

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

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website [www.wpcportage.org](http://www.wpcportage.org)



**NEWSLETTER**  
**October 2022**

## Welcome Statement

**We open our doors to all persons to join in worship, fellowship, educational programs and service.**

**We welcome into membership all who profess faith in Jesus Christ without regard to gender, age, race, ethnic origin, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, disability, or any other human condition.**

**We elect and ordain as leaders in the church persons who are called by God and committed to serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church.**

**adopted by the Session, May 18, 2009**

## Please send joys and concerns

for the Prayer List each week by Thursday noon. The Prayer List will be sent out by email (again, usually Thursday or Friday) and postal-mailed to those who are home bound.

*Thank you for sharing your joys and concerns with others and for praying for the concerns shared.*



## October Birthdays

2 Mildred Watson	20 Don Smith
Ann Cirvencic	23 Miriam Duggins
6 Abraham Chapeyama	24 Terry Tessari
11 Doug Nettleton	26 Jayme Ruimveld
13 Jean Cox	27 Don Myer
17 Paula Schriemer	28 Chris Ferrera
19 Larry Pierce	30 Kettie Chapeyama
20 Laurie Bushnell	



## October Anniversaries

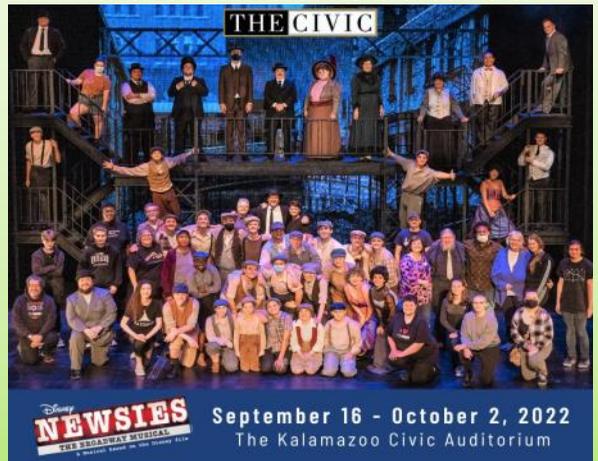
2 Kaylee & Jeremy Trinkle
7 Elexa & Chris Ferrara
16 Tom and Karen VerHage
18 Dave & Catriena Kauffman
20 Terry & Scooter Tessari



## NEWS ABOUT NEWSIES:

Reviews are in and *Newsies* at the Kalamazoo Civic Theater is a HIT! Last weekend to see it is October 1-2. Contact the civic box office for a single season ticket, the most economical way to see many great shows this season!

Our own Marie Kerstetter is music director and Laurie Nic is in the ensemble.



## STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

This year's stewardship drive is underway, and we plan to celebrate a successful campaign on Dedication Sunday, November 13, 2022.

Our worship theme is ***"Connect treasures with your heart"***.



The stewardship committee decided on this theme from Jesus's words:

***"Where your treasure is, your heart will be also"*** Matthew 6:21

Let's follow Jesus and spread our treasure so everyone is included and loved! We hope you will find many ways in the coming year to use your gifts and support your spiritual growth, as part of the Westminster community of faith.

In this Stewardship Season we encourage you to look at your resources.

Does your giving align with your priorities?

Does your giving reflect where your treasure is?

Does your giving reflect your heart and desire to follow Jesus?

Peace to All, Paul Paget



As we move into the Fall, a couple comments about **COVID and COVID precautions**.

Unfortunately, there's still a fair amount of virus circulating in the community. The current numbers show Kalamazoo County with 73 new cases/day (and this is certainly an undercount) with a case positivity rate of 26% (VERY HIGH). Hospitalizations for COVID have increased 18% over the past 14 days.

So what does this mean for us? A few things:

1. If you are fully vaccinated, you are not required to wear a mask while at Westminster (including during Worship). If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then please do so.
2. If you are unvaccinated, we request that you continue to wear a mask while at Westminster.
3. If you have had a significant recent exposure to someone with Covid, please wear a mask.
4. If you have symptoms of Covid (fever, sniffles, cough, etc), please stay home, worship virtually, get a covid test and get better quickly!
5. We will continue to have Coffee Plus outdoors as the weather allows. Decisions will be made in the next few days about the upcoming cooler weather and Coffee Plus location.

