



Getting REAL

presbyterian *profiles*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Pledges have been received from 70% of our members totaling \$1,000,981 toward our goal of \$1.2 Million!

Prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude are being said!

Envelope booklets have been mailed to those who have not picked up their Place for All envelopes.

Follow up contacts will be made in early September with members from whom we have not heard. We need to hear from those who are able to pledge at this time and those who are not.

Funds are flowing in \$214,496.

Ground breaking is scheduled for early October 2018 with a target completion of May 2019.

Project Scope continues to be evaluated with the intent of completing as many of the priorities identified as possible.

ON THE COVER

We have embarked on a journey to raise \$1,200,000 to prepare our building for our ministries of welcome, accessibility, safety and growth. Learn more at www.fpcholland.org/aplaceforall!

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Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

Imagine...

He had changed so much I'm surprised I recognized him.

It had been at least 3 years since he and his wife came to tell me that they could no longer attend because of theological differences with First Pres. That's always sad to hear, but at the same time, I'm grateful there are ample Sunday morning spiritual options in Holland.

I'll call him Joe. He first appeared at FPC as part of the 12 x 12 "AA" community. He was trying to get sober and sleeping on a friend's couch in the neighborhood while his wife stayed with her mother 30 minutes away. Mental illness, extreme obesity, and bad knees complicated his life. Because of DUI related accidents, he could no longer support himself as a long distance truck driver.

Previous pastors Matt Webber, Pete Theune and I spent countless hours with him, providing encouragement and prayers. With Deacon funds as well as pastors discretionary funds, we assisted him over many months with rent money and assistance with bills. His need was clear. The requests got out of hand, but it was difficult to say no. His intentions to reimburse the church became an embarrassment for him and a troubling situation for us. He just needed a "hand up" and was trying so hard. Joe and his wife Patty eventually moved back in together, secured a vehicle, and she began to work part time. Between subsidized housing and Social Security disability, they pieced together something of a stable life. The couple came to church, made friends, and we learned about Joe's scrumptious recipe for brownies.

We were a people and a place and financial support for Joe when his world caved in. Church is all about that. Giving a cup of cold water, a place out of the cold. Dignity.

It's a privilege as your pastor to work with folks like these on your behalf.

But I've often wondered what happened to him. After all that support, he just disappeared.

Continued on page 3

Imagine... *Continued*

Until that day I returned from vacation. At least 150 pounds lighter sober, healthy, no longer walking with a cane, a smartly dressed Joe hugged me and handed me an envelope saying “it’s not much, but Vicki received an inheritance after her mother’s death. We are moving to Florida where we’ve bought a house. This is a “pay it forward” response for the help given me when we had nothing.

I opened the envelope and stared down at a \$3000.00 check.

Wow. The transformation in front of me was more than physical. He was whole again and able to give generously, I suspect he felt as good about that as I did.



Rev. Katherine Culpepper
Temporary Associate
Pastor

While we always suggest that a recipient of assistance repay the church when they are able, this NEVER happens.

The Deacon’s Fund grew by \$1500—recycled funds to aide the next person who needs to get on his or her feet. And remembering Joe’s difficulty with transportation early in his recovery, \$1500 is now available in the Transportation Ministry account which has helped allay costs of the new FPC bus.

This is who we are. *A Place for All*—sometimes briefly, but I pray the impact can be lasting.

Morphing Mid Time

Heads up! Mid Time for Adults will look a bit different this year! In an effort to make it more drop-in friendly, we’re going to a rotation model.

First Sundays will be for **Making Connections** – grab a cup of coffee from the M & M Café and come to the Michigan room to have some fun getting to know one another and learning more about what we all do when we aren’t doing church together on Sunday mornings. Did you know we actually have someone in our congregation who has been on Jeopardy, twice!

Second Sundays will be for **Clips and Conversations**. We will view a short video and have some engaging conversation about it.

