



# The Presbyterletter

First Presbyterian Church 125 East Main Street Ionia, Michigan 48846 April 2024

## Words To Ponder

### Mighty Metaphor Machine

While moving to a new parish, Rev. Watt A. Hardworker lost his metaphor machine. His friend, Rev. Hesa Goodpastor, wondered how Watt could preach without metaphors. Another pal, Rev. Bloomingwhere I.M. At, remarked, “There isn’t enough skill in all of us clergy to preach week after week without some metaphors! The ‘Old, Old Story’ has been told so often that people tune it out without metaphors to help them hear it afresh.” He suggested organizing a metaphor collection to sustain Watt.

Hesa was open to the idea but worried that, with Easter approaching, Watt would be at a total loss. “What a catastrophe, especially starting out in a new church,” said Bloomingwhere. “How can the poor pastor possibly preach Easter without any metaphors?”

Hesa added, “No ‘butterflies emerging from the cocoon,’ no ‘awakening of daffodil bulbs after the long winter,’ no ‘flight of the Phoenix,’ no ‘resurrection as an image for a fresh start.’”

“He’ll be left with nothing to say but that Jesus arose from the grave,” Bloom exclaimed. “Just imagine!”



## Events At a Glance

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 A.M.  
in the sanctuary

or

On Facebook at  
First Presbyterian  
Church Ionia  
10:00 A.M.

**Fellowship Time**  
immediately  
following  
worship  
in the Memorial  
Room

**Holy Communion**  
First Sunday  
of the month

**Session Meeting**  
April 23, 2024  
2:00 p.m.

Women’s Bible  
Study  
Wednesdays  
7:00 P.M.

## Session Highlights

These are highlights from the February Session meeting:

- Pastor Chris and Elder Margaret served in-home communion to three members who were unable to attend church.
- At the February 4 worship service, two new elders were ordained: then three installed as new Session members. They are Carol Campbell, Barb Klenk and Pam Rogers.
- Pastor Chris will use the Book of Confessions in elder training at the beginning of each s Session meeting.
- Pastor Chris concluded liturgist training on February 18.
- News was received that “Have Mercy” was granted \$500,000 by Michigan to help proceed with a family homeless shelter here in Ionia.
- Elder Carol Campbell volunteered to represent Ionia First at Presbytery meetings.
- Session approved a maintenance agreement for our furnaces, boiler, water heater and air conditioner.
- Session approved a request to rent the lawn on June 7 & 8 for a “Cow Pie Bike Ride.” Marilyn McKay has agreed to be the contact person.
- Session was asked to consider returning to real candles during worship. No action was taken.
- Session discussed whether our church should remain a gun free zone. No action was taken.
- Session discussed redesign of the web site. Session asked that the current contractor submit a revised proposal.

### Worship Volunteers

#### Liturgist

April 7, 2024	Lee Hunsberger
April 14, 2024	Kathy VanSyckle
April 21, 2024	Carol Campbell
April 28, 2024	Barb Klenk

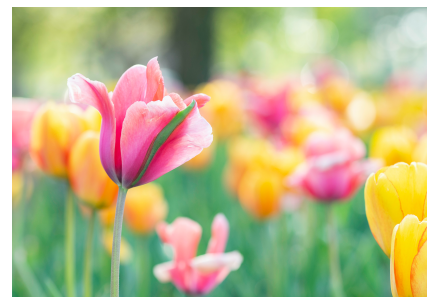
#### Usher/Greeter

April 7, 2024	Margaret Gregory, Norma Kilpatrick
April 14, 2024	Pam Rogers, Linda Hood
April 21, 2024	Marilyn McKay, Jen Furman
April 28, 2024	Lew and Carol Campbell

### Financial Information

#### February 2024 Income and Expenses

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$2,350	\$ 8,456
Expenses	\$6,491	\$19,685
Summary	(\$4,141)	(\$11,229)





Cindy Rozich	1
Shelly Reglin	11
Mary Williams	12
Emily Rozich	15
Duane Emlinger	21
Sunny Morgan	21

### Grocery Ministry

Hams were delivered to three of our church families for Easter. All three families expressed their gratitude and thanks.

Our grocery supply is in good shape, although there are some items that need replenishing. Some of the items needed are canned peaches, peanut butter, juice and cereal/oatmeal. Personal hygiene products are also needed with the exception of bar soap. If you are able to provide any of these items, please leave them on the church pew as you enter the front door of the church. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

### Youth News

It is Camp Greenwood time! This year we have eight of our youth going to camp. Our group this year spans through the age range (attending day camp with a parent) to a sophomore in high school. It is wonderful to see our young people involved with such a great organization.



### Many Thanks

The lovely pink and lace tablecloths on the serving table in the Memorial Room are a gift to our church from Katie and Mike Miller, who are our neighbors. They belonged to Katie's mother and were used at many Miller family gatherings. Since she no longer uses them and given the religious pattern in the lace tablecloth, Katie wanted our church to have them. I let her know we are grateful for her kindness in giving us such beautiful gifts.

Margaret Gregory

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Study group will resume next week on Wednesday, April 10, at 7 PM.

We will be selecting our next topic/book at this time from those suggested by members of the group. We continue to meet at 151 Foxtail Dr. the home of Carol and Lew Campbell. Anyone who is interested is more than welcome to join us!

Thanks!

## **First Presbyterian Ruling Elders**

**Class of 2024** Jen Furman, Norma Kilpatrick, Linda Steele  
**Class of 2025** Marilyn McKay, Cindy Rozich, Dr. Warren Thompson  
**Class of 2026** Carol Campbell, Barb Klenk, Pam Rogers  
**Clerk of Session** Margaret Gregory

## **First Presbyterian Staff**

**Rev. Dr. Chris Dorn** Pastor Tel. 616-610-5982  
**Steve Slaughter** Custodian  
**Sara Hyland** Administrative Assistant

Newsletter, Calendar and more at [1stpreschurchionia.com](http://1stpreschurchionia.com)  
Email: [ioniafpc@gmail.com](mailto:ioniafpc@gmail.com)  
Church Office Hours by Appointment  
Ph# 616-527-2320