Mason First Presbyterian Church

The CORNERSTONE

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19-20

April 2023

The Calling of the Church (Part 5)

The Marks of the Church

With all Christians of the Church catholic, we affirm that the Church is "one holy catholic and apostolic."

The Apostolicity of the Church

Apostolicity is God's gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God sends the Church into the world to share the gospel of God's redemption of all things and people.

Because in Christ the Church is apostolic, it strives to proclaim this gospel faithfully. The Church receives the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ through the testimony of those whom Christ sent, both those whom we call apostles and those whom Christ has called throughout the long history of the Church. The Church has been and is even now sent into the world by Jesus Christ to bear that testimony to others. The Church bears witness in word and work that in Christ the new creation has begun, and that God who creates life also frees those in bondage, forgives sin, reconciles brokenness, makes all things new, and is still at work in the world. To be members of the body of Christ is to be sent out to pursue the mission of God and to participate in God's new creation, God's kingdom drawing the present into itself. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) affirms the Gospel of Jesus Christ as received from the prophets and apostles, and stands in continuity with God's mission through the ages.

The Church strives to be faithful to the good news it has received and accountable to the standards of the confessions. The Church seeks to present the claims of Jesus Christ, leading persons to repentance, acceptance of Christ alone as Savior and Lord, and new life as his disciples.

The Church is sent to be Christ's faithful evangelist:

making disciples of all nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;

sharing with others a deep life of worship, prayer, fellowship, and service; and

participating in God's mission to care for the needs of the sick, poor, and lonely; to free people from sin, suffering, and oppression; and to establish Christ's just, loving, and peaceable rule in the world.

from The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A., "The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity"

Session Synopsis

Welcome to Elder-Elect Doreen Chapman. Doreen will be formally installed during the April 16th worship service.

Session acknowledged Melissa Baker stepping forth to assist with the phone prayer chain assisting Steve VanDyke while receiving training on the Call-Em-All software and equipment. Pastor Bill also reported worthwhile conversation and actions at the recent stated meeting of the Presbytery.

The Board of Deacons are still reorganizing the Board leadership awaiting the return of snowbirds and those experiencing some of the seasonal ailments.

The Administration Committee announced that the new computers are in place for the soundboard and livestream. At home audience should experience livestream improvements with video enhancements yet to be considered. There are now also additional coat hooks outside the choir room graciously provided by Kurt Immekus. The new part-time Sexton is on board; welcome Eric VanDyke.

The Worship and Music Committee is preparing for the Holy Week décor and events. The committee noted the disruption in a recent service when some of those in seated in the Memorial Room begin clearing chairs prior to the end of the service. Friends and members need to respect all other attendees throughout the entire service. If anxious for the service to end, quietly exit the room(s).

The Finance Committee recommended, and Session approved, a general policy for allocating unallocated funds. Unallocated funds generally derive from remaining funds of a previous year's budget. The policy considers allocation to resolve Revolving accounts, Contingency Reserve balances, Perpetual Pledge Fund, Webb Fund, Scholarship Fund, or one-time expenditures. Session also approved the recommended allocation, following the new general policy, of remaining unallocated 2022 budgeted funds.

The Security Team will be reviewing team documents, especially on events covered. Consideration of security during other events, such as group meetings, may be discussed.

The Personnel Committee announced the hiring of part-time Office Assistant Nancy Sue McDonald to assist Pastor Bill in worship preparations and other tasks. Session approved an updated position description of the Office Manager (Sheren's) position and reviewed the position tasks and responsibilities. Personnel will now be addressing updates for the Parish Associate position.

The church youth have enjoyed the experience of serving at the Saturday Morning Breakfast mission project in downtown Lansing. The youth and the Spiritual Growth Committee have approached the Mission Committee for support of continuing the youth in this mission project.

Session also appointed Anita Cote, Nancy Sue McDonald, Jenny Bond, Mari Nicol, and Monte Shuck as a Task Force to review the PCUSA Apology to African Americans and recommend any further actions for the congregation to consider the Apology.

Bruce F Archer
Clerk of Session

Welcome to our new staff members

Nancy Sue MacDonald (Office Assistant) and Eric VanDyke (Sexton)!

