



First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth

DECEMBER 2023

Taymouth Tidings



WELCOME!

Sunday Worship Service—9:30am, Rev. John Scott Kroener, Pastor
Christine Callender- Social Media Director and Clerk of Session,
Dawn Patrick - Administrative Assistant and Christian Education Director,
Heidi Smith- Musician, Ken Maurer- Custodian,
Lynn Hauk- Treasurer Floyd Roebuck- Youth Director
12517 Morseville Rd. Birch Run, MI 48415
Phone: (989)624-9473, Website: www.taymouthchurch.com
Email: taymouthchurch@msn.com,
Facebook: Taymouth Presbyterian Church

Please call the church with any concerns or prayers.
The office hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday,
from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Holidays hours do vary).

Prayer Circle



To activate the church's
prayer circle please call

Cindy Rabe
(989) 624-9274.

Prayer requests are
conveyed by telephone.

As we celebrate Christmas,
you are welcome to donate
a poinsettia or other floral
arrangement in honor of a
loved one. Please drop
off flowers in the Geneva
room, during office
hours.



There will be a sign-up sheet for the
memorial names.

Christmas Eve Service



On Sunday, Dec. 24, there will be one
evening service at 7:00 p.m. Please join
us as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus
Christ with Holy Communion, song,
Scripture and candlelight.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!

To all Committee chairs, please have your Annual Re-
port turned into the Church Office by **December 19th**.
You can either email it to the office or drop off a copy.

Join us for a

COOKIE WALK & BAKE SALE

Saturday, December 16, 2023
9:00am to Noon

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

Cookies are \$10.00 Large Container
and \$7.00 Small Container.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER					1	2 Private Party
3 9:30 a.m. Worship Service W/ Holy Communion Birch Run High School Band 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour and Sunday School 1st Sunday of Advent	4	5 7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour and Sunday School 2nd Sunday of Advent	11	12 7:00 p.m. Session	13	14	15	16 9am-12pm Cookie Walk
17 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Childrens Christmas Program w/Noisy Offering 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour and Sunday School 3rd Sunday of Advent	18	19 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour No Sunday School 7:00 pm Candlelight Service w/ Holy Communion 4th Sunday of Advent	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour No Sunday School 1st Sunday of Christmas						

MISSIONS

Jim Peters did it again! We are so fortunate God has blessed us with an in-house auctioneer. He keeps our auctions lively and successful, raising \$382.50 at our Nov. 19th auction. We had two oak jewelry boxes handcrafted by the talented Jim Maher and several ceramic items painted by the equally talented Cindy Maher, plus other selected items from our bazaar to fill out the auction tables.

We still have some bazaar items on sale thru December 16th when the Cookie Walk will take place. Thank you to Terry Rudzitis for taking the lead on the Bazaar and adding some new features. Total so far \$1,411.

We are looking to our great bakers as they always surprise us with their delicious treats for the Cookie Walk Dec 16th.

Thank you to our congregation for all the support for our 2023 fund raisers as they support our Mission Committee. May you all have a blessed holiday season that lasts all year long.

Many Blessings to all, Janette Gonzales, Missions Chair

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- Thanks to Rick Hauk for trimming the trees at the church and manse and removing debris.
- Thanks to Pete McIntosh for fixing the lock on the East door.
- Looking for snow shovelers for the winter season. There is a sign-up sheet available.

Thank you to all who help! We are always looking for more help with this committee. If you would like to join, just see me. Terri Rudzitis, Building & Grounds Chair

Happy Birthday Taymouth Church!

On October 29, 2023, 58 people enjoyed a wonderful potluck after church service to celebrate our church's 155th birthday party. Tables were overflowing with delicious, mouthwatering food, which our church is known for. A lovely birthday cake, with an aerial picture of the church, was donated by Dawn. Door prizes were won by all those in attendance. Current era items were gathered to be added to the time capsule. Thanks to all who helped, including the committee of: Pastor, Terri, Lil, Jeff, my friend Carol, & many others.
Carolyn Weston

"The Legacy of Joe Bell"

By Beverly Robertson

When our church held its annual Christmas children's pageant, I loved watching a two-year old with a hat that resembled a cow's head with horns. She rose from her place on stage with "other animals" and wondered down the center aisle. All eyes were on this toddler as her grandfather led her back up the steps to her place next to another little one in a donkey costume with big ears.

The audience of parents, grandparents and congregants smiled as a little boy and girl portrayed Joseph and Mary. Shepherds, Magi, and angels surrounded the holy couple along with children attired as animals. A young boy and girl read scripture. Interspersed between these readings, the congregation sang *Away in a Manger, Come Let Us Adore Him, Silent Night* and other beloved carols.

When the pageant was over, the proud church family erupted with applause. As the children sat on the steps to the platform and gathered around the pastor, he told them about another young boy that attended the church many years ago. Joe Bell came from a poor, farm family with many siblings. After the Christmas program, he was given an apple and perhaps a few hard candies. This meant a lot to him—one of the few gifts he would receive.

