

presbyterian profiles

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

March Session Meeting - HIGHLIGHTS -

The First Presbyterian Church Session meets on the third Thursday of the month. Beginning this month we will communicate highlights of these meetings in the Profiles.

- Session received Barb Schreur under care of Session as the first part of her process to be ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament. Barb has completed her Master of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School and works as a chaplain in a long term care facility in Grand Haven. Elder Jan Goodwin serves as her liaison.
- Session passed recommendations to the Employee Manual coming from the Personnel Council Elder Dave Zessin. The changes clarify the calculation of vacation and personal days.
- Elder Chris Olney from the Business and Building Council offered an update on building needs and the potential for a Capital Campaign. This will be a major part of the Session Retreat April 29-30.
- Treasurer Tedd Oyler presented a summary of first quarter finances which are tracking very close to plan.
- The Session received brief reports from elders and staff about their respective areas of ministry. Staff and Elders gave brief reports about their areas of ministry.

Session Minutes as well as financial reports are kept in the Church Office and available for you to view upon request.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Session Highlights.....	1
A Message from Linda.....	2
A Message from Scott.....	3
A Message from Lori.....	4
A Message from Teresa.....	5
Stay Connected.....	6-7
Save the Date.....	8
Peace Camp.....	9
Graduates.....	10
FPC Prays.....	11
Birthdays.....	11
Art Alcove.....	12



From cleaning bathrooms to walking alongside Confirmants to preparing bulletins to preaching, First Presbyterian Church depends on eleven paid staff members joined with countless volunteers to fulfill our mission inside and beyond our walls. It's my privilege to lead and coordinate these committed and talented men and women every day. We work hard together, we have fun together, and we like each other!

And we are sad together when the Spirit moves one or more into a new adventure, even while we know that change brings new ideas and growth and opportunities.

This spring brings two staff changes, one which has already taken place, the other to take place at the beginning of summer.

Hope Alexander, our Housekeeper for the past 10 years, resigned in mid-April when Hudsonville Creamery where she has worked part time for many years offered her expanded hours. Hope could clean! She had a knack for finding dirt, dust and smudges and clutter and leaving spaces fresh and readied for the next event. Although she usually cleaned while the rest of us were sleeping, we will miss her cheerfulness and commitment to her work. Thanks to Thom Samuelson, we have identified and hired a new Housekeeper, Jane Oosterhouse, who works with Thom at First Reformed Church. Jane began on April 17. She will work on Mondays and Fridays and unlike Hope, will be around during the day. If you see her with mop or vacuum or feather-duster, introduce yourself!



And... Aaron Goodyke, organist and pianist, beloved and appreciated for his talent as well as his spirit, will be leaving us the end of May. Aaron, who has been with us for two years as bell choir director, organist and pianist/accompanist, graduated from Hope College last December with his degree in Music Education and this past semester has taught music for Holland Public Schools. Now he is broadening his horizons to consider a professional call beyond the Holland area and has thus indicated that the end of this school year is the right time for him to bring his service with us to a close. His formal letter to the congregation is enclosed. You will have the opportunity to thank him on Celebration Sunday, May 21. I hope you join me in gratitude to God that his journey brought him to us for two musically splendid years! The Personnel Council, Chuck Norris and I will begin the process of identifying a new organist/pianist in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, Sheri, Caitlin and Karla maintain our church office; Chuck our music ministry; Nancy, Lori and Teresa, our child care, Children's and Youth ministry respectively. Thom and Jane will maintain the building and keep it clean and polished, and Scott and I joyfully remain your pastors.

As summer begins, we know many of you will be in and out of town on vacation. May your summer be safe with moments of both relaxation and adventure.

- Linda

April 20, 2017



To my First Presbyterian Church family,

In seeking to follow where God leads me in my career and music ministry, I have decided to conclude my time and service as organist and accompanist at First Presbyterian Church of Holland. Reaching this decision has required a significant amount of prayer and listening to the spirit's call in my life as I discern my next steps.

Over the last two years at First Presbyterian Church, I have been given countless hours of experience as an accompanist, organist, vocalist, handbell director, and even substitute choir director. All of these moments spent with my brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the music ministry of FPC have been both special and fulfilling.

You walked with me during my senior year at Hope College, my student teaching semester, and many even attended my senior recital. I could not have walked this road alone and I will always be grateful for your prayer, support, and friendship!

