



The Sextant



Following the Lord's Direction

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Welcoming Rev. Jim Porter

We welcomed Rev. Jim Porter and his wife Jaime the weekend of April 14. Despite the weather, many braved the storm to attend the "meet and greet" on Saturday, and the service on Sunday. A big thank you to all who worked hard to pull the weekend together. The food was excellent, the decorations beautiful, and the fellowship superb. What a great way for our church family to get to know the Porters.



The congregation extended a call to Rev. Porter at the meeting on Sunday and then enjoyed a wonderful brunch reception. The weather outside may have been cold and snowy, but you would not have known that by the smiles and fellowship inside.

Rev. Porter plans to start the second week of June, with June 17 as his first Sunday at the pulpit. Let's all continue

to extend a warm welcome to Rev. Porter and his family.



Summer Schedule

The session approved a new summer worship schedule. Starting on Sunday, May 27, Memorial Day Sunday, worship hours for both services will change. This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day Sunday, September 2. Both worship services will take place in our sanctuary.

8:30–9:30AM Contemporary Service

10:00–11:00AM Traditional Service

everyone is welcome

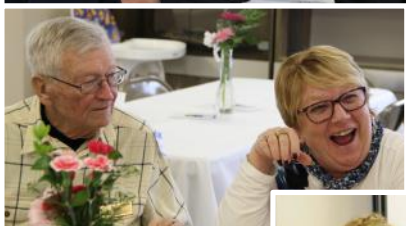


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Check out the smiles. These pictures tell the story.



What are the Deacons Doing?

Our Lead Deacon, Susan Wiltse and daughter, Anne Conrad, carries on a Deacon tradition of ordering and arranging the Easter flowers that make our sanctuary so beautiful for Easter services (which was the last service for Interim Pastor, Tom Cook and his dear wife, Martha). We snowbird Deacons really appreciate Susan and Anne's efforts during the time so many of us are in warmer places. We are looking forward to welcoming back our snowbird Deacons in May, and perhaps getting insights from our new pastor on ways we may serve this congregation.

A few hardy Deacons and many in our congregation attended the Meet & Greet Reception Saturday, April 14 plus the luncheon Sunday, April 15 for our new minister, Jim Porter and his wife, Jaime, despite really nasty weather. Although the weather was not welcoming, we hope the special occasions made the Porters feel our joy in having them join our church family.

Mary Anne Frey, Deacon

Update Your Contact Information

As we welcome our snowbirds back and the weather turns warmer, it is a great time to update your contact information with the church office. Have you disconnected your landline telephone, gotten a new cell phone number, changed your email address or moved to a new physical address? Please let us know so we can keep you informed of church activities and keep our contact records accurate. To update your information simply stop by the office, call us at 231-264-8167 or email us at info@erfpc.org.



Baby Bottle Campaign - Begins Sunday, May 13



Remember filling baby bottles with coins, bills, or checks in the weeks between, and including, Mother's Day and Father's Day?

We are pleased to announce that our congregation will again be partnering with churches from Antrim and Charlevoix Counties in a Baby Bottle Campaign for the Moms & Tots Center and His House (a ministry for men) in Ellsworth. These are ministries of

Good Samaritan Family Services also located in Ellsworth.

Watch for more information in our FPC bulletins and emails.

Outreach Ministry Team Tours Moms and Tots and His House in Ellsworth

On May 8, four members of Outreach drove out to Ellsworth to meet with Gayle Koon and Stacey Nelson, co-directors of a ministry that Gayle started 17 years ago. This warm and friendly house has several counseling rooms, a kitchen for cooking classes, a playroom and storage for baby clothes, diapers and baby equipment. Young families, from an initial pregnancy test to children of five years old, can receive counseling, love and support and nursery supplies.

Stacy, a former minister with a big heart, introduced us to the new addition that is called "His House." Everything about this addition was masculine; the paint colors, the grill on the deck and the well equipped tool shop. Stacy told us that when fathers come in with a family, he leaves the kids and mother with Gayle and he starts a conversation with the man by suggesting they go off and cook a hamburger on the grill, shows him the tool shop or sometimes even takes them fishing. In this manner Stacy engages them in conversation. It is one of the only facilities in the State that address the problems facing a young father who may be unemployed or not having the background for fathering.

