

presbyterian profiles

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



As we relax into the Sundays of summer we draw our attention to Biblical stories about and near trees. How many can you think of? Here are a few of the trees we'll be sitting under in the coming weeks:

- The tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden;
- The burning bush and God's epiphany to Moses;
- The Sycamore tree which Zaccheus climbed to get a close up view of Jesus;
- The fig tree parable;
- The tree under which Hagar left Ishmael in the desert;
- The tree planted by streams of water in Psalm 1;
- The trees with the leaves which will be for the healing of the nations.

How would the trees tell these stories if trees could talk? Our summer theme lends itself to both whimsy and serious reflection. Join us for this fresh way of looking at Biblical stories and themes in worship every Sunday at 10:00a through September 10.

Do you have a tree story you'd be willing to share on a Sunday morning? Do you have a vocation or hobby which depends on trees or the products of trees? There will be a place in worship for you to share if you tell Pastor Linda in advance!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

If Trees Could Talk.....	1
A Message from Linda.....	2
Income & Expenses.....	2
A Message from Scott.....	3
A Message from Lori.....	4
Kids Connect.....	4
A Message from Teresa.....	5
Session Retreat.....	5
Adults Connect.....	6
FPC Prays.....	7
Birthdays.....	7
Summer Calendar.....	8



A MESSAGE FROM LINDA

What has been, and soon will be, on my bookshelf

WHAT YOUR PASTOR HAS BEEN READING:

- *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Last year I was introduced to this Swedish author's quirky characters and surprising plot lines with his book "My Grandmother Said to Tell You She's Sorry" so went back to this earlier book which has recently come out as a film.
- *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern. Mystery? Fantasy? Science Fiction? Leave your need for rational behind and simply let yourself go into this marvelously told story of love.
- *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. I needed the education in racism that this 640 page volume offers. Wilkerson follows the migration of three families from three locations in the south following the Great Depression to three different locations in the north in this extensively researched piece of historical journalism.
- *Growing Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. A humble memoir by a liberal white woman who thought she understood racism and discovered her own brand of racism. It hits close to home.
- *Hillbilly Elegy: A memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance. This was not the book I assumed it was! With neither judgment nor defensiveness Vance, former marine and graduate of Yale Law School writes about his childhood and early adulthood in a poor rustbelt town

WHAT YOUR PASTOR IS ABOUT TO READ:

- *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari. David's been reading me excerpts from this Israeli historian who addresses the question: How did Homo Sapiens evolve from an unexceptional savannah-dwelling primate to become the dominant force on the planet, emerging as the lone survivor out of six distinct, competing hominid species?
- *Glass Houses*. My favorite mystery writer Louis Penney's newest book due out in August.
- *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*. Anne Lamott never gets old, always droll, irreverent and nontraditionally spiritual.
- *Britt Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman.
- *Thirteen Ways of Looking* by Colum McCann. I'm curious to explore McCann's first collection of short fiction. I've enjoyed his rich, poetic, and insightful look into the human condition.

What are YOU reading?

INCOME AND EXPENSES AT FPC - 2017

Where are we? We adopted a balanced budget for 2017 of \$505,000. The income or giving side of this budget represented a 10% increase from the previous year's budget. The areas of expense increase in this year's budget are largely in Building & Business and Personnel. \$7233 in B&B largely reflecting increased costs of current operations. The added \$15,000 in the Personnel budget reflects increases for all staff and added hours for the combination of Publications Specialist and Administrative Assistant to get us closer to a total of 40 hours per week of administrative office staff time.

So, how are we doing? It's fairly normal for our giving in the early part of the calendar year to be a bit slow and then pick up as the year progresses. I'm pleased to report that this year - through April - our giving is significantly ahead of last year (by nearly 16%) and only \$2700 below our budget for the year to date. Total revenue is actually ahead of our budget by a modest amount (less than \$1000). Expenses so far are under budget and revenues exceed expenses by approximately \$2700. So we're in great shape!

Thanks be to God and to our members whose faith and generosity enable our ministries to flourish! May our First Fruits Stewardship practice continue to grow our ministries!

- Larry Grinwis, Pledge Committee Chairperson

A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

Take-Out Church : Worship Anytime, Anywhere

If your summer calendar has you on the road, traveling here and there, FPC invites you to participate in Take-Out Church! Take-Out Church is an opportunity to worship anytime, anywhere and participate in other fun road trip activities!

