

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2019

Though I speak with the
tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love, I have
become sounding brass or a
clanging cymbal.

~

1 Corinthians 13

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Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor

Yes, it's really happening!

Finally!

Yes, it's really happening!

Construction (more correctly demolition) begins on Monday, February 18. By next week you'll find a dumpster on the State Street side of the church at that rarely used and (to many of you) unknown emergency exit near the Nursery. Say goodbye to the lower level as you have known it! Closets have been emptied; chairs, tables, and other furniture relocated; Worship Centers moved, and long unused "stuff" tossed.

The North Entrance (off the parking lot) construction will begin in late March, or when the ground is thawed. Until then, there will be only minimal inconvenience.

A few words from Proverbs, Philippians, and a Philosopher as A Place for All begins this phase.

"Humans plan; God laughs." That's in the Bible, albeit in a less cynical way: **Many are the plans in human minds, but the plans of God shall be established.** (Proverbs 19:21) Careful, detailed architectural and construction planning as well as financial stewardship are essential, and our leaders have done their due diligence... but there will be unknowns. When surprises happen over the next 8 months, let's keep cool heads and light hearts, and look to our Lakewood Construction experts for their wisdom, trusting that God is in this.

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. (Philippians 4:6) "Where will my Bible study meet?" "My parking place is gone." What happened to that beautiful tree?" "What will we do about Easter Breakfast?" Prayers have surrounded our planning, our capital campaign, and our decisions about architecture, design, and safety. NOW is the time to pray for the safety of construction workers and for our cooperation with one another. And it's time we keep praying in gratitude for all who have or will give to the capital campaign which makes these changes possible.

The church is not the building, the church is not the steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people. That, of course, is from the song "We are the Church." The architecture and interior design of the building at 659 State Street isn't the only iteration which has ever been. In almost every decade since the original church building was constructed in the '60s, some renovation or addition or redecorating reflecting the needs of the times has altered the look and feel and function of this building. Our building reflects our mission and our congregation's personality. The aesthetics, the accessibility, the safety issues we are addressing now bring who we are and how we look closer together. We make these changes not just for fun, but because this is who we are!

This will be a chaotic, stressful, and exciting time. We're in it together! Let's not forget in the midst of it to have some fun!



Rev. Katherine Culpepper
Temporary Associate Pastor

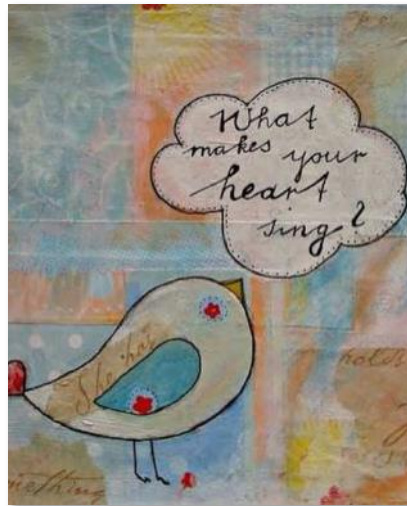
What makes YOUR HEART SING?

My brother-in-law Tim Hartselle died unexpectedly January 12. He was an avid outdoorsman, loving fishing most of all. He also loved baseball (Red Sox and Braves) and grew and tended an enormous vegetable garden sharing his bounty with family, neighbors and friends. He loved laughing and helping others to find humor in almost any situation. Tim was compassionate and caring and fun loving.

As the multitudes dropped by their home and attended the visitation at the funeral home, and I listened to the comments and condolences, I realized something I hadn't before. In addition to being a paramedic and an RN, Tim was a teacher and a mentor for many.

Nephew Louis' teenaged friends who stopped by the house and the teen crowd that stood in a

cluster behind my sister for most of the visitation all offered similar remarks, "Mr. Tim took me on my first fishing trip." "Mr. Tim taught me how to hunt." Comments written by colleagues on a memorial board offered thanks for his guidance and friendship and humor.



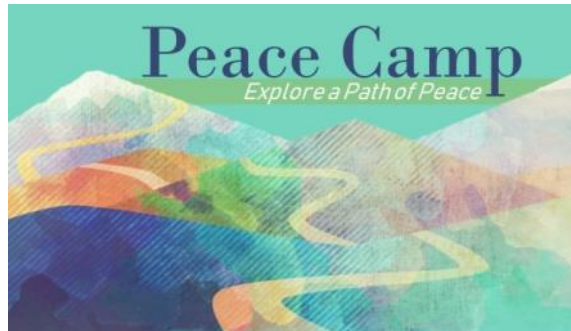
Tim's life and untimely death are a reminder to do the things we love to do, do the things which give life meaning, and invite others to join the fun. Good news, we can all do that. We all have the ability to share our lives with others. We all have experiences and stories and loves to share. We don't have to be experts to share what we know and love. And the more we share, the more we build up the beloved community.

**So as the snow falls and the wind blows,
consider this: What makes your heart sing?
And how will you share it with others?**



Worship Centers KEEPING IN TOUCH

Every time we gather, we are connected through the Worship Center experience and Christ's Light. In preparation for *A Place for All* construction/renovation, we have moved our Worship Center (1st & 2nd; 3rd – 5th grades) to the main level. The children took part in the move by carrying the Worship Table elements on a journey to their new temporary space.



They are part of this process; they know that it isn't the space that keeps them together – it's the connection with each other and with God. As we come together in the Fall, they will find all three Worship Centers next to each other in the lower level. My hope is we can all appreciate the opportunity that this brings for large group gatherings, connectedness within all three WC, along with our grown-ups having the convenience of being able to pick up their children all on one level.

Sneak peek Third annual Peace Camp planning began in November for Summer 2019! Save the week of June 24 – 28. Slight location shift, one of our Partners - Grace Episcopal - will be hosting. We will have the same volunteer opportunities and needs to make this happen. More details in the coming months.

