

Presbyterian Profiles

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Worship Times

8:45 am Worship
9:45 am Church School
11:00 am Worship

Summer Schedule

**May 16 deadline for
June Profiles**
Send articles to:
Profiles@fpcholland.org
Always the 3rd Sunday

May 30 10:00 am

May



Annual Spring Clean-Up at Church May 22

Save the date – Saturday, May 22 – for the annual Spring Clean-up at First Presbyterian Church. There will be plenty to do both inside and outside and all levels of abilities will be appreciated. It will be a time of work and fellowship.

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. Work begins at 9 a.m. and continues until 1 p.m.

Bob Knittel, elder in charge of Business Affairs, says gardens and landscaping will be cleaned, some of the exterior brickwork on the sanctuary will be power washed, pews will be cleaned as will some of the rooms and windows.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex of the church.

Assisting Bob in organizing the clean-up are Shirley Weersing with the gardens and landscaping and Dave Altena with the exterior power washing.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Parable of the Great Banquet was our text as the session gathered for its annual retreat six weeks ago. You know the story. A king was giving a banquet. The invitations were sent, the food prepared, the tables set, and the excuses started to come. "I just got married, sorry... I have a wife to take care of now". "I just bought some new farm animals... I'll have to stay at home to milk the cows and slop the hogs." The king was both frantic and disappointed. The feast was ready; there simply had to be guests. So he sent out his servants to bring in anyone who would come, no requirements necessary, not the rich, powerful, those of high status, well clothed, or of the right pedigree. Everyone would have a place at the table.



With that story in mind, under the guidance of the Rev. David Baak, previously one of the directors of the Grand Rapids Center for Ecumenism and more recently an interim pastor for several churches in Lake Michigan Presbytery, we explored how that story becomes our story at First Presbyterian Church of Holland. How could this attitude direct us into the future?

When I was being interviewed in 2004, the Pastor Nominating Committee talked with me about the congregation's desire to 'look more like the neighborhood'; that is, to be open to greater diversity in race, sexual orientation, education, culture and age, to name a few. I challenged them... many congregations say that because it's the "ecclesiologically" correct thing to say. Not many congregations really mean it, or would want it to happen, or are too fearful to be open to the possibility.

Rev. Baak guided Session in identifying FPC's strengths as well as challenges in regards to inclusion, and introduced us to some language such as "authentic community", "the "realm of God", and "beloved community" --- each realities where compassion and justice prevail in the spirit of the God of Jesus Christ. An easier way to get a handle on this concept is to consider a community where all are "welcome and wanted".

In the coming months, session will continue to listen to God's voice, seeking greater clarity as well as clearer action steps towards this vision of being "a preliminary demonstration of the Kingdom of God to the world" (as our Book of Order puts it). Or as scripture puts it, Jesus' "Great Banquet". Or as a congregation where truly all people are both welcomed as visitors at the door, as participants and leaders in the life of the church, at new members' classes, in prayer and in play. Or, as an additional image, the Body of Christ where all people are equally wanted and affirmed for the gifts God has given them.

Perhaps you know the Edward Markham verse which communicates a similar sentiment:

He drew a circle that shut me out –
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.

Let's all work on drawing those larger circles, acknowledge any fear, and anticipate the joy!

Linda

The Church at Work

Graduates Honored on May 16

Please contact the office (392-9022) with your information, as to where you graduated from and what your future plans are.

Travis Ball
James Benko
Carston Clark
David Gansen
Amanda Richardson

Emma Sasamoto
Haley Stokes
Faye Van Oostenburg
Kate Van Roekel

Confirmation Class

On April 18 the following joined our congregation.

Abbigale Blackburn	Katherine Hoffswell	Claire Johnson
Morgan Ricketts	Tom Stid	Maegan Johnson

Blood Drive—May 16 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pentecost is May 23. Wear RED to church!!



Grief Observed/ Writing about Love and Loss

A four week writing group led by Colette Volkema DeNooyer. Recommended for those for whom at least a year has past since the loss of a loved one. Proceeds will be given through First Presbyterian Church of Holland to benefit Hospice of Holland. Cost: \$20.

Time: Wednesday evenings 7-9, May 19, 26, June 2 & 9.

