



presbyterian profiles



Nearly 150 of our members and friends attended one of the two presentations led by Cornerstone Architects on Sunday, December 10. And many of you took advantage of the questions and answers opportunity with members of our committee on Sunday, December 17. If you missed the Cornerstone presentation or wanted to see the information again, it is available at www.fpcholland.org/a-place-for-all.

Signs and pictures describing the changes that would occur in more than 30 different locations have been placed on both levels of the church. Please take the opportunity to walk around and check them out—and please let members of our

committee know if you have questions, comments or suggestions. We welcome them!

As we go forward, we will also be scheduling one or two mid-week “guided tours” around the facility led by committee members to identify and explain each of the changes that are included in the current plan.

We want to emphasize that we are still in the early stages of designing the various changes that would be made to our facility to make it even more welcoming, accessible, and safe for all. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions. Many thanks to all of you who have already given us valuable input and those of you who have expressed excitement and support for preparing our facility to meet our needs for years to come!

A Place for All Building Design Committee

Larry Grinwis, Jon Kreple, Chris Olney, William Haines, Sandra Peterson, Larry Briggance, Hillary Roethlisberger, Linda Knieriemen

ON THE COVER

We believe that by renovating and better utilizing our existing spaces, both on the upper and lower levels, our facilities will become even more welcoming, accessible, and safe to all! Learn more at www.fpcholland.org/a-place-for-all!

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Introductions

With joy, the Personnel Committee, Session and I introduce you to Katherine (Cully) Culpepper who will join us in early January as a part time, temporary associate pastor.

Cully was born in Orlando Florida and grew up primarily in Huntsville, Alabama. She is a graduate of Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee, and Princeton Theological Seminary. She has training and experience in both congregational, camping and presbytery interim ministry, including the First Presbyterian Church in Allegan, Camp Greenwood, The Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck and the Lake Michigan Presbytery. Most recently, Cully has been serving on the National Response team of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and is Coordinator for the Emotional and Spiritual Care Events.

Cully writes in her Personal Information Form that she feels called to “a place and people open to calls and visions and dreams and opportunities and unafraid of the messes they bring - where people aren’t dissuaded by fear or apathy or inconvenience or discomfort and are willing to persevere - meeting challenges in creative, honest, sensitive and fruitful ways. It is a setting where choices are made with intention and through collaborative processes with faith, integrity and courage.

It is a community woven from the fabric of hospitality, justice, humor and care, faithful stewardship and focused, well defined mission.” She absolutely shares our commitment to be a welcoming place for all.

In her free time, Cully says she enjoys cooking, creating



Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

gardens and then appreciating them (it’s more fun than weeding them.), walking, feeding the birds, indie films and documentaries, good books, laughing, learning, and time with friends and family.

Cully lives with her husband John Mortenson in Glenn, Michigan. Her stepdaughter and husband along with four grand children live in Littleton, Colorado.

I first met Cully when I was serving in Grand Rapids and have known her as a pastor and person of integrity, wisdom, and grace. There are very few interim pastors with the significant experience and skill Cully will bring who live within commutable distance. When she was suggested to us by our General Presbyter John Best, I immediately breathed a sign of relief knowing that we would be in good hands while we carry out a search for a full time associate pastor. She will be working 26 hours a week providing support to the

Board of Deacons, Outreach and Spiritual Growth Councils, sharing in pastoral ministry and visitation, and preaching occasionally.

On a related note, three of our staff will be working a few additional hours during this interim period. Both Caitlin and Sheri will add three hours a week. Erin Drews will add 5 hours a week as the primary staff person responsible for Peace Camp 2018. - Linda



Doing Justice

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8

Congregations across the country have been coming together for years seeking to experience spiritual renewal, revitalize their congregational life, strengthen the approaches to community outreach that are already in place, and transform themselves and their communities. One vehicle to do this type of work and community engagement is **Faith Based Community Organizing**. You see, some people have come to believe that the ability for churches to collaborate on issues that affect their communities in which they minister is necessary for making changes to inequitable social systems that exist in our world today. It is also important to point out that for some individuals and organizations, this Faith Based Community Organizing approach can be seen as controversial. It is our hope that throughout the month of January we will have a wide range of differing voices represented as we journey together into the world of Faith Based Community Organizing during the Midtime Class we are calling "Doing Justice."

The objective of this time together will be to learn some of the skills of this type of organizing as well as to further explore the Church's role in the public arena. We will be asking questions about how we can further ground what we are already doing here at FPC in scripture, strengthen approaches we are currently using, and take time to actually practice the skills we learn along the way.

