



Real. Faith. Living Hope.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

The Bagpipe

Lent is an old English word that means Spring. For those of us who live in Michigan, it seems a cruel joke that the church starts proclaiming that it is Spring amid the snow and cold of February and March. Lent, however, has come to mean much more than Spring. It is a season for preparing for new life inaugurated by the risen Christ.

At First Presbyterian, Holt, our worship, education, fellowship and mission will focus on the things that build us up—individually and corporately—into the people of God. The activities intended to build up our community include: A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Ash Wednesday worship, and then, for the next 5 Wednesdays in March, all are invited to a Taize-style worship service at 6:00 p.m. followed by a soup and bread supper at 6:30 p.m. (See more details on the last page).

Author, Marilynne Robinson, is arguably the most important Presbyterian thinker of the 21st century. Her fiction has been awarded a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. She lectures at the University of Iowa Writers Workshop and those lectures often include references to scripture, John Calvin, and the life of contemporary Protestant churches.

Many of Robinson's essays touch on the theme of fear especially as fear has become a characteristic of our political and cultural life today. "Those who forget God can be recognized in the fact that they make irrational responses to irrational fears. Fear of fear itself can result in a people who have no power to stand before their enemies." Robinson looks at our world today and cautions that it is a "very costly indulgence to fear indiscriminately, and to try to stimulate fear in others."

During the Reformation, many people feared that these new Protestants spelled the end of Christianity and culture in the 16th century, but John Calvin counseled restraint, reason, and courage on all sides. Poor Calvin is forever etched in our imagination by the paintings that portrayed him as a sober, dour, and severe personality. But as a preacher, Calvin taught that while power is brutal in this world, Christians are intended to practice gentleness, generosity, love, restraint, vision and faith that make it possible to stand against the forces of unbridled power.

Calvinists carry the reputation for restraint, but restraint has a lovelier name—grace. Calvin taught that it is not the will of God that anyone should be lost. And if God loves even those who hate Him and

despitefully use Him, then Jesus teaches us to be like God in this. We had best show the patience, the restraint, and the grace to one another that God wills for each one of us. Hence, the fear of God casts out all other fears.

In the middle of the Protestant Reformation, western civilization was in the grips of fear. Geneva, Switzerland was being overrun with Protestant refugees facing persecution in France and war in Germany. John Calvin arrived in 1536 and opened the city, welcoming refugees from all quarters, getting the populace of the city to embrace civil reforms and Biblical literacy. Even the Roman Catholics reached a compromise and allowed the Bible to be translated from Latin to French, so that all the people could read Scripture. Under Calvin's leadership, the city built a hospital, created a centralized school for all children, and developed a system of human services to care for the poor and hungry people of the city.

One of Calvin's early sermons to the people of Geneva expressed his hope: "Since we have not yet burned the taper of earthly existence down to its end, God has given us time to muster the dignity and graciousness and courage that are our unique gifts from God. If we are to make a last testament to the nature of human life, let it be that each of us and all of us know what human beauty would look like. This may not solve all of our problems, but it might solve a good many of them."

Our life together in the church is meant to be such a testament – a witness against fear; a witness for beauty, grace, and courage. A witness that builds up the human community in love. As we begin the season of Lent, may our worship, study, service, and fellowship witness to such virtues.

See you in church,



Rob



All **Women of the Church** and their **guest(s) of any age** are invited to join us, **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**, for a fun-filled evening of fellowship while writing Love Notes to those close to us and followed by a time of singing favorite love songs accompanied by Mona Troup in the Fellowship Hall.

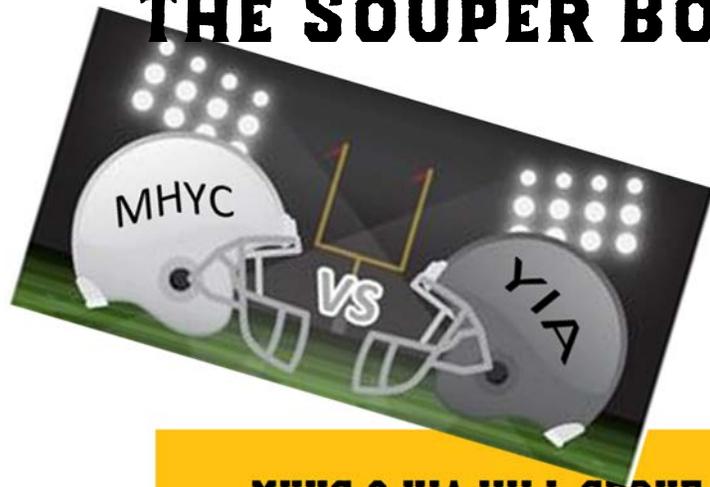
We'll gather for Love Notes to write on white decorated cards (such as the example on the left) provided along with red envelopes and white address stickers for you to address and stick onto the envelopes. (*Be sure to bring your address book.*)

