



presbyterian *profiles*

Blessed To Be a Blessing

Overheard as a new baptized toddler runs out of the sanctuary, “Mom, what’s next?” Indeed! God blesses us as we pass through the waters of baptism, showering on us abundant grace, unconditional love, the Spirit’s abiding presence.

The font is where the Christian journey begins, but not where it ends. Just as God promised blessings to Abraham and Sarah, and then charged them to be a blessing, there is a “next” for us. In recognition and gratitude for God’s blessing, we transform our experience of God’s blessing into tangible ways of blessing the world around us. At FPC, we live in a rich environment of blessedness out of which we partner in the community, tell God’s story (and ours), and learn, grow, and celebrate as a church family. The “next thing” after being blessed is to circulate our blessings widely. Like the wind-born seeds of a dandelion, the movement of Spirit provides inspiration for us to plant our seed-blessings near and far.

Your *financial gifts* enable FPC to be a blessing within our building, with our members, and far beyond. Your *pledge* permits responsible and wise planning to fairly compensate a staff, maintain a building and grounds, nourish all ages in their spiritual journey, provide inspiring worship, and work in ministries of justice and compassion. Look for the stewardship brochure that will identify opportunities to expand ministries with gifts exceeding those of 2018.

Pause to count your blessings—those you can see, and those you can’t—and walk into what’s next here at FPC—with a grateful and generous heart.

ON THE COVER

During our 2018/19 Stewardship Campaign we will focus on Blessed to Be a Blessing.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| A Place for All | 1 |
| Staff Contact Info | 2 |
| A Message from Linda | 2 |
| A Message from Cully | 3 |
| Session Update | 3 |
| Children: Worship Centers | 4 |
| Stewardship Campaign Dates | 5 |
| Construction Project Updates | 5 |
| Save the Date | 6 |
| Small Groups | 8 |
| Presbyterian Women | 9 |
| What does It Look Like | 10 |
| Prayer Requests | 11 |
| FPC Birthdays | 11 |

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Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Speaking of Blessings:

It was just a while paper bag, stuffed in my mail slot in the church office. I saw it as I was rushing out at 5:30. Assuming it was a loaf of banana bread from one of the church's star bakers I'd enjoy at home with David, grabbed it quickly, and tore out the door to my car. It was there that I noticed the small butterfly drawing and the script: "for Linda Knierieman (sic) only". Now I was more curious than rushed. I tore it open. It was a stack of money! A note on the top said "Capital Campaign". I riffled through the four inch high stack. \$100s, \$50s, \$20s, and a few smaller bills. (At this point I overlooked the misspelling of my name.) Yikes. I quickly texted our treasurer. What do I do with this money? Where would it be safe until it could be deposited?

The next morning, the Capital Campaign account was \$4600 higher!

No one in the office knew where these "Pennies from Heaven" had come from. Clearly, the donor wanted to remain anonymous.

So I have only these words: "Oh my goodness!" Thank You for your Generosity! Thanks to everyone, known and unknown, who share generously, sacrificially, joyfully out of what God has given you. Thanks to those who give \$20, \$4600, \$75,000. **God bless you.**

Our Annual Stewardship Season, "Blessed to Be a Blessing" will be short, sweet, and seedy. Seedy?? Yes, seedy as in celebrating the multitude of ways we, blessed by God's abundant life and goodness, become grace-filled seeds blowing on the Wind of the Spirit settling down upon this church, community, and beyond as blessing. As a means of demonstrating this, the Stewardship Council is embarking on what some have called "Reverse Stewardship". It works like this:

You receive an envelope with \$20.

You contemplate how you can be a blessing in the world with these dollars. Sometime during the month of October, you share this blessing in a way you feel led—perhaps a direct gift, the purchase of gifts for several, a donation to a social justice ministry, or whatever creative way you participants are led. THEN, you write a one page reflection on what you did, and why and how you feel emotionally and spiritually about being a blessing in this particular way.

