

# Taymouth Tidings



## “The Power of Hope”

There are many symbols we wear depicting our Christian faith. I wear several symbols in the form of jewelry reminding me who I am and to whom I belong. I will wear a cross, an anchor, a fish, and an infinity knot to reflect my faith in God. Despite the different faith symbols I wear I want to highlight for this pastoral perspective the anchor. I have two anchors which I wear. One anchor hangs around my neck along with a cross, and the other anchor I wear is a charm attached to a leather bracelet. The anchor symbolizes hope. The anchor is mentioned in Scripture in the Letter to the Hebrews: “We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” (Heb. 6:19-20)

Christians of the Early Church period, the 1st-4th Centuries, were heavily persecuted for their religious beliefs. They were tortured by the Roman government, because they were viewed as a cult. If a person didn’t relinquish their faith and beliefs about Jesus of Nazareth being the Messiah, the Christ, they simply were executed by dying on the cross, being tossed to the lions and other wild animals in the public arena, or simply stabbed with the sword or spear. The perseverance of those tortured and killed, as well as, those who survived and lived through those horrific times without compromising their faith looked upon the anchor as a symbol of hope in how Jesus anchors a person’s soul to God. Jesus meant hope and safety in both life and death.

The secret gatherings of these early churches was done in the context that a religious community was seen as a refuge where one sought safety, care, and comfort in the presence of the living God, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matt. 19:20) Once people experienced the hope of being safe, being sheltered, being clothed, being fed and nourished physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually in the midst of a believing community, they could experience the presence of God in their support of one another. By worshiping God and celebrating the Holy Sacraments of the Church, early Christians could personally experience Jesus being “the Way, the Life, and the Truth” and become motivated to overcome the obstacles they faced daily. It was a remarkable faith journey in what these early Christians experienced.

What is more remarkable is that this same faith journey is our faith journey in the 21st Century. There are indeed some great differences in the context of how we live today as Christians in the United States versus how our Christian ancestors lived during the Roman Empire. We may not experience persecution or torture personally, but we know there are Christians today in foreign countries who experience the same as our early Christian ancestors. We live in a brutal and cruel world when it comes to religious and cultural intolerance. Look at countries like China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia to only name a few in the daily news headlines. There are many more in Africa and Asia. To live out our faith in the United States is a blessing. Imagine what that might look like in other parts of the world.

As I wear an anchor around my neck and on my wrist, I have hope in Jesus anchoring me in my faith of him being the Christ, the Messiah. I have hope in him giving our church the inspiration of becoming a missional church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) known as a Matthew 25 Church (Matt.25:31-40). I have hope in Jesus giving us the wisdom to implement our church’s emergency and safety plan for man-made and natural disasters. I have hope in Jesus bringing peace into this world by way of our church, our denomination, and our sister churches of other Christian denominations. I hope we will live out our calling as Jesus’ disciples by taking on the role model of being the Good Samaritan Neighbor (Luke 10:25-37).

The power of hope lies within our church in being the local manifestation of the Church, the Body of Christ, who is the steadfast anchor for this world.

Shalom,  
Pastor Scott

# January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1.	2.	3.	4.
5. 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sacrament of Holy Communion. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 11:00 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting.	6.	7. 7:00 p.m. Building and Grounds Meeting.	8. 12:00 p.m. Bible Study. 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	9.	10.	11. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Church Family Game Night.
12. 9:30 a.m. Worship. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 11:00 a.m. Member Care Committee Meeting.	13.	14. 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting.	15. 12:00 p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	16.	17.	18.
19. 9:30 a.m. Worship. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 11:30 a.m. Christian Education Meeting.	20.	21.	22. Newsletter Articles Due. No Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	23.	24.	25.
26. 9:30 a.m. Worship. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 11:00a.m. Mission Committee Meeting.	27.	28.	29. 12:00 p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	30.	31.	

