



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
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Dear Friends,

With February comes the season of Lent, upon us earlier this year than last. We begin this somber time of self-examination and repentance with Ash Wednesday, February 10. This year, in addition to our traditional family-friendly service at 5:00 p.m. and our ecumenical Taizé service at 7:30 p.m., we will be offering the imposition of ashes in Monteith Hall between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Stop by on your way to school or work or the coffee shop for a few moments of personal prayer and reflection. There will not be a formal service but you will be able to receive ashes and a blessing.

The wonderful Hebrew word that is closely associated with Lent is shub. It literally means “to turn.” Lent challenges us to turn from the ways of sin and to turn to God. Are there areas in your life where you need to reverse course, to turn 180 degrees, to reorient yourself toward God and living in a Christ-like way? Lent focuses our attention on the issues that separate us from God and one another.

On February 28 we have an opportunity to hear and learn from Jeanne Bishop, an attorney in the Cook County (Illinois) Public Defenders’ Office. Jeanne is a Presbyterian with a powerful story of turning from anger to reconciliation. Her sister and brother-in-law were murdered while expecting their first child. The teenager who confessed to the crime was the child of a couple that Jeanne’s parents knew. Jeanne has

written *Change of Heart: Justice, Mercy, and Making Peace with My Sister’s Killer*. Copies may be purchased through the Church Office for \$12. Our senior high youth will spend an hour with Jeanne on Sunday morning (February 28) and she will present to the congregation at 4:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. we will close our time together with a brief service of Healing and Hope. I hope you will make plans to attend and will invite others. Jeanne’s inspirational story will be especially powerful for those who struggle to forgive and who work for justice. How do we as Christians accept our humanity and our need to be who God calls us to be? Is genuine forgiveness possible? How can both justice and mercy prevail? It is especially appropriate to consider these difficult questions during Lent. Engaging them as a congregation will give us all the advantage of many perspectives.

During these cold, dark days of winter, know the Light has come into the world. Trust in God’s presence among us. Give thanks for God’s goodness and for the blessing of this faith community.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



Communion Sunday Food Collection

February’s Communion Sunday Food Collection on February 7 is sponsored by Youth Ministry and will benefit the Washtenaw Community College Emergency Food Bank. According to the WCC website, “College is hard enough without having to worry about where your next meal is coming from. That’s why the Student Resource Center (SRC) at Washtenaw Community College operates an emergency food pantry for students in need. The emergency food pantry provides some much-needed relief for students facing academic and financial barriers, including basic needs such as food and hygiene products. In the past two years alone, nearly 2,100 pounds of food and hygiene products have been donated to students.”



Lenten Opportunities

Lent Begins February 10

Journey to Jerusalem: Lent 2016

During this season of Lent we will explore the theme of journeying. We will journey inward to the heart of the Christian story around Jesus' own life and death. In Eastertide, we will join the disciples in journeying outward into the world, sharing the good news that we have discovered. This Lent, what practices of journeying can we undertake together? For some in our congregation, it is the Christian practice of pilgrimage. For others it may be a labyrinth or a prayer walk into areas that are in need of healing. Join our church family as we journey together this Lent and Eastertide.

Lenten Scripture

February 14	Luke 4:1-13	The Temptation of Jesus
February 21	Mark 8:27-38	Peter's Declaration about Jesus
February 28	Luke 13:1-9	Repent or Perish
March 6	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	The Prodigal Son
March 13	John 12:1-8	Mary Anoints Jesus
March 20	Luke 19:28-40	Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
March 24	John 13:1-17	Jesus Washing the Feet of the Disciples



February 10 – Ash Wednesday Supper and Worship



- Imposition of Ashes - 7:30 a.m. in Monteith Hall**
 Are you unable to make it to an evening worship service? Drop in Monteith Hall on Ash Wednesday between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. for a time of reflective meditation that includes imposition of ashes. A devotional resource will be available for personal use.
- Family Ash Wednesday Worship - 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**
 This family-friendly service includes the imposition of ashes, communion, and the musical leadership of the Children's Choir.
- Ash Wednesday Supper - 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall**
 Enjoy Ash Wednesday supper before or after worship. The cost of the dinner is included if you have already paid for the Wednesday@First winter semester. If you plan to attend but have not yet registered the cost is \$7 per person if you sign up and pay by Monday, February 8. If you pay at the door the cost is \$9 per person. Register online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/wednesdayfirst/> or call the Church Office at 662-4466.
- Taizé Ash Wednesday Worship - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**
 This ecumenical service includes prayer, scripture, silent reflection, imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, and music from the Ecumenical Community of Taizé, France.

