



presbyterian *profiles*



a place for ALL
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thank God for prayer, patience, and persistence!

After months of work by the Capital Campaign Team, Building and Design Team, Session, and along with input from many congregants, Session has given preliminary approval to proceed with Plan A of the Master Plan.

A lot has happened in the months since we hired Horizon Stewardship to assist us with our Capital Campaign. Their first mission was to conduct a feasibility study to provide a forecast of our giving potential. The result of that study estimated a potential of 1-1.2 M. While Horizon Stewardship was doing the feasibility study, our Building and Design committee interviewed three firms and selected Lakewood Construction as our construction management company. Just after Easter, we received their quote on the full project which came in at 2.2 M, or \$600,000 above the quote from Cornerstone Architects. Through multiple meetings and discussions with Session, it was decided that the scope of the project should not exceed our projected fund raising capacity of 1.2 million. It was, and is, a clear goal for First Presbyterian Church to not incur long term debt.

Since the Spring Break, there have been numerous meetings to prioritize which parts of the Master Plan are of the highest priorities for meeting our goals of safety, accessibility, efficiency of space, and aesthetic warmth. The results of this work can be seen in the "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" banners now seen on the Place for All posters throughout the building. More specifics will be forthcoming in brochures, diagrams, and group gatherings in the coming weeks.

The Capital Campaign Leadership Team invites you to begin a conversation with God, asking, "What do you want to do through me?"

The patience and persistence necessary to bring us to this point, coupled with prayers from all of us, will produce a renovated building for the continuing mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church!

ON THE COVER

We have A LOT to celebrate in May! Learn more about some of those opportunities to celebrate on page 6. Then head to page 10 to read about our graduates!

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A Place for Jun

His name was Julius, but everyone called him “Jun” and he had been sober for 40 years. He was comfortable in this building because this is where he had come for years for AA meetings. So, when he was no longer able to drive, his son would bring him to First Presbyterian Church for the 11:00a worship. Sitting in the last row, pulpit side aisle, he was quiet, humble, and faithful. He always offered an encouraging word for the preacher as he walked into the M & M Café. Then, one of you would transport him to the Alano Club for his second 12-step meeting of the day. *One Day at a Time* was his motto and Jesus Christ was his Savior and Guide.

“Jun” died on April 13 ; he was 88. A massive heart attack granted a swift transition to heaven.

“Jun” was not a member, but he belonged here; so when it came time for the family to plan his Memorial Service, they asked to have it in our sanctuary. The presider, previously the Holland Rescue Mission Chaplain, now the Chaplain at the Ottawa County Jail, knew “Jun” well and artfully, with a full sanctuary, celebrated “Jun’s” life and the God whom he loved. I sat at the soundboard and looked out over the gathered congregation. Younger and older, well-heeled and humble, sober, and maybe not so sober, this was Jun’s community, and they loved him well. After the final solo and benediction, those 150 family and friends spilled out into the M and M Café for fellowship on DeBoer’s muffins, cookies, and “pigs” and more coffee than we could keep up



Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

with! And then at noon, a good number of them retreated to the Michigan Room for, yes, a 12 step meeting where many had met and received encouragement in sobriety from the one whose life they had been celebrating and mourning.

Why tell this story?

Our building has a ministry, a ministry beyond what happens on Sunday mornings, or around church member activities, study, or committee meetings. It’s a ministry at low or no expense to the community and offers safe, hospitable, and attractive spaces as well as plentiful parking.

The building ministers to these groups daily or weekly: First Presbyterian Preschool, AA and Al-Anon, The Windmill Barbershop Chorus, Boy Scouts.

The Place for All building program is not a self-centered pouring of money into ourselves alone, rather, it is an effort to further the Ministry of Building beyond this congregation and it’s direct programming, to a variety of ministries which extend our reach, our hospitality, our love into the community. *The building at 659 State Street is more than bricks and mortar: it is a mission and ministry.*

- Linda

Check out the NEW Staff Emails!

Cut along the perforated line, hang it on your fridge, or stick it in your Bible for your convenience.

Linger Longer

On April 22, following the 11:00a worship service, some of us chose to *linger longer* and have some conversation related to the sermon. One of the subjects of interest was a quote from Neurologist and Holocaust survivor, Viktor Frankl.

In the aftermath of some of the most horrific acts of inhumanity and great personal suffering and loss, he was able to not only survive but rebuild his life and thrive. This quote is the short version of how he did that. So for your consideration and with gratitude for the many ways in which God is with and in us...

*Between stimulus and response
there is a space.*

*In that space is our power to
choose our response.*

*In our response lies our
growth and our freedom.*

Viktor Frankl



Rev. Katherine Culpepper
Temporary Associate
Pastor

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Worship Center: *Keeping in Touch*

On May 13, together with the youth, we will be celebrating our last Sunday for this school year with an ice cream party. Parents – please pick up your kids in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45a.

