



presbyterian profiles



Deeply Rooted Branching Out

Our 2017 *Deeply Rooted, Branching Out* stewardship campaign will wrap up on Sunday, November 5. We hope that you or a member of your family will be able to join us

as we place our Pledge Cards in a sealed oak box representing our giving back to God from the blessings given us. During worship, we will also get to see the creative result of the congregation-wide project that was created during the *Deeply Rooted, Branching Out* dinner held on October 29. Come see the reveal!

If you are not able to be in church on November 5, please bring your 2018 Pledge Card at a later point and place it in the oak box on the Chancel. My *Legacy* cards may be dropped in the collection plate or sent/turned into the church office.

Our budget for 2018 will be developed by the Session with the faith and confidence that our givers will provide the resources necessary to support both current and new programming at FPC.

We are excited to share that we had over 75 volunteer positions filled during the Faith in Action service weeks! **Thank you to everyone who participated in the various Deeply Rooted, Branching Out activities!**

ON THE COVER

The Youth Room had a makeover! Students painted a verse, quote, phrase, or piece of advice that exhibited and encouraged bringing about God's peace. **The result is stunning!** Learn more on Page 5.

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Ethical Lessons from the Dog God Park

Some of you know that David and I are parenting a second dog, Porter, a Springer Spaniel. Now a graduate from a Canine Good Citizenship Class, he is slightly less of a handful than he was in his first 12 months, but he's still a sassy bundle of energy, a surprisingly good retriever, and at happy intervals (mostly when exhausted) a sweet, affectionate addition the Knieriemen-Walter pack. (Note: Monk the 10 year old Tibetan Terrier is still with us.)

Like so many indoor dogs, Porter loves an excursion to the Dog Park. It's more than an opportunity to greet other dogs, beg at the feet of their treat-bearing owners, and run free for an hour; it's a opportunity for me to observe and learn about life, ethics, and manners from four-legged friends.

- Everyone benefits when we take care of our own messes. Letting hostile words or thoughtless actions sit exposed without expressing apology working towards reconciliation ends up a stinky slippery heap for someone else to fall into.
- Freedom is the best thing in the world. For dogs: freedom to play, to run, to bark... within limits. ("Aggressive Dogs Please Stay Home). For humans: to speak, report, gather, worship... within limits. When freedom is only a dream experienced from inside the four walls of a home, a tether, or ideology, captors of any species become anxious, naughty, demanding, and even violent.



Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

- Exercising is more fun together than alone. If we're at the park alone with no one for him to frolic with, I urge Porter to run as I walk laps and toss a tennis ball. I make my Fitbit walking goals as he runs ahead and back, ahead and back, more than tripling my distance. Friends helping friends makes everyone succeed.
- Variety only makes playtime more fun. Size, breed, color or age is irrelevant at the dog park. Every new dog is greeted at the gate with a rush of hospitality expressed by paw, tail, nose, and a cheerful barking translated as "Play with me, play with me, play with ME!" Only the humans seem to care when a same-breed dog arrives. That's when the competition and comparison begin.
- Dogs know about gratitude. After coaxing him to the car peacefully when park time is over, the doggy kisses drool abundantly until worn out, well fed, and curled up on the bed, Porter falls asleep for a few hours. And then I'm grateful.

Grateful, too, that wherever we are, God is there first. Even in the Dog Park.

May God bless you and all your four-legged friends in this Season of Thanksgiving. - Linda

FPC Budget—3rd Quarter Update

So far this calendar year, our giving continues to run ahead of last year by 3.76%, but behind our 2017 budget by \$24,495 or 6.7%. And while our expenses to date are under our budget, they do exceed our revenues by a little over \$15,000. We continue to have faith that our revenue over the last 3 months of the year will hit our budgeted revenue target. As always please address any questions about the budget with Treasurer Tedd Oyler, Pastor Linda or Elders Chris Olney and Larry Grinwis.

