



# presbyterian profiles

## Grace-filled Greetings!

Written by Erin Drews

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.*

Philippians 1:3-5

We've all experienced greetings of warm embrace, and we also know the sting of an abrasive greeting. Greetings hold the potential to make or break a connection, particularly upon first meeting someone. Just think: two parties come together, unfamiliar and unsure, and then slap a greeting on top of it all and you find either a firm foundation or a "No, thank you."

In the coming months, Pastor Linda will be guiding us through *Paul in the Fall*. Concurrently, I will be meeting many of you for the first time. So, I thought it would be appropriate to quickly touch on how Paul greets the communities to which he is writing. Admittedly, Paul is not always my favorite biblical character. He frustrates me by challenging my cultural, political, and contemporary understanding of the world. Yet, I will say this: **the man could give a lovely greeting**. Like the verse above, he often addressed his brothers and sisters in Christ with love, joy, peace,

*Continued on page 5*

### ON THE COVER

Our Fall sermon series will be called *Paul in the Fall*. Learn more in the Message from Linda found on Page 2.

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# Paul in the Fall

**Confession:** I've never been a fan of The Apostle Paul's letters.

The Gospels? Yes! The history and poetry of the Hebrew Scriptures? Absolutely! But even after an inspiring class in Romans taught by a tremendous seminary professor, I've preferred to read and preach from anything but Paul. Maybe you feel the same way.

But Paul's writings are part of our sacred scripture. God speaks to us through the words of the whole of scripture, not just what we "like", not just what we pick and choose. Thomas Jefferson, supplied with razors and paste, created a condensed Bible which he called *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth* but which today is commonly referred to as *The Jefferson Bible*. This retired U.S. President omitted references to Jesus' miracles and to most other supernatural events. He referred to the Apostle Paul as "the first corruptor of the doctrines of Jesus" and warned that the writers of the New Testament were "ignorant, unlettered men." Jefferson did not permit publication of his condensed Bible (others published it following his death), but used it for himself, for his devotion, and for a more restful sleep at night.

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*I believe the Bible has a purpose  
more than a sedative and that  
sometimes we need to be kept  
awake by its challenges.*

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Hmm. I believe the Bible has a purpose more than a sedative and that sometimes we need to be kept awake by its challenges.



Rev. Linda Knieriemen  
Pastor

So it's time. It's past time, for me, and for you who listen to my sermons, because to not preach from the letters of Paul is like not feeding children one whole food group. My goal is not to make you love Paul, nor to give a comprehensive presentation of all the Pauline epistles—that would take far longer than the 12 weeks of fall. I am hoping to:

- tune in to what Paul was trying to say to his first listeners;
- awaken to what God may be saying to us today through the words of Paul;
- maintain curiosity about this Roman Pharisee who came to follow Jesus; and
- allow ourselves the freedom to say "I think Paul was wrong about that" while keeping the conversation alive.

On Sunday mornings during Midtime Ministry, our member Barb Schreur, graduate of Harvard Divinity School and candidate for ordained ministry in the PC (USA), will help broaden our *Paul in the Fall* journey with a closer look at Paul's social, religious, and geographical contexts. Learn more about this special class on page 13.

Watch too for additional opportunities to read, learn, and respond via Facebook and our FPC Webpage!

Pastor Linda

## LOOKING FOR : Nominations

The nominating committee has begun working to identify people with gifts and talents to fill the Elder positions (Business and Building, Spiritual Growth, Connections and Youth Elder) and Deacon positions beginning in 2018. 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 Jan Goodwin at [j.goodwin@att.net](mailto:j.goodwin@att.net).

# In Search of Peace

It was during the 2016 Lenten Season that we began to intentionally place a higher priority on the ways that we, the community of FPC of Holland, can grow as *Peacemakers*. We spent that Lent exploring scripture and personal practices of peace, culminating in a Peace Fair. We have continued this commitment in simple and significant ways such as: partnering with the Zadrar family (they arrived March 17, 2016), hosting a Nonviolent Communication Seminar with Dr. Theresa Latini, leading two interfaith gatherings of women (*Piece by Peace* and *Brushes of Peace*), and most recently, Peace Camp.

It was at Peace Camp that I learned and observed that the skills necessary to be a peacemaker are rarely taught or learned by children or adults. There are basic concepts and commitments that one needs to have in order to be a peacemaker. For example, MJ and Jerry of Little Friends for Peace taught us the concept of a Peace Train (pictures included on page 7). Some of the cars of the peace train include: respecting the one you struggle with, think-collaborate on ways to fix the problem, agree on a solution, and celebrate. It was transformative to observe 6-11 year olds “re-wire” their brains with new tools for solving simple and significant problems.

