

The Good News

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church – Boyne City
March, 2016

Sermon Series: Encountering Jesus – The Living Water

From birth to resurrection, Jesus interacted with a variety of people. Each of these encounters teaches us how Jesus' draws us to him and holds us in his embrace.

This series started on February 14th and concludes on Sunday, April 17.

Feb. 28	The People of Nazareth	Luke 4:14-30
March 6	The Sinful Woman	Luke 7:36-50
March 13	The Crippled Woman	Luke 13:10-17
March 20	The Ten Lepers	Luke 17:11-19
March 27	A Tax Collector (Zacchaeus)	Luke 19:1-10
April 3	A Man Named Barnabas	Acts 4:32-37
April 10	The Church's First Leaders	Acts 6:1-7
April 17	A Man Named Peter	Acts 10

Church Events

February 27

Memorial Service for Ruth Sheets
11 a.m. Stackus Funeral Home
Luncheon to follow at the church

March 3

Deacons Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

March 19

Community Easter Egg Hunt
Veterans Memorial Park
1 p.m.

March 24

Maundy Thursday Service
7 p.m. in the fellowship hall

March 25

Community Good Friday Service –
Free Methodist Church
Noon

March 27

Easter Worship
11 a.m.

MISSION PROJECTS

Join with others to bring clean water to those who are waiting.

Whether it is in Flint, Michigan or Malawi, Africa or India, many are waiting. Help quench their thirst, by contributing to our Mission Project during the Easter Season. Send your donations to: FPBC, 401 S. Park Street, Boyne City, MI 49712 or click on the giving link on our home page at www.fpboyne.org

A portion of your donations will be forwarded to The Presbytery of Mackinac to support efforts in Flint, and a portion of your donations will be sent to water projects funded through One Great Hour of Sharing and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund.

We are also encouraging the congregation to pray for our PCUSA missionaries around the world. Read a letter from Rochelle Holm, mission worker in Malawi, on page 3 of the newsletter.

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price"
Isaiah 55:1

Celebrations

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Anne Thurston, Donna Hay
7 Bob Goodenough
11 Bob Faulman
18 Hailey Judkins-Ladd
19 Carrie Edson
23 Don Clemmer
24 Don Maat
29 Maxine Bates

8 **Kent & Donna Hay**
29 **Bill & Mary Dunlop**

Birth Announcements:

Raynor Michael Chase (son of Kari and Cody Chase, grandson of Pastor Beth and Pastor Jerry and great-grandson of Joyce Jobe) born January 21, 2016.

James Benjamin Hausler (son of Ben and Molly Hausler and grandson of Keith and Trudy Hausler) born February 17, 2016.

Welcome



Richard and Cindy Elliott arrived at FPBC in January where they will enhance our services with their passion for worship. Richard will serve as our Minister of Music. Cindy is employed with The Huntington Bank in Petoskey.

Please extend a hearty Northern Michigan welcome!

A letter from Rochelle Holm serving in Malawi

We recently celebrated three years in our home here in Mzuzu, and it seems time has flown. But we also took a step back and have realized how much we still learn daily within our own community.

With all of the concern and prayer for the dire situation of food security due to the drought and floods in 2015 we wanted to share a positive message of how a small group from our partner church here in Malawi are making a real difference in their own community. We recently shared a minibus taxi with a group of eight women (and men) making their way out to the field to work in the neighborhood garden. This community garden was news to us, and we were excited to learn more.

Last week our family had the privilege of visiting the community garden together with our friends Mr. and Mrs. Makwakwa. The community garden was started two years ago when the Women's Guild of the Viyele congregation of the Church of Central Africa—Presbyterian (CCAP), Synod of Livingstonia, recognized a need to share maize (corn) flour and beans with the bereaved and those in need. Last year 32 bags of maize were harvested! The Women's Guild asks each member to make a small contribution at planting time, and joint work days for volunteers are scheduled periodically during planting and harvest seasons.