Location: First Presbyterian Church. No writing experience needed. (Colette Volkema De-Nooyer is an ordained UCC minister, a trained Hospice volunteer, and a certified AWA (Amherst Writers and Artists) writing group facilitator.) **If interested- contact Colette at: comewritewithme@gmail.com**

Our Church Family

Thirteen New Members Join First Presbyterian

Michael Calvin France lives at 358 Maple Ave., Apt. 5 in Holland. He worked as a machinist in Traverse City, Detroit and in Alaska where he also was employed by the Alaska Wildlife Service working with wildlife. He is interested in classic rock music, astronomy, Bible studies and geography. He served as a deacon with the Highland Park (Mich.) Presbyterian church and comes to us by letter of transfer from the First Congregational Church of Muskegon.

George and Ellie Higginson live at 30 Bay Meadows Dr. in Holland, phone 298-8680. George retired from the Air Force where he was involved as property manager for Air Force and Air National Guard properties, mostly in Michigan. He is a 1963 graduate of Trine University (formerly Tri State) In Angola, Ind., and is president of its Alumni Board of Directors. He enjoys downhill skiing, biking, hiking and roller blading. He served as Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Holt, Mich., and at First Presbyterian in Lansing. He has served on finance, planning and auditing committees. He joins our church on letter of transfer from the Lansing church. Ellie graduated from Muskegon High School and became a registered nurse after graduating from the University of Michigan. She taught at the U. of M., became head nurse, staff education and nurse clinician at Battle Creek Health Systems. Now retired, she is interested in music, crafting and travel, has volunteered with food pantries, served as deacon with churches in Battle Creek and Lansing. She joins our church by letter of transfer from the First Presbyterian Church in Lansing.

John (Jack) Hyde lives at 15945 Fendt Farm Road, Holland, phone 994-9787. A retired special education teacher in New Jersey and Illinois, Jack sings in our choir and comes to us by letter of transfer from Hudsonville United Church of Christ. He is married and has three adult children. He is interested in writing, which includes some columns for The Holland Sentinel, volunteering and has been active with the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony and the Holland Symphony Orchestra. Jack graduated from high school in Chester, N.J. and college in Ewing Township, N.J. with a degree in special education.

Sarah Karn was baptized in this church as a child with her parents Steve and Betty and has now joined by profession of faith. She lives at 10325 Baldwin St., Zeeland 49464, phone 875-4048, and has two boys, Aaron, 10, and Alex, 4. Employed as a cashier at Dollar Tree in Holland, she enjoys alumni Dutch dance, horseback riding, and time with her children, of course.

Elizabeth Karn, (Sarah's sister) lives at 12163 Forest Ct., Apt. 5, in Holland 49424, phone 610-4476. She also was baptized in this church and now joins by profession of faith. She has a daughter Emily, 5, and a son born March 1. Her primary interests now are her children and spending time with her sister, nephew and friends.

Bruce Blitch and Karl Krueger live at 3706 64th St. in Holland 49423. Their phone is 269-857-2138 and they receive email at brabl55@msn.com. Bruce attended high school in Titusville, Fla., and went on to Florida State University majoring in graphic design. Now a flight attendant with American Airlines, he flies out of O'Hare in Chicago and enjoys his travels along with fitness, cooking, art and water sports. Karl hails from Fruitport where he attended high school and then went on to Muskegon Community College. Now retired, he was employed as a horse trainer and in insurance. He has two grown children and enjoys his grandchildren, gardening and cooking. Both men have joined on profession of faith.

Our Church Family (cont.)

Barbara Leidner lives at 145 Columbia Ave., Apt. 418, phone 396-3981. Now retired, she attended Skidmore College at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. majoring in business and has three grown children. She enjoys the many friends and activities at Freedom Village. With a solid Presbyterian background in New York, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, she comes to us by letter of transfer from her most recent Presbyterian church in Bainbridge Island, Wash.

David Robert Osborn, a native of South Lyon, Mich., lives at 3754 Townline Court in Zeeland, phone 283-8701. He graduated from South Lyon High School, Michigan Technological University with a degree in engineering and Western Michigan University with a master's in statistics. He is employed with Johnson Controls and enjoys all sports, especially biking and kayaking. He was involved with the First Presbyterian Church at South Lyon and comes to us by reaffirmation of faith.