FOR FAMILIES

Take-Out Church is a way for your family to bring your faith to life with you on vacation this summer. As you are away from First Pres on a summer adventure, we encourage you to continue to worship as a family. To aid you in this, members from the Spiritual Growth council have created Take-Out Church. This box contains several resources for a fun and casual worship time as a family structured around the Worship Center experiences that our children are familiar with from Sunday mornings. This resource is designed for families with elementary aged children but can be adapted so that children and youth of all ages can participate. Your box also contains some prayer resources, road trip conversation starters and other fun games.



FOR ALL AGES: FLAT JESUS

Take Jesus with you this summer on your adventures. Simply color Flat Jesus and take a few pictures during your fun summer adventures. Post your pictures on FPC's facebook wall at facebook.com/FirstPresHolland with hashtag #FlatJesusFPC or email it to caitlin@fpcholland.org. **May this be one way that we playfully remember that Jesus is with us in all of our fun and adventures.**

Summer adventures are just around the corner. Whether you have plans to travel down the road to the beach or across the country, we wish you and your family many wonderful fun-filled adventures!

- Pastor Scott



CHURCH STAFF

(alphabetical by last name)

Caitlin Boersma

Publications Specialist

caitlin@fpcholland.org

Nancy Burkitt

Child Care

nancy.burkitt@resthaven.org

Sheri Harris

Administrative Assistant

office@fpcholland.org

Karla Kammeraad-Bos

Bookkeeper

kkammeraadfpc@gmail.com

Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

lindak@fpcholland.org

Lori Klinesteker

Clerk of Session &

Children's Ministry Leader

klinestekerl@gmail.com

Teresa Larson

Youth Ministry Director

teresa@fpcholland.org

Chuck Norris

Director of Music

charlesenorris@gmail.com

Jane Oosterhouse

Custodian

Contact the church office

Hillary Roethlisberger

Seminary Intern

hillary.roethlisberger@westernsem.edu

Thom Samuelson

Maintenance

thomsam@ameritech.net

Scott VanderWal

Associate Pastor

scottv@fpcholland.org

WORSHIP CENTERS

A MESSAGE FROM LORI



With These Hands...

God celebrates with us: Worship Center Kids and Celebrants, Youth and Leaders gathered for their annual ice cream social on May 21, to celebrate another fantastic year of Mid-Time Ministry.

PW Women gift us: Children received the book, *To My Child* which can be found in the Book Nook. This nostalgic and tender book was Authored by Jennifer Johnston Schroeder, hand lettered and illustrated by Laura Hutton McCranner with Graphic Layout by Sarah Ball Wolters. All three women are Members here at FPC.



Children - seeking and sharing: Listen to children around you as they explore and delight in new revealing. They are truly gifted with the Light and are eager to share their faith.

Celebrants extend their love: May your summer be a time of renewal and deepening of faith experiences to quench and refresh you. In appreciation for extending the Hands of God to all of the children at FPC. - Lori

Remember to pick up your Take-Out Church box for road trips this summer!

They are prepared to encourage your continued faith explorations wherever you might be.

KIDS

Let's Connect! →

**PEACE
CAMP**

July
17-21!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY
www.fpcholland.org/peacecamp

**3rd Annual
Good Sam's Wild Run!**

Kids ages 4-13 maneuver
obstacles created by local companies

Saturday, June 10, 2017
Macatawa Greenway System at Ridge Point Church

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES

Register at www.GoodSamMinistries.com



YOUTH@FIRST

A MESSAGE FROM TERESA

*Keep alert. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ - What does it mean to you to “stand firm in the faith?” For me, it means seeking where God is calling me and responding appropriately, no matter how crazy of an idea it seems. When I look down the road and ask myself, “have I been faithful?”, being able to give a resounding “yes!” looks to me like 1 Corinthians 16:13-14.

These were the verses that lead me to Holland two years ago to serve as your youth director. These are also the verses that will bring me God’s peace as I conclude my time at First Presbyterian Church on July 30 and begin a new chapter at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in August. I will begin working toward a Master of Divinity degree bringing me one step closer to ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

As I reflect back on my time at FPC, words truly fail to convey the humbleness and gratitude I have for the opportunity to walk with you throughout the last two years. Without a doubt, this community has been instrumental in refining my gifts, pushing me to grow, and helping me articulate a clearer sense of call to ordained ministry.

