

presbyterian profiles

WORSHIPPING, SERVING, AND LIVING WITH A FRESH
VISION OF GOD'S VIBRANT ENERGY AND GRACE FOR ALL..

profiles



first FRUITS

The idea of “first fruits giving” comes from the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy 26, quoting from the Message Bible, the Israelites were told to “take some of all the first fruits of what you grow in the land that God, your God is giving you, put them in a basket and go to the place, God, your God, sets apart for you to worship him.” It refers to the first and best portion of the harvest. By giving God the first fruits, Israel acknowledged that everything comes from God and it was a way of expressing trust in God’s provision. Just as God provided the first fruits, so God would provide the rest of the crops that were needed.

From Proverbs 3: 9-10, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

There are no New Testament admonitions binding Christians to give first fruits or even a tithe. Jesus however, talked about choosing between God and money as the Lord of our lives. God asks for our money because he wants our hearts and knows that when we offer our first fruits to God, our heart will follow. Giving a portion only from what we have leftover, robs us from the blessing of trusting God to supply our needs.

As we make our pledges this fall, be aware of God’s call to give the first fruits of our harvest, whether it is our time, our love, our resources or our money. Our gifts to God are acts of love and gratitude. Trust God to provide adequately to meet all your needs.

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THINGS I'M THINKING ABOUT

Parables!

Yes, they are odd. They are surprising. They pack a punch. And they are engaging. We've had a dozen or more folks attend the Wednesday Parables Bible Study, and there's room for more. Thanks to Erwin Gutsell and his bread machine, we even had the aroma of bread in the sanctuary to tease the senses for the Leaven in the Loaf parable!

Pastor Hany!

Who? October 14 – November 4 we welcome Egyptian Presbyterian Pastor Hany Mikhail as part of a Synod of the Covenant Mission to the USA. This program matches Presbyterian Churches in Ohio and Michigan with international (this year all are from the Middle East) church leaders to help

foster mutual learning and Christian fellowship. He is eager to meet with church or community groups to share about life as a Christian in the predominantly Moslem nation Egypt. Sign up in the M&M Café for opportunities to share in this visit.

Hillary Roethlisberger!

Welcome to Hillary and her husband Michael and children Asa and Haidyn. I'm looking forward to what we will learn from Hillary's experience as a social worker and in non-ordained parish ministry and sharing this congregation's richness with her.

Paint!

Have you noticed the fresh look the painters have given to the roofline and soffits? Thanks to Business and Building Council for their work in keeping abreast with the regular maintenance and upkeep of our facilities and hats off to the team of students from Hope College who washed windows, cleaned light fixtures and removed cobwebs September 10.

Cultural Anxiety!

Yes, we live in a season of cultural conflict, fear, and shifting values. What to do, who to be, whom to believe, whom to vote for. This fall I have the sense of the country "holding its breath" waiting for November 8. Do you need an antidote? I'm embarking on a new meditation breath practice. I can't change the society or the fearful people around me, but I can practice deeper breathing. Of oxygen, yes; but also of the Creator/Spirit who promises us that "perfect love casts out fear." You may hear me humming, "Breathe on me breath of God. Breathe on me breath of God. Breathe on me breath of God." Join me.

And finally: Puppy!

A bit of personal news: David and I go to Pittsburgh in early October to bring home "Lucy" a Springer Spaniel puppy born to one of brother-in-law Brad's Springers. Now we'll be back to a two person, two dog household. I'll have pictures.

- Linda

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, October 23 : Pastor Hany will preach at both services.

Thursday, October 27 at 7p: Pastor Hany will lead a special presentation in the sanctuary.

A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

INTRODUCING PASTOR HANY GAD BESHAY MIKHAIL FROM EGYPT

We are getting very excited about Pastor Hany's visit from October 14 - November 4! Allow me to introduce you to Pastor Hany:

Family: Pastor Hany has been married to Nariman since 1991. They have two sons, George (23) and Ephraim (19). Nariman, George and Ephraim play music at church while Pastor Hany sticks to singing. They have all dedicated their lives to serving Jesus our Savior.

Languages Spoken: Arabic and English

Educational Background: Pastor Hany graduated from high school in 1983. He then received a bachelor degree from Cairo Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1988.

Church: Helwa, the village where Pastor Hany lives and serves has a population of 50,000. Approximately 10,000 people in Helwa are Christian. Helwa Presbyterian Church was established in 1898, and serves God among all (Christian and Muslims). 90 families (150 Members) attend Helwa Presbyterian Church. Pastor Hany is the senior pastor. They are currently looking for another pastor to assist Past Hany.

