

# presbyterian *profiles*

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



## — living — PARABLES

Sundays | 8:45a & 11:00a

### **Join us this fall for a study of *Living Parables*.**

Starting on September 14, you are invited to join Rev. Linda Knieriemen on Wednesdays from 1-2:30p for a ten week study on 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 ten weeks is encouraged, it is not required. The group will meet in the M&M Café.

Please sign up on the bulletin board near the South main doors in the M&M Café. The sign-up will help Linda plan ahead, however, Linda will be happy to have you attend even if you have not signed up in advance.

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**L** it was a hot summer evening several weeks ago when a candidate for an Ottawa County judgeship knocked on our door. We had a friendly exchange, he disclosed that he was the son-in-law of a pastor, and I in return sharing with him that I was a Presbyterian pastor. His immediate response was, “Then I hope that you will talk with your congregation about my candidacy.” I replied, with a smile, that I most certainly would not, that pastors are prohibited from endorsing particular candidates for elected office. He backed off a bit, handed me his campaign literature and walked on to the neighbors’ door. I remained stunned. For unrelated reasons, I didn’t vote for him, but it did raise my awareness about a lack of understanding regarding national laws governing the relationship between partisan politics and pulpit pronouncements.

I was glad, therefore, to see on last week’s Sentinel editorial page a piece from the Los Angeles Times explaining to readers about the 1954 “Johnson Law” prohibiting 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations (religious and secular) from direct participation in supporting or opposing any candidate for public office.

Not all pastors respect that law, and in so doing, run the risk of losing tax-exempt status for their organizations. Some politicians want the law repealed. Even if it were repealed, I wouldn’t publically endorse a candidate, whether a local judge or a presidential candidate, because I applaud our founders’ wisdom about boundaries between church and state. There is a time and place to speak, and there is a time and place to remain silent. I believe that makes sense not only because it’s law, but because you don’t want me in the voting booth with you!

But to those who would say the church should stay out of politics, I heartily disagree and simply point to the example of Jesus who early and often critiqued the Roman Empire. Like the Hebrew prophets before him, he dared to identify national practices which both created or failed to address matters of poverty, hunger and injustice.

One of my responsibilities as a pastor, theologian, and preacher is to study, pray and then speak, informed by scripture’s proclamation into this particular society and circumstance. I do that from the pulpit, in Bible classes, in publications both secular and religious. I believe that the words of the Old Testament prophets and the words of Jesus hold wisdom that should influence your decisions in the voting booth, but I will not spell out a political party or candidate’s name for you. That’s up to the Holy Spirit.

Our PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith affirms our participation in public discourse and decision making:

“The Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.”

Jesus’ “saving work” was not only about souls, it was about societies.

[This election season, DO work with others for justice, freedom and peace.](#)

- Linda

# A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

## Lawns, Kidney and Family Update

Last summer I wrote about my adventures with an electric lawn mower and how I want to keep making steps that care for creation in my daily life. I need to start by confessing that I grew tired of mowing the lawn with the electric mower, so I gave it away and bought a neighbors' aging gas mower for \$40. I did not totally give up on my values as I am now in the process of killing my lawn so that I can plant Eco-Turf, a low maintenance Fescue mix sold by Michigan Wildflower Farm. Once this turf is established, it does not need to be watered, does not need fertilizers and grows slowly so only needs to be mowed one or two times a season. I know that I won't have the prize lawn on the block, but it will reduce our water usage and eliminate any lawn chemicals from entering the storm sewer. One of the main motivating factors in this decision was listening to presentations by Project Clarity whose goal is to remediate the water quality issues of Lake Macatawa and the Macatawa Watershed. Their website has several great ideas about water quality best management practices for homeowners. [www.macatawaclearity.org](http://www.macatawaclearity.org).