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
TAYMOUTH SESSION ROUND-UP  
DECEMBER 10, 2019:**

- Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer and followed with Session Education, “On Becoming a Community of Faith, Hope, Love and Witness,” reminding us that Sessions are responsible for “governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness.” What can we do to deepen the church’s call?
- All members present. A quorum was present. Dawn Patrick, Financial Secretary and Pastor Kroener were also in attendance. Present also were new Session members: Adam Smith, Floyd Roebuck and Holly Wendzik.
- Accepted Agenda as presented with additional items as they may come forward.
- Minutes approved from November 12, 2019 Stated Session Meeting with correction.
- Clerks report: Session books were audited with no exceptions. 15 years of completed audited records with no exceptions.
- Elder Fern Britton, Class of 2019, resigned effective immediately.
- Treasurers report was presented:
 

General Fund -	Nov 2019	Building Fund
Income	\$13,626.54	Income \$765.00
Expense	\$9,782.08	Payment \$341.00
End Bal.	\$ 6,273.96	
- M/S/C: The money in memorial fund prior to 2017 to be moved to General Fund.
- Buildings and Grounds. New Michigan state requirement that all water check valves and gages need to be checked the same time as furnace boiler is inspected. M/S/C upgrading current backflow water valve system at cost of \$1,050.00.
- Christian Education: Children’s program to be December 22, 2019 during worship service.
- Worship. To discontinue Sunday night prayer meetings at the present time. Exploring direction on how to handle prayer request during church service. Presbytery has set pulpit supply fee at \$150.00 which includes mileage. Average church attendance for November was 67, Holy Communion was served to 47.
- Missions: Lots of new things coming: Penny War???? Sweets for your Sweetie??? 40 Shoeboxes were delivered. Mission giving for 2019 totaled \$7,381.55.

- Personnel: Christmas gifts to be presented to church staff. We are very thankful for all the employees who go beyond the call required of them.
- Member Care and Presbyterian Women: Packed and delivered 10 Christmas baskets to the elderly and shut in’s.
- Men’s Group: Family Game Night, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.
- Session members are required to take one month a year for Usher responsibility. Please get with a Session member or sign up on the sheet in the basement as to when you would like to usher. Great way to get to know the congregation. Specific months have been assigned to session members to recruit weekly ushers.
- Pastor’s Report: Sanctuary sound system has been updated and is working. If you have a problem hearing, please speak with Pastor or someone on Worship Committee. Birch Run High School Band Ensemble performed on December 15th at worship service. Ordination & Installation of Elders to be January 5th. Members placed on Inactive list are to receive a letter of notification from the Pastor. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Scott.
- This is my last session round up as being your Clerk of Session. I have decided it is time after 15 years to relinquish the duties to someone else. I know it is going to be in good hands. I thank each and every one of you for entrusting the church records with me and I have enjoyed working with the great friends and congregation at the First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth.
- Yours in Christ;
- Sharon Leach, Clerk of Session

**MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS:** As we are starting a new year, 2020, I would like to reflect on some of the projects you helped Mission support in 2019:

We did a **Mission Journey** during the days of Epiphany. Money raised from this project helped our church budget and also helped Brian's House. Brian's House is a hospice house in Essexville that provides quality end-of-life care.

You were asked to bring food items each time we were served communion. This was for the **Communion Food Drive** to provide assistance to the food pantry at SS Francis and Clare Catholic Church in Birch Run. This pantry is open to local residents who need aid in providing meals for their family.

**The Secret Prayer Pal** was done during the days of Lent. Those who participated were given a name of a church member and asked to pray daily for them during Lent. After Easter, you had the option of letting them know you were praying for them or you could leave it a secret.

**Mission Marketplace** was held in May. This was where you get to show your talent by making something to sell. There were items purchased from friendly bidding, others were purchased from a silent auction. You also had the choice to purchase items that had a set price.

Another event that gave you the chance to bid for an item was the **Pie Auction**. Mission members and some selected church members made an assortment of pies (fruits, spaghetti, meats, etc). These pies could have been yours if you were the winning bidder. Funds from this event and the Missions Marketplace were disbursed to several different agencies.

