OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Coldwater, MI is to:

- † Glorify God by bringing others into Communion with Him,
- † Nurture the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of its congregation,
- † Encourage faithful stewardship of the God given gifts of time, talent, and substance, and
- † Be sensitive to the needs of our greater community.



Sunday Schedule:

9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Children Activity Center

Sunday Schedule:

10:30 Worship Service Childcare provided 11:45 A.M. Coffee Hour

* CHURCH SERVERS*

When we return to the church If you are

interested in volunteering to either open and close the church for a month or serving as a liturgist for 2020,

please call the office 517-278-6068.

There are plenty of available dates!

Session Board: If you have any questions about what is happening within the church during the COVID 19 pandemica any one of the Session members should be able to answer your questions..

 Norm Heinemann
 517-238-4225

 Linda Parr
 517-639-4827

 Chris Doll
 517- 278-5259

 Dennis Farwell
 517-767-4251

 Peter Metters
 313-244-1570

 Paul Hershberger
 903-767-3332

 Velma Cole
 517-639-7272

 Linda Stewart
 517-617-1399



Finance Committee Report ~\$\$\$\$

**Monthly Needs for 2019 budget

Needed Monthly to meet budget:\$14,095.00

Needed weekly to meet budget \$3,523.75

Annual Per Capita: payment \$3,680.00

Financial Report from : For February

Income and Donations: \$12,871.00

Payments and month Payroll: \$16,359.57

Please continue your faithful giving by mailing in your contributions and pledges.

Your giving remains important for the church

Your giving remains important for the church to continue carrying out the ministry, pay bills, and have funds for payroll for the church staff.

Church News

FROM YOUR PNC~ As they continue to actively continue their search!
We would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers during our Pastor search.
Please continue to pray that we be aware of where God is leading us on this search.

Activities at the Church

As of the printing of the newsletter all activities at the church has been suspended, but there are other ways to reach out to those in the church:

From The Presbytery of Lake MI:

To FPC congregation~

In order to keep you up to date please be aware that the Presbytery has been actively assessing best practices in dealing with "in church" worship and other church functions. Below are their most current recommendations as of 4-24-20:

- 1. Congregations do not meet for worship services in person through, at least, July 1st. Please use other forms of in-home worship suggested by your local ministry.
- 2. Other meetings comprised of no more than ten people may be held if the 6 foot distancing rule can be maintained. Should meetings wish to be held at FPC the Session will provide specific rules to help ensure as much protection for the attendees as possible.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY:

Sunday May 3

Acts 2:42-47, Ps. 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

Sunday May 10th

Acts 7:55-60, Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10,

John 14:1-14

Sunday May 17th

Acts 17:22-31, Ps 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John

14:15-21

Sunday May 24th

Acts 1:6-14, Ps 66:32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11,

John 17:1-11

Thursday May 21, Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11, Ps 47, Ps. 93, Eph. 1:15-23, Luke

24:44-53

Sunday May 31, Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21, Num 11:24-30, Ps 104:24-34, 1 Cor.

12:2b-13, Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23, John 7:37-

39



BIRTHDAYS

Karen Maxson	05/01
Maggie Sexton	05/06
Megan Bracy	05/07
Sara Semmelroth	05/10
Susan Bracy Creal	05/10
Dennis Sansom	05/14
Carol Ludlow	05/17
Norm Heinemann	05/21
Heather Gregory	05/26
Doris Heinemann	05/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Paul and Lorie Hershberger	05/02
Norn & Doris Heinemann	05/21

From Pastor Deb....

What's been Happen'ng at the Tall Steeple, ...you ask???

HERE'S WHAT IS HAPP'NING...

So what's Happn' ing???

Cindy has been busy keeping us informed through RoBo calls and extra mailings.

Session is working on plans for when it's possible to safely gather again in our building. Re-entry will be a slow process. It will necessitate our restructuring how we go about gathering. Most of us are vulnerable to the virus by age and other conditions that leave us compromised. Let us extend grace to one another as we explore best ways to go forward.

