

## The Annual Meeting Is Rescheduled for March 6, 2022



### Word-Share-Prayer: Romans 12:10-15

*Our Deacons shared this reading at a recent meeting*

Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

### From the Worship Committee

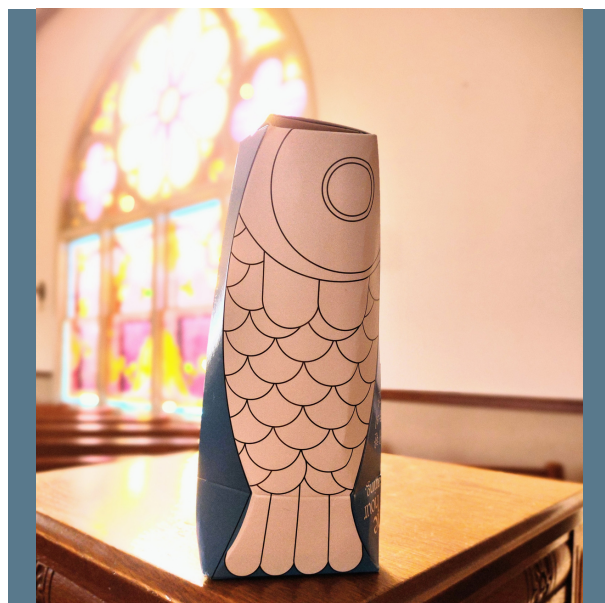
**Rekindling the Spirit** was the topic of Rev. Dr. Judy Shipman's sermon on January 23rd (If you missed it, all worship services are archived on the church website for on demand viewing). Preaching on the text from 2 Timothy 1:1-14, she challenged us individually and as a church to deepen and broaden our faith through the consistent practice of five spiritual disciplines: worship, study of Scripture, prayer, serving God with our talent, time and treasures and coming to God with a spirit of openness, curiosity and celebration, recognizing the many ways God is at work in our lives.

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd.** This is an opportunity to slow down, take time and to be intentional about our spiritual journey.

- Worship on Ash Wednesday at 7:00p.m. and every Wednesday evening through the remainder of Lent with virtual Taize services at 7pm
- Use the Lenten Devotional Guide in the Weekly Connect beginning March 4
- Join the Good Morning Study Group's Lenten devotional every Wednesday at 9:30am
- Serve God through gifts to the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering on Palm Sunday

## More About PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

OGHS supports three programs, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and 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 fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



## Youth Service Project Souper Bowl and Beyond

Join the youth in Loving Our Neighbors as we Tackle Hunger this year by supporting Saline Area Social Services (SASS). From "Souper Bowl Sunday" on February 13 through the end of February, *you* can help.

### Participate Online

There are two ways to give online, either a direct donation or going on a virtual shopping spree on behalf of SASS! Details and links in your Weekly Connect and on Facebook-Meta.

### Participate In Person Throughout February

Drop off canned food outside the Hall Street door (SASS needs pasta sauce, Raisin Bran cereal, peanut butter, and jelly) Collecting through Feb 28.



## Pastoral Care

Members in need of pastoral care should reach out to their Deacon and have that contact information saved to their phone. Deacons' contact information is in the phone directory under "Staff" and you may call the office if you need more information.