Eileen Romaine lives at 50 E. 28th St. in Holland, phone 355-2215. She grew up in Glen Ellyn, Ill., where she graduated from high school, and graduated from Western State College of Colorado at Gunnison with a major in English. She has two adult children and now works in logistics from her home office. She enjoys reading, gardening, knitting and travel, and has been active in Junior League, with infant welfare and apartment projects. She joins our congregation by reaffirmation of faith, most recently attending First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn where she was active in the youth group and Stephen Ministry.

Bret A. Ziel and Vicky Lee Ziel join us by letters of transfer from the First Presbyterian Church of Jeffersonville, Ind. They moved to Michigan from Florida recently because of a family situation. Vicky's mother became ill and needed care and she lives with her mother at 5977 Glenn Eagle Drive in Hudsonville. Bret is a retired long distance truck driver and lives at 187 E. 27th St., Holland, phone 395-5875. He is a graduate of Comstock Park High School and attended Grand Valley State University where he and Vicky met. Among his interests are cooking and reading and he says being a truck driver, home on weekends, left him with little time for other interests. But he did help organize breakfasts and congregational dinners at churches he attended. Vicky, whose phone is phone 667-0334, graduated from Mount Pleasant High School and attended Grand Valley State University.

Clip and save

Bruce Blitch 3706 64th St. Holland 49423 phone 269-857-2138

Michael Calvin France 358 Maple Ave., Apt. 5, Holland 49423

George and Ellie Higginson 30 Bay Meadows Dr., Holland 49424 phone 298-8680

John (Jack) Hyde 15945 Fendt Farm Rd., Holland 49424 phone 994-9787

Sarah Karn 10325 Baldwin St., Zeeland 49464 phone 875-4048

Elizabeth Karn 12163 Forest Ct., Apt. S, Holland 49424 phone 610-4476

Karl Krueger 3706 64th St., Holland 49423 phone 269-857-2138

Barbara Leidner 145 Columbia Ave., Apt. 418, Holland 49423 phone 396-3981

David Robert Osborn 3754 Townline Ct., Zeeland 49464 phone 283-8701

Eileen Romaine 50 E. 28th St, Holland 49423 phone 355-2215

Bret A. Ziel 187 E. 27th St., Holland 49423 phone 395-5875

Vicky Lee Ziel 5977 Glenn Eagle Dr., Hudsonville 49426 phone 667-0334

“Exploration Time” Needs Your Help.

Meeting May 16th 10 a.m.

During this school year, Exploration Time has been held during the second service for 2nd through 4th graders on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The goal has been to engage the children in activities that teach them about worship and mission and have fun doing this. There will be a meeting at 10 a.m. on May 16th in Fellowship Hall for all parents of next year's 2nd through 4th graders, and for anyone else who would like to participate as an adult volunteer. We need two volunteers to work with the children each time they meet. Our goal is to have eight teams of two people each, who would each lead the class two times during the year. All materials and activities are provided for each session – you just need to enjoy working with our kids!

Jean Olney

“Children In Worship” Looking For Teachers

If you would like to experience the stories of the Bible in a new way,
If you would like a chance to get to know more people in our church,
If you would like to take a little adventure on your faith journey,
Children In Worship is looking for you!

We need teachers for the upcoming school year. Training is provided.

Each class has a team of teachers that rotate through the teaching schedule. No teaching experience nor advanced knowledge of the Bible is necessary – just a desire to experience God's Stories with our youth.

We promise that you will see even the most familiar Bible stories in a new light. Please talk to Amie Stid if you would like to learn more about this fun opportunity. (616) 490-0601 or acady-bug@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School

LOCATION – Peace Lutheran Church

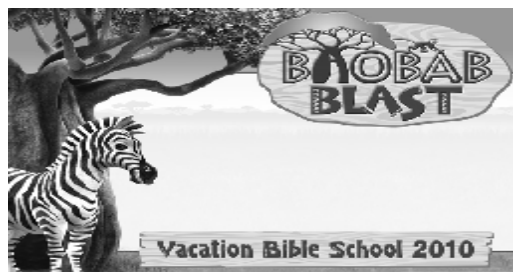
DATE – June 21-25

AGES – 3 yrs. – 5TH Grade

COST - \$12.00 (includes T-shirt)

REGISTRATION – May 30, June 6 & 13

CONTACT – Sandy Updegraff 399-4171



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Craft person – set up craft area each day and help children with crafts

Field trip chaperones

Cleanup people for Thursday and final clean up on Friday

Check in/out person-8:30-9:00 AM/ 2:45 – 3:15 PM

Junior Counselors – help teachers in the class room

See Christian Education Board for donation needs and more details

Outreach

2010 Lakeshore Region Summit on Racism

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance is sponsoring a summit on racism May 20th at Hope College. Thousands of area residents have participated in this informational and inspirational event in recent years.