I have become a more adamant believer in the old adage that peace begins with me. As a result, we are providing some great opportunities this fall to continue in our peacemaking journey. These include:

- International Day of Peace event at the Herrick Library on **September 18**;
- Peace Making Sunday on **October 1**, along with an Evening of Peace from 5:30-7p;
- Opportunities for service in our community during **October 15-27**; and
- Prayer Practices of Peace on **December 3, 10 & 17**.

*Look for more details and description of these events in our fall brochure and on the church website.*

Jesus has always expected - even demanded - that his followers be peacemakers. Yet it seems all the more urgent and critical that we follow his model of non-violent love, leading in actions and words how to live in unity while celebrating diversity, and to make new commitments to being peacemakers in whatever way and capacity that makes sense for us. May we join our children, community, country and world in being people who seek peace with all our body, mind, soul, and spirit.

Peace,  
Pastor Scott



**Rev. Scott VanderWal**  
Associate Pastor

## CHURCH STAFF

### Caitlin Boersma

*Publications Specialist*  
caitlin@fpcholland.org

### Nancy Burkitt

*Child Care*  
nancy.burkitt@resthaven.org

### Erin Drews

*Youth Ministry Director*  
youth@fpcholland.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

### 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



# Youth Choir

All FPC Kids & Youth are invited to participate in the Youth Choir!

Music Director, Chuck Norris along with Beth Magennis will be leading choir for ALL kids and youth with practices beginning on **September 24**, during the 11a Worship Service (after Children's Circle). Practices are typically the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Plans are in process for performing during Sunday morning worship in Advent.



Lori Klinesteker  
Children's Ministry  
Leader



## Worship Center : Keeping in Touch

### Welcome home!

As Summer 2017 memories segue into Fall, families are preparing for the return to routines and schedules for school. I am hoping you have found time to enjoy a day at the beach, walk in the woods or have had the opportunity to gather with family and friends.

At FPC we return to Midtime Ministry on Sunday, September 17 from 9:45 - 10:45a, including Worship Center for all Pre-K through Fifth graders. Our fourth graders will be receiving their Bibles during the morning Worship Service.

Children need a place to pause; we have prepared that sacred and worshipful space for them. In Worship Center, they will experience the story with us, have time to wonder, reflect and respond to the story, feast and build lasting friendships. They have freedom within limits. This is their spiritual space, all are welcome.

In Worship this summer, I learned that we make about 35,000 choices each day. We would be grateful if Worship Center on Sunday mornings are an intentional choice of yours.

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

- Lori Klinesteker

# YOUTH@FIRST

*Continued from Page 1...*

blessing, and assurance of prayer. The one consistent line is always this: “Grace to you from God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul greets the people of God with God’s grace *every time*, and that is what I’d like to do here in my first Profiles article: greet you with God’s grace.

Many of you have already greeted me with overflowing grace, in addition to abundant joy, blessing, and prayer. I am incredibly excited to be here.

I grew up in Elkhart, Indiana, before coming to Hope College where I received my B.A. in Art History with minors in Studio Art and Communications. This past May, I finished my M.A. in Theology from Western Theological Seminary. Since graduating from Hope, I’ve taught art at Saugatuck Center for the Arts and Culture Works Transformative Art & Design Academy. Between those experiences, camp counseling, and volunteering with Pillar Church’s youth group for the last three years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with children and youth from all backgrounds in a variety of contexts.

I first visited First Presbyterian Church this past February after walking by and feeling a Holy-Spirit-nudge to come in. When I entered your doors and worshiped with you, I appreciated the vibrant openness and excitement about offering God’s grace to all in our community and our world; I deeply admired the history, liturgy, and worship; and of course as an artist, I noticed the excitement about creativity and the arts. **Now, as your new Youth Director, I look forward to entering your congregational family and walking with the youth as we explore God’s grace for God’s people together.**

*Parents and Youth: Erin will be available at FPC in her office Mondays from 9:30a-2:00p, and Wednesdays from 11:30a-2:00p. If you would like to call or stop by to chat about anything, you are welcome to reach her during those times. Otherwise, always feel free to email her at [youth@fpcholland.org](mailto:youth@fpcholland.org), or to schedule a different time to meet for coffee, a walk, prayer, or just to hang out.*

## Save the Date

**Youth@First** meets on Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30p. Mid High (6th-8th) and Senior High (9th-12th) alternate Sunday nights.