REMINDER: ADVENT REFLECTION WRITERS NEEDED

This Advent, FPC of Holland will be creating an Advent Devotional. All ages are invited to participate! 25 slots are available. Please sign up for a day/scripture on the bulletin board in the M&M Café. Complete your narrative or poetry reflection (250 word max), and submit your writing no later than November 5. Submissions should be sent to Carol Polich at ccpolich@sbcglobal.net.

2018 Trip to Israel/Palestine

We are excited to share with you the potential of taking a group to Israel/Palestine in November of 2018! We know that a trip like this is a significant commitment of time, resources, open minds and hearts. Given this, our first step is to see if there is enough interest to continue with the planning!

LEARN MORE: The best way to learn more about the trip is to attend an upcoming **30-minute informational session**, to be held on:

- **Sunday, November 12** at 12:15-12:45p in the Michigan Room, or
- **Sunday, November 19** at 10-10:30a in the Huron Room

Another way to learn about the trip is to view the trip leader's website. Visit www.joshvis.com for general information along with the trip philosophy. Or look them up on Facebook: **Josh & Sally Vis - Immersion Tours of Israel and Palestine**.

DATES: The tentative dates for our trip are Nov 2-15, 2018, leaving from O'Hare on Nov 2 (arrival in Tel Aviv on Nov 3) and departing Tel Aviv on Nov 15 (arriving in O'Hare the same day).

COST: Everything included (air fare, food, lodging, site entry fees); total cost of around \$4,000 per participant. Exact cost will be finalized in January of 2018.

FPC LEADERSHIP: Pastor Scott and intern Sheri Harris plan to go on the trip. This trip will be very similar to the trip that Sheri took as part of a Western Seminary class during January of 2017, led by Josh and Sally Vis. As a result, Sheri is a great resource about all of the learning and personal growth that come from this trip.

Feel free to contact Scott or Sheri with any questions that you may have over the upcoming months.

- Scott



Rev. Scott VanderWal
Associate Pastor

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Help Keep Holland Warm

Every winter, we invite the FPC community to help keep our neighbors warm by donating coats, hats, gloves/mittens and blankets.

November is coat month at FPC!
As you prepare to face a Michigan winter, please set aside jackets and coats you don't plan to wear, and children's outgrown snow gear. Please bring them to church during the month of November.

Collection bins will be in the M & M Café. Outreach and Community Action House will arrange for distribution to those in need. Thank you for your help!

PLAN AHEAD:

November = Coats

December = Hats, Gloves & Mittens

January = Blankets

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry
Leader



Worship Center: *Keeping in Touch*

Every Sunday in Worship Center after presenting the story, celebrants and children spend time wondering about the story. This evokes a sense of awe essential to worship and gives the celebrants and children time to talk about the story. It is the time for the celebrant to emphasize through the wondering statements the truths of the story and a time to relate the story to experiences the children face.

After wondering time, the children are ready to express themselves or think more about the story through art work, prayer corner, music, or working with the story materials they have just experienced. Special projects are kept to a minimum and allow for as much individuality as possible. Keeping their expressions of response personal to them lessens the feeling of the end product being predetermined by the adult and allows for the child all means for self-expression, individual growth and dialogue with God.

By paying special attention to materials, space, and time, as well as by giving children respect and support for their work, we create conditions which assist children in releasing that which lies dormant and waiting within them. Only then can the child express her/his unique self—their inner being that meets God face-to-face.

- Lori



Last month, after Maya Edwards Parker was gifted her fourth grade Bible, the children of FPC gathered around her to pray and bless her.

YOUTH@FIRST

*For where two or three gather in my name,
there am I with them.* Matthew 18:20

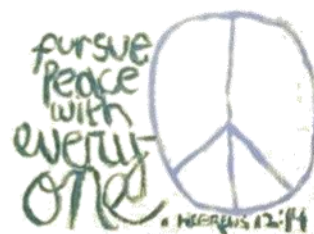
There is something about having a sacred space to gather. Think about your favorite spaces to peacefully spend time with God, with others, and with yourself. As we approach Thanksgiving, some of you may have visions in your mind of scenes at home gathered around a table with your loved ones. Other times, our minds may go to the many interactions and moments in our weeks during which we have the opportunity to catch up with our friends, co-workers, bank-tellers...you name it. For me, my mind goes to Riley Trails because through college, seminary, and even now, I will walk those trails to pray and reflect, often taking friends along with me for a hike where we can mutually listen and be heard.

