



The Sextant



Following the Lord's Direction

Volume 5, Issue 1 | First Quarter 2019

Letter from Rev. Jim Porter

Dear Friends and Members of First Pres., ER,

I love this time of year!

The snow is melting (although lately it has been trying to come back!), the birds are singing (a flock of robins just landed in my yard!), and the irises planted in our front garden are breaking through the ground! Soon, new life will be bursting forth all around us, reminding us of the promise of new life we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is a glorious time of year!

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With this in mind, I would like to take this time to invite you to all of our Easter and Holy Week activities and services.

It all begins Sunday, April 14, on Palm Sunday. Join us for worship at our regular times of 9:00 and 11:00 as we pass out palm branches and then remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on that fateful week so long ago.

Next, we will be hosting another Community Dinner on Monday, April 15. If you haven't had a chance to come to one of these dinners, please make a point to join us for a delicious catered meal and time for community and fellowship. We will also have the last session of our small group study "24 Hours that Changed the World" for anyone who would like to stay for that.

Then, join us on Maundy Thursday, April 18, for a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by a simple worship service remembering the Last Supper of our Lord that he shared with his closest friends and disciples.

After that, on Good Friday, April 19, we are hosting a Good Friday Service, beginning with a meal at 6:00 p.m., provided by the children's ministry team, followed by a Tenebrae (service of darkness) Service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, as we pause to remember Jesus' death on the cross.

Finally, plan to join us Easter Sunday as we celebrate what this Holy Season is all about: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! This church would not be here, and churches the world over would not be here, if not for the truth and power of His resurrection. Through his death and resurrection, we are given new life and invited to live in the power and peace of His presence every day! Invite your friends and neighbors and plan to join us at 9:00 or 11:00 on Easter Sunday. Tell everyone you know:

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Blessings to you always,

Pastor Jim



Family Mission Trip to Gladstone, MI June 13-16

If you have always wanted to go on a mission trip, but haven't done it yet, this is your chance. We are planning a family mission trip to



Gladstone, which is located in the Upper Peninsula, from Thursday, June 13 thru Sunday,

June 16. We'll be helping a small church in Gladstone with numerous projects from construction and painting to cooking and gardening. It is called a "family" mission trip because there will be a place for everyone to serve, no matter how young or old. We welcome everyone...families, couples, singles, seniors. If you have a heart to serve you are welcome to join us. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions or for more information.



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Presbyterian Women

On Saturday, May 4, the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering will take place in Boyne City at the Presbyterian Church. This is an annual event that we hosted last May. We need to R.S.V.P. by April 16 and I am hoping that several of you will let me know that you would like to attend. I can RSVP for all of us or you can call 231-582-7983 to respond for yourself. I am willing to drive and fill my car with lovely ladies. The cost is \$7.00 per person.

In May we will meet on May 9 at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Jana Gillstrom will be our hostess and we will do a Bible study. I will alert you to which one before our meeting.

On June 13 at 7:00 p.m., our meeting will feature Laura Asiala as our guest speaker. More will follow in an update with regard to subject matter.

You may call me at 231-409-3316 with any questions.

Best wishes and God Bless, Cheryl Knight

Fishing Seminar with Don Reynolds & Friends Thursday, May 2 at 6PM

Come learn about early spring Steelhead Fishing moving into the Bass Season. Door prizes available. Grab bags available. Refreshments provided. Call Melanie Stoll for more information 231-392-1862 or talk with Don Reynolds.

THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER
503 Elm Street, Elk Rapids MI 49629



Meet, Eat and Enjoy the Beat

If you haven't attended a "Meet, Eat and Enjoy the Beat" event yet, you won't want to miss the next one. Here are some highlights from the first two:

February 26 - What a delightful way to spend a snowy, early afternoon than at the "Meet, Eat and Enjoy the Beat." This was the first of what our community coordinator, Mel Stoll hopes to make a monthly event. If you enjoy smooth jazz, a large variety of desserts and meeting members of our community, then you better mark your calendar when the next event is scheduled. The trio performing on February 26 included our talented pianist, Mel, on the keyboard along with two Elk Rapids sisters, Mary Smith and Bethany Howard who sang solos and duets together. We all left with a swing in our walk and the sun shining. ~ Peggy Bushnell



April 9 - The sun may not have been shining outside, but inside the Fellowship Hall everything was bright, warm and welcoming. In this second "Meet, Eat and Enjoy the Beat" event,



Melanie Stoll was joined by Diane Clark. They shared a mix of jazz piano and voice. Along with the wonderful jazz, those who attended enjoyed a lovely brunch catered by Jonathan Heeke with pies

for dessert by Melanie Stoll's mom, Darlene. Thank you to the co-sponsor, the Lions Club of Elk Rapids.

Watch for details of the next "Meet, Eat and Enjoy the Beat." It's sure to be another enjoyable event you won't want to miss!

