



First Press

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Dear Friends,

When does the church celebrate its holiest days? It is interesting. Scripture gives us no clues about when in the seasonal cycle of the year Jesus was born. We are told of a bright star, shining in the east, which guided wise men to find the child who was born to Mary, but there is no biblical basis for our celebration's being on December 25 every year. There is a biblical reason for the date which is chosen each year for the celebration of Easter and for it to move around fairly dramatically from year to year. Scripture records that Jesus' death and resurrection occurred around the time of the Jewish Passover, which was celebrated on the first full moon following the vernal equinox. In the year 325 (Anno Domini or Common Era), a group of Christian leaders was gathered by Roman Emperor Constantine in Nicaea. In addition to the statement we know as the Nicene Creed which declares that Jesus is God (and not a lesser being), the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. Easter is delayed by one week if the full moon is on Sunday, as it is this year. So – our celebration of the Day of Resurrection will be March 27

this year, which is toward the early end of the range when it can possibly fall.

I hope you are receiving our Lenten devotionals and will be with us on each of the Sundays in Lent, as well as for our special services during Holy Week. The significance of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ is heightened by walking with him to Jerusalem, hearing him be betrayed by his closest followers, and marveling at his forgiveness of humankind. God's deep love for us can be demonstrated in no more profound way. Nor can anything rival this event for the hope it gives us that life does not end with death, that even death is powerless before God.

During these days in Lent, may we know the presence of God. In anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, may we turn to God and embrace the hope we are given.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, March 20
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 24
7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25
7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 27

Worship at 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m. – Rev. Dr. Fair will preach at these traditional services held in the Sanctuary. Musical leadership will include the Chancel Choir, brass quintet, organ, and timpani.

Worship at 10:00 a.m. – Worship will be led by Rev. Sanderford in Monteith Hall for those for whom a less-crowded worship experience is preferred. The service will include a sermon and music led by a soloist.



Lenten Opportunities



Peeps and Pizza

Saturday, March 5, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Team up with family and friends in the Social Hall, enjoy a pizza lunch (\$5 per person) and create a Bible story shoe box diorama using Peeps! To participate, pick your favorite Bible story and recreate it in a shoe box diorama using Peeps. First Pres will supply the Peeps, shoe boxes, construction paper, scissors, glue, and some extra crafting supplies. The dioramas will be on display on Sunday morning, March 6 for all to see. Make a reservation for the pizza lunch by calling the Church Office or emailing Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org.

Lenten Email Devotional

Begin each day with a Lenten email devotion. Written by members of all ages, pastors, families, Stephen Ministers, elders, and more, every devotion provides a short reflection and prayer on a scripture related to the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. Sign up by contacting Lisa Haddrill at lhaddrill@firstpresbyterian.org or going to <http://firstpresbyterian.org/daily-devotionals-signup> The devotional will arrive in your inbox daily. It will also be posted each day on the church's Facebook page. Large print copies of the the week's collected Lenten devotionals will be available in the Church Office for those who do not use email.



Lenten Contemplation

We invite all who are interested to join together for a brief time of singing, silence, lectio divina, prayer, and Iona-style responses during the season of Lent. Let's walk with Jesus in his final pilgrimage to the cross, growing more deeply aware of his sacrifice for us and more joined in love with one another. We will meet for 20 to 30 minutes Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in Hillegonds Chapel.

Easter Lilies in Memory or Honor of a Loved One

Donate an Easter Lily to decorate the chancel on Easter Sunday in memory or honor of a loved one. Sign up by March 17 in the Church Office or online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/easter-lilies/> The cost is \$17. After worship, deacons will deliver the lilies to members and friends of our congregation who are ill, grieving, or homebound.



Congregational Life

Hilltoppers Tackles Conservation

Join us on March 10 at noon, in the Social Hall, for "Bringing Conservation to Cities." A hot lunch is just \$5 and precedes our speaker. We will welcome John Hartig, Refuge Manager, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, an award-winning author of conservation science who serves on the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy board of directors. His new book, *Bringing Conservation to Cities*, is the story of building North America's only international wildlife refuge in a nearly seven million person urban area that also represents the automobile capitals of the United States and Canada. There is growing interest in re-connecting urban residents with nature, but most conservationists want to work in pristine areas, and most urban areas are considered too degraded to rank high on conservation priority lists. His talk will offer us a timely and informative exposé of what it takes to foster a conservation ethic in a major urban area – complete with critical lessons learned. The book (\$40) explores the new urban conservation frontier, with its numerous challenges and opportunities, and fosters more urban conservation initiatives throughout the world. Order your copy through Rev. Rogers if you'd like one.



