

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THREE RIVERS/ CENTREVILLE

DECEMBER 2025

And Here We Go Again

We're long past the time when the "year" starts on January 1. We understand that we have the fiscal year and school year and calendar year, and yes, the church year. The church year starts on the First Sunday of Advent, or four Sundays before Christmas. We get so familiar with the church year that we struggle to see its paradox, its challenge to us. Just as winter in the northern hemisphere is about to shut everything down, we start to think about God coming into our world. What should be a sleepy, cold, dark part of the year explodes with the dazzling light of the angels, the songs of Mary and Elizabeth, and the warm glow of shepherds crowded in to see the baby king. Just about the time we're ready to slow down for the cold winter months, the paradox of Advent and Christmas starts our year off. It's a story where all the really powerful people in the narrative (King Herod, Caesar Augustus) take a back seat to a Galilean maiden and an infant born in exile. This part of the church calendar is structured, the four weeks before Christmas being a season of preparation (Advent), and the time between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6) being celebration and the early stories of Jesus's transition from infant to Galilean teacher *par excellence*. The church year is just beginning and we're already grappling with the idea of Immanuel (*God With Us*) realized in the birth of Jesus.

About the time we become comfortable with Jesus as *God With Us*, we go into another preparation/celebration cycle. In the dead of winter, we start a seven-week countdown to Easter. Long before spring bathes the northern hemisphere in new life, Lent calls us to new life in our souls. And on the week following the Paschal Full Moon, the second paradox of the church year presents itself: life which springs from death. The resurrection of Jesus opens up the promise of life beyond death. God triumphs over death by dying, and the hope of eternity is shaped in the passion and suffering of Holy Week.

But we're not done yet. Just as we're contemplating the meaning of Easter, we go into a fifty-day countdown to Pentecost. We come to understand that in Jesus, the Divine and the human took up residence together. Pentecost takes that interdwelling of Divine and human a step further. In the gift of the Holy Spirit to every follower of Jesus, God resides in us. We become the living tabernacles of God. Another paradox to ponder. And we're only halfway through the year (calendar or church).

All of this can feel busy or rushed, but that's because we zoom from one paradox to another in very set sequence and timing. So, put on your running shoes and take a deep breath. Another church year is upon us, and away we go!

FAMILY HOLIDAY MISSION---CHRISTMAS 2025

DEADLINE FOR GIFTS AND GIFT CARDS---FRIDAY DECEMBER 19TH

THE FAMILY GIVING TREE is ready for you to select angels to support our five families this holiday season.

THE ANGELS are numbered 1-2-3-4-5 and COLOR MATCHED with a gift idea on the back. Please select an angel, purchase, and wrap your gift. PUT THE ANGEL WITH NUMBER SHOWING ON THE GIFT. Place the gift under the tree.

GIFT CARDS are greatly appreciated by the families as they can purchase clothing items and those "hard to find" items. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP GIFT CARDS as they are sorted, counted, and hand delivered to each family. Put cards in an envelope with the angel attached, indicate the dollar amount on the card and put in the basket provided near the tree. You may also just donate a card and we will select a family for you. Please indicate the amount.

WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING personal hygiene/care products, winter hats, gloves, board games, age-appropriate books (gently used). One family is looking for a high-top table to use for dining. Please call Jane Campbell with any questions..269-251-1296.

OUR FAMILIES

#1 RED Robert and Stacy Adams are raising 4 boys ages 9, 14, 16, 17 and a girl age 12. We're helping the family especially with bedding for the children. The gift cards will be used for badly needed clothing. They enjoyed Thanksgiving meal with us at church and were very grateful.

#2 PURPLE Emma Deans is raising 2 boys. Jace 14 loves gaming....football and boxing. Little Myles age 2 loves anything John Deere! His favorite colors, John Deere yellow and green!!

#3 LIGHT PURPLE Cassandra DeBoer and partner. They are raising 2 boys, Gabriel 12 and Josiah 11. Both boys love Legos and army toys . Mom works at Super 8 in Three Rivers.

#4 BLUE JENUINE MAURER is raising her son Jerikai age 1. She works at American Axel as a cook. She is very grateful for any help!

#5GREEN MICHAEL JAMES AND TERESA are raising 2 GIRLS, Devona age 14 and Gabby age 10. The girls love clothes so their gift cards will be appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF GIVING!

Your Mission Team..... Jane, Alyce, Barb, Karl, Scott

THE DEACONS OF THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THREE
RIVERS CENTREVILLE
invite you to our

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
AT 7:00 P.M.

