



# The TARTAN



First Presbyterian Church of Alpena, Michigan  
1600 W. Chisholm Street

• Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. • Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

**Our Vision: To be faithful through relevant worship, serving others as disciples of Jesus Christ;  
to PROCLAIM the good news of Jesus Christ, so all may come to believe;  
to NURTURE God's people in joyful faith, commitment and fellowship; and  
to DEMONSTRATE our Lord's way of love through our service to the community and larger world.**



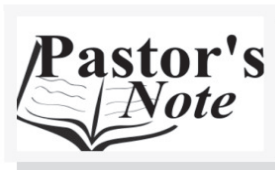
**Sunday School Sundae Kick-Off**  
Sunday, September 3rd  
Children, join us for ice cream sundae fun!



Our annual Strawberry Social was held on June 23. We served 119 people and sold 96 quarts. The event netted \$357.18. In addition, \$50 was received from a person who had read our publicity and admired our dedication to Children at Risk, yielding a grand total of \$407.18.

After calling the Salvation Army to find out what school supplies were most needed, \$400.19 was spent on 13 backpacks, 10 calculators, 6 sparkly ring binders and 5 plain ring binders for high school students. These were on display during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, Aug. 13, and delivered to the Salvation Army on the 14th.

Thanks to everyone who took part working or simply enjoying the delicious shortcake and fellowship. Your participation made the social successful, providing help for the needy in your community.



## WRIGHT ON —

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on his brakes and backed the Jag to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him against the car, shouting "What was that all about and who are you? This is a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please, Mister, please. I'm sorry, but I didn't know what else to do. I threw the brick because no one else would stop." With tears running down his face and dripping from his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair, and I can't lift him up." Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Will you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt, and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into his wheelchair and took out a linen handkerchief to dab the fresh cuts and bruises. A quick look told him that everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you, and may God bless you," the child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to have it repaired. He kept the dent in the door to remind him of this message: **DON'T GO THROUGH LIFE SO FAST THAT SOMEONE HAS TO THROW A BRICK AT YOU TO GET YOUR ATTENTION!**

I don't believe that God throws bricks at us to get our attention. But sometimes bricks come from other sources. When they do, God always is nearby, whispering to our souls and speaking to our hearts to help us assess and deal with the damage. It's up to us to decide whether we'll listen and how we'll react.

~ SKHW



## PASTOR Nominating Committee

## PNC Update...

In the words of one of the PNC members, "The light at the end of the tunnel has flickered out." We have probably lost a promising candidate due to the cash salary we are able to offer. We are a small congregation with limited resources.

The PNC has continued to meet through the summer. We have reviewed the documentation from several more candidates, most of whom did not appear to be a good match for us for one reason or another. We have been in email contact with a few of them. We have conducted one interview via Skype. Some don't want to come to Michigan, some have wanted to be near a big city, and still others are looking for a larger congregation or have some other wish that we can't grant.

We do believe that the right person is out there, somewhere, and that our search efforts will eventually bear fruit. Continued prayers of the members and friends of the congregation are appreciated.

~ Gordon Snow



## Mission and Education Committee

**Hygiene Kits** September 10th will be the last day that items for the Hygiene Kits can be brought to church. Church World Service is the coordinating agency supported by the Presbyterian Church USA. The kits will be used to help disaster victims both nationally and globally. These supplies need to be replenished continually.

### Here is what you need to include in one kit:

- 1 hand towel approximately 15"x28"
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide tooth comb
- 1 fingernail or toenail clipper
- 1 bath size bar of soap
- 1 toothbrush
- 10 standard size Band-Aids
- 1 gallon plastic zipper bag

We will have a dedication of the kits on September 17th. Thank you for your contributions.



First Presbyterian Church  
Alpena, Michigan  
**SESSION MEETING**  
June 19, 2017

The Rev. Sanford Wright, Temporary Pastor, opened the meeting with prayer at 7 p.m. A quorum was present.

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Scott Edgar, David Hammerquist, Dennis Harris, Jan Kane, Char Keune, Mary Hess, Richard Lessard, Nathan Skibbe, Judie Vivian and Clerk Mary Bray

**GUEST:** Vi Pashly, Deacon

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from May 15, 2017 were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report was approved. For the period ending May 31, the checking account had a balance of \$41,549.63, and restricted funds had a balance of \$25,841.42 for a total of \$67,391.05.

**VISITOR'S REPORT:** Vi Pashley reported the dishwasher project is on hold. She is applying to the Benevolent Foundation for a grant of \$4,807 to cover the cost of the door openers for the front door.

A major landscaping project was authorized to be paid for with funds from the Christmas bazaar.

A motion to spend \$78 on an answering machine and three extensions with funds coming from the bazaar committee.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:**

1. Church directory: A project to prepare a professional directory was tabled until a new pastor is installed. A provisional directory without photos will be prepared in the meantime.

2. Custodian: Approval was granted to reimburse the custodian for mileage while on church business at the current IRS rate.

3. Lawn mowing: A request to ask members to contribute \$50 toward lawn mowing failed.

4. Habitat for Humanity's request to place a sign on U.S. 23 failed.

5. Angel Fund: A recommendation to transfer one-half of the fund to the General Fund and half to the Benevolent Foundation was tabled.

6. Partners in Prevention: Mr. Wright appointed Elders Mary Hess, Jan Kane and Richard Lessard to review the non-profit organization's agreement with the church.

