

# presbyterian *profiles*

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

## spring *forward* SUNDAY, MARCH 13



As we anticipate a change of seasons and live into a Season of Peace,  
please keep the following dates on your calendar:

Daylight Savings: March 13

Palm Sunday: March 20

Maundy Thursday: March 24, service at 7:30p

Easter Service & Breakfast: March 27

**There will be no Midtime Ministries on March 27, April 3 & April 10.**

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W

hen one's family is very small visits with even distant relatives are precious. So when my sister comes home from Mali, we try to make our way to Delavan, Wisconsin to visit with Delphine and Chris Carr—our closest living relatives. Delphine, age 92, is our second cousin once removed. Her son Chris is 56, and lives with Down's Syndrome. Delphine's husband died about 12 years ago. No one expected Chris to live past childhood, but he's alive and thriving and keeps his mother *young*, driving (to the grocery store and church) and mentally alert.

Chris plays a keyboard (more mood music than melody) loves country western everything, eagles, bowling, his cat Buddy, and Jesus. He's a charmer, loves to help women put their coats on, hold dinner chairs for the

ladies, and clear the table. Three days a week he goes to a vocational training center where he enjoys his friends and finds purpose in simple repetitive assembly like work. Last week he was putting labels on Kikkoman soy sauce bottles.

Our father grew up with Delphine and the extended Knieriemen family in Philadelphia, but after moving to Minnesota, their contact lessened and Marily and I lost any significant touch with them until shortly before our father's death in 2010. Our visits with these two include hearty eating (a family pastime!) and lots of reminiscing about the Jersey Shore and the common relatives, all long deceased.

It's a tender, bittersweet few hours with them, but there is enormous peace in it. Delphine thanks us for the "adult conversation"; Chris calls us "dearies", wishes we would come more often, and shares abundant kisses and hugs.

Delphine's church is an Evangelical Free congregation. From my perspective they are fundamentalists, and their beliefs both puzzling and troublesome to my spirit, but she is full of love for others, she trusts in God for the considerable strength she needs each day, and she is not disappointed. She remains consistently prayerful for Marily, for me, and for my ministry here in Holland. Her steady-state is one of gratitude to God for all things.

It has taken me all of these past five years since my father's death to feel at ease and at peace with the differences in our Christian beliefs. My spirituality would be an awkward fit for Delphine and hers put a squeeze on me, but as the four of us shared a group hug on Monday morning, the Spirit moved me to say the blessing I often say with you after a hospital or home visit,

"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord be kind and gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace."

We already had that peace, a sacred peace, a shared peace, a peace delivered in different ways, but in exactly the ways each need it. Thanks be to God.

- Linda

# A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

## WHAT DO PARENTING AND LENT HAVE IN COMMON?

Did you know that a parenting class and Lent have a lot in common? In both, **we make commitments or stands that will help strengthen or transform our family or spiritual lives.** Howard Glasser, founder of The Nurtured Heart Approach®, describes 3 stands of the NHA® approach. “Taking a stand is maintaining a belief in an unbending and courageous way. We take a stand when we reach a point of clarity and resolve.” In the life of the church, Lent is one of the special seasons of “clarity and resolve” that includes a different level of intentionality and focus. Below is a brief description of the 3 stands of the NHA® and a simple connection to Lent.

1) **Absolutely No!** “I refuse to energize negative behavior. I refuse to be drawn into giving the child greater responses, attention and “payoff” for negative behaviors.”

What negative feelings, choices or behaviors do you want freedom from? What do you need to say “no” to so that you are able to spend your time and energy on the people and things that promote health, growth and freedom during Lent?

2) **Absolutely Yes!** “I resolve to relentlessly energize the positive. I will strategically pull the child into a new pattern of success. I will see and express greatness and consistency and often confront my child with his/her successes.”

What spiritual practices or behavior do you want to energize for the second half of Lent? What practice helps you experience more of God’s love & presence? How might you prioritize this?

3) **Absolutely Clear!** “I will maintain total clarity about rules that demonstrate fair and consistent boundaries and consequences.”

Oh, the freedom that comes when we are able to live into our commitments! To what and to whom might you need to say “yes” or “no” so you have clarity about where and with whom you will spend your time and energy?

As you have likely discovered, wisdom related to health in relationships, parenting or our spiritual lives has a lot of overlap. It is paying attention to developing the whole person. I constantly have my mind and heart attune for these overlapping and integrative approaches as I desire more joy, freedom and transformation in my own life and for all of us at FPC. God’s grace and peace be with us all as we journey together toward Easter.

