

NEWLETTER

First Presbyterian Church of Croswell

Web Page: <https://Croswellpresbyterian.org>

CELEBRATING OUR CONNECTIONS

"First Presbyterian Church is a beautiful place of worship, where people show their love for God and one another. My wife Dayna and I feel fortunate to be among you!" That is how I ended my message in the December issue of this newsletter. This month, I continue that theme.

You do a very good job staying connected with, and showing concern for, your fellow members of First Presbyterian Church! Did you know that your caring and sharing with your brothers and sisters in Christ, is partly responsible for their and your good physical and mental health? There is scientific evidence for this.

The United States Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, issued a Surgeon General Advisory calling attention to the public health crisis of loneliness, isolation and lack of connection has on health.* Dr. Vivek explained that the consequences of loneliness and social isolation are an increased risk of heart disease, stroke and dementia. Surely you recall seeing the warnings by the U.S Surgeon General that for many decades have appeared on packages of cigarettes sold at stores. Well, now the U.S. Surgeon General is sounding the alarm on loneliness and isolation, saying a lack of connection with people can increase the risk for premature death to levels comparable to smoking daily.

As members of the church, we thankfully, enjoy connections with other people on multiple levels. We all believe. We all have been baptized into the same faith. We all follow the same Lord Jesus who taught us to love one another. We all feel for God. And we feel for one another. The Sunday morning worship service begins, with everyone in the pews giving their rapt attention as the Lay Reader tells us who is sick, who is in the hospital, and then opens the floor for people to voice prayer requests for other people. You can hear a pin drop during that time of the worship service. That kind of empathy and concern for one another is what makes worshiping at church a totally different kind of feeling than is experienced in a movie cinema full of strangers. Next we blend our voices as we sing the opening hymn. Then all forty or so of us unite our voices as we say, *"I believe in God the Father, the Maker of heaven and earth . . . I believe in Jesus Christ His Son . . . I believe in the Holy Ghost . . ."* Then we listen together as the Bible is read. Later, we pray in unison *The Lord's Prayer*.

During the time of refreshments and fellowship in Frostick Hall that follows the worship services, the connections are deepened, one with another.

I am impressed how you take meals monthly to house bound members of the church. You also serve the Holy Communion to home bound members.

I recommend keeping on hand a box of *"Thinking of You"* greeting cards. Let us mail cheery, uplifting notes to our fellow church members who are not able to come out to church.

First Presbyterian Church has many strengths. One of your strengths is that you genuinely care for one another. I will be your biggest fan and cheerleader. Keep this good thing going!

I thank God for you!

Pastor Bill Wright

* Press Release: "New Surgeon General Advisory Raises Alarm about the Devastating Impact of the Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation in the United States." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. May 3, 2023.

JANURAY 2024



Prayer Requests

Prayers that we hold
silent in our hearts.

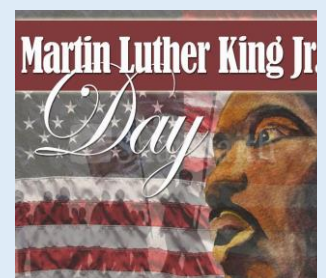
Claire Gordon (8 yr. old)
Cancer has returned-
seeking new treatments
through Mayo Clinic

McEy Neaves – Cancer

Conflicts in Israel and
Ukraine

Prayers for those in
nursing homes and adult
foster care.

Prayers for those in our
community suffering loss
of loved ones.



The COVID virus has returned, but thankfully not to the extent that we experienced a few years ago. The latest variant of SARS-CV-2 is nevertheless keeping a few workers home from work, a few kiddos home from school, and sending few people to hospitals. The poem below, "*Prayer, Rather Than Panic*," I wrote in 2022, during the height of the pandemic. I hope it provides you with a bit of encouragement, for whatever you might be facing in your life.

PRAYER, RATHER THAN PANIC

Spirit of Jesus,
high above us
come down among us.
Deliver each and every one of us
from rogue beliefs of fate.
I mean
no one ever decreed
decided on high
that all of us were going to die
especially since,
we are washing our hands
and keeping a careful distance.

Spirit of Truth
come down
cause people to gather round
the truth about you.
How when you were on earth you healed
so many desperate people
the blind
the lame
those paralyzed
and cleansed people of leprosy
(Talk about a dreaded disease).

Spirit of Wisdom
come upon us
bring your calm among us
that each of us will do our part
and refuse to fall apart
but instead lean on you.
Give us faith
to be able to say
"I am not afraid."

- William Wright

INSPIRATION STATION

"God is even kinder than you think."

- St. Teresa

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark."

- Charles Spurgeon

"You haven't failed, until you stop trying."