Many Thanxs to Paul and Lorie for taking on our FaceBook Live ministry. Going forward into the new normal we might consider ways to live stream our Sunday service for our most vulnerable folks.

While it's true that our time together within the walls of our church has been on hold, our Lives haven't been, SO what's been happn'ing with you?? What have you been doing?? How have you been the church?? How have you reached right out and touched someone?? Have you connected with someone who slipped through the busy cracks of your life?? Have you read something?? Taken up a new activity?? How goes it with you and God??

When we gather at the tall steeple we have a built in opportunity to share with our church family. As that's not available to us, so please consider sending Cindy a text, email, or phone call to share what you have been doing and that will be included in our next newsletter.

Perhaps you might consider taking your directory and picking one or two folks to contact with in some manner. You might be surprised as to how it will brighten your day too. Call someone you don't sit with at coffee hour. See how Life is going for them. Be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in our greater community.

May God's love and grace which surrounds us always, go with you. deb

From Cindy~

To view Sunday Worships go to Coldwater First Presbyterian Church on Facebook on Sunday mornings for a Facebook Live, hosted by Paul and Lorie Hershberger with Pastor Deb's reflections

Or after the live post you can later view the video on the church website:

https://firstprescoldwater.org. For those of you that do not have a Facebook account or internet service I will continue to mail you the hard copy of the devotional and I am looking into how to burn the services to a DVD in hopes that you can view it that way.

Staying Connected!

Adult Sunday School

When I was young, I went to Sunday school (right here in Calvin Hall) and heard all the Bible stories...Noah, Moses, Jesus' parables. As an adult I've never been to Sunday school. I was a late arrival at the 9:15 adult Sunday school group, but I was just in time to join the study of A. J. Levine's Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week. The difference between Sunday school back in the day and Sunday school today is the need for a group of Presbyterian friends to discuss the meaning of the text and how it relates to life today. I found this precise group in the warm welcome of the adult class.

The author of our book, Dr. Levine of Vanderbilt University, is a Jewish professor of the New Testament. She gave incredible insight into the time of the Passion with anecdotes of her faith and how it would have affected the events. Each week we watched a 10 minute video clip of her commentary, then discussed the book. As a life-long learner, I was excited to find new cultural contexts for the events leading up to Jesus' death. Then we discussed the meaning of the text for us today at First Pres.

In this time of Covid-19, I sorely missed our weekly meetings. Our discussion would seem moot after Easter. Lorie Hershberger was able to host a Zoom meeting during Holy Week so that we could finish our study. While not a first-hand experience, we were able to connect and interact. Lorie was able to share her screen so that we could all see the videos, then we had a great discussion BEFORE Easter was upon us.

We have decided to continue on our Zoom format since church/Sunday school will not be in session. We will listen to the first of a 30 minute lecture series concerning the New Testament on May 8 from 3:00-4:00 with discussion following on Zoom. We will listen to the second lecture and have a discussion on May 15, again from 3:00-4:00 on Zoom. We would LOVE to have you join us. Don't have Zoom? NO PROBLEM!! There is an option to CALL IN to join. There would be no video, but it would be like listening to the radio!! If you're interested, contact Lorie Hershberger, our Zoom hostess extraordinaire!

Our next adventure will be another of A. J. Levine's books, Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi, starting on May 22 via Zoom. All you need is the book (available in print or ebook versions from Amazon or Barnes and Noble.) PLEASE JOIN US!!

Lisa Renshaw

Staying Connected! Continues...

