

celebrate EASTER presbyterian profiles

JOIN A CARE TEAM

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

On April 8th, our Deacons are inviting you to another opportunity to join a care team! Whether you enjoy driving, baking, or visiting, we are all gifted for service. Let us know how God is calling you to participate in the body of Christ, and you will be asked when a need arises.

Care teams are:

- **Comforters** (those who like to listen)
- **Nourishers** (bakers and cooks)
- **Communicators** (those who like to reach out and keep others informed and connected)
- **Handy Workers** (doers)
- **Transporters** (goers)

How to contact a Deacon?

If you would like to contact the deacons for any reason, please feel free to contact any of them directly or email deacons@fpcholland.org to be connected to one.

ON THE COVER

Easter is just around the corner! Join us on Sunday, April 1 for Easter worship & brunch! More details found on page 6.

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A Place for All

"If you don't change, you die," said Mark Twain. Those words preface the FPC Strategic Plan introduction which has been guiding our mission since 2014.

In 2018, the Strategic Plan continues to guide the Session's discernment of how our building can be adapted to further our mission and ministries. A Master Plan developed through Cornerstone Architects last year suggests a comprehensive (and therefore expensive at 1.8 million dollars) expansion, renovation, and repurposing of spaces. In addition to the price tag, the Session's decisions on the final scope of the project will be determined by distinguishing the wants from the needs, and having clarity about the "why" behind each proposed change.

One could argue that a church doesn't need a building because the church is the people, that they are the church not only when they are gathered for worship but when they disburse to be Christ's hands and feet and voices in the world. However, a well cared for, thoughtfully designed church building can and does support and extend that ministry in a variety of ways. As the Building and Design Committee of Space for All has asked the "why" question, they've thus far identified six value statements. Do you agree with them? What would you add? Remove?

- FPC values numerical, spiritual, and programmatic growth.
 - FPC values all people -- infants to youth to older adults.
 - FPC values accessibility, safety, and security for its members and visitors.
 - FPC values our ministry connections with the community at large. (AA for example)
 - FPC values administrative efficiencies. (We call this good stewardship.)
 - FPC understands that God's "welcome" is communicated not only by spoken theological convictions but also by a physically compelling and comfortable environment.
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Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

Session, in the coming two weeks, will be contemplating the "why" question for each part of the Master Plan. Some of the plan elements will filter out. Others will rise to the top.

Foolishness is written over change for the sake of change.

Wisdom is written over change guided by prayerfully articulated values and principles accompanied by wise and reasonable fund raising plans.

In the coming months, you will hear about opportunities to show your generosity and commitment to the ministries of Christ through FPC as the Capital Campaign activities get rolling.

The last lines of the Strategic Plan conclusion say:

"...prayers for open hearts, listening ears, and clear vision for and from our entire church family are essential as we grow into a vision of a vibrant congregation that, long after our time here, will still gather in this place of worship to serve and live to the glory of God."

- Linda



Transitions R Us

In recent days and in multiple conversations I have joked about getting a t-shirt printed with the church logo followed by “Transitions R Us”. There are many transitions occurring in our common life right now. We have moved through Lent and Holy Week and are in the season of Easter. The dark of winter and early spring is giving way to lengthening light (thanks be to God). The Deacons are in the process of reorganizing their work into care teams so more of us can be involved in their ministry. It also includes implementing a new software system, Servant Keeper, to help us keep up with one another electronically. Outreach Council continues to strengthen our relationships with mission partners with increased “check-ins”, site visits, and an upcoming mission fair. Outreach Council is also seeking new opportunities for partnerships and hands-on mission. We’ve just come through a feasibility study and heard a report regarding a capital campaign. We are exercising our imaginations and hearts as we begin to consider building projects. And we are beginning the process for finding just the right person to join the rest of the staff in providing leadership.

Seems like that’s a boatload of transitions. I don’t know about you, but it seems like there’s always something churning and changing in my personal life, too. I have to remind myself that we shouldn’t be surprised at so much change. It’s organic. Like every other organism created, we are part of creation and consequently the cycle of creation. Life is dynamic, not static. And when I get “prickly” about change, I remind myself of what some famous psychologist (Erikson?) said, “All change is perceived as loss.” That’s why we have mixed feelings at happy occasions like weddings and graduations and the first day of first grade for our first child.