Worship & Music

April 2023 Worship Calendar

April 2	**Palm Sunday** ~ Communion
April 6	**Maundy Thursday ~ 7:00 pm** ~ Communion Choir Cantata: *Colors of Grace*
April 7	**Good Friday ~ Noon**
April 9	**The Resurrection of the Lord ~ Easter Sunday**
April 16	**Second Sunday of Easter** ~ Ordination and Installation
April 23	**Third Sunday of Easter** ~ Reception of New Members
April 30	**Fourth Sunday of Easter** ~ Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering

Finance

Financial Report through February 2023	
General Fund Balance January 1, 2023	0
Income through February	$68,959
Expenses through February	$69,983
Ending Balance (2/28/23)	$- 1,024

General Fund Balance 2/28/23	$ - 1,024
Unallocated for 2023	15,639
Revolving Accounts Balance	55,613
Reserve Accounts	88,435
Investments as of 9/30/22 (end of 4th quarter 2022)	450,998
Net Financial Position (2/28/23)	$ 609,661

Anticipated pledged income through February
$48,924
Actual pledged income through February
$50,426

Any charitable donations for special emergencies like the earthquake in Syria and Turkey or for assistance to MSU students, faculty, and staff, for instance, may be sent to the church. Just put the specific destination in the memo line and we'll get it to the appropriate group. This will also be reflected in your giving statement.

Parish Life

Birthdays in April

Paul Blonshine	4/01
Shirley Herrick	4/02
Ted Welch	4/02
Tonya Seely	4/03
Rachael Greene	4/07
Bruce Caltrider	4/11
Anne Slavin	4/11
Mason VanDyke	4/15
Andrew Pinches	4/16
Sally Trout	4/18
Calvin Hammond	4/22
Lucinda Davenport	4/23
Scott Robinson	4/29
Suzanne Lang	4/30

Community Volunteer Opportunity

Mason Community Services is looking for volunteers to work at the Freely Given Clothing Closet. If you're interested, you can go to the Mason Community Services website at

https://www.masoncommunityservices.org/

click on " Volunteer Mason" then select the Freely Given Clothing Closet, fill out the contact information. We will then add you to the Sign-Up Genius site. Weekly and then monthly a list of volunteer opportunities will be sent by email.

Please bring any items for the Rummage Sale to the closet in the Spiritual Growth office. Once we have enough items, we'll set a date for the sale.

Mission

Our Church's Mission Dollars At Work

The Mission Committee's allocations for January and February:

January:
$250.28 - Advent House lunches
$310.57 - Christmas gifts (reimbursements for purchases)
$200.00 - City Rescue Mission
$1210.00 - Costa Rica Mission (Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, Mission Co-Workers)
$150.00 - Doctors Without Borders (Ukraine)
$56.63 - Friends! supplies
$123.92 - General Assembly mission
$400.00 - Okemos apartment fire victim
$50.42 - Synod of the Covenant mission
$1,100.00 - UKirk Campus Ministry
January total: $3,851.82

February:
$199.18 - Advent House lunches
$456.00 - Compassion International (for a child we sponsor)
$123.92 - General Assembly mission
$350.00 - Mercy Ships (medical mission)
$50.42 - Synod of the Covenant mission
$350.00 - World Central Kitchen
$300.00 - youth ministry to homeless in Lansing
February total: $1,829.52

Spiritual Growth

Youth Program

Sunday School

During Lent, the youth have Sunday school as one large group. Our lessons included the parables of Jesus, miracles of Jesus, Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We also made soft pretzels as part of a German Lenten activity. And we look forward to twisting palm fronds into crosses for the congregation.

*There will be no Sunday school classes on March 26th and April 2nd because of Spring Break. We will still have Kid's church.

Middle / High Sunday School & Fellowship

As part of Holy Week the older youth will provide assistance to the adult choir during the Maundy Thursday service. Youth made signs advertising Maundy Thursday to be distributed within the community. A confirmation class will start on April 16th with Pastor Bill and Lori. It will be 4-sessions of class from 11:15 am – 12:15pm on Sundays in the downstairs youth room. There will be a confirmation celebration of youth that complete the requirements of confirmation during the worship service on May 14th.

