



Pickford Presbyterian Pages

From the Pastor...

As my time here in Pickford begins to come to an end, I've found myself beginning to think in terms of last or final things. Thoughts such as: "this is the last time I'll preside at the communion table in Pickford;" "this is the final newsletter article I will write;" and so on. There are more lasts coming—last session meeting, final time leading worship here, final visits with people, and many more.

But I've found that thinking of the final things has also led me to remember the first things. The first time I presided at the communion table. The first worship service I led here, coming as a candidate to be your Pastor. The first newsletter article. The first visits that I had with people. The first session meeting. And the many other firsts that I experienced in my vocation as a pastor.

I treasure those moments, those experiences. They mean so much to me as it is all those different times that helped me learn what it meant to be a pastor and how I would grow into my calling and role. It is because of the joy I found in becoming a pastor and the love that I share for all of you and my time here, that I grieve my leaving. Even as I work to trust where God is leading me, I feel deep sadness to be leaving all of you.

Becca Stevens, an Episcopal priest, helped me more fully understand this grief, with a story she told for *The Moth: True Stories Told Live*. The story is about Goldie, the Goldfish and you can listen to the entire story here:

<https://themoth.org/stories/goldie-the-goldfish>. I'm going to summarize it and the end of it as that's when I had my aha moment.

The Stevens family is away on vacation and Becca gets a call that their goldfish, Goldie, has died. The family seems to take it in stride—they'd had her awhile, of course Goldie had finally died. But Becca finds herself undone by Goldie's death. She speaks of going out to walk on the beach and crying, weeping really, over the death of this goldfish and this weeping surprises her. She's dealt with a lot of death and grief in her life and here she is, undone by the death of a goldfish. So, she sits down on the beach and begins to examine why she is so upset.

In her honesty with herself, she realizes that she is not just grieving Goldie's death but that she's "also grieving the fact that Goldie was the one thing that helped her hang on to being a mom to young kids...with the death of Goldie she was saying goodbye to everything it meant to mother young children". Goldie reminded her of how childhoods pass by so quickly and grief is one beautiful way of saying thank you, I loved you. Grieving Goldie's death allowed Becca to acknowledge the growth of her children and to say to them, "Thank you. I loved being a mom to you. I miss it and I'm so proud of you."

Continued on Page 2...

September 2018
Volume 28, Issue 9

Inside this issue:

Things to Note

Back to School
Blessings

Sunday Rotations

Financial Updates

Birthdays &
Anniversaries

OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Thursday
starting @ 8:30 a.m.

...Continued from Page 1

Grief has all these different dimensions to it. In my grief over leaving Pickford, especially after listening to the story of Goldie, the Goldfish, I've realized another layer of my grief is leaving behind all the firsts we experienced together. I will never again be a new pastor in the same way that I was when I came here. There will be firsts in new locations, but never again will there be firsts of my time as a pastor; the first time I ever presided at the communion table, or the first funeral in my career. I remember all these firsts as the reality of the lasts continues to creep ever closer, and I grieve.

So, I want to say thank you. Thank you so very much. I loved being your pastor, being welcomed as a brand-new pastor, and I'm going to miss it and all of you.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jessica

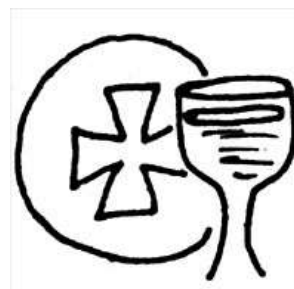
Things to Note...

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - COMMUNION DATES

Following are the communion dates for the rest of 2018:

Sunday, October 7th (World Communion)

Sunday, November 25th (Christ the King Sunday)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women will resume their regular meetings commencing Thursday, September 6th at 12:30 p.m. Dessert will be provided.

RECEPTION AND LUNCH

After 5 years of service to Pickford Presbyterian Church, Pastor Jessica has announced her resignation with her last day being Sunday, September 16th. We will thank Pastor Jessica for her service to the church on Sunday, September 16th with a reception and lunch following church service.

DAILY BREAD

The fall edition of *The Daily Bread* is now available in the literature rack.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS!

Bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, September 9th! Everyone attending school and carrying a backpack is invited to bring their backpack on that Sunday. During the service we will be asking a blessing on all of the backpacks. Get your backpack ready to go early that weekend and bring it with you on Sunday, September 9th.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS: Your church family loves to stay in touch with you during the school year. Please provide your college address and e-mail address to receive the newsletter and other notes of encouragement. Also, if you were awarded a scholarship, don't forget to submit your verification of enrollment to Pastor Jessica (because of her leaving, it's recommended you do this before September 12th).



IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to the family of Pat Newland.