Adult Sunday School

The adult Bible study group (Lorie, Lisa, Kaitlyn, Jan, Doris, Norman and Lamar) met four times at the church and once on Zoom to talk about a small book that we have been studying during Lent: Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine. In the six chapters, Levine, a practicing Jew and a professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, considers the risks that Jesus takes as he goes through Holy Week. At the Last Supper he risks the loss of friends; at Gethsemane he risks temptation. To begin our discussion, we played a video Prof. Levine's dramatic retelling of these events. For example, she explained that the Hebrew word paradidomi means "handed over." She noted that in the earliest account of the Last Supper, I Corinthians 11:23, Paul writes: "For I received from the Lord what I also I handed over (from paradidomi) to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was handed over (from paradidomi), took bread . . ." Note that Paul uses paradidomi twice in one sentence, and he does not mention that Judas betrayed Jesus. In many Bible translations, the second paradidomi is translated betrayed, but it can also mean handed over. We discussed the possible motive for Judas' betrayal that are included in each of the four gospels; is Judas a demon or a human being? In Gethsemane Jesus wrestles with his will and God's will. He is alone, abandoned by his closest disciples, who fall asleep. The same temptations that Jesus faced at the beginning of his ministry now reappear, and Jesus does what he needs to do; he takes up the cross. On Good Friday I meditated on Jesus being alone in his agony.

We are hoping that some of you will consider joining the Bible study group for a new study which will begin on May 8, using another book and video by Amy-Jill Levine, Short Stories by Jesus. You can order this book through amazon.com. I bought the Kindle edition. We are thinking about continuing to meet on Zoom, Friday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. On May 8 and 15 we will be watching video lectures by Prof. David Brakke from the Great Courses "Understanding the New Testament, on the NT timeline and Judaism as practiced in the time of Jesus. You can join us without reading materials or preparation. We plan to begin our discussion of Short Stories by Jesus on May 22. Please contact the church office if you plan to join us.

Doris Heinemann

SO what's been happn'ing with you??

Jan and Kate

Going out a couple times a week, staying in touch with some church members, and church classes; and Kate is doing zoom and google classroom for school work. We are also cleaning up the house and putting down mulch etc. Just got a box from Gurneys with seeds etc. Yeah!!!

What I did on my summer vacation by *Julie Lewis*I have spent time sorting and tossing trying to downsize.
I have finished one afghan and am on a second
I am on my 6th book
I have continued to volunteer at the health clinic.

Ruby Merkle

I'm not good with words but will try to put a few thoughts in writing.

This experience with the covid-19 virus has been something. I had sold my house six months earlier and stress with the sale, finding another place, renting for awhile then finally find my New Home was best described as overwhelming. Also there was the worry of what to keep and what to get rid of. The move has been more on me than I would have ever have thought it could be. Then shortly the "stay home" order came about..

It has been a blessing for me in that I tried to put all the worry about things that really didn't matter away. The TV cable here has about 5 stations with religious programs and I started listening to them. I didn't really have books to read having thrown or given away many.

I picked up the Bible and began reading – having chosen Daniel and Jeremiah. I must admit that I had been rather lax lately in studying the Bible like I should have been. It has been a blessing to me. I have tried to stop worrying about what may happen and renewed my trust in God knowing that only He knows what we need and that He is always here and knows us better than we know ourselves. I can think of so many times in my life when I now realize that He always knew what was best me. This has given me an opportunity to renew my trust and faith in Him and to say, Thank you God for your goodness and love to all of us now and always. We know you are with us and will continue to lead us in these trying times.

(O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.- Psalm 118)

Bob and I enjoyed Easter with our daughter. I have been reading, knitting and reorganizing closets. Our kids bring us groceries. I hope that one day soon we can see our friends at church. *Chris Doll*

I have been out walking everyday I can, completely around the block. My legs are getting stronger and my balance has improved greatly. As told to Cindy by *Luella Senker*

Norman and I are enjoying some good times together. We get up late, have a leisurely breakfast with plenty of coffee, tea and conversation. Our friend Tom Matthew often calls to check on us. Norman is on the phone a lot. During the last week Norman has been cleaning out his files and desk. While he is busy, I have been writing my autobiography, based on an outline I made several years ago. I'm taking a close look at every 7th year: ages 7, 14, 21, 28 etc. I can track my activities through Christmas letters, but I am looking for the long range themes and changes. I can see God's Providence in so many ways.

