

# FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## OCTOBER 2019

*What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

*Romans 8:31*

Dear friends,

It's October already, the time of Pumpkin Spice Everything, crisper weather, pumpkin carving, haunted houses, ghosts, witches and wizards, and Halloween. When I was growing up, my six siblings and I dressed up for "Trick-or-treat!" night and waltzed through the four streets of Hostetter collecting candy from our neighbors. It was fun.

Later, my family attended a church that taught that Halloween is the devil's holiday. (They had "harvest festivals" instead). We learned that celebrating Halloween, reading books like *Harry Potter*, and playing games like Dungeons and Dragons taught witchcraft and were like inviting Satan or demons into your heart.

But Satan isn't that powerful. Once when I was preaching at a homeless shelter, the men kept talking about all the things the devil was doing in their lives. I finally asked, "Could we stop giving glory to the devil?" Pentecostal evangelist Smith Wigglesworth said one night he woke up to a powerful sense of evil in his room. He looked around and saw the devil himself at the foot of his bed. Then he said, "Oh, it's only you," and went back to sleep.

I think many people over-sell the power of the devil and his minions with relation to "creepy stuff." As beloved children of God, we need not fear Satan, only trust in God.

On the other hand, I Peter 5:8 warns that our adversary the devil prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. It's important to be aware of that, to some extent: there are evil powers in the world trying to destroy us.

But these powers don't usually look suspicious. They don't look like role-playing games or books about witches and wizards. They look like reasonable-sounding arguments for why others aren't *really* fully human – at least not like we are, and why it's okay to treat them badly: they deserve it. Perhaps they broke a law or something. These evil powers don't sound like a fantasy role-playing game; they sound like our own voices in our own heads, filling out a long list of all the reasons we're not good enough and should just give up.

Christians have nothing to fear from costumes and trick-or-treating or fantasy books or games; God is more powerful than the devil. If we simply love God and love our neighbors, the devil won't be able to get a foothold.

Rev. David M. Schell, pastor



## WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNER

### We Feed People!

Again this year we will be preparing and hosting Free Community Dinners the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Courtyard Room. You are invited! We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, clean up or bring cookies or brownies for dessert. We also need volunteers to sit and fellowship with our neighborhood friends and share in the food, though you don't need to sign up for this.

We do not collect any money at the dinners, because the expenses are covered by special contributions from Fairplain Church members and friends. So mark your calendars for the last Wednesday of each month, and look for the volunteer sign-up sheets in the Sunday bulletins. We look forward to your participation and support for this continuing outreach service to our community!

Please join us at our next Community Dinner on Wednesday, October 26, 2019!



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Judy Machalleck
- 20: Robert Smith
- 24: Jo Ann Hartzell
- 26: Lisa Kelleher

## COMMUNITY DINNER AUGUST 2019

About 40 people – new friends, returning guests enjoyed a cookout that included hamburgers, hot dogs plus potato salad, coleslaw, plus great desserts. We also enjoyed lots of fun and conversation. Thanks to Fred Welch, Lew Burchard, Denny and Linda Cogswell and helpers Judy Eckroth, Sonja Stormo, Marlene Smith, Elaine Holt and daughter who helped make it happen. Thanks for the dessert donations Elaine Holt and Linda Zitta. Next dinner is September 25. Good food and good friends! Volunteers are always appreciated. Call the office to sign up.



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## CLERK'S CORNER

There has been, and continues to be, lots of excitement around Fairplain Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan meeting went off without any problems because we had about 40 members all working to make the day a success. Leslie, as the organizer of that day, has written in this newsletter about the meeting.

By the time you read this newsletter, you should have received a letter about the Capital Campaign, along with a pledge card. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can help with this project. The renovations are continuing. You can see the beautiful parking lot, and by the time you get this newsletter, our new boiler should be installed and ready to heat the building for the winter. Since it will have 96% efficiency, compared to the 50% efficiency of the old boiler, I'm hoping to see a reduction in our gas bill each month. I'll let you know. The soffit, fascia and cornice work is about 2/3 complete at this point. We have had a few distractions with weather and vandalism, but Ron, and Judy, his assistant, continue to make progress.

We have some new lights on the outside of the sanctuary on the west side of the building. They come on at dusk and go off at dawn. They light up the area enough to land a plane, according to Fred Welch. Do you remember David's sermon -- where he told the story about a worker who was working on the asphaltting of the parking lot? The worker thought we had just purchased the building, and were fixing it up because he thought the building had been closed for several years. No one is going to think we are closed when they see this place at night. Now we just have to become proactive at inviting people to join us in worship!

Our membership stands at 90 members as of 9-19-19. The average attendance for August was 41 people in worship, and communion was served to 36 on August 4.

Be sure to put October 19, on your calendar of events to attend. The Game Night is an opportunity to be with people in the church in a different way than sitting with them each Sunday, or even during coffee hour. Invite neighbors or friends to come with you.

### Calendar of Events

Oct. 5 – Stretching in Worship Center Classroom, 11:00 a.m.

Oct. 6 – Communion Sunday

Oct. 8 – Session meeting, 7:00 p.m. in CE room

Oct. 13 – Praise Team plays in worship

Oct. 19 – Stretching in the Courtyard, 11:00 a.m.

