



# First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth

## April 2020

## Taymouth Tidings

### ***Welcome!***

Sunday Worship—9:30am, Sunday School—10:45am  
Adult “Sack Lunch” Bible Study—Wednesdays, Noon—1:00pm

Rev. John Scott Kroener, Pastor

Sarah Schriber— Secretary, Heidi Smith— Music/Choir Director

Christine Callender-Clerk of Session, Tiffany Fortier-Treasurer

Dawn Patrick-Financial Secretary and Christian Education Director

Floyd Roebuck-Youth Director, Paul Fortier-Custodian

12517 Morseville Rd Birch Run, MI 48415

Telephone: 989-624-9473, Fax: 989-624-4904

Website: [www.taymouthchurch.com](http://www.taymouthchurch.com), email: [taymouthchurch@msn.com](mailto:taymouthchurch@msn.com)

Connect on Facebook: Taymouth Presbyterian Church

### Cancellations and Postponements

\*All events, worship services, meetings, etc., are postponed until May 10. Session will review public health guidelines on May 5, 2020.



**Please Welcome:** Sarah Schriber, our new church secretary here at Taymouth! Sarah is a member and grew up near the church. She is a senior at the University of Michigan-Flint. This is Sarah’s first job and she’s looking forward to working with everyone.

### **Church Office Hours**

**We are here for you!**

**Please call the church with any concerns or prayers.**  
The office hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday’s,  
from 9:00am to 1:00pm. (989) 624-9473

### **Food Pantry**

**Please don’t forget our local Food Pantry at the Ss Francis and Clare Catholic church is in need of donations! You may drop-off items at our church during office hours.**

### **Prayer Circle**

To activate the church’s prayer circle,  
call Cindy Rabe at (989) 624-9274.  
Prayer requests are conveyed by telephone.

### **Adult Bible Study**

**Adult Bible Studies will be postponed until further notice.**

### ***First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth***

#### ***OUR VISION***

Coming together and growing as a community of believers, glorifying and always being refined by God, reaching out in grace and love to the world.

#### ***OUR MISSION***

FPCT is a community of grace and love in which each person’s gifts, talents, and skills are welcomed and valued. We are a household of faith, a people gathered together to worship God, proclaim God’s salvation, and to experience an eternal relationship with God.

### **Emergency Notifications**

Session has implemented a “Call List” from the Church Directory in the event of cancellations. Each Session member will be calling from their list at the direction of the Pastor. Also, church event cancellations will appear on our local news channels— WNEM TV5, NBC25, and FOX66.

### "Crossing the Line"

Tell me, What has been your most memorable Easter?

For me, my most memorable Easter took place twenty years ago in 2000, onboard a U.S. Naval Ship, USNS SPICA (T-AFS 9), in the Pacific Ocean at Latitude: 00 Degree, 00', 00"; and Longitude: 145 Degrees, 00', 00" East. I famously crossed the "Line," the Equator. In Navy tradition, I was considered a "Pollywog," a sailor or mariner who had never sailed across the Equator. When our ship came upon the Equator Line all Pollywogs were gathered and escorted by Shellbacks, seafarers who previously had crossed the Equator, to the Captain of the ship. There we stood before the Captain with a message being read aloud how His Imperial Majesty, King Neptune (the mythological god of the seas), heard of our ship's presence and demanded a counting of all Pollywogs. King Neptune ordered the ship's Captain to hand over all Pollywogs to his royal staff of Trusty Shellbacks, and to make ready for the Crossing of the Line Ceremony upon Easter morning. I recalled being awakened by King Neptune's band of Trusty Shellbacks at 2401 (one minute past midnight), dragged out of my rack (bed), marched to the ship's main deck where under the bright celestial stars and moon I was fully sprayed down by one of the ship's fire hoses on full blast for my morning shower. After my cold, salty, water shower I was hauled before King Neptune's Royal Sea Court Judge and Jury where I was charged and convicted of heinous sea crimes. One heinous crime I was charged with was making King Neptune rise earlier than his normal wake-up time, because we crossed the Line on Easter morning. King Neptune knew I was a chaplain and that meant he and his entourage would have to finish up the Crossing of the Line Ceremony and depart from the ship before Divine Services at 1000 (10:00 a.m.). To say the least, King Neptune and his Trusty Shellbacks were not happy with the chaplain in starting the Crossing of the Line Ceremony so early in the morning.

