



1841 Middlebelt Rd.
Garden City, MI 48135
734-421-7620
gcpc.churchtrac.com
gcpresbyterianmi@gmail.com

January 2024



Heavenly Father, we lift up these people and ask for your healing touch on their lives.



Presby-Notes

Pat, Linda, Peter, Debbie, Barb D., Katie, Mike, Gail U, Lisa G., Terry, Tyler, Evelyn (child w/brain tumor), Gary,

Continued prayers for members: our shut-ins including Julia, Lila and Roy, Ruth, Shirley, Janet, Sheila, Pat and Pete John and Dolores, and Rosemary, Joe, Theresia, Gary Baker and Chuck Skinner

And for all others we hold close to our hearts.

A special congratulations to the Holt family as they welcomed a new GREAT-GRANDSON to their clan. Baby Tyree was born on Christmas Day to granddaughter, Jamie Stanek. 7 lbs, 9 oz. Baby and mom doing fine.



Theresia Cameron	7-Jan
Sue DeBurie	7-Jan
Ruth Pettit	22-Jan
Dolores Kayganich	23-Jan
Joe Toth	24-Jan
Mary Merrifield	27-Jan
Becky Falk	30-Jan
Lisa Grube	30-Jan



A New Year Dawning

Another year is upon us. The new year always is an invitation to look to the future. As I've mentioned before in these pages, one of the things I'm excited about in the year ahead is sitting down with members of Session's ad hoc committee that we are calling, the Visioning Committee. The Visioning Committee is a group of people who love the church and want to explore how we might galvanize our worshipping community to work more closely together. Working together increases our strength and our ability to glorify God in our worship and to share God's love with those around us.

Even before the committee begins its work, I recognize that if this church excels in one thing, it excels in food. Feeding people is a core component of this worshipping body. We are gifted with food aficionados AND people who love to eat. I thought of that particular gift as I was looking at the website He Gets Us (hegetsus.com).

In it I read, We were looking at the life of Jesus to see who he really was, and we noticed something peculiar: he spent a lot of time around the dinner table. Many of his most frequently quoted messages and standout stories happened while sharing a meal with others. As we looked closer, we noticed that his company around the table was a remarkably diverse cast. He shared meals with outcasts. He spent time with the self-righteous religious elite. He cared for people who had broken every rule and were seen as unclean. He dined at the tables of the wealthy men whose riches were won with lies and corruption. Some of those men gave up comfortable lifestyles to follow him. He crossed racial boundaries to the shock of many around him. He invited everyone to the table. When asked why he did so, he replied, "... I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

It was radical at the time. No one was that inclusive. The religious do-gooders began to whisper behind his back. They called him a friend of

sinners. It was supposed to be an insult, but Jesus wore it proudly. He was a friend to everyone. And what do friends do? They eat dinner together and share in each other's lives.

The name of Jesus has been used to harm and divide, but if you look at how Jesus lived, you see how backward that really is. Jesus was not exclusive. He was radically inclusive. What would our world look like if that were the norm? If strangers became friends over the dinner table as they did around Jesus?

We already eat with our neighbors through our Holiday Dinner each November and with the Strawberry Festival in the spring. Could these be building blocks for us to use as we strive to become the kind of welcoming community Jesus exemplified? You can be sure the Visioning Committee will be considering the question. (If you would like to be part of the Visioning Committee, please let us know, call the office or speak to Pastor Theda.)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. Romans 12:15-17

Happy New Year!
Pastor Theda



We end 2023 on a very positive note. This has been a very productive year for your Mission committee. We are looking at making a donation to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. This is a global ministry. Our gift will include a new latrine, 4 Training Kits for Teachers, a water pump, Nutrition Pack (provides nutritious, filling meals for ten women-headed households through seeds for kale, tomatoes, onions, cabbage and okra), 1 share of a cow and two families of chickens. These items will make a big impact in distressed areas of the world. Help us continue our work for Mission. We look to 2024 with greater hope for a better world and being a part of making that happen.

THANK YOU, GCPC



Participation in the life of a church is serving God. If you would like to help out on any of these teams, please let the church office know.