Although I share this with you in June, there is still a full summer ahead to celebrate! I look forward to all of our summer youth gatherings, including our senior high mission trip to Pittsburgh coming up June 17-24.

Thank you for all that each of you do to be a part of the movement of the Spirit at FPC and for inviting me to be a part of it. I am so grateful.

God’s grace and peace, Teresa

2017 SESSION RETREAT

In May, Session had their annual retreat!

To begin the event, Session divided into three teams to silently collaborate and build “The Church” using unique materials (marshmallows, pretzel sticks, gumdrops, chewing gum and more) and great imagination!



After our team building exercise we got down to business! Highlights from our meeting include:

- We identified the need to move forward with major organization and cleaning of our facilities.
- We are looking for an architect to renovate and redecorate the building entry way. Sadly, Architect Earl Hemmeke who was previously working on the drawings for a proposed renovation, passed away.
- Session received a recommendation and agreed to replace the roof over the Sanctuary.
- We reviewed Session responsibilities including “10 Things Ruling Elders Should Know”.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

JUNE: *The Pearl that Broke Its Shell*
by Nadia Hashimi

JULY: *When Breath Becomes Air*
by Paul Kalanithi

Contact: Bev Plagenhoef at
rbplagen@live.com or 335-3942.



ANNUAL CANOE/KAYAK TRIP

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.

Our Bible study for the Miriam and Hannah Circles this year has concluded. We look forward to a new study of the Book of Hebrews beginning next September with Pastor Linda offering the first lesson at a combined gathering on **September 20th at 1:30p**. All women of First Presbyterian Church are welcome to attend our small group Bible studies.

June 7 at 12p: PW June Luncheon

On June 7, we return to Freedom Village for our Annual Meeting. Their beautiful luncheon 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 our new bylaws. Please RSVP before Memorial Day, but the final opportunity is June 2. We will organize car pools from the church.

STORIES FROM TULIP TIME

Team First Pres takes the Gold for staffing the Information Booth at Window on the Waterfront during the entire Tulip Time Festival! Our Presbyterian Women, and many men, turned out in Dutch costume to staff the information booth at Window on the Waterfront from 9a-5p every day during Tulip Time. We logged 128 volunteer hours and helped thousands of tourists find their way to activities and events.

Thank you to everyone who served! Mary Blackall, Liz Bristol, Marilyn Chamberlain, Mary deForest, Gordan DePree, Linda Gebben, Tom and Sarah Glover, Janet Haines, Bob Hitesman, JoAnn Karn, Mimi Keller, Janet Magennis, Eric and Sandy Peterson, Judy Phillips, Kate Reck, Judy Rouse, Ruth Roberts, Lois Rodgers, Ann Siakel, Pat Updegraff, Chris Urbaniak, Jan VanFaasen, Lynnette VanOss, Jean Williams, Karen Younker. A BIG thanks goes out to Linda Gebben for organizing the effort!

What did a typical day look like? It was incredibly busy - and we thought it would be very slow! Our volunteers were so flexible and ready to serve. We fielded all kinds of questions. We helped a young woman from out of town find her car. We smiled when people arrived at 5:00p on the very last day, wondering what they could do. We had more than enough stories to write a book! Here is one story shared by Janet Magennis: "Judy Phillips and I were there on Monday and fielded the best question ever: 'Where can I get Dutch babies?' My brain froze a minute, thinking this was about adoption, and we looked at each other. Then I remembered that this is a Dutch pancake finished in the oven and dusted with powdered sugar. deBoer's calls them Klompen Cakes done on the grill."

Where does the money raised go? The First Presbyterian Preschool children will benefit by receiving tuition assistance through our service. Last year 8 partial scholarships were funded with an additional contribution from the Outreach council. WOW! Thank you to all who participated!



summer @ FIRST calendar



For more information please see the church bulletin, eblast, and www.fpcholland.org/calendar.

June 4 @ 11a	Rust 65th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
June 7 @ 12p	PW June Luncheon
June 10 @ 8a	Good Samaritan Wild Run
June 17-24	Senior High Mission Trip
June 24 @ 12p	Holland PRIDE
July 12 @ 5p	Senior Summer Picnic
July 17-21	Peace Camp
July 21-22	Annual Canoe/Kayak Trip
Aug. 6 @ 10a	Worship @Outdoor Discovery Center
Aug. 11-12	Presbytery-wide Youth Gathering
Aug. 13 @ 1p	Whitecaps Game
Aug. 25 @ 6:30p	Shrimp Boil