The Stewardship Council has selected 10 families or individuals to receive this blessing with which to bless others. Ten \$20 bills remain. Would you like to be Blessed to Be a Blessing? Just say "give me the envelope please" and let the spiritual adventure begin!



Rev. Katherine Culpepper
Temporary Associate Pastor

God's Abundant Grace

I keep hearing the old Gene Autry song in my head... "Back in the saddle again, back where a friend is a friend...". It feels like I have been out of the saddle and in a far country in recent weeks following surgery. And though I was away, you were not out of my thoughts or prayers, nor I, yours. You sent cards and texts and emails and plants. Your communication and care cheered and encouraged John and me.

I am grateful not only for the ways in which you have shared God's abundant grace and love with us, but because every day I see many ways in which you share that grace and love with one another, the Holland community and well beyond.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

PreSchool FUNdraiser

Rain, slush, salt, and (dare I say) snow are on their way... Great timing for the First Presbyterian Preschool Quality Car Wash fundraiser!

Car wash tickets make excellent Christmas gifts - especially for the hard to buy for - everyone appreciates a car wash!

Please, take a "Helping Hands" card, located in the Narthex, and during **September 21-October 5**, head down to any Quality Car Wash location and purchase some car wash vouchers, they don't expire! When you do, hand the clerk a "Helping Hands" card and 35% of your purchase will come to our beloved preschool!

Thank you for supporting our preschool program!



Session Update

The congregation is invited to submit recommendations to the Nominating Committee (with candidates prior approval) names for consideration to serve on Session. Open Councils to fill: Building & Business, Congregational Life, Outreach, Spiritual Growth, and Worship

Approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF). The APNC will begin the advertising/search for the position.

Councils shared their joys and concerns within their Councils, as we move into our exciting Fall Series: About Getting Real.

We celebrated our first run of the FPC transportation bus on Sunday, September 16. First reading of the procedures manual was completed.



Thank you to
Chris Urbaniak
for the photos.

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry Leader



Worship Center: *Keeping in Touch*

During Worship on September 16, Rev. Linda shared a blessing reminding Celebrants of their own baptism and invited them to place the waters from the Baptismal Font onto their foreheads. Celebrants then lit their candles from the Christ Candle and processed to Worship Center. The Christ Candle in the Worship Center is a visual reminder to our children that the Good Shepherd, Christ, is with them everywhere.



All are welcome and invited to stay in the Sanctuary during both Worship Services. Sweet young voices and sounds of our children are a delight. If the grown-ups of the wigglers and gigglers choose to find alternatives, the following is a soft guide of where you will find those places.

Nursery: 0 – 3 years

Available from 8:30a – 12:15p in the Nursery.

(Following the Children's Message during the 8:45 Service, grown-ups may use discretion if their child would benefit from being in the Nursery.)

Celebration Time: 4 years – 1st grade

Following the Children's Message during the 11a Service on the 1st/3rd/5th Sundays of the month. Supervised play - located adjacent to the Nursery.

Choir: Kids and Youth – all ages

Following the Children's Message during the 11a Service on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Led by Dr. Chuck Norris and Beth Magennis – located in Michigan Room.

For children's use during the Worship Service, quiet toys are in baskets at both back doors of the Sanctuary; notebooks are on a shelf in the hall behind the sound board.

Book Nook: All kids – all ages

Adjacent to the M & M Café. A safe place where kids can read books under the supervision of their grown-ups who are enjoying conversation and coffee.

Worship Center: Pre-K – 5th grade

Mid-Time Ministry from 9:45 – 10:45a. PreK – Kdg.— Main Level across from Nursery; 1st-2nd - Lower Level east wing; 3rd, 4th & 5th – Lower Level east wing.

Our Celebrants are excited to once again be with the children in Worship Center as we seek and wonder, question, learn and, love together.

Christ's Light is burning bright,
Lori Klinesteker

2018/19 Fall Stewardship Campaign

Oct 21 Life Together Fair

Oct 21 Stewardship Kickoff

Oct. 28 Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Blessed
TO BE A **BLESSING**

Construction Project Update—*IT'S ALMOST TIME!*

After months of prayer and planning, we expect to break ground on our A Place for All construction the beginning of November!!!

