

presbyterian profiles

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



A Season of Peace is upon us! Save the following dates:

Fat Tuesday
February 9 at 6:00p

Please join with fellow FPC members and friends for an **ABC Fat Tuesday gathering** (Appetizers, Board Games, Chocolate)! There will be a brief introduction to the all church Lenten study at 6p and ABC to follow at 6:30p. Please bring your favorite appetizers and board games to share. The Connections Council will provide the chocolate and beverages. **Please RSVP to office@fpcholland.org**. If you would like to help with set up, please contact Alan Martens at alanmartens@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday
February 10 at 7:30p

Please join us for a special Ash Wednesday service.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A Season of Peace.....1
- A Message from Linda.....2
- A Message from Scott.....3
- Church Staff.....3
- A Message from Lori.....4
- A Message from Teresa.....5
- Small Groups.....6-7
- Ministry Highlight.....8
- Parents' Class.....9
- Special Announcements...10
- Kitchen Fixin' Campaign...10
- FPC Prays.....11
- February Birthdays.....11
- Fair Trade.....12
- Save the Date.....12



I'm a child of the 60's,

the tail end of the Baby Boomers. When I hear “peace” I still see war protesters, peace signs, and Joan Baez singing “We Shall Overcome.” Nothing wrong with that, but the absence or end of war is only one facet of what peace is about. I also see quiet cold lakes of northern Minnesota on a crisp August day and hear the call of a loon. That too is not wrong, but it’s also only one facet of what peace is about—serenity, stillness of heart, and harmony with the environment. I think, too, of childhood sisterly arguments and awkwardness, and finally making up thanks to parental insistence.

Peace. Shalom. Salaam. What do you think of when you hear these words? How does peacemaking play a part in your beliefs and your actions?

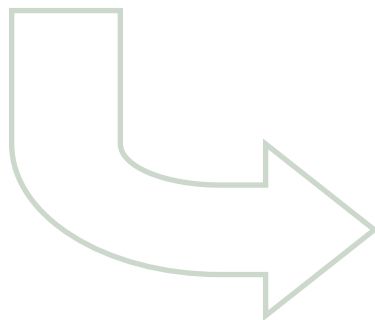
Jesus and all of scripture have a lot to say about shalom—that rich Hebrew word we translate into English as “peace.” Peacemakers are blessed (Matt 5:9). Jesus, The Messiah, is Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). We are charged to live peaceably with others (Romans 12:18), wept over for not living peacefully. “Would that you know the things that make for peace” (Luke 19:42).

Beginning in February, through Lent and beyond, we will abide in a “Season of Peace,” studying Hebrew scripture, Jesus’ words, and other early Christian writings about Biblical peacemaking. We’ll look at inner peace, peace between friends and family, peace in the community and nation, and peace in the world. **This is not simply a sermon series, not simply your passive listening to sermons about peace, but also a season of invitation, a particular time to adopt one new practice, reconcile with one person, advocate for peace in a place or situation you care about in the community, but about which you have not acted.**

The title of a PC(USA) curriculum speaks to me: “Peacemaking, the Believers’ Calling.” In other words, it’s not an option for Christians about whether or not they will be in favor of peace. It goes with the territory; it goes with the leader. Christ is our Peace and calls us into the Peaceable Kingdom. If we aren’t practiced and practicing in the ways of peace, we’ll be both out of step with our Teacher... and aliens in our own land.

Eager to get started? Read one of the numerous books written by winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. Try the library, your Nook or Kindle, or borrow one from the church library.

-Linda



READING LIST	Mohandas Gandhi	<i>An Autobiography</i>
	Nelson Mandela	<i>Long Walk to Freedom</i>
	Martin Luther King Jr.	<i>Strength to Love</i>
	Desmond Tutu	<i>No Future Without Forgiveness</i>
	Dag Hammarskjold	<i>Markings</i>
	Thich Nhat Hanh	<i>Being Peace</i>
	Mother Teresa	<i>No Greater Love</i>
	Dalai Lama	<i>Ethics for a New Millennium</i>
	Elie Wiesel	<i>Night</i>
	Henry Kissinger	<i>Diplomacy</i>

A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

“Now I’ve been happy lately
Thinking about the good things to come
And I believe it could be
Something good has begun”

“Peace Train” by Cat Stevens

At the start of Lent, we are entering *A Season of Peace* at FPC. As I have been reviewing books and resources on the topic of Peace, I have been encouraged by the numerous creative examples of the ways that families around the world practice peacemaking in their homes. I also quickly became aware of the fact that my own family does very little to discuss or practice peacemaking. I desire to turn my conviction into action rather than guilt, looking for a few simple ways over the next 3 months that Jill, Judah, Zoe and I can become peacemakers.