This time for reflection and communication within the church family has been a blessing.

Doris Heinemann

Some of the grandkids made Cloud Dough to help pass the time on a cold day. It was a mess, but they loved it. *Kara Bercaw*



As you can imagine my technology knowledge has been put to the test. So what have I been doing you ask? I have been learning all kinds of new ways to reach out to you within the technology world. It has been exciting to learn all of this new stuff. I also have picked up running again, anywhere between 3-6 miles 5-6 times a week. I also have done 4 virtual 5k's. Like everyone else I have been cleaning out rooms and closets and video chatting with my granddaughters. (Who by the way are more advance at age 10 and 8 years in the technology world than I am at my age.) My daily devotionals are not rushed and by not rushing they are much more thought provoking and meaningful. I know for sure that this COVID 19 experience will be with me for a long time.~ *Cindy Fickle*

Submitted to the Newsletter by Jan Corey and Velma Cole

Loved " *How the Virus Stole Easter*"
By Kristi Bothur
With a nod to Dr. Seuss

'Twas late in '19 when the virus began, Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full, Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring, The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen. They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed. "There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out. No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest. The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," they proclaimed. "Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went. The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed. The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling. "They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.

"They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do! Their mouths will hang open a minute or two, And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.

"That noise," said the world, "would be something to hear." So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies. It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed. Why, this sound was triumphant! It couldn't be so! But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Each saint in each nation, the tall and the small, Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine Stood puzzling and puzzling. "Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies, It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before. "Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well....the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share of the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb, And Jesus is Victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer, As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people. May the world see the Church is not a building or steeple. May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, May the world find Joy in a time of dejection. May 2020 be known as the year of survival, But not only that - Let it start a revival.



FPC Presbyterian Women

May Newsletter

Here we are again! I heard a joke that said April had 94 days in it. At least that is what it feels like to most of us. Even though our church is closed, we continue to make contact by phone and internet.

As of this writing, we don't know what will be happening in May. We hope that everyone will stay safe. As always, we will keep you informed by phone and internet when things change!

Jan Corey, Chris Doll, Lorie Hershberger, Beth Montgomery, Sue Paarlberg, and Linda Stewart.

FPC's Outreach Report

Although the Diaper Pantry is closed, if you hear of a need please let Cindy or Pastor Deb know and we will make sure that the need is met.

Also bags of food have been donated to the church, if you hear of a someone who needs food, please contact Cindy or Pastor Deb and we make sure that the food gets where it is needed.

If there is anything else that comes up that might concern you regarding help that is needed our communication lines continue to stay open at all times. Call, text, or email Cindy or Pastor Deb or anyone of the Outreach committee and we will do all in our power to take care of these concerns or needs.

Beth Montgomery- 517-278-5028 Bob Stewart- 517-617-0626 Linda Stewart 517-617-1399



PRAYERS FOR:

- † The Frontline Workers who continue to be in the thick of this pandemic.
- † *All the families and friends* who have lost a love one during COVID 19 and have not been able celebrate their lives with a funeral or memorial.
- † Those effected by the coronavirus outbreak.
- † Pam Walker, Cheryl Metters's sister. Surgery 4/2
- † Ben Schwarts, 9 month old with many health issues. Parents are friends of the Parrs.
- † Cherie Carnes, daughter-in-law of Barb Cowden, has started chemo for ovarian cancer.
- † Nancy Burkeen, coworker of Dennis Farwell, just finishing 2nd round of chemo treatment.
- † Galend Eichorn, Luella's great grandson's Joe's great grandfather, many health issues.
- † Brooks Prince, husband of Bob & Linda Stewarts cousin, facing multiple health issues.
- † Paxton Jameson, Marsha Sansom's grandson, tour of duty in Afghanistan.
- † Julie Dunlap, cancer, Marsha Sansom's friend, health issue
- † Darlene Loetz, cancer, Marsha Sansom's friend, health issue
- † Darlene Mier, Marsha DeGroot's friend, health issue
- † Gladys Hershberger, Paul Hershberger's mom
- † Our Shut-ins: Duane Rufenacht