Third Sundays are for learning about **Spiritual Practices**. It might sound a little “woo woo” or maybe intimidating, but I think you’ll be surprised at how simple practices can bring a greater awareness and sense of God’s presence into your life.

Fourth Sundays are for **Peacemaking**. We will do some follow up from our summer Peace Camp experiences and continue to explore the path to peace in ourselves, our relationships, our community and the world via a variety of topics.

And Fifth Sundays will be for the **Motley Crew** – multigenerational fun for all in the Fellowship Hall (It could get rowdy....)

In addition to Mid Time offerings, we have two additional opportunities for growth and fellowship: Judy Faber will be leading an **updated Bethel Bible Study**. See more about the updated Bethel Bible Study on page 10. And back by popular demand, on Sundays following the 11:00 worship service, you’re invited to **Linger Longer** in the Michigan Room and have conversation related to that day’s sermon.

Mid Time and **Linger Longer** begin again on Sunday, September 16 (the day we return to two services).

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry
Leader



Worship Center: *Keeping in Touch*

Welcome back as we begin a new year of Worship Center on September 16.

The Worship Center is prepared as a sacred and worshipful place for our children to experience the stories, wonder, then reflect and respond in a way that is meaningful to them. We anticipate both our children and Celebrants reuniting with friends and making new ones.

On September 16, our fourth graders will be receiving their Bibles. On the same day, our Celebrants will be commissioned at the close of the 8:45a Worship Service; Celebrants will be extending Christ's Light from the Sanctuary to the Worship Center. Children and parents are encouraged to follow.

Kid's Choir, under the direction of Dr. Chuck Norris and Beth Magennis, will resume on September 23, following the Children's Message during the 11a Worship Service. Kid's Choir usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. ALL kids and youth are invited and encouraged to attend.

WC room designation and grade level changes:

PreK – Kdg. – main level across from Nursery (same)
1st – 2nd grade – lower level (change in grade level but same room)

3rd – 5th grade – lower level NE room (change in grade level and room)

(We are inclusive. Let me know if you have any questions regarding placement of your child in a WC.)

5th Sundays—Intergenerational (all congregants including children) will be meeting together during MidTime (9:45 – 10:45a) in the months that have five Sundays. First gathering will be September 30.

In life there is change. I am grateful to all who journey with us seeking the constant and never-ending love of The Good Shepherd who is always with us; through the warm green grass, the cool blue waters and even in the dark places.

Christ's Light is shining; all are invited and welcome.

Lori Klinesteker



Remembering a Long-Time Friend

Ann Farley, a member of FPC and choir member passed away in California on February 14, just eleven days before her 91st birthday. Her family has planned a memorial service for Saturday, September 15, at 1:00 pm in Maas Auditorium, Hope College campus.

We join the family in remembrance of her life among us and in celebration of her resurrection into life eternal.



Where In The World Is Hillary Roethisberger?



The **Roethisberger** family arrived in Corvallis, Oregon on July 22 and are settling into a temporary apartment. Hillary writes that they are house hunting and are being warmly welcomed into the community.

Hillary is working at Samaritan Hospice in Albany, Oregon, and the Pastoral Counseling Network in Corvallis. Michael is being full time Dad until Asa and Hayden begin school in mid September and will then be applying for Masters programs in Occupational Health and Safety.



Hillary's ordination into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the PC (USA) is scheduled for October 7, in Boise Montana.

Pastor Linda will be in attendance and preaching for that service.

Roethisberger Family
4014 NW Witham Hill Drive #82
Corvallis, Oregon 97330



Welcome, Interns!

This fall we welcome two interns from Western Theological Seminary: **Trey Tirpack** and **Brigette Kemink**. At FPC we recognize that real ministry experiences are an essential component of educating pastoral leaders, but

the relationship goes both ways. They bring fresh ideas, ask probing questions, and expand our ability to be in ministry with the congregation. You'll see both Trey and Brigette leading in Sunday worship and preaching occasionally. Trey will provide leadership for the middle and high school students and Brigette will coordinate a monthly segment of MidTime ministry for adults and assist with the Deacons.

