



105 E. Main
Street

Ionia, MI
48846

Service

11:00 am

www.ioniafirst.com

616-527-1860

**May
2024
Newsletter**



THE PASTOR'S PEN

Ionia First

May 2024

God's People,

Here we are in the merry, merry month of May. What comes to mind when you think of May? Mother's Day? Flowers? Showers? Baseball? Backyard gatherings? Parades? Pentecost? Memorial Day?

Perhaps birthdays, anniversaries, or graduations?

For some it may mean getting out on the motorcycle. For others it may mean extra effort is needed while driving to watch out for motorcycles. And for still others, the farmers, it means getting the tractor and other farm implements out to get some work done. For others, it may mean getting behind a slow-moving piece of farm equipment.

To be certain, there is a lot happening in the month of May and let us not lose sight of who gave these things and more into our lives. It is a time to remember that we are not alone in this world, and that we are commanded by God to love one another and live together in harmony.

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Continuation of “The Pastor’s Pen”

Let us not lose sight of the things that God has provided for us and while doing so, not lose sight of the fact that we are to utilize and enjoy those gifts together. Let us be the best we can be while doing our very best to help others be the best they can be as well.

In His Service,

Pastor Terry

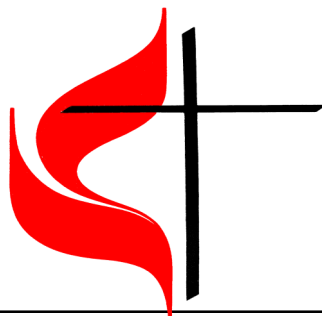


May 27, 2024

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Traditional Worship
Communion Every Sunday
Sunday Morning

Coffee Hour 10:00

Service at 11:00



Administration Board Report

Flyers have been circulated with notice of the Brian Brill and Friends Springtime Concert to be held at Ionia First United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 5th at 2 p.m. with refreshments to follow.

This is a follow up to that notice. Here is a short reminder of Brian's ties to Ionia First .

The entire family of Charles and Marilyn Brill were active members of Ionia First, with Marilyn being Choir Director and Charles singing in the Choir. He was also the director of the Ionia High School Marching Band, and Marilyn was director of the music for numerous IHS play productions. Brian's brother, Tom, was also an instructor of the IHS band program.

Brian Brill graduated from Ionia High School with the Class of 1977. he is a pianist and two-time Emmy Award winning composer who has written original music and film scores for PBS Television, CBS Sports, and the Discovery Channel. He also continues to produce music for national and regional radio and TV ADS. Among his personal recordings is the "Wesley Project", a cinematic approach to the hymns of Charles Westley featuring piano, strings flute and handbells. Brian and his wife Ann have lived in Chelsea, Michigan, since 1987. He is an active accompanist at Chelsea First United Methodist Church.

Ionia First is always proud to have our former members return and visit. Tickets for the May 5th Concert are available in the Church office, 616-527-1860 or from Linda Ciangi at 616-527-4945. The cost is \$10 each in advance and \$15 at the door. Proceeds from the Concert will go to the Church General Fund.

**Linda Ciangi,
Ad. Board Chair**

Missions

This month of March, our church has supported the Ionia Habitat for Humanity. The newest recipient in Ionia County for a new home is Michelle Cole. She has two children and she will be helping the local volunteers build her new home. She and her girls are from Lake Odessa. This is where your money goes and it also supports the local Restore in Ionia.

For May, our monies go to another important mission: The IAm Safe Child Advocacy Center in Ionia and Montcalm Counties. The Advocacy group is there to protect the children of both Ionia and Montcalm Counties. Most of us do not want to know the number of children who are victims of abuse, trafficking, and exploitation over the internet. The agency costs are about \$1,250 for each child to go through the interview process, medical examinations, and therapy. Again, this agency provides a much-needed process for the two counties. You may recognize members of the board Sheriffs of both counties and Kyle Butler, president. Pray for this group as they have many challenges.

Jan

SPRC -

Jan Powell

Last week the Staff Pastor Relations Committee met with Pastor John Kasper to be introduced to our new minister as of July 1 of this year. We were able to discuss the needs of our church with Reverend Lamarr Gibson and his wife Linda. The couple reside in Grand Rapids. Lararr has been preaching for some time in Wisconsin and is now retired. Both Lamarr and Linda are very well educated. I know that I am looking forward to all the stories he can tell us of his ministry. Please hold them and their family in prayer as he makes the transition to Easton and Ionia First.

Terry will be with us until the middle of June. He has commitments with the conference. Also, it is customary for both our and his new assignment to give him transition time. Pray for Terry and his new assignment. We at First trust that God will give us Grace, and we will be faithful that the Holy Spirit will lead us into the future. During Terry's absence we will have Eric and Two other lay speakers with us.

The committee is still looking for some one to help Joel with all of the technology. So far, our search has not been fruitful. If you know of anyone who could help us out, call the church or me We thank Joel and Andrew for their faithful service.

Our custodian, David, is also doing an amazing job keeping the church clean and helping in just about any way that he can. He is amazing.