To rekindle the embers of faith as we await
the Advent of Christ with Music,
Readings, and Fellowship

KJVER FAMILY LEGACY HOLY BIBLE

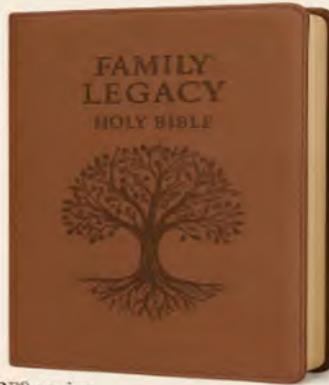
LARGE PRINT • COFFEE ULTRASOFT
(King James Version Easy Read, Red Letter, Brown)

With a rich, coffee
brown ultrasoft cover
featuring a design
of an ever-growing tree,
this durable large print
Family Legacy Holy
Bible makes a perfect
gift for families,
weddings, and
anniversaries that is
sure to be treasured
for years to come.

A special edition of the
King James Version
Easy Read Bible (KJVER™) series,
it includes pages for recording important family events,
such as marriages, births and adoptions, and baptisms

\$40.00

Contact Catherine in the
Church Office to Order



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THREE RIVERS/CENTREVILLE

CHRISTMAS DINNER & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025
AFTER WORSHIP

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
WILL BE SERVING HAM
AND ALL THE SIDES.

*A Service of
Lessons, Carols
And
The Hope
of the Evergreens*

First Presbyterian Church Chancel & Campanile Bell Choirs

December 7, 2025

320 N. Main Street, Three Rivers, MI 49093

6:00 p.m.

If you have a new prayer concern, please notify the church office (or tell a deacon). We will lift names in church on Sunday. Those names will be listed in the following Tuesday News. Names lifted for the month will appear in the monthly newsletter.

“We lift these names to God for each of their own unique needs.



November New Requests

* *All the men and women serving our country; and all those with silent requests*

- * *Pastor Clint and Cathy Cozier as they acclimate to their new home and service to the Church.*
- * *Family and Friends of Jackie Havens: passed on Sat. Nov 8th*
- * *Family and Friends of Joan Dudd; son John passed away Nov. 14, 2025*
- * *Gary Armstrong; outpatient surgery Tuesday Nov 18*
- * *Bucky Horsmon; receiving therapy at Optalis. Prayers for both Bucky and Chris for positivity and strength during this long period of rehabilitation. Visits are encouraged and welcomed.*
- * *Karen Armstrong for patience as her fracture heals and mobility improves.*
- * *Joan McLellan thankful for the skill of doctors to correct her serious heart issue.*
- * *Bucky Horsmon and Chris as they continue their medical journey. Prayers that Bucky will grow strong enough to return home!!*
- * *David Campbell...receiving chemo infusions Tuesday Nov 25 and Dec 16. Prayers for positive results and no negative side effects.*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:30 a.m. Worship in person and via YouTube

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 Fellowship Meeting 12:00 p.m.	02 Candle Lighting Ceremony 7:00 p.m.	03 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.	04	05 AA 7 p.m.	06 Hanging of the Greens 6:00 p.m.
07 Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion Soup on Sunday	08	09	10 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.	11	12 AA 7 p.m.	13
14 Worship 10:30 a.m. Soup on Sunday	15	16	17 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.	18	19 AA 7 p.m.	20
21 Worship 10:30 a.m. Christmas Dinner, White Elephant	22 6:15 Session Meeting	23	24 4:30 W&M Meeting Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas	26 AA 7 p.m.	27
28 Worship 10:30 a.m. Empty Pockets Soup on Sunday	29	30	31 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.			

The first snow came quietly,
soft as a whispered prayer.
By dawn, the world was wrapped in white—
rooftops crowned, branches bowed,
roads hushed into silence.

On the First Sunday of Advent,
the church bells tried bravely to ring,
their sound drifting only a little way
before being swallowed by the storm.
Families peered out frosted windows,
boots by the door, coats waiting...
but the drifting snow said gently, “*Not today.*”

So worship moved into living rooms—
a candle lit on the table,
its flame small but steady,



glowing
like hope
itself.
Scripture

read by lamplight,
a whispered prayer over a simple breakfast,
hymns hummed softly while the wind
sang its own ancient melody.

Though miles apart,
the congregation gathered in spirit—
each home a tiny sanctuary,
each heart returning again
to the promise of Advent:
that even in the deepest quiet,
even behind snow-sealed doors,
Christ is coming.

And in that stillness,
with snowflakes drifting like blessings,
the world felt holy—
not in spite of the storm,
but somehow because of it.