The Summit brings people together to learn and grow – preparing participants to help our region advance racial equity and offer economic opportunity for all. Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum – widely recognized as a scholar, teacher, race relations expert and leader in higher education – will provide the morning keynote address and Dr. Tony Campolo – author, minister, and media commentator on religious, social, and political matters – will provide the lunch keynote address.

We would like to have First Presbyterian members attend this event and will cover a portion of the \$20 entry fee. Please contact Larry Lynn at 399-0799 or oldrun@aol.com if interested.

Neighborhood Outreach This Fall

Using Central Wesleyan Church's project called the PLUNGE on April 24th as an example, Outreach Council would like to adopt a similar activity this fall. PLUNGE is an annual effort on the part of many local churches to help thy neighbor on a particular day. The desire is to meet some of the needs and bless people within a 1/4 mile radius (preferred) of church property. This could be anywhere from helping the elderly with raking leaves to painting an outbuilding. Our plan is to find and assess the work to be done followed by a signup of volunteers. Each project will have a leader to pray at the site, eat with the family/workers being served, and leave a connection card. The date and details for this effort are yet to be decided. You will be advised as planning progresses over the next few months.

Styrofoam Recycling

We have now been recycling styrofoam for 15 months. We appreciate your efforts to keep styrofoam out of landfills since we know it never breaks down.

Thank you to all CROP Walk Donators and Walkers

April 24 and 25 marked the 30th anniversary of CROP Walk in the Holland/Zeeland Area. We had a marvelous turnout from First Presbyterian Church. Thank you! Now it is time to collect the donations from our generous pledgers.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 16. All the participating CROP Walk churches will celebrate Dedication Sunday. The goal is for all walkers in the Holland/Zeeland area to turn in the envelopes that Sunday as a symbol of our oneness with those who walked and those who are hungry here and throughout the world. (If you would like to turn in your envelopes early, turn them in to the office or find Tim or Nancy Staal.)

CHURCH MEN AND WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Selling Mother's Day Cards

Mother's Day is May 9th!!! Have you bought your special Mother a Mother's Day Card? This year PC (USA)'s Mother's Day Project has a new name and has expanded its goals. It is now called **Healthy Women/Healthy Families Mother's Day Project**. It will continue to highlight the Malaria Prevention Program which was established by Presbyterian Church (USA) nearly 13 years ago. For women the project will continue to include malaria prevention, including net distribution and prenatal medication. For the children it will include immunizations, basic health screening for infants, primary health care for illnesses and accidents along with the malaria treatment. We need to remember that malaria kills more than one million people annually. Children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to malaria. You can help in this life-saving effort by purchasing a Mother's Day card for your Mother, Aunt, Sister, Daughter, or friend for a \$10 donation. Jean Williams and Mary Bennett will be selling the Mother's Day cards after both services on May 2nd. Thank you for your support and donation.

PW Circles Close Study of Joshua

May brings us to a close of our *Horizons* study of Joshua: A Journey of Faith. The Miriam Circle, the morning circle, will meet on May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Hannah Circle, the evening circle, will meet on May 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Southside Inn.

Save the Dates -

May 1-8 is Tulip Time Information Booth at the Holland Civic Center.
June 2 is the noon picnic. Watch the bulletin for additional information.

First Presbyterian Church Men's Softball team begins play in May.

The team plays on Monday nights in the City of Holland Recreation League. All games are played at the Matt Urban Sports and Recreation Complex on 32nd Street between Lincoln and US 31 in Holland. The complex features plenty of seating, a concession stand, restrooms and even a play area for younger children. Our team features a number of long-time and new players this year. The team is coached by Kevin Oswald who is assisted by Bill Evenson and Carl Van Faasen. We encourage church members to come watch us play.