As a professionally trained organizer, and now as an intern here at FPC, I am very excited to be leading this Midtime class. My background includes extensive training in community organizing combined with several years of research on this subject I have on the ground experience training other leaders the same ideas and skills that I will be introducing to you. I have also organized congregations as the President of a Faith Based Nonprofit.

It is a great joy to be able to join you in God's calling to the lifelong journey that is "Doing Justice."

The "Doing Justice" class will meet every Sunday during Midtime starting January 7-February 4.

- Sheri



Sheri Harris
Seminary Intern &
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**First Presbyterian
Preschool**

**Enrollment for the
2018–2019 school year
is starting soon!**

Did you know?
First Pres. Preschool offers
preferential enrollment for
children and grandchildren
of church members.

To enroll your child in our
three or four-year-old
program, please contact
Amanda Marsman at
membership.fppreschool@gmail.com
or stop by the office to pick
up an application.

***Closed enrollment will
begin January 22nd.***

SAVE THE DATE:
Open House
February 5 at 6:30p

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry
Leader



Worship Center: *Keeping in Touch*

As we journey through Christmas and into the season of Epiphany, pause and reflect on all that is meaningful to you. Be mindful. What is mindfulness? Mindfulness is a state of active, open attention on the present. Instead of letting your life pass you by, mindfulness means living in the moment and awakening to experience.

Many people and schools are embracing mindfulness as a way to slow down our harried lives. Research is showing that children engaging in mindfulness experiences show improvement emotionally, cognitively and socially with an increased ability to focus.

This Mindfulness practice is not new. The people Christians call the “Desert Mothers and Fathers” were followers of Jesus who went off to be alone, often in caves, where they remained for days, months, years, sometimes all their lives. They believed without distractions and temptations they could be more fully in the presence of God.

Internationally, nationally, and here at FPC for over 30 years, we have been giving children the opportunity to slow down (take a breather) from their busy, hectic lives by being fully present with God in our Worship Center.

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

Thank you to Nancy Staal, for sharing this wisdom with the Celebrants at a Worship Center training, and to you for providing the space and time for our children to fully embrace the presence of God. - Lori

YOUTH@FIRST

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

The beginning of a new year always incites a “buzz” in my spirit. It’s a fresh start. It’s a set of new goals and excitements. It’s the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. By February, though, it just feels like the same ol’ stuff. The pristine nature of a new beginning fades among new deadlines, broken New Year’s resolutions, and dreary Michigan winter slush. Sometimes I forget the newness that I have in Christ. Can you resonate? The newness we experience in receiving the grace of God begins to lose its luster amidst stress, loss, brokenness, conflict, or pain. However, we are still made new and whole, even when it doesn’t feel like it...sort of like how all days beyond January 1 are still part of a new year, even when they become enfolded into the seeming hum-drum of ordinary.

It’s a new year. I am happy to say that I have been with you here at FPC for five months, each month increasingly richer. Each month feels like New Year: refreshing, exciting, and new. In this way, you have exhibited the renewing and transformative grace of Jesus, and I am thankful for each of you. With that sense of renewal, I am excited for the new things ahead for the youth this spring. Between Winter Retreats, Alma Interfaith Youth mix, and time together in our general Youth Group and Midtime programming, I am eager to see the ways we experience Christ’s newness in this upcoming New Year.

- Erin

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!

NOTE: There will be no Midtime or Youth Group on December 31. Happy New Year!

January 7	Sr. High	Fellowship	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
January 14	Mid High	Fellowship	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
January 21	Sr. High	Worship	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
January 28	Mid High	Worship	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p

Erin Drews
Youth Ministry Director



SAVE THE DATE



January 7 at 10:00a

"DOING JUSTICE" ADULT MIDTIME

The "Doing Justice" Adult Midtime Ministry will meet every Sunday from 10:00-10:50a, starting January 7, ending February 4. The objective of this time together will be to learn some of the Faith Based Community Organizing skills, as well as to further explore the Church's role in the public arena. We will be asking questions about how we can further ground what we are already doing here at FPC in scripture, strengthen approaches we are currently using, and take time to actually practice the skills we learn along the way.



January 14 at 10:00a

MIDTIME FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Alyson Schafer is a family counselor, best-selling author and internationally acclaimed parenting expert. FPC intern, Hillary Roethlisberger, was introduced to Alyson as a keynote speaker at a counseling conference she attended in Boise. Hillary immediately bought her video and books (which she never does). During January, Hillary plans on showing her video and facilitating conversation regarding how we approach our children, during the Midtime Ministry hour for Young Families. Dates will be posted in the bulletin.



January 28 at 12:00p

ANNUAL MEETING

Please come to the Annual Meeting immediately following the 11:00a worship service on January 28. We will receive annual reports and act upon the Pastor's Terms of Call.