- Scott



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# WORSHIP CENTERS

I invite you to journey with me through a morning in our Worship Center as it models our Peaceful Butterfly quilt:

## **The Good Shepherd is Ever Present**

**Celebrant arrives**  
(door is opened)

**Second Celebrant arrives**  
(sharing begins)

**Children arrive, one at a time**  
(welcomed – the circle forms)

**Table is prepared with Christ's Light at the center**  
(greeting, offering, singing & signing of the Doxology and Be Still and Know, prayer)

**Celebrant shares the Story**  
(hearts receive and wondering questions shared)

**Children are invited to respond**  
(creative arts; peace of the prayer corner; build friendships; explore)

**All return to the circle**  
(share scripture related to the Story, pray, enjoy feast)

**Children receive a blessing one by one**  
(the Story and the Light received goes with each one who entered)

**Celebrants, one by one leave the Center**  
(filled with delight)

**One Celebrant**  
(closes the door)

**The Good Shepherd**  
(Jesus said "I will show you the way to God's Kingdom of Shalom")

You are warmly invited and welcome to join in our Peace, the Light will always be shining,

- Lori





# YOUTH@FIRST

## A MESSAGE FROM TERESA

2016 Youth Winter Retreats are in the books! We had two great weekends away with the senior high and junior high youth at Cran-Hill Ranch (near Big Rapids). We briefly took a step out of reality to relax, connect and get away from the daily grind of high school and middle school life.

The theme verse of each weekend was 1 Corinthians 13:12:

**“Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”**

Each session focused on a different part of the verse while also exploring Jesus’ encounters with the woman at the well as found in John 4. After each session, we had small group discussions reflecting on the points of the speakers’ session.

Yes, I’m a little biased, but I was blown away by the honesty, depth and vulnerability of the youth during our small group discussions. One of my personal favorite moments from our Junior High small group discussions was after the session on Saturday night, which was about owning our faith story as our own and living a life reflecting Christ’s love in the world. The youth shared stories with one another about times they have felt *known* and *loved* because somebody else shared God’s love with them. They also shared ways that they intend to carry that love back into the world after the retreat.

There was also, of course, lots of time to relax and enjoy spending time with one another! The senior high students took advantage of Saturday afternoon to lounge around the fireplace and catch up on sleep after a busy exam week, while the junior high students used our five-hour free-time to partake in winter activities such as tubing, cross-country skiing, broomball, ice skating and hanging out in the game room.

Many thanks to Pete Laux, Jen Ludwig and Tim Staal who bravely agreed to join us on our retreat adventure; and to the congregation for your prayers for and safety throughout the weekend. The next time you see a senior high or junior high youth, ask them what they liked best about our weekend together!

- Teresa



### YOUTH@FIRST MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 4-6	6-7:30p	Alma Youth Mix (no youth gathering)
March 13	6-7:30p	Jr. High
March 20	6-7:30p	Sr. High
March 27	6-7:30p	No youth gatherings - HAPPY EASTER!

# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

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/](http://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**

March 2 2:00p Study Leaders meet with Rev. Linda  
March 3 10:00a PW Coordinating Team  
March 9 9:30a Miriam Circle  
March 10 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 7 is Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-7; Psalm 51:1-12; Matthew 6:12.

**LESSON FOCUS:** Christians forgive and are forgiven. What can we learn about forgiveness and streams of mercy from the psalmist and from Jesus?

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE:**

Presbyterian Women hope to raise \$500,000 nationwide in 2016 to be advocates for the most vulnerable in our world today: people with low incomes who need help making their homes safe, youth in the juvenile justice system who need alternatives and support, schoolchildren shuffled from school toward the prison system, and girls too poor and isolated to gain the education they need. Some of these projects that aim to accomplish these goals are in Kansas City, Kansas, Habitat for Humanity in East Bay and Silicon Valley in California. One project trains leaders in 21 Midwest and Southern communities who will stop the school-to-prison pipeline by organizing for change of school policies. A project in Pittsford, New York will build a school that will serve 600 girls in Majok-Keen, a village in South Sudan. Presbyterian Women follow up on these projects to make sure they are being successful in their mission. These projects work toward justice and peace in the world.

**Birthday Offering:** 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 plate during worship.



# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

## Connections Council



### Who are the Connections Council members and what do they do?

Alan Martens is the point person for large **events**. He coordinates the logistics and volunteers. He also makes sure that there is enough food. (Our stomachs say thank you!)