What exactly will be the components of the project?
Good Question!

You know from the Capital Campaign brochure — the one with the blue cover—that we have broken the project into 4 Priorities. It is our hope that we will be able to move forward with all 4.

The answer will be a combination of the results of our 3-Year Pledge Campaign—currently at a little over \$1 million PLUS the results of our construction bids which are due October 9.

So, if for any reason you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge for the capital campaign (or if you'd like to increase your pledge now that we are so close to our goal), now is the perfect time to do that.

This project is real. Construction is scheduled to begin November 1. Please help us hit our goal. We can do this!

Please forward any questions to either Bob Knittel, Chair of the Capital Campaign group, Larry Grinwis, Chair of the Building Design Construction group, or Linda Knieriemen.

In upcoming weeks, look for the Church Under Construction graphic on the FPC website for construction updates.



SAVE THE DATE



PRESCHOOL CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

September 21—October 5

Car wash tickets make excellent Christmas gifts. Everyone appreciates a car wash! Please take a "Helping Hands" card (located in the Narthex) and during **September 21-October 5**, head down to any Quality Car Wash location and purchase some car wash vouchers. They don't expire! Hand the clerk a "Helping Hands" card and 35% of your purchase will come to our beloved preschool! Thank you for supporting our preschool program!



HOLLAND CIVIC THEATRE GROUP

October 5, 2018 at 5:00p

Join us for Friday, October 5th's dinner & HCT's presentation of "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." If you have not yet signed up and would like to participate, please contact Chris Urbaniak, cmurbaniak@comcast.net



FLICKS FOR CHICKS **NEW**

Date and time differ with each outing

If you would like to see a movie as a group of women we are organizing a way of getting together. By "friending" Elaine Evenson on Facebook, she will notify you as movie dates and times are set and send you an invitation to join. (If you don't use Facebook, email Elaine at eevenson@hotmail.com) These outings will be driven by the movies released in theaters. Join each event as your interest and schedule allow. Gatherings have already begun and have proven to be lots of fun!



BELONGING CLASS

October 13

What makes us "us" at First Presbyterian Church? If you are interested in learning more about membership at FPC, please contact the office at 392.9022 or office@fpcholland.org. Class starts October 13th.

SAVE THE DATE



FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dates to put on your calendar

- Oct. 21 Life Together Fair
- Oct. 21 Stewardship Kickoff
- Oct. 28 Stewardship Commitment Sunday



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Ongoing

After months of prayer and planning, we expect to break ground on our A Place for All construction the beginning of November! Please forward any questions to either Bob Knittel, Chair of the Capital Campaign group, Larry Grinwis, Chair of the Building Design Construction group, or Linda Knieriemen.



SATURDAY YOUNG FAMILY EVENT

October 20, 2018 at 11a

Meet at Crane's Orchards at 11:00am on October 20th to pick apples, choose your Halloween pumpkin, and enjoy cider and donuts. Drive south on 196, take the Fennville exit, turn left, follow signs to orchard on the right and look for our church banner to start our adventure together.



DINNERS FOR 7

November 10, 2018 at 6p

Join us if you are a couple, single, young, or "older" than young. We meet in homes as small groups for good food and conversation. If you sign up as a host, you will provide the main course, and all your guests will bring additional dishes to round out the menu for the evening. **NEW**, parents who have young children and would like to attend the dinner—the Small Groups Council will reimburse you for your arrangement of childcare in your own home. Indicate on the sign-up sheet in the M&M Café, and Chris Urbaniak will follow up. Sign up by October 28th. Questions? Contact Ann Siakel at (616) 294-1250, or asiakel@hotmail.com



Connect TOGETHER



Below are a handful of Adult Enrichment Opportunities at FPC

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

1st Monday @ 7p in M&M Cafe

Contact: Larry Lynn oldrun09@gmail.com

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

1ST & 3RD Fridays @ **7:30a** in the M&M Café

A different subject is discussed each month.

