

presbyterian *profiles*

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



First Fruits

Our 2016/17 pledge campaign is now underway.

If you did not pick up your Pledge Packet at church, keep an eye on your mailbox. Your Pledge Packet should have been delivered to your home, or will be soon. If for some reason or another you do not receive a Pledge Packet by November 2, please contact the church office at 392.9022.

We just wrapped up Faith in Action - 9 days of serving our city and congregation. Many thanks to those that served (and planned)!

We also want to say thank you to those of you who attended the First Fruits Giving Dinner held on October 30. It was a night to remember!

Looking ahead, we hope that you will join us on Sunday, November 6 for Commitment (or Pledge) Sunday. Please come prepared to turn in your Pledge Card representing your First Fruits giving back to God from the blessings God has given you. And don't forget your "My 1 Thing" card (found in your Pledge packet).

Thank you for participating in our First Fruits Giving season!

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We all feel it, so let's name it.

This presidential cycle is seasoning our lives with fear, anxiety, and division. People of every political stripe and candidates themselves are name-calling, inciting conflict, and building walls of hostility. We are not listening to our better selves, our better angels. November 8 cannot come soon enough, but no one expects the tensions to be over.

How can we be "Church" for one another, for the country, for our God?

How do we, in the words of the Constitution of the PC(USA), serve as "a preliminary demonstration of the Kingdom of God to the world"?

I have been contemplating these questions over the past weeks, and offer these thoughts.

Back to Basics:

Love God. Love your neighbor as yourself. Love your enemy. Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

Practically, what does this mean? Enjoy time with God in nature, in prayer, in worship. Take your neighbor brownies. Visit an old friend in a care center. Call your college roommate. Curb your anger and stop name-calling those who are voting for someone else. Consider that people of good faith, intellect, and reason --- even your friends, family, spouse --- may disagree with you. Pray for the candidate you oppose and the one you favor. Turn the disgust into a random act of kindness.

Take care of your body AND your soul.

Turn off FOX or MSNBC and even PBS and NPR. Starting your day listening to the latest insults, abuses and discord sets the tone for your whole day. Set aside a brief listening or watching time later in the day. Limit your time with social media when the rhetoric becomes hostile, insulting, or raises your hackles. Retrieve a recording, a record(!) or a CD of the music of your youth. Go to a free concert. Purchase some whimsical coloring sheets from Carolyn Stich's studio and a set of markers or colored pencils and start coloring. Really. An 84 year old got me into it. It's not just for children any more! Go to the beach and watch the water. Read a Psalm a day, pick up a good novel or comedic movie at Herrick Library. Go for a walk and scuff the leaves.

Get some perspective.

Now, and after the election, God is still the Creator of the Universe. Jesus is still Sovereign and Lord, and the Holy Spirit is still present and active in your spirit and in the world. Believe it. This election, despite the rhetoric being spewed, is not for a savior for the United States of America. Of course the results matter, perhaps even drastically, but listen to the wisdom of the Psalmist: "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help... happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God." (Psalm 146)

Listen to the confident words of Desmond Tutu:

"Good is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness
Life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours through Him who loved us."

- Linda

A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

LETTING THE LIGHT IN: A MORNING APART FOR ADVENT PREPARATION

Are you already dreading the hectic pace of the holidays with all of the events, expectations of gifts and holiday cheer? Does it become one of the most stressful times of the year? Or do you genuinely love Christmas, the spirit of generosity, time with family & friends and the experience of God coming near?

Come and receive the gift of a morning apart and prepare to enter the Advent season with an unhurried appreciation of the gift of God coming into our midst.

"Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, 'Light up the darkness!' and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful".

2 Corinthians 4: 5-6 (MSG)

We hope that by participating in the Letting The Light In All Church Retreat, you will rediscover some simple and intentional ways that your days during Advent will contain light, joy, preparation, mystery and wonder. This retreat will explore practical tools to use throughout Advent.