I offer the following quote from a 1986 pastoral letter from the United Methodist bishops of the United States as a reminder of the central role of our families in the peacemaking journey:

“The nurture of spirituality has its first and greatest opportunity in the intimate community of the family. Loving parents who share a visible reverence for God and creation, who cultivate shalom in all the relationships of the home and neighborhood, and whose work and witness in the world shine with moral integrity, are among the most powerful of all peacemakers. How a family demonstrates affection, shares power and responsibility, resolves conflicts, responds to hostility, copes with illness and injury, expresses grief, encourages achievement, conducts its common meals, spends time and money, plans its vacation and travel, forms its political opinions, confronts fears for the future, and worships or fails to worship God—these questions make the family the potential greenhouse of all peacemaking”.

I appreciate how this statement translates peacemaking into smaller, easy to understand concepts of regular life activities that demonstrate how peacemaking can be a part of our daily lives. I recognize that how you cope with an illness, spend money or plan a vacation may not currently be on your list of peacemaking activities, but this is where I invite us all to look at these choices through a new peacemaking lens.

I hope that our church’s focus on Peace opens up interesting, practical and contagious conversations and action. Let’s learn and share our peacemaking practices, new and old alike, in the weeks and months ahead.

I leave you with the following lyrics from the song, “Peace Train” by Cat Stevens. May our community of faith follow the lead of Jesus the peacemaker and enjoy our journey together on the Peace Train.

- Scott

Oh, I’ve been smiling lately
Dreaming about the world as one
And I believe it could be...
'Cause out on the edge of darkness
There rides a peace train
Oh, peace train take this country...”



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WORSHIP CENTERS



Through our children's hearts:

January 17 we gathered together to fill our “quiet bags of love” to donate to kids (through Children’s Advocacy Center) who sit in the court system with their grown-ups during hard times. We are reaching out, sharing the light. With our Worship Center offering, we were able to donate over sixty bags. During the Worship Services, Rev. Scott blessed our bags, our children who filled them and our friends who will receive them. Our hope and prayer is for the children receiving them to feel cared for and connected to this family of faith.

Through our children's eyes:

Epiphany, a sudden or profound understanding of something. I was sharing the story of “Are You the Messiah? John the Baptist” with our 4th/5th grade WC. We were talking of how the Pharisees and the Sadducees believed that the only people who should be baptized were people who wanted to become Jews. John requires baptism as a sign of repentance. Jesus requires nothing – rather offers forgiveness freely. Bella Edwards Parker thoughtfully shared “The Sadducees and the Pharisees could have different beliefs then (in biblical times) and didn’t know that John (or Jesus) was right. They had a right to believe the things they did. What they knew they learned from all the people before them, who learned it from the people before them.”

May the waters of Baptism be ever transforming, your eyes be open and your hearts ready to receive,

Lori Klinesteker
Children’s Ministry





YOUTH@FIRST

A MESSAGE FROM TERESA

Throughout Advent, the youth of FPC had unique opportunities to live out their faith. After youth gatherings focusing on how we can best shine the light of Christ in the world, the youth were each given a \$50 gift from the church with the instruction to invest it in a ministry or organization that matters to them. The youth set right to work researching local organizations that work with those experiencing homelessness, providing school supplies to families in need, and

reflecting on ways they could honor experiences that have impacted their lives. Here's a reflection from Nate Laux:

"I feel bad for all the kids in the hospital that have a disease like cancer. I have decided to do something about it. With my \$50, I have decided to buy stuffed animals for the kids that have nothing to comfort them. When I was younger, and in the hospital, I found stuffed animals very comforting. DeVos Children's Hospital specializes in very sick kids. That's why I decided to donate to that hospital. I'm glad I did this, because the hospital will have some new happy kids."

