



NOVEMBER 2018

presbyterian *profiles*

ON THE COVER

A Place for All, construction update. Many thanks to Lakewood Construction and Chris Urbaniak for capturing the event with fantastic photos! Article continues on page 10.

A Place for All Construction Update

Good News!

Our goal for our construction project has been to be able to complete all the phases of the project outlined in the Pledge Campaign Blue Brochure within our target budget of \$1.2 million. We have met with our construction manager, Lakewood Construction Company, and Cornerstone Architects and now have a plan to be able to achieve our goal.

They have advised us that the current bidding environment is very challenging. Most subcontractors have their project schedules full and either are not interested in bidding at all or their prices are very high. Lakewood has recommended that we bid the project now but for a mid-winter start rather than a November 1 start. While there is no guarantee, they believe that by bidding for a later start, construction bids will be lower. That alone, however, will not be enough to hit our target, so they (with support from Cornerstone Architects) have suggested a couple of modifications to the current construction/remodeling plans that will reduce the cost of the project. By taking these two steps, they believe that it will be possible for us to be able to

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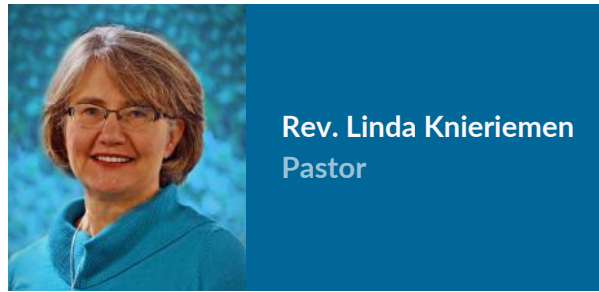
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Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

Christian and Citizen: Thoughts from A Pastor

1) Vote. Be a participant in democracy which our forebears fought for. And to paraphrase of friend of mine, if you don't act, you can't gripe. If you aren't registered to vote in the election on November 6, register now so you are eligible to vote in the next election.

2) Whoever wins, pray for them. Pray that they will make wise, intelligent, informed decisions in a world where issues are complex.

3) God is neither Democrat, Republican, Green, or Socialist. People of good faith and sincerity may differ in the application of their faith to the political life. On November 11, two of our members, Janet Magennis and Jack Holmes will present how their faith influences their vote and invite all who attend to consider that relationship in their own life.

4) Be civil in all your speech and, so far as possible, in your inner life. Hyperbole, name calling, deliberately declaring provable falsehoods have no place in either the Christian life or in civil society.

5) Contemplate the tension between Jesus' command to love neighbor as self (Matthew 22:29) and the Apostle Paul's injunction "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence but through love become slaves to one another." (Galatians 5:13) with the 17th Century philosophy of John Locke who was influential in founding our country who wrote "the purpose of the state is to establish and enforce laws that clearly separate what is mine from what is thine." How do the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights differ from or resonate with the teachings of Jesus, the critique of the Hebrew Prophets, and the epic stories of exodus, exile, and return? Which do you turn to first?

On November 7, the day following these mid-term elections, David and I will be in Chicago seeing *Hamilton*. I'm studying up on the lyrics and music to make the best of my investment in the pricey tickets (even in the nosebleed section). I came upon this clever rhyme expressing religious skepticism as Hamilton's foil, Aaron Burr, reflects on his view of the world. His reference is to his grandfather, the long winded preacher Jonathan Edwards.

"My grandfather was a fire and brimstone preacher
But there are things that the homilies and hymns won't teach ya"

Maybe on the ride home on the train, I'll contemplate the relationship between his religious skepticism in the 18th century and its recurrent popularity now in the 21st century and how that dynamic may affect our nation's 2018 midterm election.

Did I say, "VOTE"?



Rev. Katherine Culpepper
Temporary Associate Pastor

Beanie Babies to the Rescue

In the summer of 2016, our youth embarked on a mission trip to Pittsburgh, PA. One of their encounters was with a woman who needed help decluttering her home. In gratitude for their assistance, she offered up her collection of Beanie Babies and suggested the youth could use them to raise funds to help someone else. The Beanie Babies were accepted (all three 18 gallon storage bins full) and transported back to FPC where they have resided against the back wall of the youth room ever since.

Unsolicited material donations are not unusual. However, they can be quite a problem in the aftermath of a disaster causing what is known as a “disaster after the disaster”, which then requires resources to manage it. For example, following the school shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary, hundreds of thousands of teddy bears poured into a relatively small community. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was asked and able to deploy a highly gifted and organized volunteer to manage the donations.

