons. Donna moved to The Villages in 2003 following the passing of Kenneth Austin where she was socially active and deeply involved with The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra acting as secretary and at her church, the Congregational Church of Summerfield. She enjoyed music very much and Dixieland Jazz and Ragtime where her favorite genres beyond the Orchestra. Donna volunteered many thousand hours at Ye Olde Thrift Shop of Lady Lake and The Villages Hospital. Walking for health was a favorite pastime and she participated in several fundraisers for such worthy causes as Cancer and Alzheimer's research. Her family and friends will always remember her as a wonderful person with a very outgoing personality and a trusted friend and confidant.

June 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
				Community Café 5.30		
5 Pentecost!	6 9.30am Linus Ladies 7pm Outreach Committee	7 -Food Pantry 1.30-3 -Presbytery Meeting at Alma College	8	8 Community Café 5.30	10	11 1pm Service for Rosemary Neilsen in Pennington Garden
12 *Congrega- tional Meeting after Worship	13 9.30am Linus Ladies	14 Food Pantry 1.30-3 7pm Spiritual Growth	15 *Pam Munderloh speaking about wills	16 Community Café 5.30	17	18
19 Matthew 25	20 9.30am Linus Ladies -----	21 Blood Drive Food Pantry 1.30-3 R e v . K a t r i n a	22	23 Community Café 5.30 O n V a c a t i o n	24	25 -----
26 -----*	27 9.30am Linus Ladies	28 Food Pantry 1.30-3	29	30		



Sarah Thorndike of Nashville, TN and formerly of Alma, MI passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 10, 2022. She was the daughter of Henry M. Simons and Beatrice Kidwell Simons and born on December 29, 1926, in Savannah, GA. She is survived by her daughter Margaret Billings and husband, Ruben, of Santa Clarita, CA, and Jonathan Thorndike and wife, Claudia, of Nashville, 5 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. Sarah was a 50-year member of First Presbyterian Church, Alma Michigan and active on various church committees such as deaconesses, elders, choir, Sunday school, community café, and food pantry ministry. She grew up in Summerville, SC and graduated from Winthrop College in 1948 with degrees in French and English literature. During the World War II years, she worked on a Navy base and later worked as a high school English teacher at Summerville High School and librarian at College of Emporia, KS and Alma College, MI. She was married to Samuel L. Thorndike (1906-1979), who taught math, physics, and astronomy at Alma College. Sarah was active in many organizations including Alma College, Gratiot Community Hospital Auxiliary, Alma Public Library, Red Cross, the Alma Symphony Orchestra, and Pine River Country Club Board. Sarah loved travel, classical music, opera, gardening, birding, art museums, and Christmas traditions with family. Sarah was a supporter of education locally and nationally through the PEO philanthropic organization, which is dedicated to the advancement of women through scholarships, grants, and awards. She was so well-loved by her family, friends, and people in the community and will be very much missed. A memorial service is planned for July 16. Instead of flowers, please send memorials or donations to the Samuel L. Thorndike Music Scholarship Fund at Alma College, 614 W. Superior, Alma, MI, 48801 or First Presbyterian Church, 495 Charles Ave, Alma, MI, 48801.



A memorial service for Rosemary Neilsen will be held Saturday, June 11 at 1pm in Pennington Garden.

New Office Hours:

Monday: 1-6

Tuesday: 11-5

Wednesday: 1-6

Thursday: 11-5

Friday: closed



Rev. Katrina's Summer hours:

Mondays – Office Hours

Tuesdays – community day (I'll be out in the community meeting people and visiting members)

Wednesdays – work from home days

Thursdays – office and visits

Friday – Sabbath Day – I do not respond to emails on this day