And...† *Pray for our current and future pastors and the PNC.*

PRAISES FOR:

Paul and Lorie Hershberger for bring us Facebook live every Sunday, so appreciated! Linda Penn, Cindy's sister-in-law who alerted Cindy about the Cares Act for churches. Greg Miller from SMB&T who helped Cindy and Velma maneuver through the paper work for the Cares Act.

Ways to Reach Out... to our Community

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Branch County Food has suspended individual or group collections at this time. When they open back up we will see what item/items they need and we will let you know what the item for April will be. Thank you for your support!

DIAPER PANTRY: is closed, but if there is a need that you hear of please call the church office.

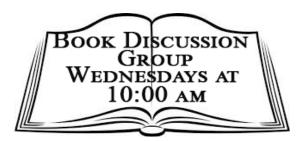
DIAPER PANTRY needs: Diapers in all sizes, Lotion, baby wash, and baby wipes. Baby wipes go with out with every package of diaper. (A continually need)

THE PRESBYTERIAN HEALTH CLINIC is working with a limited staff, only filling medications of established patients at this time. Patients are asked to stay in their cars and their medication will be taken to them. Hours: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

New Volunteers are always welcome!

Thank you for supporting all of these ministries!

Social Events at FPC



The Book Discussion group is on a break until we return back to the church.



Cancelled for May and possible June

The Stitchers

Meet the First Monday of the month, Bring a friend and whatever project you are working on! It can be any project, prayer shawl ,beading, wreaths or card making, any craft... you get the picture?....It is about the Fellowship! If you have been thinking you would like to make a prayer shawl and don't know how, there are ladies here that would be glad to help you.



The Under Covers Quilters's meet the third Tuesday of each month. Please join us for a FUN time! This group may want to try Zoom for their quilting time until the church opens back up.

Recipes~

Raspberry-Lemon Cheesecake Bars

2 cups graham cracker crumbs

1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. sugar, divided

6 Tbsp. butter, melted

3 cups (12 oz.) raspberries, divided

1 Tbsp. each zest and juice from 1 lemon

4 pkg. (8 oz. each) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened

4 eggs

1. Heat oven to 325°F.

- 2. Line 13x9-inch pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides. Combine graham crumbs, 2 Tbsp. sugar and butter; press onto bottom of prepared pan. Bake 10 min.
- 3. Reserve 1/2 cup raspberries and 1 tsp. lemon zest for later use.
- 4. Beat cream cheese, lemon juice, remaining zest and remaining sugar in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Gently stir in remaining raspberries; pour over crust.
- 5. Bake 35 to 40 min. or until center is almost set. Cool completely.
- 6. Refrigerate 4 hours. Top with reserved raspberries and lemon zest. Use foil handles to remove cheesecake from pan before cutting into bars.

Make- Ahead Sausage Waffle Cassrole

8 toaster waffles, lightly toasted and chopped

1 pound pork breakfast sausage

8 eggs

1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

1 cup milk

1 tablespoon dry mustard

Kosher salt

Fresh cracked black pepper

Maple syrup for drizzling

Lightly grease a 2-quart casserole dish

Layer 1/2 of the waffle pieces into the bottom of the casserole dish. Top with 1/2 of the browned sausage, and 1/3 of the cheese. Repeat with remaining waffles, sausage, and 1/3 of the cheese

Mix the eggs, milk, dry mustard, salt, and pepper together in a medium bowl.

Carefully pour the egg mixture into the casserole dish.

Cover the casserole dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate.