3 interesting facts / conversation starters about Brigette & Trey

Brigette:

Hates to wear shoes
Favorite dessert is Tiramisu
Was born in Wheeling, WV, but lived in Ohio

Trey:

Born and raised in Hawaii
Failed High School Math
Loves Hungary

A Note from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

*In our last **Profiles** we mentioned that the APNC was embarking on the most important pieces required for filling out the Ministry Information Form (MIF). Those pieces were: answering 5 narrative questions that provide every applicant a true picture of what FPC is and stands for, and identifying the top 10 characteristics an applicant would need to possess in order to be successful in the position. Needless to say, it has been a very busy summer for the Committee.*

Those pieces were completed and presented to session. Session approved the content, which means the APNC will move on to double checking everything and then electronically filling out the MIF and sending it on to Presbytery to gain its approval. After Presbytery's approval, we will then post it on the PCUSA church Leadership Connection and begin to receive Personal Information Forms (PIF's from people interested in joining the FPC ministry team. More updates coming. Blessings - Rebecca Gardiner

SAVE THE DATE



FALL KICK OFF PICNIC

Sunday, September 9 at 11:00a

There will be a Welcome Back Picnic following the service on Sunday, September 9th. The Connections Fire & Grill Team will provide the main course and table service. Members are asked to contribute a dish to pass. Because this worked so well last year, to determine what you will provide, if your birth year ends in an even number please bring a dessert. If your birth year ends in an odd number please bring a side dish or salad. We look forward to seeing you and your family! Volunteers are needed!! Please contact Bob Gansen at robert.s.gansen@charter.net to volunteer.



TWO WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, September 16 at 8:45a and 11a

A friendly reminder that we return to two service times beginning September 16th.



LINGER LONGER

Sunday, September 16 at 11a

Rev. Knieriemen invites you to *Linger Longer* in the Michigan Room and have conversation related to that day's sermon.

BETHEL SERIES

Sunday, September 16

Several times in the past, we have offered the Bethel Series as a way of exploring the Bible and learning about God's story and what that means for our own journey with God – the good times and the not so good times, and even the times that make us scratch our heads and leave us questioning what it all means. Beginning this fall, Judy Faber will lead us in an extended Adult Biblical Studies opportunity with an updated version of Bethel.

THE
Bethel.
Series

SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY YOUNG FAMILY EVENT

Saturday, September 15 at 11:00a

Young Families gather at Timbertown in Huizenga Park on Saturday, September 15th at 11:00am. Timbertown is located off Chicago Drive on 100th Avenue, Zeeland. There is also an adjacent picnic area if you bring lunch. Come, relax and visit while watching your kids joyously scramble in this newly rejuvenated play area.



HOLLAND CIVIC THEATRE GROUP

October 12, 2018 at 5:00p

Sign-up in the coming weeks for Friday, October 12th's dinner & HCT's presentation of "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The play is about an eclectic group of six contestants vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter, but only one survives!

**MID
TIME**

MID TIME

Sunday, September 16 at 11a:00a

Heads up! Mid Time for Adults will look a bit different this year! In an effort to make it more drop-in friendly, we're going to a rotation model. Get the latest on page 3.



Below are a handful of Adult Enrichment Opportunities at FPC

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

1st Monday @ 7:00pm in M&M Cafe
Contact: Larry Lynn oldrun09@gmail.com

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

1ST & 3RD Fridays @ **7:30am** in the M&M café
Each month a different subject is discussed
Don Williams williamsams@hope.edu

MEN'S GOLF OUTING

Wednesday golfing (for fun, not skill) at a variety of courses from mid-April through mid-October. Join the group any week.