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 13

It's time to "Spring Forward!" Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.



Spring Loaded

Daffodils, nature's gold, will help us celebrate the end of tax filing and the start of spring. On March 17, following the 11:00 a.m. service of worship, the congregation is invited to take daffodils from the Sanctuary and share them, along with a special card prepared just for this purpose. Consider contacting a church member you may not have seen recently, or give the card and flowers to someone else of your choosing. How delightful!

Antiques Appraisal Extravaganza!

On Saturday, April 9, come to a fun, interesting day for folks interested in their antiques and the value of them. (It's a lot like "Antiques Roadshow," but with a Presbyterian Twist.)

Two appraisers from DuMouchelles, the well-known auction house, will be with us at First Pres to give estimates of the value of items brought to the event. Approximately 30 appraisals will be given from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a \$10 fee for each individual appraisal.

Because there is such a wide variety of antiques, people are asked to limit their appraisal items to antique art and collectibles, paintings, lithographs, china, silver, pottery, books, and quilts. Big pieces of furniture or large collections should not be brought to the event. Applications for each appraisal must be made ahead of time and will be available in the Church Office. The cost for each appraisal is \$10. The applications will be considered for appraisal until the 30 appraisal spots are filled. Please carefully wrap or package your item. All appraisals will be verbal, not written. **Appraisal applications will be available on March 6 in the bulletin insert, and in the Church Office after that date.** All antique lovers and collectors are welcome to come to this fun day!

A free lunch will be served from noon to 1:00 p.m. (catered, and provided by Mature Ministries) and the entire event will be held in the Social Hall. This is meant to be a social event and the group will get to hear each evaluation and commentary as it is made. Please register for lunch in the Church Office so we can plan for you. If you are given an appointment, please be sure your antiques are carefully wrapped or packaged. We cannot be responsible for breakage or damage. Be aware that all appraisals are verbal, not written.

We are excited to work with DuMouchelle, enjoy lunch together, and hear - just like on PBS' Antiques Roadshow - the exciting commentary given about your special treasures. Mature Ministries gives special thanks to member and UM Professor Brad Taylor for helping to arrange this cool event! Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 390.



Save the Date – The Annual Women’s Retreat Is On!

This year, the annual women's retreat will be a one-day event, held on Saturday, May 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. Details are still emerging, but please mark your calendar and plan to spend some time with us that day as we explore the theme of Spiritual Memoir. Watch the April edition of *First Press* for more info. Retreat facilitators will be Rev. Rogers, Sandy Talbott, Rev. Ryo, Rev. Béghin, and church members.

Upcoming Quad Potluck Brunches

Quad C Brunch

Please join other members of Quad C (48103 zip code) and their families and friends for the annual Quad C potluck brunch on Sunday, March 6, at noon in the Social Hall. Quad C deacons will be contacting their chapel members to invite you to attend and to ask you to bring either a salad, a vegetable dish, fruit, or dessert. Please join us to meet your fellow chapel members, get to know your deacon and to share fun, fellowship, and a delicious meal! For more information contact Polly Pan at ppan3650@sbcglobal.net.

Quad D Brunch

Please join Quad D families and friends for the annual brunch on Sunday, March 13, at noon in the Social Hall. Quad D includes those members in the 48108 zip code, plus Saline, Chelsea, Brighton, South Lyon, and Whitmore Lake. Chapel members will receive an invitation from their deacons and be asked to bring a salad, vegetable, fruit, or dessert dish to share. Deacons will provide the main dishes. Come and spend time in fellowship with your fellow Chapel members and deacons, and enjoy a delicious meal. For more information, contact Nancy Pflasterer, Quad D Leader, at njpflasterer@comcast.net.



Faith in Action



Russian Baked Goodies for Easter!

The Russia Mission Team will be selling Russian apple cakes and Easter cakes as a fund-raiser for ministry in Davydovo, where the church's summer camp serves special-needs children and their parents. Visit our display as we sponsor Coffee Hour on March 6. Try samples of both cakes and place your orders – \$10.00 prepaid. You may also taste samples and place orders at the Coffee Hour on March 13. Pick up your goodies at the Coffee Hour on March 20.

Connect and Act: Building the Movement for Economic and Racial Justice

March 6, 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Vineyard Church

Do you care about inequality in housing, education, employment, criminal justice, and healthcare in our community? Do you want to learn how you can make a difference through your actions right now? Attend the Connect and Act: Building the Movement for Economic and Racial Justice conference sponsored by our mission partner Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice. One of the speakers will be Shane Claiborne. For more information and to register, visit www.connectandact.org

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering will be accepted during worship on Easter Sunday, March 27. OGHS is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – 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. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. Please give generously.

