

Community

Community Gatherings and Opportunities...

- ☐ **Monday....**
January 7: History Committee, 1:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Wednesday....**
Dec. 12, 19, 26: Knitters, 10-noon
Dec. 12, 19, 26: Book group, 6:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Thursday...**
Dec. 13, 20 : Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Reminder: No Potluck in December.
- ☐ **Saturday...**
December 15, 29: Church of God, 1:30 - 6 pm
- ☐ **Sunday...**
December 9:
Worship, 10:30 a.m. *Rev. Bert Nelson leading Worship*
* *Holy Communion*
* *Session Meeting*

December 16:
Worship, 10:30 a.m. *Rev. Bert Nelson leading Worship*
* *Cantata*
* *Holy Communion*
* *Special Coffee Hour to celebrate Pastor Bert's two years with us. Please plan to attend.*
* *Deacons Meeting*

December 23:
Worship, 10:30 a.m. *Rev. Bert Nelson leading Worship*
* *Holy Communion*
* *C.N. Food Pantry collection*

December 30:
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
* *2 Cents a Meal received*
* *Birthday Sunday*

PREPARE YE THE
WAY OF THE LORD



F aith
P artners in Mission
C ommunity

First Presbyterian Church
WEEKLY READER

December 9, 2018

Mark 1:1-3...*New Revised Standard Version*

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

¹The beginning of the good news^[a] of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

Faith Focus (*Continued*)

Questions for Reflection

The prophet Isaiah announces good news: God comforts and strengthens a wearied and exiled people in preparation for their homeward journey. Mark's Gospel announces the good news of God in Jesus Christ: God comes to turn the world right side up and baptize us with the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, what is the beginning of God's good news in your life, and how will it change the way you approach this season of expectation and hope?

Household Prayer: Morning

**Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings,
the opportunity to turn toward you and start again.
Empower me to be a messenger of good news,
and a leveling influence along the way,
as I seek to be one with you
in smoothing out the rough places I encounter. Amen.**

Household Prayer: Evening

**Lord, you have comforted me throughout this day
and rescued me from my exile.
Where I have flourished, I give you thanks;
where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness.
Protect me through the night
that I may rest in your realm of peace
where righteousness makes a home. Amen.**

Partners in Mission

Christian Neighbors requests that our church donate to the food pantry:

- **December: Laundry & Dish Soap**

The next Christian Neighbors Soup Suppers will be held from 5:00-7:00 p.m.:

- **January 30, 2019: Hope Lutheran, 290 12th St., Plainwell, MI 49080** Christian Neighbors Soup Suppers are hosted by local churches as fund raising events, with all proceeds supporting the Christian Neighbors food pantry.

Good Hands, Plainwell requests the following:

- Individual cereal boxes and instant oatmeal packets
- Breakfast bars and granola bars
- Juice box/pouches and Shelf Life milk (8 oz.)
- Applesauce cups, fruit cups and pudding cups
- Soup, canned pastas & noodle cups
- Snack crackers, peanut butter cracker packs, cheese crackers
- Macaroni-cheese and canned pastas
- 18 oz. peanut butter in plastic jars
- Individual boxes of raisins and peanuts in individual packets

Community

River Cities Concert Band

Director - David J. Hubbard
Master of Ceremonies - Dennis Stelzer
Special Guest - Dan Bushouse

A HEART WARMING CHRISTMAS!



Monday December 17, 2018 at 7:30 PM
Admission by free will donation

Plainwell H.S. Performing Arts Center
Sponsors - Allegan Brass Collective Quintet,
Four Roses Café and Maude's Taphouse

Community

Contact Pastor Bert by phone at 616-891-8918 (home) or 616-438-8622 (cell) or by email at fbertnelson@charter.net

Please join us on Sunday, December 16 for a special coffee hour to celebrate Pastor Bert's two years with us. Please plan to attend.

Church Finances:

Year to date: October 31, we are \$13,489 in the red.

Note from Paula Fenstermaker: There's a list of SPCA wish items at the box, and they can always use towels, too. Thank you.

Christian Neighbors News:

- Food donations may be delivered to the back door. If no one is available, we now have a donation box where you can safely leave your non-perishable items. We are available to accept donations Mondays 8-6, Tuesdays & Thursdays 8-4, and Fridays 8-12:30. We are closed on Wednesdays.
- Christian Neighbors will be hosting a monthly resource workshop, where you can learn about all the area resources and benefits available to you (food benefits, low income internet, utility programs, etc.). A representative from MI Works will be on hand to answer any questions about their programs. A specialist will be on hand to answer any questions about Medicare/Medicaid and available to help with the open enrollment period (through Dec.) 3rd Monday of every month from 10am-12pm, Christian Neighbors at 282 12th St., Plainwell. Call 269-685-4166 for information.

Community

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

DECEMBER

3 Robert & Marilyn Koster (*Anniversary*)
5 Mary Hinds
7 Joanne Davies
31 Matt Shea

JANUARY

2 Carol Edgington
8 Pieter and Michelle Boer (*Anniversary*)
12 Marilyn Koster
16 Karel Boer
19 Richard and Beulah Jacobs (*Anniversary*)
24 Mark & Christy Connell (*Anniversary*)
31 Paula Fenstermaker

Contact Pastor Bert by phone at 616-891-8918 (home) or 616-438-8622 (cell) or by email at fbertnelson@charter.net.

Dawn will be working on Tuesday. Please have all information for the bulletin and weekly reader submitted by 9:00 a.m. Thank you.

DEACONS

Carolyn Jordan.....685-5377
Carol Edgington204-6581
Paula Fenstermaker.....694-4259
Pat Harriger.....685-5049

SESSION MEMBERS

Lisa Boer.....685-2325
Michelle Boer.....623-4431
Barry Martin.....623-2650
Jay Miller.....694-4259
Jeff Ingles664-6433
Pat Switzer, Clerk of Session.685-5750

Community

If you would like to have someone added or removed from our Weekly Prayer Requests, please let us know. Requests will remain on the special prayer needs section for 30 days at which time they will be removed unless we receive a request otherwise.

Prayer Concerns



For those dealing with long-term health challenges...

MaryLyn Moon
Tom Moon
Matt Shea



For those in Active Duty in the US Military...

Spencer Budde - U.S.A.F. (*son of Jeff and Marlene Ingles*)
Ben Huyck - U.S.A.F. (*DeWolf's grandson*)
Lace Johnson - US Navy (*Koster's granddaughter-in-law*)
Derek Marchlewicz -U.S.A.F. (*son of Jeff and Marlene Ingles*)
Alex Zikafoose (*Bob Dines' grandson*)



For those with Special Prayer Needs...

The friends and family of Darlene Lukins
Mary Hinds
Those in places where peace is not known.