



# The Sextant



Following the Lord's Direction

Volume 5, Issue 2 | Second Quarter 2019

## Letter from Rev. Jim Porter

### Welcome Home!

Dear Friends and Family of First Pres., Elk Rapids,  
What a wonderful and exciting time of year this is!

Here we are at the beginning of Summer! All of our dear friends who have been gone for the winter have returned (or are returning) home, and it is a true joy and blessing to see the sanctuary filling up again on Sunday mornings! I know that we all are looking forward to visits from friends and family, picnics and outdoor barbecues, boating, swimming, and fishing in our beautiful area lakes, as well as lots of fun activities like Wednesdays on River Street, Harbor Days, and just simply enjoying the beauty and wonder of God's creation of this beautiful place we call home. Indeed, we are truly blessed to live in such a special place!

*"...there are a lot of exciting things happening here at the church, and we hope you can be a part of it!"*

Looking ahead on the church calendar, there are a lot of exciting things happening here at the church, and we hope you can be a part of it!

First, there is (or has been) something special happening every single Sunday in the month of June. Celebrations include:

- **June 2 - Both Roger and Erin Veliquette returned home to First Pres. and led worship on June 2!** (Roger has now graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and is currently searching for a call, and Erin has completed her first year and will be continuing her seminary education this fall.) What a joy to see their family and have both of them lead worship!
- **June 9 - was Pentecost Sunday!** Pentecost is the day we celebrate the birth of the church, and this year, we had four young people join the church and lead worship with the help and guidance of Wayne Potter, our director of youth and family ministry!
- **June 16 - Father's Day and the celebration of Baptism!** In addition to recognizing the men and dads in the church, we will be baptizing Kyle and Rowe Cameron in the second service.
- **June 23 - Graduation Sunday!** This year we are honoring three graduates from ERHS: Tanner Blackmore, Jack Hawkins, and Remington Shively. Join us as we recognize our graduates and ask for God's blessing upon them as they begin the next chapter of their lives.
- **June 30 - a Celebration of VBS with ONE service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a PIG ROAST for the whole congregation.**

In addition to these special Sundays, we have a group of youth and families leaving for Gladstone, MI, in the U.P. to help work on New Horizons Free Methodist Church from June 13-16. And of course, Vacation Bible School and our local mission week starts on June 24. We are anticipating over 100 children, 30 youth, and dozens of volunteers to help make VBS happen! This is always an incredible week of joy, celebration, and fun! It's not too late to sign up to help out or participate!

### "Be Still"

Then, looking ahead to July, we are planning a special sermon series called simply: "Be Still." In the busy-ness of our lives today, it is easy to feel

anxious and overwhelmed. Yet into the busy-ness and worry of life, God speaks two simple words, "Be Still," and offers an invitation to step into the peace and power of His gracious love. How do we do that? We invite you to join us each Sunday in July as we explore ways to slow down, stop, listen, and simply live into the power and presence of God every day. Don't miss this life-changing series!

Plus, in addition to our regular services, we are planning a picnic and outdoor worship service on July 21. Location and time t.b.d., but this will be a great time for the whole congregation to gather worship, fellowship, and possible baptisms in one of the area lakes!

Finally, in August, we are tentatively planning a weekend canoe and camping trip on August 9-11 that we are calling "Wayne and Jim's Most Excellent Adventure." We are still working out all of the details but encourage you to save the date and plan to join us for a weekend of camping, canoeing, campfires, and worship on Sunday morning.

Also, don't forget Harbor Days and the Community concert here at First Pres., on August 1 & 2 at 7:00 p.m., and then on August 25 we are planning another Concert of Prayer, focusing on the beauty and wonder of God's creation based on Genesis 1. More details to come!

Whew! What an exciting summer ahead! We hope you can join us for all these events and more! See you this summer!

Blessings Always,

*Pastor Jim*

## Baby Bottle Campaign Ends Sunday, June 16

Next Sunday, Father's Day, is the end of our 2019 Baby Bottle Campaign.



We have had a wonderful response and are looking forward to seeing the rest of the filled baby bottles in the basket. By the way, the "Moms & Tots/His House" name is changing to "Good Samaritan Family Center." The new name is simpler and an excellent description of their work.

Please continue to uphold these ministries in your prayer!