Fast forward to 2018, and a conversation at a recent staff meeting regarding the need to clear areas in preparation for the building renovation. We talked about various areas and the people and programs that were using the areas and would need to help clear things out. Then Sheri asked, “What about the Beanie Babies?” After some conversation, it seemed those Beanie Babies might still find a role in helping others, albeit not the originally suggested one. Law enforcement and emergency response personnel use them to give to children in traumatic situations, to make a positive connection and to offer a means for a child to self soothe as best they can under the circumstances. So, the bins of Beanie Babies will make their way to the Holland Police to be offered as comfort to those in stress.



In the wake of recent disasters, many wonder how to help. The needs are great and will be ongoing for many years. The best way to help at the moment is to pray for those who are affected and donate money. Pick your favorite reputable voluntary organization, and if you don't yet have one, try Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You can donate to the general disaster fund or to a particular disaster response. See their website at www.pda.pcusa.org. You can also be the conduit so others learn of ways to help – much like we have been the conduit for Beanie Babies.

Another way to help is to consider actively participating in the recovery. The Outreach Council is organizing a Mission Trip to an affected area to take place sometime in January or February. Details to come. If you have an interest or ideas in that regard, contact Bill Haines or me.

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry Leader



Worship Center: *Keeping in Touch*

Wherever our Worship Center is, our Celebrants are assisting Children in a sacred space designated for them; this place is for worship, wonder, and to grow with friends. I would like to share with you a piece of how we are assisting our Children in the Worship Center—*(with gratitude, to Colette Volkema DeNooyer), portions taken from Worship Center Training, copyright 2000.*

Our Celebrants are responsible for preparing the physical environment, the intentionality in the way the room is organized, and all that is offered on a Sunday morning. We are responsible for preparing ourselves; to prepare for telling/presenting the story, being sensitive and informed as well as continuing to grow and deepen in our own faith so that we might have something to give, something of passion and insight. The emotional environment piece is in showing the children respect and acceptance. This does not mean we idealize them; we set

limits. It also means the children's well-being is our first concern. Our children experience freedom of choice with enough time to satisfy their need to pursue a question or a project. We model "wondering" as well as a place where thinking and open-endedness is valued. This is an environment where the question is more important than the one "right" answer.

One of those moments happened this past week. A friend in our 3rd /4th /5th grade WC wondered "Does God live in Heaven?" An interesting conversation followed. All present felt the freedom to share their thoughts, with no judgment. Do you have questions... along with a safe place to share them? Thank you for gifting our Children and acknowledging the need for that sacred space.

Experiencing Christ's Light through our Children,
Lori Klinesteker

Session Update

- General conversation on how we live out being **A Place for All**, both in extending into the community and by providing a welcoming presence when people come through our doors.
- Report from Commissioner to the September Presbytery Meeting; Brigette Kemink (Intern) has been accepted to be under care as a candidate.
- Received report from Larry Grinwis of the **A Place For All** Building and Design Team explaining reasons and benefits for waiting until February 2019 for construction to begin.



2019 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

An Advent Devotional Booklet is in the works! We are looking for your personal reflections on meaningful Christmas experiences: narrative (250 words or less), poetry, artwork or a photograph. Please include a short prayer to accompany your reflection. If you choose to submit artwork or a photograph, also include a short explanation of how this represents your personal reflection. Please submit your entry by Nov. 10 to Mary Deenik / deenik@hope.edu. Thank you!



2018/19 Fall Stewardship Campaign

The last two Sundays in October we celebrated the spreading of Blessings both through commitment to service and with pledges of financial resources. Thanks to all who have participated!

If you missed the Sunday focused on service both to fulfill church needs and to support out Outreach partners, your participation is always welcome. Just let the church office know and your desire will be made known to the appropriate facilitator.

If you have not yet turned in a pledge, please know it's not too late. Pledge cards can be submitted to the church office: attention to our bookkeeper Karla Kammeraad-Bos for confidential processing.

In the coming weeks, Session will be formulating budgets for 2019 which will set the direction for funding of church ministries and outreach programs as highlighted in the Stewardship Guide mailing.

Additional copies of the Stewardship Guide and pledge cards are available in the church office.

EXPAND OUR MINISTRIES

Build on the success and momentum of A Place for All.