Sari, Ann and A.J. continue to bring us beautiful music on Sundays.

Lastly, I would like to thank the S.P.R.C. for all their hard work. They are Rebecca Brown, Roxie Stiles, Virginia Washburn and Ann Felice.

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 5:14

Trustee News

We will be replacing the carpet in the office starting on May 6, 2024 which is a Monday. The install time will be approximately 3 days. Please have patience. We will be clearing out anything moveable from the office starting on Saturday, May 4. We will be starting sometime around 9:00 a.m. We will be having the office painted starting on April 29, 2024. We will have the office open, but will be working around renovation.

Plumbers have completed their work and everything seems to be working. All the stools and sinks now are compliant with ADA standards. The problems with slow draining of the sinks have been addressed.

The electrical system will be up graded starting April 29, 2024 and that should take approximately 3 days. By fixing and replacing lights especially in the kitchen area, we should cut down considerably on our electrical usage.

If you see anything which needs attention please let me know. We are doing our best to repair and replace needed items, but sometimes we overlook things that just do not catch our attention.

Trustee meetings are on the [First Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.](#) Everyone is invited. May's Meeting is the 1st.

See you in Church, Be Safe

Joe

Community Drawers News

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have been able to enjoy some of our pretty spring-like days. I just wish the weather would make up its mind. That sounds like I am from Michigan. I cannot make up my mind just like Mother Nature.

I would like to thank everyone who worked in Community Drawers in April. We had a total of 9 families, several were quite large. We were also able to help 1 family that the social workers brought to us on a day that we were not open, however I was in the office and Community Drawers came forward and said of course we can help. It is so very good for all of our hearts to be able to help our neighbors.

I would really like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped in so many ways on Thursday, April 24, as we served a funeral luncheon to an out of town family who was so very grateful that we could assist them during their time of sorrow. Thanks everybody!

We have finally heard back from Meijer about our request for a grant and they did grant us a \$1,500 grant which will really help Community Drawers. We purchased a lot of our basic toiletries and detergents at Meijer so thanks Meijer.

I am sure most of you know that I volunteer in the office during the week here at First Church and I would like to remind everyone that the office will be closed May 6-10 due to painting and new carpet being installed, so even if you have access to the building and the offices please stay out until the work has been completed Thank you.

Have a wonderful Mother's Day and please remember to bring a blanket on May 26th, any size other than crib, and please no wool. Either new or very gently used blankets in honor of our Moms and Dads who kept us safe and warm when we were kids.

Take Care,

Rebecca Brown, Chairperson Community Drawers,

Reminders

IM KIDS 3rd Meal

- This is an ongoing mission. We are helping to feed over 860 kids each day for their third meal. They are accepting the following items:
 - Peanut butter
 - Jelly or jam
 - Fruit bars
 - Applesauce cups
 - Fruit boxes
 - Snack packs
 - Juice boxes - must be 100 % juice
 - Dry cereal
 - Brown paper lunch bags
- **Please Help fill the two Front Pews of our Church. We will deliver it to where it needs to go.**



IM SAFE CAC

Ionia Montcalm Secure and Friendly Environment
Child Advocacy Center

May Birthdays

Ethel Clark	15
Jim Stout	22
Sari Mercer	27
Ann Felice	29



May Liturgists

05	Jan Powell
12	Eric Asher
19	Rebecca Brown
26	Deanna Hotchkin

Prayer Requests

Brent Spencer - Airforce

Phil Kahl
Roberta Sterner
Ethel Clark & Family

Please send prayer requests to
616-527-1860 or Email to
Bluebirdm66@yahoo.com



May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Trustee @ 10:00 am	2 Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m.	3	4 Get office ready for renovation
5 Brian Brill Concert 2:00	6 Office Closed due to renova- tion	7 Office Closed due to renova- tion	8 Office Closed due to renova- tion	9 Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m. Office Closed due to renovation	10 Office Closed due to renova- tion	11
12 Noisy Offering Mothers Day	13	14 Moms support group 7:00	15 1:30 to 4:30 - Community Drawers	16 Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m.	17 !	18
19 Mission Sunday	20	21	22	23 .Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m. AD Board Meeting 6:00 p.m	24	25
26 Blue Water Café Blanket Sunday	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 Moms support group 7:00 DEADLINE FOR NEWS LETTER ITEMS	29	30 Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m.	31 Annual Con- ference starts	

Finance Report, March 2024
Remaining Balances as of 03/31/2024
Special Funds (Designated Giving)

Memorial fund	1,879.16
Board of Trustees	30,105.97
Children's Ministry	8,099.48
Camp & School Scholarships	1,777.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	373.70
Community Drawers	1,984.49
Music on the Green	1,898.19
Holiday Concert	3,823.99
Monthly Mission	915.00
General Evangelism	5,541.46
General Outreach	4,708.14
Funeral/Wedding/Flowers	130.04
IM Kids 3rd Meal	200.00

General Fund (Church Budget)

Income	4,333.50
Expenses	9,744.35
Surplus (Deficit)	(5,410.85)
Ending Bank Balance	5142.09