Dr. Rodney Bentz Recognized for Peacemaking Efforts

Dr. Rodney Bentz was recognized for his long time peacemaking efforts at a service and reception held in his honor on Saturday, February 13, in Monteith Hall. He was honored for helping to



establish and lead the Interdenominational Advocates for Peace and the Pilgrims of Ibillin (the Israel/Palestine Mission Team). The service was attended by members of these organizations, by members of his family, and by other community and congregational friends.

Communion Sunday Food Collection Sunday, March 6

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...” *Matthew 25:35*

In March, First Pres will deliver collected food to Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. Throughout the week, the food programs at HOPE serve families and individuals in need through their onsite Food Pantry and Farmstand. Every Saturday and Sunday they serve a hot meal beginning at 4:00 p.m. to anyone who comes in. Please visit their website (<http://www.thehopeclinic.org/services/food-programs/>) to learn more about their programs. Want to help? First Pres helps HOPE distribute food the first Saturday of every month. Please contact Rohn Federbush to get involved: rohn@comcast.net



Thank You from Washtenaw Community College for February Food Donation

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor,

The staff at the Student Resource Center of Washtenaw Community Center is thankful to you for your overwhelming support of our organization and our students. We are blessed to be able to share your generous donations of food with our students in need.

Forever grateful,

The Student Resource Center Staff

2016 Habitat for Humanity House of Faith

Do you want to learn new construction skills? Do you want to enjoy great fellowship with Christians from First Pres and other area churches? Do you want to create a wonderful home for a Christian family? Sign up to help with the 2016 House of Faith. This year's House of Faith is located at 1222 Clarita, Ypsilanti. The project starts April 1 and runs through June 2. Work days are Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch is provided by area churches. Sign up by emailing Don Redding at dredding58@yahoo.com.



Meet the Riggs Family



Hello, my name is LaKeisha Riggs. I was born in Detroit and lived there for 14 years. I attended Southfield High, class of '01, and moved to Ypsilanti to attend Washtenaw Community College. I graduated with my Associates degree in Applied Science. I am one of three children, with two older brothers. I have two beautiful girls: La'Kya Smith is 13 years old and in eighth grade at Tappan, and La'Naysha Thomas is 8 years old and in second grade at Bryant Elementary. My girls are my world — they are what keep me going. I am employed at Varsity Ford in Ann Arbor in the Collision Center. I have been with Varsity for almost two years. I enjoy cars. I think I get that from my father. He still works at Chrysler Headquarters, going on almost 40 years. Coming from a close knit family, my upbringing was very special to me. I promised myself that my children will be brought up with the utmost respect and spiritual guidance. My dream has always been to own my home and take care of my family. Just the thought in itself is amazing, a place to call my own HOME. My girls having their own room has been a long time coming. It is pretty awesome to me. As a family, we enjoy movies, dancing, and sometimes just relaxing. La'Kya plays a variety of sports. La'Naysha has been involved with Girl Scouts for a couple of years and enjoys reading and dancing. We pray together day and night and we know that each day we are given is a blessing. Being a part of the Habitat for Humanity Family is definitely a blessing for my family.

Food Rescue Thank You

Second Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit

Greetings,

First and foremost, Happy New Year to you and yours; I pray that this letter finds you in peace and in good health. Jay, thank you sir for allowing Don Redding to do what he did for our Food Ministry. I believe it was God's Will that we were blessed in this manner. God truly hears and answers prayers; your generosity was directed towards our local church and community at large. Thank you for the food you gave us, it was appreciated. It made the difference in the lives of so many people, as it allowed us to connect church and community. Don Redding and his helpers were a blessing to work with, if only you could have seen the joy on the faces of those who came to receive the food.

Through your kindness today, we can look for a brighter tomorrow, and this is possible because of people like yourself. Thank you for helping us keep that Hope-Dream-Vision alive. You will forever be in our hearts, our minds, and especially in our prayers. We can't say thank you enough, as you know God will never let faithfulness go unrewarded. We pray that God will be as kind to you and your church family, as you have been kind to us. May God Bless you and Keep You. Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joe N. Edwards and the Second Mt. Carmel M.B.C. Family



February Update from the Ludwigs

Our Mission Co-Workers in Niger

In general, the political tensions are high. Despite an attempted coup in December, things have gone relatively smoothly so far. We hope they continue peacefully through the first ballot on February 21. We've had the chance to hear and see how the gifts that churches and individuals gave through the PC(USA) for re-building and for evangelism programs are being used. In addition, we continue working on Community Health Evangelism. Michael's work on language learning has intensified in the past few weeks with spending more time out in conversations at different places where people gather, from card games to artisan workshops.

