

Deeply Rooted Branching Out



*You've received Christ Jesus...
Constructed on him...*

*You're deeply rooted in him...
Now, live him! - Colossians 2:6*

2017/18



first presbyterian church
STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

A Letter to You

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Right now, Michigan farmers are wrapping up their primary growing season. They are busy harvesting—gathering ripe crops from their fields and stocking up for the cold months ahead.

Every fall, FPC goes through a harvesting process as well. Through our annual stewardship campaign, we invite our church community to take a look at all that we have and make a commitment for the year ahead. Included with this invitation is a brief overview of the key truths that guide us at FPC as we give.

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- We encourage our church family to give God the first fruits of their time, talent and treasure.
- We believe that financial giving is a commitment we make to God to further the work of Christ on earth.
- We believe that giving of our time, talents and treasure is a matter between each of us and God.
- We develop our budget based on what we believe God is doing and calling us to be. The budget is approved by the Session and presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January.

Given this, we, the members of your Stewardship Council, believe that we should live out our faith by trusting that you will provide ample resources of your time and finances to do what God is calling us to do through FPC. We believe that our collective support will not only support our *current* programs and services at FPC, but will allow us to grow in faith and mission!

AN INVITATION

This fall, we invite you to take a look at what God has given you, and from that, give God your very best! We invite you to make a pledge to God for the upcoming year. This pledge is between you and God.

Included, you will find a pledge card to physically write down your pledge. November 5 is Pledge Sunday—when members will be invited to place their pledge cards in a box. After all pledges are received, the box will be sealed. Member pledges will not be read or tabulated by the church, reflecting our faith that our budget will be funded to do the work of Christ. The box will remain on the chancel for the next year as a reminder of the commitments members have made to God and FPC. *Don't worry, you will still receive giving statements.*

THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US IN MINISTRY!

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the 2017/2018 Stewardship Committee.



- Janet Hostetler, Scott Siakel, Bill Evenson, Tom Urbaniak, Gail Hering, Larry Grinwis, Linda Knieriemen

Deeply Rooted Branching Out

*You received Christ Jesus, the Master; You're deeply rooted in him.
You're well constructed upon him. Now live him.*

Colossians 2:6-7

Our Stewardship theme, **Deeply Rooted, Branching Out**, reflects this charge from the Letter to the Colossians:

- We receive and accept Jesus' teachings of inclusive, compassionate love. We are rooted.
- We are a community of faith. We are constructed—a visible building, yes, but we are also a living organism of mutual nurture, support and encouragement.
- We exist for more than ourselves—we offer our time, service and money to a hurting world. We branch out!

As you consider your gift to God through First Presbyterian Church, consider these questions:

- 1) When did **my roots** in Christ begin? What nourishment have they received through the years?
- 2) How do I participate, both giving and receiving, in the body of Christ (**the trunk**)?
- 3) Where are **my branches** extending God's generosity and love? Where do I want them to go?
- 4) How is God calling me to give through the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Holland? How is this year different from other years?

Save the Date

Sundays, October 15 & 22 at 10:00a : Whole Life Stewardship

Attorney Tedd Oyler, Social Worker Joy Oyler and Pastor Linda will lead a class on end of life issues. Included will be opportunities to think ahead, contemplate and plan for end of life health care decisions, funeral planning, and various tools to help you align your estate planning with your values and beliefs. These sessions will take place during Midtime Ministry hour. *This class is not intended to provide legal advice for specific situations.*

October 16-28 : Faith In Action

Participate in a one-time volunteer opportunity that supports our local outreach programs and church! Volunteer opportunities will take place during October 16-28. Visit the table in the M&M Café on **Sundays, October 1 & 8** to learn more and signup!

Sunday, October 29 at 5:30p : Deeply Rooted, Branching Out Dinner

Come celebrate the fall harvest and the *Deeply Rooted, Branching Out* campaign with your church family! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a family-friendly dinner and fun activities for all ages. Everyone will have the opportunity to add their hand print to our special *Deeply Rooted, Branching Out* art project. There will be a chance to share about your *Faith in Action* experience. Younger members will have activities suited just for them while the adults enjoy an FPC produced program. The event is free of charge. A free will offering will be received. **RSVP at www.fpcholland.org/calendar.**

Sunday, November 5 : Pledge Sunday

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

Ways to Give

There are a variety of methods to submit your financial gifts.

Please contact the FPC office if you have any questions: (616)392-9022 / office@fpcholland.org.



Place cash or checks in the weekly Sunday offering plate using the provided envelopes.



Issue a bill through your online bill pay which generates a check mailed to the church as often as you would like.



Give a stock gift directed to Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Speak to the bookkeeper prior to making these arrangements.



Use auto stewardship to have your gift pulled from your checking or savings account weekly or bi-monthly. Contact the church office to complete the proper paper work.



Leave a legacy to FPC through your will, life insurance and/or retirement account. Please designate as follows:

First Presbyterian Church
659 State Street
Holland MI 49423
Tax ID # 38-1784824

If you plan to designate funds to FPC to be used for a specific or restricted purpose, please contact either Pastor Linda or our Treasurer to discuss.

IDEA: *If you are working toward tithing 10% of your income, consider moving 1% closer to your goal in 2018. OR, consider an increase of 5%, 10% or 20% over your 2017 giving.*

Whatever your contribution is to our ministry at FPC, remember that your commitment to God is to return to God a portion of the resources God has provided to you. There is so much more we can do to further the work of God's Kingdom on earth and here in Holland through FPC.