- Improve Book-Nook content and safety
- Peace Camp
- Artwork for the sanctuary
- Add outreach partners
- Outreach Ministries:
 - ◇ Expand existing mission partner support
 - ◇ Add new mission partners
 - ◇ Provide hands-on mission experiences and training
- Expand media outreach including live streaming podcasts of Sunday worship
- Optimize Transportation Ministry

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND OUR WALLS

ACTS HOLLAND

253 West 13th Street / Holland / (616) 566-2863

ESCAPE MINISTRIES

32nd Street / Holland / (616) 396-4451

Tutor · Cleaning · Special Project Needs

LAKESHORE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

12727 Riley Street / Holland / (616) 393-8001 x103

Office Support · Construction Help · Special Event Support

COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE

345 West 14th Street / Holland / (616) 392-2368 x109

Front Desk Coverage · Cleaning & Landscaping · Bike & Furniture Repairs · Van Drivers

KIDS FOOD BASKET

389 James St, Holland / (616) 796-8471

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES

513 E 8th St, Holland / (616) 392-7159

CHILDRENS ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)

12125 Union St / Holland / (616) 393-6123

Facilitate / support community and school presentations about child body safety.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR WALLS

Counters, Youth Group, Greeters, Ushers, M&M Café, Liturgists, Transportation Ministry, Communion Preparation, Communion Servers, and Deacon Care Teams.

SAVE THE DATE



A WARM CONNECTION

Month of November

Winter is arriving in Holland soon. Safe from out of control wild fires and hurricane devastation, we can do THIS! This month WE CAN set aside jackets and coats we don't plan, to wear, along with everyone's out-grown winter duds. Adult and children coats accepted. All sizes welcome! WE CAN remember to bring our collection to First Presbyterian during the month of November. Collection bins will be under the TV monitor in the M & M Café. Outreach and Community Action House will arrange for distribution to those in need. Plan ahead for a chance to donate blankets in January!



DINNERS FOR SEVEN

November 10, 2018 at 6p

Join us if you are a couple, single, young, or "older" than young. We meet in homes as smaller groups for good food and conversations. 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



GIFTS DIFFERING: AN INSPIRED BY GRACE RETREAT DAY

Saturday, November 10

Join us at Grace Episcopal Church on November 10, from 9am-3pm. This retreat will focus on Pathways to a Prayerful Life: "Gifts Differing." This retreat is open to all youth and adults. There is no cost and lunch is provided. Topics and activities of the day include: A teaching on "Gifts Differing". Lectio Divina, Chanting as a Pathway to Prayer, Neuroscience and Contemplation, Qi Gong, Coloring Prayer, Walking the Labyrinth, Yoga, and Drumming. The day will end with shared Eucharist to which all are welcome. Interested? Please email the church office at gechurch@graceepiscopalholland.org so that we have a basic count for lunch. Nursery care is provided for children ages infant-4 years old. Let us know if you need child care when signing up.



FAIR TRADE SALE

Sunday, November 11

Come see our selection of Fair Trade items for sale across from M & M Café after the 11a service.

SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY YOUNG FAMILY EVENT

November

With the busy holiday season there will be no Young Families events for November and December. Look for sledding, pizza & a movie, and other fun winter activities coming up in 2019.



EMPTY THE PALLET

November 18

Stay tuned for details on how you can support those in need through this means of giving.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 5 @ 12p

Presbyterians Women's Christmas luncheon plus speaker. Join us! Questions? Contact, Sarah Glover, 616.994.6075 or sarahvglover609@gmail.com



SENIOR CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

December 8 @ 10a

A Christmas brunch will be provided for senior members of First Presbyterian Church. Join us for a time of gratitude and celebration. Stay tuned for more details.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 22-24, 2019

SAVE THE DATE - The annual Women's Retreat will be held at Camp Geneva February 22-24, 2019. Mark your calendars. Registration brochures will be available in mid November. For more information, contact Bonnie Cowie at dbcowie@sbcglobal.net.



FLICKS FOR CHICKS

Date and time differ with each outing

Would you like to see a movie with a group of women? We are organizing a way of getting together. "Friend" Elaine Evenson on Facebook and she will notify you as movie dates/times are set and send you an invitation to join. You can also email Elaine, eevenson@hotmail.com. Join as your interest and schedule allow.



Connect TOGETHER



Below are a handful of Adult Enrichment Opportunities at FPC

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

1st Monday @ 7:00p in M&M Cafe

Contact: Larry Lynn oldrun09@gmail.com

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Other Friday @ 7:30a in the M&M café

Meets November 2, 16 and 30

Each month a different subject is discussed

Contact: David Ford davidford56@comcast.net

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

2nd Sunday @ 2:00p 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

Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

WOMEN — HANNAH CIRCLE

2nd Thursday @ 1:30p in Michigan room

"I Am With You" study

Jauanna Jackson

jauannaj@yahoo.com

616.405.6278

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 leads us on Thursdays, from 1:30-3p in the Michigan Room. Questions?

