



PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

120 Pine St – 269-657-3111 – firstpres1@btc-bci.com – <http://1stpresb.pawpawmi.us>

Volume 80, Issue 2

March 2011

From Tom's Study

"Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches." Revelation 2:29 (The Message)

One of my favorite days of the year is the day that the elders and deacons gather in January to celebrate our life together and look to our future. In that time we seek to listen to the "Wind Words", the Spirit speaking to us. Listening for God's call to us is essential for our health as a congregation. It is essential for our ears to be awake. I know our ears are awake as we gather because the energy in the room is electric. What a gift and what fun to open our lives to the Spirit's voice and leading. I want to take this time to simply share with you what the leaders celebrated about our life together and where they felt God was calling us.

We Celebrate:

- 26 new members
- 15 baptisms
- Ending year with \$26,000 more income than expenditures
- The challenges that go along with this numerical growth
- The spiritual growth reflected in the increased stewardship
- The leadership of the elders and the deacons particularly their own spiritual growth
- An openness to prodding and change
- How the community is aware of our positive impact on the area
- The dedication and giftedness of our choir
- Our growth in local mission endeavors
- Our increased energy for pointing people to Christ
- The community Vacation Bible School and all it represents
- Our desire to share our facility with the community
- Our continuing endeavors to use technology in helpful ways
- The illuminated cross
- Healthier communication throughout our congregation
- Our openness to evolution and transformation
- The church retreat and the building of relationships
- Improved childcare and Danean's leadership
- Bonnie's faithful work in the office

- The growing intimacy between those people who serve as elders and deacons
- Young Life and our efforts at developing a community youth group
- A growing openness to different kinds of people
- More people participating in fellowship and the developing relationships
- A positive energy in our worship services
- How our faith and mission is shared like the splitting of one flame into many others
- The growing sense of caring within the congregation and Sharenet's leadership in it
- The fun of Stay & Play
- The good food and fellowship at Pot-lucks

Our Greatest Needs at the Present Time:

1. A staff person(s) to provide leadership for youth ministry, children's ministry & music
 - Renewal of the Praise/worship Team
 - Renovating our physical plant to enhance children and youth ministry
 - Honoring our DNA
2. More adult involvement from the congregation in the areas of youth and children's ministry – Additional volunteers
3. Nurture a growing intimacy among young adults and families
4. Advertisement – Getting the word out about us – Being Welcoming – Using Technology
5. Continued Spiritual Growth – Development of more small groups.

I hope we will all join in celebrating our life together while lifting up our needs in prayer. How might the Spirit be calling you to take on a leadership role in our ministry? Everyone is called. Let us respond!

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott

Every good conversation starts with good listening.

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Exciting Upcoming Events

Pastoral Resident: Welcome to Rev. Lorene Duin as she begins her time of ministry among us. We will have the gift of Lorene's presence during the months of March and April. Please take some time to get to know her.

Ash Wednesday and the Beginning of Lent: The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 9. We will have a meditative time of worship at 7:30 p.m. Come join us as we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for a life celebrating the truth of resurrection.

Elder & Deacon Retreat: We will have our second retreat on Saturday, March 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church. We will spend that day considering the topic of transitions. How do transitions affect us? How as leaders do we lead during times of transition?

Chili Cook-Off: Hey everyone, don't miss out on the fundraiser to help kids go to camp. This community Chili Cook-Off will take place on Sunday, March 20, at the Methodist Church.

Interested in Learning about Church Membership? If you find yourself wondering about the church give Pastor Abbott a call at 657-3788.

Adult Small Groups

Monday Night Study: The Monday night study will meet each Monday night of March. We meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Each time we are together we will look at the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: The Adult Bible Study class continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the library. We are studying the Book of Acts. This is a very interesting book (the first one that Pastor Tom preached on when he first came here). The Book of Acts of the Apostles follows the early church and we try to look at how the experiences of the Apostles are similar to situations that we encounter and opportunities that we have to share the gospel. We'll look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings.

