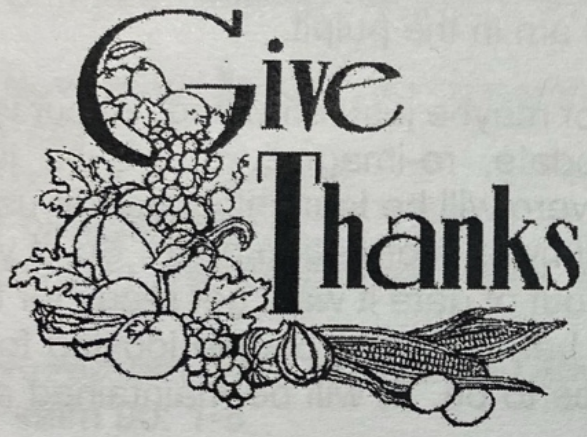
November 2026

The

TARTAN



Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Alpena
US 23 North at Long Rapids Road
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

First Presbyterian Church
Alpena, Michigan

Our vision is to be faithful through relevant worship,
serving others as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We seek to…
PROCLAIM the good news of Jesus Christ so all may believe;
NURTURE God's people in joyful faith, commitment and fellowship;
DEMONSTRATE our Lord's way of love through our service
to the community and larger world.

Scott's Thoughts

More of Scott's Thoughts

Can you believe that it is November already? Where has the year gone?

I know that I had said I wasn't going to make too many changes, but I have made at least one, and that was to bring back the Care Candle during our worship service. Several people have told me that they appreciate that. It is something that I will continue to do while I am in the pulpit.

Be on the look out for something new, or maybe just refreshed. At our last Session meeting, it was decided to update, re-imagine, or maybe just revitalize our church's website. Carlos Vivero will be launching that for us in the very near future. It will have lots of current information on it. So, if you have visited our old site and thought how out of date it was, get ready for the new and improved site. Hopefully, it will help to make people looking for a new church home feel like this is the place to be. It will be maintained and updated on a regular basis.

Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Gordon has indicated that he will roast turkeys for our annual dinner. There will be sign up sheets on the kiosk for how many will attend, and what dishes you would like to prepare to share. It is always a great time of fellowship and plenty of food.

Just after Thanksgiving comes Advent. We will switch from the red hymnals to the blue ones. The reason being that there are more Advent and Christmas selections in the blue hymnal.

Of course, there will be plenty of activities coming in December. The Wassail caroling and potluck is already being planned. Blue Christmas service will be on December 16th and our candlelight Christmas Eve service will be on the 24th at 7:30.

May God's peace be with you all.

Scott

November 2026
Sunday Sermons and Readings

November 1 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost - Communion
Psalm 107: 1-7
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
Matthew 23: 1-12
Sermon: "Making Religion a Burden"

November 8 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost – Congregational Meeting
Psalm 23
Exodus 32: 1-14
Philippians 9:1-4
Sermon: Ian MacInnes-Green, preaching

November 15 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 90: 1-8
Judges 4: 1-7
Matthew 25: 14-30
Sermon: "Buried Treasure"

November 22 – Christ the King Sunday
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34: 11-16 & 20-24
Matthew 25: 31-46
Sermon: "God's Standard of Judgement"

November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent
Psalm 80: 1-7
Isaiah 64: 1-9
Mark 13: 24-37
Sermon: "The Return"

THANKSGIVING DAY – PLANNED POTLUCK

Our annual planned potluck dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 26, beginning at 2 pm.

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to gather, enjoy a great meal, share lots of fellowship, and have little or nothing to clean up or put away at home.

Check out the signup sheet on the kiosk in the narthex, indicate what you will bring, how many will be in your group, and whether you can help with setup on Wednesday or cleanup following dinner on Thursday. In recent years, the group gathering for this meal has numbered between 15 and 30.

On Wednesday morning, a small group will gather to set tables and prepare the Fellowship Hall for the gathering. Other folks will linger after the meal on Thursday to wash dishes and otherwise clean up, and to pack up leftovers.

Gordon Snow will bake turkeys in the kitchen in the church. Individuals and families will provide everything else needed to create a wonderful meal.

Anyone wishing to participate in the meal should sign up on the kiosk in the narthex. Let us know what you will bring and whether you can help with set up or clean up.

We will need a variety of side dishes: mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing/stuffing, sweet potatoes, veggies, rolls and butter, condiments and—of course—desserts (an assortment of pies and other items).

Questions: Contact Gordon Snow at 989.356.2503 or 989.657.4071.



THANK YOU!