Every ship crossing the Equator will make its Line Ceremony memorable for their Pollywogs with humor, laughter, crying, joy, madness, pain, suffering, nasty tasks and ordeals, and cheerfulness when the initiation is all over after kissing King Neptune's belly button. Of all the things we did to work off our heinous crimes, King Neptune and his Trusty Shellbacks gave us a break and celebrated Easter in their own way with the rising of the sun on Easter morning. The sunrise service began with a Royal Easter Egg Party. We Pollywogs had to dye King Neptune's Easter eggs with our entire bodies by jumping into different pools of colored water. Later we had to roll the eggs down the entire length of the ship's deck and back on our hands and knees with our noses. There is nothing worse than scratching your nose on a rough, cold, steel deck, as well as having your leggings slowly torn to shreds. We Pollywogs made Easter baskets out of our wet t-shirts to hold our newly dyed eggs. Of course, after King Neptune's Easter Egg Hunt was over, his Trusty Shellbacks had us crack these rotten eggs over each other's heads. That was my most memorable Easter in my life up to this point.

As I look back on Easter 2000, I remember many of King Neptune's Royal Court sat in chapel later to celebrate Easter with joy and praise. These tired Royal Trusty Shellbacks imparted upon me what camaraderie and community meant on Easter morning on the high seas. You see, each one of us onboard that ship were separated physically from our loved ones back home where ever home was for each sailor and mariner. For me, my home was thousands of miles away in Yokohama, Japan with Jane. Knowing we were all separated from our loved ones on Easter, we knew we were not separated from God's family in Christ Jesus. As Scripture tells us in Romans: "...nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:39)

I get the feeling Easter 2020 will be memorable for all of us. We have crossed the Line in facing the COVID-19 pandemic. We are God's Trusty Shellbacks. A Trusty Shellback of King Neptune's Court is traditionally looked upon as a person who possesses nautical wisdom. As Christian Shellbacks we possess divine wisdom bringing hope and joy to those who are anxious and stressed. Our Lord tells us not to be afraid for he is with us (Isaiah 43:1-5). Continue to take courage in the Gospels' Easter message of Jesus' resurrection. Death is conquered. Life is everlasting.

This is our Easter message of hope and joy to a world crossing the pandemic Line of disease and death.

Proclaim the Good News: Jesus Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Happy Easter!

Shalom, Pastor Scott



### *Mission Committee News*

After much counting of the pennies, coins and bills, (and some foreign objects) a winner of the PENNY WAR has been determined. There was only \$7.00 difference between the two sides. The total amount of money received from this war was \$612.64. We hope you enjoyed this little war; friendly competition always being a little bit of fun. Brain's House, a hospice home in Essexville, Michigan and our Church will each received \$309.82. Now for the winner. It was the NORTH SIDE, they had the least amount of negative money. Congratulations to them.

Due to the Corona virus (COVID-19) church services have been cancelled for a few weeks. Please bring all food items for the Community Food Pantry to the church during office hours on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This pantry service is needed to help local residents and we want to help with this cause. This pantry is located at SS Francis and Clare Catholic Church in Birch Run. Once regular church services resume, you may bring your food items each time we observe communion. The area for drop off will be at the South entrance door. Here are some of the suggested items they can use: Chicken soup, tomato soup, canned chicken, canned tuna fish, ramen noodles, juices, instant potatoes (box or pouch), scallop potatoes (box), Zataran rice and beans, Rice-A-Roni, canned peas and canned carrots. The expiration date on all items need to be current. If you prefer, you can use a pew envelope to make a contribution. Please note on the envelope "FOOD PANTRY" and this will help the pantry purchase items like milk, eggs and bread. Hunger never takes a vacation so our help is greatly needed.

Missions scheduled a WOMEN AT RISK (WAR) party. The date selected was Saturday, May 2, 2020 in the fellowship hall. Due to COVID-19, this event will be rescheduled. Please look for future updates as to when we will have the WAR party.

Many Blessings, Bonnie Pratt, Chair

# April 2020

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## HAPPY EASTER

### Christian Education

Confirmation class will be re-scheduled for this fall. Sunday School will reconvene upon review by the Session meeting held on May 5. Some great resources to learn at home include: Ministry-to-children.com/beatitudes lessons or just search Beatitudes Lessons coloring pages, games, lessons. Please feel free to call me if you need some more ideas!

The 8th Beatitude is "Blessed are the Persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We are persecuted when we are righteous. We are righteous when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and then we do our best to follow him and be like him. Every Christian will face persecution of some sort. It's ok to face persecution when you are doing the right thing. When we follow Jesus, we get to go to heaven.

