

Taymouth Tidings



"The Star! The Star! God is with Us!"

As we embark on the Epiphany season, I invite you to gaze at the stars of heaven like the Wisemen or the Magi did 2,100 years ago. Now, I want you to look into your heart and gaze upon the Star of Bethlehem. Yes, the Star of Bethlehem brightly shines today as it did then. It shines because of your love for Jesus dwells in your heart.

In his epic novel, "Ben-Hur, A Tale of the Christ," Mr. Lew Wallace (1880) depicts this same love for Jesus. The hero of his novel is converted from hatred to love by the touch of Christ. Unfortunately, what we don't see in the classic movie version (1959) starring Charles Heston as Ben-Hur, that particular evangelist who converts him. The evangelist is no other than one of the original Magi who visited Jesus at his birth. His name is Balthasar. Balthasar's spiritual insight and wisdom helps Ben-Hur reconcile his life's journey in discovering the Star of Bethlehem within his heart. If you have not done so, I invite you to read the novel, "Ben-Hur," and discover the "Perfect Light."

The story of the "Perfect Light," continues to live on in one of our Christmas carols, "We Three Kings of Orient Are." This carol was written in 1857 by The Rev. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and it has guided many people these past 160 years "traversing afar" towards the "Perfect Light." The Rev. Hopkins builds his story from ancient church tradition as recorded by St. Bede in 735 A.D. Believe it or not, Mr. Wallace did the same when he wrote his novel, "Ben-Hur." I invite you to sing the carol, "We Three Kings of Orient Are," and discover the "Perfect Light."

St. Bede, unlike the gospel writer and evangelist Matthew who only recorded the number of gifts, numbered the Magi and gave them their three names: "He described Melchior as a white-bearded old man. Melchior brought gold, the gift of royalty, to signify Jesus' kingly position on earth. Gaspar, a young man of "ruddy hue," brought frankincense, an aromatic tree bark, whose fragrance was tinted to waft skyward to heaven, a sign of Jesus' unity with God. It has been suggested that the frankincense had a more practical use, to make sweet the awful smells of the manger. Balthazar is described as black complexioned, with a heavy black beard. He brought myrrh, which prefigured the death of the Son of Man. Myrrh is an unguent, used in those days to prepare bodies for burial." (Al Reason, "A Christmas Celebration in Song and Story," p. 60, 1999)

St. Bede, The Rev. Hopkins, and Mr. Wallace all drew upon a tradition which the Gospel of Matthew records. However, the Gospel of Matthew (2:1-12) does not provide us with specific details about the Magi. What becomes interesting, however, is how Matthew tells his story. He invites us on a journey, so we can travel afar and near, and so we can follow the Star of Bethlehem to that "Perfect Light." He wants us to bring ourselves to the manger and pay homage to Jesus. He wants us to be blessed and become a gift to be used by Jesus to reconcile the world with hope, peace, joy, and love.

God bless you as we travel and journey into Epiphany.

Shalom,

Pastor Scott



POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Thank you to all those who donated poinsettias this Holy season! They truly made our church an even more beautiful space in which to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior.

Peter & Barb Roebuck	In Living Honor of:	Lily, Bella, Penny, Molly, Peter, Frances.
Linda Jones	In Memory of:	Elsie Jones.
Susan Gosen	In Memory of:	Gary, Harve, and Pauline Gosen.
Glen & Beverly Lee	In Memory of:	Jason Olsen.
Jim & Sharon Peters	In Memory of:	Duane Dankert, Henry & Margret Fawcett.
Doris Ostermiller	In Memory of:	John Ostermiller.
Bonnie Pratt	In Memory of: In Living Honor of:	Dale Pratt. Children and Grandchildren.
Nancy Schriber	To the Glory of God:	The Church Family.
Dan & Pat Periard	In Memory of:	David Periard.
Janet Reed & Family	In Memory of:	Gordon Reed.
Sue Przeslawski	In Memory of:	Norman, Monagene Welzein, & Gerald Przeslawski.