SUNDAY MORNING ROTATIONS

*Thank
You*

Date	Liturgists	Greeters	Ushers	Nursery
9/2/2018	R.B. Smith	Paul & Cheryl Harrison	Arlene Portice & Elaine Slater	Kristin Taylor
9/9/2018	Cindy Smith	Emory & Judy Schwiderson	Jim Quinnell & Don Stevenson	Carol Wallis
9/16/2018	Dick Morrison	Jim & Karen Rye	Tim Storey	Denice Portice
9/23/2018	Pat Hunter	Chuck & Mary Jane Bennin	Bob Rye & Family	Cheryl Harrison
9/30/2018	Bob Slater	Jodi Soeltner & Denice Portice	Bill & Curt Beacom	Mandy Stec

FINANCIAL UPDATES:

As of July 31, 2018							
	Operating			Sunday			
	Fund	Investments	PI – Regular	PI – Roof	School	Youth	Memorial
Cash on hand	44,373.98	12,000.00	12,035.58	19,521.26	358.49	495.43	6,828.72
Income	12,314.25	0.00	390.54	35.85	145.00	0.00	0.31
Expenses	10,789.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	(50.00)	0.00	0.00
Ending Bal	45,898.86	12,000.00	12,426.12	19,557.11	453.49	495.43	6,829.03

Three Lakes Lay Academy Fall 2018 Class Offerings

Schedule:

Thursdays from September 13, 2018 – October 25, 2018

4:00 pm – **The Varieties of Ministry** – September 13, 20, & 27

A survey of ministry including youth, outreach, and fellowship

Liturgy and Worship – October 4, 11, 18, 25

What is liturgy and how does it work in a vital church setting

5:30 pm – Shared meal 6:00 pm – Shared Devotions

6:30 pm – **Organizing a Congregation for Ministry** – 7 weeks

What does a healthy congregation look like and how does that congregation explore ways to engage the wider world

8:00 pm – Depart

Classes this fall will be team taught by Pastor Dave Van Dam, retired Presbyterian Pastor living in Petoskey, MI, and Pastor David Tielbar, Lutheran Pastor at St. Ignace, and Brevort, MI. All classes held at: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 950 Huron St, St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906-643-7870). Each class is \$10 for the term. Students may be required to purchase books. Scholarships are available.

Please pre-register with David Van Dam, 231-838-9128, davidvandam68@gmail.com or with David Tielbar, 906-643-7870, david.tielbar6@gmail.com before September 8, 2017 to make sure you can get books by the first class! For information also contact either one of the David's or see www.presbymac.org and find Three Lakes Lay Academy under "quick links."

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARIES



9/1 Justin Dickinson
Chris Schmitigal
Jodi Soeltner
Emma Van Blaricum
9/3 Jared Blumenthal
9/4 Cindy Bell Fountain
Stanley Kennedy
Brianna Slater
9/5 Fred Rye, Sr.
Tom Taylor
9/6 Tom Michalski
Madison Thurmes
Lily Hudson
9/7 Kimberly Boucher
Gabryelle Fountain
9/8 Emilianna Madar
David Halsey
9/9 Carl Morrison
9/11 David Slater
Sharon Beacom

9/12 Sarah Halsey
Stacey Storey
9/13 Ella Rye
Bob Rye
9/14 Ricky Fountain
Kaye Lucius
Kailea Rye
9/15 Adrienne Zabetha
9/16 Jeanne Bennin
Connor Masters
9/18 Wendy Halsey
9/19 Lisa Hurlburt
Cindy Smith

9/20 Don Slater
9/21 Kaitlin Tasma
9/23 Mike Burnaby
Daniel Clancy
9/24 Jessica Steele-Osborn
Joshua Wigley
Brett Zimmerman
9/25 Rhoda Beacom
9/26 Shirley Crawford
9/27 Angie Spencer
9/28 Declan Bremer
Clara Hillock
Sally Rye
9/29 Aaron Lucius
Travis Michalski
Linda Schmitigal-Snyder
Cathy Smith
Sydney Smith
9/30 Jenny Gough
Luke Hamilton
Adam Pancheri



9/1 Paul & Sandy Boucher
9/9 Jim & Kaye Lucius
9/10 Randy & Joanne Waybrant
9/12 Jim & Lori Doyle
Cal & Roberta Hall

9/14 Chris & Micki Schmitigal
9/19 Andy & Michelle Raden
9/23 Mike & Sandie Quinnell
9/24 Matt & Stacy Storey
9/25 Don & Patty Stevenson
9/27 Ray & Delores Dodds

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let Jessica Bjunes know.

Pickford Presbyterian Church
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ppc@centurytel.net
pickfordpresbyterian.org

Church Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.



Memory...is the diary that we all
carry about with us.

- Oscar Wilde