The Mission and Education committee would like to thank the congregation for supporting the World Communion Offering. We collected $1108.00 to be used to support racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, global witness and nurturing ecumenical and interfaith relations.

When we all do a little it adds up to a lot.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – September 15, 2026

These are only highlights from the meeting of the session, not the official minutes.

The Rev. William J. Rayment, moderator, called the meeting to order with prayer at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.

ELDERS PRESENT: Scott Edgar, David Hammerquist, Stephanie Kaiser, Jan Kane (via Zoom), Paul Lee, Gary Phillips and Carol Rafferty

STAFF PRESENT: The Rev. William J. Rayment

CONSENT AGENDA: *Action Item*: It was moved and seconded to approve the Stated Session Minutes of August 18, 2026, adopt the agenda, and approve written reports, with the exception of motions which will be reserved for discussion under committee reports. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: Communion was served to 43 attendees Sunday, September 6, 2026. No home communion was served. With deep sadness we share the passing of our member Ray Brandenburg on August 31, 2026.

Financial Report: Accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Nominating: The slate for next year has been completed. Dennis Harris shall be nominated to serve as Elder and two current Deacons shall continue with their second term.

Evangelism: At the committee meeting on August 19, we discussed ideas for community outreach and ways to help our church become more involved in reaching people outside the church.

-Game Night: We tentatively discussed holding a community game night on September 11, from about 6:00–8:00 p.m. We will put out a sign-up sheet to see how much interest there is and whether anyone would need transportation. The idea is to have simple games, snacks, and an easy opportunity for people to invite friends and neighbors.

-Future Outreach: We discussed possible activities including disc golf, a picnic, live music/open-mic events, theater-related activities, and community recipe or food events.

-Evangelism and Church Life: We discussed the possibility of combining the Evangelism and Church Life committees to reduce the number of meetings and

(More on page 6)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – September 15, 2026

(Continued from page 5)

create a more effective outreach coupled with greater participation in events.

-Publicity: We shared points about the importance of improving our Facebook and other social-media communication so that people in the community know about our church and upcoming activities.

Mission and Education: Committee reported preparing for Kirkin September 27, World Communion Sunday October 4, and Apple Ministry Sunday October 18.

Property and Maintenance: Committee worked on the church roof Saturday applying sealing tar to seams. Committee intends to contact contractor to address slow heating issues experienced in the previous year, and to solve a recurring boiler resetting issue in the manse. Elder Hammerquist and Pastor Bill plan to meet at the manse next week to identify trees that need to be taken down.

Stewardship: Financial Report Highlights

At the end of August our general fund cash balance was $6,980.22. This positive balance was achieved by a transfer of funds from the Lamy account. We show a net income of $16,811 on our statement of activities. Keep in mind that $15,000 of this came from the Lamy Fund. We continue to be ahead of budget at this time. Please be mindful of expenses for the 2027 budget, as we will be asking for this information in the coming months.

Committee Actions

-Finalizing a date for the CPA to perform her review.

-Working on developing consolidated financial statements that will include all funds like Benevolent Foundation and Memorial Fund in order to provide a complete picture of the church's financial status.

-Preparing for the 2027 pledge drive to begin on October 25 and continue until November 15, 2026.

Worship & Music: -911 Remembrance: September 13 after the regular service. Pastor Bill presented various readings and Diana Standen played the clarinet.

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – September 15, 2026

(Continued from page 6)

Kirkin: Sept 27 - plans underway. Piper confirmed. Planned how to use tartan identification.
World Communion Sunday: plans are underway for breads from around the world, flags for tables. Also planned portion including using various languages in part of worship.
Advent: Starts Nov 29. Planning for Blue Christmas Dec 16, Christmas Eve service (time TBD). Gordon volunteered to coordinate decorations. Char will coordinate getting tree up probably on Dec 5. Char will order poinsettias.
Hymnals: agreed to switch back to blue hymnals before Nov 22. Scott volunteered to coordinate.
Reviewed list prepared by session members for tasks that this committee may be responsible for. Aside from the usual responsibilities of the committee, it was agreed that if Laurie needs ushers or liturgists she can contact the committee. However, it was noted that usually this is a last minute type of need and it may end up being Scott who finds a volunteer.

Several people are willing to fill in for liturgist at the last minute.

In addition to the above list Scott has agreed to 1) adding oil to the candles weekly; 2) Changing paraments as needed according to church calendar.
This committee is very thankful to have Scott join our committee and for everything he has agreed to do for our church.

OTHER REPORTS

Pastor: Nearly eight and a half years have gone by since I became the pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Alpena. In that time we have grown in faith and love for one another and for those in the community. We have remained financially stable. We have engaged in fellowship with one another and deepened our relationship with other denominations in the community.