### Pulpit Supply Schedule

**February 20** - Rev. Bill Zambon

**February 27** - Rev. Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins

**March 6** - Rev. Dr. Budge Gere

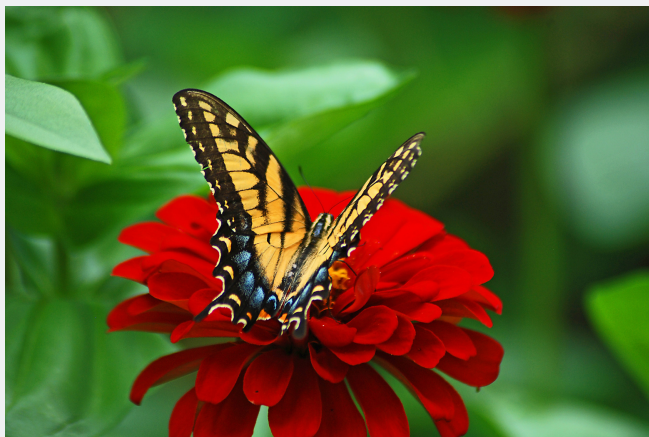
**March 13** - Rev. Doug Campbell

**From the Finance Committee:** *a preliminary review shows the church ending year 2021 with a \$16K surplus.*

## **An Update from The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee**

The Committee recently met with our new Detroit Committee On Ministry(COM) liaison, Rev. Scott Phillips. Rev. Phillips is pastor at Brighton Presbyterian Church. Most recently he has worked with First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor as they near the end of their pastoral search. Rev. Neeta Nichols, who shepherded the DPNC through the writing of our Ministry Information Form, will continue on our Review Committee, but her role has broadened to oversee the five churches that are seeking Designated Pastors in our Presbytery. The DPNC is grateful for the unique gifts both pastors bring to this task – experience with the call process, and a commitment to the due diligence required to bring forward qualified candidates that will be a good match for our congregation.

Our committee remains steadfastly optimistic about its search. We work well together, we enjoy each other's company and lean into the strengths that each member brings. We trust in God at work in this process and know that even as we wait, the right candidate is discerning their way toward us. We know we are supported by a Session that ensures that the work of the Church goes on – worship is planned, groups meet to study and pray together, our Deacons care for those in need of support, faithful stewardship of resources happens, we reach out into the community and world in mission, our properties are tended and new opportunities to live the vision and mission of this church are explored. We lean into the support of our congregation, knowing that you will continue to hold the DPNC, the COM, and candidates in your prayers. God is at work, in God's time. We need only to trust the rhythm of grace.



### **Wanted: Your Nature Photos for Worship**

The worship committee has decided to add nature pictures in the worship service during the prelude. Erica Brown has agreed to head this project and collect the pictures from congregation members and she and Keith will add them to the service 1x monthly to start. Pictures can be sent directly to Erica Brown at [emb583@gmail.com](mailto:emb583@gmail.com)

**VISION STATEMENT:** *First Presbyterian Church of Saline will be a Church that seeks to make God's story our story by joyfully growing in faith and serving in love.*

## "Welcoming, Accepting and Affirming All to Be Part of the Story"

Last August, when the Session adopted a Vision and Mission Statement, the understanding was such statements are meant to be living, breathing documents open to change and expansion as new understandings arise. Hypothetical situations initially addressed in generalities, when they face the light of specificity, demand specificity and accompanying language that sharpens the focus on certain issues.

Upon examination, an issue regarding the last point of the church's mission was raised regarding the inadequacy of the word "welcoming" all people to be part of God's story. The point was made that the words "accepting" and "affirming"—and the meaning captured in them—are necessary for all people to truly feel part of the story God would have people entering the life of Saline First Presbyterian might know. To that end, Session voted for the last article of the Vision and Mission Statement to read "Welcoming, accepting and affirming all to be part of the story."

## Clerk's Session Notes - January

*Note: a more detailed version was emailed to the congregation on 1/20/2022*



Due to the surge of COVID Omicron, Session met remotely and the moderator, Rev. Budge Gere opened the meeting with prayer.

The church received a donation of \$400 on the occasion of Margo Cook Strickland's 97th birthday. The Cooks were founding members of First Presbyterian Church of Saline.

Session continues to work on the 2022 budget, and we will present it to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on March 6, 2022. If you haven't turned in your pledge, it's not too late.

The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee continues to work with the Committee on Ministry to gather resumes for their review. Bear with us, it's a slow process but we feel hopeful and look forward to interviewing.

Session would like to thank committees, task forces, and members of the congregation for working together this past year. It has been difficult dealing with the pandemic, and we appreciate everyone cooperating joyfully and with such hope for 2022!

***If you have questions, go to [salinepres.org](http://salinepres.org) and click the "ask Session" button.***

**Session meetings have been very productive with all elders working collaboratively and cohesively. The Session is energized and excited to be guiding the Church through these challenging times!**