"Love" Forever stamps will be available to purchase so your notes may be mailed easily. We will also have some craft items for you to embellish your notes if you choose and young ones will have the same opportunity to write notes as well.

February 6, 2023
6:30 – 8:00 PM

Favorite Love Songs? – Questions? Forward to:
Marcia Howe 517.646.8486 howemarc@gmail.com

FEB. 5 THE SOUPER BOWL



THIS SUNDAY!! ANNUAL CONGREGATION & CORPORATION MEETING (& SOUPER BOWL OF CARING)

This Sunday, after worship (11:30-ish), join us in the Fellowship Hall and on Livestream* to:

- Hear Kirk's annual report on the state of the church
- Receive the Clerk's Statistical report
- Receive the Treasurer's report (includes a statement of income and expenditures as compared to the preceding year's and a statement of the trusts, endowments, memorial and other special funds)
- Hear reports of various boards, organizations, and Session committees
- Review a copy of the current year's budget

*The livestream link will be distributed in a separate, private email

**MHYC & YIA WILL SERVE
LUNCH ON SUNDAY, FEB. 5!**



**VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE
SOUP WITH DOLLAR BILLS
-- FUNDS RAISED GO TO
THE FOOD BANK**

The Souper Bowl of Caring is youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty — coincidentally, right about the time of that *other* Super Bowl.

Our youth groups' take on the effort fills your stomach on Sunday, Feb. 5 in exchange for your "vote." Youth will prepare different soups for you to try, and then you get to vote on which soup (or soups) is your favorite. But this is no paper vote with hanging chads, it's a paper vote with dollar bills — of any denomination!

It's MHYC vs. YIA — most "votes" received wins!

And the caring? All of your dollar bills will go to hunger relief in our own backyard: the Holt Community Food Bank.

February is Hands On Mission Month

celebrating and supporting the mission work of FPC-Holt members in its many forms in the local community and across the world. Your giving now makes these ministries possible throughout the year!



Scan here to contribute to any FPC-Holt ministry.



Located in Lansing, Advent House Ministries,

Inc. has been helping people out of poverty and homelessness for 30 years. It is the only shelter that remains open on the weekends to feed people. Our church has the privilege of fixing and serving a hot meal six times a year on a Sunday. Collections throughout the year help us to provide warm clothing for the cold season. If you're feeling called to this ministry, call Susan Brown (517-290-4201) for more information.



Generation after generation of FPC-Holt youth have taken part

in the wonder and joy of Camp Greenwood. Our support of the camp helps make their mission possible for our young people and so many more. Their mission:

We are a group of individuals working together and being led by God to grow a 21st Century ministry where all can learn more and more fully the joy of being Christian.

This Christian experience includes spiritual growth, environmental stewardship, human development, and service to our neighbors. Call 616-754-7258 for the latest service opportunities.



ACT Uganda is a partnership between churches in mid-Michigan and Muko sub-county in Uganda. Each year, we send missionaries and resources to support over 100 orphans, provide administration for a local high school, and teach trade skills to help economic independence.

FPC Holt is one of 19 churches in the U.S.A. and 4 churches in Uganda which support ACT Uganda's 6 distinct programs, orphans and teachers in the Muko Sub County of Uganda. There are many ways to serve through ACT Uganda - domestically and abroad. Contact Diana Stubig (517-489-0224) to discern where your talents would fit best.

Global Family Fellowship
ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည် ကြိုဆိုမှုကိုရွေးချယ်သည်

We Choose Welcome

The Global Family Fellowship ministry welcomes refugees to our community and supports them as they transition into a new culture. To

serve your neighbor and see the world through a bigger lens, contact Trudy Smith (517-285-8269).

Making a difference for the community, by the community.