Church Youth Active in May Civic Events

The church school year is quickly drawing to a close but that does not mean that the youth of the church are slowing down any in and outside of the walls of First Presbyterian Church. Many of the youth of the church continue to participate in school functions ranging from athletics and plays to musical performances including marching in the Tulip Time parades. This makes the dedication of the youth to the weekly meetings all the more impressive and meaningful to the life of the church. I hope that many of you are able to support our youth by catching some of our young musicians or Dutch dancers. I know it means a lot to each of them to know that the care of the congregation extends well beyond the walls of First Presbyterian Church.

Calendar

Middle School Youth

May 5 6:00-7:30 pm

Meet Downtown for Tulip Time

May 12 6:00-7:30 pm

Meet at Church

May 19 6:00-7:30 pm

Meet at Church

May 26 6:00-7:30 pm

Meet at Church

High School Youth

May 2 6:00-8:00 pm

Meet Downtown for Tulip Time

May 9 6:00-8:00 pm

Disc Golf on the North Side

May 16 6:00-8:00 pm

Honor Graduates (during worship and Youth Group)

May 23 NO YOUTH GROUP

Family Camp and Memorial Day

A special thank you to all who have helped support the youth of First Presbyterian Church by bringing in pop cans, buying pigs in a blanket, offering your prayers, striking up conversations with the youth showing how much you care about what is going in their lives, encouraging them in every step of their faith journey, and so much more. As a congregation, this church has demonstrated time and time again how much the young adults of the church mean to the body of Christ. I know that I speak for the entire group saying thank you. We look forward to a wonderful May filled with graduations, celebrations, end of the school-year fun, and some times to relax and breathe easy for a bit. The success of a youth group depends a great deal on the energy and care put into it by the members. Many times individuals attribute the success of a youth group on the youth director, but more often, the success of a youth group is built upon the foundation laid at home and by the congregation long before the youth are in middle school or high school. By making God a priority in the lives of these amazing young men and women, this congregation is able to be proud of the youth that are being brought up in this church. Again, on behalf of the youth and the adult sponsors of this congregation thank you for your support.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

May Birthdays

- 5-1 Earl Borlace, Larry Briggance,
Mack Alfaro, John Rothwell,
Rick Schamper, Brooklen Chambers
- 5-2 Clark Weersing, Bill Klerekoper,
Evan Roach, Jeremy Matuszewski
- 5-3 Lori Klinesteker
- 5-4 Emma Sasamoto
- 5-6 Karl Schroeder
- 5-9 Kari Ann Kreple, Hannah Stokes
- 5-10 Mia Berarducci
- 5-11 Barb Ditch, Wyatt Kreple
- 5-12 Ben Olney
- 5-13 Will Kramer
- 5-14 Elizabeth Keefer, Jack Bonham
- 5-15 Heather Mohler, Kyle Kreps,
Mary Jane Hitesman, Gavin Melcher
- 5-16 Jack Holmes
- 5-18 Haley Stokes, Noah Blackburn,
Megan Williams
- 5-20 James Benko
- 5-21 Margo Johnson
- 5-22 Steve Borgman, Jeanne Gerow
- 5-23 Peggy VandenHeuvel, Josh Mohler,
Brandon Rudick
- 5-24 Katherine Oswald
- 5-25 David Cuthbertson, Ross Hamlin,
Courtney Rudick
- 5-26 Sue Williams, Gina Lyon
- 5-27 Paul Stid, Judy Phillips,
Dan Altena
- 5-28 Chris Kreple, Catherine Malmstadt,
Katelyn Klinesteker
- 5-29 Ned Pierson, Nancy Staal
- 5-30 Bob Teutsch, Anne Lievense,
Tom Stid
- 5-31 Marie Burkholder, Maggie Hoffswell



Freedom Village Inn, 145 Columbia Ave.,
Suite 1, Holland 49423

Jeannette Gage Mary Lambert
Trudy Stewart Martha Turinsky
Mary Ann Frieling

Oakcrest Manor, 11909 James St.
Holland 49424

Shirley Judd

Resthaven, 280 W 40th, Holland 49423
Frances Martin #44

Heritage Health Care, 320 Central Ave.,
Zeeland 49464

Joyce Scholten

Warm Friend, 5 East 8th St., Holland 49423
Ev Frobom #524

Maple Woods Resthaven, 49 E 32nd St.,
Holland 49423

Mary Jenkins #251

Women's Book Club

May 23 In fidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

June 27 The Double Bind by Chris Bohjalian

Gloria Hoekenga
4-21-2010



ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace, election, predestination, providence; these are all terms that are familiar and prevalent in the faith-life of believers, especially those of the Reformed tradition (which includes those of us who avow to the Presbyterian denomination). Often the former term is spoken in opposition to the latter terms painting what would appear to some as two veins of Reformed belief. There are those individuals who adhere to that which is taught throughout Scripture of God's chosen people and how those chosen by God (elected) are destined for eternal glory. Those who would appear to oppose this understanding are the individuals who proclaim that grace abounds and that while all sin and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), God's grace is sufficient that all may be saved and destined for eternal glory. So, one may ask, which is correct? A better question may be, are these terms as antithetical as they sometimes are made to appear?