It is with a spirit of gratitude and joy that I give thanks to the Lord for my time at First Presbyterian Church of Holland. I am especially grateful to Linda, Scott, Chuck, and the rest of the staff for welcoming me and helping me become better in my role as a worship leader and musician; furthermore, I would like to thank others who have given me opportunities to share my gifts in the greater Holland area.

You have a place in my heart as I move forward in my journey. I know that, as members of the Body of Christ, we are never separated from each other through the love of our Lord and Savior.

In Him,

Aaron Goodyke

A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

Social Media-where are you?

Why can't we find you active on Facebook or Twitter?

Don't you want to be engaged and participating in all of the communication platforms available?

I thought you were a younger, hip, tech-savvy pastor that motivates and inspires people through social media. What's the deal pastor Scott?

First, let me say that I do believe that technology has an important role in our society. I am grateful that FPC Holland has a fantastic new website that effectively communicates who we are and what we care about to all who visit the website. I am also grateful that we use Facebook to promote events to the greater Holland community and that many of you share your positive experiences of FPC on Facebook for your friends to see.

Now, a little more about my decision. Twenty-three years ago I decided not to play video games as a college freshman so I could use my leisure time in different ways-like playing Frisbee golf or going for a run. Ten years ago I decided not to use Facebook as a way to share my life, beliefs, opinions or pics of my family vacation. The decision was challenging to reach because I see many of the benefits of being engaged in this way. I also saw the potential drawbacks as it related to how much misunderstanding and misperception that happens with social media.

The many silly, destructive and dangerous ways that social media has been abused in the past year further affirmed this decision. I am saddened by the way some of the worst parts of our humanity are on display through posts and tweets.

My goal is to use technology a little less than some of my peers. I prefer conversations over coffee or a beer and hope to free up more time and energy to be available to meet and talk face to face. I want to focus my time on being with people and my family in addition to being outside, reading and appreciating all forms of performing arts. My choices are not critiques of anyone that uses Facebook-it's just an intentional decision that I have made about how I choose to spend my time and energy.

Peace,
Pastor Scott



CHURCH STAFF

(alphabetical by last name)

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WORSHIP CENTERS



Our last Sunday for Worship Centers will be May 21. Plans are underway for our annual ice cream celebration together!

Recently someone shared that when they visited the Worship Centers they found them to be a remarkable place with lots of heart, energy and thought. She also said that we have amazing volunteers and feels totally safe with her children in our hands.

To the heart of our Worship Center – our amazing Celebrants - Deb, Sandy, Gwen and Robin; Susan, Bob, Stephanie, Amie, and Danielle; Jen, Stephanie and Catherine; we are most grateful for your commitment, imagination, and sharing of the Story and the Light, along with Judy and Colette, who continue to guide, train and nurture our souls. We couldn't do it without you.

To the children who bring energy and life into their Center each week, we love you and continue to be amazed at all you share and who you are. We are blessed with your presence and hope you have found a sacred space of peace where you can grow in your faith and call it your own. -Lori

STAY CONNECTED WITH US OVER THE SUMMER!

Peace Camp: *Peace in Myself, Peace in the World* will be held at FPC from July 17-21!
Learn more and RSVP at www.fpcholland.org/peacecamp.



WHAT A JOY!

Our children filled the front of the Sanctuary on Easter morning!



YOUTH@FIRST

A MESSAGE FROM TERESA

MAY DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 7	6:00—7:30p	Senior High Youth Group
May 14	6:00-7:30p	Junior High Youth Group
May 21	TBA	Celebration Sunday! ALL YOUTH Stay tuned for details...

Easter tide, the fifty days between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost, has quickly become my favorite liturgical season. While being able to find, articulate, and live into God's joy is a spiritual practice we should faithfully be doing year-round, I have found something refreshingly holy about having an entire season to intentionally bring that joy into sharper focus.

I can't think of a better season to bring our youth's 2016-17 programmatic year to a close because there is so much to celebrate! From welcoming our confirmands in the fall, participating in winter retreats and weekend service adventures, to all of the laughter and vulnerability shared during our regular youth gatherings, the Spirit has so clearly moved through our community this year; I couldn't be more grateful and humbled to be a part of it!