The HOLT COMMUNITY FOOD BANK provides weekly, monthly and holiday relief for individuals and families in



the Holt/Delhi Township by providing

additional groceries. First Presbyterian Church provides the building, distribution volunteers, board members and the reception location for community donations. Contact board members Mike Malone (517-525-1019), Paul Montague (517-285-5457) or Kirk Miller (517-694-8151) for information about volunteering.



FPC Holt has partnered with Sycamore Elementary, our

neighborhood school, for the purpose of supporting the students (especially those at risk) and the teachers and staff who support them. Past efforts have included coordinating and participating in the annual walk to school day, teacher appreciation cookies, snow gear for students in need, classroom supplies otherwise coming from teachers and a mentoring program. If you have an idea to add, or would like to build on these efforts, contact Beth Gleason (517-974-9617)



For more than 30 years, the Tres M ministry has been making an annual week long excursion to Mexico where, as partners with the Presbyterian churches of the Yucatan Peninsula, members of FPC-Holt have built up the Body of Christ.

Each year, we partner with a new community to tackle a new project. These projects often involve cement and have in recent years incorporated the installation of reverse osmosis water treatment plants. The best construction, however, is always the cross-cultural relationships - built on the love of Jesus Christ. Contact Maury (517-699-0320) or Bonnie Mahieu (517-388-8624) if you're ready for a life transforming experience.

FPC-Holt is a proud sponsor of Ukirk@MSU, which is a student-led faith community at Michigan State and a ministry of the PC(USA).



In addition to financial support, we periodically worship together and host their gatherings. UKirk board member Nancy Corner is the person to contact if you feel called to help with this ministry.



VFW NATIONAL HOME

Families eligible through military service from across the country are welcomed to the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids. Here they may live in their own house for up to four years as they work with their case manager to set and accomplish major life goals. Contact Kirsten Grady (517-410-6198) to learn how you can help serve the families of those who have served.

Families eligible through military service from across the country are welcomed to the VFW National Home in

FPC-Holt Families of Young Ones Winter Retreat

February 17-19, 2023
Camp Wakanda 10396 Old State Road, Joannesburg

Cost: \$200/family
Contact Kirk if cost is prohibitive

[Click here to see last year's video](#)
[Click here for more details](#)
[Click here to register](#)

- snow sculptures
- sledding and skating
- star gazing
- Scrumptious Family Friendly meals
- Board games/puzzles/hot chocolate by the fire
- family focused Bible time
- interactive/intergenerational worship
- building up the Body of Christ!



Care Package Assist

The Deacons are planning to show a little long-distance love to our college students and those in the military - but we usually don't have a current address for them.

If you know of someone in our church family who falls into that category, please send their postal service address (including apartment or dorm room #) to Heidi Hill (L8tyLucky@yahoo.com) before Feb. 12.



Pizza Madness!

March 10-12 is the Big Ten basketball tournament and March 17-19 is the opening week-end for the NCAA big dance. Which means you need 6 pizzas to keep your strength up for 6 days of action!

Good news for you: the youth of our church just happen to be selling take-and-bake pizzas to carry you through the tourneys.

Sales will start on Feb. 22. Pizzas cost \$20 and all the proceeds will help fund mission trips and activities. Simply fill out the order forms on the next page (1 pizza per form but make/print as many copies as you need!) and find one of our mid-high or senior high youth.

NOTE: You can submit the form by saving it to your computer and attaching it to an email sent to office@fpc-holt.org, text to 517-231-4609 or by printing the form and turning it in at the office.

A Note About Winter Storms

When in doubt, don't come out! In general, the church doesn't issue any wholesale cancellation notices, but we rely on everyone to assess for themselves whether roads in your area are safe and decide to attend meetings based on each person's comfort level with certain conditions. Individual meetings may be cancelled at the discretion of the chair so keep in contact with them when the weather advisories fly!



FPC-Holt
Youth Ministry
Pizza Madness

Buyer's Name _____

Phone _____

\$20 in advance: cash _____ check payable to FPC-Holt _____

Note: all pizzas are 14" on a Fat Boys crust.