Chancel Choir: The choir practices on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to come and join in the singing and the fun.

Attention Men: Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **March 26th** at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are invited and we would love to have you join us for this time of food, fellowship, and study.



Worship Opportunities

Sunday Worship Times: We will have two services at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. all through March.

Sacrament of Communion: We will celebrate communion at the Ash Wednesday service on March 9th and each Sunday following.

Ash Wednesday: Don't miss this special, meditative worship service on March 9th, at 7:30 p.m.

Invite a Friend: One of the ways we can be a beacon in our community is by simply inviting people to join us in worship. People's spirits are thirsty. Let us invite them to the well that never runs dry. Make sure to offer to pick them up.

Valet Parking: We have insured drivers who will park your car for you on Sundays. You may pull up under the portico, talk to Pat Conner at the door and she'll have someone tend to your vehicle and bring it back around for you after service.

Parking on Sundays: If you don't mind walking a bit, we would encourage folks to park on the street leaving the parking lot for folks who have a hard time walking, visitors, and parents with a car full of kids.

Meetings

Commission Meetings:

Administration Commission: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in various locations. Contact Wendy Mickle for details 657-6738.

Education Commission: Meets the Sunday before the 3rd Tuesday after the 2nd worship service.

Mission Commission: Meets the Sunday before the 3rd Tuesday after the 2nd worship service.

Membership/Worship Commission: Meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Properties Commission: Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Session & Deacon Meetings: Session and Deacon meetings will take place on Tuesday, March 15th, at 8:00 p.m.

Fellowship

Monthly Potluck: March 9th we will have potluck at 6:30 p.m. with Ash Wednesday worship following at 7:30 p.m. Invite a friend and come join the fun.

POT LUCK NEWS

If you didn't make it to the February Potluck, this is what you missed:

Back to the Days of Yester-Year, when Sundays and Holidays meant hanging out at Grandpa and Grandmas' house. Some of the "family" working on a project in the corner of the living room while the kids are at another corner doing an art project with Aunt Pat. The remains of dinner and all the "covered" dishes are still on the table in case someone is still hungry and wants to catch a nibble later or one of the teen-agers has another commitment and will be arriving soon. Family and friends sitting around the room, laughing and catching up on stories or creating new ones. Aunt Mary playing the oldies but goodies on the piano while folks join in the singing and Grandpa gives one of the little ones a dance lesson. No one wanting to leave too early because they might miss something.

Hopefully this sounds like something that you would enjoy. If so, **Right Now**, go to your calendar and mark March 9th (the second Wednesday of each month) on your calendar and join the 40+ people who experienced a Valentine celebration in Fellowship hall last month. All you need is a dish to share, your table service and a desire for food, friendship and fellowship. Hope to see **YOU** there

Weekly Fellowship: Stick around and enjoy building relationships with each other after every service of worship. The food is always good as well.



Bingo! Bingo! Bingo!

At Stay and Play

We now have Bingo during the Stay and Play time after service. There will still be card and board games, but in addition Joe Stimac will be calling Bingo every week.



Presbyterian Women Thrift Sale

If you haven't heard, the 2011 Thrift Sale date has been set, April 16th, that's the day before Palm Sunday - in case information is easier to remember than dates. And once again we will need help from everyone in the congregation for the collection, sorting & pricing and selling to make this event happen again. As you probably know, this is a huge fund raiser for the Presbyterian Women, one that we know we cannot do alone. So mark your calendars for Thrift Sale participation, April 14,15,16, 2011.

What you may not know is how this one sale becomes a mission project for the church. True, the monies from the sale help us meet the various expenses that you can find listed in the Annual report. With the recent contribution to the Wings of God project, the women have given over \$4,000.00 to Mission Work in our community since January of 2010. This might be what you expected from proceeds from the sale, but perhaps you are not aware how this project reaches out into the world.