Lenten Email Devotional Focuses

The Last 24 Hours of Jesus' Life

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 come to your inbox daily starting Ash Wednesday, February 10. It will also be posted each day on the church's Facebook page. Large print copies of the collected Lenten devotionals will be available on a weekly basis outside the Church Office, beginning Ash Wednesday, for those who do not use email.

Holy Week Worship

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

Maundy Thursday - March 24
10:30 a.m. at Glacier Hills
& 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - March 25
7:00 p.m.

Easter - March 27
8:00, 9:30, 10:00, & 11:00 a.m.



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 beginning Friday, February 12.

Peeps and Pizza Fair – A Lenten Event for All Ages!

Team up with family and friends on Saturday, March 5, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall, enjoy a pizza lunch together (\$5 per person) and create your own Bible story shoe box diorama using Peeps! To participate, pick your favorite Bible story, think about how you might recreate it in a shoe box diorama using Peeps and any other materials you might like. First Pres will supply the Peeps, shoe boxes, construction paper, scissors, glue, and some extra crafting supplies. Bring extra things for decorating if you wish – gummy worms, fabric, plant material, etc. 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 Bible Study Opportunities

- **Glacier Hills Lenten Bible Study** - All are invited to attend a Lenten Bible study at Glacier Hills on Tuesdays, February 9 - March 22, at 10:30 a.m. in the Interfaith Chapel. Bring a Bible and a friend and explore Lenten scripture together! Questions? Contact Rev. Béghin, 662-4466, ext. 355 or ebeghin@firstpresbyterian.org for more information.
- **T2A2 Bible Study** - T2A2 Does Bible will be doing a Lenten Bible Study on Sundays at noon from February 14 - March 20. If you are in your 20's or 30's, please join us as we walk through some thought-provoking, challenging, and inspirational Lenten passages together.

T2A2 & Immature Ministries Lenten Fellowship

T2A2 (20's and 30's) and Immature Ministries (40's and 50's) will meet together during Lent on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for fellowship and conversations about faith and life. The kick-off is Fat Tuesday, February 9 at Hop Cat. Check your email for future meeting locations. Questions? Contact Sandy at stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org.

The Way Is Made by Walking

An Introduction to Labyrinths

Join the Exploring the Faith adult education class on February 28 and March 6 at 11:00 a.m. to explore the power of walking and the spiritual experience of a labyrinth. "The Way Is Made by Walking, An Introduction to Labyrinths" explores the deep connections of moving with and toward the Holy, and will deepen your practice of faith. Our congregation will have the opportunity to walk a labyrinth at First Pres with a certified labyrinth facilitator on both Sundays.





Transitions



We Regret to Report:

Lynnette Conner, our fabulous Finance Manager, will be leaving First Pres in mid-February to accept a position at Plante Moran.

We Celebrate the Marriage of:

Sara McAdory and Jaymin Kim, January 16
Hillary Clark and Craig LeVasseur, January 16

We Grieve the Death of:

Ted Trimble, January 4
David Pollock, Sr., January 7



Congregational Life

Start Your Mondays with Faith

The First Pres “Happy Day Believers” begin the week with a hearty breakfast and stimulating Bible conversation on Mondays, 7:30 a.m., at Benny’s Restaurant (1952 S. Industrial Highway). They hope to add smiles to the size of their group. Presently they are studying the Gospel of John. For more information, contact Ralph Winter at 734.429.2433 or popparalph@gmail.com.