Joe grew up and purchased a farm in North Dakota and made his fortune in the insurance business, some say in oil. Neighbors said he was a generous man. He gave gifts to the children in the neighborhood and treated them to movies in a nearby town. He shared his knowledge with the older ones on how to save and invest their money! Maybe he enjoyed and wanted to help these kids because he never married and had a family of his own. He would visit out little white church nestled between corn fields that he had attended as a child. Hushed whispers resonated around the congregation, "Joe Bell is here." Looking up at the stained-glass windows with the names of those who donated them, perhaps he remembered how he had been given a gift from the people of this church. He decided he wanted to give back to the children so they could receive as he had.

Our pastor explained that before Joe passed away in 1966, he donated a large sum of money to the church. Part of it was designated for them and the children of the future. He also gave enough to purchase additional property and pay for a new parsonage. This home would house and entice new ministers to come to our community. I listened to some of the older people reminisce with admiration, and I regretted not having known him. This reminds me that we never know how a needy child could grow up to be such a blessing. I often think of the legacy he left behind and how much he must have loved our little country church.

I want to say, "Thank you," to everyone in this sad and sorrowful time.

Your kind words of sympathy upon the passing of my father, John Herman Kroener, is deeply felt in my heart. Thank you for keeping me and Jane in your prayers and thoughts. God Bless you.

Shalom, Pastor Scott

Are you a fan of our church History? Pastor Scott is offering his newsletter article "space" for your writing. If you have a story you would like to submit for consideration, please see Pastor Scott. Thank you to Beverly Robertson for this month's article.

NEWS FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Christine Callender, Clerk of Session

The clerk had minutes books reviewed at Presbytery on October 16, 2023, approved with no exceptions. There are some new policies that will need to be implemented by 2026.

Approved motion to change name of PW on books to Rummage Sale to eliminate confusion. The funds from PW (\$1,634.48) will move to General Fund and Rummage profit will be used to pay for the Elevator test.

Per Capita has come in and the amount went down for 2024 to \$29.50 per member.

2024 Family Game Nights: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8, April 12, & May 10.

The Nominating committee is looking for 3 people for the Class of 2026.

2024 Car Show date is set for Sep. 28, 2024. Next meeting is in February.

Bazaar made about \$1,100. Half is going to Missions and half to General Fund.

Member Care is making VA Cards on Nov. 19, and Bingo on Nov. 26.

The Annual Meeting is Jan. 28, 2024, with Member Care providing a luncheon.

A new door sign is going up in Dec.

Personnel will be meeting with remaining employees by the end of November, beginning of December. Approved to NOT give out Christmas gifts to staff this year.

Birch Run High School band will be providing holiday music on Dec. 3, 2023.

Approved Dawn and Christine to move some furniture around in the office. Heidi and session are all good with the furniture being moved.

Next meeting December 12, 2023.

**For a complete list, please contact the church office or the Clerk.

LIVING NATIVITY

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost will be hosting their 27th Annual Living Nativity – A Journey to Bethlehem, on December 1-3. This is a 30 minute outdoor walk, so dress for the weather. Experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on that blessed night when Jesus Christ was born. Our church will be attending as a group on **Sunday, December 3 at 6:00pm.**

Please meet at Immanuel Lutheran,
8220 E. Holland Road, Saginaw, by 5:30pm.

Rock Candy was a hit this year. It started on August 19th, with a successful Pop Can Drive that raised \$336. Then on September 24th, we cooked and broke all the Rock Candy. Then 55 – 1 lb bags of Rock Candy were bagged in October and sold at the Holiday Bazaar on November 4th. There were only 11 left at the end of the Bazaar and the remaining were sold on Sunday, November 5th. We raised \$304.52 after fees from the credit card sales. Between the Pop Can drive and Bazaar, after expenses and fee, the final total raised by the Youth was \$541.81. What an amazing group of kids, youth, parents, and church family we have. Thank You all for a successful Rock Candy adventure and we will do it again in 2025.

-Christine Callender, C.E.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Please join us for our Sunday School and Youth Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 17, during the Worship Service. The story of “The Three Trees” will be presented to the congregation.

Sunday school will not take place on Sunday's, December 24 and 31, due to the holidays.

The Fruits of the Spirit show up in our everyday life! For example, while having a great time at Montrose Orchards for our Fall Festival, we gave thanks for the Lord's creation of pumpkins, apples, and animals. At the Trunk-or-Treat, we practiced patience with the weather this year. Thank you to everyone that participated in both our events!

The third fruit is Faithfulness- *Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.* Psalm 36:5

Our Youth Group will meet again on Sunday, January 7. We will continue our discussion on making JOY “automatic”. Is joy automatic in your life?

God Bless, Dawn Patrick, CE Director

Dinner Committee

We are working hard to make a stronger group and are seeking new members to have a prosperous year. If you are interested in joining or have some great ideas, please let me know. Terri Rudzitis, Dinner Committee Chair

Join us for a

Children may bring a “kids” \$5.00 gift to swap with other children.