Jan Goodwin makes sure that **visitors** feel welcome by finding greeters and coordinating the hospitality desk. Jan also mentors **new members** into the life of the church and helps them make appropriate connections. She is in charge of Belongings, a class for those who are interested in learning more about church membership and/or how to become more involved in the life of the church. Contact Jan if you are interested in attending a class!

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

**DID YOU KNOW?** In 2015, the Connections Council did something they have never done before. They coordinated a dinner for all new members who went to one of the two annual “Belonging” classes. All but two of the new members were able to attend.

Most recently, the Connections Council coordinated the ABC Fat Tuesday celebration. It was a hit!



### What ministry events are the members of the Connections Council planning in the coming 6 months?

**Mark your Calendar!** The annual Easter Breakfast will take place following the first service, from 9:30 - 11:00a, on Sunday March 27. Take part in an FPC tradition!

Information about the annual canoe trip and family camp will be coming soon! We hope that your family will join us for one or both of these awesome events!

### How can others be involved in the activities of the Connections Council?

Alan needs help with events - from food prep to clean-up/set-up. Contact Alan if you would like to be added to his list of go-to volunteers come event time.

Jan is looking for additional greeters and volunteers to assist in the M&M Café. Contact Jan if you are willing to serve in either of these ways.





# THANK YOU RUSTY!

On February 21, we celebrated the completion of Rusty's faithful M&M Café service.

Here is what some of Rusty's friends had to say to Rusty:

*Rusty, you are one of my favorite people in this world. I wish there were more of you!!*

Thank you for all you do and all you are. Thanks for the kind words to our daughters, that make them feel special.

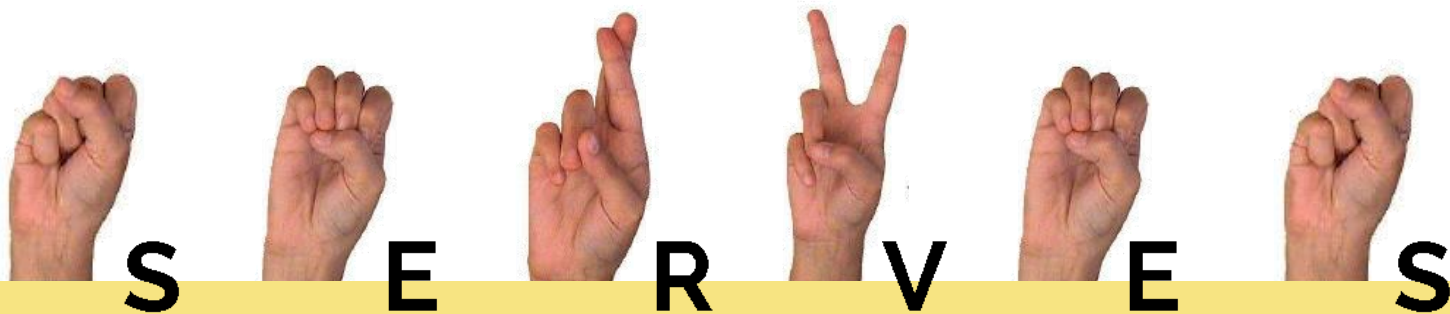
Thank you for your dedication to creating a gracious spirit of hospitality at First Pres! You quickly made this church and community feel like home, which I am so grateful for!

Thank you for the friendly smile and kind words as the last thing I see and hear as I am leaving the church.

Thank you for your faithful service over the years. Thank you for teaching me how to grind the beans and brew the coffee!

*Thank you, thank you, thank you - to one of the finest angels by which our church (and school, and family, and community) has been blessed!*

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear FPC members and friends,

Our neighbors were able to stay a little warmer this winter because of your donations:

In November, you gave **54** Coats and jackets.


In December, you gave **100** mittens and gloves.

In January, you gave **58** blankets.

Thank you for your generosity!

**ENDING  
HUNGER  
ONE STEP  
AT A TIME**

**CROP HUNGER  
WALK**



## CROP HUNGER WALK

SAVE THE DATE: April 23 & 24

*“Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you something to eat, or thirsty and give you something to drink?” asked the people and Jesus answered: “I tell all of you with certainty, since you did it for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.” (Matthew 25:44)*

Over the past 35 years, thousands of walkers in the Holland/Zeeland area have answered the challenge to feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty. We have raised over \$3.75 million to address local and global clean water and hunger needs through the CROP Hunger Walk. CROP Hunger Walk is in partnership with Church World Service who has worked for nearly seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all.