I am especially grateful to all those who shared their time and resources with our youth, particularly those who have participated in our fundraisers and served as mentors and youth leaders this year. Your unique investment in the lives of our young people is a gift not just to them, but to our entire community.

While our programmatic year is coming to a close, our summer schedule is filling up quickly! There will be lots of opportunities to continue our service, fellowship, and community through the warmer months, so keep an eye out for a June-August calendar headed your way soon! -Teresa

ATTENTION: YOUNG FAMILIES

Looking to enjoy a kid-free lunch after worship? The youth of FPC will be providing childcare after church on **May 7 from 12:30-2:30p** so you can do just that! Infants-5th graders are welcome, and we'll be providing lunch and other fun post-church activities. There is no cost, but the youth will be accepting donations to support our upcoming mission trip to Pittsburgh. Sign up in the M&M Cafe or contact Teresa (teresa@fpcholland.org) to save a spot!

GROW TOGETHER

Here is just a handful of the many ways that you can connect and grow with others at FPC. For a complete list of small groups please visit:

www.fpcholland.org

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



Miriam Circle meets monthly from September-May on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30a in the Michigan Room. All women are welcome to participate in the Bible study and mission projects. Contact: Beverly Plagenhoef at 335-3942.

Hannah Circle meets monthly from September-May on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30p in the Michigan Room. All women are welcome to participate in the Bible study and mission projects. Contact: Ruth Roberts at 298-8854.

PW EVENTS FOR MAY:

May 3	2:00p	Study leaders meet with Pastor Linda to prepare Lesson 9		
May 4	10:00a	PW Coordinating Team		
May 17	9:30a	Miriam Circle	Study: Bev Plagenhoef	Host: Arloa Wirbel
May 18	1:30p	Hannah Circle	Study: Jauanna Jackson/Sylvia Jones	Host: Judy Phillips

SAVE THE DATE:

May 6-13: PW Info Booth Personnel - Tulip Time

Circles will be a week later in May so that our women (and men!) can participate in the **Tulip Time Information Booth** at Window on the Waterfront! This is our biggest fundraising activity of the year and is used for our mission to support scholarship funding for our wonderful Presbyterian Preschool.

June 7 at 12p: PW June Luncheon and Annual Meeting at Freedom Village

In June we look forward to our June 7 Luncheon at Freedom Village. The cost is \$13 for a grilled chicken and fruit salad, with croissant, beverage and choice of pie. The Commons Re-Actors will entertain us following lunch. At this gathering we will elect members to the PW Coordinating Team and vote on the new bylaws shared at the April circles. Please sign up by May 24.

Did we have an awesome Lenten Breakfast? Yes! And, for a free breakfast we all donated about 100 new towels, dishcloths and potholders to the church kitchen! Thank you to the Miriam and Hannah circle members who planned, decorated and prepared the food. Thank you to Carolyn Stich for taking us on an adventure in color along with a message about Peace!



WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

- MAY:** *Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison* by Piper Kerman
- JUNE:** *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi

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. Theology on Tap meets on the third Thursday of the month, January-May at 8:00p at Hops84East. We hope to see you on **May 18 at 8:00p!**

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

- MAY:** *Missing Man: The American Spy Who Vanished in Iran* by Barry Meier
- JUNE:** NO MEETING

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



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: FILM VIEW & DISCUSSION

Hosted by Jack Hyde, Food For Thought typically meets on the second Friday evening of each month at 7:00p in the Michigan Room.

Food for Thought will be meeting on **May 12** for a showing of **Young at Heart**, (2008) 104 minutes. Young@Heart is the name of a fun-loving senior citizen's choir who is preparing for a show. In a matter of a few weeks 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! Their inspiring story celebrates the unbreakable bonds of friendship and the life-affirming power of music!



YOGA WITH GWEN:

Join FPC member and Yoga instructor Gwen Boeve for the remaining few weeks of her most recent Yoga Class, **ending on May 17**. Note: There will be **no class on May 10** due to Tulip Time. The class meets in the lower level of the church on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30a.

JULIA BURKHOLDER : VOICE RECITAL

April 30 at 3:00p

Julia Burkholder will be presenting her voice recital in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary on Sunday, April 30 at 3:00pm. Julia has the incredible opportunity of traveling to Europe for a month this summer with the Blue Lake International Choral Ensemble and this recital will be a fundraiser for her trip. Donations toward her travel will be graciously accepted after the recital, but there is no obligation to give. Please join us afterward for refreshments in the M&M Cafe!

