THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

JOHN 1:5

January 10, 2021
THE LORD’S DAY IN WORSHIP
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PLYMOUTH, MI

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Rev. Emily Riley Campbell

OPENING PRAYER OF PRAISE & CONFESSION
Rev. Campbell

HYMN NO. 93
“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
Darlene Maginley

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING
John 1:1-5
Rev. Hovermale

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING
John 1:5-7
Rev. Hovermale

SERMON
“The Light that Shines in the Darkness”
Ashley S. Ashley

MUSIC
“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”
arr. John Ness Beck
Louise Fisher, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)
Ashley S. Ashley

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION & BLESSING
Ashley S. Ashley

January 2021 Worship Schedule

January 17 - “The Light of the World”
Rev. Campbell preaching; Music by Vocal Quartet

January 24 - “The Armor of Light”
Ashley S. Ashley preaching; Music by Geff Phillips

January 31 - “Being a Light”
Rev. Campbell preaching; Music by Fifth Season Ensemble
HYMN NO. 93  *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.  
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,  
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert’s burning sand.  
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the One true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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**Thursday Evening Prayer and Devotions - January “1-2-3”**

Friends, we will meet the first three Thursday evenings in January for a time of prayer and devotions. We will meet January 7, 14 and 21st at 8:30 p.m. To remember, just think of “1-2-3”!! Here’s the Zoom link, we hope you can join:  [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82201558529](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82201558529)
Please join us!

Presbyterian Women discuss
“The Giver of Stars” by JoJo Moyes
7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25

Set in Depression-era America, a breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond.

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve, hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt’s new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

The leader, and soon Alice’s greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who has never asked a man’s permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky.

What happens to them becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity, and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at other times brutal, they’re committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

Based on a true story rooted in America’s past, The Giver of Stars is unparalleled in its scope and epic in its storytelling.

SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE!

Please join the discussion, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom on Monday, January 25!

Please contact Nancy White at nancy.white795@gmail.com for unique Zoom connection link for this meeting

or call or text Nancy at 734-502-2831
Prayer Concerns
Please pray for the following church members and friends who are in special circumstances. In the listings below members’ names will be printed in bold type. The names of family & friends will be printed in italic.
Questions or concerns about the prayer list should be directed to prayerlist@fpcp.net. Names are only left in the bulletin for one month unless you call again or the office is aware of the circumstances.

Members
Joanne Cole  Don Dodge
Sally Evans  Russ Hazen
Gwyn Jones  Vic Rizzo
Veralou Scott  Neil & Ingrid Sendelbach
Sterling Shephard

Members In Assisted Living
Joyce Holmes  Barbara Mason
Don Morgan  Lila & Doug Vincent

Members Receiving Long-term Care
Cynthia Alexander  Meera Martin
  Nancy Mormon

Family & Friends of Members
Rachel Machnacki’s uncle Andreas.
Jaxson Kujawski, great grandson of Bev Bonser
Sarah Wilder, mother of Kurt Wilder
Breanna, granddaughter of Sue Scott
Bud “Dewey” Burke, friend of Rich & Dawn Rej
Bill Hailey, friend of Rich Rej
Carrie Siivola, granddaughter of Louise Tracey
Michael Corey, brother of Kay Bruner
Karen Archer, sister Darlene Maginley
Lauren Budesky, granddaughter of Veralou Scott
James Steele, grandson of Veralou Scott
David Harden, brother of Janet Townsend
Rick Shingledecker, friend of Ted & Lynne Porter
Nancy Ver West, sister-in-law of Ginny Weaver
Erroll Houts, brother-in-law of Rich Felcher & Jessie Hollingsworth
Kevin Wright, son of Pat Wright
Bronn, grandson of Ruth Azar
Donna Corey, sister-in-law of Kay Bruner
Kim Strube Scartelli, daughter of Jan Strube
Dana Alper, niece of Elizabeth Detter
Dennis Dodge, brother of Dorothy Simescu & Stu Dodge
Adriana Sandoval Villalobos, friend of Carol Dobos

Praise & Thanksgiving
For the joy of Kurt Wilder’s first grandchild, Liana Cass Wilder-Mollison born on December 19th at 8:00 am

Our Sympathies
• To the family of Carol Packard, who passed away on January 3, 2020.
• To Darlene Maginley and family, whose brother-in-law, Charles Archer, passed away on December 28, 2020.
• To Kurt Wilder, whose father, Nathaniel Wilder, passed away on December 19, 2020
• Don and Margie Harris, whose brother Nick, passed away on December 17, 2020.
• To Klo Phillippi, whose partner, Don Fullenwider, passed away on December 5, 2020.