*(Left to right) - Olivier Jolliet, Ralph Winter, Henry (Hank) McQueen, and Dale Leslie
Absent: Philip Carrott*

Serving Communion: Get Trained!

If you are an ordained elder or deacon, you can be trained to serve communion! Join us at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 7, in the Sanctuary. It is a nice refresher for people who served in the past and are willing to serve again. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



Saturday Suppers returns!

The first Saturday Suppers of the year will be held on Saturday, February 13. Hosted by church members, these in-home pot luck suppers are a great way to meet new people, catch up with old friends, share the cooking, and enjoy each other’s company. Do you have a question? Would you like to sign up? Contact Sara Vander Voort soon at saravoort@gmail.com. You can also sign up online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/saturday-suppers/>

Hilltoppers (60 and up!) welcomes Rev. Don Postema

The next Hilltoppers (60 and up) Lunch and Learn is Thursday, February 11, from noon - 2:00 p.m., in the Social Hall. Retired Rev. Don Postema, author of *Space for God* and beloved speaker and pastor, will speak on “Sabbath: Cultivating A God-Conscious Life During Lent” and invite us to conversation about this. Ash Wednesday is February 10, so we will just be in the season of Lent at the time of Don’s talk. Please join us for lunch (just \$5) and Don’s talk. Reserve your space by calling the Church Office, or emailing Rev. Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

Easter Lilies

Donate an Easter Lily to decorate the chancel on Easter Sunday in memory or honor of a loved one. Sign up in the Church Office by March 17. The cost is \$17. After worship, deacons will deliver the lilies to members and friends of our congregation who are ill, grieving, or homebound.

Mature Ministries Trivia, 2016

Join us for a fun evening of eating, socializing, and trivia on Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 p.m. at Mary Smith's house. She will provide sliced ham and potato-fennel gratin, wine and pop. Bring either a dessert or a salad. (Don't want to cook? Feel free to buy something!) Mature Ministries members and/or friends are very welcome. Since the condo only holds 20 people, register with Melissa Anne soon, because we want you to come!! Sign up by February 16. See you there!

Quad C Potluck Brunch (48103 Zip Code)

Please join other members of Quad C 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 or 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.

Are You a Veteran? Join Us!



First Pres U.S. Military Veterans meet for an informal brown bag noon luncheon at church on the second Friday of each month. The group has people of diverse ages, military branches, and lengths of service. The group's coordinator is John Kinzinger, an active church member and a Vietnam-era Army veteran. Among John's many volunteer veteran responsibilities in the community is heading an honor guard to preside when requested at Veteran funerals and memorial services. The First Pres Veterans help stage church remembrances on Memorial Day. We welcome newcomers to join

us. An informal program of interest to Vets and others is usually presented each month by a member of the group. For further information, visit www.firstpresbyterian.org or contact John at 994-0444 or jjkinzinger@aol.com

Spiritual Pilgrimage to Iona in 2016

First Pres is planning a pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona, Scotland, May 12-22. Iona is both a tiny island and an ecumenical Christian community located on the west coast of Scotland. Pilgrims have been gathering there for centuries to explore Christian community, prayer, and worship. A group from First Pres will travel to Iona and experience a week of worship, work, and shared life. This pilgrimage is a self-funded spiritual journey. We currently have two spots available. Questions? Contact Daniel Ervin, Resident Minister, at dervin@firstpresbyterian.org.



Finance

Endowment and Special Gifts (E&SG) Committee News

The Endowment and Special Gifts Committee (E&SG) has a new chair, Doug Gottlieb, and has been meeting monthly. Key priorities have been identified for 2016: raise the visibility of the Legacy Partners Program and the Birthday Fund, and thank the 90 Legacy Partners for their commitment and generosity to our church. The E&SG Committee members include Doug Gottlieb, Lucie Audette, John Eman, Martha Kershaw, Bill Upton, Daniel Ervin, and Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair. We welcome new members to this committee! Please feel free to contact Doug (680-5355 or dagottlieb@aol.com) if you have any questions or ideas concerning the Endowment and Special Gifts Committee.