Erin Drews  
Youth Ministry Director



Mid Highs' first Sunday is **September 17**.  
Senior highs' first Sunday is **September 24**.

# A Message Regarding FPC Facilities

At its annual planning retreat earlier this year the FPC Session spent time discussing our facility and assessing how well it currently does/or does not, meet our needs and support our programs and activities. **Here is a brief history of our facility:**

- The original FPC church was constructed in the early 1960's.
- In 1971 the educational unit was added.
- In 1980 changes were made that were mostly associated with interior remodeling.
- In 1989 major changes were made, increasing the building footprint to the east and relocating offices to allow for an expanded narthex.
- In 2007 bathrooms on the first floor level were expanded.
- In 2017 a major remodel of the lower level kitchen was completed.

Based on the discussion at the Session Retreat and subsequent planning follow up by the Business and Building Council and Session, **the following items were identified as areas requiring attention:**

- 1) The north entrance off the parking lot is slippery, exposed to the elements and deteriorating. Our goal is for a safer and more protected entryway.
- 2) Determine if interior spaces can be either repurposed or re-designed to achieve:
  - a. a conference room/class room for 15-20;
  - b. a "church living room" (Parlor in past);
  - c. dedicated area for Mission/Outreach
  - d. a wholistic health/yoga meditation center
  - e. a second pre-school room with dual purpose as a nursery
- 3) Underutilized spaces which could be available for repurposing:
  - a. Children in Worship Room off the Fellowship Hall
  - b. Huron Room
  - c. "old" Choir Room
  - d. Superior Room on the lower level
- 4) Freshen the look of the Sanctuary, and create functional space for piano, organ and handicapped accessible choir loft.
- 5) Restrooms.
  - a. A second non-gender specific restroom.
  - b. Freshen the lower level restrooms.

At the beginning of the summer we put out an RFP for an architectural firm to assist us with developing a master

plan to address these issues. Three firms responded to our RFP, and we have selected and begun work with Tom Nemitz and Mara Braspeninx from Cornerstone Architects based in Grand Rapids.

**Our contract with them will have two phases:**

## **Phase One - Programming and Conceptual Design:**

- Produce program requirements of building & site from information received from the church and meetings as required with staff and committee.
- Review with staff and church committee members' assessment of program and proposed conceptual direction.
- Prepare conceptual design drawings, including preliminary budget estimate(s).

## **Phase Two - Design-Development, Construction Documentation, Bidding and Construction:**

- Review and assess conceptual design with design team in preparation of bidding documents.
- Provide recommendations and conceptual design of different building systems (mechanical & electrical).
- Prepare specific development drawings, engineering (civil, structural, mechanical & electrical) and construction drawings that will serve as basis for bidding and construction by a construction manager.
- Prepare necessary bid documents for construction of the project.
- Assist with any necessary governmental approval process.
- Review bids received to assess merits of contractors and assist in awarding contracts.
- Provide site administration (preparation of project clarifications, bulletins, shop drawing review, etc.) and observations of construction during the construction phase.

Cornerstone will be meeting with and interviewing representatives of our various stakeholders, i.e. representatives from our various program and activity areas on a scheduled basis in mid-September. We anticipate a preliminary review of their findings and recommendations including schematic drawings to our congregation in early to mid December.

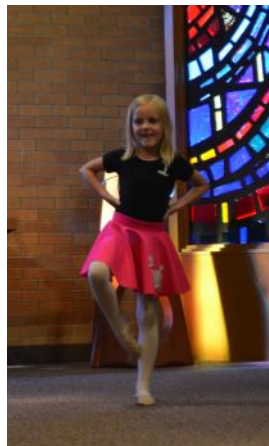
Please feel free to discuss this project with any of the members of our Architectural Liaison Team listed below:

**Larry Grinwis (Chair), William Haines, Chris Olney, Jon Kreple, Hillary Rothlisberger**



# Looking Back

*Before we look forward to what's ahead, we thought it would be fun to look back and celebrate some of the awesome things that took place at FPC this summer!*



Summer Senior Picnic



Peace Camp



Worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center





# Looking Forward



## September 6 at 6:30p

## KITCHEN USE TRAINING

Those interested in using the church kitchen equipment and not yet trained, please sign up to attend training on September 6 at 6:30p. Please call or email Nancy Kreple at 616.510.1241 or [nkreple@gmail.com](mailto:nkreple@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