We invite you to join us on the journey to end hunger, one step at a time! **CROP Hunger Walk is April 23 & 24.** Save the date for this rewarding and fun experience! See Tim and Nancy Staal or Doug and Jane Smith for more information or a CROP Hunger Walk envelope.

# Refugee Resettlement

In concert with Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, FPC has offered to co-sponsor resettlement of a refugee family. We anticipate being assigned a family (or single) within the next couple of months. Normally an assignment is given with about two weeks' notice. This could have already happened as you read this.

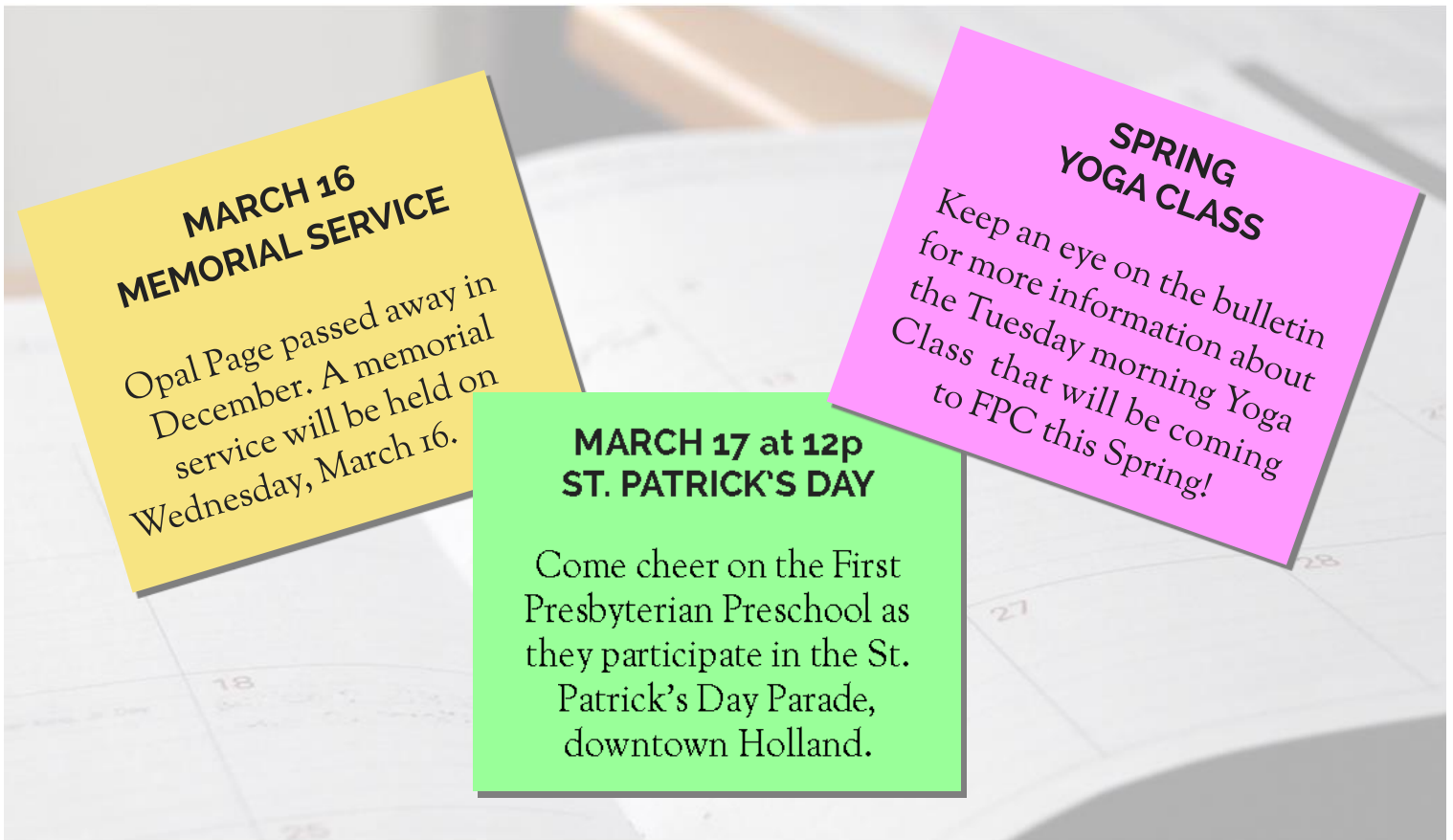
In order to be prepared, a committee is being formed to lead this effort. Your involvement can be in large or small ways such as English tutoring, transportation, friendship/visitation, housing coordination, employment, budget counseling, and coordinating education. The most urgent need is for members of the congregation to walk alongside the family as they adapt to our culture. This is a major undertaking; it will require lots of volunteers. Your enthusiastic support and participation is essential.