Reading Recommendations

A blog recommended by Nancy Crawford, elder, and the Children's Education Work Group:

<http://www.karenwarejackson.com/blog/how-our-littlest-members-make-the-biggest-impact>

An article recommended by Rev. Rogers and the Congregational Life Committee:

We encourage our congregation to be an inviting church! Read this article: <https://daelcarev.wordpress.com/2013/03/12/we-will-no-longer-be-a-welcoming-church/>

Stewardship 2016 – God’s Mission Matters! Giving Status

Your response to God’s goodness has been wonderful! We have received \$1,650,868 in commitments, surpassing our 2016 stewardship annual giving goal of \$1,650,000. Can you add to this amount to further our ministry? Every commitment, no matter the size, is welcome and needed! Join in partnership and witness to Christ’s love among us. If you have not yet turned in your annual commitment form, please take a moment to go online to make your gifts to our church at <http://firstpresbyterian.org/contribute> Thanks to those who worked so diligently on the 2016 Annual Giving Workgroup: Lucie Audette, Chair, Lynnette Conner, Carol Downton, Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Gail Grady, Bob Harris, Prue Heikkinen, John LeDuc, Zach Monsma, Chris Queen, Rev. Angela Ryo, and Carson Smith.



Financial Update

The following financial information for First Presbyterian Church is for the month of December and the 2015 fiscal year which ended December 31, 2015.

Budget for 2015 Year:		\$2,005,000
Income Received for December/Year:	\$380,568	Year: \$1,934,553
Actual Expenses for December/Year:	\$211,311	Year: \$1,934,553
[Shortfall]/Excess for December/Year:	\$169,258	\$0
Transfers from unrestricted gifts to achieve balanced budget/		Year: \$117,472

You can support the work and mission of First Presbyterian Church through making an annual financial commitment/gift or by making regular contributions during the offertory at our worship services or online at <http://firstpresbyterian.org/contribute>



Children & Families



First Pres Week at Camp Westminister - July 31-August 6

Register by February 15

Camp Westminister, a Presbyterian camp located on Higgins Lake, provides a traditional camp experience complete with swimming, boating, archery, soccer, arts and crafts, singing, campfires, and more. Children currently in 2nd - 8th grade are eligible to attend. Older campers who have completed 6th - 8th grade have a canoe trip on the AuSable River. An informational brochure and pre-registration form will be mailed out soon. Register by February 15 to get the best rate for camp.

NEW! Extra Camp Options for High Schoolers: Camp Westminister is offering multiple older camper opportunities the same week our Elementary and Middle School kids are at camp. You will make that registration on your own. Visit www.campwestminister.com, Camp Westminister’s website for details. Questions about camp? Contact Debbie MacVey, dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett, jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org



College Connection

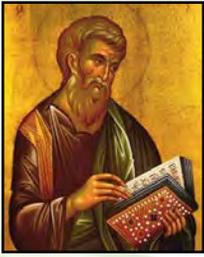


First Pres College Spring Break Mission Trip to Jamaica

Our college students will spend their spring break, February 26 - March 4, traveling to the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Montego Bay, Jamaica to do construction projects and spend time with children who live at the school. Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett and Peer Ministers Alexis Allum and Andy Spaulding will be leading 26 students from the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University on the trip.



Adult Education



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

The Bible @ 9:30 February 7- 28

French Room/Library

Bible Exploration and Conversation.

The Bible at 9:30 continues an intriguing study of the Gospel of John. William Barclay called John “the most precious book in the Bible.” Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter.

First Couples

February 7- 28

Monteith Hall

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

February 7 & 14 - Five Broken Cameras

Watch and discuss a documentary on a Palestinian farmer’s chronicle of his nonviolent resistance to the actions of the Israeli army.

February 21 – A Presentation on Local Mission at First Pres

February 28 – Habitat and Food Rescue

Join us as Don Redding discusses First Pres’ work with Habitat for Humanity and the Big House Food Rescue program.