Guitar • Ukelele • Drum Class Mini-Concert Thursday, April 25 - 4:40PM - Lighthouse

April 25 will be the last class for the school year. At 4:40 p.m. we will do a mini-concert of all we have learned. Come to the Lighthouse and enjoy this showcase of our students.

Community Dinner Update & Thank You

Our free community dinners continue to be a hit! We are consistently serving well over 120 people at each dinner. We have even set up overflow tables in the multipurpose conference room!

Our dinners in January, February and March were a wonderful way to combat cabin fever and get everyone out during our long winter months.



A huge "thank you" to Anne Conrad and her team for coordinating the dinners, Chef Jeremy Burns for preparing such delicious meals, Rick Young from the Village Market for food donations, and all our volunteers who help make each dinner special. We couldn't do it without everyone's help!



We will be hosting our final dinner of the season on Monday, April 15. You won't want to miss Chef Jeremy's pork tenderloin, green beans, mac & cheese, applesauce and lemon bars for dessert. We've saved a seat just for you! Invite your friends, and family and neighbors too!

Christian Education & Youth Update

We have had a great first quarter of Family Ministry in 2019. On January 5 we started confirmation class with a group with 5 middle school students participating. I am looking forward to each of them affirming their baptismal vows and taking ownership of their own faith. Confirmation is an exciting time in the life of our church and of these students.



On June 9 we will have the joy of welcoming these students into full membership in our church family. Please make plans to be a part of this special day. We hosted community movie nights at the Lighthouse in January, February and March. Our movie nights are open to teenagers from the community, providing students with a safe place to gather and have fun with friends.

We continued our Family Worship Nights in January and March; unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate in February. These interactive worship services engage the entire church family and I encourage you to make plans to join us. On March 28 the youth group took our annual Spring Break trip to Front Street in Traverse City. This is always a great outing for students. As you can see we have been very active and there is a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

There are some very important dates coming up that I want everyone to be aware of. Vacation Bible School 2019 is just around the corner and we need everyone's help to make it happen. If you are able to help again this year, or maybe for the first time please let me know. Also in June we are taking a church-wide family mission trip to the Upper Peninsula. Everyone is invited to take part in this trip. For those of you that cannot join us in person, we are going to need your support in other ways. Please stay tuned for how you can help with this trip. In August we are going to be enjoying an all church camping and canoeing trip. We are going to need to make reservations for this trip very soon, so if you would like to join us please let me know. As always I consider it my privilege to be a part of this incredible community of believers, I pray that each of you continue growing in the love and knowledge of Jesus.

Upcoming Activities Christian Education & Youth Calendar of Events

- Sundays**
10:00am Youth Group
- Wednesdays**
6:30am Breakfast Club
- Friday, April 19 - Good Friday**
6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Family Worship Night
- Sunday, June 9**
Confirmation students leading Sunday morning worship
- June 13-16**
Family Mission Trip to Gladstone, MI
- June 24-28**
VBS & Youth Mission Week
- August 9-11**
Family Camping & Canoeing Trip

Rotary  **NMC Scholarship Applications Available**
 Club of Elk Rapids Elk Rapids High School and Sunrise Academy students who have graduated in the past three years and are currently attending Northwestern Michigan College may apply for one of three \$2,500 NMC scholarships that are currently available from Rotary Club of Elk Rapids. Also, students who will be graduating this year and who will be attending NMC also qualify. The application can be downloaded from the Rotary website at elkrapidsrotary.org. Submission deadline is April 20, 2019. For more information, please contact Sherry Steffen at stfke109@charter.net.

Maundy Thursday
April 18, 6PM Potluck/7PM Service
 Don't forget the Maundy Thursday potluck and service! Please bring a dish to pass, your own table setting and a candle from home. Child care will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Family Worship Night
Good Friday, April 19
 Everyone is invited to our Family Worship Night on April 19 in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is provided beginning at 6 p.m. with the service beginning at 7 p.m. Our "Family Worship Night's" are a unique opportunity for us as a church family to worship together. Individuals of all ages share a meal together and experience a different style of worship. The services are neither contemporary nor traditional, but a blending of both. Family Worship Nights also encourage all ages of our church family to actively participate. If you haven't yet joined us, please plan to be there on Good Friday, April 19.

VBS
June 24-28
 9AM - 12:30PM

Save the Dates

ROAR!

Life is wild God is good



First Presbyterian Church
of Elk Rapids

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Holy Week & Easter Service Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 14	9:00 AM	Traditional Service
	11:00 AM	Contemporary Service
Monday, April 15	5:30-6:30 PM	Free Community Dinner
	7:00 PM	Video & Discussion
Maundy Thursday, April 18	6:00 PM	Potluck Dinner
	7:00 PM	Communion Service
Good Friday, April 19	6:00 PM	Dinner
	7:00 PM	Family Worship Night
Easter Sunday, April 21	9:00 AM	Traditional Service
	11:00 AM	Contemporary Service