The floral arrangement contributed for Sunday, January 10, is dedicated to the glory of God and...
• In loving memory of our parents, Lester & Florence Kitchen and Anthony & Leona Becoskey, and our sisters, Shirley and Marlene, by Lester & Geraldine Kitchen
Dear Friends,

In last Sunday’s parking lot service* I shared the story of a rather memorable Christmas card that our family received this year. When I first looked at this card, I thought this must be one of the world’s most depressing Christmas cards.

The front cover of the card was simply a mess of crowded words all of which related to our experience of 2020. On that card were words like: Quarantine, Racial Tension, Furloughs, Layoffs, and Pandemic, Unemployment. The National Election made this list as did Climate Crisis, Virtual Learning, and descriptive words such as Chaos, Grief, Loneliness, Sadness, Disappointment, even Murder Hornets made this card’s not so happy list.

I was ready to toss this depressing recap of 2020 into the trash when I finally opened the card and discovered a red piece of film inside. It took me a minute or two to realize that when you put the red piece of film over the crowded words found on the front cover, you suddenly could see an entirely different message that stood over and above all the other words of despair.

The message on the cover now read clearly, “They shall call His name Emmanuel.” Which means “God with Us”. (Mt. 1:23b).

This card which I believed to be among my least favorites quickly became one of my absolute favorites because of its strong message that God stands with us and does not go away. We are never alone and never without hope.

All of us at times lose sight of God in the crowded mess of our lives and world. In the darkness of January, it is very easy for us to feel isolated and alone. We can all too easily lose sight of the light of God’s presence with us.

But the start of a new year is also a great time for us to remember that God’s promise to be with us is not a promise for us to claim only at Christmas, but it is offered to us new every morning for great is God’s faithfulness.

This new year, I pray that the light of God’s presence would illuminate your darkness. Please remember that in whatever you are facing today that you are not alone. God stands with you and our entire church staff is praying for you. I pray that if you find yourself in need, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, to Ashley, to Mark. Sometimes a friend, a minister, a counselor can serve as the lens by which you see God more clearly.

Wishing you Christ’s peace and joy in this new year,
Emily

*Last Sunday’s parking lot sermon and whole of our Epiphany Sunday service is now available for you to watch on-line through our church’s website. Within this service, you will also find directions on how to obtain your new star word for a new year.
As we begin a new year, what a gift we could give each other if we consider what we are being called to do. Our God of Creation has some things to say to us. Life on this planet is not simply breathing, but about connecting with others. God expects us to respect, learn from, treat fairly all of Life here, to confront our prejudices against other people and other forms of Life....and to change our ways. The best of this Life focuses primarily on the common good.

We encourage you to read more from 'A Commentary: I Can't Breathe' by Rev. Dr. Dave Wasserman, published in the Presbyterian for Earth Care blog on 9/11/2020. We are sharing this link with Rev. Wasserman's permission.

Presbyterians for Earth Care: A Commentary: I Can't Breathe (presbyearthcare.blogspot.com)

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Early Word

invites you to join their next Bible Study, Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ by Timothy Keller.

Purchase the book and meet us online at 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday mornings to discuss the reading.

Contact Sue Kage at skage@comcast.net or 248-755-7648 for further information and Zoom link.

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Did you make a New Years resolution to strengthen your relationship with God? Perfect!

Come join one of the small groups with the Women of the Word Bible Study meeting every Wednesday online at either 9:30 or 10:00 a.m.

We are currently discussing the Sunday sermons in groups of 8 to 12 women using questions formulated by our ministers. We welcome women who want to grow their faith and be part of a praying community.

Contact Sue Kage at skage@comcast.net or 248-755-7648 for further information and small group assignment.

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Fitness in Christ Nutritional Zoom Presentation

Would you like to eat healthier in the New Year?

Denise Stewart, R.D., is partnering with Fitness in Christ for a nutrition presentation via Zoom on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Learn practical tips for healthier meals and snacks; the pros and cons of fitness trackers; and more!

Donations: We are blessed to have Denise donate her time and expertise, so there is no cost to the church for her services. In lieu of charging for this class, Fitness in Christ has been collecting financial donations for the Second Mile Center. Making a donation is entirely optional, but if you feel called to make a contribution, please go to http://www.fpcp.net/give for several payment options. Please be sure to designate your donation for Fitness in Christ.

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join the Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/6498876428?pwd=dk00Y3hYT242ZSt1UTNKc2k2WkJNdz09
We are a family of faith, called to celebrate God's message of love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Guided by the living Word of God, we nurture one another through worship, prayer, teaching and fellowship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out with hearts and hands to those in need, seeking to inspire hope in an ever-changing community and world.

(FPCP Vision Statement)

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