Event Date: Saturday, November 19

Time: Retreat is from 8:30a to 12p
Check-in and continental breakfast from 8:30a-9a

Location: Geneva Camp & Retreat Center
Harbor Room, 2nd Floor of Retreat Center
3995 Lakeshore Dr., Holland, MI 49424

Cost: Free! Food, supplies and experience all provided by First Presbyterian Church

Childcare: Please indicate in your registration whether or not you will need childcare.

Register: RSVP online at fpcholland.org OR in the M&M Café. **Please register by Friday, November 11**

Questions? Contact Pastor Scott
scottv@fpcholland.org
616.392.9022



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WORSHIP CENTERS



Looking back...

God's Time. Full Circle or straight line? The Church Year Calendar in each Worship Center incorporates the liturgical seasons. It is in the shape of a circle so that we can begin again and again to remember the stories about God and God's work through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Our 4th/5th graders engaged in The Story of God in Time. In God's Time Box are ribbons of different colors that are sewn together to be unrolled, representing the beginning of time, the future and to the end of time. The last ribbon signifies that Church is waiting for the time when the world will be the way God meant it to be - no more wars, no more killing, no more dying, nor tears of pain and sadness. When that time has finally and fully come, it will be the time of *God's Shalom*. And then we will all be with God forever and ever! The kids were surprised to see how long this time line is, especially in comparison to how small the ribbon representing the birth of Jesus - his life and his death is. A couple of folks from the M & M Café were curious; the kids enjoyed having them join us.

Looking ahead...

On the first Sunday in Advent, November 27, everyone is invited to an intergenerational gathering in the Fellowship Hall during the Midtime Ministry hour. There will be a special treat, time to mingle, and notecards for our annual gifts to the residents of Heartland of Holland Nursing Home, if you so choose. Then, on December 11, kids and youth will sing at both Worship Services. It's not too late to join! Practices are November 6, 20, and December 4 during the 11a Worship Service.

Shalom - Lori



SEVERE WEATHER

Reminder to our members and friends:

The severe weather shelter at FPC is in the Youth Room on the lower level of the church. Please use this space during a tornado warning or other severe weather emergency.



YOUTH@FIRST

A MESSAGE FROM TERESA

On November 13, our church will celebrate the faith journeys of our 2016 Confirmation Class. Seven young people have participated in our classes throughout the fall which have focused on everything from "Presbyterians 101" to understanding (or at least trying to) the sovereignty of God, all through a lens of knowing and recognizing God's love and grace at work in our lives. Our discussions have been rich, and our moments of laughter have been abundant. This is an exceptional group of young people and I am humbled to be able to walk alongside them through the confirmation journey!

I am most grateful to our mentors Vern Hostetler, Dale Wyngarden, Judy Faber, Laura McCranner, Steve Gardiner, Doug Smith and Bart Shumaker. Thank you for investing in the lives of our young people in this unique and meaningful way!

I am also grateful to Stephanie Edwards, Jen DeWaard, Jauanna Jackson, Sylvia Jones and Shirley Benko for providing meals for our confirmands to enjoy together after class. Your time is most appreciated!

Confirmation Sunday will be a day set aside to celebrate the journey that our seven confirmands have been on, not just over the last 10 weeks, but throughout their lives as the church has lived into the vows made at their baptisms. Our youth are not the church of the future, they are the church of TODAY. Their perspective, wisdom and willingness to engage will continue to propel the Church forward with a vibrancy and energy we can only find through the movement of the Spirit alive and at work in our young people!

Thank you for your prayers throughout our confirmation journey. I look forward to celebrating this momentous day with our church family!

- Teresa

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Nov. 6 Are You Smarter Than a Confirmand?
- Nov. 11-13 Urban Plunge at First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw (senior high only)
- Nov. 13 Confirmation Sunday
- Nov. 20 Jr. High Fellowship—Movie Night
- Nov. 27 No youth gatherings. Happy Thanksgiving!

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/

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!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Circles are a great way to study the Bible, meet interesting and caring women, support mission work, and enjoy new and old friendships.

Miriam Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30a. Contact: Beverly Plagenhoef at 335-3942.