Date	Leader	Counting Team	Usher Team
01/07	Malcolm McBryde	4	1
01/14	Nancy Wolter	1	2
01/21	Susan Lerner	2	3
01/28	Carolyn Davidson	3	1

Usher Teams	
Team 1	Jeff Teichman, Bill Cowen
Team 2	Mary Deykes, Erik Domino, Chris Domino
Team 3	Chester Parys
Team 4	Dennis Kapelanski
Counter Teams	
Team 1	Rita Gibbs, Tom Morgan
Team 2	Mary Deykes, Jeff Teichman, Erik Domino
Team 3	Carol Morgan, John Peters

New lists are being created for the new year. Worship leaders, ushers and counters are needed.

If you would be interested in ushering, please see Mary Deykes or speak with any usher. As you can see, we have some teams that need people.

The Counting teams are looking to create a 4th team. Please see either Jeff Teichman or Carol Morgan if you would like to help out.

Neither position is difficult.

WEEKLY meeting

Sunday Morning – 9A Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Monday mornings – 11:00A – Bible Study with Jackie Zopff/Chris Domino

Tuesday Mornings – 10A PW Craft Circle

Wednesday evenings – 6P Adult Bible Study



January 18 7P



January 11 6P

Property Committee	1 st Sunday of the Month	11:30A
Worship Committee	1 st Thursday of the Month	7P
Finance Committee	2 nd Wednesday of the Month	7P
Christian Education	January 2024	7P



Our Community Outreach Commitment

Radio Club

Third Tuesday of each month at 7P

AA Meetings

Monday 8P
Tuesday 8P
Wednesday 7P

Thursday 7:30P

Friday 8P

Sunday 8P

Overeaters Anonymous 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 1-2 PM

Scouts

Troop 77284 Monday 5:30P

Troop 76859 Friday at 6:00P

Troop 1841



Session Highlights in December 2023 Carol Morgan, Clerk Pro Tem

	Annual Budget	(Jan. – Nov.) YTD Budget	Actual
Congregational Giving	96,764.00	88,700.37	90,044.24
Non Pledge	25,000.00	22,916.63	22,536.65
Total General Fund Income	135,804.00	124,487.00	132,781.90
Total General Fund Expense	141,292.64	130,268.29	149,054.52
Net Gain/(Loss)	(5,488.64)	(5,781.29)	(16,272.62)

Finance Committee – Erik Domino, Chair

- Presentation of the Financial Reports.
- Budget for 2024 was presented and approved which includes the new salary package for the pastor.

Property Committee – Dennis Kapelanski, chair

- Future Events were approved by session
- Still looking for someone to complete the work in the upstairs bathroom.

Nominating Committee – Sue Flynn, chair

- No report

Personnel Committee – Nancy Wolter and Sharon Osmond, co-chairs

- Goals have been completed for the pastor

Worship Team – Erik Domino, Chair

- Changes in the service – worship leader will now be doing the announcements
- Sermon topics have been established

Christian Education – Lindsey Basile-Goodlow, chair

- Looking toward the planning of VBS format for 2024

Fellowship, Care & Outreach, PW – Sue Flynn, chair

- No report

Mission

- Approval of Mission allocation to Presbyterian Giving Catalog

This was Erik Domino's last session meeting. He has reached his term limits but will continue to work with the finance committee. He has worked very hard to get our books in order and to keep them that way. Thank you Erik!

We will welcome Carolyn Davidson, Nancy Wolter, Dennis Kapelanski and Gail Merrifield to the session starting in 2024

Installation/Ordination of all the new officers will be held on January 7th.



Board of Deacons Highlights September 14th

Leanne Cowen, Secretary

Newly nominated Deacons were in attendance: John Peters, Helen Phelps and Sue Kren.

Malcolm McBryde created a card which includes the four food pantries in our area: GCPC, First United Methodist Church, Lighthouse Ministries and Help's On The Way. It includes important contact information for those picking up food. Malcolm will send each pantry a PDF. The cards will be handed out to those picking up food.

The Deacons handed out Thanksgiving food baskets to 11 families this year. New items were donated this year which included butter and eggs. Each family received a pie also. The families were very appreciative.

The pick up time for the Christmas presents for the 12 families begins at 1:00 pm on Sunday December 17th.

The Deacons received a donation of \$500.00 from the PW group. We will have the money deposited into the Deacon Food Bank Account.