This summer you are invited to join fellow members as well as members of the community in reading a "Book of the Summer" which will grapple with this very issue of election and grace. In their book *If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person* Philip Gulley and James Muholland share their thoughts on why "God will save every person." While this is by no means a new concept, Gulley and Muholland offer the reader contemporary settings in which one may see God's grace as universally accessible. Both authors, by sharing their own personal experiences of grace, paint a picture of a God who seeks God's children wherever and however they may be. Sinner or saint, according to the authors, God desires nothing less than universal election.

For those of you who hear the words of John Calvin echoing in your ears addressing this topic, you may rest assured that his ideas on this subject will not go unnoted. By engaging the 1541 *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, one is able to read a translation of the French theologian's work that up to this point has only been available in French. The 1541 version, which was written to the people of France, has a more pastoral feel and offers wonderful explanations to the lay-individual who is called to grapple with issues such as those mentioned above. While reading John Calvin's work is not mandatory, one would be remiss to not engage the voice of such a profound Reformed theologian on the subject of election and grace.

So please join us this summer in reading and discussing our "Book of the Summer" entitled *If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person*, by Philip Gulley and James Muholland. As a group we will meet twice a month June – August, but there will also be opportunities to share your thoughts and insights online in an online discussion forum. That way if you are out of town or feel like sharing thoughts or questions between group gatherings, you will have a space in which to do so. By no means is this a class in which any one person has or will have all the answers, to quote John Calvin, "when they seek to understand predestination, they enter into the sanctuary of divine wisdom: if someone too confidently and boldly occupies himself with it, he will never reach the point of being able to satisfy his curiosity and he will enter into a labyrinth from which he will find no exit." Thus the call beckons us to humbly explore that which has piqued the curiosity of so many for thousands of years. I hope you will join in the discussion as together we faithfully seek understanding. If you are interested, please email Pastor Matt (mattw@fpcholland.org) or slip a note indicating you would like a copy of the book and we will get one ordered for you.

First Presbyterian Staff & Officers

Linda Knieriemen, Pastor	lindak@fpcholland.org
Matt Webber, Associate Pastor	mattw@fpcholland.org
Ned Pierson, Parish Associate	nedp49423@yahoo.com
Vicki Best, Office Manager	vickib@fpcholland.org
Chuck Norris, Director of Music	norrisc@gvsu.edu
Nancy Burkitt, Child Care	contact church office
Thom Samuelson, Maintenance	thomsam@ameritech.net
Jodi Stevens, Bookkeeper	pjstevens@chartermi.net
Hope Alexander, Custodian	contact church office
Lori Klinesteker, Clerk of Session	klinestekerl@gmail.com

Session Councils

Business Affairs	Bob Knittel, rrk@metalflo.com
Personnel	Linda Gebben, linge@sbcbglobal.net
Christian Education	Tim Richardson, rchrdsn@sbcbglobal.net Amie Stid, acadybug@gmail.com
Outreach	Larry Lynn, oldrun@aol.com Jeff Brown, jbrown@hope.edu
Stewardship	Mike DeWaard, mikedw123@gmail.com Bruce Damstra, bdamstra@charter.net
Worship	Mary Deenik, deenik@hope.edu Jean Olney, jbo25@charter.net
Congregational Life	Sherry Martens, sherrym@aplaceforwomen.org
Hospitality	Jan Goodwin, j.goodwin@att.net
Elder at Large	Sarah Wildt, wildts@mail.gvsu.edu
Treasurer	Rich Lievense, rich_lievense@bankofholland.com

Staffed by

Linda Knieriemen
Linda Knieriemen
Matt Webber
Matt Webber
Linda Knieriemen
Linda Knieriemen
Matt Webber
Linda Knieriemen