February 1 & February 2, from 9:00a - 4:00p
Hope Church (77 W. 18th St, Holland) // Registration Required

February 1 & 2 from 9:00a—4:00p

RESTORATIVE CIRCLE TRAINING

A Restorative Circle is a community process for supporting people in conflict. It brings together those who have acted, those directly impacted by the actions, and the wider community. The voluntary gatherings provide a systemic context for dialogue to find new actions that will bring mutual benefit. On Thursday, February 1 and Friday, February 2, a training will be offered at Hope Church (77 W. 18th St, Holland) for anyone who is eager to learn more about how to facilitate Restorative Circles. **Learn more and register** at <https://hrcircles.wordpress.com/>.

WOMEN'S RETREAT | February 23-25, 2018

Now I get ME... and YOU

*Unlocking the Puzzle of Ourselves
Using the Ancient Enneagram*

Registration for the 6th Annual Women's Retreat closes on February 1, 2018

All women are invited to attend a weekend away at the Geneva Camp and Conference Center, with Rev. Jill VanderWal as our guide as we learn about ourselves using the Enneagram. Informational brochures with registration information are available at the Welcome Center. Learn more or register online at www.fpcholland.org/women. Question? Contact Bonnie Cowie at 616-786-2465.



Parent Nights

First Presbyterian Church & Preschool are excited to partner together to once again offer a Parent Night Education Series for our Preschool and FPC parents!

We will gather Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30p on March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24 and May 1. The series will focus on parents of preschoolers but the information is useful and relevant to parents of elementary age kids too. The sessions will be led by Heather Bouwman & Kristina Boersma, social workers who share a common belief in the importance of the family system, a desire to work with children and parents, and the passion to assist families in improving their level of functioning. Heather and Kristina have worked professionally in supporting and educating children and their families for over a decade. **Registration information will be coming soon!**

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!

YOGA WITH GWEN — NEW DAY!

Head to the Lower Level on **Tuesday 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 Tuesdays 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:

- January 12
- January 26

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 *Genius*, a story about the relationship between a writer and editor.

- January 12

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.

- **January 8:** *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Gran.
- **February 5:** *Impeachment: A Citizens Guide* by Cass Sunstein

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

- **January 14:** *Brother I'm Dying*, by Edwidge Danticat
- **February 11:** *Shanghai Girls*, by Lisa See

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Men and women are invited to 8th Street Grille for monthly social gatherings. Please contact Beth Magennis if you are interested in participating.

Presbyterian Women

JANUARY CIRCLES MEETING DATES

Jan. 10 at 9:30a **Miriam Circle**

Study Leader: Mary Bennett
Hostess: Elaine Wood

Jan. 11 at 1:30p **Hannah Circle**

Study Leader: Priscilla Klerekoper
Hostess: Sarah Glover

The PW Bible Study this year is on the book of Hebrews. Circles are open to all women to join any time. Study leaders for January will meet with Pastor Linda Knieriemen on January 3 at 2 PM. We appreciate her ongoing support for this study.

LOOKING BACK

The PW had a great time at our Christmas Luncheon, working with Youth Director Erin Drews to give a Middle Ages look to the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree in time for the Christmas Eve Madrigal Brunch worship service. It would not have had strings of electric lights nor shiny glass ornaments. The symbols of our Christian traditions are evident on the simple wooden ornaments. Our thanks to Lori Klinester for donating her beautiful tree and to Erin Drews for leading our creativity. We also filled the big basket to overflowing with unwrapped new underwear for those being sheltered by the Center for Women in Transition who can arrive without the basics. This generosity is an awesome response to local mission needs!

LOOKING AHEAD

Save the date for March 21 for our Lenten Breakfast! Details to come, but it will again be hosted by the Miriam and Hannah circle members who will provide decor and food. There is no cost, just RSVP. One can always offer to help with cleanup!

PRAYERS

We have Circle members who are dealing with serious health issues. We send our support and care, along with our prayers.



**GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ONLINE!**

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

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris
charlesenorris@gmail.com

DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT FILM

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MEN'S BOOK GROUP

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THEOLOGY ON TAP

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WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

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WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

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YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com
616.502.4642



Give
TOGETHER

KEEP HOLLAND WARM

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

January is blanket month at FPC! As you prepare to face a Michigan winter, please set aside blankets you don't plan to use. Please bring them to church during the month of January

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!

PER CAPITA

"Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians."

GA Minutes, Part 1, 1995

Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity. Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

FPC per capita apportionment for 2018 is **\$28.98**. Your apportionment envelope is in your offering envelope box, which can be picked up on December 31. Please contact office@fpcholland.org or 616-392-9002 if you have any questions or have misplaced your envelope. Thank you!



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



2018 Offering Envelopes

**Available for pickup
in the M&M Café
on December 31!**