**Good News Newsletter**

**First Presbyterian Church of Decatur**

**April 2022**

**Katie's Korner**

For my letter this month, it is more personal than it is pastoral. On March 30th I will have surgery to remove fibroids from my uterus that have been wreaking havoc on my body. I will be at home recovering the first two weeks of April. I will return to worship just in time for Easter. The timing of the surgery changed last minute and required us to change the date for the Congregational Meeting scheduled for April 6th, to April 24th after worship. At this meeting we will discuss the offer presented to the Session for sale of the lot where the old Catholic Church used to be on southwest side of the building. I’m grateful for the love and support of this congregation as I heal and abide by the doctor’s orders to take it easy. I anticipate a real struggle to slow down, just as life is picking up for me.

Scott Hurn and I will be getting married Saturday, May 21, 2022 in a small ceremony in Grand Rapids. We plan to take a brief honeymoon and I will return to work June 5th, just in time for our next Visitor Sunday. We would love to celebrate our union with all of you at an open house at the manse Sunday, June 5th from 2pm-5pm. You are welcome to bring appetizers to share. In lieu of gifts, the Session has created a Wedding Fund. A contribution to the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur Wedding Fund will allow Scott and I to make minor changes to the manse as we make it *OUR* home. With these contributions we would like to remodel the main bathroom, upgrade appliances, and wall off a portion of the basement for Scott’s office.

At the beginning of the year, my star word was ‘newness.’ I chuckled when I saw it, because I knew that 2022 would be a year of new things for me. God continues to surprise me with the new things I’m having to learn. This season of my life has called me to the newness of putting my health first and slowing down as my to-do lists grows longer than ever. Spring is the time of year that we celebrate new life, of livestock, flowers, and the promise of Jesus’ resurrection. May God continue to surprise us all with the newness that life offers.

 Yours in Christ,

***Rev. Katie***

**Worship Liturgists for the Month**

 **April 3 Joel Shroyer April 10th Palm Sunday Interactive Service**

**April 17th David Vliek April 24th Amy Druskovich**

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**Deacon of the Month - Nancy Vliek**

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**Schedule for the Month of April**

**(Please put these dates on your home Calendar)**

**All Sunday services are at 10**

**Bible Study meets 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

**( April 4th and 11th No Bible Study)**

**April 4th 7 p.m. is Session**

**April 10th, Palm Sunday Interactive Service**

**April 14th Maundy Thursday**

**April 15th Good Friday 7:00pm at UMC Paw Paw**

**April 17th, Easter Sunday Service.**

**April 19th, Tuesday 7 p.m. is Presbyterian Women**

**April 22, Friday 4 p.m. , is Soup Supper**

**April 24th, Congregational Meeting and Crop Walk**

**April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**3rd Bob & Connie Johnson Anniv. 14th Bradley Newell**

**5th David Vliek 16th Stan & Donna Klimczak, Anniv.**

 **Ava Allen 17th Tom & Connie McIntyre, Anniv.**

**8th Gloria Houtman 26th Pat Cubbage**

**11th Hilary Newell**

**Christian Ed , Youth, and Palm Sunday Service**

Join us in worship Sunday April 10th as our young people, under the direction of Leonda Shroyer, with the help of Lauren Leighton, Joe Leary, Karen Makay, and Barb Kohl will lead us through a Palm Sunday you won’t forget. We will also need your participation throughout the service, you’ll be doing more than waiving palms. This special service will take the congregation from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. We hope you will join us for special service.



**Pop -Up Choir**

The Choir will be singing Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Please join us after worship on April 3rd as we rehearse. On Sunday the 10th, and 17th we will gather at 9:30am. All are welcome to join us!





**Easter Flower Dedications**

If you would like to bring and Easter Lily or floral arrangement on Easter Sunday please phone in your dedications during regular office hours e-mail, or leave a message on the answering machine. Information needed: In memory of, or In honor of, and Flowers given by.

PO. Box 220 or 423-4981 or pcdecturmi@hotmail.com



**Presbyterian Women News**

We are meeting April 19th at 7 p.m. with a representative from Wings of God giving a short program. We will discuss what we can do in May in place of the cancelled event on the 15th of May.

There was a scheduling mix-up, and the decision was made to have the group, who were doing the program, would come instead September 10th and we will have a Fall Kick-off. Joel has agreed to work on a dinner for afterwards, and if you have any ideas contact him.……The Foresters are four family members who really put on an inspiring show. I encourage you to check out their website if you are able. [(forestersgospelmusic.com)](https://www.forestersgospelmusic.com/) Jmr

**SOUP SUPPER COMING UP... Friday, April 22, 2022**

Lori will be back to help with this. I will put a sign-up sheet in the back for all who want to help with this community event. Pies are always welcomed. Attendance has been down, and we need to show the Catholics that we can still take the title of most attended.