On January 17, youth who participated in this unique project shared their experiences with the congregation. The response from the congregation has been overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating once again how vibrantly FPC lives into its commitment to travel alongside our youth in their walk of faith!



- Teresa



YOUTH@FIRST FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 7	6-7:30p	Sr. High: Youth Room Updates
February 12-14	6-7:30p	Jr. High Winter Retreat at Cran-Hill Ranch
February 21	6-7:30p	Sr. High: Interfaith Discussions
February 28	6-7:30p	Jr. High: Laser Tag & Mini Golf at The Lost City

SMALL GROUPS

Here are 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/

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)

All women are cordially invited to participate in Presbyterian Women Circles and Events!



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 4, 10:00a PW Coordinating Team
February 5, 2:00p Study Leaders meet with Rev. Linda
(Note: this is a Friday instead of the usual Wednesday.)
February 10, 9:30a Miriam Circle
February 11, 1:30p Hannah Circle

BIBLE STUDY: *Come to the Waters* by Judy Record Fletcher with *Suggestions for Leaders* by Larissa Kwong Abazia. Scripture for Lesson Six is Amos 5:21-24.

LESSON FOCUS: Because of their shallow worship and sinful living, Amos calls the waters of justice and righteousness to roll down on the Israelites. What places in our world need the cleansing waters of justice and righteousness?

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE:

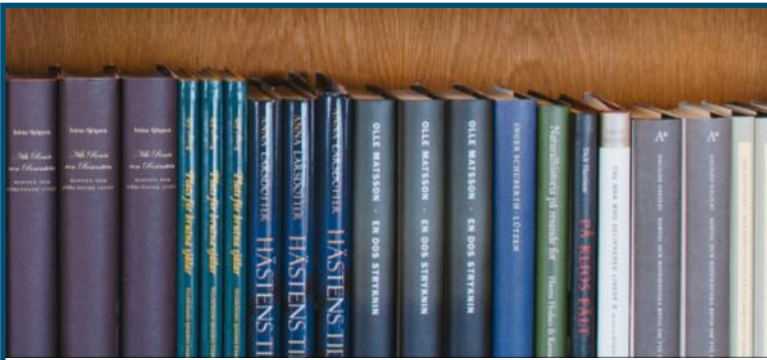
Those who have a birthday this month will find the Birthday Offering Envelopes on the PW shelf in the M&M Cafe. Money given in celebration of the blessings in life enables donations to national and world missions. Please place these donations in the offering plates during worship.



Sign up for a Lenten Study, *A Season of Peace*, small group. Groups will meet on:

- Sunday morning
- Tuesday evening
- Wednesday at noon
- Thursday evening
- and at Freedom Village

beginning the week of February 14. Sign-up sheets for the small groups and pot-luck will be on a table in the M&M café.



SPIRIT READERS

Spirit Readers meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00p in the M & M Café. All are welcome!

FEBRUARY: *Seasons of Your Heart*
by Macrina Wiederkehr

MARCH: *Tattoos on the Heart*
by Father Gregory Boyle

Contact: Kathy Heimstra at KMHiemstra@msn.com.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

FEBRUARY: *The Rosie Project*
by Graeme C. Simsion

MARCH: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet*
by Amie Ford

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.

FEBRUARY: *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Eric Larsen

MARCH: *A Chinaman's Chance: One Man's Journey and the Chinese American Dream* by Eric Liu

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



FOOD FOR THOUGHT FILM GROUP

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 February 12 for a showing of *St. Vincent* (2014; 102 min.) - Character study; there is more to this despondent, alcoholic Vietnam Vet than meets the eye. (Bill Murray, Melissa McCarthy, Naomi Watts)



HOLLAND CIVIC THEATER

Join us for the Holland Civic Theatre's comedy presentation of *Move Over Mrs. Markham* on **Friday, February 19** at 7:30p. Tickets are \$15.00, payable to Chris Urbaniak. Optional dinner at the Curragh at 5:00p. Please see the sign-up sheet near the South main doors.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Spiritual Growth Council

Who are the Spiritual Growth Council members?