We have assurance in Christ's words above from the gospel of Matthew that by the power of the Holy Spirit, God is with us when we gather together. This year, I hope to create a hospitable place for our youth to gather, both in how we engage as a group and (more literally) making updates to the Youth Room. After an intense clean-up of the Youth Room this summer prior to my arrival, I continued to clear out and clean up the space. Last month, we purchased a large sectional couch that seats twelve people, and after a minor setback with a ceiling leak, the couch is assembled. These are great additions to the room, but I asked myself, *how can we allow this space to reflect the students who will gather here?* So I made a plan, prepared a color scheme, and handed over some paint brushes to the Sr. High students.

Our Mid High students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the church-wide Evening of Peace on October 1. Our Sr. High chose to continue that theme of peace on the walls of the youth room. Students were

invited to paint a verse, quote, phrase, or piece of advice that exhibited and encouraged bringing about God's peace. The result is stunning! Now the walls of their gathering space sing anthems of peace and truth in a world that often times is anything but peaceful or authentic. What I appreciate most is the variety of script and handwriting represented on these walls. The vast variety of mark-making, lettering, and size come together in a manner that appears even more lovely than if any of the words stood alone. To me, it suggests that peace isn't achieved through uniformity, but rather unity. That peace occurs when our broad range of voices cries out together in a manner that leans into and celebrates the complexities and differences among us.

That is my prayer for the Youth Room, and FPC as a whole. I pray we continue to be a gathering space where we do not shy away from variety, but rather seek it out as a necessary platform for unity. For where two or three are gathered, Christ is there also. And what's more peaceful than Christ himself? Friends, I invite you to visit our Youth Room to see the wonderful work of the incredible, vibrant youth in our congregation! Continue to create spaces to spend time with God, self, and neighbor. Lean into complexity, pursuing peace in it. Above all, seek the ways that God is with you and those around you as you gather in a multitude of ways this month. - Erin



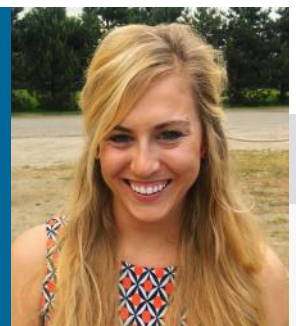
CHECK IT OUT!
The Youth Room is featured on the Profiles front cover!

Save the Date

Youth@First typically meets on Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30p. Mid High (6th-8th) and Senior High (9th-12th) alternate Sunday nights. However, sometimes we like to mix it up! Check out what's coming up!

November 5	Sr. High	TBD	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
November 12	Mid High	Service	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
November 19	Sr. High	Service	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
November 26	NO MIDDTIME or YOUTH GROUP — Happy Thanksgiving!			

Erin Drews
Youth Ministry Director



A LOOK AT NOVEMBER



November 2 at 7:00p

KNOW YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOR

Join Interfaith Allies for the first installation of the Know Your Neighbor series as we extend the opportunity for community members to meet neighbors from a variety of faith perspectives, including those who do not claim a faith at all. This event will bring together a cross-section of Muslims for a panel discussion to share their experience as community members of West Michigan. The event will take place at Hope College's Graves Hall Auditorium, 263 College Ave, 49423. This event is co-sponsored by First Pres.



November 4

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don't forget to change your clocks on Saturday night, November 4! On November 5, we *fall back* an hour. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep.



November 5 at 8:45a & 11:00a

PLEDGE SUNDAY

Come to worship prepared to turn in your Pledge Card representing your giving back to God from the blessings given you.

For more information please visit: www.fpcholland.org/give.



November 18 from 9:30a—12:30p

FREEDOM IN ADVENT

You are invited to a 3 hour retreat that encourages participants to enter Advent with intentionality, simplicity and generosity. It will be a time to prioritize all that is good and beautiful in the world in the midst of so much pain and suffering. What freedom might God be inviting us to experience this year? Facilitated by Pastor Scott and WTS Intern Hillary, participation is free, but reservation are required by November 13.