January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 12:00 p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	3	4	5
6 9:30 a.m. Worship. 9:30 a.m. Ordination/Installation of Ruling Elders. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School. 11:00 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting.	7	8 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Session.	9 12:00 p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	10	11 7:00 p.m. Church Family Game Night. (Sponsored by the Men's Group).	12
13 9:30 a.m. Worship. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School.	14	15	16 12:00 p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	17	18	19
20 9:30 a.m. Worship. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School.	21	22	23 No Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	24 Newsletter Deadline.	25	26
27 9:30 a.m. Worship. 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School. 11:00 a.m. Mission Committee Meeting.	28	29	30 12:00 p.m. Bible Study. 7:00 p.m. Choir.	31		

SESSION ROUND UP – DECEMBER 2018

- Session Education was on becoming an Ordained, Ruling Elder. Pastor Scott explained to new members what being an Elder in The Presbyterian Church entails and what is expected of an Elder.
- Approved minutes of the November 13, 2018 stated session meeting with corrections.
- All members except Roxanne Bryce were in attendance, including new Session Members for 2019.
- Pastor presented each session member with a gingerbread.
- Committee members were selected with the following: Building and Grounds: Gary Brabant, Chairperson, with Dennis Neahusen; Finance: Tiffany Fortier; Mission: Bonnie Pratt, Chairperson, with Nancy Schriber; Worship: Sharon Peters, Chairperson; Christian Education: Cheryl Rogers, Chairperson, with Sharon Peters; Member Care: Fern Britton, Chairperson, with Cherie Miller; Personnel: Rob Minard, Chairperson, with Sharon Leach; Social Media & Communication Outreach: Christine Callender, Chairperson.
- Each Elder is also in charge of one month for ushers. Please accept being an usher when a session member asks you to help.
- Elected Sharon Leach, Clerk of Session for 2019 for a one-year term. Christine Callender will be her assistant.
- Elected Tiffany Fortier, Treasurer for 2019 for a one-year term.
- Mission: Filled 33 "Shoeboxes" for this year. Committee wrapped boxes and were delivered by Kathy Rogers. "Adopt a Family Tree" is going well. Working on a "Mission Journey" for January, Money collected for this journey will be split 50/50 for the church general fund and the other half to Brian's house.
- Building and Grounds: Elevator & boiler have been inspected. New sump pump put in manse. New lights have been installed outside on front of church and steeple. Changed emergency light in south entrance.
- Finance: Finances are up approx. \$7,000.00 from a year ago. Deficit is still growing slowly. Will be having quarterly committee meetings.
- Worship: Average Attendance, November 2017 – 70; November 2018 – 71. Communion served to 77, 1st Sunday in November. There will be no communion first Sunday in January. Pastor on vacation December 26 thru January 1, 2019.
- Christian Education: Planning Children's Christmas Program for December 23. Gift bags will be presented to youth from Bell CD. Youth will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast after service. Approved Noisy Offering for December 23 with Christian Education deciding how they would like to distribute funds early in the New Year.
- Member Care: Preparing gift baskets for elderly/shut ins.
- Personnel: Will be presenting Christmas gifts to all Personnel for a job well done. Approved \$800.00 for Christmas gifts to personnel.
- Social Media & Communication: Newsletter is on the media in PDF form.
- Men's Group: Approved a family night for January and March.
- Pastors Report: Approved Dedication of Frances Roebuck, daughter of Elizabeth and Floyd Roebuck.
- Officiated at funerals for Virginia Lorraine Smith, November 23, at Cederberg-Brietzke Funeral Home, Saginaw, MI. Betty A. Mosher-Washburn, November 29, Wilson Miller Funeral Home, Midland, MI.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service December 24, at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Approved a scrap drive for the spring of 2019.
- Approved Elder Installation/Ordination for January 6, 2019, Sunday Church Service.
- Approved sending a \$100.00 donation to Birch Run High School Band for their ministry of music on Sunday, December 9, 2018.
- Approved purchase of used deep fryer for \$300.00 and fish fry to be held April 26, 2019.
- Received report from Lillian Ostrom, Commissioner on Presbytery Meeting of

December 4th. Nine different missions were presented for them to choose from, this was to encourage churches to network with each other or any organization. By sharing time and resources more can be accomplished, by working together.

