

Taymouth Tidings



“The Gift of Surprises”

Nearly 40 years ago I was completing my first basic clinical pastoral education (CPE) unit being trained as a parish pastor, I was told always take to heart an ancient Jewish mystical saying, “Be prepared to be surprised.” Now, being prepared to be surprised in a hospital setting is not necessarily to always minister in a happy situation or joyful occasion. Quite the contrary, it often is the opposite. In various hospital settings throughout my ministerial career I have experienced the ordinary and the extraordinary surprises that life and death brings into this world. With each new surprise taking place there came a new way of preparation for the next surprise. This spiritual discipline of preparing for surprises is like being asked to prepare for the greatest surprise of all, seeing Jesus Christ.

This is what Advent is all about—experiencing the ultimate surprise of seeing God with us, Emmanuel (Matt. 1:23). As Christians, we are asked to prepare and make ready for the arrival of Jesus in our expectations of his physical second coming, and to prepare our hearts for his symbolic arrival in the manger in Bethlehem at Christmas time. Traditionally, our church has prepared our hearts and minds quite well to visualize Jesus by singing hymns like “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”; the lighting of the four Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love; the hanging of the Christmas greens in the sanctuary and decorating the Christmas trees. All of these ways and more have prepared us to see the living Christ in our midst.

I would like to invite you to experience another way of preparing yourself in seeing Jesus, the face of Christ, during Advent. I am reading how one spiritual author, Edward Hays, in his book, [A Pilgrim's Almanac](#), asks his reader to cover their artwork depicting the face of Jesus Christ with a veil. “If we covered the face of Christ in our home and church art with a veil, we would be less tempted to “know” what Christ looks like. Advent is a season to look into every face—man, woman, black, brown, yellow, red, rich or poor—and ask ourselves, ‘Is this the face of Christ?’” (Hays, p. 187)

Thus, “Be prepared to be surprised.”

Shalom,

Pastor Scott

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. 9:30a.m. Worship/Holy Communion. 10:30a.m. Fellowship/Coffee Hour. 10:45a.m. Sunday School. 11:00 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting. 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting.	2.	3. 7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Meeting.	4. 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	5.	6.	7.
8. 9:30a.m. Worship. 10:30a.m. Coffee Hour. 10:45a.m. Sunday School. 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting.	9.	10. 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting.	11. 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir.	12.	13.	14.
15. 9:30a.m. Worship. 10:30a.m. Coffee Hour. 10:45a.m. Sunday School. 11:00 a.m. Church Dinner Committee Meeting. 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting.	16.	17. 1:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women and Member Care Committee Fruit/Care Baskets.	18. 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir. Newsletter Articles Due to Secretary.	19.	20.	21. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Holiday Treats and Cookie Walk.
22. 9:30a.m. Worship/Children's Program/Noisy Offering. 10:30a.m. Pancake Breakfast. 10:45a.m. Sunday School. 11:00 a.m. Mission Committee Meeting. 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting.	23.	24. 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion	25. Christmas Day. Church Office Closed.	26.	27.	28.
29. 9:30a.m. Worship. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School. 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting.	30.	31.				

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of
TAYMOUTH: SESSION ROUND-UP
NOVEMBER:**

- Pastor Scott opened the meeting on Nov. 12th with prayer and followed with Session Education in Fellowship Hall.
- Session Education was on “A Monthly Series for Serving Faithfully”. The story of Zacchaeus and hospitality. “When we think about hospitality, we tend to focus on the party host. Don’t let your desire to practice hospitality create a burden for someone else. Hospitality is not about you. It is about how you can provide comfort, joy, and care for others.”
- All members present except Fern Britton, (excused) and Nancy Schriber. A quorum was present. Dawn Patrick, Financial Secretary and Pastor Kroener were also in attendance.
- Accepted agenda as presented with additional items as they may come forward.
- Minutes approved from October 8, 2019 Stated Session Meeting.
- Clerks report: Session books will be audited on November 26, 2019.
- Treasurer’s report was presented and explained by Treasurer, Tiffany Fortier. Treasurer’s report accepted as printed by Financial Secretary.
- General Fund Oct 2019 Building Fund
 (\$4,014.28) Income \$ 480.00
 Income \$16,873.24 Payment 341.00
 Expense \$10,429.76
 End Bal. \$ 2,429.50
- Memorial money from 2005-2016 was moved to General Fund – undesignated.
- Accepted Treasurers report with ending balance of \$2,429.50 after fund transfer.
- Letters to be sent to inactive members placing their names on the inactive list. If a member is no longer active we no longer pay per Capita to Presbytery. Per Capita for 2020 is \$29.00 per member. We will not be paying per capita to Presbytery until we receive from our members. Balance to be paid in July.
- To purchase a newer model copier with color mode. Color scanner \$229.00/month includes copies. This includes 500 copies for brochures free.