I passed the 4 months post kidney donation mark and I am feeling great. Thank you FPC family for your ongoing love, care and support. Doctors say that most donors are back to full strength after 4 months, and I am grateful that this is true for me. The last week of July I also had the privilege of meeting the recipient of my kidney over ice tea at Panera. She is a 44 year old speech therapist in the Grand Rapids Public Schools and is doing wonderfully. She had been on kidney dialysis for over one year prior to the transplant and struggled to have the energy to work and complete daily tasks like grocery shopping. She has renewed energy to invest in her students, her church and activities with friends. It was wonderful and emotional for both of us to have this privilege of sharing our stories together in person.

Finally, as you all prepare for the transitions from summer to fall, I wanted to share a few updates about our family. Judah is entering the 2nd grade and Zoe is starting kindergarten, both at Black River. We will have kids at the same school on the same schedule for the first time, which is wonderful. Jill continues her role as interim associate pastor at First Presbyterian of Grand Haven. They are in the middle of their search for a Senior Pastor and when that position is hired, they will begin the search for the new associate pastor. She has invested one year already, and continues to enjoy the opportunity to support that church in their time of transition.

I look forward to the simple, significant and profound ways that we get to worship, serve and live together this fall as we begin a new season in the life of FPC Holland.

- Scott



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# WORSHIP CENTERS



Welcome back!

Midtime Ministry begins September 18.

In July, as we gathered for training of new Celebrants, I was reminded of the calm and meditative time we experience in Worship Center. This time of year with the mad rush of our kids preparing to go back to school, sports, music lessons, and after school activities, it is a good thing to have sacred space to pause. Thank you for trusting us in preparing our hearts with the stories, and providing that sacred space for our children to be safe in their faith journey among friends.

Worship Centers begin on September 18 at 9:45a. We welcome Susan Kehrer, Stephanie Osborn (returning Celebrant), and Bob Teutsch in our Pre K – Kindergarten and Gwen Boeve in our 1st – 3rd grade. **Our 4th – 5th grade Worship Center would welcome (and be overjoyed) to have another Celebrant with us.**

## **Choir invitation to FPC Kids and Youth:**

Music Director, Chuck Norris will be leading a choir for ALL kids and youth. Practices begin on September 25, during the 11a Worship Service (after the Children's Circle). Mark your calendars for practices on: 9/25; 10/9; 10/23; 11/6; 11/20 and 12/4. The youth and Kids Choir will participate in the Advent Worship Services on Sunday, December 11.

All are invited and welcome. Christ's Light will be shining.

- 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

Summer 2016 is officially in the books, and what a memorable one it was! From the shores of Clear Lake for our Senior High Girls' Retreat; to the mountains of West Virginia for Confirmation Camp; to Purdue University for Triennium; and back to our own beaches here in West Michigan, I am filled with nothing but joy and gratitude for the opportunity to spend quality time with our young people.

**Thank you, FPC, for your prayers throughout our adventures and making these experiences possible!**

The energy generated over the summer lends well into kicking off a new year of youth activities! Our first event will be an overnight Youth Lock-In on September 10-11 to plan out our youth schedule moving forward for the year. Our weekly youth gatherings and Youth Education classes will begin the following Sunday, September 18.

Our 2016 confirmation class will also begin weekly meetings on September 11. Please hold our confirmands in your prayers throughout their journeys leading up to Confirmation Sunday on November 13. The beginning of our programmatic year is a great time to begin volunteering as a youth education teacher or youth group advisor, which we are always in need of. Please be in touch if you are interested in investing your time and energy into our church's young people. I'd love to connect! - Teresa



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

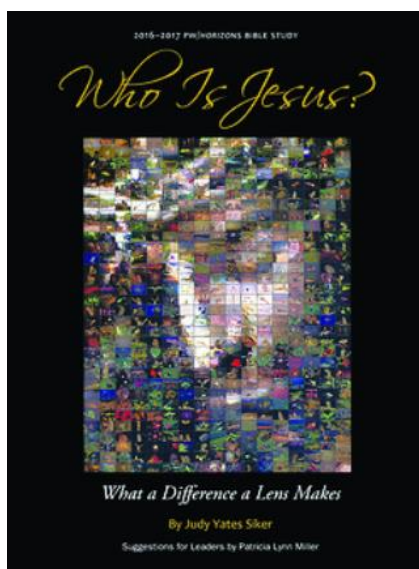
September 10-11	More info coming	Youth Lock-In
September 18	10:00-10:50a	Youth Ed classes begin
September 18	6:00-7:30p	Jr. High
September 25	6:00-7:30p	Sr. High