- Thank you to Jason Reed, Roxanne Bryce and Jim Peters for their years of service as Elder.
- Closed with prayer at 9:25 p.m.
- Sharon Leach, Clerk of Session

Men's Ministry

Please reserve the date of Friday, January 11th, for a Church family game night sponsored by the Men's Club. Bring your favorite games to play, bring your family and friends, bring a snack to pass. Any Questions, speak with Rob Minard at 989.777.6789.



January, 2019!!! How did we get here so fast. I remember it didn't seem that long ago we were wondering what it would be like to be in the 21st century and we are now well into it.

This year the "**Shoeboxes**" were delivered the first part of December. There were 33 shoeboxes this year that went to different women shelters in the Saginaw area. At Christmas time, many of the women in these shelters only receive the gift of this shoeboxes. I have heard them tell of sitting together and opening these boxes at Christmas time. They tell of the joy they have upon receiving this special gift. Thanks for your donation of this gift to them.

Missions had a great turn out for the "**Holiday Treats and Cookie Walk**" on

December 15th. Thanks goes to all who made their delicious cookies and treats. Without the baking and making of the items, we would not have had the success we had. We also must take time to thank those who purchased these items. There were a few cookies left from the sale. These cookies went to Member Care to help pack the fruit and cookie baskets for some of the shut-ins of our church.

This year we did an "**Adopt a Family**" with a giving tree. This tree had paper ornaments with items to purchase for this family. The family consists of a mother, her 19 year old daughter, 12 year old son and a 1 year old granddaughter. This family had lived in a homeless shelter for two years and just recently were able to leave and be on their own. The 19 year old is the sole provider for them while the mother/grandmother watched the 1 year old. The ornaments on this tree also had items to purchase for their Christmas dinner.

Your generosity is going to give them a very nice Christmas this year. After the items were boxed or bagged, there were over 60 gifts. This does not include the food item for the Christmas dinner. Thanks to all who helped make there Christmas special this year.

To start the New Year, we have a fun Mission project that everyone can participate with. We are calling this a "**Mission Journey**". It will start January 6th and go until March 3rd. These are the 56 days of the Epiphany and you will have some time to do each day of this journey. On January 6, 2019 you will be given a list of items. There is a different item each day that have to note how many you have in your home. There is a different price on each daily item. This is a journey for every church family, even if you are not in the state of Michigan. At the end of the journey, all funds will be split 50-50 with the churches general fund and Brian's House. Brian's House is a hospice house in Essexville that provides quality end-of-life care. We hope you don't have to take out a loan to pay for this journey (just kidding--I hope).

This year we will be having an all year "**Food Drive**". The items will be collected each time we have communion. We are specifying communion dates but items can be dropped off at any time. There will be a drop off location at the top of the stair of the south entrance. They are to be **non-perishable and with current**

expiration dates. The items will be delivered once a month to the food bank that is ran by SS Francis and Clare Catholic Church in Birch Run. This what we would like to do to help local families in need.

Remember to mark your calendars for Sunday, May 5, 2019 for the **“Mission Marketplace”**. This will give you all winter to create that special item to be placed for sale. There is lots of fun and friendly bidding for the purchase of that special, unique item. This will be the week before Mother’s Day so you can make that purchase for that special lady in your life.

Missions would like to say “THANK YOU” for helping make missions a group that make a difference to so many people.



TAYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS:

Meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Next Meeting will be held in March. We are always looking for new members.

At the December meeting, the PW voted on how to spend the money from the rummage sale. It was approved unanimously to pay for the inspection of the boiler at a cost of \$120. We thought this was a sensible decision, as we needed heat to make the worship place a little cozier on the cold winter days before us.