Older youth are invited to again cook and serve food to assist the "Saturday Morning Breakfast" group in Lansing, a grassroots group that provides a warm meal each Saturday. Youth that are interested can help prepare the food at church on Friday, April 28th at 6:00pm. We ask that participants arrive at 9:00am on Saturday, April 29th to carpool to our location in Lansing. This will be the 4th time our church has participated in this much needed service. The Mission committee is paying for the food that will be distributed at this event.

Wonderful Wednesday

We meet every Wednesday after school, and the program concludes with a community dinner at 6:15pm. Pastor Bill continues to provide a class for youth (divided by age) during the afternoon together. The events of Holy Week will be the focus of lessons and crafts this month. We also will be making Prayer Boxes for the Deacons to distribute to special church members for Easter. There was an Easter egg hunt on the playground for all youth on Wednesday, March 22nd.

*There is no Wonderful Wednesday on March 29th because of Spring Break.

Adult Program

Wednesday Prayer Service

Please join us for the Wednesday prayer service at noon in the downstairs chapel. This 20-minute guided prayer time is led by Michelle Mackey. Together we pray for and with one another.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Please join us after worship for this exciting video series entitled "The Chosen" during Lent. The video includes an accompanying Bible study and discussion time. The class is Sundays at 11:30am – 12:30pm in the library.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

A discussion group on Tuesday afternoons using the book *Jesus In Me* by Anne Graham Lotz takes place weekly in the library. This wonderful study focuses on the power of the Holy Spirit. You are welcome to join us each Tuesday at 1:00pm.

Please join us for Family Game Night on Saturday, April 29th at 5:30pm in the dining room. Dinner will be served. All are welcome!!

Important Spirituals Growth dates to remember

March 22nd	Easter Egg Hunt
March 26th & April 2nd	No Sunday school.
March 29th	No Wonderful Wednesday
April 6th	Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm -- participating youth to arrive at 6:00pm
April 16th, 23rd, 30th, and May 7th	Confirmation class at 11:15am
April 28	Make "Saturday Morning" meals 6:00pm
April 29th	Carpool to "Saturday Morning" at 9:00am

Deacons

Happy Spring! In this season of Lent, we continue to focus on those in need and ask your continued support to help feed the hungry. The Deacons are working with the Mason Food Bank to replenish some specific food items including:

Baked Beans (small cans)
Condensed Soup (tomato, cream of mushroom)
Canned Carrots
Canned Peas
Jelly
Hamburger Helper

Please bring your food donations to the church anytime. There is a table set up in the Memorial Room ready for your donations, along with a list of needed food items. Your generosity is very much appreciated and we thank you!!

We are looking forward to assembling and delivering Easter Baskets to our members needing TLC again this year and sharing the joy of Easter.

There are many in our church family that are in need of our prayers, love, and support. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and
be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
Numbers 6.24-26

Find the latest, up-to-date church calendar at masonpresbyterian.org

WORSHIP AT
MASON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In-Person and Livestreaming at 10:00 am each Sunday
Audio, video, and printed worship is online at masonpresbyterian.org

Bulletin Submissions are due by 9:00am every Monday. Submissions for *The Cornerstone* are due by noon on the Monday following the Session meeting. *Please be prompt. Late submissions may not be honored. We are now attempting to publish the newsletter the week following Session.*

The CORNERSTONE

Mason First Presbyterian Church
MINISTERS - All Members
PASTOR - Rev. Bill Pinches
PASTOR EMERITUS - Rev. Charlie Herrick
SPIRITUAL GROWTH DIRECTOR - Lori Filka
OFFICE MANAGER - Sheren Wright
SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR & BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR - Deb Melse
CHORAL ACCOMPANIST & ORGANIST - Feng Kang
OFFICE ASSISTANT - Nancy Sue MacDonald
SEXTON - Eric VanDyke
ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR - Michelle Mackey

ELDERS:
2023 - Bruce Archer, Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.
2024 - Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
2025 - Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.
Elder-Elect: Doreen Chapman.
Clerk: Bruce Archer.

DEACONS:
2023 - Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock, Steve VanDyke.
2024 - Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
2025 - Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches.
Deacon-Elect: Tom Seely.
Moderator *Pro Tem*: Lisa Castle