Oct. 19 – Game night in Fellowship Hall, 4-6 p.m.

Oct. 27 – Deacon's meeting 11:00 a.m. in CE room after worship

Oct. 30 – Community Dinner, 6:00 Courtyard room

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE & RUMMAGE SALE

The next Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 8, at 10:00 am in the Courtyard Room.

To have a rummage sale this year was not an easy decision to make. Our work force is small, willing, but not as able as we would like. Other money raising projects were discussed, but none seemed right for us. So, we are going for it and will give it our best efforts. Mark your calendar for **Friday, October 4, from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday October 5, from 9 am-noon. You may begin to bring your rummage items on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>. The last day for donations is Tuesday October 1.** We are asking that you not bring the following: holiday decorations, electronics (phones, televisions, computers etc.) or shoes. With everyone doing what they can to help, we can have a successful sale. Please contact the church office before bringing your rummage items. Thank you – Jo Ann Hartzell and Linda Zitta.

## FUTURE PARISH LIFE EVENTS

**Game Night:** We are planning a 2<sup>nd</sup> game night in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, October 19, from 4-6 pm.** Please bring a snack/appetizer to share and a game of your choice.

**Cookie Decorating Class:** Kristen Schell will lead a cookie decorating class on **Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 am** in Fellowship Hall. The cookies will be baked off first and then decorated. If you would like to attend the class, there will be sign-up sheet available in the Courtyard or you can contact Kristen after worship or call the church office. Donations will be taken to offset the cost of baking/decorating supplies.



**Twin City Players:** Please join the Parish Life Committee for a holiday show, Kris Kringle the Musical, at Twin City Players on Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 pm. This production is acceptable for all ages. Tickets will go on sale beginning August 1 and are \$13.50 each. We need at least 12 people to attend to get the group rate. If you would like to attend, please make a check payable to Candi Kebschull, memo: Kris Kringle. You can give her your check directly or drop off at the church office and I will make sure she gets it.



**Dinners for Eight (or 6):** Watch for further details and sign-up sheets for fall and winter dates. You can host at your home or at the church if you wish. The host will provide the main entrée and beverages and the additional people can sign up to bring an appetizer, salad veggie or side dish, and dessert.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, October 6, at 11 am with Pastor David leading the class.

## NURSERY ATTENDANTS REQUESTED

If you would like to sign up to be a nursery volunteer for Sunday mornings, please see the schedule posted on the wall in the courtyard. We would need two volunteers for each Sunday. A background form/check will be necessary as well.

## EXERCISE CLASSES

Mark your calendar for the upcoming exercise classes on Saturday mornings at 11 am in the Courtyard: October 19 and November 2, and October 5, in the Worship Center Classroom in the lower level.



## SECRETARY SUPPLY

While Linda Cogswell is on vacation from Friday, September 27 through Friday, October 4, the following ladies will be in the church office from 9 am-noon.

Friday, September 27: Leslie Gilreath

Monday, September 30: Linda Zitta

Tuesday, October 2: Judy Kuhlman

Thursday, October 4: Phyllis Myers

Friday, October 5: Phyllis Myers

## LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening will be here at Fairplain Presbyterian Church on Thursday, October 24, 2019 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these potentially life-saving tests today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up while receiving \$10 off any package priced above \$139. For only \$139 (regularly \$149) you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease.

There is no time like the present to take action! Learn more by watching this short video: <http://www.lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/>

### Three ways to register:

- **Call toll-free: 866-229-0469**
- **Online:** [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle)
- **Text:** the word **circle** to **797979**

## MUSIC NEWS

Greetings to all from Acts 16:25 - ***“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose”.***

There were 6 Worship services in September. The following music groups and soloists enriched our services in September:

September 01 – Ana, Marina & Vladimir Slavujevic

September 08 – Chancel Choir (2 anthems)

September 14 – The Praise Band “Wherever Two ...”

September 15 – The Praise Band “Wherever Two ...”

September 22 – Chancel Choir and Family Slavujevic Chimes & Bells

September 29 – Vladimir Slavujevic (vocal solo)

There was an extra Worship service in September. Our church was very successfully hosting the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Stated Meeting on Saturday, September 14. The church was rather full with guests and singing of 150+ people was powerful. Our Praise Band contributed with several songs during the service. It was a special experience.

We welcome our new pianist Claudiu Mariutanu who was hired and started playing in our church in September. He will write an article introducing himself in the November newsletter.

Unfortunately, there is some bad news. Our reliable “Jack of all trades” – Chris Corbitt has moved to Texas. For almost 5 years since I came to Fairplain he was a great helper. I do not remember him ever refusing or ignoring to assist in anything I asked him regarding music activities at Fairplain. He was our faithful and reliable choir and Men’s Chorus tenor singer, chorister, technician and logistics director. He pleasantly surprised me several times on Sunday early mornings by setting up chimes/bells tables before I came for a rehearsal, even without being asked to do it. Chris was putting into practice an old saying “To go an extra mile.” Using our family video camera, Chris was regularly video recording my family performing Chimes & Bells (also playing other instruments and singing) that will be valuable as a family “souvenir.” He also made CDs for our choir and DVDs of my Music Studio recitals. Sure, we will miss his tireless immense energy and work ethics. Our loss will be someone’s gain in Texas. We wish him and his wife, Sandi, God’s protection and guidance and hope to see them again next summer here in Southwest Michigan when they will escape Texas’ sweltering summer heat.