November 19 at 12:00p

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please review the proposed changes to the FPC Bylaws prior to attending the congregational meeting to be held after the 11:00a service on November 19. Bylaws can be found in the "Special" section found on the Member Login page of the FPC website. Hard copies may be picked up in the office. The bylaws will be voted on during the meeting.



November 26

NO MIDTIME MINISTRY

There will be no Midtime Ministry classes on Sunday, November 26.

For a complete calendar of events, please visit www.fpcholland.org/calendar.

SAVE THE DATE

December 1 at 7:00p

NUNCRACKERS @ HCT

Kick-off December with a fun evening at the Holland Civic Theatre! On December 1, we will be going to Nuncrackers, a Nunsense Christmas Musical presented as the first TV special taped in the Cable Access Studio built by Reverend Mother in the convent basement. We're certain the show will make you laugh and maybe tug at your heartstrings. It's the perfect way to ensure that your holiday season is merry and bright. Tickets are \$13 payable to Chris Urbaniak. Optional dinner (TBD) at 5:00p.



December 3, 10 & 17 at 10:00a

PRAYER PRACTICES OF PEACE

On the first 3 Sundays of Advent, we will meet in the Michigan Room to experience prayer practices to enhance your Advent and journey of inner peace. Practices include meditation, contemplation, centering prayer, lectio divina and more. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Scott.



December 9 from 10:30a-12:00p

SENIOR CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

All senior members and their caregivers are invited to a special morning of fellowship, delicious food and entertainment at the Senior Christmas Brunch hosted by your deacons. Who is a senior? You decide! Please **RSVP by December 1** to Linda Avery at (616)738-0767. If you have any questions, please feel free to call your deacon or Linda.



December 14 at 7:00p

QUIET CHRISTMAS

"Joy to the World" can be music to your ears during the holiday season. For some, however, the holidays bring only tears or heartache. We recognize that we cannot fix aching hearts, but we would like to sit with you, to pray with you, to honor your losses and pain. We invite you to our Quiet Christmas Service, a time for honoring the feelings that are anything but cheery this year. Come as you are.



December 24 at 10:00a

A MADRIGAL MORNING

Please be the church's guest at the first ever Madrigal worship and brunch. There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 24, at 10:00a in the Fellowship Hall. Please come hungry for a hearty breakfast and ready for a service full of pageantry, decorations and beautiful music of the Christmas season.



December 24 at 5:00p & 10:00p

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Christmas Eve, FPC will be hosting two special worship services at 5:00p & 10:00p. ALL are welcome! Our 5:00p service will be more lively and family-friendly. Nursery will be available. At our 10:00p service, we will participate in candlelight communion. We would love for you and yours to join us as we celebrate Christmas!



For a complete calendar of events, please visit www.fpcholland.org/calendar.



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

NEW! BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

Breaking Bread Together is a casual group with no commitment required that will go to lunch together at a locally owned non-chain restaurant after the second service each Sunday. The restaurant chosen will be posted on the bulletin board between services.

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. Join us for a showing of *The Innocents*, based on a true story that takes place in the aftermath of war in a Polish convent. Note: subtitles.

- **November 10**

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Men and women are invited to 8th Street Grille for monthly social gatherings at 7:00p. We will meet on:

- **November 16**

YOGA WITH GWEN

Head to the Lower Level on **Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30a** for Yoga with Gwen. All fitness levels are welcome! Build strength, stamina, balance and flexibility. Weekly drop-in rate is \$15 or purchase 10 classes for \$100. Note: Yoga will follow the preschool schedule; i.e., yoga will not meet on Thursdays when school is on break.

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. Join on the following dates:

- **November 3**
- **November 17**

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.