Don Williams williams@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 @ 2p in M&M Café

Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

WOMEN — MIRIAM CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday @ 9:30a in Michigan room

"I am With You" study

Linda Gebben linge@sbcbglobal.onet

WOMEN — HANNAH CIRCLE

2nd Thursday @ 1:30p in Michigan room

"I am With You" study

Mickey Harris Mickey.harrisbc@yahoo.com 269.841.0521



ALL ADULTS

ADULT MID-TIME

1st Sundays – Making Connections

2nd Sundays – Clips and Conversations

3rd Sundays – Spiritual Practices

4th Sundays – Peacemaking

5th Sundays -- Motley Crew/Intergenerational Fun

BETHEL BIBLE SERIES Explore the Bible and learn about God's story and what that means for our journey with God. Judy Faber will lead us. Scheduled to begin on Thursday, October 4th from 1:30 - 3p. This series will be ongoing and will meet in the Michigan Room. Questions? Contact Judy Faber, 616.396.8117 or jifaber@sbcbglobal.net

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

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

YOGA Every Tuesday @ 9am 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



Saturday, November 10th at 6p. Sign-up in the M&M cafe by October 28th. If you have questions contact Ann Siakel at asiakel@hotmail.com or (616) 294-1250.

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

Presbyterian Women

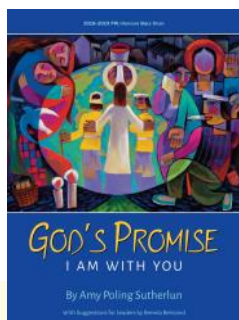


Presbyterian Women Begin New Bible Study

All women of the church are invited to this Bible study about God's Promise to us this year. Each month the Miriam group meets at 9:30a on the second Wednesday and the Hannah group meets at 1:30p on the second Thursday of each month until

May. We also have three more brunch or lunch events coming up this program year.

Presbyterians have long been led by the mission work of women of the church, tending to needs in their communities, and throughout the world. In past years, our local PW organization has supported the scholarship needs of Presbyterian Preschool through our festival work during Tulip Time. Through our mission pledges, we support the work of PW at the synod and denominational levels



We would love to share this new study, written by Amy Poling Sutherlun and assisted by Pastor Linda who helps the study leaders prepare. Please notice our surprise connection to the artwork in this year's study! We have two pieces of art by James Qe Hi right here in our church!

OCTOBER 2018

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Oct. 3 at 2p | Study Leaders meet with Rev. Linda / Lesson 2 |
| Oct. 10 at 9:30a | MIRIAM CIRCLE Leader: Linda Gebben / Hostess: Shirley Benko |
| Oct. 11 at 1:30p | HANNAH CIRCLE Leader: Mickey Harris / Hostess: Peggy Hart |

Get the latest news from Presbyterian Women Online

Website: www.PresbyterianWomen.org

Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC USA)



FPC is grateful for the ability to continue to partner with Community Action House to help those in need with resources for personal care and to help stock their food pantry. CAH strives to stock their pantry shelves with current non-expired food, much like a grocery store stocks its shelves. They especially appreciate your donations of current non-expired foods. For a comprehensive list of the items

needed, please check their website at <https://www.communityactionhouse.org/most-needed-items/>

Products and food items donated can be dropped off in the bins outside the sanctuary door. Questions? Reach out to Dan Williams, danifido22@gmail.com.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris
charlesenorris@gmail.com

DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

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cmurbaniak@comcast.net

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

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MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

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WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

Linda Gebben
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WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

