



The Sextant



Following the Lord's Direction

Volume 4, Issue 9 | October 2018

Letter from Rev. Jim Porter

CREED begins October 7!

Dear Friends and Members of First Pres., Elk Rapids,

First, I would like to thank again all who were able to come to and participate in my Installation Service on September 16. It was a special Sunday as I was formally installed as Pastor of this wonderful congregation. Also, I want to thank the whole congregation for your continuing warm welcome for both Jaime and I. We truly love it here and are already feeling right at home. I am blessed to be called Pastor of this loving and caring church!

"I am blessed to be called Pastor of this loving and caring church!"

Looking ahead to October, I am excited about our new worship series called "CREED," which begins Sunday, October 7; and would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to join us for worship each

and every Sunday of October. Based on the Apostles' Creed, and the book of the same name by Adam Hamilton, we will be looking at the foundations of our Christian faith— What We Believe, Why We Believe It, and Why It Matters. Sometimes answers to life are difficult to find, but this ancient creed has guided believers down through the centuries offering life and hope. What does it mean for our lives today? I invite you to come join the discussion!

Also, as an added resource, we are offering a small group study which will be held on Wednesday nights from 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. beginning on October 10. Also based on the book, we will show a brief video featuring Adam Hamilton, and talk about how our faith guides and shapes our lives today. This is an easy, introductory study. Please come whether you have read the book or not!

When I led this study at my previous church, a long-time member said, "I feel like I can talk to God for the first time." That's my hope and prayer for all of us as we begin and explore this thought-provoking study together. I hope that we will not only learn more about our Christian faith and what we believe, but also that each one of us will be drawn into a deeper, more life-giving relationship with our loving God, Creator of heaven and earth.

This is a perfect opportunity to invite friends and neighbors, and make it a point to come to church. I hope to see you on Sundays or Wednesdays (or both!) in October!

Blessings to you in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 21 after 9:00 am Service

There will be a congregational meeting immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service in the sanctuary on Sunday, October 21 to elect the Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Consecration Sunday Update

We received 81 pledges on Consecration Sunday this year. That is an increase of 27 pledges from last year. Thank you!

Our Congregation was given a charge to increase our pledges for 2019 so we could continue our wonderful Missions. This important message was heard as 56% of the pledges were increased. This is great news.

Furthermore, we received 15 pledges from members that had not pledged last year. All of this encouraging news is a clear sign our Church is being guided by divine hands. God is good!

Finally, if you have not had an opportunity to pledge your support for our Church in 2019, please do so. We have major budget issues to solve and we need YOU to keep this momentum moving forward. Every pledge counts!

Sincerely,

Mike Husby, Treasurer

Inside this issue:

Pastor & Staff Appreciation	2
Singers Take Note	2
Patriot Place	2
CREED - Join Us Wednesdays	2
New Member Class	2
Christian Education & Youth	3
Candy Donations Needed	3
Free Guitar Classes	3
Peacemaker Presentation	4

October is Pastor & Staff Appreciation Month

It's time for us to shower some of the same love and care and nurturing on these very giving people who spend endless hours making this church run smoothly.

Our pastor and staff include: Pastor Jim, Pastor Sandy, Wayne Potter, Ellen Merillat, Liz Atkinson, Cheryl Knight, Melanie Stoll, Veronica Halstead, and Corey Pritchard.

The Fellowship Team will be hosting a brunch on Wednesday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. at T.J. Charlie's Restaurant to thank each of these fine people.

We hope that you will find a way during the month to show your appreciation too. Here are a few ideas to think about: 1) Drop a card in the bags in the narthex, 2) Take someone to lunch, 3) Invite one or all to dinner in your home, 4) Bake and take a treat, 5) Small gifts, 6) Just give them a hug and thanks! Call chair, Joanne Teague, with questions at 231-264-6162.

Singers Take Note

It is that time of year, when the holidays are drawing closer. Rehearsals for this year's Christmas cantata will begin on Sunday, October 14 from 4:00 P.M. to approximately 5:30 P.M. They will continue every Sunday until Saturday, December 22 when we will present our cantata plus other music. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Knight, Music Director at 231-409-3316. Let's make a joyful noise.

~ Cheryl Knight



Outreach Collecting Donations for Patriot Place

Outreach Ministry Team is asking for donations to go to Patriot Place during the month of October. Patriot Place is Northern Michigan's only Veterans Housing Community for male veterans who are experiencing homelessness due to post traumatic stress, substance abuse or mental health concerns. It is located in Gaylord. Unlike a temporary emergency shelter, veterans in need will have the opportunity to live independently with support services for up to two years.

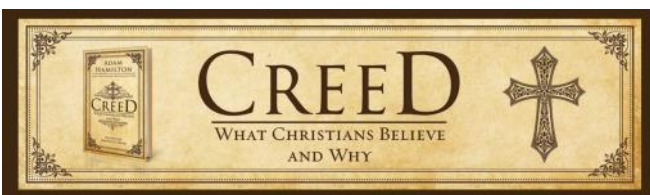


Patriot Place is a transitional living community that consists of four duplex housing units. Twenty-four veterans (at any given time) can be housed. The goal is for the veterans to increase their strengths and income through life skills classes, employment and assistance in receiving benefits.

Don Reynolds collected the donations from our congregation for Patriot Place last year and delivered them by Veteran's Day. He is going to do the same thing this year.