Please choose Classic or BBQ

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Classic Pizza - Big Al's homemade sauce, fresh dough, cheese, and up to 3 toppings you choose: | |
| Pepperoni _____ | Green Pepper _____ |
| Ham _____ | Onion _____ |
| Hamburger _____ | Mushrooms _____ |
| Pineapple _____ | |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| BBQ Chicken Pizza - Fresh dough smothered with BBQ sauce, chicken, cheese and any of the following: | |
| Pineapple _____ | |
| Oregano _____ | |
| Red Onion _____ | |

Please indicate when you would like to pick up your pizza:

Big Ten Tournament

Friday, March 10 from 5-6pm _____

Saturday, March 11 from 5-6pm _____

Sunday, March 12 11:00am-12pm _____

March Madness

Friday, March 17 from 5-6pm _____

Saturday, March 18 from 5-6pm _____

Sunday, March 19, 11:00am-12pm _____

Baking instructions will be included with each pizza, but it's simply putting the oven-safe tray into a 425° oven for 12-18 minutes.

One pizza per form — but we encourage you to submit LOTS of forms!

Seller's Name _____

(Pizzas may be ordered through the office as well)



FPC-Holt
Youth Ministry
Pizza Madness

Buyer's Name _____

Phone _____

\$20 in advance: cash _____ check payable to FPC-Holt _____

Note: all pizzas are 14" on a Fat Boys crust.

Please choose Classic or BBQ

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| Classic Pizza - Big Al's homemade sauce, fresh dough, cheese, and up to 3 toppings you choose: | |
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| Ham _____ | Onion _____ |
| Hamburger _____ | Mushrooms _____ |
| Pineapple _____ | |

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Full Scholarships Available by Clicking Here

Registration for camp opened on January 1 and the spots are filling quickly — especially since a few discounts are tied to early registration!

Click [here](#) to register for camp, or visit www.campgreenwood.org before Jan. 31 for a 10% discount. Register and let us know in the office and you'll receive an FPC-Holt campership in June.

Finally, click the scholarship link above to learn about and apply for a "full" scholarship through FPC Grand Haven. Application deadline is May 15.

Summer 2023 Line-Up!

THINK AHEAD AND PLAN!

- Imagination Unchained
 - June 11-16 Ages 9-13
- Art Unleashed
 - June 11-16 Ages 14-17
- Wacky Water 1
 - June 18-23 Ages 9-13
- Science Snoops 1
 - June 18-23 Ages 9-13
- Adventure Camp
 - June 25-30 Ages 13-17
- Family Camp
 - July 1-3 All Ages!
- Mini Camp
 - July 5-7 Ages 6-9
- Wacky Water 2
 - July 9-14 Ages 9-13
- Science Snoops 2
 - July 9-14 Ages 9-13
- 8-Day Explorers
 - July 16-23 Ages 12-14
- 8-Day Seekers
 - July 16-23 Ages 15-17

616.754.7258 | office@CampGreenwood.org | www.CampGreenwood.org



Christian Camp Opportunity for All Churches in Our Presbytery

FPC Grand Haven sent us some information to pass on to you: an incredible opportunity for any child who wants to attend a Christian camp this summer at no cost! One of their members has made an incredibly generous donation to allow for any child or youth in our Presbytery to attend camp, regardless of financial need. Sound too good to be true? There are a few parameters (see below), and you can click [here](#) or contact the office to request an application form. Act fast — applications must be submitted by March 31.

Youth Camp Guidelines

- The purpose of the camp must be Christian faith development.
- This financial assistance comes with no income requirements. The donor wants children to go to Christian camp without any restrictions.
- Typical annual award is a maximum of \$500.
- The donor desires that children/youth will do work around the house or community to "earn" the funds
- Following the camp, the camper must write a letter reflecting on their experience which will be shared with the donor



See the Greater Lansing boys water polo Dream Team and all-area selections



Brian Calloway
Lansing State Journal

Published 3:00 p.m. ET Jan. 3, 2023

Here is a look at the Greater Lansing high school boys water polo Dream Team and all-area as chosen by area coaches.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Brogan Sutterlin

Congrats to Brogan Sutterlin!



Brogan Sutterlin Submitted



Always Rising Above!

You may not recognize the back of his head but, given he's head and shoulders above the others, who else could it be but Thomas Corner! Thomas was ordained an elder at University Presbyterian (Rochester MI) in December. Another one of our own... sent to serve!

Congratulations Thomas Corner!