In what ways do the witness and service of Helwa Presbyterian Church influence the life of the community and nation?

1. Changing people's lives for better through knowing Jesus Christ
2. Helping people in their needs through health care and microloans
3. Offering public schools and nursery, Christian counseling and mental health services
4. Creating media and publishing like TV programs, magazines, books, etc.
5. Facilitating sports events and youth gatherings
6. Offering training and educational centers

What can we learn from Pastor Hany's background, experience and current involvements? Pastor Hany says, "We are the eastern nations which were born and lived on the same land which Jesus and prophets were born, the same mountains that heard the voice of our Lord. That means we have a very good background about Biblical information and can provide a huge amount of understanding of historical and Biblical facts. Also we easily understand and deal with Islamic traditions without any infections or any arguments."

David Walter needs our active participation as he coordinates Pastor Hany's daily schedule. Please consider sharing a few hours of your life by having Pastor Hany over for dinner, taking him to the beach or inviting him to another favorite activity. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact David at 616-335-3090 (home), 616-241-1376 (cell) or dpwalter@yahoo.com.

Let's extend generous hospitality to pastor Hany!

- Scott



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WORSHIP CENTERS



A fabulous start to Midtime Ministry and Worship Centers occurred on Sunday, September 18. Worship Centers were prepared, invitations were sent and balloons adorned the doorways. Yes, the “party” was about to begin. On this first Sunday, Celebrants lit candles from the Christ Candle on the Worship Table in the Sanctuary, then processed to the Worship Centers (WC). Christ’s Light is truly shining in our WC, along with extending out into the world through our kids.

In May, we had three 5th graders graduate to the youth age Sunday School with Teresa Larson; two have been part of Worship Center since kindergarten. Carson, Gavin and Trevor - we sincerely hope that the roots and wings received through your WC experience go with you and the Parable of the Good Shepherd will live forever in your hearts.

This is an exciting year as we have 13 new kids in Worship Center. Whether you have been coming for years or this is a new experience, a warm welcome to all! We celebrated with Anika, Haidyn, Keaton and Micah (4th grade) as they received their Bibles in Worship on September 25.

Our Worship Center offering will be used to provide Presbyterian Disaster Assistance / Gift of the Heart kits. We will be assembling the kits together – watch for an upcoming photo or two. More information can be found at: <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/#school>. If you would like to be involved, we would love your help.

Invitation for all FPC Kids and Youth:

Music Director, Chuck Norris is leading a Choir for ALL kids and youth. Practices take place during the 11:00a Worship Service (after the Children’s Circle). Choir is on: 10/9; 10/23; 11/6; 11/20 and 12/4. Participation during the Worship Services will be during Advent on Sunday, December 11. It’s not too late to join!

With gratitude for roots and wings - Lori



WELCOME HILLARY

Please welcome Hillary Roethlisberger to First Pres! In addition to being a candidate in Boise Presbytery and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she will be serving as an intern at First Pres. Originally from Northern California, she attended The College of Idaho in Caldwell Idaho, earning her BA in Psychology

with a minor in Religious Studies. She proceeded to Princeton Seminary to pursue a Masters of Divinity and after two years, transferred to Michigan State University, graduating in 2003, with her Masters in Clinical Social Work. Having worked with hospice patients, children’s mental health, non-profit development and outpatient psychiatric services, Hillary is now finishing her Masters of Divinity at Western Theological Seminary. She just moved to Holland with her husband of 14 years, Mike, her 9 year old daughter Haidyn, and 7 year old son Asa.



YOUTH@FIRST

A MESSAGE FROM TERESA

I was sitting in the M&M Café last Sunday afternoon anxiously anticipating the beginning of our first confirmation class. As I sat at the table with my carefully written notes and neat stacks of papers to share in front of me, I could not stop thinking, "what am I missing? I must be missing something..."

I know many of our youth often feel the same with their activities and responsibilities, so I decided to try out a "practice of presence" with our confirmands called the L.I.V.E. Method, which Dorí Grinenko Baker describes in her book *The Barefoot Way*. Listen to the stories around you; Immerse yourself in a response; View it wider by finding God's movement in the story; and Explore what pieces of the story you can take with you.

With our youth programmatic year officially underway, I have found this practice helpful not just in building community with our confirmation class, but as a personal practice at the end of the day. The art of slowing down and paying attention has helped me find a renewed sense of joy in God's movement through our youth. Between our fall lock-in, Mid-Time Ministry class, confirmation discussions and youth group gatherings, there is much to celebrate! I am grateful for God's spirit at work through all that we've done so far this year, and am anticipating, in a non-anxious way, all that is to come.