# GET INVOLVED

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/](http://www.fpcholland.org/community/ministries/)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)



**FALL BIBLE STUDY:** All women are invited to join PW once a month on the second Wednesday in the morning, or on the second Thursday in the afternoon. We are also considering having an evening group for those that work during the day. Here is a glimpse at what we will be studying:

*Halfway through the Gospel of Mark, as Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, "So, what's the word on the street? Who do people say that I am?"*

*It seems like a reasonable question to ask the people who travel with you and who have the opportunity to hear what folks in their towns and villages are saying about their teacher.*

*"Well," they answer, "some say you are John the Baptist (back from the dead); others think you are one of the prophets, maybe Elijah, maybe another one."*

*Then Jesus looks them squarely in the eyes and asks, "Yes, but who do you say that I am?" Now that's a good question! The author's prayer is that, through the course of this study, you will find your own voice, your own answer. When Jesus turns and looks you squarely in the eyes and asks, "Who do you say that I am?" what will you say?*

To request a study book, please contact Liz Bristol at 616-399-4908. Regular or Large Print study books are \$8.00.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY KICKOFF September 15 at 1:30p, Fellowship Hall

Join the PW for light desserts as Rev. Linda Knieriemen introduces this year's PW Bible study and leads the September lesson of *Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker.





## WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

**SEPTEMBER:** *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

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

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 **September 8**, the men and women will come together at the Magennis' house for a joint Theology on Tap. 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.

**SEPTEMBER:** *The Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

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

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



## BUILDING USE REQUESTS

It's that time of year that we are looking to renew our building use request forms! If you would like to renew your building use request for a group or activity that you coordinate, please fill out the **FPC Event/Activity Planning Form** found at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/cO5sauAX4qodAvXD3>  
(also found at [www.fpcholland.org](http://www.fpcholland.org))

## 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 **September 9** for a showing of *St. Vincent* (2014).

To see the 2016/2017 Food for Thought schedule, check out page 8!



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Film View & Discussion

2016/2017 Schedule

All are welcome to a film view and discussion led by Jack Hyde.

Food For Thought meets on the second Friday evening of each month at 7p in the Michigan Room.

Below is our film schedule from September 2016 - May 2017.

**September** - *St. Vincent* – (re-scheduled showing after last year’s being snowed out). (2014) 102 min. Out of desperation, a single mom has to rely on neighbor Vincent, an alcoholic Vietnam vet with a pregnant prostitute for a girlfriend, to watch over her twelve-year-old son. The real Vincent is slowly revealed.

**October** – *Suffragette* (2015) 107 minutes - inspired by true events, 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.

**November** - *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (2011) 94 minutes - A curious 8 year-old boy wanders off from his new home into the nearby woods where he discovers an unusual fence, behind which is a boy strangely dressed in “black-and-white pajamas”. Bruno embarks in a most unusual friendship with the boy, one that proves both ordinary and remarkable, both inspiring and tragic.

**January** - *The Woman in Gold* (2015) 109 minutes - true story of one woman’s journey to reclaim her heritage and seek justice. Sixty years after she fled Vienna during World War II, an elderly Jewish woman starts her journey to retrieve family possessions seized by the Nazis, among them Klimt’s famous painting *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I*. The journey takes her all the way to the heart of the Austrian establishment and the U.S. Supreme Court and forces her to confront difficult truths about the past along the way.