Pray with us!

- For peace and stability in Niger through the upcoming political events
- For wisdom and guidance for the training plans
- For our family as we continue the adoption process and all the adjustments that will come with that
- For the stress our guard's family is under and our relationship with them

Philippines Book, Bake, and Reuse Items Sale

Donate items you no longer need to the Philippines Mission Team for the annual Book, Bake, and Reuse Items sale! Drop off donations in the Social Hall on Thursday, April 21, 5:00-9:00 p.m. and Friday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Suggested items include books, linens, costume jewelry, kitchenware, dinnerware, tools, dishes, antiques, framed prints, children's clothing, sports gear, pottery, etc. We cannot accept adult clothing, old computers, large appliances, large furniture, or exercise equipment. On April 23 come back and go shopping in the Social Hall from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Questions? Need pick up help, or need to drop off donations early? Contact Joe Schmidt at 417-4921 or jschmidt@reinhartrealtors.com, or Hank McQueen at 769-1793.



Mission (Re)Imagined Conference Follow-up

Thank you to all who attended this important first step in examining and re-imagining local and international mission at First Pres! On Friday morning we heard from each mission team, shared stories and lessons learned. After lunch we visited the Delonis Center/Community Kitchen, then toured "before and after" Habitat for Humanity houses in Ypsilanti. Saturday morning we enjoyed hearing and discussing presentations by our guest facilitator Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick. Lunch was an amazing variety of soups provided by the Philippines Mission Team. We finished our time together trying to delineate, distill and dream about where God is leading us.



The Mission (Re)Imagined committee members are Rev. Jay Sanderford, Angela Ryo, Helena Price (Chair, FPC Missions), Martha Kershaw (Co-Chair Local Missions), Bob Wallin (Chair, Philippines Team), Carol Smith (Nicaragua Team), and Don Redding. Our next objective is to discern the core values that First Pres Mission will embody. In addition to examining the conference notes, the committee has studied FPC's 2010 Self Study, and PCUSA's mission documents. Individuals and groups are being consulted as we go through the process to make sure the committee fully understands various concerns and viewpoints. This is a difficult task since there are many objectives and opinions that need prayerful consideration and discussion to really understand. The committee hopes to present its findings and host another conversation in May. Please keep this group in your prayers as they try to understand our vision for Mission at First Pres.



Adult Education

Adult Education on Sundays @ 9:30 A.M.



The Bible @ 9:30 - March 6 - 20 in the French Room/Library

Bible Exploration and Conversation.

The Bible at 9:30 continues an intriguing study of the Gospel of John. Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter.

There will be no class on Easter, March 27

First Couples - March 6 - 20 in Monteith Hall

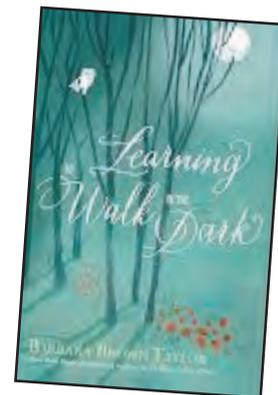
Spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals. Presenters are class members.

March 6 - Mission: Presentation on Local Missions

March 13 - Living the Question - Resurrection

March 20 - *Learning to Walk in the Dark* - Barbara Brown Taylor

There will be no class on Easter, March 27.



Adult Education on Sundays @ 11:00 A.M.

Common Ground - March 6 - 20 in the Lewis Room

March 6 - 20 Class schedule is being confirmed. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information. There will be no class on Easter, March 27.

Exploring the Faith - March 6 - 20 in Monteith Hall

March 6 - *Change of Heart: Justice, Mercy and Making Peace with My Sister's Killer*

A conversation about justice, mercy, and forgiveness led by Rev. Jay Sanderford and other presenters.

Sunday, March 13 - *Medicine for the Soul of a Broken City: Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project*

Dr. Bradley Taylor, Presenter

Sunday, March 20 - *Inextinguishable: The Social Impact of the Heidelberg Project*

Dr. Bradley Taylor, Presenter

No Class on Easter, March 27



Special Event: Thursday, March 31 – Heidelberg Project

Take an inside look at Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project in Detroit. It will close soon and this will be your last chance to see it. All are welcome to join us for a special tour of the Heidelberg Project with Tyree Guyton, creator, and UM's Dr. Bradley Taylor. Join Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Rev. Jay Sanderford, and First Pres friends for a tour, then lunch at The Traffic Jam. Bus Transportation will be provided. Leave First Pres at 9:00 a.m and return by 3:00 p.m. Cover the cost of your lunch and we'll do the rest. Sign ups are limited! Reserve your spot with Rev. Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