**Congregational Meeting April 24th after Worship**

The Session has called a Congregational meeting after worship Sunday, April 24th to discuss the proposal brought to session to purchase the lot on the side of the church. This parcel was formerly owned by the Catholic Church, and is currently used by a parking lot and large grassy area where our snow piles up in the winter. We hope you will join us as we discuss the future of our congregation and our property.



The three programs supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing are the Presbterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, an dthe Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fist together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We will be dedicating the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and fish banks on Palm Sunday.



**Annual Crop Walk April 24, 2022**

We're participating in the 2022 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world. You can sign up or donate online at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-presbyterian-church-of-decatur> You can also contact Rev. Katie, or Judy Kish with any questions.



**Ministerial Association plans for a “Celebration of Life”**

Edna Ralston had the idea that because there were so many deaths during COVID and no services it would be nice to have a community service where we could remember loved ones who have died. The Ministerial Association will be spearheading this service May 29th at the VFW. There will be more information later about this service, and it doesn’t have to be just deaths during that time. If you have someone you want to “Celebrate” you most certainly can. Jmr



**Foundation News**

Applications are now available for the 2022 First Presbyterian Church scholarship program, either from the Church office: (269) 423-4981 or by email: pcdecaturmi@hotmail.com.  Also the application form is available from the Decatur Public Schools Administration Office.  To be considered, the application are due April 15, 2022 and recipients will be notified by May 17, 2022. If you know of anyone, or have a grandchild who can benefit from this, please let them know. Even if they are awarded $500 it will help to buy books.

Highlights of March 7, 2022 Session Meeting.

The meeting was held in person and all elders (Barb Kohl excused) and Pastor Katie were present.

**Report of Treasurer –** there was no report

**Old Business**

* Land Proposal. There was discussion on the land sale proposal.

 Discussion on easement

 Discussion on use of proceeds. There will be approximately $36,500 left after our costs. The session will propose to spend as follows:

1. Technology – better live streaming/internet and new computer for Patsy
2. Local Mission (10%)
3. Rest into a “Rainy Day Fund” to be used at the discretion of the Session as needed.

 Motion made and seconded to call a Congregational Meeting on April 3, immediately after worship. The Congregation needs to approve/disapprove this sale before we go any further. If approved, then we need to request Presbytery approval, through the Budget and Finance Committee.

 Craig and Amy Rose will be invited to the meeting so they can answer any questions the congregation may have.

**New Business**

* Growth Committee (Shannon Allen, Leonda Shroyer and others)
	+ Leonda presented a grant opportunity thru Midwest Electric for up to $5,000 to be used to improve our community.
	+ Visitor Sunday will be March 20.
	+ Motion made and seconded to request that the Growth Committee prepare a new mission statement for the Session’s approval.
* Live Streaming.
	+ The Go Pro Camera is not working correctly. Shuts off during recording. Pastor Katie contact SVT (the technology company that installed our sound system) about getting a better camera system. They will be making a proposal.
	+ We need to have several people who can run the sound system, espically after the upgrade. We will work on getting a core group to rotate duties.
	+ Internet bandwidth may be a part of the problem with live streaming. Pastor Katie is working with Comcast to see what options we have.
	+ There may be Presbytery Grants available for technology upgrades.

**Report of the Clerk**

* Record the death of James Hawks, Member 807, on Feb 4, 2022. Recorded page 40
* Presbytery meeting is March 12. Judy Kish appointed Commissioner.

**Communications from Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly**

* Presbytery has called a new General Presbyter, who will be introduced at Saturday's meeting.

**Report of the Moderator/Pastor**

* Request vacation time April 6-13 for surgery and recovery.
* Request vacation time May 19-30 for wedding & honeymoon.
* Led the Ash Wednesday Service. There were 20 present. The potato bar supper was a great hit.

**Endowment Committee**

* No report

**Board of Deacons** –

**Stewardship, Audit, Personnel Committee**

* Will have first quarter reports for the April 3 meeting.

**Building and Grounds Committee –**

* Still have not received a bill from Chzek Electric
* Received letter from the Village about water/sewer upcharges.

**Memorial and Mission Committee**

* One Great Hour of Sharing will be dedicated on Palm Sunday.
* Highway cleanup once weather stays warmer.
* Crop walk April 24 in Paw Paw.

**Nominating Committee**

* No report

**Worship and Music Committee**

* Amber Nettleton will be preaching May 22.
* Still need May 29 and April 13.
* Linda will be gone July 3. Will need music.
* There will be donuts after the April 3 meeting.

**Christian Education and Youth Committee**

* No Sunday School on March 13.

The next Session Meeting on Monday, April 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. A **motion to adjourn** **was seconded and approved**. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:40 p.m.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Karen Makay, Clerk of Session