- Presbytery Women’s meeting November 19th at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- Member Care -Thank you for sponsoring and preparing the Annual Congregational Meeting Breakfast.
- Men’s Group – Meeting November 14th with Family Game Night, November 16th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Average church attendance for October was 64. (One week of attendance not recorded). Worship Committee discussed what type of church do we want to be – a “Rowboat Church or a Sailboat Church”?
- Emergency and Disaster Planning Committee (Training in Emergency Preparedness and Implementation of Plan for 2020).
- Church Dinner Committee – Ken Maurer was appointed Chairman of the Church Dinner Committee at the Annual Meeting. Introduction meeting for committee December 15, after church. Harvest Dinner profit of \$1,641.83 with \$164.19 going to Youth.
- Sanctuary Sound System – Is being updated and repaired.
- Repairs have been made to the church furnace. Yards have been prepared for winter. Air conditioners have been removed. Heat ducts to be cleaned in manse. There will no longer be any recycling.

PASTOR ON VACATION: Pastor Scott will be on vacation from Dec. 26-Jan. 1st. Pastor Sue Trinklein (cell: 989-928-6845) of Christ Lutheran Church in Birch Run will provide emergency pastoral care coverage during his absence.

GUEST PREACHER: Elder Rob Minard will be the guest preacher for Sunday, December 29th worship service.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS: The ladies of Presbyterian Women (PW) and Member Care will meet on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at NOON. They will be making the baskets for our church’s shut-ins.

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS: The **Shoeboxes** for Saginaw need to be returned by December 8, 2019. Please place your unwrapped box on the table in the fellowship hall. Missions Committee will be wrapping the boxes and delivering them. The boxes will go to several women's shelters in the Saginaw area. I have personally heard some of the women talking about the excitement of receiving a box at Christmas time. They would gather around in a circle and watch each other unwrap the special, wrapped box each one of them had.

This year we are doing the **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**. There are items listed on the tree for anyone who wants to purchase a gift. The gift(s) must be returned by Sunday, December, 8, 2019. All unwrapped gift(s) need to have the tree tag attached, as this has an identification number on the back. The person(s) who will receive your gift are either current residents or past residents of the Mustard Seed Shelter in Saginaw, Michigan. Mustard Seed Shelter is more than just a stopping point for the homeless women it serves in Saginaw. For most, it creates a sense of family. The Shelter continues to keep contact with the women who are now living in their own places of residence.

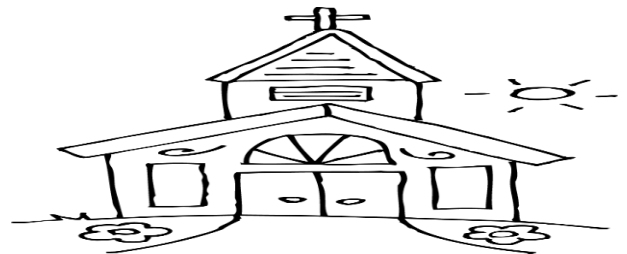
The **HOLIDAY TREATS and COOKIE WALK** will be on Saturday, December 21, 2019 in the fellowship hall from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This event is open to the public, as well as, our church family. If you have a special item or two you would like to bake for this sale. We are always looking for items for this sale. Any items you wish to provide for the sale should be delivered to the church on before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 20. Happy Baking!!!!

For the New Year, Mission will sponsor a **PENNY WAR**. The proceeds from this war will have half the money going to our church and the other half toward a mission project. Further details of this event will be in the January newsletter. Start saving your pennies.

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

THANK YOU: Sandy Bolf would like to thank everyone for the many wonderful cards and prayers. She is getting better, misses you all, and has appreciated hearing from you.

SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING: The Church's Worship Committee and Pastor Scott is hosting and leading a weekly prayer meeting on Sunday Nights, at 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The intention of the prayer meeting is to gather as a community of faith and simply uplift our concerns, needs, issues, joys, thankfulness, and praises in prayer to God. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Scott at (989) 624-9473. Members of the Worship Committee are: Sharon Peters, Chair; Heidi Smith, Choir Director and Organist; Lillian Ostrom, Jason Reed, and Nancy Fortier.



BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE NEWS:

Thank you to all our helpers for working with the flowers and lawn care. The church 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!

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

With the end of the year soon approaching, 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.

**Introducing -
On December 22, During the
Worship Service**



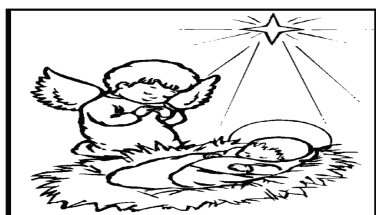
THE EMOJI CHRISTMAS STORY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: You are all invited to find out how an “emoji” can help tell the story of Jesus’s birth! The Children’s Christmas program titled “The Emoji Christmas Story” will be performed on Sunday, December 22, during the worship service. Also, there will be a noisy offering collection, candy bag tradition for the children, and a Pancake Breakfast. Please join us!