**February** – *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (2014) 124 minutes - a group of British retirees decide to “outsource” their retirement to less expensive and seemingly exotic India. Enticed by advertisements for the newly restored Marigold Hotel and bolstered with visions of a life of leisure they arrive to find the palace a shell of its former self. They become transformed by their shared experiences discovering that life and love can begin again when you let go of the past.

**March** – *Trumbo* (2016) 125 minutes - In 1947, Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood’s top screenwriter until he and other artists were jailed and blacklisted for their political beliefs. Trumbo recounts how Dalton used words and wit to win two Academy Awards and expose the absurdity and injustice of the blacklist which entangled everyone from gossip columnist Hedda Hopper to John Wayne, Kirk Douglas and Otto Preminger.

**April** – *Spotlight* (2016) 129 minutes - true story about the Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation that uncovered a scandal that rocked one of the world’s oldest and most trusted institutions. Delving into allegations of child abuse within the local Archdiocese, a team of Boston Globe reporters exposes a decades-long cover-up that reaches the highest levels of Boston’s religious, legal, and government establishment.

**May** - *Young at Heart* (2008) 104 minutes - a fun-loving senior citizens’ choir called Young@Heart prepares for a show in their hometown that is only weeks away, they must learn a slate of new songs, ranging from James Brown to Coldplay. The chorus’ tireless musical director leads the group through a series of hilariously chaotic rehearsals, proving that hard rock can be hard work — especially when you’re hard of hearing! Climaxing in a triumphant performance that will leave you cheering, their inspiring story celebrates the unbreakable bonds of friendship and the life-affirming power of music!



# COMING UP...

## SEPTEMBER 11 at 11a ALL CHURCH PICNIC

All are invited to a picnic after church on September 11. The church will provide: meat, buns, chips, condiments, beverages and table service. Individuals/families are encouraged to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. Food will be served immediately following the worship service. See you there!



## SEPTEMBER 18 TWO WORSHIP SERVICES

Mark your calendar! We will be returning to two services at 8:45a and 11a on Sunday, September 18.

## WEDNESDAYS, SEPT. 14 - DEC. 14 from 9:30-10:30a YOGA BASICS

FPC member and Yoga instructor Gwen Boeve will be offering a Yoga Basics class in the lower level of the church on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30a, beginning September 14—December 14. Childcare will be available for an additional fee. Contact Gwen at 616-502-4642 or ghekman@gmail.com for pricing and more info.

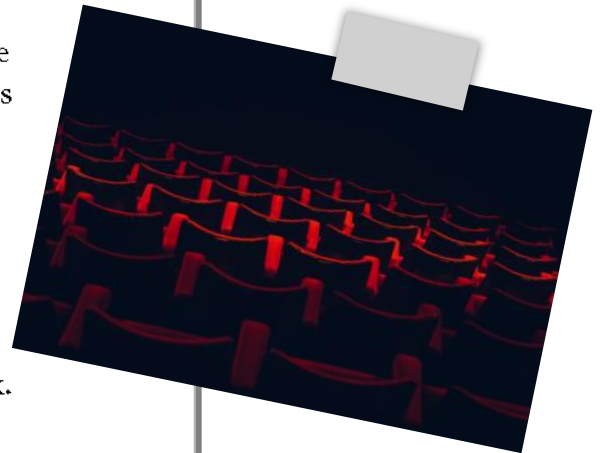
## SEPTEMBER 24 from 1-3p BIONIC EAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

Please join us for a social meeting of the Bionic Ear Association. Learn more about hearing with cochlear implants, make new friends and get updates on new technology. We will meet in the M & M Café on September 24 from 1-3p. Please RSVP to Janet Haines at janethaines24@gmail.com or 989-400-2998.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## OCTOBER 8 at 7:30p DINNER & SHOW

The MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940 is a spoof of the murder mystery movies of the forties. An eccentric heiress agrees to work with the New York police to solve the murder of 3 showgirls by inviting a number of suspects to her home on the pretense of holding an audition of a new musical. The show serves up a dollop of biting sarcasm and refreshingly irreverent wit treating you to a hilarious evening of theater. Optional 5:00p dinner at the Curraugh, 7:30 show at Holland Civic Theatre. Tickets are \$15 payable to Tom or Chris Urbaniak. Sign-up near the South main doors in the M&M Café.