*"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them." Matthew 5:1-12.*

God Bless,

Dawn Patrick, Christian Education Director

### Member Care

#### "REACH UP, REACH OUT, REACH ALL"

Our "Guess Who" for the month of March has two correct guesses. They were from Pat Periard and Kathy Maurer. Drum roll please—the "Guess Who" for March was— wait for it— Christine Callender! She will be presented with her church mug soon. Pat and Kathy have bragging rights. We are also keeping track of all the right guesses. The person with the most right guesses will also get a church mug.

Who is our "Guess Who" for April? Be sure to read your newsletter for the questions. You can then vote as many times as you like. Paper and pencil and jar are by the prayer box at the south entrance. Thank you for your support!

Holly Wendzik, Member Care Chair

P.S. So how well do you know who sits next to you on Sunday Mornings?

### SUNDAY SHEPHERD



The Session is implementing the church's **Emergency Response and Safety Plan**. In order to make this plan work, the Session is in need of volunteers who will serve as a Sunday Shepherd to make sure the church's doors (all except the front West entrance) are locked and secured during the worship hour. The Sunday Shepherd will keep watch on the West entrance doors to monitor the coming and going of people on any given Sunday service. The Sunday Shepherd will be the primary person responsible to call 911 in case of an emergency. A complete information form can be found in the Office. Thank you to Nancy Schriber for being the Sunday Shepherd for April and May.

Robert Minard, Chair of Emergency and Disaster Committee.

## Muriel Lakey

### Memorial Scholarship

Muriel Lakey was the wife of Rev. Robert Lakey, pastor of our church from 1952-1957 and pastor of Saginaw Second Presbyterian Church for 35 years. His wife served as a missionary to India where she spent much of her time and effort as a teacher helping young people. In recognition of her dedication to education and her love of young people, this scholarship was established in her memory. Each year all of the interest earned by the financial principal of the fund must be given away to the person(s) applying. Anyone who is pursuing post-high school education is welcome to apply. The following criteria must be met: 1. Must be a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth, 2. Must show financial need, 3. Must have involvement in the life of the church. These are the conditions that were established by the donor and the Session when the scholarship was created in 1997.

Applications are available in the church office or on our web-site at [taymouthchurch@msn.com](mailto:taymouthchurch@msn.com).

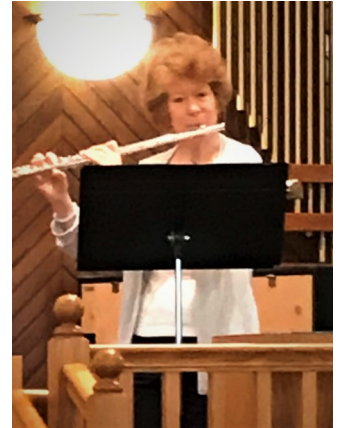
Due date of **May 31st, 2020**.

## Yarn and Thread

Yarn and Thread continue to furnish baby hats for McLaren Hospital in Bay City. We are in DESPERATE need of them! The committee supplies over 80 per month. They can be crocheted or knitted. For a newborn head size, they need to be 12-13 inches in size. We are also willing to teach you how to make them on a loom. Hope you can help! For more information: please contact Bonnie Pratt or Holly Wendzik

*Thank You*

Thank you Becky Fimmen, John Miller's daughter visiting from Germany, for providing special music during the worship service on March 8. Becky is a flutist and was accompanied on the piano by Heidi Smith. Your talent is a beautiful blessing!



## News from the Clerk's Desk

### The following items were discussed and approved at the March 10th Session Meeting.

- ◇ Approved the change of Fellowship Hall capacity from 150 to 133 people in the Building and Facilities Usage Policy.
- ◇ Building and Grounds Committee installed a new sump pump in the manse and Pete McIntosh installed the new plates and handles on the Fellowship Hall doors. Thank you, Pete!
- ◇ The session members all chose rooms in the church to clean. Each chosen room is to be cleaned by Mother's Day, May 10.
- ◇ There will be new prayer cards to fill out on Sunday. We will be printing these ourselves. All requests will be picked up at the start of church.
- ◇ Looking into ordering larger print Bibles for the Sunday School children and additional pew pads for church attendance.
- ◇ Fish Fry menu is simplified. Fried fish, French fries, coleslaw, roll, lemon dessert, and beverages. We are adding lemonade and removing baked potatoes from the menu.
- ◇ Volunteers are needed for both the fish fry day and for clean up the day after. Volunteer hours will be given out to any students who help during and after the Fish fry. Next Dinner Committee meeting is on Sunday, March 22, 2020.
- ◇ Taymouth Church is now on Twitter and Instagram.