Hannah Circle meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30p. Contact: Ruth Roberts at 298-8854.

Presbyterian Women circles will be meeting this month to study Lesson #3 from the *Who Is Jesus* bible study for 2016-17. For preparation it is recommended that the entire Gospel of Luke be read ahead of time.

SAVE THE DATE

The PW luncheon will take place on December 1, 2016. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.



WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

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

DECEMBER: *Ordinary Grace* by Willian Kent Krueger

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

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

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

DECEMBER: *Makers and Takers: The Rise of Finance and the Fall of American Business* by Rana Foroobar.

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

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 **November 17** at 8p the men and women will come together at Hops 84 East. We hope to see you there!



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.

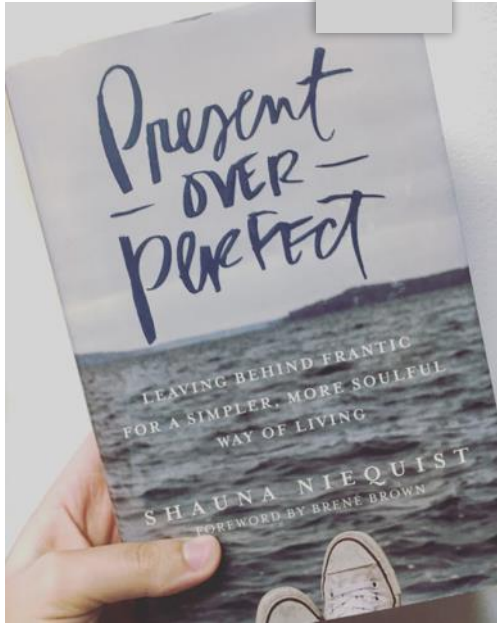


FOOD FOR THOUGHT: FILM VIEW & DISCUSSION

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 **November 11** for a showing of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (2012) 94 minutes. This film is about a curious 8 year-old boy who wanders off from his new home into the nearby woods where he discovers an unusual fence. Behind the fence is another boy strangely dressed in black-and-white pajamas. Bruno embarks on a most unusual friendship with the boy - one that proves both ordinary and remarkable, both inspiring and tragic.

COMING UP...



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! RSVP Jill at jillvanderwal@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 6 at 6p

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A CONFIRMAND?

All confirmands, youth, families and members of Session are invited to "Are You Smarter Than a Confirmand?" on November 6! This event is a celebration of the journey that our confirmands have been on throughout the fall. Dinner will be served at 6:00 and confirmands will meet with members of Session at 7:30p to share their statements of faith. Please RSVP to Teresa (teresa@fpcholland.org).

**NOVEMBER 5
FALL BACK**

Don't forget to turn back your clocks on the evening of November 5! Enjoy the extra hour of sleep before worship on November 6.



SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 10 from 10:30a — 12p SENIOR HOLIDAY BRUNCH

All senior members, caregivers, and friends of FPC are invited to a special morning of fellowship and delicious food at the Senior Holiday Brunch hosted by your deacons. Holland Windmill Barbershop Chorus will be providing the entertainment! You won't want to miss it!

WHO IS A SENIOR? You decide.

NEED TRANSPORTATION? Let us know when you RSVP.

PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 6 to Linda Avery at (616)738-0767.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call your deacon or Linda.