February

Birthdays

2-Feb Anna Croley
4-Feb Lindsey Schnepf
5-Feb Mitch Seward
8-Feb Jeff Olney
9-Feb Malissia Stone
10-Feb A.J. Hill
11-Feb John Holmstrom
11-Feb Anita Rustem
13-Feb Vera Gostnell
13-Feb Judie Haas
14-Feb Joan Bryant
14-Feb Jan Babcock
15-Feb Gena Sizoo
17-Feb Meg Gleason
17-Feb Connor Lamb
19-Feb Adam Croley
21-Feb Gail Smith
21-Feb Allison Turner
23-Feb Zach Fisher
23-Feb Robin Sterns
25-Feb Marilyn McKenzie
26-Feb Kirsten Grady
27-Feb Renae Schnepf

11-Mar Bob Lutton
12-Mar Bill Brock
13-Mar Jake Tropf
13-Mar Danielle Rustem
14-Mar Claire Shaver
14-Mar Joyce Mitoska
14-Mar Heather Horgen
14-Mar Janet Polzin
14-Mar Deb Drolett
14-Mar Audrey Knapman
15-Mar Aila Andrews
15-Mar Ted Stanfel
15-Mar Laurie Rivera
15-Mar Zack Hill
15-Mar Ben Heilman
17-Mar Ruth Hinkle
18-Mar Priscilla Krohnke
19-Mar Carl Zuidema
19-Mar Peggy Hadwin
20-Mar Abigail Metts
21-Mar James Lindeen
22-Mar Bradley Bowling
22-Mar Nick Fish
26-Mar Mona Tropf
26-Mar Kim Lyth
26-Mar Fenton Grafius
30-Mar John Sklar



Give Blood at FPC-Holt Feb. 22

It's Almost Lily Time!

Starting in March, you'll have the opportunity to purchase Easter lilies to commemorate an occasion or give away as a gift. The lilies will decorate the church on Easter morning and then you can take the plants home.



March Birthdays

1-Mar Tim Heilman
1-Mar Kari Plotnick
2-Mar Lenox Turner
4-Mar Stuart Goodrich
5-Mar Tyler Rivera
6-Mar Andrew Corner
7-Mar Anne Hope
8-Mar Anita Betts
8-Mar Ruth Ergen
9-Mar Suzanne Trim
9-Mar Phyllis Campbell
9-Mar Dee Malone
10-Mar Betty Garnett
11-Mar Judy Holmes
11-Mar Anika Plotnick
11-Mar Eh Ter Lar

Feb. Anniversaries

6-Feb Jane & Sam DiMaggio
12-Feb Howard & Judie Haas
13-Feb Jackie & Bill Land
25-Feb Debra & Bud Bachman

March Anniversaries

4-Mar Ginny & George Dufort
11-Mar Jim & Bev Stewart
12-Mar Lyn & Jeff Bowling

Hands-On Mission Gratitude



Sincere thanks for the generous donation to Sycamore Elementary School! We will use the funds to purchase winter gear for our students in need. Happy New Year to you all!
Mrs. Shannon Huff
Principal



Thank You for Your Support

College Conference Montreat- UKirk at Michigan State students combined with a contingent from the Presbytery of Arkansas to form a wonderful back-home group for the 2023 College Conference at Montreat. Our group represented seven campuses and five countries including Haiti, Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama.

The 1402 miles driven and the 21 hours round trip (including an overnight stop at the UKirk house at the University of Tennessee- yes they have a house and we can dream, right?!) on the road were worth every mile and minute. The discussion carried on for hours on the return trip home.

Keynote speakers for the conference included biblical scholar and theologian Peter Enns, and Dr. Lakisha Lockhart of Union Presbyterian Seminary. We engaged in worship, study, workshops, discussion, prayer and fellowship and are already looking forward to next year! Thanks to all those who support our ongoing ministry and mission.

UKirk Book Project- UKirk students have continued to receive donations of gently used and new children's books for UKirk Book Project. Over 1500 books were distributed in the community during the fall semester and we anticipate distributing at least 2000 more in the next two months. We have established a partnership with Greater Lansing Food Bank and did a book distribution in November during one of their mobile food distributions. We know that food insecurity is an ongoing issue and so is the literacy gap for many children living in book deserts in our area. Students spend a few hours each week sorting through donations, checking over books and getting them readied and organized for distribution.