- Marie Burkholder (outgoing Elder)
- Bonnie Cowie (elder)
- Stephanie Edwards (incoming elder)
- Tracy Kramer (elder)
- Lori Kleinsteker (Director of Children's Ministries)
- Teresa Larson (Youth Director)
- Scott VanderWal (Associate Pastor)

Our council provides vision, leadership, planning and implementation as well as participation in the Spiritual Growth opportunities!

How does ministry get done?

- Children in Worship, Youth Group, Midtime Ministries, Small Groups, Young Families, Child & Youth Safety Policy

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

- We have new members and a renewed energy!

What ministry events are the members of the Spiritual Growth Council planning in the coming 6 months?

- Women's Retreat (February)
- Transform Your Family parenting class (Feb/Mar)
- Midtime Ministries—exploring the concept of "Peace" (Lent)
- Senior High Youth Group Mission trip to Appalachia (June)

How can others be involved in the activities of the Spiritual Growth Council?

- Experience the wonder of our children as they begin their faith journey. We love to have new teachers in our worship center classrooms.
- Volunteer to support for our senior & junior high youth as they continue to grow in their faith.
- Participate in a small group activity. If you don't see one that interests you, help start one that does.
- If you have a young family, come play and grow with us.
- While your kids are in Children in Worship Sunday morning, check out a Midtime Ministries class.
- Volunteer in the nursery or for Celebration time.



TRANSFORM *your* FAMILY

a class for parents of children 4-16 years old



The **Nurtured Heart Approach® (NHA)** is more than just a parenting or educator behavior management strategy. It is a philosophy for creating healthy relationships with the people in your life. Originally created by Howard Glasser in 1992, **NHA®** is being successfully implemented through families, classrooms, health care professionals, and social workers.

Emphasizing the successes every child has and minimizing the energy we give to their mistakes (negative behaviors) allows caregivers to transform the child and the picture they have of themselves. When caregivers utilize the **Nurtured Heart Approach®** children learn they will receive endless amounts of praise, energy, recognition and reward through the positive behavior they display which we call “Inner Wealth™.”

Learn more about the **Nurtured Heart Approach®** at childrenssuccessfoundation.com.

First Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Preschool are offering a Nurtured Heart Approach® training that is simple & accessible.

WHEN: February 22, 29 & March 7, 14, 21 from 6-8pm

COST: \$40 per family unit for the 5 sessions + \$18 for the NHA® work book.
(Scholarships available upon request)
FREE CHILDCARE provided, by request

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church (659 State St, Holland MI 49423)

FACILITATOR: William J. Rowell, Ph.D, ABPP, NHA® Certified Trainer



First Presbyterian Preschool

RSVP today!

Register by February 15
online at www.fpcholland.org
OR call (616)392-9022

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Kevin Oswald for repairing and adding audio sermons to the website! We appreciate you!

PLEASE DO NOT PROP DOORS

To adhere to our fire safety rules, unless you are bringing a large item into the building, please do not prop doors open. Thank you!

KITCHEN FIXIN' campaign

We now have all the bids for the kitchen remodel and the contract has been signed. The total project is estimated to cost approximately \$110,000. So far the Kitchen Fixin Fund has received around \$35,000 in donations. We hope you will consider a donation to this fund.

Our goal had been to have the kitchen completed in time for our annual Easter breakfast but unfortunately that is unlikely as work can't begin until the various equipment components have been delivered. Whenever the kitchen is completed, we will have a "Food Event" to celebrate.

Please consider a donation to the Kitchen Fixin Fund!

M&M CAFÉ KITCHENETTE UPDATE

BEFORE



AFTER





FAIR TRADE

For the month of **February ONLY**, we are changing our fair trade sale to the first Sunday rather than the second Sunday. Please contact Janet Hostetler (janethostetler@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

FEBRUARY 9
FAT TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 10
ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 12-14
JR HIGH RETREAT

FEBRUARY 22
PARENTING CLASS

FEBRUARY 26-27
WOMEN'S RETREAT