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## Presbyterian Women

**Thursday, June 13 at 7PM in Fellowship Hall**

Laura (Wonacott) Asiala will be featured with a presentation entitled "Sustainable International Development" on Thursday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. Laura Asiala is a Senior Fellow at PYXERA Global. Passionate about the power of business to solve -- or help solve -- the world's most intransigent problems, she leads efforts to attract more participation of businesses to contribute to global, sustainable development, through their people and their work.

Laura has extensive international business experience and retired after nearly 30 years with the Dow Corning Corporation. With roles in finance, marketing, human resources, and corporate communications, she ultimately served as the company's director of Corporate Communications and Corporate Citizenship (Corporate Social Responsibility).

Laura grew up in Elk Rapids, the daughter of Robert and Dorothy Wonacott. She graduated from Alma College, where she majored in Economics. She has a Masters degree in Organizational Development from Case Western Reserve University and a Certificate in Leading Sustainable Innovation from the University of Vermont.

All are invited. Please join us on June 13.

**July:** Presbyterian Women do not meet.

**August:** Presbyterian Women will meet Thursday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Plans for Presbyterian Women's Sunday, August 18, will be finalized. Further plans for the Harvest Dinner that will take place on Thursday, September 5 will also be discussed.

**Sunday, August 18, Presbyterian Women's Sunday**

We're excited to have Rev. Jaime Klinger preaching on August 18, Presbyterian Women's Sunday. Please be looking for an opportunity to sign up and participate.

**September 5:** Harvest Dinner from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Contact Cheryl Knight at 231-409-3316 with any questions. ~ Cheryl Knight

## Kids Ukelele, Guitar, Drum & Boomwhacker Class

Tuesdays, July 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 10-11 AM at the Lighthouse



## ADULT UKELELE & GUITAR CLASS

Thursdays - June 13, July 11, 18, 25, August 8, 15, 22  
10-11am at the Lighthouse

**THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
503 Elm Street, Elk Rapids MI 49629  
A Service of First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids



•Basic Chords & Strums  
•Fun, Fun, Fun!

231-392-1862 for more info

## MEET•EAT•ENJOY THE BEAT

At First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 11:30am

Come enjoy a light brunch, desserts, fellowship and great vocal jazz music by Travis Hall and Stephanie Wilson.

**THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
503 Elm Street, Elk Rapids MI 49629  
A Service of First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids and the Lions Club



Call 231-392-1862 for more info

## Choir Notes

Many singers have returned from their southern winter locations. We rejoice to have them back in the life of our church. Winter attendance has always been a challenge for us, but we also enjoy small ensemble singing. We will be having more guest musicians throughout the summer. Willie Dahl, will be joining us for some gospel music, Kyle Stachnik, cello and Joe Skerig, viola, will be returning as well as Jeff Cobb, choral director and Linda Tolias, violin. We also hope to feature our members Jan Johnson on flute and Doug White on clarinet. We look forward to them all.

On a different note, I wanted to elaborate on the label we have placed on the music we present in our traditional service. I would estimate that a minimum of 75% of the music the choir sings has been written in the last ten years. I purchased from the budget many new anthems written this year. Dan Forrest, a young current composer of religious music was involved at a concert that took place at the Congregational Church in Traverse City, two years ago. We have purchased several of his new anthems. Therefore, many of our anthems are contemporary or recently composed pieces with various rhythms and harmonies. I would describe most of the music that the choir sings as classical contemporary. We also like to present the best from the past. My point being that we embrace all of God's wonderful works of song, presented through various composers of the past and the present.

We ask for God's blessing of our music, chosen with the help of the Holy Spirit.

~ Cheryl Knight, Music Director





# Christian Education & Youth Update

The 2018/2019 school year was another great one in the area of family ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids. Our children's Sunday School continues to grow with both new students and new teachers. Our youth group continued to volunteer throughout the school year with various organizations, hosted community youth events, attended overnights, winter camp, and completed a confirmation class bringing four students into membership. Looking forward there is so much taking place in the area of family ministry in our church over the summer months.



For the second year in a row our church hosted a high school Graduation Party for a student in need. This was a joint endeavor with multiple ministry teams, various members of the congregation, and even members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church coming together to share the love of Jesus. The family was so appreciative that the church was willing to help them and they want to thank all of you. I truly view this as us being the body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:27, and I am so thankful that this church continues to make things like this happen.