## September 10 at 11:00a

## WELCOME BACK PICNIC

There will be a Welcome Back Picnic following the service on Sunday, September 10th. The Connections Fire & Grill Team will provide the main course and table service. Members are asked to contribute a dish to pass. Taking a little different approach to determine what you will provide, if your birth year ends in an even number please bring a dessert. If your birth year ends in an odd number please bring a side dish or salad. We look forward to seeing you and your family! Volunteers are needed!! Please contact Alan Martens at [alanmartens@gmail.com](mailto:alanmartens@gmail.com) or 616-340-7920 to volunteer or with questions.



## September 17 at 8:45a & 11:00a

## TWO WORSHIP SERVICES

On September 17 we will return to two worship services on Sundays! The first service will be held at 8:45a. The second service will be held at 11:00a. Please join us as we dive into our new study - *Paul in the Fall*!



## September 18 from 7-8:30p HOPE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

FPC joins Lakeshore Women for Peace in sponsoring the 2017 International Peace Day Presentation, featuring Dr. Tom Arendshorst and the Hope College Peace and Justice curriculum at Herrick Library. We will be inspired by Dr. Tom Arendshorst's journey from eye surgeon to Peace Studies professor. We will learn from the experience of Hope students enrolled in the Peace and Justice curriculum. And we will become better equipped to promote a more peaceful and just world in our local community. Peace Day has been observed around the world each year since it was established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution.





## Beginning October 1

## FPC SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

Our fall Season of Stewardship begins on October 1, and includes a week of service from October 15-27, a dinner on October 29 and pledge dedication on November 5.



### October 1 at 5:30-7:00p

### AN EVENING OF PEACE

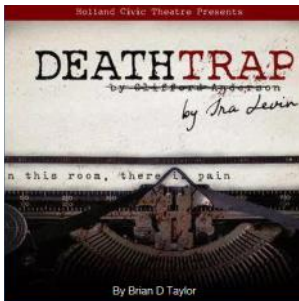
Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an intergenerational gathering where we will share a simple meal and participate in peace circles. A time of fellowship, learning practices for inner peace, and a way of sustaining hope in a complex and divisive world will follow the meal.



### October 6 at 6:30p

### HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS DINNER

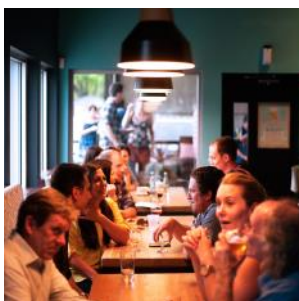
The Holland Windmill chorus will host a cabaret style dinner show in the FPC Fellowship Hall. This event is family appropriate and will serve as a fund raiser for the chorus. Quartets will perform and chorus members will serve each table. Chorus members will receive ticket donations for their assigned table seats for \$10 each. The event is open to friends of chorus members and church members.



### October 6 at 7:30p

### DINNER & THEATRE

Join us on Friday, October 6 at 7:30p to see Holland Civic Theatre's production of *Deathtrap*. "Seemingly comfortably ensconced in his charming Connecticut home, Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell which has resulted in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student in the seminar he has been conducting at a nearby college—a thriller which Sidney recognizes immediately as a potential Broadway hit. Sidney's plan, which he devises with his wife's help, is to offer collaboration to the student, an idea which the younger man quickly accepts. Thereafter, suspense mounts steadily as the plot begins to twist and turn with devilish cleverness, and with such an abundance of thrills and laughter, that audiences will be held enthralled until the final, startling moments of the play." Tickets are \$15 payable to Chris Urbaniak. There will be an optional dinner at 5:30p. Sign up in the M&M Café.



### October 21 at 6:30p

### DINNERS FOR 7

"Dinners for 7" will be held on Saturday, October 21, at 6:30p. Sign up to join small groups in individual homes for an enjoyable dinner and evening of conversation. Hosts provide the main course, and those attending bring supportive dishes. There is no cost other than that of the dish you prepare. Sign-up in the M&M café and indicate if you would be willing to host. It's always interesting to learn more about your fellow Presbyterian family outside of Sunday morning.



***Below are a handful of the many ways that you can connect & grow with others at FPC!***

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT: FILM DISCUSSION**

Food For Thought watches films together on the second Friday evening of each month at 7:00p in the Michigan Room. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jack Hyde for more details.