The second thing I remind myself is, we aren’t engaging in change simply for the sake of change or even because we just got bored with the way things are. We are engaging in change for the sake of faithful transformation – renewal, revitalization, or dare I say, resurrection. Previous generations and iterations of our community went through what we are going through now. Out of gratitude for God’s love lived through this fellowship, they talked and listened and considered and prayed about what they needed to be doing in the present to be able to grow faithfully into the future. Some of us who are around now, were around then. (See if you can find Kevin Oswald in one of the photos of a previous construction era.) For those of us who are adults, it’s easy to forget that when we were young, someone cared enough for us and for our futures to do the faithful yet uncomfortable work of transformation.

On Easter day and throughout the season of Easter, we celebrate the transformative power of God’s love given to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May that love and power enable us to move gracefully through the boatload of transitions ahead.

- Cully



Rev. Katherine Culpepper
Temporary Associate
Pastor

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Worship Center: *Keeping in Touch*

Ponder the path where your feet are going ...
who might our children be following?

Worship Center is based on the Good Shepherd, Jesus - the One who leads His sheep and knows each one by name, when one is lost He will not rest until it is found - then celebrates with a feast. Do we try to follow? Indeed.

During Worship, Rev. Culpepper spoke about removing shoes when standing on sacred ground; five-year old Lauren looked up at me, a question on her face asking for affirmation, while wiggling out of her boots. Was she listening? Was it ok? Absolutely.

Palm Sunday, our children joined in the procession with palms held high, shaking their OGHS banks. Being guided with a calendar of many choices; counting stuffed animals, playing with siblings, helping grownups, reaching out to kids at school, creating notes to loved ones, etc., they filled their banks with love and paraded with you into the sanctuary. Did they follow into a safe place? My heart says yes.

Our children are following. They are also leading with their feet by helping others in need. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, we will be using our WC offering to fill hygiene kits with personal care items for those affected by disasters. If you are willing to donate new items, there is a basket with a list of specific needs in the Book Nook. We would be most appreciative of your help.

Walking in faith with you, Lori

Blöe Sünday *April 29 at 9:45a & 10:20a*

Blue Sunday is a national faith-based initiative to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention. It is with open hearts and wisdom that we continue to seek ways to keep our children safe. Recently, it was suggested that we offer a program for our children on safe touch. On Sunday, April 29, the Prevention Educator of the Children's Advocacy Center in Holland, will be presenting two 20-minute child-friendly presentations. The goal is to give our children the skills for personal safety using age appropriate language. Parents and/or Grandparents are encouraged to attend with their children. Preschoolers—1st graders are encouraged to attend the presentation held at 9:45a. 2nd-3rd graders are encouraged to attend the presentation at 10:20a. Both presentations will be held in the Lower Level 2nd/3rd grade Worship Center. Worship Center classes will continue as scheduled. If you wish for your child to not attend, we will have an alternative place for them to be.

Please contact Lori Klinesteker with questions.

YOUTH@FIRST

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener...Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." - John 15: 1 & 4

As we wrap up the "I Am" sayings of Jesus, I find myself both compelled and convicted. Even though Christ mercifully saves us from ourselves and our sin, he does not condemn. However, in the gospels he does (lovingly) say some of the most difficult things that require self-examination, confession, and a new receipt of grace. Thus, I found myself in that cycle this Lenten season: convicted of things I have not wholly offered up to God, repentant, and then compelled to lean into a new way by living in brave gratitude of the grace I've received through Christ alone.

The idea of Christ as the True Vine and me as a branch is a metaphor with which I have long struggled. Perhaps this is because the easier route to take would be to act as the Vine myself and make Jesus a branch of me. If I am the Vine, that means Jesus can be a branch of me among other branches: my education, my ideologies, my politics, my will, my ideas, MY way. We all interpret data in light of our ultimate authority, and if I am the Vine, I am afforded the luxury of projecting all of those aforementioned things about me onto Jesus. I would be able to say, "Christ means this or that. Christ would only vote this way, or think just like me. Christ only likes people who think or function like me, not those people. Christ must come along with me as I decide

ultimate good." Frankly, with me as the Vine, Christ would begin to look a lot like...well, me.