Each year we receive a bounty of clothes, sometimes more than we have room to sell, so we have shared our excess clothing with a World Wide Clothing Drive. Clothing is collected in the states, sorted by church members and sent in semi-trailers to countries where clothing need is great. In these countries, clothing stores similar to our Good Will stores are set up where people can receive or purchase, depending on their circumstances, clothing and other items for their families. Since people are needed to run the stores, jobs are also an outcome of this donation. Coats and jackets that do not sell are taken to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission for use by the people. Left over books from the sale find their way to the fall Book Sale sponsored by the Rotary, this sale provides monies for scholarships for women in the Paw Paw area. Items for the home, whether it's kitchen ware or items for other areas in the home that are not sold are donated to the Shelter in Decatur or other groups that cover shelter needs (sometimes an item is of more value when it can cover a need for a family than it would bring in if sold). Any leftover linens and children's items are sent to the Shelter in Decatur. Plants that are left (there haven't been many) are available for

many uses, some are held for the next year giving bigger plants, some are sold to congregation members and some are given to people who need a bit of cheering and appreciate a plant for their home or yard. Items that haven't fit into any other category are boxed up and picked up to be sold at the Flea Market with proceeds helping cancer victims.

As you sort your treasures for the sale, know that each and every item will find a place where it will be of value to another person. Again, thank you for your participation in this event. We look forward to working with you in April.



Young Life: Attention all high school folks. Here is the scoop.

March 7 – March Madness club at a local gym. Check your Facebook page.

March 14 – Graffiti Club at the Abbott's.

March 21 – All area dodge ball club at The Bridge in Portage.

March 28 – Make-out club at the Abbott's

Wyldlife (Formerly known as Middle School Youth Group): We will meet on March 6 & 20 at 4:00 p.m. at Red Arrow Ministries. We will also have our first Wyldlife Club at the middle school on Friday, March 25, 2:30-4:00 p.m. Get your friends together and come to club. Now is the perfect time to get involved.

Chili Cook-Off: Hey everyone, don't miss out on the fundraiser to help kids go to camp. This community Chili Cook-Off will take place on Sunday, March 20, at the Methodist Church.

Sunday School: Each Sunday through March the middle school class and high school classes will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your faith.

Children's Ministry

The elementary Sunday School students ran a Teddy Bear drive through the month of February. They were studying the story of The Good Samaritan. To show that we care for those in need, we decided to hold the teddy bear drive and donate the bears and stuffed animals to our local fire departments and Eleanor's Pantry to be given to children that have suffered a loss through fire, accident, or other traumatic events. Our hope is that the bears will give the children something to hold onto and help them through a difficult time. We would like to thank you for the generous donations, it was a huge success!

The nursery and Abraham's Tent programs continue to do well thanks to all the volunteers! Thank you all so much for giving of your time. If you have not been a part of these programs and would like to, please contact me. We would love to have you! Thanks again, Danean Baker 436-1944 (cell, leave a message) or zamese1@yahoo.com



VBS Planning meetings have begun. Check the bulletins and email for times and dates of upcoming meetings.

Stewardship and Administration

We are enjoying a brief respite after a successful stewardship campaign in 2011 but we'll be ready to start the 2012 campaign a bit earlier.

We continue to interview candidates for the Youth Ministry and Music position. It's been a pleasure to talk to so many talented people who are interested in a position at the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw.

Thought for the Month

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me if you seek me with all your heart.