We give thanks to the **Parents** of our Worship Center kids for your important support with consistency, as stories in the WC build upon each other according to the liturgical year. Along with intentional preparation of the WC space and our Celebrants time in preparing for the story each week, your continued commitment in bringing your children on Sunday is appreciated.

We are in awe of the **Kids** who come with their wondering questions, sharing their joys and sorrows, making friends, and having a safe space where they can explore their faith journeys. We receive more than we give when we are celebrating with them in the WC.

It is with gratitude to our **Celebrants** who are committed to the WC program sharing their faith and love. Seeking the Good Shepherd in our lives through the eyes of children is a delight. Your dedication along with the spiritual training, love and affirmation we receive from our Inspirational Leader is valued. Thank you! “We can’t give what we don’t have.”

To our **Nursery care providers** who give their time to love and care for our little ones, you are the first place for our littlest ones to feel welcome, safe, and loved at FPC. We are blessed by your commitment to provide a safe place, to plant seeds of faith, and offer precious time for their parents to follow their faith journeys and build relationships at FPC.

Worship Center kids – let’s stay connected this summer! First Sunday of each month we will be having intergenerational meals/fun after the Worship Service and....be sure to sign up for a spectacular week of Peace Camp in June.

In gratitude for so many reasons to feel blessed,
Lori



YOUTH@FIRST

As I write this, I grieve the fact that it is my last article. Most of you know of my resignation, and while it has been explained more in depth to the youth, I wanted to share some of the pieces of the letter that I wrote to them to provide better understanding of my professional and spiritual reasons for leaving.

My primary reason for this decision was a desire to work full time. Piecing multiple part-time gigs together has proven to be harder than originally expected. While I have deeply enjoyed this job, I've felt the desire for a while to move into full-time work for emotional, professional, and financial growth.

Alongside the choice to work full time, there is a spiritual aspect to this decision. My seminary education proved to be incredibly hard on my personal relationship with Christ. I had a professor put it like this: the bulk of a seminary education is to "recrucify" Christ day after day in order to deconstruct all you knew of Him in the hope of rebuilding your faith and ministry with new eyes and a humble heart. I don't think I've fully rebuilt that yet, in tandem with the fact that my various ministry roles throughout college and seminary have been such that I have not experienced a Sunday as just a congregant in seven years. Thus, I feel a deep "soul-need" for space to simply grow and be fed after years of theological education and ongoing ministry.

This was not an easy decision by any means. FPC, I am incredibly grateful for the past academic year with you. In my short time here, you have made me feel nothing short of warmly welcomed, and I am forever grateful for that. You've shown me a deep love of God and of neighbor, and I'm grateful for the force of love you are in the Holland community. Your hospitality is your mark.

My first Profiles article took place just as we kicked off Paul in the Fall, and I greeted you as a congregation as Paul greeted his fellow Christians in each of the epistles: warm and familial. And now, months later, I part as Paul would: with a blessing.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

- 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!

May 6	Mid High	Bowling @ BAM!	Meet @ FPC	5:45p—7:45p
May 13	Sr. High	Escape Room @ BAM!	Meet @ FPC	Time TBD
May 20	Sr. & Mid High	Picnic & Games	Meet @ FPC	11:15a—1:30p

Erin Drews
Youth Ministry Director



SPECIAL EVENTS

We have a NEW Database!

Learn more on **May 6**



SERVANT KEEPER TRAINING

May 6 at 9:45a

Have you ever wanted to look at your giving statement? Have you ever wanted an online directory at the tip of your fingers? Have you ever wanted to update your contact information yourself? If so, you are in luck! We are implementing a new database that will allow us to do these and MORE! Attend this special one-hour training to learn more about Servant Keeper, and how you can best benefit from it.

Worship Center Celebrant Recognition Sunday

May 13

WORSHIP CENTER CELEBRANT & CHOIR RECOGNITION & FAREWELL TO ERIN DREWS

May 13 at 11:00a

Join us at the 11:00a worship service on May 13 as we recognize the Worship Center Celebrants and wish Erin Drews, FPC Youth ministry Director, a loving farewell!

PLAY
LAND

Young Family 3rd Saturday Event
May 19 @ 11:00a

3rd SATURDAY YOUNG FAMILY EVENT

May 19 at 11:00a

Mark your calendars for the May Young Family Event to be held at Central Wesleyan's Indoor Playland on May 19 at 11:00a. This will be a great opportunity for kids to connect and play while parents visit. No need to sign up, just show up! Hope to see you there!