Wouldn't that be nice? It would be far more comfortable. And man, how easily we all do that. How readily do each of us, (no matter race, creed, political affiliation, occupation, favorite ice cream, etc.) do that? We do it because it seems comfortable: it appears inclusive; it's what we know; it's easy. However, it strips other branches on the True Vine of their dignity. It means that other branches who don't look like me, think like me, use their money like me, speak like me, or vote like me must not be part of the Vine. It's entirely exclusive. Yet worst of all, it strips Christ of his divinity, his mystery, and his complexity. It takes away his "Vine-ness", and grants him the mere placement of a branch. And thus, fruit ceases to come, and the branches wither.

Scripture tells us that only if we remain in the True Vine can fruit be produced. As we approach the Easter season, I am learning to morph. I am re-visiting my rightful location as a branch, not the Vine. I desire to know Christ, not Erin, for only in knowing him will I ever truly know myself anyway. That's my prayer entering into Easter: that with Christ as the vine, (though more difficult than "self" as vine), we experience the true fullness of the gospel in order to lean into a new way. - 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!

April 1 & 8

SPRING BREAK—NO MIDDTIME OR YOUTH GROUP

April 15	Sr. High	Youth Group	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
April 22	Mid High	Youth Group	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p
April 29	Sr. High	Youth Group	Meet @ FPC	6:00-7:30p

Erin Drews

Youth Ministry Director



SPECIAL EVENTS

celebrate EASTER at First Pres

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 - 8:45a & 11:00a

Easter Brunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45a



Parent Nights

Learn more at www.fppreschool.org

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS

April 10 & 24 at 6:00p

In April, our Parent Education Nights will focus on Discipline. Learn more and register at fppreschool.org/parent-education-nights.html.



FIRST PRES. PRESCHOOL WHEEL-A-THON

April 21

Keep an eye out on the weekly bulletin to find out more information about how we can support the First Presbyterian Preschool by participating in their annual Spring fundraiser!

BELONGING CLASS

April 21 from 9:00a—12:00p

What makes us “us” at First Presbyterian Church? Those interested in learning more about what being a member at FPC looks like are invited to join us on April 21 from 9a-12p to learn about the history, beliefs, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as the ministries of our particular congregation. RSVP the office at 392.9022 or office@fpcholland.org.

Belonging Class

Come find out what makes us “us” at First Presbyterian Church

April 21 from 9:00a—12:00p

first presbyterian church
you belong here

SPECIAL EVENTS



YOUNG FAMILY EVENT—CRITTER BARN

April 21 at 1:00p

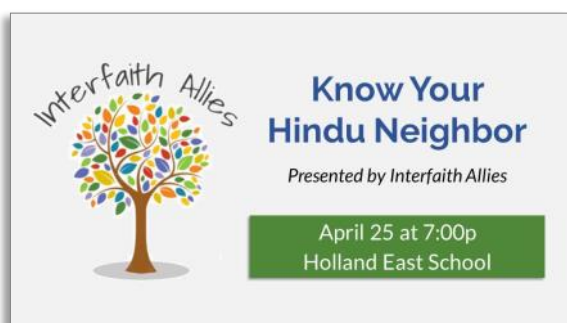
Young Families 3rd Saturday event for April is the 'Critter Barn' at 9275 Adams St (extension of 16th Street) in Zeeland. There are lots of new babies this time of year. Admission is free (donations accepted). If you are interested in joining other FPC families, meet in the Critter Barn parking lot at 1:00p.



DINNERS FOR 7

April 21, 2018 at 6:00p

Join us for Dinners for 7 on Saturday, April 21st, at 6:00p. This is a fun event for couples and singles to spend an evening together for a delicious meal and interesting conversations. Hosts prepare the main course of their choice and everyone else brings the supporting dishes. Sign up on the bulletin board in the M&M Café.



KNOW YOUR HINDU NEIGHBOR

April 25, 2018 at 7:00p

The third event in the Know Your Neighbor Series will bring together a panel from a cross section of the Hindu faith community to speak about their experiences of living in West Michigan. Event to be held at Holland East School (373 East 24th St, Holland). Register at know-your-hindu-neighbor.eventbrite.com.

Do you have a senior graduating from high school, college, or trade school?

Let us know. We want to celebrate!

If you would like your senior to be recognized in our upcoming May Profiles, please supply us with a recent photo (such as a senior picture) and short write up that includes where your senior is graduating from, what accomplishments / activities your graduate has been involved in, and what their future plans are. Please send these items to caitlin@fpcholland.org.