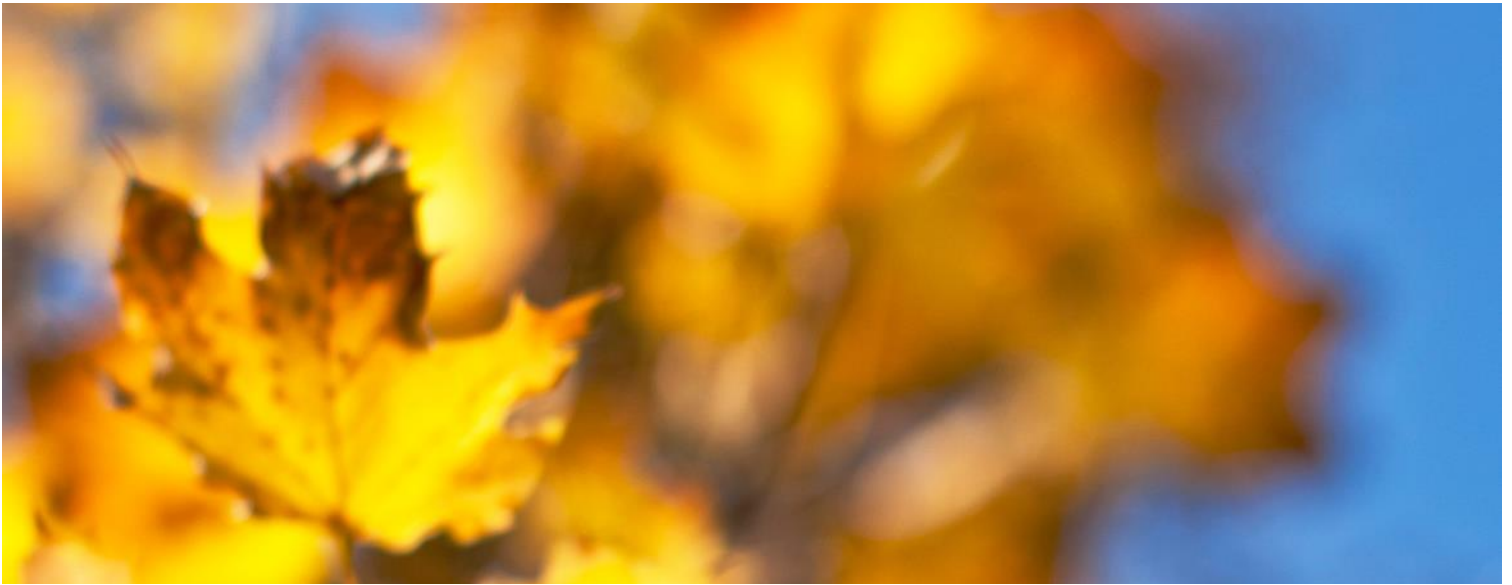
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269.841.0521

YOGA

Gwen Boeve
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616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak
cmurbaniak@comcast.net



What does it look like to be “A Place for All?”

Written by: Sheri Harris

From my view here at the front office desk day after day, I often see a different picture than many. I see, and participate daily, with the countless people working tirelessly on all of the BIG stuff making this church truly a place for ALL—such things as elevators and doors, parking and transportation. Specifically considering how FPC is moving toward our goal of becoming a place for ALL, I would like to share one of the little things that most will never see, something that really feels like a BIG thing and touches my heart day after day.

Did you know that we have a mail delivery woman who stops in often because we are on her route? She doesn't even deliver our mail. She and I don't talk very much like some of our community partners and delivery folks do.

She's a younger woman and very friendly, just busy. Over my time here she, has always found FPC to be a place she felt comfortable stopping in to take a restroom break, to use our microwave to heat up her lunch, or grab some water for her water bottle. I've always felt like

the church helps care for her throughout her day. I think it is very special that she feels comfortable enough to be coming in and out of here the way she does. She always appears grateful and always checks in with a nod and a smile.

Recently, she had a baby. After the birth of her baby before she returned to work, she first stopped into the church. You see, she is nursing her baby, so she has to pump during the afternoon. Her request of FPC was if there was a space she could utilize in the afternoon to pump. I showed her the nursery area, and we left it at that. She seemed happy with the space. Now, every day, she stops in around 1p.m. with a diaper bag full of supplies on her arm and uses our space as a means to nourish her baby. I love to see her coming in.

Although we may one day be "I can't remember the name of that church", it still remains that FPC will always be part of her story when she remembers and talks about this season of her life, FPC will always be a church that provided a place for her



*worshiping, 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.