The fourth beatitude is: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (Do what is fair for everyone. We learn that we can be happy when we try to do what is right even when it is hard.)

“Do good! Seek peace and go after it!” Psalm 34:14b

Merry Christmas!
Dawn Patrick



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus, Tuesday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. Come and join us at Taymouth Church for an hour of sharing the peace and the joy that is Christmas in the warm, inviting atmosphere of the sanctuary, beautifully decorated for the season. We will sing familiar Christmas carols, hear Scripture, celebrate Holy Communion, and listen to choral anthems. Also, as is tradition, we’ll conclude our services with the singing of “Silent Night” by candlelight. We hope you’ll come.



ADVENT WREATH

Advent, the liturgical season of preparation and expectant waiting for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, begins on December 1st. Again this year, we are lighting candles on our advent wreath during each Sunday morning worship service. Traditionally, advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, which represent the four weeks of Advent. Most often, three candles are purple and one is rose (pink). Often times, advent wreaths will also contain a fifth candle, which is white.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the hope, peace and love we find in Jesus Christ. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, on which we remember the joy we find in Christ. The white candle, representing Jesus, “God with us”, is lit on Christmas Eve and Day, as well as on the following two Sundays.

The progressive lighting of candles symbolizes the building expectation surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the growing anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.



CHOIR PRACTICE: Will be held on Wednesday’s 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.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT YEAR END

2019: The end of the year is fast approaching and it is time to take a look at our church finances. First, I want to say "THANK YOU" to each and every one of you! Without your generous giving and support, we would not be able to say that we are on target with our budget needs. The contributions budget for the year is \$110,000.00 or \$9166.00 a month. As of November 17, the total contributions received was \$97,840. The amount left in the budget yet to receive before December 31 is \$12,160.00. We can do it!!! This is only \$2,027 needed per Sunday through the end of the year. Let us keep that deficit from growing and meet our budget this year!

Second, Per Capita is the cost of being a Presbyterian, and if each member pays the per capita amount above his/her regular giving, pressure on the church budget is reduced. The Per Capita amount for our church in 2019 was \$3,999.03. This amount is the reported membership of 139 persons at \$28.77 per person. The church is responsible to pay this amount even if we have not received all the monies for it. As of November 17, we have received \$2,859.87. All per capita giving for 2019 can still be made now until December 31 to help with this budget item.

Third, our staff and session members continue to review the financial situation and budget needs of our congregation. Many ideas, needs, and wants are taken into consideration. All of us need to come together and support the needs of our church. Please pray that we can all be good stewards of the many blessings the Lord has given us.

Blessings,
Dawn Patrick
Financial Secretary

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

25th ANNUAL "CHRISTMAS IN THE

COUNTRY": Sunday, December 1, 2019 3:00 p.m. Celebrate the welcoming of the Christmas season with singing of carols, lots of special music and a visit by Santa. Featuring Birch Run High School Ensemble at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 13250 Seymour Road (south of Burt Rd).

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

SARAH'S CLOSET: Needs adult clothing for men and women! Clothing needs include: shoes, socks, dresses, pants, shirts, coats, and undergarments. 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.





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.

2019 PER CAPITA

General Assembly \$8.95 Synod \$3.25 Presbytery \$16.57 Total per member \$28.77
TO BE COLLECTED IN 2019

Presbytery of Lake Huron \$120,033.08 Synod of the Covenant \$23,543.00 General Assembly \$64,833.80 Total \$208,409.88

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 unit.



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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Everyone is invited to contribute to the decorating of the church sanctuary for Christmas by donating a poinsettia or a Christmas plant. Poinsettias/Christmas plants may be given in "honor of", "memory of", or "to the Glory of God".



Please Print carefully as the names will appear in the bulletin on Christmas Eve Sunday and the First Sunday after Christmas.

Forms need to be returned to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 15th. You can bring a poinsettia/Christmas plant for placement in the sanctuary anytime between now and Christmas Eve, and pick up the flower/plant any time after Sunday morning service on December 29th. Thank you.

Given by (<i>print name</i>)	In Memory of....	In Living Honor of....	To The Glory of God...



MILITARY BUDDIES: Our Military Buddies appreciate receiving mail! Please send them a note of thanks and encouragement!

Brooke Whalen
PSC 831 Box 65
FPO AE 09902

Sonny and Danielle Lewis
358 Shepherd Trail
Aberdeen, NC 28315

Jake Whalen
2103 Roadrunner Drive
Portales, NM 88130

SPC. Waylon R. Stanley
P.O. Box 70750
Fort Bragg, NC 28307

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



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Email: Taymouthchurch@msn.com

Visit our website: www.Taymouthchurch.com

Connect with us on Facebook: 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