## OCTOBER 13 at 8p THEOLOGY ON TAP SMALL GROUP BRAINSTORM

We need your Ideas! Men & Women are invited to join us as we gather at Hops at 84 East. The focus of our conversation will be around the topic of small groups, specifically a brainstorming time about what new ideas you have for our church. We will focus our brainstorming time from 8-9pm and then return to casual conversation at 9p. We hope to see you there! Questions? If so, please contact Pastor Scott at [scottv@fpcholland.org](mailto:scottv@fpcholland.org).



## OCTOBER 22 at 6p DINNERS FOR 7

We are looking forward to another special night of Dinners for 7! Watch the bulletins for more information. Sign up will begin at the end of September.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee has begun working to identify people with gifts and talents to fill the four elder and five deacon positions for 2017. There is also a two year deacon term to be filled. The elder positions are for Worship, Spiritual Formation-Small Groups, Personnel and Youth Elder. We would appreciate the congregation's suggestions. **If you have a name you would like to suggest or if you would like to be considered, please email Bonnie Cowie at [dbcowie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbcowie@sbcglobal.net).**

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
The 5th Annual Women's Retreat will be held March 3-5, 2017, at Camp Geneva. More information to come closer to the event date.

## HEARING AIDES

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of Grand Rapids recently received a grant to provide financial assistance for hearing aids to seniors 60 years of age and older. If you are 60 or older and experiencing challenges with your hearing, call Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service at 616.732.7358 or check out their website: [www.deafhhs.org](http://www.deafhhs.org). They can provide support and guidance to assist.

# ART ALCOVE

**AUGUST 21 - SEPTEMBER 25**

## **ART ALCOVE // KEN COOK BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY**

Ken is a Holland native and graduate of Hope College. Ken has honed his 20 plus year photography passion to specialize in Landscapes, Wildlife and Bird Photography. Ken has traveled to several countries to pursue this passion, but currently is focused on North America. He is a charter member and prior Ethics Committee chairman of NANPA (North American Nature Photographers' Association) and belongs to the Tulip City Camera Club of Holland. View his work and/or contact Ken at [www.kencookphotography.com](http://www.kencookphotography.com) or his FLICKR account at [KenCookHollandMIPhotos](https://www.flickr.com/photos/KenCookHollandMIPhotos/).



# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

## *Small Group Ministry*

SMALL GROUP Ministries fall under the direction of the Spiritual Growth Council.

### Who oversees Small Groups?

- Bonnie Cowie, Elder for Small Groups
- Stephanie Edwards, Elder
- Tracy Kramer, Elder

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

It has been an exciting year! The Small Groups committee coordinated the following:

- We continued the popular Dinners for 7.
- Twenty-four women attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Retreat.
- Nearly one hundred people participated in a Lenten Small Group study.
- A yoga group started in the spring.
- A family golf scramble was held in July.

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

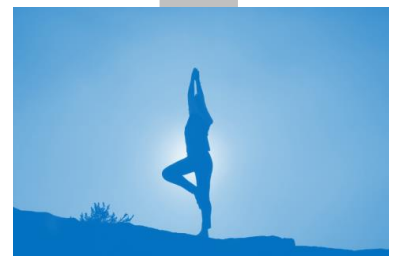
Mark your calendars! We have another fun year ahead. Here are some of the highlights:

- "Food for Thought" Film Group begins on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and meets the second Friday of each month.
- "Wired Word" adult Midtime Ministries study begins September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- "A Morning Apart" introduction to Advent will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The fifth annual Women's Retreat to be held at Camp Geneva will take place March 3-5, 2017.