If the Covid numbers in our area increase significantly, we may change our policies. We'll keep you posted!

Thank you to all for your flexibility as we navigate this ever-changing situation.

And start looking around for the new "bivalent" covid shot (has vaccine for 2 different strains of covid in it), which should be more widely available in our area soon.

Paula Schriemer, M.D.

For the Pandemic Response Team

COVID 19

### OUR OFFICE HOURS :

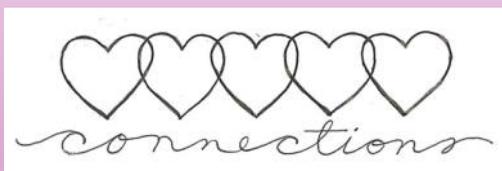
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 9 am to 4:30 pm

**Worship is In-Person AND Online every Sunday morning at 9:30 am**

We hope you will join us, one way or another, whenever you are able!

**You do not have to have a Facebook profile or be a regular user** to access the livestreamed service. If you have internet access you can go to [www.facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterianPortage/](http://www.facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterianPortage/)

**If you plan to worship virtually**, look for an email each week on Thursday with the order of worship & other info (including the above link) for the upcoming Sunday.



***Is our 2022-23 worship theme!***



**WORSHIP in OCTOBER**

**October 2**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

*"Pilgrimage: Who's Travelling with Us?"*

*Peace & Global Witness Offering.*

*No Children & Worship today*

**October 9**

*"Pilgrimage: Unpredictable Grace"*

*Children & Worship*

**October 16**

*Stewardship Season Begins*

*Children & Worship*

**October 23**

*Stewardship Season Continues*

*Children & Worship*

**October 30**

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

*Presentation of the 2022 Westminster Peace Prize*

*Children & Worship*



## OTHER WORSHIP NEWS ....

It sure is wonderful to have our CHOIR back! If you've enjoyed hearing them, you might also enjoy *joining* them. Choir practice is at church most Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. It is not necessary to make an every-week commitment! You will be welcomed whenever you can participate.

FYI the choir will probably start working on music for the Cantata (to be presented December 11) in mid-October, so if you like to sing Advent and Christmas music, this could be a great time to give choir a try.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER:

On **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**, November 6, our service will include a time of remembrance for all those among our church family who have died during the past year. We can also include in that remembrance any of your loved ones who have died during this last year. Please call the church office or email their names to Pastor Janet by November 1.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS **SPECIAL OFFERINGS OF THE PC(USA)**

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (I Cor. 11:21) Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need. The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world. On the [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) website, you can find out more about our Special Offerings, World Communion Sunday and other resources and ministries of the Presbyterian Church in our country and worldwide by clicking the easily navigable links.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

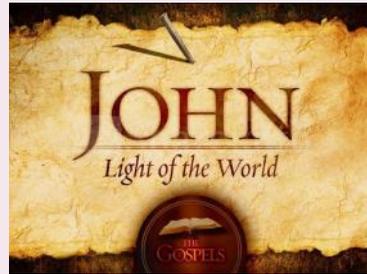
Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10 am Zoom

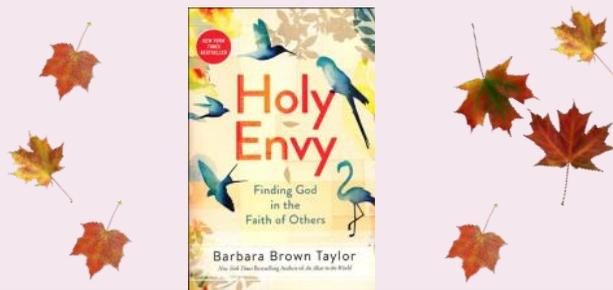
Studying the gospel of John.