Yet we have not grown in numbers. And I think this is a good time to reflect on what we have done regarding evangelism in our community. For several consecutive years we engaged in our New Neighbor Campaign,

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – September 15, 2026

(Continued from page 7)

For several consecutive years we engaged in our New Neighbor Campaign, in which we sent out a personal invitation to those moving into the area. We participated in the Fourth of July Parade. We have opened our spaces to community organizations (and continue to do so). We have been involved in ecumenical organizations and events. Our mission committee has worked hard to help those in need in the community. We have been active in the Chamber of Commerce. We have made use of advertising, published our services on line, maintained a website, maintained a Facebook page, placed special signage by the road, and sponsored church events such as the Women's Bazaar. I have developed a schedule with special services approximately every month to which we can invite people in the community. We do a great job greeting and bringing back for a second time those who come into the church for the first time. People who attend regularly feel at home here. Yet, growth has been slower than we hoped. National trends are, no doubt, a factor, but we should see them as a matter of context rather than an excuse or a reason to throw our hands into the air.

There are practical considerations that can support our mission as we continue discerning how best to welcome our neighbors, including our signage, which has become antiquated. Our location, without direct access on US 23 or Long Rapids, is also to be considered. This could be remedied with better signage and creative marketing. But would solving these issues be sufficient to create growth in the church? There remain promising avenues for future exploration such as door to door campaigning, buying advertising on-line or on billboards, creating a time and space for praise music, and creating events off campus. One or more of these programs could be effective; the biggest problem here is marshaling the resources, human and monetary, to carry them out. There are, no doubt, additional creative ways to evangelize the community and bring the Word of God to a people already in desperate need of it.

I have prayed over these matters in the quiet hours of the morning. This report is in part a product of those musings. Though I will no longer be part of the day-to-day work, this congregation will remain in my thoughts and prayers. With God's help, I am confident this body of Christ will continue to

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The

TARTAN

Supplement – November 2026

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

During its November meeting, the women made the decision to cancel their planned Holiday Jumpstart event, originally scheduled for November 7. This decision was based on very poor vendor response this year—only five of the 16 available booths were sold. Several other groups also decided to adjust or cancel plans for an event this year due to a reduced number of vendors.

During worship on October 18, folks in the pews learned that the group is planning an **In-house BAKE SALE on November 22**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. There is a signup sheet on the kiosk in the narthex. Anyone interested in baking for this event should sign up!

Members of the group have decided not to meet every month during the winter months, starting with NO MEETING in November.

Their annual Christmas party will be held at the church on December 17, and ALL women are welcome.

The women's group will NOT MEET in January, and plans for the next gathering—on February 17—will be announced.

Beginning in January, interested women will gather—informally—at the Big Boy, at 9:00 AM. No meeting, just visiting. No need to sign up, just show up on the first Tuesday of every month

DEACONS TO MEET

The deacons will meet on Wednesday, November 18, at 11:00 AM in the Sunday school room. They will update their duties and ministries, along with making plans for holiday treats to be provided for members who are confined to their home or have only limited mobility.

POTTER'S POINT PROTECTED

As Presbyterians, caring for the earth is an integral part of our faith. The Mission & Education Committee would like to thank everyone in our congregation who donated a total of $1065.00 to the campaign to help ensure the 41-acre property and its nearly 8,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline will remain protected forever and become a public nature preserve.

The campaign was conducted by Huron Pines, a conservation group based in Northeast Michigan. The Potter's Point land lies along Misery Bay, a 15 minute drive from downtown Alpena.

Protecting Potters Point will open this spectacular stretch of coastline to the public as a carefully stewarded nature preserve, offering low-impact recreation and educational experiences for all to enjoy.

Plans call for delaying the opening of the land to the public until the staff can improve trails, parking, and the building on the property—likely to be announced in the spring of 2027.

Thank you for your generous support.

COMMITTEE MERGER

We are a small church. Many of our members belong to one or more church committees. We appreciate our volunteers and don't want anyone to experience burnout.

In looking over our various committees we noticed some overlap between Church Life and the Evangelism committees.

These two committees have now merged to become our "**Outreach Ministry**". This committee will focus on faith sharing, mission, outreach, and new member follow-up.

We seek to

PROCLAIM the Good News of Jesus Christ so all may believe;
NURTURE God's people in joyful faith, commitment, and fellowship;
DEMONSTRATE our Lord's way of love through our service to the community and larger world.

(If this seems familiar, it appears on the cover of each issue of the TARTAN.)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – September 15, 2026

(Continued from page 8)

shine as a faithful, welcoming presence for the community and the world.