The following items can be brought and placed in a box in the narthex through Veteran's Day, November 11.

Toilet paper	Paper towels	Garbage bags	Liquid hand soap
Bar soap	Laundry soap	Bleach	Toilet Bowl Cleaner
All purpose kitchen & bathroom cleaners		Canned goods such as soup, stews, tuna & peanut butter	



Would You Like to Learn More?

For those who would like to learn more during our October sermon series "CREED," join us **beginning Wednesday, October 10 from 6:45-8:00 p.m.** Pastor Jim will show a brief DVD, "Creed" by Adam Hamilton; this will be followed by small group discussions. You can sign up in the Narthex, but please feel free to come even if you don't register or read the book! If you would like a book, they are available. A donation of \$10 will be appreciated but not necessary.

New Member Class - Mondays, October 29 & November 5

Here's an opportunity to explore becoming a member of our family of faith. Join Pastor Jim on two Monday evenings, October 29 & November 5 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. for a two-part orientation to learn more about who we are. Register at the Activity & Sign-Up Center in the narthex.



Christian Education & Youth Update

September 4 was the start of the 2018-2019 school year and we have had a very full first month. Our annual Last Hurrah of summer took place on September 8, with a trip to Michigan Adventure. This event has quickly become something that our students look forward to. I can confirm the rumors are true, I was talked into riding a roller coaster for the first time in 20 years. I can also confirm that it will be another 20 years before I ride again! Our church picnic and family kickball game was



September 9, and everyone had a great time. The game included a great play by Courtney Reinhardt to get her husband out.



Our student ministry was spotlighted on the front page of the September 13 Elk Rapids News. If you haven't had an opportunity to read the article I encourage you to find a copy. A Community

Dessert Social followed that on September 22, providing our students an opportunity to share more about their experience in Puerto Rico. This was also the beginning of our fundraising efforts for our next high school mission trip in 2020. There will be more information about that in the coming months. September 30 was our first Service Sunday



of the 2018 school year. These are opportunities for our students to put their faith into action serving those in need. For our first outing we partnered with Food Rescue of Northwest Michigan.



Looking ahead, Breakfast Club resumes Wednesday, October 3 at 6:30 a.m. This provides our students with a hot breakfast, and a short devotional message before heading off to school. If you are willing to help cook breakfast for teenagers before school occasionally, please let me know. Our first movie night for this school year will take place October 5. We will be watching the first Harry Potter movie and enjoying a nacho bar. These movie nights have grown over the past two years and we have many community youth that take part. Operation Christmas Child boxes will be available in the narthex starting October 14, and the deadline to have all of your boxes returned is

November 11. Lastly, Halloween At The Lighthouse will be taking place October 31. We need LOTS of candy, and individuals to help pass it out. If you have the ability we would appreciate your help in both of these areas.

Candy Donations Needed

Be a part of our community Halloween Event at the Lighthouse by bringing in candy donations. We have a box in the narthex. Thank you for supporting this community event!

Halloween At The Lighthouse is Wednesday, October 31 from 5:30- 7:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community. Each year we have hundreds of children and parents come to the Lighthouse for candy, refreshments and to warm up. If you would like to serve treats and help with the event, please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813.

Free Guitar Classes

We are continuing to offer free guitar classes for youth on Thursdays after school at the Lighthouse. If you have a youth or know a youth that might like to learn, please contact Melanie Stoll at 231-392-1862 or mstoll@erfpc.org for more information.

10/25	3:15-4pm & 4:15-5pm	11/8	3:15-4pm & 4:15-5pm
11/1	3:15-4pm & 4:15-5pm	11/15	3:15-4pm & 4:15-5pm



October 2018 Christian Education & Youth Calendar of Events

Sundays

10:00am Youth Group

Wednesdays

6:30am Breakfast Club

Friday, October 5

3:00pm Youth Dinner & Movie @ Lighthouse

Wednesday, October 31

5:30pm Halloween At The Lighthouse



First Presbyterian Church
of Elk Rapids

404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629

231-264-8167 • info@erpc.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Elk Rapids, MI
Permit No. 11

Deliver to: *(or current resident)*



Peacemaker Presentation

Thursday, October 11 at 7:00 PM

Two organizations from our church are joining forces to present a guest speaker from Rwanda - Rev. Bizimana. The Outreach committee along with Presbyterian Women would like to invite you on Thursday, October 11 to join us for a presentation from this esteemed speaker. The time is 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Rev. Bizimana has some powerful stories of reconciliation to tell about his work in peace building in Rwanda after the genocide years. The fact that he has been invited back for a second visit as an International Peacemaker is a good indication that he was well received the first visit in 2015. The Presbyterian Church in Rwanda is the partner church for PC(USA)'s ministry in Rwanda. Rev. Bizimana is the President of Remera Presbytery. On a personal note, I remember the internal strife and massacres in Rwanda and am looking forward to hearing first hand the efforts being made to reconcile the various religious and cultural differences among the people of Rwanda. He states in his bio, "Survivors share reconciliation groups with Perpetrators who killed their families. You will be surprised to see them sitting together helping one another. We have trained Peacemakers in the High School. These are the pillars of the peace and reconciliation seed which is to be planted in the next generation."

Come join us to learn of one of the improvements being made in our vast world. We thank God for these dedicated individuals. We can be inspired by such people. Refreshments (of course) will be available.

Cheryl Knight, Presbyterian Women, and Peggy Bushnell, Outreach Committee