### How can others be involved?

We are always looking for individuals who want to serve in one of the following ways:

- Volunteer to organize a small group study or interest group.
- Come to a brainstorming session for small groups. One will be held on **Thursday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup> at HOPS at 84 East.**
- Facilitate a Midtime Ministries series or a Lenten small group.





# WORSHIP AND THE ARTS COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS

The Worship and the Arts Council would like to thank everyone in the congregation who participated in the worship service survey this summer. We would like to share the results of the survey.

We are happy to say that 159 members of the congregation participated either through the paper form or the online version. Of those, 111 were regular attenders of the 11:00 service and 43 from the 8:45 service. There were others who did not share a preference.

The focus of the survey was music, service times and worship style. We also asked whether a single service option would be a fit for First Presbyterian as well as the use of video to enhance the worship experience.

When asked about music there was an overwhelming preference for a blending of traditional and contemporary styles whether it be a hymn sung or from the choir selections. There was also a desire for an increase in special music, both instrumental and vocal.

The idea of one service for First Pres was split fairly evenly with 63 feeling two services were still of value and 61 thinking one service was sufficient and 33 non-committal.

We were also split on the idea of using video as a supplement to the worship service. Of those with an opinion, 77 responded favorably and 67 negatively.

As you can see, some of the areas will be easy to implement because there was an overwhelming desire on the part of those surveyed, but others were split fairly evenly. We will be making changes based on what we have heard from you. Some will be small and some not so small. We understand not all of the changes will be embraced by everyone, but we will try to create worship experiences that will utilize the survey as a tool to move forward. We want the congregation to feel the survey was indeed important to the committee.

- Worship and the Arts Council

## FAITH & AMERICAN POLITICS

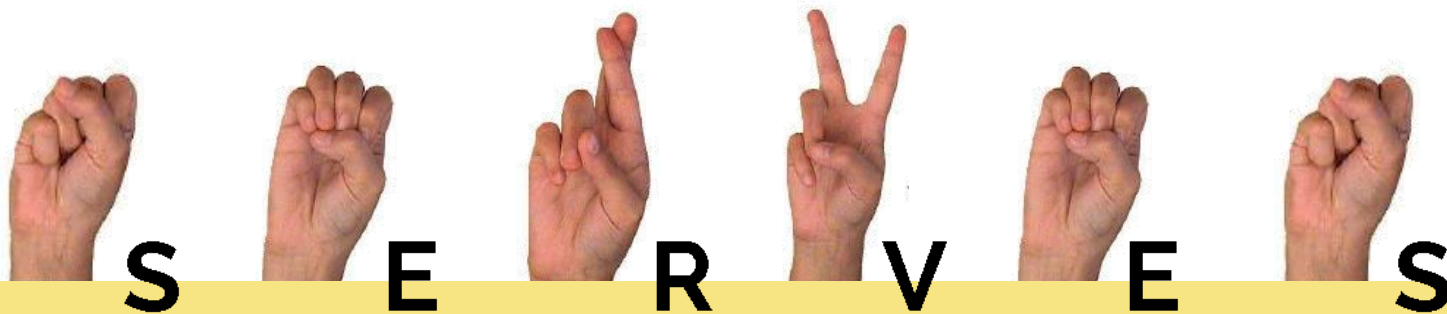
As you may have noticed, there is an election campaign in full swing. This one appears to be more divisive than ever. Given the tone, there is always the temptation to engage in similar name-calling and the like. Here is a chance to learn how to not do that but, rather, to talk to others without being disrespectful.

Instructors, David Walter (left) and Larry Lynn (right), will be facilitating this class for the third time. In years past, this training included 7 meetings. This time around you will get the whole package in only three meetings! What an opportunity!

The course begins on Thursday, **September 29** at 7p. We will also meet in person on Thursday, October 6. A resource will be provided for guided independent study between October 6 and our final face-to-face gathering to be held on Thursday, November 10, after the election to wrap it all up.