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

Common Ground

February 7- 28

Lewis Room

February 7 – Fourth Grade Milestone Event

The final class in a series for fourth graders and their parents is a special milestone event.

February 14, 21, & 28 - Faith and Financial Wellness

The life of faith encompasses the whole of our daily lives and work, financial matters included. Financial Advisor and First Pres member Luke Panning, along with Resident Minister Daniel Ervin, leads a three week series on matters of faith and financial wellness. Topics include Christian perspectives on money, creating household budgets, having family conversations around money, saving for college and for retirement. Come and please bring your questions!

Exploring the Faith

February 7- 28

Monteith Hall

February 7 & 14 – God’s Good Creation: Environment, Faith, and Earth Care, Part 1 & 2

Louise Glück’s *The Wild Iris* contains some of the most powerful poetry written by any living poet. The work is organized along a “vertical axis” as Glück has said, and contains lyrics spoken by flowers in a garden, poems by and about humans, sometimes in anguish and often dazzled by the world around them, and lyrics spoken by a divinity of sorts. This book is a moving inquiry into what it means to be human, and what kinds of labor it takes for us to make homes for ourselves. Glück won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1993 for *The Wild Iris*. Presented by Dr. John Whittier-Ferguson, Professor of English at the University of Michigan.



February 21 - God’s Good Creation: Environment, Faith and Earth Care, Part 3

Food, sustainability and healthy living. Food is one of the main factors for healthy lives – how to combine sustainable, healthy and tasty food with presenter Olivier Jolliet.

February 28 - The Way Is Made by Walking, An Introduction to Labyrinths

Explore the power of walking and the spiritual experience of a labyrinth. (See more on page 3.) On March 6, a certified labyrinth facilitator will guide us on a group walk of the labyrinth.



Opportunities for Women



Presbyterian Women Gathering - Wednesday, February 17

Join us for Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. in the Lewis Room for Lesson 7, "Streams of Mercy," facilitated by Meg Brown. The program will be held at 10:45 a.m. in Monteith Hall and will feature guest speaker Diane Agnew, Hunger Action Coordinator for the Presbytery of Detroit. Lunch (\$7) is at noon in the Social Hall.

PW Reading Group - The PW Reading Group will meet Wednesday, February 24, at 1:00 p.m. at the Paesano's Restaurant. They will discuss chapter 6 of *The Road to Character* by David Brooks.



Faith in Action

Change of Heart – Sunday, February 28

A Presentation about Murder, Forgiveness and Redemption

Change of Heart: Justice, Mercy and Making Peace with My Sister's Killer, by Jeanne Bishop, is the heart-rending story of meaningless violence, horrific loss, and, in the end, an astonishing forgiveness. The story begins with tragedy: the murder of Jeanne Bishop's sister Nancy, along with Nancy's husband and their unborn child, in their Chicago home. The end of the story is still being written, and points to distinct Christian themes of forgiveness, redemption, and justice. Join attorney, activist, and author, Jeanne Bishop for an absorbing presentation on Sunday, February 28 at 4:00 p.m. in Monteith Hall. Explore the depths of tragedy and the tremendous power of forgiveness through Bishop's story. Her presentation will be preceded by a book signing at 3:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center and will be followed by a half-hour service of Hope in Monteith Hall at 5:30 p.m. In addition, Jeanne Bishop will speak with high school youth at 9:30 a.m. and be present in worship at 11:00 a.m. Copies of *Change of Heart* are available for purchase through First Pres online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/change-of-heart-book-purchase/> or in the Church Office for \$12.00. Jeanne Bishop is an attorney in the Cook County (IL) Public Defenders' Office, an activist, and an author. She is a member of Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago.



Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Jeanne Bishop Conversation with High School Youth
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Jeanne Bishop Welcomed and Introduced
- 3:00 p.m. *A Change of Heart* Book Signing at the Welcome Center
- 4:00 p.m. *Change of Heart* Presentation in Monteith Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Service of Healing and Hope in Monteith Hall

Cass Community Social Services Events

Suds and Sheets – Cass Community Social Services has expressed a need for household items, including laundry detergent and paper towels. Laundry detergent is provided to people who are not able to afford it through the agency's different programs. The paper towels are a necessity for running the programs. We will be collecting donations of laundry detergent and paper towels from February 1 to March 1 for Cass. Our goal is to collect 500 rolls of paper towels and 50 containers of laundry detergent. Look for the donation basket at the Welcome Center.