New participants welcome!

contact Pastor Jerry



# Small Group Connection Opportunities



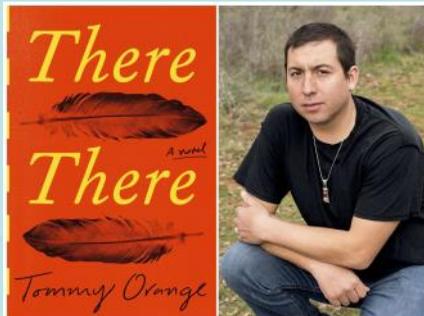
## MEN'S BOOK STUDY

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 8:30 am,

Church library

Reading & discussing

*Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor



## FAITH BOOK CLUB

Next meeting: November 8, 7 pm, by Zoom

Our book will be: *There There* by Tommy Orange

New to FBC?

Let Lorie Leak know

if you need the Zoom link.



## GREEN TEAM NOTES

Riding a bike is healthy, fun and a low-impact form of exercise for all ages. Saving money and ever-increasing climate change are two more reasons riding a bike is an excellent alternative to driving. Cars emit high levels of carbon dioxide which is the main cause of global warming. Biking more and driving less helps to reduce this amount of carbon dioxide pollution. Riding a bike also reduces traffic congestion and noise. Idling cars are bad for the environment, so less cars on the road means a healthier community. The Green Team installed a simple, sturdy wave bike rack on the cement slab near the east entrance to support the benefits of biking on our health and environment.

## **2022 Women's Walking Group**

**Thursday nights at 7 pm**

*Locations for the month of October are:*

October 6: Portage District Library  
front parking lot, 300 Library Lane

October 13: Haverhill Park,  
6577 Hampton Street

Please join us when you can!



## **WESTMINSTER PEACE PRIZE**

### **2022 Peace Prize Recipient**

Westminster Presbyterian Church is very pleased to announce that Housing Resources, Inc. will be the recipient of the 2022 Peace Prize. Gaylin Barnum, Outreach Director, is planning to attend our October 30 service.

The purpose of the Westminster Presbyterian Church Peace Prize is to recognize an individual, couple or group that has gone above and beyond to create world peace with a project, ongoing service or other manner. This is someone or a group that is in the community, state, nation or world. The intent for the prize is to look outside of the congregation in order to connect WPC to others. The peace prize is an annual recognition where the recipient(s) is asked to be honored during a church service in October. The name of the recipient is placed on a plaque that is kept at church, and the recipient receives a portion of the funds collected in the Peace Offering to further their initiative.

Housing Resources, Inc. helps economically or socially disadvantaged people acquire and maintain permanent, affordable, safe housing; assists with rent or mortgages; helps stabilize housing for homeless families or those in danger of losing housing; and, in emergencies, directs homeless people to overnight lodging. Currently, homelessness and housing insecurity and instability is at an alarmingly high level – the highest in our history.

**25% of our Peace Offering will be donated to Housing Resources, Inc.,  
so please consider donating generously!**

Please welcome Gaylin Barnum at our October 30 service!

*Mission Team Leader, Fred Welch*



## FROM THE PASTORS' DESK

We stayed at many different places during our nearly five week west trip. Janet worked hard to make reservations for almost all the days before we set out. Often we'd have to make connections with the rental company or individual a day or two before to learn the security code to gain entry. On one occasion, the company failed to contact us. We weren't too worried about it initially. It wasn't far, so we went to the places we wanted to see, thinking we'd have good enough service to reach out ourselves. But between a lack of service or insufficient bars to access the internet and forgotten passwords, we arrived at the place without the necessary security code. So we drove back into town until we found a location with enough bars and Janet started making some phone calls. We had a few anxious moments. Having already paid for the rental, we didn't want to find another, and weren't even sure that we could, in a town adjacent to one of America's most popular National Parks. We were quite relieved to finally make connections.

Our focus for the year is "Connections." I'm hopeful that most of our conversation will be about the positive outcomes of "connecting" and not the inevitable problems that arise when we fail to connect.

Nearly every word of our Intention Statement is undergirded by this idea of connection. "At Westminster Church" describes the place and community to which we are connected. "We live a whole life..." says that we hold the various parts of our lives together. "In response to God" describes the connection that sustains us. "Attentively" describes the kind of commitment we need to maintain our connection "together."