Mission Opportunities



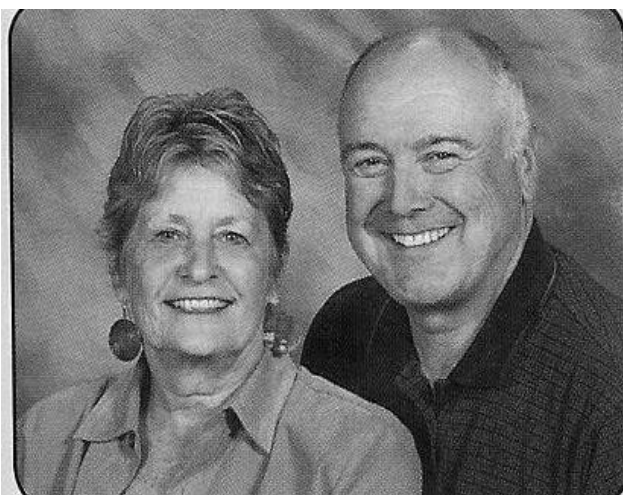
Wings of God Fundraiser: Celebrate with **Wings of God Transition Home, Inc.** in the launching of the first and only transition home for recently incarcerated women in Van Buren County. Please join us on **March 17, 2011** for appetizers at 6:00, dinner and presentations from **6:30 to 8:30** in the **Lawton Community Center**, 646 North Nursery Street, Lawton MI 49065. Tickets are \$25 per person, reservations requested. Please call 269-415-0777 or mail payment to Wings of God Transition Home, Inc. PO box 3, Paw Paw MI 49079 by March 9.

Eleanor's Pantry: Don't forget to shop for the pantry when you are at the store. Or if you are able, help the pantry out with a financial gift. Looking for a gift for that special someone? Make a donation to the pantry in their honor. Everyone will be grateful.

Joint Food Pantry: If you have any questions about how you might help with the pantry please connect with Sue Miller (657-4601). I am sure we can find a niche for you.

Tremendous Need: We truly need people who are interested in learning how to run the sound system and the video projection system. If you have such an interest please connect with the church office.

Are you looking for a place to serve? Are you looking for a place to use your gifts? Please be thinking about involvement in these local mission opportunities: *Lunch with Friends, Habitat for Humanity, Restorative Justice, Eleanor's Pantry, The Decatur Shelter and United Christian Services.* If you have any questions about any of these please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.



Mission Commission

Church members **Andy and Judy Thorburn** were recently recognized for significant volunteer

involvement at the Decatur Homeless Shelter. A certificate of appreciation was presented to them at a volunteer appreciation dinner sponsored by friends of the shelter. Members of the Decatur Lions Club, Decatur First Presbyterian Church, and local agencies including the Police, Emergency Rescue, and Fire Departments were also recognized for their contributions. The Homeless Shelter is an ongoing joint project with the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur. The shelter provides short term stay for homeless women and families. There are a number of small improvement projects that would enhance the appearance of the house on Delaware Street in Decatur. Last spring members of our church secured and assembled a used outdoor play area with swings, ladders, and slides for children of resident families. Future projects are being planned for our church members to be involved in. It's not too early to start thinking about our community food garden. Last year was our first year of planting and harvesting. All produce grown is taken to Eleanor's Pantry for distribution. If you are willing to help at the garden by tilling, planting, pulling weeds, or helping with the harvesting of produce please see Nancy Turk, Sharon Desimone, or Donna Zabonick. Many hands make for light work and good fellowship.

Coming soon from your Mission Commission we are happy to announce "Service Saturday". In the upcoming months the commission will be sponsoring multi-generational opportunities for volunteer projects in our community. If you have ideas for us or are in need of this type of help yourself share your opportunities with Tom Shoemaker, Jake Pursley or Deb Abbott.

Your friendly Mission Commission reminds you to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Our recycle containers are clearly labeled and easily found in our kitchen area of fellowship hall.



We Celebrate

Jacob Bolton's Ordination: Congratulations to Jacob who has been installed as an associate pastor at The Huguenot Presbyterian Church in Pelham, New York. Continue to hold Jacob in prayer as he and Sue begin their new life in Pelham.