7. A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship in the Sanctuary on Sun., July 9, 2017, for the purpose of electing four members-at-large to the church nominating committee.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mission and Education:** The committee will collect items for the Church World Service hygiene kits.

Peace and Global Witness special offering promotion begins Sept. 3 and ends in October. (The Red Hands project was a part of this last year.)

The committee's recommendation to award Evan Winslow \$300 for a mission trip to Lake Tahoe, Calif. was approved. The \$300 will come from the Angel Fund. So ordered.

**Church Life and Communication:** Profits from the Strawberry Social will go to the Children At Risk Fund.

**Property and Maintenance:** The committee was authorized to seek bids for the replacement of damaged concrete outside the door closest to the lounge.

**Personnel:** A recommendation was approved to allow church secretary Laurie McRoberts to work up to 16 hours a week as needed.

A recommendation was approved to allow the personnel chair to change the password on the church computer as deemed necessary.

**Deacons:** The deacons have revamped the Greeters Guidelines.

**In other business:** Elder Char Keune was elected as Commissioner to the Mackinac Presbytery for an indeterminate length of time.

With no further business, Rev. Wright adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bray  
Clerk of Session



First Presbyterian Church  
Alpena, Michigan  
**SESSION MEETING**  
July 24, 2017

The Rev. Sanford Wright, Temporary Pastor, opened the meeting with prayer at 7 p.m. A quorum was present.

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Scott Edgar, David Hammerquist, Dennis Harris, Jan Kane, Mary Hess, Richard Lessard, Judie Vivian and Clerk Mary Bray

**ELDERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:** Char Keune and Nathan Skibbe

**GUEST:** Ted Fines, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Northeast Michigan

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Session minutes from June 19, June 25 and the congregational meeting minutes of July 9 were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report for the period ending June 30 was approved. The checking account had a balance of \$40,887.95 and restricted funds had a balance of \$25,561.42 for a total of \$66,449.37. The Strawberry Social made a profit of \$357.18.

**VISITOR'S REPORT:** Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Ted Fines requested the organization be allowed to place a sign, approximately 2 feet by 5 feet, either under the church sign or any site acceptable to the Session. Habitat would pay for all costs.

A motion to not allow any sign on church property was defeated by a 4 to 4 vote. A second motion to allow a sign was defeated by a 4 to 4 vote. It was moved and seconded to table the issue until a new permanent pastor is installed and has served for six months. So ordered.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** At Mr. Wright's request, the following actions were taken:

1. Kim Timmreck by Profession of Faith, and Mel and Barbara Ringelberg by Certificate of Transfer from the First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee, Fla., were received into membership.
2. Authorized a new use agreement with the Alpena Symphony String Ensemble.
3. Referred the preparation of a provisional church directory to the Church Life and Communication Committee.
4. Tabled discussion on the transfer of the Angel Fund to other church accounts.
5. Donated two old high chairs to the bazaar committee.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Communion was served on July 2.

The Benevolent Foundation authorized the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for electronic door openers for the front door.

Judy McFalda of Rogers City sent a complimentary letter after reading about the Strawberry Social in The Alpena News. She included a \$50 check for the Children At Risk Fund.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mission and Education:** Karen Brindley introduced the Church World Service hygiene kits project on July 23. Seven volunteers helped with the highway cleanup. Sharon Lessard and Laura Trainer taught Sunday School this summer.

**Property and Maintenance:** Received authorization to spend up to \$1,500 from the Angel Fund to help pay for an electronic door opener for the side door.

**Personnel:** Allowed Elder David Hammerquist to sign an addendum to church secretary Laurie McRobert's contract.

**Pastor Nominating Committee:** Received permission to pay up to \$200 a month for bundled telephone, Internet and television at the manse at such time as a new permanent pastor arrives.

**In other business:** The session adopted the Building and Equipment Use Guidelines: 2 a. Weddings. Elder Mary Hess will work with the church secretary to schedule requests for special uses of the church building.

Session approved sending a letter to Habitat for Humanity's board president regarding an issue with its executive director.

With no further business, Mr. Wright adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bray  
Clerk of Session





# SPECIAL OFFERINGS

## PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

“So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near...” – Ephesians 2: 14-17

Ephesians tells us that Jesus came to proclaim a peace that is universal. As followers of Christ, our call to witness/work for peace begins in our own neighborhoods and extends to the ends of the earth

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is received during the “Season of Peace”, which begins on Sept. 3 and ends on World Communion Sunday, October 1.

Please give generously



**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!** Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, August 31, at 4:00 pm. Our first Sunday to sing will be September 10. As in the past, the choir will rehearse anthems for up to four weeks in advance of the scheduled Sunday, so if it's necessary to miss a rehearsal or two, that works! Rehearsals will last approximately one hour. New members welcome! Any questions? Call Gordon Snow at 356.2503.

## Church Life



The annual **Birthday Cake Auction** will be held during fellowship hour on Sunday, October 8. We will need volunteers to bake cakes. The sign-up sheet is located on the kiosk. Money raised will be used to help with outdoor maintenance (lawn expenses, snow removal) and fellowship expenses (coffee, paper products, creamer).

Also after church on October 8, there will be a **potluck**, with the sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

Questions? Call Judie Vivian, Church Life chair, at 354.2453.



**The congregation on July 9 elected four members to the Nominating Committee of our Church.** They are Hope Digna, Jim Arbuckle, Terry Follbaum and Ruth Dupuis.