**IMPORTANT! Please, mark the following date in your calendar:**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2019 at 4:00pm – CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**Please, invite your family and friends to our congregation’s largest annual music production.**

May God bless us all, grant us protection, guidance, good health, prosperity and an opportunity to be a blessing to others.

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

*"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians:2-3*

What an exciting day! And yes, exhausting, but worth it. Fairplain showed up to shine as we hosted the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. We had rave reviews on our hospitality, the food, signage and general friendliness. I was excited that so many people stepped up to help in so many ways – big and small. From gardening to painting walls to greeting, preparing lunch, collecting offering, preparing communion, leading with music to bringing your tastiest cakes, pies and muffins, paying for something and offering prayers for all of us working on this – every contribution was part of the big success. It just makes me realize what this church can do, and how every little piece is a big part of the larger mission. I'm so grateful to all of you, and I'm so proud of all of us. My heart simply overflows with love for you.

A special thank you to Jenna McAllister, Rosemary Holloway and Becky Hungerford who prepared a beautiful lunch with lots of variations for people's specific needs. We had five-star reviews from many of our guests.

These are the people who helped on Saturday and in preparation before. If I missed anyone, I'm sorry. I know many of you offered prayers, but I'm not sure of all of those. However, I'll give you credit for a gorgeous day and good health for willing helpers and a day that was almost perfect. Thank you.

Leslie Gilreath

Mary Bartels	Claudiu Maritanu
Vicki Born	Jenna McAllister
Lew Burchard	Phyllis Myers
Linda Cogswell	Julie Nash
Chris Corbitt	George Pica
Bud Cornelius	Greg Powell
Diane Cronk	David Schell
Kim Edinger	Kristen Schell
Leslie Gilreath	Vladimir Slavujevic
Eloise Gundersen	Larry Smith
Harold Gundersen	Pat Smith
J. Michael Hall	Marlene Smith
Joann Hartzell	Robert Smith
Rosemary Holloway	Sonja Stormo
Elaine Holt	Jack Stuber
Becky Hungerford	Dorothy Trachte
John Kauffman	Jill Wendel
Candi Keschull	Pete Wendel
Judy Kuhlman	



## SOUP KITCHEN

On Thursday, September 12, was a very pleasant day at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Though there was a threat of rain, our volunteers served 138 adults and 2 children a lunch that included hot dogs simmered in baked beans, fresh green salad with tomatoes, applesauce, homemade blueberry cobbler, and juice or milk. Volunteers Leslie Gilreath, Jill Wendel, George Pica, Pastor David Schell, Judy Eckroth, Judy Machalleck, John Kauffman and Julie Nash were on hand to prepare and serve the meal. As always, it was a wonderful time together for all. Such a great crew! Julie Nash

## DEACONS OUTREACH

### YELLOW PEW ENVELOPES

As you will notice in the pews, the yellow envelopes have been reprinted for your donations toward Deacons General/Funeral Fund and Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen.

### Deacons General Fund:

Goes towards the purchase of communion cups, oil for candles, Advent wax candles, flowers for shut-ins (Christmas and Easter), printed support materials for members: These Days devotional, Care Notes (various topics), greeting cards and postage for members; CD players for shut-ins.

### Deacons Funeral Fund:

Goes towards any funeral luncheon expenses that are not reimbursed by the family.

**Donations to the Deacons General Fund and/or Funeral Fund should be made payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church.**

### Food Pantry:

To purchase products we are low on, or take advantage of good sales on products, we normally furnish in food bags from our local retail grocer.

### Soup Kitchen:

To purchase the needed side dishes for our once-a-month meals we prepare at the soup kitchen in Benton Harbor.

**Donations to the Food Pantry and/or Soup Kitchen should be made payable to the Community Food Pantry at Fairplain Presbyterian Church.**



## CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. David Schell, [pastor@fairplainpc.com](mailto:pastor@fairplainpc.com)

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary – church email: [office@fairplainpc.com](mailto:office@fairplainpc.com)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 8:30 am-noon, 1:00-3:00 pm

Wednesday: Closed

Friday: 9:00 am-11:30 am (closed in the afternoon)

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music – email: [vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com](mailto:vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com)

Claudiu Tiberiu Mariutanu, Pianist/Accompanist – email: [cladiomariutanu@gmail.com](mailto:cladiomariutanu@gmail.com)

Jenna McAllister, Treasurer – email: [jennabetz@comcast.net](mailto:jennabetz@comcast.net)

Jill Wendel, Financial Secretary – email: [jillannwendel@yahoo.com](mailto:jillannwendel@yahoo.com)

Chris Corbitt, Financial Secretary – email: [cpc1\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:cpc1_1999@yahoo.com)

Bud Cornelius, Custodian