### The following items were discussed and approved at March 14th Special Session Meeting.

- ◇ Approved to cancel worship service and all events until Easter Sunday morning, including the Easter Egg Hunt, Lenten services, committee meetings, etc.
- ◇ Approved to have only one service on Easter Sunday morning at 9:30 with communion prepared and served with non-latex gloves with everyone coming to the front. No Easter breakfast, donuts or coffee will be served after.
- ◇ Approved to have Elders reach out to congregation members using the emergency call list with information provided from Pastor.
- ◇ Agreed to cancel the Fish Fry for this year and to postpone Confirmation class until the fall.
- ◇ Agreed to re-evaluate all church activities and worship services on April 7, 2020, at 7 p.m. to take the place of our regular session meeting on April 14, 2020.
- ◇ Approve the exploration and establishment of a virtual worship platform via live streaming, YouTube and social media to reach out to the congregations and our community.
- ◇ Office will remain open during regular business hours.
- ◇ Funeral and memorial services are at the discretion of Pastor with the support and resources of Presbytery and local officials.

Christine Callender, Clerk of Session

\*For a complete list of all items discussed at the Session meeting, please contact the Church office or the Clerk.





## "Guess Who?"

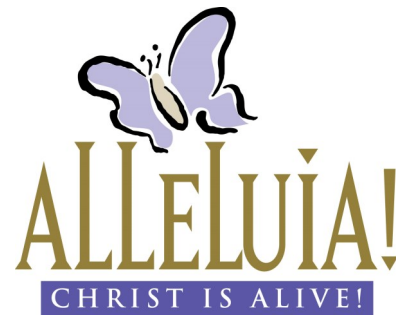
Can you guess who this person is? Put your answer and your name on the paper provided at the south entrance table.

Good luck!

1. What is your favorite Hymn and why?  
A: "In the Garden", because I remember singing it as a youth.
2. Where were you born?  
A: Flint, Michigan
3. What is your favorite Bible verse and why?  
A: Mark 10:27, With God everything is possible. Because it says it all!
4. Are you married?  
A: Yes
5. Who would you invite to have breakfast with?  
A: My sister.
6. Where did you go to school/Are you still attending?  
A: Montrose, MI and not in school.
7. Where do you work and what do you do?  
A: Home and anything I want.
8. What are you working towards?  
A: Being skinnier. Ha Ha.
9. How many siblings do you have?  
A: Two living and two deceased.
10. How many are in your family or at same address?  
A: Two at the same address.

Thank you! Member Care

EASTER



## Stewardship

We ARE the Church and we will continue to serve the Lord! Our main focus during this time of unrest is to make sure you, our members and friends are taken care of. The church office will remain open and ready to help. We have several volunteers on stand-by that can bring you groceries, medicine, etc. Just give us a call.

At the special session meeting on March 14, I recommended a freeze on all "extra" spending until we are back on normal operations. This included functions like the Egg Hunt and Fish Fry. Our staff pay and normal monthly obligations will continue as planned, God willing! However, the church is not established to be able to handle a "dry period" of giving. We have been so very blessed to be where we are now.

Thank you to so many of you that have remained faithful in your giving! It is overwhelming to see so many keep the church as an obligation even when we are unable to gather together.

Please keep the church in your prayers as we navigate through this time! Contributions can be made by mail or drop-off in the prayer box at the South entrance of the church.

*"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:8-10.*

Blessings,

Dawn Patrick, Financial Secretary

## Sarah's Closet

Our mission provides adult clothing for men and women! Clothing items include: shoes, socks, dresses, pants, shirts, coats, and undergarments. Open every Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and on Friday from 10:00 am to Noon.

Call the Birch Run United Methodist Church at (989) 624-9340. The church is located at 122656 Church St., Birch Run.

## Birch Run Baby Pantry

Open fourth Friday of every month from 10:00 am to 12:00pm, excluding holidays. Call Christ Lutheran Church at (989) 624-9378. Church address is 8101 Poellet St., Birch Run. All recipients must fill out form to receive necessary items.

## Food Pantry

Ss. Francis & Clare Catholic Church is host to a Community Food Pantry. Hours are Monday, 9:00 am to 11:30 am, Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm, or by appointment. Please call (989) 624-9098 for more information. Church is located at 12157 Church St., Birch Run. Donations are also welcome!

## Frankenmuth Area Caregiver Support Group

Cross Roads Counseling Ministries is sponsoring a FREE caregiver support group that will meet every fourth Thursday of each month. Brian Wilson, Licensed Professional Counselor, will be the facilitator. Meetings take place 11:00am to Noon at the Winter Village (formerly Independence Village), Harmony Hall, 255 Mayer Road, Frankenmuth, MI. 48734. Free and open to the public.



**First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth**  
**12517 Morseville Road**  
**Birch Run, MI 48415**

*Our Hope is in you Lord!*