We hope you will join us! If you are interested in learning more, please contact David or Larry. A sign-up sheet will be available on the bulletin board near the South main doors on September 11.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## CARE CLOSET

Due to Good Samaritan Ministries having a budget deficit, and no longer being able to vet our clients, Care Closet is no longer in operation at First Reformed Church and First Presbyterian Church. *In spite of the sadness this brings we have much to celebrate.*

From 2000 - August 2016, our combined Care Closets have served **14,652 clients** and nearly **43,000 family members**. We have also, in partnership with Buen Pastor, been able to help nearly **140 migrant families**. Each time we have sponsored a refugee family, we have also been able to supply them with needed items.

One of our greatest joys has been the wonderful partnership between First Reformed and FPC. Over 15 years, we have gotten to know each other, appreciate our different styles, and we have had nothing but the best cooperation. Our partnered neighborhood outreach has gone beyond Care Closet, allowing us to serve together on Habitat for Humanity projects as well.

Many people from both churches have made this mission possible, and for many this put a new face on the poor. Aline Miller has faithfully called clients every week for all operating Care Closets and come every second Thursday to help sign them in. Karen Bergstrom Roach, Paul and Nancy Heinemen, and Jan Zessin took their turns at shopping for the closet. Thanks to the diligent shoppers from both churches, we never lacked for supplies. And thanks to so many of you who donated products or wrote checks so we could buy in bulk. There is a long list of our congregation who lovingly helped to fill orders and showed our clients real care. Some of you were able to help only a few times and we appreciate that. Others like the following helped often and even asked us when they could work: Nancy West, Pat and Gary Smith, Mary Harrington, Juanna Jackson, Bob and Mary Jane Hitesman, Linda Clark, Liz Bristol, Lori Van Tubbergen, Bob Scholten, Mike and Sandy Updegraff, Eric and Sandy Peterson, Mary Blackall, Jim and Jackie Rozeboom, Nancy Stall, Larry and Judy Rouse, Lori and Ray Harrison, and Marilyn Rae.

Our most important celebration is the relationships that were built with clients. We saw many move from despair to joy, dependency to jobs and giving back. We have learned so much about sharing faith, love and concern.

Wayne and Linda Pynnonen celebrate the privilege of coordinating the Care Closet and learning so much about our clients and our church members.

## FPC WELCOMES PASTOR HANY OF EGYPT

From October 14 - November 4, we have the unique privilege of hosting Hany of Nay Mazar, a Pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Egypt. He is participating in a program through the Synod of the Covenant, where each Fall the synod invites church leaders to spend three weeks in the United States. We are asked to provide for all of his housing, meals and transportation needs throughout his visit. The Outreach Council at FPC has committed \$1,500 to cover the expenses related to this program, which is the suggested financial commitment of a full supporting church. Pastor Hany will be involved in a variety of mutual sharing and learning gatherings, such as preaching on a Sunday morning, meeting with the youth group and attending a midweek Bible study. **We will need volunteers who are willing to help in a variety of ways, including inviting him to a meal or visiting a fun place in the Holland area.** Be looking for more detailed information about specific ways you can be a part of the learning and hosting opportunities. David Walter and Pastor Scott are the church contacts for this program.



## FALL ADULT MIDTIME MINISTRIES



This fall, the adult class taking place during Midtime Ministries will be using an online resource called *The Wired Word*. Each week a different current event will be discussed using articles from a variety of news media. Prior to each discussion, participants will receive an email with the week's current topic and relevant scripture. We anticipate lively and interesting conversations! Weekly participation is encouraged, but not essential. All are welcome!

*The Wired Word* will meet on Sundays from 10-10:50a from September 18-November 20. Bring your coffee, cookie and a friend to class!

Questions? If so, please contact Pastor Scott.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 11**  
ALL CHURCH PICNIC

**SEPTEMBER 14**  
LIVING PARABLES  
BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

**SEPTEMBER 18**  
TWO SERVICES  
MIDTIME MINISTRY BEGINS