- **November 6:** *In Harm's Way: U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors*, by Doug Stanton
- **December 4:** *Five Days in November*, by Clint Hill and Lisa McCubbin

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

- **November 12:** *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng
- **December 12:** *Waves of Mercy*, by Lynn Austin

Presbyterian Women



NOVEMBER CIRCLES MEETING DATES

Nov. 8 at 9:30a	Miriam Circle
Study Leader:	Elsie Bergstrom
Hostess:	Aline Miller
Nov. 9 at 1:30p	Hannah Circle
Study Leader:	Janet Magennis
Hostess:	Ruth Roberts

Last month, Presbyterian Women dove into our Bible Study of the Book of Hebrews in both PW Circles. It has been an interesting look at a book many of us always figured was written by Paul. Probably not!



Sign up for the PW Christmas Luncheon to take place on December 6 at 11:30a. More details will be printed in the weekly bulletins, however, please plan to shop for and donate new underwear items for the Center for Women in Transition. Items should be unwrapped with price tags intact. Let's fill that basket to overflowing again this year!

PW GIVES: We welcome your participation in the PW Birthday Offering. (Let's see, a quarter a year for me = \$17.25, and I will round that up to \$20). Remember the PW Thank Offering. It's almost Thanksgiving, and aren't we ever thankful? There are giving envelopes on the PW display ledge in the narthex.

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ONLINE!

Website: www.PresbyterianWomen.org
Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

The annual Women's Retreat will be held February 23-25, 2018, at Geneva Camp and Conference Center. We are excited to announce our retreat leader this year will be Rev. Jill VanderWal. Brochures with information and the registration form will be available in mid November. Registration deadline will be February 1, 2018.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

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CHOIR & MUSICIANS

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DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

Chris Urbaniak
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT FILM

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MEN'S BOOK GROUP

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MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

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WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

Bev Plagenhoef
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WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

Mickey Harris
Mickey.harrisbc@yahoo.com
616.490.4989

YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com



Join a Care Team on November 12 & 19

Here I Am! November 12th and 19th we are inviting congregation members to join a Care Team. *Do you enjoy preparing a meal for a family with a new baby? Or weeding a garden for someone who has been recently ill?* If you have already identified what service God is calling you to, please let us know! If you would like to serve but aren't sure where your interests best fall, please talk to a deacon. The teams are:



COMFORTERS
listeners



NOURISHERS
cooks



COMMUNICATORS
talkers



HANDY WORKERS
doers



TRANSPORTATION
goers

Why?

As our community changes, your Deacons want to be ready to adjust to any needs of the congregation that may emerge. We are also mindful that each Deacon has unique strengths and is not able to do everything that may be needed. It is important for the whole congregation to serve, so we are reorganizing the deacon program.

How?

Rather than be organized around parishes (which are growing as our community spreads out), we are going to organize around spiritual giftings. Deacons will no longer be asked to be the only primary responders to provide service but, instead, they will be asked to coordinate teams to respond.

What?

We are in the process of organizing 5 different teams to serve based on their skills and interests and are inviting the congregation to join us. We will need participation from everyone as we decrease the number of deacons from 15 "do-it-all" deacons to 6 "call me when you need us" coordinators, thus spreading the responsibility throughout the congregation.

Questions? Please contact Hillary at hillary.roethlisberger@westernsem.edu.



*worshipping, serving, and living with a fresh
vision of God's vibrant energy and grace for all.*

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT update

The Architectural Liaison Committee has been meeting regularly with Cornerstone Architects as Cornerstone digests the information received during the listening sessions with various church members.

The priority remains to resolve the issues relative to the north entrance. The goal is for a safer and more protected entryway. Other goals are to use existing space more effectively—especially the lower level—and to relieve some of the congestion in the Narthex during the M&M cafe times. The overall theme is to improve accessibility and safety for the entire property.

Cornerstone has presented the Committee with 5 different floor plan options that would address all of the issues presented by our members during the listening sessions. We will consider these various options over the next month with the goal of a final plan by late November.

Mark your calendars now for a presentation by Cornerstone and the Liaison Committee on Sunday evening, December 3. The recommended plan along with the estimated costs will be presented at that time. The final recommended plan will go to Session at their December meeting.