It was also approved to pay \$1000 towards the inspection contract for the elevator. There are several persons in our congregation that utilize the service of the elevator. We want to make certain they can continue to attend the functions of our church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

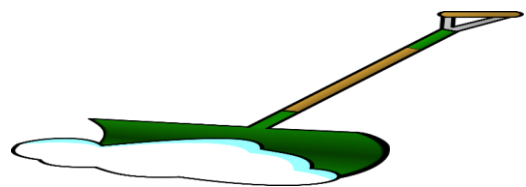
Thank you to all our Sunday school youth for their participation in our Christmas program- Alexandria Callender, Kylie Gammons, Kadence Damm, Seth Damm, Caleb Fortier, Jaxon Reed, Quinn Periard, Rowen Maher, Peter Roebuck, Heather Fortier, Benjamin Reed, Brianna Irish, Blair Periard, Grace Schrubbe, Bo Periard, and Wren Periard! You all did a great job! I especially want to thank all the parents and youth that gave of themselves and their families to make this happen. You are all a blessing!

Sunday School will be on break December 23 and December 30 for the Christmas season. We will begin learning again on January 6, 2019. See you all soon!

Isaiah 43:2 – *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.*

God Bless!
Dawn Patrick

SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS:



Now with the winter months upon us the church needs help in removing snow from the sidewalks, walk ways and entry ways into and out of the church. Please sign up on the list posted in the kitchen on the bulletin board for a week of snow shoveling duty if you are able. Thank you.



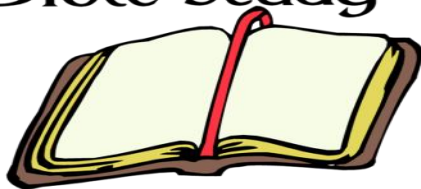
OLD SCRAP DRIVE

The church will be collecting any old scrap from now until June 8, 2019. Any metal you may have sitting around your house, yard, or elsewhere that you need to clear? All scrap Metals, Tin, Steel, Aluminum, Old Appliances, Batteries, Motors, Water Heaters, and more. If you have any you would like to donate please contact Jason Reed at 989.522.4950. Thank you.



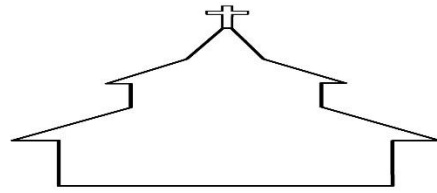
Prayer Circle Cindy Rabe has organized a "Prayer Circle" for anyone interested. The prayer request information is conveyed by telephone and your prayers at home would include these special intentions. If you have a special prayer request for yourself or a loved one, or if you would like to join the circle, please contact Cindy at 624-9274, or you may call her cell phone if unable to reach her at home, (989) 798-5797.

Bible Study



ADULT "Sack Lunch" BIBLE

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!



NEW POLICY FOR CHURCH FUNERAL DINNERS

At its monthly meeting in March 2018, the Session adopted a new funeral lunch/dinner policy. The new policy states that there will be a \$3.00 charge per person for a funeral meal to be served to them. This charge is to take effect immediately. This charge will hopefully cover the cost of food, and paper products (e.g. napkins, plates, cups, and plastic eating utensils) used for the meal.

Also, the Session approved upon the recommendation of the church's Funeral Committee (Sharon Leach, Chair; Cindy Maher, Meal Coordinator; Kay Blessing; Bonnie Pratt; Jeff Reed) that a standardized menu be used in preparing the funeral meals. The menu will basically consist of ham and other major food dishes designated and assigned by the funeral meal coordinator, Cindy Maher, and to be cooked in the church's own kitchen. Desserts will be donated by church members and friends. Cindy Maher will contact individuals to make desserts. Hopefully, by preparing the funeral meals in the church's kitchen with a designated work crew, the church will become more efficient in utilizing its resources in the areas of manpower and kitchen facility. The purpose of this new policy is to help cover the cost of the meal, and to streamline the food preparation process. Please know that when a funeral lunch or dinner is being served in the church's fellowship hall there is a janitorial fee of \$50.00 to be paid by the family to the church.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Sharon Leach (989) 295-1116, Chair of the Funeral Committee, and Clerk of Session.



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.

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 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.

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!

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.

SEASONAL VOLUNTEERS: Snow removal of church sidewalks & entries. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the kitchen bulletin board OR contact the church office. THANK YOU for your STEWARDSHIP!

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