- Teresa

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Every Sunday:	10-10:50a 4-6p	Midtime Ministry classes, <i>Living With My Neighbor</i> Confirmation classes
October 2:	6-7:30p	Junior High - Worshipful Walk
October 9:	6-7:30p	Senior High - Worshipful Walk
October 16:	6-7:30p	Junior High - Environmental Justice Discussion at Lemonjello's
October 23:	6-7:30p	Senior High - Meet with Pastor Hany
October 29-30:		Confirmation Getaway
October 30:		No evening youth activities

STAY CONNECTED

Here is just a handful of the many ways that you can connect with others at FPC.
For a complete list of small groups, please visit:

www.fpcholland.org/community/ministries/



MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to join Linda Knieriemen on Wednesdays from 1-2:30p this fall for a 10 week study of parables. The fall worship theme is “Falling into Parables”. Linda will be leading participants each week in a preview discussion of the parable selected for the following Sunday. Although participation in the entire 10 weeks is encouraged, it is not required. The group will meet in the M&M café. A sign up list will be posted on the bulletin board for planning purposes, but Linda will be happy to have you attend even if you have not signed up in advance.

SUNDAY MIDTIME “WIRED WORD”

Join us in the Michigan Room this fall as we discuss current events and how to respond to them based on scripture. Participants will receive an email each week with the current topic and relevant scripture. Class time will be a dialogue on the topic and scripture and how this applies to everyday life. Weekly participation is encouraged, but not essential. The class meets from 10-10:50a each Sunday morning. Bring your coffee, cookie and a friend to class!



SUNDAY MIDTIME FOR PARENTS

For all parents of children 0-18, we will meet together in the Huron Room from 10-10:45a on the following dates: 10/9; 10/23; 11/6; 11/20 and 12/4. We will discuss topics related to a year-long theme “The Story of Our Lives” by exploring our own story, God’s story and the legacy we want to leave our children.

Contact: Pastor Scott VanderWal at scottv@fpcholland.org.



WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:00p in the M & M Café.

OCTOBER: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*
by Helen Simonson

NOVEMBER: *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir*
by Reyna, Grande

Contact: Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com or 335-3942.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Whether you are new or have been connected for a long time, Theology on Tap is a great way to meet casually with other FPC friends.

On **October 13**, the men and women will come together at Hops 84 East for a conversation surrounding the topic of small groups - specifically a time to brainstorm about what new ideas you have for our church. We hope to see you there!

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Men's Book Group meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00p in the M & M Café.

OCTOBER: *The Arsenal of Democracy* by A.J. Baime

NOVEMBER: *The Secret Game: A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball's Lost Triumph* by Scott Ellsworth.

Contact: Larry Lynn at oldruno9@gmail.com or 399-0799.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: FILM VIEW & DISCUSSION

Hosted by Jack Hyde, Food For Thought meets on the second Friday evening of each month at 7:00p in the Michigan Room.

Join us on **October 14** for a showing of *Suffragette* (2015, 107 minutes). Inspired by true events, the film is about the women who were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality in early-20th-century Britain. Galvanized by outlaw fugitive Emmeline, Maud joins the U.K.'s growing Suffragette movement alongside women from all walks of life who sacrificed their jobs, homes, children — and even their lives — for the right to vote.



YOGA WITH GWEN:

This month, FPC member and Yoga instructor, Gwen Boeve will be offering a Yoga class in the lower level of the church on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30a. Beginners are welcome, and childcare is available. Contact Gwen at 616-502-4642 or ghekman@gmail.com for pricing and more information.

COMING UP...



OCTOBER 8 at 3p FALL FAMILY EVENT

Join us for Saturday afternoon of fun at Post Family Farm (5081 Bauer Rd. Hudsonville, MI 49426) where we will participate in their Fall Festival. They offer hayrides to the U-pick pumpkin patch, pumpkin or pig train rides, friendly farm animals, face painting, corn maze, giant tube slides, kids' crafts and games complete with prizes and much more! We will enjoy the festival from 3-5p, then head to a local restaurant for free dinner. Cost is \$3 per person, 2 and under free. Please RSVP and contact Helen Teutsch at (616) 834-2583 or helenlesliet@gmail.com if you have any questions.

OCTOBER 15, 9a-12p BELONGING CLASS

What makes us "us" at First Presbyterian Church? Join us on Saturday, October 15 from 9a-12p in the M&M Café to learn about the history, beliefs, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as the ministries of this particular congregation. Please send RSVPs and questions to Pastor Linda at lindak@fpcholland.org and/or Pastor Scott at scottv@fpcholland.org. Or call the office at 392.9022.