- 03/01 Thomas* Smith
- 03/01 Bonnie Davidson
- 03/01 Ryan Jahr
- 03/02 Marlene* Tucker
- 03/03 James* Dutcher
- 03/03 Phyllis* Gruizenga-Sahr
- 03/04 Andy* Thorburn
- 03/04 Rogar Knopf
- 03/06 Robert Long
- 03/06 David Hoggatt
- 03/06 Hanna Walker
- 03/08 Theresa* Yarbrough
- 03/08 Lexis* Boothby-Shoemaker
- 03/08 Blake Burkett
- 03/11 Ruth* Miller
- 03/12 Wendy Charles
- 03/13 George* Jacher
- 03/13 Jacob Major
- 03/14 Harvey* Hop
- 03/14 Kathleen* McGuire
- 03/14 Jessie* Charles
- 03/14 Haylee Thompson
- 03/14 Nolan Beck
- 03/15 Danna* Dent
- 03/15 Stephen* McCloskey
- 03/15 Matthew Hess
- 03/15 Tiffany Hess
- 03/16 Harold Durringer
- 03/16 Frederick Martin
- 03/16 Madison Imus
- 03/17 Brian Nichols
- 03/17 Mac* Faul
- 03/18 Jean* Taylor
- 03/18 Jeff* Brown
- 03/20 Paula Cameron
- 03/20 Kelly Carr
- 03/20 Carrie* Martin
- 03/20 Aidan Deal
- 03/22 Enedina Chavez
- 03/24 Melissa Racette
- 03/25 Maizie* Seeber
- 03/26 Alex* Frazier
- 03/26 Ian VanDenBerg
- 03/28 Jack Wyatt
- 03/28 Troy* Imus
- 03/29 Richard* Schallhorn
- 03/29 Wayne* Martin
- 03/29 Colleen* Stiles
- 03/29 Rachel Martin
- 03/30 Nathaniel McCloskey



- 03/16 LaVon & Syd Roth
- 03/17 Dave & Pat Conner
- 03/19 Diane & Fred Triquet
- 03/19 Jennifer & Tim Combs
- 03/22 Jeff & Laura Wells
- 03/24 James & Ginnie Miller
- 03/31 Jim & Sally Brinkman

Thanks

To Johnell Cuddeback Weintraub, Freida Durringer, Mary Burkett and Danna Dent for folding the January/February newsletter and to Jim vanWestrienen for folding Sunday bulletins.



New Church Facebook Page

Ric and Danean Baker set up a Facebook page for the church. If you are on Facebook, come by and be a fan! If you aren't, you might want to consider it. We are still constructing it, so be patient and let us know if there is anything specific you would like to see on there! We are excited and hope you are too!

Here's the link to the Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Paw-Paw/142595359136642>
 Or you can do a search for First Presbyterian Church Paw Paw and it will pop up.

A message from our Pastoral Resident, Lorene Duin

Greetings. I am looking forward to being your next Pastoral Resident for March and April. For the past two months, I have been at First Presbyterian Church in Schoolcraft, focusing on worship planning, preaching, and making visits to nursing homes, homes, and the hospital. In Paw Paw, I will work with education and Christian care and outreach. My last two months in the program, I'll be at Benton Harbor First Presbyterian, where I'll partner in ministry with community service programs.

I grew up in north central Iowa and have been living and working in Holland, Michigan for the past twelve years. I've been an educator for junior/senior high schools, a product manager and sales trainer for Amana Appliances, and a program manager for Herman Miller, Inc. My graduate degrees are in business administration, organizational management, and Divinity. I was ordained in the Reformed Church in America last fall. Feel free to ask me about my amazing seminary internships with faith communities.

Catch me for coffee and we can talk about travel, cooking, books, hiking, or our faith! I look forward to meeting you, working with you, and seeing where the Spirit will lead us.

Pastor Lorene Duin

Shhh!!!! It's a surprise.

The family of Maizie Seeber would like you to join us for food and fellowship in honor of Maizie's 90th birthday on Sunday, March 27th following the 11:00 service. We hope to see you there.