Opportunities for Women

PW March Gathering - Christians and Racism

Please join Presbyterian Women on March 16 at 11:00 a.m. for "What We as Christians Can Do to Impact a Change on Racism," presented by Rev. Dr. Stephen Murray, President of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. An ordained minister, Dr. Murray has pastored churches, served as the chaplain and lecturer at at Harvard University and Divinity School, Yale University, Union Theological Seminary, and Auburn Theological Seminary. He has published numerous books and is a much sought-after speaker. All are encouraged to attend and bring guests for this meaningful and hopeful presentation. Lunch follows the program. (If you will be staying for the meal, please make your reservation in the Church Office.)



Financial Stewardship

Legacy Partners and Planned Giving

What is a Legacy Partner? It is any member or friend of First Presbyterian Church who includes the Church in his/her estate plans with a planned gift that will come to the church in the future. Downs and Sandy Herold have this to say about their decision to become Legacy Partners:

"The Church has played major roles in our lives and it was an easy decision to include bequests to First Pres in our estate plans. We are grateful that we have been fortunate to have resources for our bequests and see our commitment as a way to help First Pres continue to be an active community in Christ long after our ashes are interred in the Memorial Garden."

For more information about planned giving, call the Church Office or visit Legacy Partners/Planned Gifts at www.firstpresbyterian.org.



"The Church has played major roles in our lives and it was an easy decision to include bequests to First Pres in our estate plans."
— Downs and Sandy Herold

Legacy Partners
Sharing Blessings of a
Lifetime with Generations
to Come



Legacy Partners and Planned Giving
The church's future is our future
Call 313.487.1234



Children & Families



First Pres Goes to Camp Westminster July 31- August 6

First Pres children currently in second - eighth grade are eligible to go to Camp Westminster this summer! Camp Westminster is a Presbyterian camp on Higgins Lake 200 miles north of Ann Arbor. Brochures and pre-registration forms have been mailed to each home or you can fill out a preregister online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/camp-westminster-preregistration-form/> Complete camp registration by March 15 to receive a modest discount in camp fees. Questions? Contact Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org, or Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org



NEW! High Schoolers Can Go to Camp Westminster!

New this year! Camp Westminster is offering three great opportunities for high schoolers July 31 to August 6, the same week First Pres goes to camp. Those options include:

- An Upper Peninsula Expedition to Pictured Rocks
- A Sailing Regatta
- Leadership Skills Development (tenth grade complete and older)



Unlike the elementary/middle school camp registration, an access code is not needed to register for the high school options. Just go directly to www.campwestminster.com and complete the registration. There is a modest savings on camp fees if you register by March 15. Questions? Contact Debbie MacVey, at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org

Summer Vacation Bible School – Marketplace 29 A.D.

Mark your calendars! Summer Vacation Bible School is Tuesday, June 21 – Thursday, June 23, from 9:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m. For three days, children who have completed Kindergarten through fifth grade will experience what life was like when Jesus lived. Participants will visit the arts and craft shops of the Marketplace, travel to the Story Teller’s tent, witness events in Jesus’ life re-acted by our street players, and play games at the Jerusalem playground. Join us for a great Bible time experience, and invite a friend! Registration forms will be mailed to homes shortly or visit www.firstpresbyterian.org, Search “Vacation Bible School.” There are many adult, middle schooler, and high schooler volunteer opportunities. Questions? Contact Deborah MacVey at admacy@firstpresbyterian.org or Cindy King at cking@firstpresbyterian.org.



Thank You from House by the Side of the Road

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you very much for your recent gift of a combination of new men’s, women’s, and children’s undergarments to the House by the Side of the Road. Your commitment to our mission is truly admirable. We, here at the “House,” and the recipients, greatly appreciate your generosity.

We are leading the fight against injustice towards the homeless and the people who have fallen on hard economic times. Because of the active engagement of people like you, your generosity supplies these basic needs to them FREE of cost. We are proud to say the House by the Side of the Road has championed the cause of fighting for the less fortunate for over 40 years. We continue to provide for those in need FREE of charge because of supporters like you. You truly understand that the fight for love and compassion and to accept others without judgement is ongoing. We, along with our supporters, are dedicated 365 days a year to see that every man, woman, and child is clothed in Washtenaw County. We welcome all people to love, all people to serve, and all people to do the best they can. I encourage you to visit our website, www.housebythesideoftheroad.org for updates on the “House” work and victories made possible by your support.

Once again, from the heart, thank you for marching forward with us.

Raycean Hunter, Director