"Engaging the world" emphasizes our connection beyond the faith community. "For the good of all" describes the character of the connection we want to have with the world, and "following Jesus Christ" connects our "intentions" back to our faith.

There are other ways to think about this theme. Henri Nouwen writes about connection to self, others, and God in his book *Reaching Out*. A mature faith, as it connects to self, moves away from the loneliness toward solitude. As we connect to others, we move away from hostility toward hospitality. Connecting to God moves us away from illusion to genuine prayer.

Parker Palmer talks about the responsibility of the church to connect with “public life” in his book *The Company of Strangers*. Written originally in 1981, during a time when much of our culture was rejecting the activism of the sixties in favor of celebrating private life, his book seems more relevant than ever today. Palmer reminds us that the issues of public life are not merely political; they are about the way we treat each other in the public arena. How we address homelessness, deliver health care, address mental health, shape public education, or deal with any of the pressing issues of our day requires public conversation. The church cares about what happens to people, and so the church has a part in that conversation.

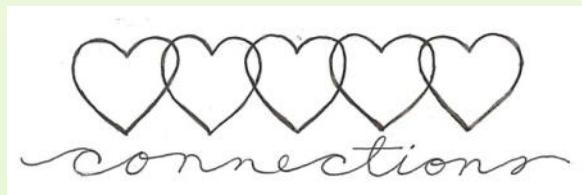
As we explore the Matthew 25 Initiative, it’s the connections we choose that will shape the way in which we live out this vision. We will certainly need to continue to nurture relationships within and beyond the church as we step into this challenge.

You may notice that our “Connections” theme appears with interconnected hearts (see below). The Worship Team chose to present it this way to remind us that the connections we are lifting up are not primarily intellectual or institutional or practical... but a matter of our hearts.

It’s a big theme and there are of course so many other ways to focus our attention on connections. If you’ve got some thoughts, I’d love to hear them.

Peace,

Pastor Jerry



## **Our 2022 Westminster Listening Project is Wrapping Up!**

Thank you to everyone who participated! We are excited to reflect on all that we have learned from you, and to use what we learned to guide planning for upcoming events and programs. If you have questions, please contact Mary Anderson, our Clerk of Session, who is the coordinator for this project.



# SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED

October 16 – November 20

## “Explorations in Scripture and Art”

There’s something about contemplating an artistic interpretation of a passage of scripture that engages us not just intellectually, but on a deeper level. We’ve experienced this as we’ve studied many works of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week art in the past. But there is a lot of art inspired by other scriptures, too! You’re invited to join Pastor Janet in the sanctuary to explore some of it, and the texts it reflects. Some of what we’ll look at: how the creation stories, sin and death, women in the Bible, and the reign of God have been interpreted through the vision of different artists. (A zoom link will be offered for this as well; if you’re a new Adult Ed participant and would like to receive the link, contact Pastor Jerry.)



“Genesis 1:”  
by Chris Jeanguanat

## SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION

(Typically the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

Meet Leslie after church – (children of all ages) for an hour of learning, crafting, playing, and gathering to hear Stories from the Bible!

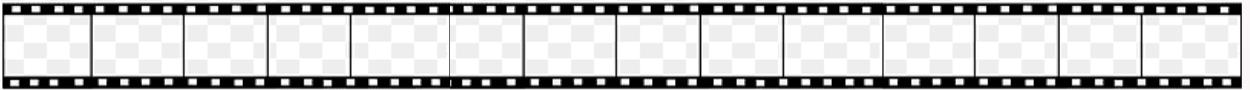
Parents and Grandparents welcome as well!

Meet Leslie around the Children and Worship room following our Sunday morning worship service and Fellowship.

Upcoming Dates:

**October 2**

**October 16**



## YOUTH NEWS:

Joint Youth Group for 5th-6th-7th meets at **Kalamazoo First Presbyterian**

The October 12th Wednesday meeting will move to our first Movie and Game Night on a Friday, October 14 from 6pm-10pm at the Kalamazoo church.

We will have dinner together, play some games and watch Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. All 5th, 6th and 7th graders are invited to join us and friends are welcome!