THANKSGIVING FEAST

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Feast, Fellowship, and Worship. Your presence made the day truly special.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Birch	December 02
Jamie Barrett	December 03
Barbara Robinson	December 03
Rhard Rosenberry	December 06
Katie Byers	December 09
Margaret O'Dell	December 09
Aiden Judsen	December 10
Taylor Wyatt	December 10
Olivia Guy	December 17
Charles Collins	December 18
Wilhelmina DeBoer	December 21
Nelson Lumm	December 26
Jean Wiedenbeck	December 27
Kristine Gushwa	December 28
Johann Northrop	December 30

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Ruth Scott	December 16
Larry & Ann Hermen	December 20
Gary & Karen Armstrong	December 28



YOUR SESSION AND DEACONS

Session

Alyce Bode
Steve Curtis
Ann Hermen
Larry Hermen
Karl Hoffmann
Sue Jackson
Jan Michaels
Michael Northrop
Tom Roberts
Patrick Thomas
Sue Pazynski
Steve Manos

Deacons

Rachel DeBoer
Jane Campbell
Becky DeBoer
Jannie Drake
Janet Hoffmann
Cindy Nelson
Johann Northrop
Ann Robare
Judy Roberts
Valarie Russell
Jenny Thomas

Our Church Directory is Online!

You can now view our church directory online or through the FREE mobile app.

To access the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click on "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Then check your email and click on the "Log in to Instant Church Directory" button found in your email.

A free mobile app is also available in the Apple® App Store and the Google Play™ Store. Just search for "Instant Church Directory" to download.

Important: Your email address must be listed in the directory before you can log in.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact Catherine in the Church Office

Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](http://InstantChurchDirectory.com).

**EMPTY POCKETS
DONATIONS FROM
NOVEMBER \$?? Please
see Tuesday News for update.**



Community Calendars

COMMISSION ON AGING

December 2025 Activities CALENDAR Three Rivers

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 1pm - Chair Yoga 1pm - Pinochle 2pm - Zumba Gold	2 8:15am - Forever Fit 9:30am - Cardio Drumming 10:30am - Arthritis Exercise 12:45pm - Mah Jongg 1pm - Bingo 2:30pm - Pinochle 6pm Alzheimer's Support Group at Rivers COA	3 9am Say Yes! To weights 10am - Flexible You 10am - Arthritis Exercise Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. 11am - In Stitches 1pm - Pinochle	4 CENTERS ARE OPEN BUT ALL ACTIVITIES AND CONGREGATE LUNCH ARE CANCELLED Annual Holiday Party	5 9:30am - Line Dancing 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 12:30pm - Bingo at Klines 1pm - Bingo 1pm - Mah Jongg
8 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 1pm - Chair Yoga 1pm - Pinochle 2pm - Zumba Gold	9 8:15am - Forever Fit 9:30am - Cardio Drumming 10:30am - Arthritis Exercise 12:45pm - Mah Jongg 1pm - Bingo 2:30pm - Pinochle Dinner & a Movie Night 10am-11am Stroke Support Group at TR Hospital	10 9am Say Yes! To weights 10am - Flexible You 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. 11am - In Stitches 1pm - Pinochle 1pm Rock Painting Christkindl Market & Planetarium Trip	11 8:15am - Forever Fit 9:30am - Cardio Drumming 10:30am - Arthritis Exercise 1pm - Chair Yoga 1pm - Euchre 2pm - Zumba Gold	12 9:30am - Line Dancing 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 12:30pm - Bingo at Klines 1pm - Bingo 1pm - Mah Jongg Manheim Steamroller Christmas Trip
15 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 10am Tech Time 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 1pm - Chair Yoga 1pm - Pinochle 2pm - Zumba Gold Shopping Trip	16 8:15am - Forever Fit 9:30am - Cardio Drumming 10:30am - Arthritis Exercise 12:45pm - Mah Jongg 1pm - Bingo 2:30pm - Pinochle	17 9am Say Yes! To weights 10am - Flexible You 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 12pm Book Club 9am-12:30pm Legal assistance by phone Center Closes at 12:30pm for Staff Training	18 8:15am - Forever Fit 9:30am - Cardio Drumming 10:30am - Arthritis Exercise 1pm - Chair Yoga 1pm - Euchre 2pm - Zumba Gold	19 9:30am - Line Dancing 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 11:45am - Red Hatters 12:30pm - Bingo at Klines 1pm Bingo 1pm - Mah Jongg Cinema Circle and Dinner White Christmas Trip
22 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 1pm - Chair Yoga 1pm - Pinochle 2pm - Zumba Gold	23 8:15am - Forever Fit 9:30am - Cardio Drumming 10:30am - Arthritis Exercise 12:45pm - Mah Jongg 1pm - Bingo 2:30pm - Pinochle	24 Closed	25 Closed	26 9:30am - Line Dancing CANCELLED
29 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 1pm - Chair Yoga 1pm - Pinochle 2pm - Zumba Gold	30 8:15am - Forever Fit 9am Foot Clinic 9:30am - Cardio Drumming 10:30am - Arthritis Exercise 12:45pm - Mah Jongg 1pm - Bingo 2:30pm - Pinochle Firekeepers Casino Trip	31 Closed	1 Closed	2 9:30am - Line Dancing 10am - Arthritis Exercise - Taking it Easy 11am - S.A.I.L. Exercise 12:30pm - Bingo at Klines 1pm Bingo 1pm - Mah Jongg



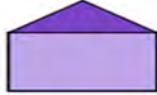
Stone Cottage Free Store Needs Your Help!