## **MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Men's Discussion Group gathers every other Friday at 7:30a in the M&M Café. This group begins with a 20-minute video or reading which spurs on a 40 minute discussion. They end with breakfast at a local egg emporium.

## **MEN'S BOOK GROUP**

The Men's Book Group typically meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00p in the M & M Café. However, this month they will be meeting on **Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00p.**

- September: *Battle Cry of Freedom*  
by James M. McPherson
- October: *Strangers in Their Own Land*  
by Arlie Russell Hochschild

## **THEOLOGY ON TAP**

Social gathering for men and women at 8th Street Grille. **NEW start time!** Join us at 7:00p on:

- September 21
- October 19
- November 16
- December 21.

## **YOGA WITH GWEN**

Yoga will resume this fall on Thursday mornings starting September 7 from 9:30-10:30a. All fitness levels are welcome! Build strength, stamina, balance and flexibility. Weekly drop-in rate is \$15 or purchase 10 classes for \$100. Yoga will follow the preschool schedule, i.e. yoga will not meet on Thursdays when school is on break.

## **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

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

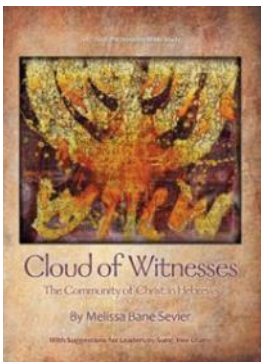
- **September:** *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain
- **October:** *The Readers of Broken Wheel*  
by Katarina Bivald

# 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 of the church are welcome to participate in our regular meetings, our special gatherings and/or our Thanks & Birthday Offerings.*

Miriam Circle meets monthly from October-May on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30a in the Michigan Room. Hannah Circle meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30p in the Michigan Room.

## 2017 / 2018 BIBLE STUDY



We debut our new Bible study, using the Book of Hebrews. *Cloud of Witnesses* will be used from September through May in our Miriam Circle and Hannah Circle meetings each month. It includes 9 individual studies. The volunteer study leaders meet with Pastor Linda the week before the lesson, then lead the discussion. **We have the study books available, also in large print format, for \$10.**

## SAVE THE DATE : Wednesday, September 20 at 1:30p

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a combined first Circles event, with Rev. Linda Knieriemen as our presenter. Dessert will be provided.

**A BIG THANKS!** As a result of the fun and hard work of sharing info about Tulip Time last May, PW has given Presbyterian Preschool the stipend we earned from Tulip Time, Inc. to be used for student scholarship needs. Our top-rated preschool is our major mission project. Thanks to everyone who wore a Dutch costume and helped the crowds with so many questions!

Want to check out Presbyterian Women of the PC (USA) online? Read their latest quarterly newsletter at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/quarterly-newsletter-third-quarter-2017/](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/quarterly-newsletter-third-quarter-2017/). The newsletter has details about the 2018 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women to be held August 2-5, 2018, in Louisville, KY.



## SMALL GROUP LEADERS

### CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris  
[charlesenorris@gmail.com](mailto:charlesenorris@gmail.com)

### DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

Chris Urbaniak  
[cmurbaniak@comcast.net](mailto:cmurbaniak@comcast.net)

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT FILM

Jack Hyde  
[nobodyzperfik@gmail.com](mailto:nobodyzperfik@gmail.com)

### MEN'S BOOK GROUP

Larry Lynn  
[oldrun09@gmail.com](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com)

### MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Don Williams  
[williams@hope.edu](mailto:williams@hope.edu)

### WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

Bev Plagenhoef  
[rbplagen@live.com](mailto:rbplagen@live.com)  
616.335.3942

### WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

Mickey Harris  
[Mickey.harrisbc@yahoo.com](mailto:Mickey.harrisbc@yahoo.com)  
616.490.4989

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

Beth Magennis  
[bethmagennis@gmail.com](mailto:bethmagennis@gmail.com)  
Tim Richardson  
[timr@portercorp.com](mailto:timr@portercorp.com)

### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Bev Plagenhoef  
[rbplagen@live.com](mailto:rbplagen@live.com)  
616.335.3942

### YOGA

Gwen Boeve  
[ghekman@gmail.com](mailto:ghekman@gmail.com)  
616.502.4642

### YOUTH@FIRST

Erin Drews  
[youth@fpcholland.org](mailto:youth@fpcholland.org)





## Grow TOGETHER

### Adult Midtime Class

Written by: Barb Schreur

This fall, a special Adult Midtime class will serve as a companion to the *Paul in the Fall* sermon series. We'll learn and think together about the contexts in which Paul wrote.