Large bags of chips (potato, Fritos, Cheetos, pretzels, etc), juice boxes and bags of cookies were collected for the **Brown Bag Lunches**. These items were then delivered to St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Saginaw for the program they started over 25 years ago. This mission packs and delivers brown bags to St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Tuscola Street in Saginaw, Michigan, to the homeless. There are 40 lunch bags delivered 3 days a week to help feed those who are in need of a lunch.

Diapers and wipes were collected for the **Baby Pantry** located at Christ Lutheran Church in Birch Run. This pantry helps to provide assistance to local residents.

This year we were able to deliver 40 **Shoeboxes For Saginaw**. These shoeboxes contained items for ladies and were delivered to different shelters in the area in time for Christmas. The shoebox may be the only gift a person would receive for Christmas.

The Annual **Cookie Walk and Holiday Treats** was held on the third Saturday of December. The members of the church made their special cookies or treats to be sold at this event. The sale was open to the public, as well as to members of the church. Funds received were then disbursed to various Mission's places.

**The Giving Tree at Christmas** was for the **Mustard Seed Shelter**. There were tags placed on a small Christmas tree listing items needed. These items helped the shelter to provide a Christmas for individuals who are associated with the shelter.

Once a month a Member of the Mission Committee provided fresh baked items to the **Ascension House**. This house is a hospitality home for Ascension St. Mary's Hospital of Saginaw.

Some of the other people and groups Missions helped financially were **Michael and Rachel Ludwig: Missionaries in Niger, Cathy Chang: Missionary in Philippians, Matt Roger: Inter-Varsity Fellowship, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Celebrate Recovery, and Kim Weston-Heavenly Hope International**.

Following the out-of-doors worship service in July, the Missions Committee provided **Sunday Sundaes** for those attending the service. This is to show appreciation for all the help the church family does in providing assistance by giving aid to various causes.

Total Mission giving for 2019 was \$7,381.55.

We are looking forward to some new and interesting events in 2020. Keep reading your weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters for details of upcoming events.

Thank you for your loyal support.  
Bonnie Pratt, Chair.

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**MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE MEETING:** Sunday, January 12, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!

Holly Wendzik, Chair.

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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS:** On Tuesday, December 17, 2019 the PW and Member Care Committee made baskets of cookies, candy, fruits and treats for 10 members. After the baskets were filled they enjoyed fellowship and telling tales of Christmas.

There will be **NO PW** meetings in January or February. The next regular meeting will be March 24, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Have a safe Winter and see you in the Spring.

Peace,  
Bonnie Pratt, President.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:** The children did a great job participating in “The Emoji Christmas Story” on December 22. Thank you to Kylie Gammons, Caleb and Heather Fortier, Jaxon and Benjamin Reed, Peter Roebuck, Rowen Maher, Grace Schrubbe, Brianna Irish, Caden and Caleb Dice. Thank you to Heidi and Adam Smith, and all the parents for your help and support!

Sunday School will resume on January 5 with the learning of the Beatitude’s.

The Fifth Beatitude is:

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (We get God’s mercy when we ask for it. We ask for mercy after we realize we need it, when we realize we are sinners.)

“Do Good! Seek peace and go after it!” Psalm 34:14b  
Happy New Year!

Dawn Patrick, Christian Education Director.

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING:** Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

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**MEN’S GROUP NEWS:** Please reserve the date of Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. for a Church Family Game Night sponsored by the Men’s Club. Bring your favorite games and enjoy a great night of fun and fellowship with other members of our church. Snacks are welcome as are friends and family. The more the merrier. Any questions, speak to Rob Minard at (989) 777-6789.

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**PRAYER CIRCLE:** To activate the church’s prayer circle please call Cindy Rabe (989-624-9274). Prayer requests are conveyed by telephone.

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**CHOIR PRACTICE:** Choir will reconvene January 8<sup>th</sup> and will be held every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Come and Sing! Make a joyful noise to the Lord! All are welcome! Please contact our Choir Director, Heidi, for more information on how to join the choir. Thank you.

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**ADULT “Sack Lunch” BIBLE STUDY**  
Bible study will be held **every Wednesday from Noon-1:00pm**. Bring your sack lunch and study the Bible with Pastor Scott. Invite a friend!

