



First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth

December 2020

Taymouth Tidings

Welcome!

Sunday Worship—9:30am

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, email: taymouthchurch@msn.com

Connect on Facebook: Taymouth Presbyterian Church

November 20, 2020

Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church:

This past Sunday, November 15th, our church's Session met after the worship service to discuss the letter of recommendation from our Presbytery Council of the Lake Huron Presbytery dated November 13th which advises Sessions and Congregations to suspend all in-person worship services and gatherings to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Upon the recommendation of Presbytery and from their own knowledge of the virus as publicized by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Session decided to immediately suspend all in-person worship services and congregational gatherings until February 7, 2021.

The Session took this action with a sad and heavy heart. The Session continues to evaluate both state and national public health systems and our Presbytery's recommendations pertaining to our ability to return safely to worship in church. It chose the February 7th date in order to have the time to properly assess and evaluate the short and long term impact this disease has on our local community and congregation.

The Session directs all church worship services to continue to be conducted on-line through Facebook and YouTube. When worship services are being live-streamed no one is permitted in the sanctuary unless he or she has an official role such as the pastor, musicians, or social media personnel. If you lack the technology to view the worship service at home, appointments can be made to watch the recordings within office hours during week.

Our church's links for accessing the live stream services or prior recordings are as follows: Facebook link: <https://m.facebook.com/TaymouthPresbyterianChurch/> YouTube link: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCqArEHt51-2u4OxC-OGrMsA/videos>

Please access the above links at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Thursday, December 24th, at 5:00 p.m. will be live-streamed.

Please honor and respect the Session's decision with this latest development of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Peace and grace,
Pastor Scott Kroener

Church Office Hours

We are here for you!

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

Food Pantry

Please remember our local Food Pantry at the Ss Francis and Clare Catholic church is in need of donations! Some suggested items include chicken soup, tomato soup, canned chicken or tuna, ramen noodles, juices, boxed potatoes, canned peas and carrots, and dry powdered milk. 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.



As we celebrate Christmas, you are welcome to donate a poinsettia or other floral arrangement in honor of a loved one. Please drop off upstairs in the Geneva room, during church office hours. There will be a sign-up sheet for the memorial names.

"The Great O's"

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is an Advent carol. The carol foretells the Messiah's coming as mentioned in Old Testament Scripture:

*The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise
I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days
and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 33:14-15)*

In medieval times, Christian monasteries would sing their evening vespers to the tune of what we come to know as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Singing this carol would take place seven nights before Christmas reflecting upon how the Messiah would come through the Great or Seven O's as in "O Wisdom," "O Key of David," "O Desire of Nations," "O Day Spring," "O Rod of Jesse," "O Lord of Might," or "____," (blank—fill in your own perception of Immanuel). One's perception of the Great O's are infinite and limitless in the Church's musical repertoire.

Al Remson describes the monastic nightly scene in his book entitled, A Christmas Celebration in Song and Story (A Perigee Book, p. 14, 1999):

*As torches lit the scene, the priests' procession moved forward through the
early evening darkness, and they began the chant with two lines:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Then the procession would halt and in one voice they chant the stanza:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

Until the Son of God appears may we continue to watch and wait for Jesus' second coming and for his coming into the world as the Christ Child. Advent means "coming," the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ's second return will mark the time when God's kingdom will be fully realized. We know God's kingdom is in part with us now because we know about the birth of Jesus and celebrate it on Christmas. However, we know God's kingdom is not yet fully matured on Earth. This is the reason for our waiting. We are waiting for the Kingdom of God, now only in its infancy, to be fully known.

We light the Candles of Advent—Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace—and sing the blessed ancient Advent carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" with anticipation of Jesus' arrival. Let us watch together for Christ's coming.

Shalom,
Pastor Scott



Mission Committee News

We have been able to mail a check for "One Great Hour of Sharing". With your donations and money from the missions account we were able to send the \$400. Thanks for helping with this cause.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the "Shoeboxes" should be wrapped and delivered. This is one project we were able to do this year as so many others had to be cancelled. At this time, I do not know how many we were able to do this year.

As you are probably aware, we have CANCELLED the "Cookie Walk and Holiday Treat". I know many of you look forward to this event, but with the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases, we felt it was best to cancel the event. If you are like me, I had started to purchase supplies for making treats and baking cookies and other goodies. Hopefully, you will be able to make your special items and share them with your close family members.

There is always a need for helping the "Community Food Pantry". Please feel free to drop off any items at our church during the hours someone will be there. You might want to call ahead of time to make certain the door can be unlocked.

There has not been very much happening with missions this year. So many of the events we were looking forward to have been cancelled. We would like to thank all those who participated in the events that we were able to have.

Here's looking to a better year in 2021.

Bonnie Pratt, Mission Committee Chair

Sunday	Monday	1 Tuesday No B&G Meeting	2 Wednesday	3 Thursday	4 Friday	5 Saturday
6 Livestream Service w/ Holy Communion 9:30 am	7	8 Session by Zoom 7:00pm	9	10		
13 Livestream Service 9:30 am	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Livestream Service w/Children's Program 9:30 am	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight w/ Holy Communion Livestream Service 5:00 pm	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 Livestream Service 9:30 am	28	29 Annual Reports due from Session & Church Committees.	30	31	<i>December 2020</i>	

Thank you!

Thank you to Janette Gonzales for providing pulpit flowers in memory of her husband Jerry.

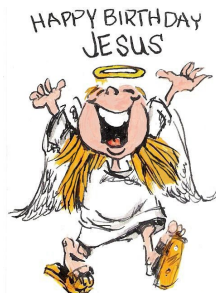


All meetings for Presbyterian Women have been cancelled until Spring of 2021. Have a Safe Winter!