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK & GIFT SWAP

Wednesday, December 6,
6:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass and a \$5.00 wrapped gift to swap.

First Presbyterian Church of Taymouth
989-624-9473

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

invite you to-

The Story of the Three Trees

Please join us on
Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023,
9:30 am for this
special presentation
and Noisy Offering
collection.

Merry Christmas

CANCELLED-

New Years Eve bonfire

Session has voted that due to attendance reducing each year and the winter weather, the bon fire will be cancelled this year.

Prayer Cards will be ceremoniously destroyed at a later date.



Please join us for our
Annual Congregational Meeting

JANUARY 28th

BEGINNING RIGHT AFTER
WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL,
WITH A LUNCHEON BY MEMBER CARE.

The Annual Report will be
available starting January 15th.

PER CAPITA

Thank you all that have made their contribution to the Per Capita commitment for this year. As of the end of October, we have received \$2,626.55 of \$3,275 needed. If you have not had the chance to contribute, you still have until December 31. The rate for 2023 is \$29.77 per member. The new rate for 2024 is \$29.50.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

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.

HOW IS PER CAPITA CALCULATED?

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, like 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

First Presbyterian
Church of Taymouth

FAMILY GAME NIGHT'S

COME OUT AND PLAY THE GAMES YOU KNOW AND LOVE!
LEARN NEW GAMES AND MEET NEW PEOPLE!
BRING YOUR FAVORITES GAMES AND
SNACK FOOD TO SHARE.

Friday's 7:00 - 9:00 pm
January 12
February 9
March 8
April 12
May 10

(989) 624-9473 | WWW.TAYMOUTHCHURCH.COM
12517 MORSEVILLE RD. BIRCH RUN, MI 48415

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Our prayers are with Pastor Scott, Jane, and Family in the passing of Pastor's father John Kroener, on Wednesday, November 15. Please continue to keep the entire family in your prayers. Memorial contributions can be sent to First Presbyterian Church, 51 Crescent Drive, Murphysboro, IL. 62966



We are pleased to announce that we are now providing online giving as an option that is a convenient and secure way to make a one-time or recurring donation. When you choose to give online, your donation will transfer directly to our bank account. You have the option to create a Profile, which will give you the ability to log in at any time to view your prior online donations or to make changes to any recurring gifts you may have scheduled. Whether you choose to create a Profile or not, you can setup your donation and designate a category of giving. Recurring donations help stabilize giving and allow us to improve our budget forecasting. Visit our website for more information. For your convenience, use the bar code above to access the payment app.

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Church Family and Friends!

At this time of year, we tend to reflect on what this past year was or was not. The church is not immune to outside forces like inflation and the ease of worry affecting our everyday lives. A friend of mine counseled me on church finances recently. I then received the best advice that the church is meant to be a "river not a pond." The meaning is simple, we may be frustrated that our checkbook balance or savings don't meet our expectations, but all we need to do is trust in God! Finances will sometimes "flow" fast or slow. God will make sure our needs are met. He knows where we are, who we are, and what we need. We are so very thankful for all he has blessed us with this past year. With prayers and faith, we look forward to the New Year!

Merry Christmas! Dawn Patrick, Financial Secretary

Year to Date Budget for General Fund reflects that we are behind a total of -\$598.45

MONTHLY GENERAL FUND

Received	Needed	Difference
August \$9,635 (Contributions=\$9,389 plus On-Line giving *=\$246)	\$10,760	(-) 1,125
September \$10,458 On-Line giving totals incomplete at time of printing	\$10,760	(-) 302
October \$14,043	\$13,450	(+)593

*On-Line giving is the total funds received electronically after the fees have been collected.

Please make checks payable to "First Pres. Church of Tay.", or "Taymouth Pres.", to avoid any fraud issues.

Life at Taymouth!



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEM ASSISTANCE

Emmaus House of Saginaw: Provides a free thrift store. Items include: clothing, household items, linens, towels, toys, shoes, furniture, and some appliances. All items were donated, and donations accepted. Open Mon. -Sat. 9:30a.m. -3:30p.m. 733 South 14th St. Saginaw MI 48601

BABY SUPPLIES

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.

CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region: Provides diapers to families in need for Saginaw and Bay County Residents. Call (989) 752-7226 for contact free pick up. 1311 North Michigan Ave. Saginaw MI 48602

FOOD PANTRIES

Ss. Francis & Clare Catholic Church: is host to a Community Food Pantry. Hours are, Mon. 9:00-11:30 am, Wed. 1:00-3:00 pm, or by appointment. (989) 624-9098 12157 Church St., Birch Run.

Birch Run Taymouth CARE Program: is part of the Community Education at (989) 624-6229

Old Town Christian Outreach Center: hosts food distribution every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *or when food runs out.* 600 Gratiot Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 (989) 249-8696.

Please visit fbem.org for more food pantry locations.

*"For unto you is born ...a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord."*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Luke 2:11



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