The Deacons are thankful for all the support from the congregation and community during 2023.

Editor Note: A special thank you to Leanne for all her hard work on the Board of Deacons. She has served 6 years and must “retire” for at least a year. She served as

secretary to the board for all 6 years and has always been right on top of all the Deacon communication. Thank you, Leanne!

Dave Radcliffe will also be leaving the Board of Deacons after six years. Dave's has worked hard to promote the Deacons and their support of the community. Great job, Dave!



There are times, as your Admin Asst., that there are many things that need to be done but there is no extra time to do them. (I only work 20 hours a week.)

Filing
Copying
Compiling
(directory/annual report)
Mailings

Can you help?

I would like to get a “team” of people that I can call on when extra things need to get done.

Interested, please let me know.



Carol

A special thank you to John Peters and Dave Radcliffe for helping me with the new directory.

Session chairpersons!

It is getting very close to Annual Meeting and Reports. Check your mailboxes for your last year’s report. All reports for 2023 Annual Report will be due **NO LATER THAN** January 12th.





Not too much to report for the end of the year. Our last meeting was held December 2nd with three members attending.

With some of our sales profits from the Holiday Fair we purchased two large bolts of batting. We also purchased two sewing machines through the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue.

We still have not got our room put “back to right” after the Fair as we need to have a few workdays to go through and “de-stash” and de-clutter the sewing room and closet.

Our next meeting will be held on January 6th, which will be our planning meeting.

As always we invite anyone interested in joining the Sewing Hope Group, we meet the first Saturday of each month, 10 am to 4 pm. We always have easy patterns and resources to get you started, including kits with pre-cut fabric. We have a fun time of fellowship and creativity, and the coffee is always on!

Christmas Eve morning service was planned as not only a showcase of our music program, but also the celebration of the coming birth of our Lord. For those who could not attend,



A very special thank you to Brian Sampson for leading this worship and to our guest violinist, Joachim Stepniewski, whose participation enhanced the worship experience.

This appeared in last month's PN, but it bears repeating!

PRAY THAT PEACE TAKE ROOT
IN OUR TROUBLED WORLD



God is too big to fit into one Religion

Dear God:

Please bless the world and especially those who are living in strife and fear, whose lives are in danger. Please send your angels to help those who are being harmed and bring them quickly into the light.

Please infuse those who are doing harm with peace and help them see the error of their ways so they may stop this terrible slaughter.

Please bring an end to strife, war, torture and killing.

Carol Cassara



Wishing you a
Happy New Year
and blessed year
ahead. May
God's light
guide your way
in 2024.

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	11am - Bible Study - CE 5:30pm - Troop 77284 8pm - AA Group SH	10am - Craft Circle 8pm - AA	6pm - Adult Bible Study 7pm - AA - SH	7pm - Worship 7:30pm - AA Group - SH	8pm - AA - SH	10am - Sewing Hope - SH 1pm - Overeaters Anon
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am - Worship 8pm - AA - SH	11am - Bible Study - CE 5:30pm - Troop 77284 8pm - AA Group SH	10am - Craft Circle 8pm - AA	6pm - Adult Bible Study 7pm - AA - SH 7pm - Finance Committee	6pm - Deacons Meeting 7:30pm - AA Group - SH	8pm - AA - SH	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am - Worship 8pm - AA - SH	11am - Bible Study - CE 5:30pm - Troop 77284 8pm - AA Group SH	10am - Craft Circle 7pm - Radio Club - SH 8pm - AA	6pm - Adult Bible Study 7pm - AA - SH	7pm - Session Meeting - 7:30pm - AA Group - SH	8pm - AA - SH	1pm - Overeaters Anon
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am - Worship 8pm - AA - SH	11am - Bible Study - CE 5:30pm - Troop 77284 8pm - AA Group SH	10am - Craft Circle 8pm - AA	6pm - Adult Bible Study 7pm - AA - SH	7:30pm - AA Group - SH	8pm - AA - SH	9am - All Star
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10am - Worship 8pm - AA - SH	11am - Bible Study - CE 5:30pm - Troop 77284 8pm - AA Group SH	10am - Craft Circle 8pm - AA	6pm - Adult Bible Study 7pm - AA - SH			