When we visited we heard from two members of the Women's Guild that manages the community garden. The Women's Guild chair said one of the reasons they started the garden was that many of their members could not contribute cash but wanted to help widows, orphans and those in need. The solution they came up with was a community garden. As happens so often in our churches in the U.S., women's groups are the backbone for responding to social needs in the community for many CCAP congregations in Malawi.

Learning about the community garden also links well with my personal reading over the Christmas holiday as I enjoyed the book *Bread and Wine: A Love Letter to Life Around the Table with Recipes* by Shauna Niequist. In Mzuzu many evenings are spent sharing life around our dining table with friends, colleagues, students, and family. Our dining table was handmade by a local carpenter with hard wood, and stained dark. The table has character, and a few scuff marks. There are two benches, one on each side, and we easily seat eight people, though we frequently squeeze in more.

When we lived in Washington State before joining Presbyterian World Mission, I am embarrassed to admit we hardly ever had friends, neighbors, or family into our home for a meal. I remember the first time we had friends into our house in Mzuzu for dinner almost three years ago, and the electricity cut out just as guests were arriving. Electricity cuts are common in Malawi, and typically there is no schedule or estimate as to when electricity will be restored. But on this first occasion I was mortified that the electricity failed just as I was welcoming new friends to a nice dinner party! But the seven guests, who were all neighbors, promptly let me know that obviously there was no electricity at their houses either that evening and that sharing dinner by candlelight together was the very best way to adapt to the unforeseen situation. It was an early lesson reminding us that here in Malawi we share in community in so many ways on a daily basis.

If you have not already, maybe you will soon join us around the table here in Mzuzu, sharing with us in our home and our community. We are able to serve here because of your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. We invite you to consider supporting our work financially in 2016. For more information, please visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200532/>.

In this New Year we give thanks to God in prayer for all the different ways that God has called different people to be a part of this work in Malawi, and also for each of these diverse but complementary ministries. God uses all our different gifts and we pray that you too will be open to understanding how God is calling you to serve. Please pray for us, and let us know how we can pray for you. Rochelle & Tyler Holm

Announcements

Lenten Bible Study

Sundays
(Feb. 14 to March 20)
at
9:30 a.m.

The Lenten Bible Study focuses on the miracles in the Gospel of John. As one of Jesus' disciples, John knew we needed route markers along our journey with Christ.

Each of these stories is a brilliant pinprick of kingdom light poking through the darkness. In John, we meet Jesus as the original source of life and light as His creative power ripples from creation outward to renew our bodies, souls, and relationships.

NEW WEBSITE OFFERS ONLINE GIVING

FPBC has a new website at www.fpboyne.org
The new site includes the option for online giving in a secure and easy to use platform. Simply click on the online giving button and you will be directed to the giving form.

The session hopes that this will facilitate giving for those who travel or simply desire the ease of online access. Your donations will continue to be recorded and included in your year-end giving statements. If you have questions, please contact Paula Larson (treasurer) at 231-582-7983.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

FPBC will join with The Brook and our local Scouts to host our 5th annual Easter Egg Hunt. Your donations of small, individually wrapped candy are appreciated. Volunteers are needed to stuff eggs and to facilitate the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 19 – please watch for announcements of the details.

FPBC picked up this much loved and appreciated community outreach as a sign of their commitment to the Boyne community. Join in the excitement!

Upcoming Events

**Maundy Thursday Service – March 24
7 p.m. in the fellowship hall**

Join in this celebration of communion and a time of reflection.

Most scholars agree that the English word Maundy is derived through Middle English and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase "Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you"), the statement by Jesus in the Gospel of John 13:34.

**Community Good Friday Service – March 25
Noon at the Free Methodist Church**

Rev. E.J. Wolfe will be preaching

This traditional service commemorates the hours that Jesus hung on the cross. It is tinged with both joy and sorrow. This commemoration of Christ's death reminds us of the human sin that caused this death. And we see again that salvation comes only through godly sorrow—both God's and, in repentance, ours. To pursue happiness, we must first experience sorrow. He who goes forth sowing tears returns in joy.