Presbyterian Women of the Congregation: Group has a meeting scheduled Thursday, September 17 for AED and CPR training along with Q&A regarding "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) declarations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

On July 31, membership inquiry letters were sent to members Marie Baumgart and Carrie Kane with a requested response deadline of August 31. No responses were received.

Action Item: It was moved and seconded to remove from the membership role Marie Baumgart and Carrie Kane. Motion carried.

Action Item: It was moved and seconded to approve the final draft of our Anti-Harassment policy. Motion carried.

Action Item: It was moved and seconded to approve the final draft of our updated Sexual Misconduct policy. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Item: It was moved and seconded to appoint Scott Edgar as a Trustee for the Benevolent Foundation. Motion carried.

Action Item: It was moved and seconded to combine Church Life and Evangelism Committees. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Meeting Room October 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

With no other business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Motion carried. The Rev. Rayment closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Phillips, Clerk of Session

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

October 14, 2026

Present: TRE Scott Edgar, Char Keune, Gordon Snow, and Karen Brindley.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The date for the 2027 Kirkin' o' the Tartan was set, dependent on the availability of the bagpiper, for September 19, 2027.

Christmas decorations will be brought down from the attic on November 29, the first Sunday in Advent.

Karen Brindley will plan a special children's message for Christmas Eve.

Members of the congregation will have a chance to order a red poinsettia during November. These will be displayed in the sanctuary between December 13 and Christmas Eve, when folks who donated a plant will be able to take one home.

It was noted that the choir may not have enough members to continue to present a weekly anthem following the Holidays, when several singers go south for the winter.

The committee will begin to look ahead to Lent at November's meeting.

Prepackaged communion elements will be ordered soon to ensure enough inventory during the coming flu season.

The committee's next meeting will be on November 11.

November Ushers – Nancy & Dennis Harris

Noveember Communion Assistants – Vi Pashley, TBA
Communion Set Up/Clean up – Val Fuhrman

	Greeter	Liturgist
November 1	Val Fuhrman	Val Fuhrman
November 8	Val Fuhrman	Heather Hammerquist
November 15	Val Fuhrman	Char Keune
November 22	Val Fuhrman	TBA
November 29	Val Fuhrman	TBA

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

These are only highlights from the meeting of the session, not the official minutes.

The Rev. William Rayment, moderator, opened the meeting in the sanctuary with prayer at 11:28 a.m. A quorum was present.
The purpose of the special meeting was to:

1) Consider proposed changes in the Congregational Bylaws,
2) Announce Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship effective October 1, 2026.

Action Item: It was moved and seconded to accept the following changes to the congregational By-Laws

• Amend Article 10, Section 3 by striking out the words "~~When the Session is unable to meet in person due to emergency situations electronic meetings are permitted to allow the Session to make decisions and conduct business. These decisions will need to be ratified at a later in-person meeting, whether it's a regular or special meeting~~" and inserting in their place "Session may schedule regular electronic meetings or call emergency electronic meetings when unable to meet in person in a timely manner. The decisions at these meetings will not need to be ratified at a later in-person meeting, but issues may be revisited as necessary."

• To insert a new Article 10, Section 4 reading "Section 4. Action without a Meeting (Email Voting) Session may, from time to time, cast binding votes through email. Email voting shall be limited to action items believed to be urgent, straightforward, and non-controversial. Details of the email voting process shall be recorded into the next scheduled meeting minutes."

• To amend Article 12, by striking out the word '~~a~~' and inserting in its place the word 'the'. Thus: "The ruling elders on the session of the congregation…"

• To amend Article 14, subgraph (3) by striking out the word 'Four' and inserting in its place the word 'Three'. Thus: "(3) ~~Four~~ Three other members, none of whom may be in active service…"

Motion carried by a show of hands.

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SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 20, 2026

(Continued from page 11)

For item 2, TRE Scott Edgar led the Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship effective October 1, 2026.
Action Item: It was moved and seconded to close the meeting at 11:38 p.m. Motion Carried.
Rev. Rayment closed with prayer
Note: The Rev. William Rayment moderated the meeting on September 20, 2026 but demitted office prior to the formal approval and signing of these minutes. The minutes were officially approved by the Session on October 20,
Respectfully submitted,
Gary Phillips, Clerk of Session

A LITTLE ABOUT CHRISTMAS JOY

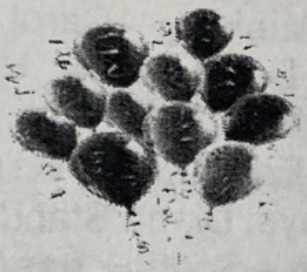
The Christmas Joy offering of the Presbyterian Church USA will be received between November 29 (the first Sunday in Advent) and December 22 (the fourth Sunday in Advent).