OCTOBER 15 at 7P S'MORES & MORE: SMALL GATHERINGS FOR ALL

We will gather around campfires in small groups at people's homes. (If it is raining, we will just enjoy dessert inside!) Sign up on the sheet in the M&M Café or via email (Stephanie Edwards - sedwards@hope.edu) by Wednesday October 12th. Please indicate if you'd be willing to host!



LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER 22 at 6p DINNERS FOR 7

All adults are invited to participate in the Fall “Dinners for 7”. Six or seven people will be assigned to a host home. The hosts will call and ask you to bring a dish to share. Hosts will provide the main dish. This is an opportunity to become acquainted with members/friends of the church you may have seen but do not know well. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. If you prefer, please email Priscilla Grinwis <priscilla.grinwis@gmail.com> with your reservation or questions. Please indicate your willingness to be a host home. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, October 12.

OCTOBER 22-30 FIRST FRUITS GIVING : FAITH IN ACTION

As part of the First Fruits Giving Campaign, FPC members will be offered a personally rewarding opportunity to experience active, volunteer support of local outreach programs and in-house church projects during October 22-30. Signup information about these volunteer stewardship opportunities, including dates, time and service descriptions, will be given as part of the First Fruits Giving Kick-off on Sunday, October 9 and again on Sunday, October 16.



NOVEMBER 5 at 7:30p ONE-TIME BOOK GROUP FOR MOMS

To all you moms in the middle of the lovely mess of managing life, kids, work and your other ten things, the words of freedom and perspective in this book come as a breath of fresh air! In *Present Over Perfect*, Shauna reflects on the pressures of everyday life and invites us to choose *present* over *perfect*. Read an excerpt, listen to it, or read the whole book and we will discuss it, laugh and consider together what we are learning in life. Come to the VanderWal house on November 5 at 7p for wine, dessert and conversation. Friends are welcome! RSPV Jill at jillvanderwal@gmail.com.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Outreach Ministry



Outreach Council: *Acting as Christ's heart and hands, we seek relationships and partnerships. Through these relationships, we may be listening; giving, receiving and providing advocacy as well as physical, financial and spiritual help. We try to discern God's direction so that we may model the kingdom of God.*

Who is on the Outreach Council?

William Haines, Dan Williams, Fran Rosensteel, Larry Lynn, Marilyn Lynn, Larry Rouse, Laura McCraner, Linda Pynnonen, Wayne Pynnonen, Lori Harrison and Pastor Scott VanderWal

How is this ministry done?

Our group has a passion for giving, and we discuss opportunities to help local and world organizations who are in need. Specifically we focus on:

- Educating the congregation about local, national and global opportunities
- Acting as a conduit between agencies and our congregation
- Acting as a clearing house for needs
- Setting criteria for distributing funds.

What exciting thing did this Council do in the last 12 months?

We played a large role in our church becoming a sponsor for the Zadrán family who moved to Holland from the Middle East on refugee status.



What ministry events are you planning in the coming 6 months?

We are hosting Pastor Hany Mikhail, a Mission Partner through the Presbyterian Church in Egypt.



How do committee members engage in your ministries?

Many of our committee members are involved with our local partners. Our current list of partners include:

Center for Women in Transition, Community Action House, Good Samaritan Ministries, Heritage Homes, Holland Free Health Clinic, Ladder, ACTS, 70 Times 7 Life Recovery, Children's Advocacy Center. We also help organize and support special projects like: Community Kitchen, CROP Walk, Empty the Pallet to support Community Action House, Coats/Hat/Mitten/Blanket drives for Community Action House, and the Community Housing Partnership through Good Samaritan Ministries.





SUPPORT THE PRESCHOOL!

Cold, rain, slush, salt, and (dare I say) snow are on their way...



Great timing for the First Presbyterian Preschool Quality Car Wash Fundraiser! Car wash tickets make excellent Christmas gifts – especially for the hard to buy for. Everyone appreciates a car wash! Place your order on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. A large portion of the proceeds will help the preschool. Tickets will be on sale October 3-21. Thank you for supporting our preschool program!

Speaking of Christmas gifts... **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
DECEMBER 24 at 5:00p & 10:00p

SAVE
THE
DATE

FIRST FRUITS GIVING BEGINS
October 9

FIRST FRUITS GIVING
WEEK OF SERVICE
October 22-30

PASTOR HANY SPEAKS
October 23
October 27

FIRST FRUITS GIVING DINNER
October 30