FIRST PRES. FAMILY CAMP

May 26-29

FPC members, families and friends—of all ages—are invited to Family Camp, to take place Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29! Come for a day, the entire weekend or whatever fits your schedule!

At Family Camp we...

EAT (often!) as a community, with each family being assigned to kitchen duty for one meal during the weekend. We...

WORK on Camp Greenwood clean-up and maintenance projects. And we...

PLAY! You can find indoor and outdoor fun: a waterfront with small beach, kayaks, paddle boats, and swimming/fishing area; playground for kids; archery supplies; baseball/soccer fields; trails for hiking; board games, crafts, ping pong, air-hockey and pool table.

Don't miss the fun! Learn more and register at www.fpcholland.org/familycamp/

CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

May 21 at 8:45a & 11:00a

You won't want to miss being at FPC on May 21! We will be honoring our graduates, celebrating our Worship Centers and Choir, and much more! May 21 will also be our last Sunday with two worship times, before we go to our summer worship schedule. We look forward to celebrating with you on May 21!

ANNUAL CANOE & KAYAK TRIP

July 21 & 22

Join us on July 22nd for the annual FPC Canoe/Kayak trip! We will be paddling the Pere Marquette River in Scottville (near Ludington) again this year. Join us for a fun day of paddling.

To extend the fun, camping will be available the nights of July 21 & 22 at Henry's Landing: (701 South Scottville Road, Scottville, MI 49454).

RSVP at www.fpcholland.org/canoe. The deadline for registration is Friday, June 30. No payment is due during registration.

Contact Bob Teutsch at 616-834-2584 if you have questions or if you don't have access to a computer for registration.



PEACE CAMP



Peace in Myself, Peace in the World

At Peace Camp children discover that peace begins with them!

Campers cooperate in games and projects. They learn to deal with their conflicts in a peaceful manner and come up with their own creative solutions to the problems that they see at camp, at home, at school and in the world.

The curriculum for Peace Camp has been created and sponsored by **Little Friends for Peace**. Learn more at www.LFFP.com.



When?

July 17-21, 2017

9:00a -3:00p daily
includes lunch

Cost?

\$195 for first camper
\$170 for each add'l camper
Scholarships available

Where?

First Presbyterian Church
659 State St, Holland 49423

Who?

Ages 5-10, entering
Kindergarten—5th grade

LEARN MORE & REGISTER
www.fpcholland.org/peace camp



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



ABBY WALLER

Abby Wallar is graduating from Zeeland West High School. During her four years at Zeeland West she served on the High School Senate and played basketball and softball. She was also a member of the National Honor Society. She will attend Hope College in the fall to prepare for a career in architecture, as well as play on their softball team.

JOHANNA BOWEN

Johanna Grace Bowen is graduating with honors from West Ottawa as an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate. She was involved in National Honor Society, Model United Nations and hiking club. She is headed to Hamilton College in New York to study art history.



MERRITT KRAMER

Merritt Kramer is graduating from West Ottawa High School. She was on the sideline and competitive cheer team all 4 years as well as a rocket cheer coach and an active member of the National Honor Society. She will be attending Hope College this fall to study psychology and possibly elementary education or pre-vet.

NOLAN RICKETTS

Nolan Ricketts is graduating from Holland High School and has enlisted in the Marines. He leaves for boot camp on August 28.



Art Alcove

Meet the Artist

He Qi (pronounced Huh Chee) is an internationally recognized artist whose distinctive style blends traditional Chinese materials and methods with unique interpretations of classic Christian scenes.

Coming of age during the Cultural Revolution in the 1970s China, He Qi learned to paint by copying portraits of Chairman Mao. At that time, he also encountered a copy of Raphael's 'Madonna and Child' printed in a magazine. The image caught his attention and he soon began copying it, but did so in secret.

Such diversity of influences remains evident in his work. Dr. Richard Melheim states, "It's Chagall meets Matisse meets Picasso meets the East."

He Qi studied in Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing Art Institute in China, and Hamburg Art Institute in Germany. He was the first person from mainland China to earn a Ph.D. in religious art after the Cultural Revolution, and currently serves as artist-in-residence at Claremont School of Theology (California).

His artwork has been on display throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. It has also been featured in a variety of publications, including Christianity Today and The Washington Post.