"Walking humbly" with God involves caring for others, reflecting God's love in our actions, especially for the vulnerable and those in need. The Christmas Joy Offering, received during the season of Advent, provides an opportunity for Presbyterians to engage and support leadership development for people of all ages. It is centered around the causes of children at risk, ministries with youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color, and the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We celebrate God's greatest gift to us, his son, Jesus Christ, by ensuring that all people created and loved by God have the tools they need to provide transformative leadership in the Church and the world.



Please give generously.

CELEBRATIONS



November Birthdays

2 Mark Hasse
14 Diana Standen

November Anniversaries

None



God's Work
Our Hands

FRIENDSHIP ROOM

November 27 – Time TBA
December 25?

THE LORD'S PRAYER

EIGHTH IN A SERIES)

New English Bible 1961

Our Father in heaven, thy name be hallowed;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us the wrong we have done, as we have forgiven
those who have wronged us.
And do not bring us to the test but save us from the evil one.

From: https://csdirectory.com/biblestudy/lords-prayer.pdf

THE CARING CART

During November the Deacons are accepting donations of

CHRISTMAS FOOD BAGS

for distribution through The Salvation Army to those in need.

COMMITTEES

Outreach Ministry—Carol Rafferty Julie Usher, Val Fuhrman, Anne Hood, Sue Phillips, Debby Edgar, Vi Pashley, Karen Brindley Paul Lee, Val Fuhrman, Lance Abbert

Mission & Education—Karen Brindley (Chair), Debby Edgar, Val Fuhrman, Doris Feys, Diana Standen

Nominating—Scott Edgar (Chair & Liaison), Gordon Snow, Dennis Harris, Robin Rayment, Doris Feys

Personnel—Gary Phillips (Chair & Liaison), Dennis Harris, Jan Kane

Property, Maintenance, & Technology— Dennis Harris (Chair & Liaison), Vi Pashley, Dave Hammerquist, Gary Phillips

Stewardship—Stephanie Kaiser (Chair & Liaison), Donna Hammerquist, Gary Philips, Diana Standen, Jan Kane

Worship & Music—Char Keune (Chair), Jan Kane (Liaison), Karen Brindley, Gordon Snow

--01/14/2026

NOTE: The Deacons and the Benevolent Foundation are NOT committees of the session. See page 15.

—LOOKING AHEAD—

Election Day – November 3
Thanksgiving – November 26
Thanksgiving Planned Pot Luck – November 26, 2:00 pm
Christ the King Sunday – November 22
First Sunday in Advent – November 29
Wassail, Potluck, and Carol Singing – December 13
Blue Christmas Service – December 16, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 7:30 pm
Christmas Day – December 25
New Year's Eve – December 31
New Year's Day – January 1
Epiphany of the Lord – January 6
Baptism of the Lord – January 10
Transfiguration of the Lord – February 7
Ash Wednesday – February 10
First Sunday in Lent – February 14

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ALPENA - MICHIGAN

Church Office: 989.354.3381 alpenapresbyterian@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant in the Office: M/W/Th, 9AM-1PM
Pastor in the office: T/W/Th/F, Mornings – By chance or appointment

Worship Leader: Scott Edgar, Trained Ruling Elder

Pastor Emeritus: Sanford K. H. Wright
Clerk of Session: Gary Phillips
Administrative Assistant: Laurie McRoberts
Organist: Suelyn Bartz **Choir Director:** Gordon Snow
Treasurer: Stephanie Kaiser
Custodian: Kyle Robb
TARTAN Editor: Gordon Snow gsnow_1@charter.net

Presbytery Commissioner: Scott Edgar
Prayer Group Coordinator: Connie Louis

SESSION

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Dave Hammerquist[2]	Paul Lee[1]	Dennis Harris[2+]
Stephanie Kaiser[1]	Jan Kane[2]	Scott Edgar[2]
Carol Rafferty[1]		

BOARD OF DEACONS

(Not a committee of the Session)

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Char Keune[1]	Val Fuhrman[2]	Hope Digna[1]
Vi Pashley[1] (Chair)	Sue Phillips[2]	Anne Hood[2]

[1]First term / First term after a break [2]Second consecutive term
[+]Third consecutive term, pending approval from Presbytery

BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION

A separate legal entity from the church,
incorporated with the State of Michigan in 1977.
Trustees: Gary Phillips, Stephanie Kaiser,
Diana Standen, Don Wallace, Paul Lee, Scott Edgar