Contact Judy Faber, 396-8117 or jifaber@sbcglobal.net

BELL CHOIR

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

ADULT CHOIR

Every Wednesday @ 7:00p in the sanctuary

Chuck Norris (director) charlesenorris@gmail.com

YOGA

Every Tuesday @ 9:00a 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.

CHICK FLICK OUTING

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

Presbyterian Women



At the October meeting of our Hannah Circle, we juggled “our” meeting room at the last minute, yielding to a larger group. Making a few forays into our usual room to set up the new room and to access our supplies, I discovered that hardly anyone there even knew our name. WHAT? We have been the UPW or the PW in this congregation for 60 years!

We made a pledge to remain F-L-E-X-I-B-L-E this year during the church building project, but it took some doing to add more chairs, find enough cups and, dang it, our napkins were still in the other room. Our thanks to Sheri and Cully for helping us out with a clear, new spot.

The thing is, ALL women who are PCUSA members are automatically eligible to be active in Presbyterian Women. Join one of our Circles for our denominational Bible study, attend one of four yearly events, help us support our Presbyterian Preschool by donning a costume at Tulip Time to help guide our city’s visitors, or just participate in our Birthday Offering or Thank Offering. Bring new underwear in December for the Center for Women in Transition or gift cards and personal items in May, also to CWIT.

For more than 200 years, women of Presbyterian churches have focused on mission, free to support local mission like our awesome Preschool or CWIT, mission through the Synod of the Covenant, and financial support for PCUSA Mission endeavors around the world.

Good news is that at our Birthday Party in September we raised nearly \$500 for the PW Birthday Offering! And, over the past year, our First Presbyterian PW has donated \$1500 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, most recently to those devastated by the Florence and Michael hurricanes. We also have supported our youth group trips and Triennium travel through our monthly giving.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE, you are welcome to participate any time and in any way that fits your schedule. This is hands-on mission! Many hands and hearts support each other, deepen our faith together, support local mission and our youth, and extend our gifts where they can be used most effectively.

MIRIAM CIRCLE, led by Bev Plagenhoef, meets 11-7-18 @ 9:30a
HANNAH CIRCLE, led by Jauanna Jackson, meets 11-8-18 @1:30p

Janet Magennis, PW Moderator

Get the latest news from Presbyterian Women Online

Website: www.PresbyterianWomen.org

Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC USA)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

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charlesenorris@gmail.com

DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

Chris Urbaniak
cmurbaniak@comcast.net

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

Larry Lynn
oldrun09@gmail.com

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Dave Ford
davidford56@comcast.net

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak
cmurbaniak@comcast.net



A Place for All Construction Update

Continued from the front cover

complete all phases of our project (outlined in the Blue Pledge Brochure) for our target of \$1.2 million.

In reality, there are a number of advantages for this approach:

- Access to the main (north) entrance to the church will not be hindered during the winter months.
- A significant portion of the work will be done in the summer months which will minimize impact on church programming.
- Lakewood's costs of providing a heated environment for the winter construction period will be reduced.
- We have the opportunity to generate some interest revenue from the pledge income we have received.
- The code enforcement department for the City of Holland is backed up and the permit necessary to begin our project will not support an early November start date.
- There are a couple of design details that have not yet been resolved and the delay would allow adequate time to resolve those items.



The majority of the changes in the construction project itself will not be evident to most congregation members. These include, for example, substituting less expensive (but attractive and serviceable) materials in parts of the project. The noticeable change will be using a ramp in the sanctuary to provide ease of access to the chancel for choir members, church service participants, etc. By doing this, we can eliminate the previously planned lift that was to be located in the narthex to provide handicap access to the chancel. This will create a more spacious and attractive narthex, improve traffic flow in accessing the elevator, and make a significant reduction in the project cost.

Please be clear that the A Place for All Building Design Committee is excited about these changes as they will help us achieve our goal of completing all phases of the project within the budget limits established by Session.

We initiated the project on Sunday, October 14, with a ceremonial "groundbreaking" ceremony during both worship services. Representatives of Lakewood Construction and Cornerstone Architects participated.

We look forward to moving forward on our project with a combination of Faith and Flexibility.

A Place for All Building Design Committee: Larry Grinwis, Jon Kreple, Sandy Peterson, Larry Briggance, Bill Haines, Chris Olney, Linda Knieriemen





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