The Stone Cottage Free Store is in desperate need of:

- Blankets, Sheets & Pillow Cases
- Kitchen Items (Pots & Pans, Small Appliances)
- Men's Socks

Your generosity keeps our community cared for!

Thank you for your on-going support.



STONE COTTAGE FREE STORE

At the corner of Bennett and West streets

Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.—noon

WHERE ARE OUR FRIENDS?

Donna Ward

Alexian Village

671 Alexian Way Apt. 622
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

Beverly J. Burnham

17383 Oakcrest Pkwy B9
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Pat Clementz

Thurston Woods Memory Care
307 N. Franks Ave
Sturgis, MI 49091

Fran Hagerty

Lake House
1215 Elm Street
Three Rivers, MI 49093



PER CAPITA ONLINE GIVING 2026

The 2026 Per Capita Donation is

\$42.42 Per Person

Presbytery \$27.76 PCUSA \$11.26 Synod of the Covenant \$3.40

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN



Make We Merry

A CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

Three Rivers Area Mentoring is reviving a favorite holiday tradition!

2025 Performances:
December 5 & 6 at 7pm
December 7 at 2pm
\$12 Adults (13+), \$8 Children

Riviera Theatre
 Historic Downtown Three Rivers
www.trriviera.com

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH

Ugly Sweater Stroll

CONTEST AT RIVIERA THEATER BAR | 8PM

Grab your ugliest sweater and join us for an evening of festive fun

RULES

1. Wear your Ugly Sweater and shop at participating Businesses and receive a special deal or discount!
2. Take a selfie at the Christmas Tree and tag 'Downtown Three Rivers' on Social Media!
3. Be at the Riviera Theatre before 8pm for the contest, 3 lucky winners will receive a prize and a \$25 Gift Certificate to a DDA Business of their choice!

— Historic Downtown —
THREE RIVERS
 A MAIN STREET COMMUNITY
www.downtownthreerivers.com

6 December | at 4 pm

Centreville Hometown Christmas

Christmas Tree Lighting by Santa & Caroling at 4:00 p.m. at the Gazebo

Lighted Parade at 7:30 p.m.

Business Wreath Competition - ALL proceeds go to United Way

Crafts, games, giveaways! Too much to list! Fun for everyone!

VISIT WITH SANTA CLAUS

Scan the QR code to follow Centreville Hometown Christmas on Facebook





Christmas Around Town

DOWNTOWN THREE RIVERS

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

November 28 | November 29 | November 30

— FEATURING —

FRIDAY

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY FEAT. TRHS CHOIR 6PM
 HOLIDAY CONCERT AT THE RIVIERA THEATRE 7PM

SATURDAY

SANTA AT THE RIVIERA THEATRE 12-4PM
 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY - STORYBOOK STROLL
 WAGON RIDES - COOKIE DECORATING KITS
 ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOP - SCAVENGER HUNT
 HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE 6PM

SUNDAY

POLAR EXPRESS AT THE RIVIERA 2&5PM
 WAGON RIDES - SHOPPING AT LOCAL MERCHANTS

SPONSORED BY THE THREE RIVERS MAIN STREET IN COLLABORATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

— Historic Downtown —
THREE RIVERS
 A MAIN STREET COMMUNITY

EVENT INFO: 

First Presbyterian Church
of Three Rivers/Centreville
320 N. Main Street
Three Rivers, MI 49093-1423

FPC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

CHURCH STAFF

Transitional Pastor – The Rev. Dr. Clint Cozier
Minister of Music – Michael Northrop
Organist/Pianist – Charles Collins
Office & Finance Administrator – Catherine
Marciel
Custodian – Melanie Bontrager
Building & Grounds Manager—Johann
Northrop
AV/Tech Director – Joe Caton
Wedding Coordinator – Catherine Marciel
Historian – Myrna Myers

UNITED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*Program Assistant — Carolyn McNary
UCAP: (269) 244-4599 / Free Store: (269) 535-2786

*Building Hope through Worship, Music,
Fellowship, Education and Mission*

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

10:30 a.m. Worship

*Worship available in-person and
on YouTube @FirstPresbyterianChurchTR*

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – noon

PHONE: (269) 273-9571

EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Pastor: Pastorclint@firstprestrc.com

Church Office – office@firstprestrc.com

Finance – finance@firstprestrc.com

WEBSITE: www.firstprestrc.com

Online resources:

[Electronic giving](#)
[Newsletters](#)