Christian Education

Sparky is fitting right in here at Church, along with Firebal and all our friends! Both Sparky and Firebal know that this is an unusual time for our Church and Sunday School in that we are unable to meet regularly right now. But don't worry, I show them a lot of pictures and tell them about all of our Sunday School kids! They are learning about prayer this month. Please keep all of our youth, families, and friends in your prayers!

The Sunday School kids will be participating in the making of a Christmas video presentation to be shown on Sunday, December 20, during the worship service. Plans are in place for this very unique and exciting program. You will definitely want to tune in for this!



God Bless,
Dawn Patrick, CE Director

Member Care

"REACH UP, REACH OUT, REACH ALL"

We have added 6 new Military Buddies to our monthly card ministry. These soldiers have been deployed. If you would like to send an additional card, their addresses are available.

This year, Member Care will not be making and delivering our shut-in baskets. We are looking to do something different this spring.

Our "Guess Who" for November was Marge Colosky! What a great surprise! Until we can meet in person, "Guess Who" is being suspended.

Check out our Church Front door on Morseville Road. Each heart represents our church family members and military buddies. In these difficult times, Love, Kindness, and Hope are to be shared!

Thank you! Holly Wendzik, Member Care Chair

News from the Clerk's Desk

The following items were discussed and approved at November's Session meeting and Special Session Meeting.

♦ Session Meeting: November 10, 2020

- ♦ Approved the transfer of Dennis Blom from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Westminster, Colorado.
- ♦ Approved the bid of \$700 to cut the tree down in front of the church and leave part of the trunk as a possible religious carving for next year providing it isn't rotten. Tree trimming company will be out of Montrose.
- ♦ Approved Benevolence for Presbytery, to be paid in monthly installments. Total is \$1,000 per year, \$83 monthly.
- ♦ Approved Per Capita payments as monthly for next year. Payment will be \$325.95 per month. Total Per capita for 2021 is \$3,911.36, for 136 members.
- ♦ Floyd Roebuck is exploring the possibility of building a plexiglass wall so that a singer can stand behind it without a mask and safely sing before the congregation.
- ♦ Personell committee met with all employees. Approved to give up to a 4% raise to the employees keeping in mind next year's budget.
- ♦ Approved additional funds for desktop in Secretaries office; not purchasing a laptop.
- ♦ Removed four members from the church roll. Moved three members to inactive list.
- ♦ Next meeting December 8, 2020 via Zoom.

Special Session Meeting: November 15, 2020

- ♦ Approved Presbytery's recommendation to suspend indoor service until the first Sunday in February 2021. Conducting virtual services only, beginning with Sunday, November 22, 2020 service.
- ♦ Session meetings to be via Zoom.
- ♦ Session Elders will check-in weekly with church members to see how people are doing and if there are any needs to address.
- ♦ All church committee meetings have been canceled.

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 of Session.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

As we worship at home, please prepare your Holy Communion elements of bread and wine, and have a candle to be lit as we all join together for this special virtual worship service at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th.



Livestreaming the Sunday morning Worship Service is going well! We have been able to install more equipment to help with the sound. Please tune in on facebook or youtube to watch. If you are unable to watch from home, you may call the church office for an appointment to watch on one of our devices.

I am looking for 4 ideas for fundraisers for next year. Please let me know what your ideas are. The proceeds will be going towards a new sound system for our church. The upgrade is much needed.

Christine Callender, Social Media

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

	November 1	November 8	November 15	MTD	Contribution Budget Needs
General Fund	\$2710	\$2386	\$1691	\$6787	\$9166 Monthly
Building Fund	\$415	\$15	\$115	\$545	\$367 Monthly
Per Capita	\$60	\$108	\$30	\$2505 (YTD)	\$3999.03 Yearly
Initial Offering	\$0	\$0	\$6	\$280 (YTD)	\$658 Yearly

Dear Church Family and Friends!

Nothing about this year has been ordinary. So why stop now? November and December have and will look a bit different than they have in the past years. We are not able to see each other in person, but we can lift each other up in our thoughts and prayers every day! With the end of the budget year approaching, please prayerfully consider helping the church reduce its deficit. In January this year, our deficit was at \$-24,762.26. The year before was at \$-32,165.83. The deficit is directly affected by the budget needs being met each month. We are making progress and hope you will be able to continue to help!

Offering envelopes were available for pick up in November. You may stop by and pick up yours at the church during office hours Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

During this current church closing, Money Counters will be processing the offering on December 3, 17, and 31. You may mail in your contributions or drop them off in our prayer box at church.

If you have any questions, please call me at the church on Tuesday's or Thursday's from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. (989) 624-9473.

Thank you all and God Bless,
Dawn Patrick, Financial Secretary



Annual Reports Due!

To all Committee leaders or Secretaries, please have your Annual Report turned in to the Church office by December 29. You may email or drop off a copy. Thank you!

Bulletins

Weekly bulletins are available on our website at taymouthchurch.com or can be mailed to you. You may also watch the service on one of our computer devices. Call the church office for an appointment.



Sarah's Closet

Our mission provides adult clothing for men and women! Clothing items include: shoes, socks, dresses, pants, shirts, coats, and undergarments. Call the Birch Run United Methodist Church at (989) 624-9340 for hours of operation. The church is located at 12265 Church St, Birch Run.

Birch Run Baby Pantry

Christ Lutheran Church of Birch Run, located at 8101 Poellet St, is host to the local Baby Pantry. Call the church office at (989) 624-9378 for hours of operation. All recipients must fill out a form to receive 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 3:00 pm, or by appointment. Please call (989) 624-9098 for more information. Church is located at 12157 Church St., Birch Run. Donations are also welcome!



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Birch Run, MI 48415