The other side of the house holds the "Moms and Tots" program. It has a library of instructional videos on many subjects designed to prepare for parenting. Parents can review a video and earn points towards a new crib, car seat, stroller or other equipment for babies and children. They call this "Earn While You Learn." There are also a variety of other programs available for both parents. Children are cared for by volunteers in a well stocked, comfy area with toys, books, snacks and rocking chairs. Baby clothes, donated by the community, are free as are diapers.

Our church supports this Christian based facility through Outreach but also through the Baby Bottle Campaign which will begin on Mother's Day and continues through Father's Day, ending on June 17. Be sure to pick up one of these baby bottles. Our support, along with churches and community groups from around the area, keep this mission going.

Sanctuary Choir

I want to thank all of you who participated in welcoming our new pastor on Sunday, April 15. With 16 voices we were in good voice to praise God and welcome Rev. Porter and his wife Jaime. In the next eight weeks, we will have a variety of wonderful sermon presenters to bring us God's word. I try to somewhat match the choirs' selections with the present speaker. On June 17, our new pastor will be here and I hope to have a wonderful vocal welcome for him.

I am in the process of planning special music for this summer. Jeff Cobb will be here July 15 to lead the choir along with cellist Kyle Stachnik and perhaps a few area musicians.

The choir and I invite you to join us. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. We hope you will consider joining us.

Cheryl Knight, Music Director



Christian Education & Youth Update



April was an extremely eventful month in the history of our church. April 1, Easter Sunday, was our final worship service with Pastor Tom. He provided more than 2½ years of great leadership for our church as a whole, and for me personally. I am thankful for all that God has done in and through this family of faith during that time. On April 15 we voted to receive our new pastor, and I am looking forward to what is next for our church. I believe that God is going to continue using us to impact this community and to share His love with those around us. On April 20 we held our final community movie night of the school year. It was well attended with nearly 30 students joining us for a time of fun, food and friendship. Over the past 2 years these movie nights have continued to develop into a great front porch activity for the youth ministry, with many students dropping in to get a feel for who we are.



May is going to be another active month in the area of family ministry in the life of our church. May 4 the youth group will be providing babysitting for families of the church. This is something that we have done several times over the past few years and there is no cost. Any donations that are given will go toward this summer's mission trip. This ministry has been enjoyed by most of the families in our congregation and the youth enjoy having an opportunity to serve. On May 13, Mother's Day, the youth and children of the church will be



leading a combined worship service. We will be celebrating mothers, families, and the love of Jesus. I am also looking forward to Sunday May 27 when I will have the opportunity to preach again.

Looking further out, on June 9 the high school youth group will be traveling to Puerto Rico for a week of mission work. Please keep us in your prayers, that God uses our students to impact lives there and that the lives of our students are transformed. This is going to be an amazing opportunity for God to touch lives and I again want to thank each of you for supporting our youth. Plan to be here on Sunday, July 1 as this will be an opportunity for you to hear from the mission team about our time in Puerto Rico.



May 2018 Christian Education & Youth Calendar of Events

Sundays

Youth Group

Wednesdays

Breakfast Club

Thursdays, May 3 & 10

Guitar Lessons

Sunday, May 13 at 9:00 AM

Youth Sunday - One Worship Service

Calling All Thespians

Do you enjoy acting and being dramatic? We are looking for an adult to join our team for the Bible Story station during VBS week, June 25-29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please let Sara Bogard or Tracy Fosdick know if you can help.



VBS

June 25-29

Mark your calendar now and plan to bring your children, grandchildren and friends to our Shipwrecked VBS program this summer the week of June 25-29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Watch the bulletin and Friday eBlast for more information as we get closer to registration.



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Youth Sunday One Worship Service May 13 at 9:00 AM

Make plans now to attend this Sunday. Under the leadership of Wayne Potter and Melanie Stoll, this service will feature children and youth in both the music and worship.

We're excited to invite all children to play bells. If your children would like to participate, please have them at the church at 8:30 a.m. to practice before the service.

You won't want to miss this special service!

*Happy
Mother's Day*