- Unknown

Welcome to our new Pastor Rev. William Wright

Rev. William Wright is the new Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Crosswell. Originally from nearby Lexington, Bill is a graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary. He served as Pastor of United Methodist congregations at Lake Linden & Painesdale (Upper peninsula), Birmingham (Associate Pastor), Bad Axe, Sebawaing and Port Huron. In 2023, Bill Wright became a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a Teaching Elder of the Presbytery of Lake Huron. He and his wife, Dayna, live at Jeddo. Both enjoy reading, gardening and relaxing rides across country roads on their electric bikes. Pastor Bill Wright would like you to know that he is accessible to everyone at all times, and can be reached by calling his cell phone at (810) 858-7033

JANUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 7th, 2024

Baptism of the Lord

Gen. 1:1-5

Ps. 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14th, 2024

2nd, Sunday after Epiphany

1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)

Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Cor. 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21st, 2024

3rd, Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Ps. 62:5-12

1 Cor. 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28^h, 2024

4th, Sunday after Epiphany

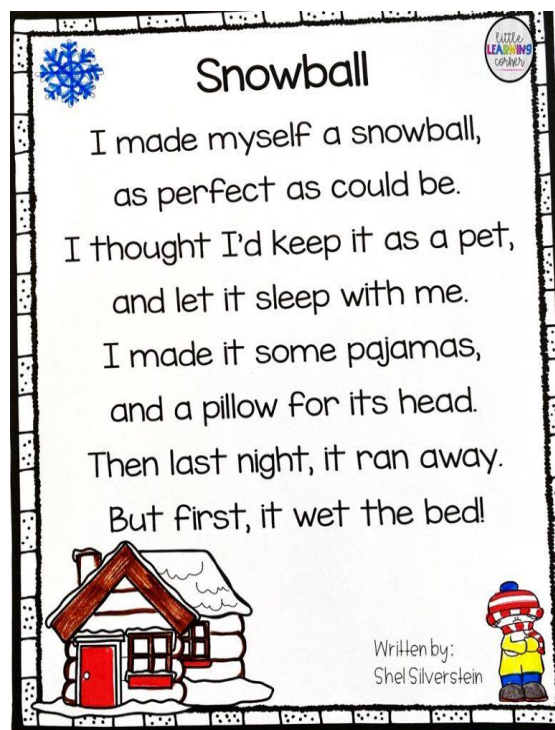
Deut. 18:15-20

Ps. 111

1 Cor. 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

When panic takes
hold don't forget
who holds you: God.



SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY

January 1

First Food Day
New Years Day
Ellis Island Day
Divorce Day

January 2

National Weigh-In Day
St. Basil's Day
Stop Spam Day

January 3

Drinking Straw Day
Festival of Sleep Day
National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day

January 4

Tom Thumb Day
Trivia Day
Dimpled Chad Day

January 5

National Bird Day
National Keto Day
Twelfth Night
Whipped Cream Day

January 6

National Play Outside Day
National shortbread Day
Three Kings Day

January 7

I'm Not Going To Take It Anymore Day
Invisible Pain Day
National Bobblehead Day

January 8

Bubble Bath Day
National English Toffee Day
Snuggle A Chicken Day

January 9

Balloon Ascension Day

January 10

Houseplant Appreciation Day
National Save the eagles Day

January 11

Cigarettes Are Hazardous To Your Health
Girl Hug Boy Day
National Milk Day

January 12

Kiss A Ginger Day
National Hot Tea Day

January 13

Make Your Dream Come True Day
National Sticker Day

January 14

Dress Up Your Pet Day
International Kite Day
National Sunday Supper Day
Organize Your Home Day

January 15

Blue Monday
National Bagel Day
National Hat Day
Robert E. Lee Day

January 16

Religious Freedom Day
Without a Scalpel Day

January 17

Hot Heads Chili Day
Judgement Day
National Bootleggers Day
Popeye Day
National Rye Whiskey Day

January 18

Get to Know Your Customers Day
Pooh (Winnie The) Day

January 19

Hat Day
Popcorn Day
Tin Can Day

January 20

National Cheese Lovers Day
Penguin Awareness Day

January 21

International Sweatpants Day
National Hugging Day
National Hg Your Puppy Day

January 22

Answer Your Cat's Questions Day
National Polka Dot Day

January 23

National Pie Day

January 24

Beer Can Day
Belly Laugh Day

January 25

A Room of One's Own Day
Opposite Day

January 26

Clashing Clothes Day
National Peanut Brittle Day
Fun at Work Day
National Big Wig Day

January 27

Fruitcake Toss Day
Thomas Crapper Day

January 28

National Bible Sunday
National Kazoo Day
Rubber Ducky Day

January 29

Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
Freethinkers Day
National Puzzle Day

January 30

Fancy Rat & Mouse Day
Croissant Day
National Plan for A Vacation Day
National Inane Answering Message Day

WEEK EVENTS

- Wk 2 National Lose Weigh/Feel Great
Elvis' Birthday Celebration Wk
National Mocktail Wk
Wk 3 *Cuckoo Dancing Wk
Hunt for Happiness Wk
No Name Calling Wk
Sugar Awareness Week
Wk 4 International Hoof-Care Wk
Clean Out Your Inbox Wk
Wk 5 National Cowboy Poetry Wk

MONTHLY EVENTS

- National cheesy Sock Month
National Soup Month
National Sunday Supper Month
Adopt A Rescued Bird Month
Book Blitz Month
International News years Resoulations
Month

SAVE THE DATE

From your little Library in the corner....