Doug Johnson domajohn1961@gmail.com 616-896-8307

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

2nd Sunday @ 2:00pm in M&M café
Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

WOMEN — MIRIAM CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday @ 9:30 in Michigan room
"I am With You" study
Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

WOMEN — HANNAH CIRCLE

2nd Thursday @ 1:30 in Michigan room
"I am With You" study
Mickey Harris Mickey-harrisbc@yahoo.com 269.841.0521



ALL ADULTS

ADULT MID-TIME

- 1st Sundays – Get to know...
- 2nd Sundays – Clips and conversations
- 3rd Sundays – Spiritual Disciplines/Prays (circle, other type, education regarding prayers)
- 4th Sundays – Peacemaking
- 5th Sundays -- Intergenerational

BETHEL UPDATED Bible study 1 hour/week infusing biblical study with 5 other major religions of the world to show similarities. Meeting time decided after sign-ups.
Judy Faber jifaber@sbcglobal.net 396-8117

BELL CHOIR Every Wednesday @ 6:15pm in M&M cafe

ADULT CHOIR Every Wednesday @ 7:00pm in the sanctuary
Chuck Norris (director) charlesenorris@gmail.com

YOGA Every Tuesday @ 9:00am in lower level classroom
Gwen Boeve ghekman@gmail.com 616-502-4642

YOUNG FAMILIES 3rd Saturday at various times/places—
notified by email
Chris Urbaniak cmurbaniak@comcast.net 616.836.9293

DINNER & THEATRE GROUP October, February, April
Chris Urbaniak cmurbaniak@comcast.net 616.836.9293

DINNERS FOR 7 November, March
Chris Urbaniak cmurbaniak@comcast.net 616.836.9293
movie selection. Go to FPC website to be placed on notification email list.

NEW! CHICK FLICK OUTING Various times and places depending on movie selection. Go to FPC website to be placed on notification email list.

Presbyterian Women



IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Join us on Wednesday, September 19th at 1:30 PM to celebrate 30 years of Presbyterian Women and hear Pastor Linda Knieriemen share the overview and first lesson of this year's Bible study, GOD'S PROMISE – I Am With You. If you are seeking to join an interesting monthly Bible study, the books will be available. Childcare can be arranged if we know in advance.

There will be cake provided by the PW Coordinating Team members. We will have PW Birthday Offering envelopes, too. If you can donate anything from a dime to a dollar per year of your age, we will forward this to the PW at the denominational level. This giving funds up to five projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support and helps families.

Serving the congregation as the PW Coordinating Team this year are Janet Magennis, Sarah Glover, Jan VanFaasen, Mickey Harris, Bev Plagenhoef, and Jauanna Jackson. We are sadly missing our friend Liz Bristol who faithfully served Presbyterian Women and is one of our Lifetime Member recipients.

We are seeking a church member who will be our liaison to Tulip Time for next May and handle the scheduling of our members in the Information Booth.

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ONLINE

Website: www.PresbyterianWomen.org

Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)

Ever wonder what happens in a Session Meeting?

Brief highlights of the Session Meeting on 8-21-18:

- Approved membership of Brian and Kathryn Morrow (along with their boys Owen and Jack). Welcome!
- Approved the Ministry Information Form presented by Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC).
- Discussed A Place For All; brought up to date on where we are, what is happening, what is next.

If you would like details, seek out a Session Member; they are more than willing to share.



SMALL GROUP LEADERS

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris
charlesenorris@gmail.com

DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

Chris Urbaniak
cmurbaniak@comcast.net

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FILM

Jack Hyde
nobodyzperfik@gmail.com

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

Larry Lynn
oldrun09@gmail.com

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Don Williams
williams@hope.edu

THEOLOGY ON TAP

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Tim Richardson
timr@portercorp.com

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Bev Plagenhoef
rbplagen@live.com
616.335.3942

WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

Bev Plagenhoef
rbplagen@live.com
616.335.3942

WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

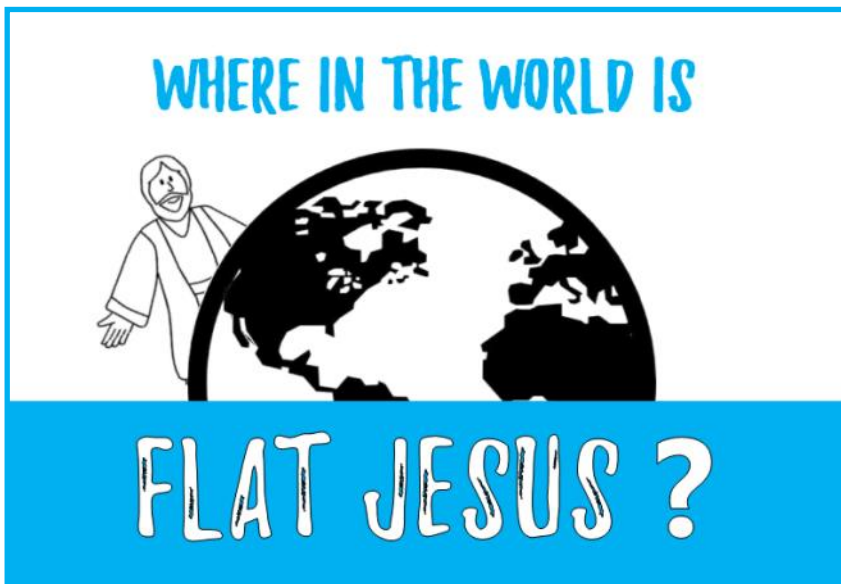
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269-841-0521

YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com
616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak
cmurbaniak@comcast.net



Flat Jesus has been our reminder the past two summers for us to keep Christ at the center of our lives even, or especially, when we are far from our church home. As folks were out and about this summer, they once again took Jesus along for the adventure. Flat Jesus was spotted going out to dinner and to the park, to other states, visiting friends, even at the zoo and camping. We appreciate those that documented the adventures with pictures you shared with your FPC Church family. Flat Jesus' summer adventures round out as we see pictured here with Erin Magennis, a recent high school graduate holding onto Flat Jesus in her new dorm room at Grand Valley State University!

Digging Deeper... Bethel Updated

Several times in the past, we have offered the Bethel Series as a way of exploring the Bible and learning about God's story and what that means for our own journey with God – the good times and the not so good times, and even the times that make us scratch our heads and leave us questioning what it all means. Beginning this fall, Judy Faber will lead us in an extended Adult Biblical Studies opportunity with an updated version of Bethel.

The first year will focus on the Old Testament, which is the beginning history of the Jewish faith story. The second year will focus on the New Testament, which is the history of the Christian faith story.

The new pieces of the stories will be the addition of key statements from other major faiths... Hindu, Buddhist and Moslem faith statements which are very similar to what we are reading in our own Bible. The purpose is for us to understand that we (the 5 major religions) are

THE
Bethel.
Series

more alike than not. The different practices in all of the religions have arisen from our different cultures, but the core of all religions is pretty much the same.

We will meet for 1 hour, 6-7 times this Fall before the holidays, 6-7 times after the holidays and 6-7 times during the Spring for 2 years. We hope to record each class so that you can listen to the class if you miss it. As for meetings times: we are currently thinking of meeting in the afternoon and possibly on Tuesday, but that is negotiable! If you are interested, look for the sign-up sheet in the M&M café where you can indicate times and days that are good or not good for you.



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



Getting Real

What makes us real... as individuals and as a faith community? Where and how do we find our authenticity both as humans in general and as the people of God? How do we hide from one another, and how can we regain honesty, integrity, and truth-telling?

This fall, our theme, “Getting Real” leads us to honest conversations about church, God, and Christ as well as our relationships with government, creation, suffering, and sexuality. In other words, we’re going to get down to the nitty gritty and get our hands dirty in that place where faith intersects with our muddy, mundane, and magnificent lives.