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting	4	5 9:30 Home School Parents Class
6 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play 4:00 Wyldlife	7 7:00 Bible Study	8 10:00 Sharenet 6:00 Administration Commission	9 Ash Wednesday 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 6:30 Potluck 7:30 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting No Choir Rehearsal	11	12 9:00 Elder/Deacon Retreat
13 Communion 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play Education & Mission Commission Mtgs.	14 7:00 Bible Study	15 6:30 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/Deacons Meetings	16 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	17 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 6:00 Wings of God Fundraiser 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 Communion 2¢ a Meal 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play 4:00 Wyldlife	21 7:00 Bible Study	22 10:00 Sharenet	23 8:00 TOPS 9:30 PW Bible Study 10:30 PW Meeting 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	24 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting	25	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast Colgren/Beeching Wedding
27 Communion 7:15 Prayer Time 8:15 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed 11:00 Worship Fellowship Pray & Play	28 7:00 Bible Study	29	20 8:00 TOPS 12:00 Lunch with Friends 7:00 Boy Scouts	31 9:00 PALS Noon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal		



Deacons

The Deacons are hosting a Sloppy Joe Fellowship in March on Sunday, March 20

CROP WALK
Sunday, May 1. Sign up at the Middle School at 1 p.m., walk at 2 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church
120 Pine St., Paw Paw, MI 49079

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Return Service Requested

March Sermon Schedule

March 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:1-5, Matthew 25:1-13, Revelation 3:1-6

Sermon Title: “Hope in Sardis”

Synopsis: Hope will come when we wake up to our present reality. That seems to be what John suggests to the people of Sardis. The Sardis congregation is blind to their own hypocrisy. They have forgotten to pay attention to the log in their own eye. It is difficult to convey hope with a log in your eye.

March 9 – Ash Wednesday - Communion

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51, Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon Title: “Practices That Nurture Growth”

Synopsis: How do people know that we believe in God? What are practices that can help us grow closer to God? How do you intentionally seek to deepen your love for God and neighbor? Believe it or not growth often does not happen by chance but by intentional work.

March 13 – 1st Sunday of Lent - Communion

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:13-18, Romans 12:9-21, Revelation 3:7-13

Sermon Title: “Hope in Philadelphia”

Synopsis: What tends to eat away at your sense of hope? What erodes hope? How can we hold fast to the hope that comes with our belief in God and God’s eternal kingdom?

March 20 – 2nd Sunday in Lent - Communion

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:7-11, Malachi 3:1-7, Revelation 3:14-22

Sermon Title: “Hope in Laodicea”

Synopsis: John challenges the Laodicea folks about being lukewarm. How would you describe your faith? What adjectives would you use? How do you think the health of our faith relates to our level of hope? If our faith is lukewarm, can we be hopeful?

March 27 – 3rd Sunday in Lent – Communion – Rev.

Lorene Duin Preaching

Scripture Reading: Revelations 2-3

Sermon Title: “Wrapping Up Our Time With The Seven Cities”

Synopsis: Lorene has had the gift of visiting western Turkey and the sites of the seven cities of John’s Revelation. She will share pictures from the sites while she shares insights into how the messages sent to the cities relates to our life together now. You won’t want to miss this special time in worship.



Easter Lilies

Order Easter Lilies to beautify our church on Easter Sunday. Each Easter Lily is \$8.00.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church marked “Easter Lilies” and mail to the church office or place in the offering plate along with this form.

By: _____
(Your name/names as you want them in bulletin)
Phone _____

Please print full name and check one:
In Loving Memory of In Honor of

Please print full name and check one:
In Loving Memory of In Honor of

Please print full name and check one:
In Loving Memory of In Honor of

- Please have a Deacon deliver Easter Lily to shut-in or member who is ill.
- I will pick up the Easter Lily after service on Easter Sunday.

All proceeds from the Easter Lily sale go to the Deacons’ Flower Fund.

Deadline for the April Newsletter is Monday, March 21. Please turn your information into the office by then.