**If you wish to be involved, a signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the M&M Café.**

Contact Larry Lynn at [oldrunoo@gmail.com](mailto:oldrunoo@gmail.com) or 616-617-8944 if you have any questions.



# SAVE THE DATE



## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

A significant facet of being Presbyterian is that we are **CONNECTED** to our fellow Presbyterians, and a way we signify that connectionalism is by sharing the expense of denominational governance. This is done by paying a pro rata share of those expenses based upon church membership. The assessed Per Capita for 2016 is \$25.37 per person.

This amount is an overall church commitment. Session, in turn, asks individual members to make a separate contribution, over and above usual pledge and loose offering payments.

To facilitate these payments and to assure proper accounting, Session has provided blue envelopes in the pews as well as in your envelope boxes. For those members who do not use pre-printed envelopes, this help requires one extra step, but please know that your extra work is appreciated.

Thank you,  
Tedd Oyler, Treasurer

# KITCHEN FIXIN'

## campaign

The Kitchen update is underway! Most of what we are seeing is deconstruction before construction can begin. The old dishwasher, hot water heater and some cabinets have been removed. The electrician upgraded the fuse boxes to meet the needs of our upgraded kitchen. The plumbers installed new drain piping.

The Kitchen Fixin' project is estimated to cost approximately \$110,000. So far the Kitchen Fixin' Fund has received around \$37,000 in donations.

**We hope that you will consider a donation to the Kitchen Fixin' Fund!**



## 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.

# Passover Remembered

Lenten Poem by Alla Renée Bozarth

Found in Womanpriest: A Personal Odyssey, revised edition 1988

Pack Nothing. Bring only your determination to serve and your willingness to be free.

Don't wait for the bread to rise. Take nourishment for the journey, but eat standing, be ready to move at a moment's notice.

Do not hesitate to leave your old ways behind—fear, silence, submission.

Only surrender to the need of the time— to love justice and walk humbly with your God.

Do not take time to explain to the neighbors. Tell only a few trusted friends and family members.

Then begin quickly, before you have time to sink back into the old slavery.

Set out in the dark. I will send fire to warm and encourage you. I will be with you in the fire and I will be with you in the cloud.

You will learn to eat new food and find refuge in new places. I will give you dreams in the desert to guide you safely home to that place you have not yet seen.

The stories you tell one another around your fires in the dark will make you strong and wise.

Outsiders will attack you, and some who follow you, and at times you will weary and turn on each other from fear and fatigue and blind forgetfulness.

You have been preparing for this for hundreds of years. I am sending you into the wilderness to make a way and to learn my ways more deeply.

Those who fight you will teach you. Those who fear you will strengthen you. Those who follow you may forget you. Only be faithful. This alone matters.

Some of you will die in the desert, for the way is longer than anyone imagined. Some of you will give birth.

Some will join other tribes along the way, and some will simply stop and create new families in a welcoming oasis.

Some of you will be so changed by weathers and wanderings that even your closest friends will have to learn your features as though for the first time. Some of you will not change at all.

Some will be abandoned by your dearest loves and misunderstood by those who have known you since birth and feel abandoned by you.

Some will find new friendship in unlikely faces, and old friends as faithful and true as the pillar of God's flame...

Sing songs as you go, and hold close together. You may at times grow confused and lose your way.

Continue to call each other by the names I've given you, to help remember who you are. You will get where you are going by remembering who you are.

Touch each other and keep telling the stories of old bondage and of how I delivered you...

Make maps as you go, remembering the way back from before you were born...

So you will be only the first of many waves of deliverance on these desert seas.

It is the first of many beginnings— your Paschaltide. Remain true to this mystery.

Pass on the whole story. I spared you all by calling you forth from your chains.

Do not go back. I am with you now and I am waiting for you.



In March, take a walk through the Art Alcove to see the Peace Tree. It will grow and flourish through Memorial Day!



**MARCH 13**  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

**MARCH 16**  
OPAL PAGE MEMORIAL

**MARCH 20**  
PALM SUNDAY

**MARCH 24**  
MAUNDY THURSDAY

**MARCH 27**  
EASTER SERVICE &  
BREAKFAST