Summer Worship
SCHEDULE BEGINS



**May 20th
10:00a**

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS CELEBRATE GRADUATES & CHUCK NORRIS

May 20 at 10:00a

On May 20, our summer worship schedule begins! From May 20—September, we will worship at 10:00a. On this special Sunday, we will also celebrate our graduates. Please join us!

LOOKING AHEAD



FABULOUS FIRST SUNDAYS

The first Sunday of June, July & August

This summer, we will offer special congregation-wide gatherings immediately following the 10a church service:

- **June 3:** Bring your own picnic! We will gather outside the church where you can sit at tables or on your own blanket to eat lunch and play table and lawn games.
- **July 1:** FPC will provide all the food and again have games and activities.
- **August 5:** Our service is at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Bring lunch to eat at their pavilion picnic tables (right where the service is held) and then have fun walking the trails or enjoying activities in the pavilion.



ANNUAL CANOE TRIP

July 27 - 28

Come join us on July 28th for the annual FPC Canoe/Kayak trip! We'll be paddling the Pere Marquette River in Scottville (near Ludington) again this year. Join us for a fun day of paddling. To extend the fun, camping will be available the nights of July 27th and 28th at Henry's Landing: (701 South Scottville Road, Scottville, MI 49454).

Registration information coming soon!



A LOOK BACK

Event Highlight from Last Month

Last month, FPC Young Families enjoyed a beautiful day at The Critter Barn! It was fun seeing all the new babies and petting furry and feathery critters. Join us on May 19 for another fun outing!



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.*

- May 1
- May 8
- May 15
- May 22
- May 29

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:

- May 4
- May 18

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 Visitor* about illegal immigration.

- May 11

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. *The Men's Book Group will not meet June-August.*

- 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.

- May 13: *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult
- June 10: *Hillbilly Elegy #2* by J.D. Vance

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/175411052948255/

Presbyterian Women



MAY PW CIRCLES

May 9 at 9:30a

Study Leader:

Hostess:

Miriam Circle

Jean Williams

Arloa Wirbel

May 10 at 1:30p

Study Leader:

Hostess:

Hannah Circle

Gloria Ford

Judy Phillips &
Janet Magennis

CIRCLES: WRAPPING UP, LOOKING AHEAD...

As we complete our study of the Book of Hebrews, we have a preview of the next study, commencing in September. GOD'S PROMISE: I AM WITH YOU includes artwork by James Qi He, whose bright visual paintings were on exhibit in our church last year! Orders for this Bible study book will begin this summer.

OUR SYMPATHY

Our sister in faith, Sylvia Jones, passed away in April. Her great service to the Hannah Circle, her quiet observations during our studies, her faithful worship, and her joy in playing the bells will all be missed. We extend our sympathy to her family.

PW SUMMER LUNCHEON — JUNE 7 @ 12:00p

We have invited our own Sheri Harris to speak about how the women of Israel and Palestine find their way during this endless time of discord in their lands. Please join us at Freedom Village for great food and fellowship and a thoughtful presentation. Car pools leave from the church at 11:30a. A wonderful lunch and dessert will be \$13, which includes a gift to the FV Scholarship Fund. RSVP on the bulletin board in the M&M Café!

MISSION

It's almost Spring and that means? TOURISTS! Yes, our members will be doing their best to help folks get around Holland to see all of TULIP TIME. We gift our income for this to our Presbyterian Preschool to be used for scholarship funds.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

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WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

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WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

Mickey Harris

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YOGA

Gwen Boeve

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



PIPER KRAMER

Piper Kramer is graduating from West Ottawa High School. She was on the sideline and competitive cheer team and played tennis all 4 years of high school. Piper also played cello in the chamber orchestra and was an active member of the National Honor Society. She will be attending college next year and will possibly study environmental science.

ERIN MAGENNIS

Erin will be graduating from West Ottawa High School. She will attend Grand Valley State University and pursue a double major in Secondary Education and Mathematics with a teachable minor in Chemistry. Erin plans on being a high school math teacher. Her activities include being a co-captain of the Varsity competitive dance team; a member of Avalon School of the Arts dance ensemble; and she plays the violin in the Chamber Orchestra at West Ottawa, as well as the Holland Area Youth Orchestra. Erin was inducted into the National Honor Society, has received multiple Scholar Athletic Awards, and this past season, she won the Panther Award for her leadership.



MORGAN RICKETTS

Graduating from Hope College with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree, Morgan plans to go out west and work for a year before becoming a traveling nurse. She would eventually would like to be on a pediatric oncology floor. She was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

HILLARY ROETHLISBERGER

Seminary intern, Hillary Roethlisberger, will be graduating from Western Theological Seminary with her M. Div. and is currently seeking a call.





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

FPC members spotted at
the March for Our Lives
demonstration in Holland
last month.