Join the Cass Coordinating Team - Help us share in the ministry and mission at Cass. Our first meeting is Sunday, March 6 at noon. First Pres began working with Cass Community Social Services, a 501(c)(3) Detroit-based agency and a vital ministry, in 2010. Groups volunteer at Cass twice a year, planting and weeding vegetable gardens, painting, rehabbing rooms, and more. Cass provides programs for food, health, housing, and jobs in areas of concentrated poverty, and operates a weekly free medical clinic and a day program for 100 adults with developmental disabilities. Rev. Faith Fowler, Director of Cass, is a visionary pastor with a bent for practical social action. Questions? Contact Sue Jeffers at sjeffers1@me.com or Rev. Jay Sanderford at jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org.



Rachel carrying their last chicken to the neighbor's house as a gift on Christmas morning.

December Update from the Ludwigs in Niger, Africa

It's been exciting to start working on the next steps for our partners in Niger to put into place a Community Health Evangelism strategy. This month we've been in conversations with leaders and worked on drafting a variety of plans for how to develop leaders who can use these practices in their situation. These practices are counter-intuitive to what people are used to here, but is instrumental for living out a witness that is more holistic, self-sustaining, and responsive to the community. We're excited that plans are being made for the first group of pastors and mission leaders from the US to come visit this Spring, together with our regional supervisors. Please pray for peace and stability in Niger through the upcoming political events, for wisdom and guidance for the CHE training plans, for our family, as we continue the adoption process and all the adjustments that will come with that.

Big House Food Rescue Mission - More Than Just The Food!

Following each home football game at the Big House, and after each home basketball game at Crisler Arena, volunteers from First Pres collect good food that would otherwise go to waste and distribute it to two feeding programs in Detroit. Since the inception of the program, we have saved approximately 60,000 lbs of food. This project is about so much more than the food. Matt Prentice, Cass Community Center Chef, writes, "At Cass Community Social Services, we are feeding 30,000 people a month now that winter has set in. Each day we supply food to five facilities that focus on the homeless of Detroit. Over the past year, due to our donors and the entrepreneurial vision that raises dollars for our mission, Cass will feed those who need it most for a far reduced cost over previous years and we could not do this without you. The 6,000 pounds of brats, hot dogs, pizza, soft pretzels, chicken fingers and other food, often provides these folks their main meal of the day. It truly shows that First Pres understands that our mission is to minister to those in need in any way that we can."



ESL Ministry Seeks Receptionist



The English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry continues to offer hospitality to international visitors in our community. The program serves non-native speakers of English who have at least an intermediate knowledge of English. Weekly, these learners are greeted by Nancy Briggs, our volunteer at the ESL reception desk. Nancy facilitates the learner's registration and sign-in processes. Nancy will conclude her work in May. A search is underway to replace her. The ESL groups meet every Tuesday, 1:15 - 2:45 p.m., September through May. A receptionist should be able to arrive at 12:45 p.m. to prepare for the arrival of the learners and remain until 1:45 p.m. The receptionist's role provides an opportunity to participate in the ESL Ministry in a non-tutorial capacity. We would like to identify an individual to replace Nancy in the near future. This would allow that individual time to work with her before she leaves in May. Full responsibility for the reception desk would begin in September 2016. If you can do this, please contact Ruth Primas at ruthp@umich.edu for further info.

Philippines Book, Bake, and Reuse Items Sale

Are you moving or downsizing? Do you need to purge your home of items you no longer need? Donate them to the Philippines Mission Team who will turn them into mission dollars! 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 – laptops are okay, large appliances, large furniture, or exercise equipment. On April 23 (pending Session approval) come and go shopping in the Social Hall from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Do you have 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.