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**Ss. FRANCIS & CLARE’S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY HOURS:** Monday (9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.), Wednesday (1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or by appointment (please call 989-624-9098). The Food Pantry is located at the Catholic Church on 12157 Church Street, Birch Run, MI

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**NEWS:** Thank you to all our helpers for working making the church look beautiful. The church building and grounds have never looked better! We are blessed to have talented and giving people in our church that work continuously to make it presentable. If you are interested in helping in some way, contact Gary Brabant. Extra help is always appreciated. Thank you!

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**COMMITTEE:** With the start of the New Year, please let me know if there are any events you would like to get posted on Facebook or the website. You may email them to the church, you can send a message to me on the church's Facebook page, or you may put the item in my box at church. If there are any people who have any ideas or would like to join the social media committee please let me know, as I am always looking for ideas and help. Thank you, Christine Callender, Chair of Social Media and Community Outreach Committee.

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**SARAH’S CLOSET:** Needs adult clothing for men and women! Clothing needs include: shoes, socks, dresses, pants, shirts, coats, and under-garments. Open every Wednesday & Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-3:00p.m. and on Friday from 10:00 a.m.-12:00p.m. Call the Birch Run United Methodist Church at (989) 624-9340. The church is located at 12265 Church St, Birch Run.

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## **TAYMOUTH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL**

**ASSOCIATION:** will host its Annual Homemade Soup Supper, Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Burt Opera House (12888 Nichols Rd, Burt, MI). Homemade Soups, Bread, Dessert and Beverages. There will be music by “The Kenney’s”. Donation at the door.

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**BIRCH RUN BABY PANTRY:** Open 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (noon), excluding holidays. Call Christ Lutheran Church office (989-624-9378) during office hours; Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Thursday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. If calling during off hours, refer to phone numbers on answering machine. Someone can make arrangements to meet at the church for supplies. Must fill out form to receive necessary items. Baby Pantry is located at 8101 Poellet St, Birch Run, MI.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is offering several educational and support groups for people and families who have been affected by mental illness. In Frankenmuth at the Emmaus Room of the United Methodist Church of Frankenmuth, a Family Support Group will begin to meet on Monday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday's of each month. (Registration is not needed for support groups.) In Saginaw at the Covenant Medical Center-Harrison Hospital, (side rooms C & D) a Family-to-Family Education Program will start on Wednesday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., and will meet for 12 sessions. The same 12 Session courses for family members will be held in Flint at The NAMI Genesee Office located at 2346 Stone Bridge. Registration is required for the Family Educational Programs. Please call (810) 232-6498 to learn more and register for Family-to Family education programs, as well as, to obtain more information about NAMI Family Support Groups in the area. There is no cost for these programs. All programs are opened to adults with loved ones who live with mental illness. Be part of a community and experience a sense of belonging. Find hope in knowing you are not alone. Again, for more information about NAMI services call (810) 232-6498.



### WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Fair question. Let's attempt to answer it.

PER CAPITA has been part of our funding history for over 150 years. When presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly meet, they are conducting the legislative and judicial business of the church and incur necessary expenses.

There are also some necessary administrative expenses involved which enable these ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions to be performed. Historically, per capita has been used to fund these. Importantly, per capita funding enables governing councils to make decisions regarding distribution of mission dollars without itself being funded by those same dollars.

The whole church shares in these expenses since everyone who is a member shares in the benefits of this system of church government. Per capita provides for the financial participation of all local churches as part of a connectional and representative church, thus providing for unity and mutual responsibility within the church.

### 2020 PER CAPITA

General Assembly	\$8.95
Synod	\$3.25
Presbytery	\$16.80
Total per member	\$29.00

### TO BE COLLECTED IN 2020

Presbytery of Lake Huron	\$114,290.40
Synod of the Covenant	\$22,109.75
General Assembly	\$60,886.85
Total	\$197,287.00

**HOW IS PER CAPITA COMPUTED?** The Per Capita Apportionment in the Presbytery of Lake Huron is based on a portion of certain salaries and expenses which are part of the operating expenses of the Presbytery.