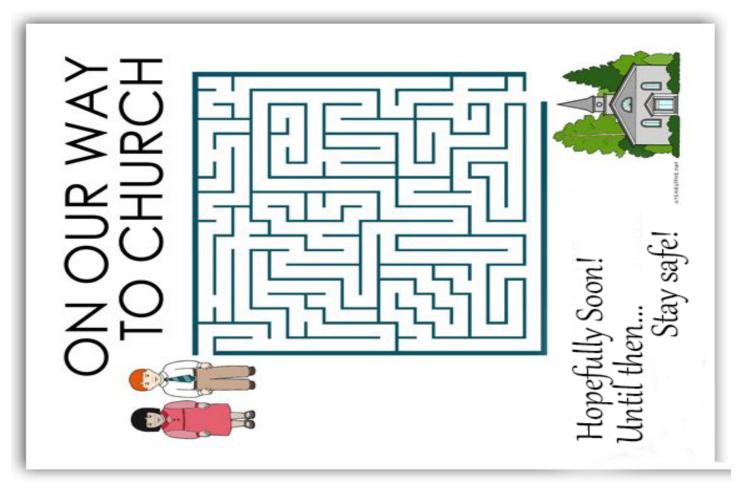
Preheat over to 350 degrees F.

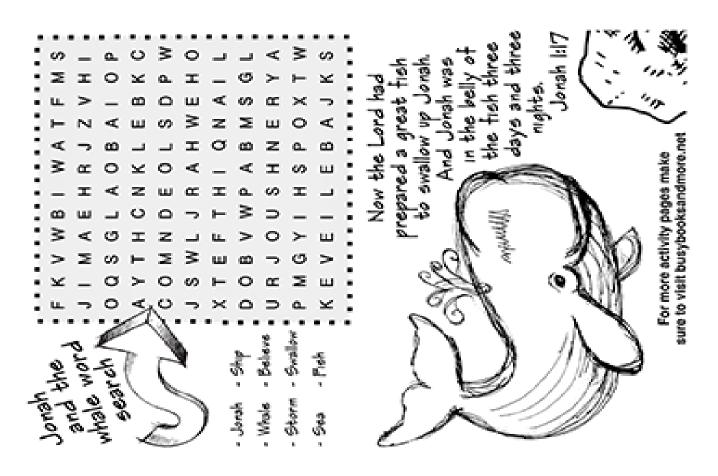
Cover the casserole loosely with foil and bake for 40 minutes.

Remove the foil, top with the remaining cheese, and bake for 10 to 15 more minutes, or until the eggs have completely set.

Top with maple syrup if wanted

Kids Connection...







May 2020



Mon Tue Wed
4 CoIt can be about Try moving in super-slow motion. It's OK to laugh at regular speed.
Write actual letters to Write thank-you notes Remember went out family and friends. to service people. of their way for you. After that?
181920Create a Googleand share it among document of shows or movies you'refamily and friends.Actually try to reproduce something you see on Pinterest. Probably fail. Try again.
Write a book with sour family chapter about their advantable chapter about their adventures

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 52 MARSHALL STREET COLDWATER, MI 49036

May 2020 NEWSLETTER

Come Join Us On Sunday

10:30 am ~Worship Service 11:45 am~ Coffee and Fellowship Hour

Child Care Provided Handicapped accessible building

Meet our Church Staff

Interim Pastor, Rev. Deb Semon-Scott
Music Director, Samuel Parker
Accompanist, Ruby Merkle
Adult Bell Choir Director, Rita Snyder
Know Your Colors Bells, Eunice Williams
Administrative Assist, Cindy Fickle
Office Assistance, Cathy Maresh
Custodian, Rob Denniston

First Presbyterian Church 52 Marshall Street, Coldwater, MI 49036

Phone: 517-278-6068 2nd# 517-278-7848 Church E-mail Address: ColdwaterFPC@gmail.com cindypresby@hotmail.com for Administrative Assistant Website: https://www.firstprescoldwater.org

Rev. Deborah Semon-Scott: Cell: 517-610-9039 Email: dsemonscott@yahoo.com Phone: 517-849-9593