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

YOGA WITH GWEN

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.*

- April 10
- April 17
- April 24

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:

- April 6
- April 20

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 *Lion* - a true story about finding one's family (with subtitles).

- April 13

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.

- **April 2:** *Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime Discovery*, by Scott Kelly
- **May 7:** *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice* by Bill Browder

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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

- **April 8:** *Glory Over Everything: Beyond the Kitchen House*, by Kathleen Grissom
- **May 13:** *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Men and women are invited to local restaurants for monthly social gatherings! If you are interested in participating, contact Beth Magennis, or join the Facebook group for updates:

www.facebook.com/groups/175411052048255/

Presbyterian Women

A LOOK BACK AT THE PW LENTEN LUNCHEON



APRIL PW CIRCLES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| April 11 at 9:30a | Miriam Circle | Michigan Room |
| | Study Leader: Jan Van Faasen
Hostess: Elsie Bergstrom | |
| April 12 at 1:30p | Hannah Circle | Michigan Room |
| | Study Leader: Marilyn Chamberlain
Hostess: Connie Oppenhuizen | |

PW OF THE PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN

The April 21 meeting will focus on food banks and will be a hands-on experience. Check the bulletin for details and to plan car pooling to Grand Rapids.

PW GATHERING

We conclude our Bible studies in May and then have a beautiful final gathering for lunch at Freedom Village on June 7. Please join us for great food and fellowship and some interesting entertainment! Car pools depart from the church at 11:30a.

MISSION WORK

Get out your comfy shoes and find your Dutch costume for Tulip Time May 6-12 as we use our knowledge of Holland to help guide the many tourists who come to Holland that week. No wooden shoes needed, just a costume. We can help with that! Sign-up for Tulip Time will begin March 25th. We will need three people for each time during that first weekend, so sign up with friends, spouses, or your visiting cousin. We fund scholarships to our own Presbyterian Preschool with our stipend from Tulip Time for this service. Mission in action!

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

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YOGA

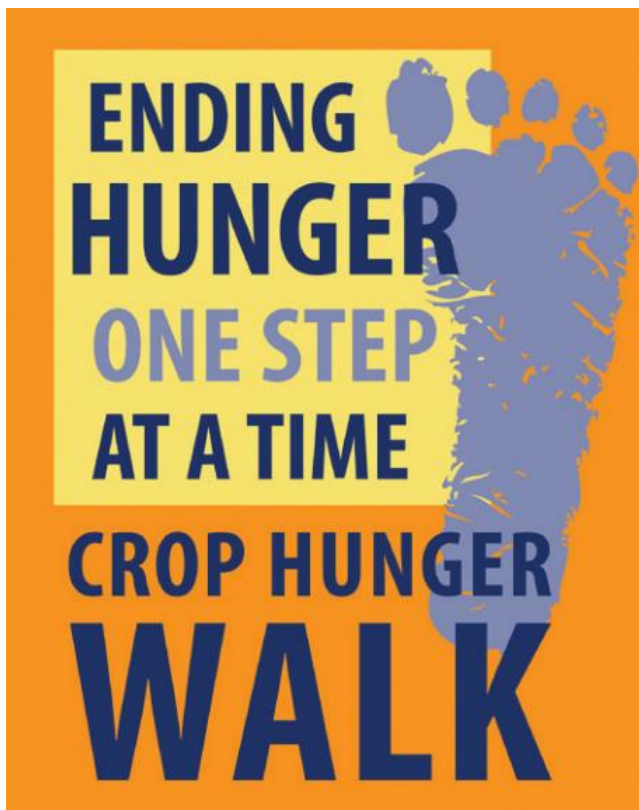
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FPC MISSION & OUTREACH FAIR

April 29 from 9:00a—1:00p

We are excited to announce that FPC will be hosting a Mission and Outreach Fair in the M&M Café on April 29, 2018. This will be a fantastic opportunity to talk with representatives from the organizations that FPC supports through prayer, volunteer hours, and finances. This event has been planned by the Outreach Council with the hope of educating, equipping, and empowering you to use your God-given gifts to support these great organizations.



SAVE THE DATE:
April 28 & 29

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29 for the 38th annual Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk. The walk raises funds for global and local hunger alleviation.



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



LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY

www.fpcholland.org/peacecamp