On June 13-16 we are taking part in our first ever church-wide Family Mission Trip. This is an amazing opportunity for our congregation to come alongside a small struggling church in the Upper Peninsula and help them. We have 7 families planning to take part in this trip and I believe it's going to be an incredible weekend for each of them.

Our fifth annual Youth Mission Week will be taking place in conjunction with Vacation Bible School June 24-28. In addition to ministering to more than 100 children through our VBS program, our youth will be partnering with ministry organizations around the area. We will be working with both Food Rescue of Northern Michigan as well as Freedom Builders. We will also be working with Safe Harbor to provide for some of the basic needs of the homeless community here in our region. This year we will have the youth group from Epic Community Church of Portland, Michigan joining us. I am looking forward to seeing what God has for our children, youth, and church during this amazing week.

The first weekend of August our church has been asked to help with Harbor Days. We are looking for volunteers to help with children's day at Memorial Park. This will involve manning various games and activities to ensure that children are safe. As we all know Harbor Days is the largest event in our community and this is one way our church can help with this event. Additionally we will be hosting our annual breakfast on August 4 for the community volunteers who cleanup after Harbor Days. This breakfast provides a gathering place for the Harbor Days committee and the volunteer cleanup team; it has become a regular part of how we support our community.

The weekend of August 9-11 we will be enjoying for first ever church wide Family Camping Trip. This will involve camping, canoeing, and worship around a campfire. This trip is open and accessible to all ages. If you are interested in joining us please contact the church office (231-264-8167) or Wayne Potter (517-416-2813) for further information. As always, thank you for the privilege of serving this beautiful church family. ~ Wayne Potter, Director of Youth & Family Life Ministries

## Upcoming Activities Christian Education & Youth Calendar of Events

### Sundays

10:00am Youth Group

### June 13-16

Family Mission Trip to Gladstone, MI

### June 24-28

VBS & Youth Mission Week

### August 9-11

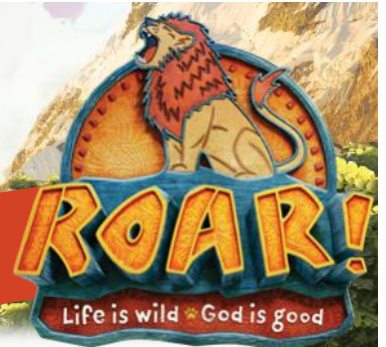
Family Camping & Canoeing Trip

# VBS

## June 24-28

9AM - 12:30PM

**Register your children, grandchildren  
& friends today!**



### Needed for VBS Crafts:

- **Volunteers to help cut out shapes** for VBS craft projects. Anyone (men too) who has a pair of scissors and a few extra minutes to spare can help. Pick up project envelopes at the Activity Center and drop off at the same spot when complete.
- **Save your empty paper towel tubes** and put them in the box at the Activity Center.

Thank you in advance. ~ Louise Pond, VBS Craft Coordinator, 517-861-1556, Lpond@aol.com

**Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/VBSfirstpres>**



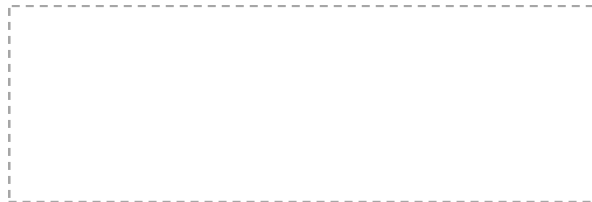
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# **VBS Sunday & Pig Roast Sunday, June 30 One Service at 10:00 AM**

Make plans now to attend on Sunday, June 30. This one service at 10:00 a.m. will feature children from our Vacation Bible School program as well as highlights from our youth mission week.

After the service we'll move outside for a pig roast and potluck. Please bring a dish to pass. There will be great food and fellowship, and bounce houses for the children (and young at heart). Invite your family and friends. You won't want to miss this exciting Sunday!

## **Harbor Voices**

**Thursday, August 1  
& Friday, August 2  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

Many of the singers in the community chorus, Harbor Voices, are from our sanctuary choir. It is mostly fun, secular music, celebrating Harbor Days and summer. Our concerts are Thursday and Friday, August 1 and 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Musicians will join us to enhance the variety of music. A freewill offering will be taken to support various local charities announced at the concert. The concert lasts around an hour, so please join us for our 50 plus choirs' rendition of possibly some of your favorites.

Music Director, Cheryl Knight