We will also meet as planned on Wednesdays, September 28th and October 26th from 6:30-7:30pm. Please let me know if you have any questions!

**Leslie Ashbaugh**



## "WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER"

An orientation (two sessions) will be offered on Sundays: October 2 and October 9, during the Adult Education time following worship. This is for anyone who is new (or new-ish) to Westminster. It's an opportunity – very informal -to find out a bit more about the congregation and ask questions... and to let us know how we can help you connect with our congregation.

There's no commitment involved, and no pressure. It's really ok to come just to find out a little more about the church.

The first session is an introduction to Westminster's ministries and priorities. The second session looks a bit at what being Presbyterian is all about and what it means to be a part of the church. Come with your questions! Talk with Pastor Janet to learn more.

## Watercolor Painting Returns with Kay Severson!

Come experience the many facets of watercolor painting. It is an exciting medium, full of surprises for the artist. **Practice classes begin on Tuesday, October 25th and continues for 5 weeks:** For a **registration form** email: [kay.preston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kay.preston@sbcglobal.net) or the Westminster Presbyterian Church office.

# ***Weeknight Adult Education Offerings in October***

## **Listening Together**

**When:** Tuesday nights from 7:00-7:30pm, continuing through October 25

**How:** On Zoom

**Facilitator:** Nancy Husk

Together we'll reflect silently on a scripture passage, poem, or image using the practice of lectio divina. What word, phrase, or detail of the image draws your attention? What images or memories do you associate with that part? Do you sense an invitation for more attention, action, or reflection? After an additional 3 minutes of resting in silence together, each participant may share their experience without interruption or comment from the group. Each week is a separate experience so come when you can. Join us for this age-old practice.



## ***October One Word = Harvest***



**One Word** is our congregation-wide Star Gift for the month. It's like a Congregational Read, but we'll be reading our lives rather than a book. Where do you encounter God through this month's word? Is there an image, story, or token that describes your experience of the One Word?

Something you've enjoyed from this year's harvest? Something ripening in your life or in the life of another? A seed you planted long ago that is bearing fruit?

How will you experience God through HARVEST?

If you'd like to share your experience,

bring your image, story, or token (or just yourself!) to a One Word Zoom Gathering on

**Thursday, October 27 starting at 7:00pm.**

**Questions? Contact Nancy Husk**

*~ Nancy Husk* on behalf of Adult Ed.





# ISAAC 2022 Public Meeting

## Come Build the Beloved Community



Public officials, candidates and community leaders will stand virtually before the community and commit to working with us for changes of policy and practice infused with love, hope, equity and abundance: **Anti-Racism Housing Gun Violence Prevention**

[Our 2020 Public Meeting was amazing!](#) [Here are 2020 Video Clips](#)

# Tuesday, October 25, 6:30pm

## On Facebook & YouTube

<https://www.facebook.com/isaackalamazoo> & <https://www.youtube.com/user/ISAAC4Kalamazoo>

Registration greatly appreciated: <https://forms.gle/ZDZD39DZCPsMzwXWA>



**This fall is ISAAC's 20th Anniversary!**

## Congregational Life Invites You For Family Fun at the Apple Orchard!

Saturday, October 8th  
at Schultz Fruitridge Farms  
60139 CR 652

Mattawan, Michigan 49071

We will meet at the orchard at **11:00 a.m.**

There is a very short walk to the orchard to pick apples.

Afterwards, we can look around the store, where they sell a variety of fresh produce, gifts, pumpkins, mums & more.

Cider and warm donuts will be available from their Donut Depot!

There are picnic tables available if you would like to pack a lunch and eat there.

You can come for a short while or stay as long as you wish.

Join us for some fall fun!

Questions? Contact Jayme Ruimveld

Possible Rain date: Sunday, October 9th (after church)



## Racial Equity Group Update

The racial equity group continues to meet monthly. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. This group is open to exploring the history of racism and how the damage of racism continues to have an impact now. Dr. Jemar Tisby has written several books which the group uses to study. One book is *The Color of Compromise* which gives details regarding history of the church in perpetuating racism. The second book is *How to Fight Racism*. Dr. Tisby does an outstanding job of noting historical events that happened within the church from the beginning of the United States that developed racism towards people of color. The events noted are often not found in other texts. It is important to know that the church has been complicit in many ways and we as Christians need to see them and act to respond differently.