If you are interested in or curious about the social, economic, or political contexts of the ancient world, please come and join us in the Michigan Room on Sunday mornings at 9:45a as we explore what Paul says about himself, about race/ethnicity, gender, food, slavery, and the end of the world. We'll use all sorts of methods and objects to think about these things, so come no matter your learning style or your level of familiarity with Paul's writings. *Note: The content of the class is still being developed, but I promise at least one clip from a Monty Python movie!*

Our goal will be to look at these ancient texts closely enough to ask questions like: *Who's Paul responding to? What's he trying to persuade the recipients of his letters to do? What can we learn about those who oppose him by how he makes his arguments? Whose voices are absent from the texts?* These are important questions, not only for Paul's letters, but for contemporary speeches, press releases, novels, editorials, Facebook posts, blogs, and beyond! I hope the skills we learn here will be helpful in our daily lives.

I hope the classes will build on each other, but I will also make sure that each week can stand alone, so feel free to come for the whole series, or to dip in and out as you have interest.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sept. 17   | <b>Epistolography:</b> What can we learn from letters?                                 |
| Sept. 24   | <b>Egomaniac or Ego-less:</b> How does Paul present himself?                           |
| October 1  | <b>Empire:</b> How did Jewish groups respond to an oppressive government?              |
| October 8  | <b>Economics:</b> How did Paul's readers make money?<br>—Two week Break—               |
| October 29 | <b>Eros:</b> Does "being part of Christ's body" mean never touching any other bodies?  |
| Nov. 5     | <b>End of the World:</b> How long is this Empire supposed to last and what comes next? |
| Nov. 12    | <b>Emancipation:</b> Who's a slave and whose slave are they?                           |
| Nov. 19    | <b>Equality:</b> "The Acts of Paul and Thecla"   |

### Parenting Midtime Class

All parents with children age 0-18 are invited to gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 10:00a to discuss the content of Rob Bell's Podcast, **"Launching Rockets: 17 Observations on Being A Parent"**. Class will meet in the Huron Room. Contact: Pastor Scott

**Dates: Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov. 12 & Nov. 26**



## Local Mission: Partner Update

### *Good Samaritan Ministries*

Good Samaritan Ministries is one of FPC's local mission partners. The Outreach Committee wants to inform the church about the changes that have recently been made at Good Sam. Good Sam has had drastically reduced funding from the state and federal government for Community Housing Partners resulting in a very different format which they hope can still serve clients' needs. Their clients will have mentoring, case management, life skills education, and employment and rent assistance for 6 months instead of 18 months. Due to the lack of affordable housing, their clients' will have the opportunity to stay in the same houses but will pay the entire rent.

*Good Sam has indicated that they can use our help in the following ways:*

**MOVE-IN TEAM** : 3 – 6 people who work with the Volunteer Coordinator to provide tenants with the help they need to move into an equipped comfortable home.

**MOVE-OUT TEAM** : 3 – 6 people who work with the Volunteer Coordinator to provide tenants with the services they need in order to relocate successfully.

**SUPPORT TEAM** : 2 person team consisting of a support partner and prayer partner

**SUPPORT PARTNER** : a person who will provide support and encouragement to the tenant and their family.

**PRAYER PARTNER** : a person who will provide prayer coverage and encouragement for both the support partner and tenant.

**WELCOME BASKETS** : 2 people who collect supplies from a predetermined list and put together welcome baskets of basic supplies for incoming tenants.

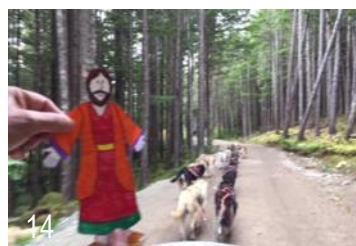
**Volunteer training** is October 10 at 7p and October 28 at 8:30a.

Please contact Linda Pynnonen at [linway62@att.net](mailto:linway62@att.net) or 616-399-1761 if you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions.



# #FlatJesusFPC

*This Summer, #FlatJesusFPC traveled all over the USA with FPC family and friends. Check out some of the selfies that were taken with #FlatJesusFPC! Many thanks to all who participated!*







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659 STATE STREET  
HOLLAND, MI 49423