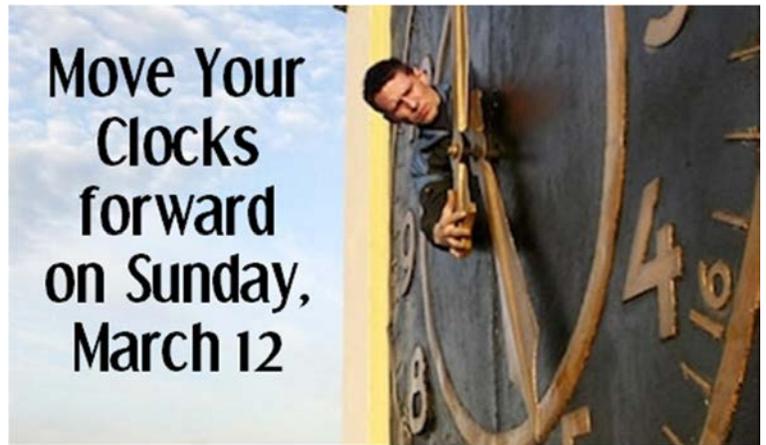
UKirk Team Trivia Night Fundraiser- Save the date for our spring semester UKirk Team Trivia night fundraiser scheduled for Friday, April 14th at 7PM at Presbyterian Church of Okemos!

WHAT IS
**SHROVE
TUESDAY?**



Shrove Tuesday,
Feb. 21 at 6:00pm

What is Shrove Tuesday? It's getting together with your church family for one last pre-lenten dinner... pancakes! There's a team of men planning on pulling it all together, but there's room for more if you'd like to volunteer.



STATS FOR THE STEWARD
January 31, 2023

Our pledges are an important part of our church life. Following is the pledge update and a brief income and expense statement.

| PLEDGE RECEIPTS | ADULT PLEDGES |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| **HISTORICAL AMOUNT PLEDGED | \$19,204 |
| RECEIPTS LAST MONTH | \$19,284 |
| MONTHLY OVER OR UNDER + / - | \$80 |
| PLEDGED AMOUNT Y.T.D. | \$19,204 |
| RECEIPTS Y.T.D | \$19,284 |
| YTD OVER OR UNDER + / - | \$80 |

*Amounts are predicated on anticipated receipts rather than expenditures.

| | Current Month January-22 | 2022 Year to Date | Current Month January-23 | 2023 Year to Date |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>INCOME:</u> | | | | |
| Regular Income | \$28,281 | \$28,281 | \$31,294 | \$31,294 |
| Validated Mission Offerings | \$0 | \$0 | \$50 | \$50 |
| Extra Commitment Opportunities | \$1,010 | \$1,010 | \$2,315 | \$2,315 |
| Total Income | <u>\$29,291</u> | <u>\$29,291</u> | <u>\$33,659</u> | <u>\$33,659</u> |
| <u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u> | | | | |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$46,668</u> | <u>\$46,668</u> | <u>\$45,514</u> | <u>\$45,514</u> |
| DIFFERENCE: INCOME/EXPENSES | <u><u>-\$17,377</u></u> | <u><u>-\$17,377</u></u> | <u><u>-\$11,855</u></u> | <u><u>-\$11,855</u></u> |

**Historical amount pledged reflects the yearly amount pledged times average 5 year historical percentage calculated as: the percentage of actual receipts for the current month divided by the yearly amount pledged for each year for the last 5 years, then an average is taken of the 5 year total percentages



Looking Ahead to Lent 2023

Our Lenten devotions will feature daily prayers from the Northumbria Community. With a monastery near the border of England and Scotland, Northumbria Community members are dispersed throughout the world but united spiritually through a commitment to daily prayer and a rule of life that rises from Celtic spirituality.

As part of our Lenten discipline of daily prayer and scripture reading, we will be joining our Scottish sister church, The Parish of Traprain, taking part in the Community's Celtic Daily Prayer.

With the help of technology (particularly Whatsapp), we'll receive daily readings throughout the forty days of Lent and have two or three opportunities throughout the season to gather with our Scottish siblings in Christ for discussion and prayer.

Look for the full details in a Lenten brochure - due out soon!

Feb. 21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper at 6pm

Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm

March Wednesday Services from 6-6:30pm
1,8,15,22,29 Simple Soup Supper from 6:30pm

April 2 Palm Sunday

April 6 Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm

April 7 Good Friday Service at 12pm

April 9 Resurrection Sunday at 10am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of HOLT
2021 N. Aurelius Rd.
Holt, MI 48824

Address Service Requested