**The next meeting is Sunday, October 30, 3:30 pm at church.** Everyone is welcome. The group is moving toward developing a written statement that documents our searching for better understanding as well as what next steps to take as a church. The group is working to identify acts of racism and identify ways to address and eliminate racism. We continue the many ways of getting to this point including prayer, self-reflection, and actions.



**Pickleball** is a very fun sport to learn. The game is played with a paddle and wiffle ball on a court smaller than a tennis court with 4 players. It is a great way to stay active without the stress of tennis or the fast pace of racquetball. Thanks to Sandy Welch and Tom Hamilton for our courts and nets in our gymnasium. We would highly encourage anyone beginner to advanced to check us out. We start with warmups, share the rules of the game, laugh at our mistakes, and have fun. Equipment supplied. Please let us know if you are interested in learning, playing, and the best times for you. by contacting Sandy Welch or Cindy Green.



***Before the Flood* Documentary: On Wednesday, October 19 at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian of Kalamazoo. Produced and narrated by Leonard DeCaprio, this film presents a riveting account of the dramatic changes occurring around the world due to climate change, as well as actions we as individuals and as a society can take to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet. Refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public. Barrier free; enter at the Lovell St. door.**



## FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

A couple of things that you should be aware of



- Our church bookkeeper, Audrey Curry, is in the office on Tuesday and on Thursday afternoon most weeks. If you need to request a check or submit a bill or receipts for reimbursement for church program expenses, please know that these are the usual times when checks are written, and plan accordingly.
- Please make every effort to submit expenses in a timely way (within 60 days, 30 days if possible.) This helps us keep better tabs on cash flow. Thank you!

### Our Intention Statement

At Westminster Church  
we live a whole life in response to God  
attentively  
together  
engaging the world  
for the good of all  
following Jesus Christ.

adopted by the Session, April 25, 2011

**Westminster Staff**

Reverend Janet Robertson Duggins  
Reverend Jerry Duggins  
Parish Associate - Reverend John Best  
Pastor Emeritus – Reverend Richard Jackson  
Sunday School Coordinator – Leslie Ashbaugh  
Director of Music & Pianist – Marie Kerstetter  
Choir Director – Jason Zerban  
Interim Administrative Assistant – Laurie Nic  
Bookkeeper - Audrey Curry  
Custodian – Ernest Pueblo

**Congregational Leaders**

**SESSION**

Mary Anderson, Clerk; Leslie Ashbaugh, Jim Gluys, Paul Paget, Carol Pratt,  
Jayme Ruimveld, Paula Schriemer, Kelly Schultz , Fred Welch

**DEACONS**

Ann Cirvencic, Moderator; Laurie Bushnell, Connie Campbell,  
Jodie Gerard, Catriena Kauffman, Valerie Kirkwood, Beth Myer, Nick Pratt, Mary Lou Rohwer

Administration

Finance.....Paul Paget, Leslie Ashbaugh  
Personnel.....Carol Pratt  
Building & Grounds.....Jim Gluys  
Children & Youth Ministries; Faith Formation.....Leslie Ashbaugh  
Adult Education.....Linda DeYoung  
Congregational Life & Evangelism.....Paula Schriemer, Jayme Ruimveld  
Art Festival.....Miriam Duggins, Jodie Gerard  
Mission.....Fred Welch  
Green Team.....Eileen Best  
Worship.....Kelly Schultz, Pastors  
Presbyterian Women.....Kelly Schultz

Worship Coordinators:

Hosts.....Cindy Green  
Ushers.....Sarah Sullivan  
Liturgists.....Jean Cox  
Livestream, Sound & Techs.....Kelly Schultz  
Children & Worship .....Mary Lou Rohwer, Kelly

Schultz

Communion.....Kelly Schultz  
Coffee Plus .....Jayme Ruimveld