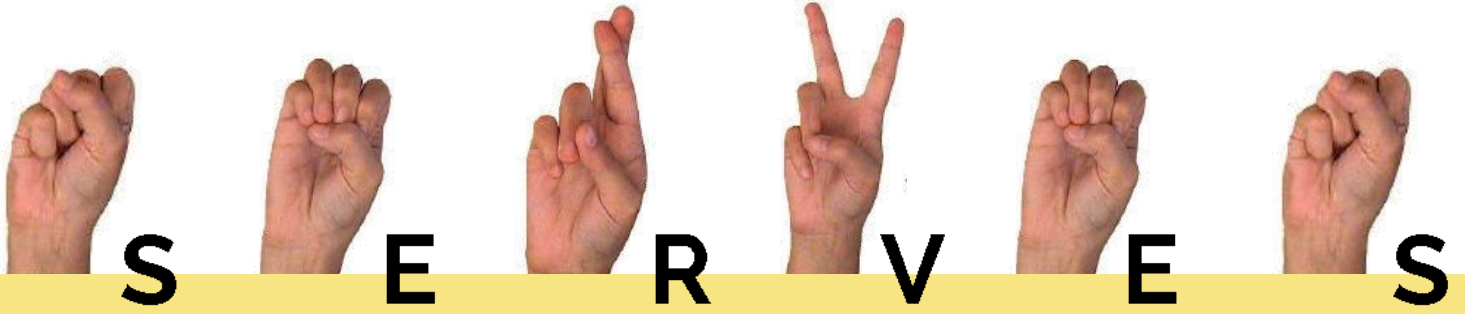
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES DECEMBER 24 at 5:00p & 10:00p



March 3 — March 5, 2017 2017 WOMEN'S RETREAT

- WHEN:** Friday evening, March 3 - Sunday noon, March 5
WHERE: Camp Geneva
SPEAKER: The Rev. Miriam Bush, an RCA Pastor, will be the speaker. She is a Hope College and Western Theological Seminary graduate.
THEME: Pathways

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



HELP KEEP HOLLAND WARM

November is coat month. As you prepare to face a Michigan winter, please set aside jackets and coats you don't plan to wear and children's outgrown snow gear. Bring them to church during the month of November. Collection bins will be under the TV monitor in the M & M Café. Outreach and Community Action House will arrange for distribution to those in need. Plan ahead to donate blankets in January.

ART ALCOVE

The Art Alcove features one of our own members, Michael Van Houzen. Most of you know he has spent the last 40 years carving birds. Sometimes you need a rest, maybe a sabbatical, or a different direction. That is the case for his paintings. The scenes depicted are places close to his heart. Most of them are in Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore. From birth, his family vacationed there every year. His grandparents owned a small orchard and farm just north of Empire. He hopes you enjoy the paintings as much as he did painting them.



Third Quarter – 2016

- Income for the first nine months of the year is about \$11,000 under projected or budgeted income.
- However, inasmuch as the budget was constructed without any “actual” submitted pledges, I do not consider this shortfall threatening, as catching up can occur over the last quarter.
- In fact, we have received approximately \$12,000 more in offerings than at this time a year ago, which is quite a positive.
- Expenses over the first nine months of 2016 are approximately \$15,400 less than the budget plan anticipated, due largely to the following:
 - Outreach has disbursed only \$37,000 of \$45,000 allocated.
 - Pastor and Associate Pastor expenses are about \$3,000 less than budget.
 - Spiritual Growth and Formation Council has disbursed nearly \$3,500 less than allocation, I assume those funds are likely to be disbursed as the fall programming is funded.
 - Year-to-date, then, we have received about 3% less than budgeted, and while this is not a major concern right now, if continued throughout the year, we would experience a year-end budget deficit.

Beyond the day-to-day and month-to-month, we continue to have sufficient cash reserves. And we have disbursed the building a fair amount on account of the kitchen remodel and then replaced more than that amount by gift. In other words, we are in decent shape:

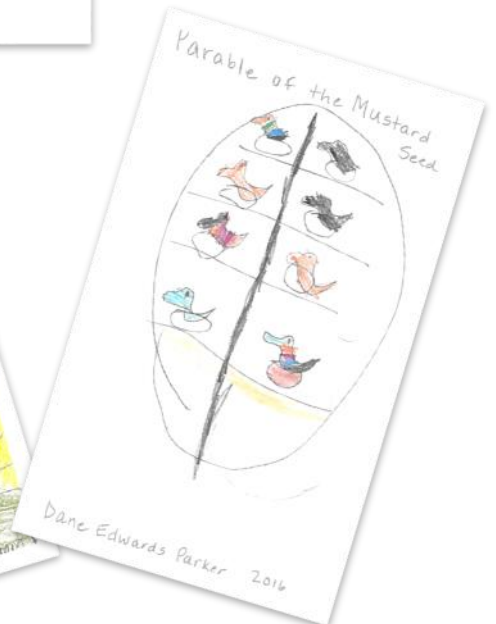
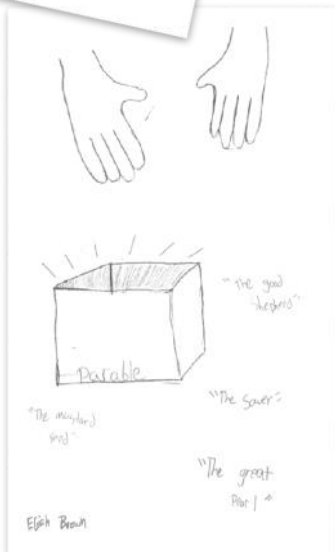
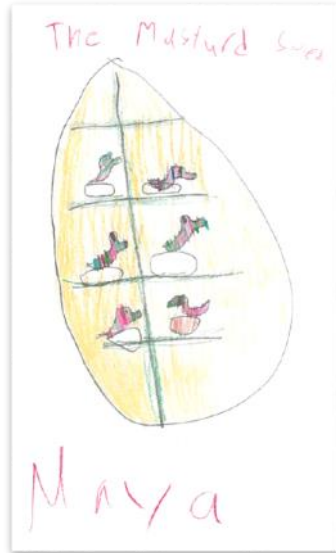
Cash-on-hand	\$93,300
Mission Endowment	\$341,800 (compared to \$285,500 at this time last year)
Building Fund	\$162,400 (compared to \$140,000 at this time last year)

It is my opinion that we continue to experience financial stability and strength.

Respectfully submitted,
Tedd Oyler
Treasurer

LIVING PARABLES ART

Enjoy Parable-inspired art created by some of the children at First Pres!



BUILDING UPDATES...

In October, the exterior of the Church received some sprucing up! Check out the before and after pictures.

BEFORE



AFTER

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Children & Youth Ministries

This month we are focusing on Youth@First (6th-12th grade) and Worship Centers (preschool through 5th grade)

Who leads these ministries?

Staff Teresa Larson and Lori Klinesteker, supported by Scott VanderWal and the Spiritual Growth Council: Bonnie Cowie, Tracy Kramer, Stephanie Edwards.

How do committee members engage in these ministries?

The Spiritual Growth Council engages in the Youth@First and Worship Center programs through collaborative effort and advocates with decision making, encouragement, and financial support.

What exciting things did these ministries do in the last 12 months?

YOUTH@FIRST

- Weekly Mid-Time Ministry gatherings and youth group gatherings
- Winter retreats for senior high and junior high students
- "Blessing of the Kitchen" Pancake Breakfast
- Volunteering at the Holland Community Garden over the summer
- Confirmation Camp in West Virginia
- Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University
- Participated in Presbytery-wide youth gathering in Muskegon
- Fall Lock-In to brainstorm and plan for the upcoming year

WORSHIP CENTERS

- Welcomed four new Celebrants and five new kids this Fall!
- Hosted a training for Celebrants and invited UM Church of the Dunes to join us.

What events are the YOUTH@FIRST planning in the next 6 months?

- Confirmation Sunday
- Participating in Presbytery-wide events, such as Urban Plunge, the Alma Youth Mix and attending a youth conference in Montreat, NC.
- Winter retreats and summer Mission trips for junior high and senior high youth.

How can others be involved? Contact Teresa or Lori if you are interested.

- Serve as a Midtime Ministry teacher or youth group adult advisor.
- Volunteer to return pop bottles and cans donated to our youth programming.
- Bring a meal to youth group and fellowship with us.
- Assist in chaperoning retreats and mission trips.
- Consider becoming involved in Worship Center as a Celebrant.
- Offer to bring a snack, engage in a seasonal activity or be a guest at Worship Centers.
- Update or enhance the response time materials and/or pieces used in the telling of the Story during Worship Centers.





first
presbyterian
church

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