A lovely book has been donated to our Library by Shirley Thorn (Sharron Westbrook Lusher's sister) – The Nativity Story. This is the official companion book to the movie, which Anne Graham Lotz says, "From what I've observed, The Nativity Story is biblically accurate, historically authentic, and visually stunning. " Be sure to check it out! The Nativity Story (Primrose Dot – Jesus)

"Just like Punchinello, we all want to fit in....To be accepted by the crowd. But at times that may mean we either have to look and act like others, or risk being rejected. Punchinello's hard-earned lesson shows us how important it is to be who we were created to be, and why that matters." From, If I Only Had a Green Nose", by Max Lucado. (Yellow Dot - Children)

"The Little Prince lived alone on a tiny planet no larger than a house. He possessed three volcanoes, two active and one extinct, although one never knows about volcanoes. He also owned a flower, unlike any flower in all the galaxy, of great beauty and of inordinate pride. It was this pride that ruined the serenity of the Little Prince's world and started him on the travels that brought him at last to the Earth where he learned finally, from a fox, the secret of what is really important in life." From The Little Prince, by Antoine deSaint-Exupery. (Yellow Dot - Children)

Ahhhh, January!! A perfect month for cozying up, reading a book, and sipping a "cuppa" while the winter winds blow!

Reading is
Snow Much
Fun!

Happy
Birthday



2nd ...Jane Kettlewell
6th ...Cindy Gardner
9th ...Grace Dungan
16th ...Kelly Kettlewell
20th ...Will O'Connor
...Ralph Kinsley
22nd ...Mcey Neaves
30th ...Kylee Barrett

9th Jim & Sue Weller

Dates to Remember



JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Baptism of the Lord	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday	16	17	18	19	20
21 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 4 th Sunday of Epiphany	29	30	31			

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KIDS CORNER

New Year Word Search

N	V	B	T	E	O	T	F	R	N	W	O	D	T	N	U	O	C	F	F
O	X	D	G	T	O	P	W	G	H	T	A	W	B	F	M	X	V	R	I
W	E	Z	O	H	R	L	E	W	J	F	F	S	F	D	R	O	P	T	I
X	L	A	N	E	A	C	N	W	P	T	D	P	Z	S	M	N	N	Y	T
Y	S	M	Y	X	M	A	L	N	T	G	M	A	V	Q	X	Z	S	S	T
T	H	E	X	K	V	Y	O	J	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	P	E
R	P	R	S	S	I	K	F	Y	Y	Z	W	K	E	E	D	R	E	D	F
P	A	P	Q	T	N	Y	L	R	V	J	B	L	C	V	A	E	T	D	N
B	R	E	E	P	F	I	I	Q	X	G	P	E	G	P	O	S	S	F	O
G	T	K	Y	P	M	F	H	D	F	Q	A	R	A	O	C	O	B	Y	C
S	Y	D	H	A	P	P	Y	N	T	N	W	S	E	E	K	L	J	B	O
I	T	N	F	B	R	C	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	A	C	U	O	Y	U
R	O	A	I	N	Z	T	N	D	Z	S	R	E	E	H	C	T	V	C	..
P	Q	D	R	P	J	K	J	N	E	L	A	B	T	D	F	I	M	B	K
B	Q	K	E	T	P	Q	A	Z	F	H	Z	B	A	L	L	O	T	..	Z
N	E	Q	W	Z	F	C	N	M	E	J	X	V	K	T	P	N	B	Y	J
A	C	G	O	A	L	S	U	Z	K	W	H	L	E	M	C	D	D	Q	P
Y	L	H	R	E	R	W	A	G	M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	N	G	O
E	D	Y	K	L	L	Q	R	S	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G	E	G
Q	A	T	S	N	Q	X	Y	I	R	C	W	O	H	B	L	M	T	G	H

BALL
CLOCK
DROP
FIREWORKS
GOALS
KISS
PARTY
START

CELEBRATE
CONFETTI
END
FRIENDS
HAPPY
MIDNIGHT
RESOLUTION
TOAST

CHEERS
COUNTDOWN
FAMILY
GATHERING
JANUARY
NEW
SPARKLERS
YEAR