Per Capita is the cost of being a Presbyterian, and if each member pays the per capita amount above his/her pledge or regular giving, pressure on the local budget is reduced.

Paying per capita is similar to: • contributing one's dish to a potluck meal • paying to be connected to the internet • paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, gas, water • pitching in with others to pay for gasoline on a road trip

In order to keep presbytery's per capita rate from escalating the per capita portion of the budget is subsidized with a distribution from Presbytery's investments.

### WHERE DO OUR PER CAPITA DOLLARS GO?

The amount that is set for per capita apportionment is a calculation based on the number of church members and the budget established annually by each governing body. At the presbytery level per capita pays for a number of items including:

- the mortgage payment on the presbytery office
- the office of the Stated Clerk including his salary and that of the Recording Clerk
- Salaries of the Financial Secretary, Treasurer and the Administrative Assistant
- insurance coverage, legal counsel, annual audit
- costs associated with operating the presbytery office
- meeting costs for our standing units.

## ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership with First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth is for anyone who acknowledges Jesus Christ as their Lord and accepts him as their Savior. An invitation to join with us is cordially extended to any person who wishes to join us in glorifying God and building friendships with other followers of Christ. Please contact Pastor Scott about membership classes.



We have several needs each Sunday morning. Throughout the year we are in need of the following:

Ushers: If you haven't ushered before but would like to help, let the office know and we'll pair you up with someone who has done it before.

Coffee Hour Hosts/Hostesses: We need Coffee Hour hosts/hostesses for upcoming Sunday mornings. Being a host/hostess entails arriving to church before worship to start the coffee and then being present after the service to socialize. We have several ladies who are willing to show anyone the ropes. The coffee hour sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

Flower Donations for the Sanctuary: Currently, all dates are open on our flower calendar which is posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen. If you would like to furnish flowers for our sanctuary on a Sunday morning, please sign the chart. Your flowers, given in celebration, honor, or memory of someone or a special event, will enhance our sanctuary and be greatly appreciated by those in attendance at that worship service.

**SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** There are still empty dates that need someone to clear the manse and church grounds. Please consider signing up on the kitchen bulletin board. Preference is to have areas cleared of snow on Thursday or Friday of the week so as to not interfere with events on Saturday and to have the parking lot looking its best for Sunday worship. If you have questions, please contact Ken Maurer at 274-5618.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

### PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:

- ☞ You or a member of your family is (or when you know of someone in the congregation who has been) hospitalized, ill, injured, suffering hardship or is in distress;
- ☞ You need to schedule/reschedule a committee or church group meeting;
- ☞ You have important news or information to share with the whole church family (births, marriages, deaths, new addresses or phone numbers, employment, etc.);
- ☞ You need to submit information for a worship bulletin, newsletter, or the website;
- ☞ You have information related to meetings, special mailings, or church activities;
- ☞ You have information related to community events and happenings that might be relevant to the life and ministry of the congregation.

THANK YOU!

## *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.

First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth  
12517 Morseville Rd.  
Birch Run, MI 48415



## **First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth**

12517 Morseville Rd Birch Run, MI 48415

Telephone: 989.624.9473 • Fax: 989.624.4904

Email: [Taymouthchurch@msn.com](mailto:Taymouthchurch@msn.com)

Visit our website: [www.Taymouthchurch.com](http://www.Taymouthchurch.com)

Connect with us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TaymouthPresbyterianChurch](http://www.facebook.com/TaymouthPresbyterianChurch)

Sunday Worship – 9:30am

Sunday School – 10:45am

Adult “Sack Lunch” Bible Study – Wednesdays Noon-1:00pm

Rev. John Scott Kroener, Pastor

Sharon Leach, Clerk of Session - Tiffany Fortier, Treasurer

Anita Gilbert, Church Secretary - Heidi Smith, Music/Choir Director

Dawn Patrick, Christian Education Director & Financial Secretary

Floyd Roebuck, Youth Director - Paul Fortier, Custodian

*After-Hours Pastoral Emergencies:* Pastor Scott Kroener

(home) 989-244-6145

(cell) 559-816-9564