Check out the Book Nook for a new selection of books: The Day You Begin and My Princess Boy (Acceptance), I am Human (Empathy), She Persisted (Persistence), and All are Welcome (Inclusivity).

Our children are spreading Christ's Light,

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry

YOUTH@FIRST

*Youth@First (Grades 6th –12th) typically meets on Sunday nights from 6-7:30p.
However, sometimes we like to mix it up! Check out what's coming up!*

SAVE *the* DATE

- Feb 3:** Super Bowl party from 6-8pm at the Magennis home
(Many thanks to Beth, Collin, and Kyle for hosting!)
- Feb 10:** Service project: Valentines cards for church members who are home-bound, in nursing homes, or otherwise isolated. Meet at church in the M&M cafe from 6-7:30p
- Feb 17:** NO MEETING due to winter break
- Feb 24:** Sledding (*or a winter hike if no snow*) at Van Raalte Farm 6-7:30PM*.
*Updated limited power of attorney for emergency medical treatment and permission slips will be needed for each child participating in this activity. Permission slips can be printed from the church website (member area--forms--child protection policy pages 16-18).



SAVE THE DATE

2ND FRIDAY NIGHT

FILM SERIES *led by Jack Hyde*

Series runs January – May, 2019

Join Us in the Michigan Room

Showing February 8; Itzhak

2ND FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

February 8

2nd Friday Night Film/Discussion Series led by Jack Hyde is back! The series will run January – May 2019 in the Michigan Room (*with alternative meeting space, if necessary, due to construction*).

Now Showing February 8: Itzhak (2018; 83 minutes) Documentary about musician, Itzhak Perlman, his extraordinary talent and the challenges he has overcome.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 22-24, 2019

The annual Women's Retreat will be held at Camp Geneva

February 22-24, 2019. **Registration deadline is February 8.**

Brochures are available. 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.

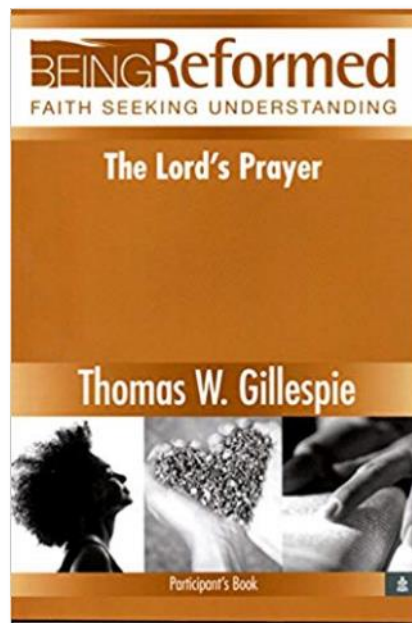


Sign up for a LENTEN SMALL GROUP

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are later on the calendar this year. And once again, we will offer opportunities to grow and get to know others from your First Pres family. Small groups of up to 10 people will meet weekly for the 6 weeks of Lent beginning the week of March 10. Groups will meet on a variety of days, times & locations, including the church, individual homes, and Freedom Village.

This Lent, our focus will be on the Lord's Prayer. Our resource guide for this study was written by the Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Gillespie, President Emeritus and former Professor of New Testament at

Princeton Theological Seminary. The specific verses groups will explore each week will also be the focus for the Sunday sermons during Lent.



Sign-ups for the Lenten small groups will be available on Sundays, February 24 & March 3. Look for the sign-up sheets in the M&M café and join us as we explore the prayer Jesus taught as a foundation for all prayer.

We are still looking for a few folks to host and/or lead a study group. If you're willing to make your home available or lead a group please contact Chris Urbaniak or Cully.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator" or "Our Parent".

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.





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

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

February Book: *A Gentleman in Moscow*, written by Amor Towles.

WOMEN — MIRIAM CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday @ 9:30a in Michigan room

"I Am With You" study

WOMEN — HANNAH CIRCLE

2nd Thursday @ 1:30p in Michigan room

"I Am With You" study

ADULT MID-TIME

Sundays at 9:45a in the Michigan Room.

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 jjfaber@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

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.

For a complete list of small groups,
please visit
www.fpcholland.org/small-groups.

Presbyterian Women



LENTEN BREAKFAST

As a group that meets regularly in the church, we planned for flexibility during the construction this year. So far, so good. But, where to have our Lenten Breakfast was an unknown. We are so grateful to First Reformed Church for offering us their meeting space. Plan for April 11th at 9:30 for our Lenten Breakfast, but park across the street at First Reformed Church.

TULIP TIME

Our PW sponsored group has been offered the Tulip Time Info booth downtown this year in the pocket park near the NW corner of 8th and Central. There will not be an information booth back at the new Civic Center, and another church group has dropped out, so now we can be in the middle of everything. Signing up this year will be both online and at the church by the first week of April.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN – Global, ecumenical, movement of women in prayer for justice, peace, and reconciliation. Our circles participate in a prayer practice, Least Coin. Prayers by women, any time or anywhere, have us setting aside a coin. When our circles meet we gather those loose coins from our little and large prayers, and annually send a check to FLC. Now 62 years old, this quiet practice of women rising from prayer to be intentional supporters of local to global initiatives for women and children continues. Our Least Coin offerings join with those given in an ecumenical spirit. Check out the Presbyterian Women's Least Coin web page: www.presbyterianwomen.org/leastcoin.



February circles may need to meet in member homes.

In any event, circle members will be notified in the bulletin and by email (or phone). All FPC women are welcome.

****SAVE THE DATE****

PWCT meeting is January 31 at 9:30a.

MIRIAM CIRCLE meets Feb 13 at 9:30a.

Lesson leader is Janet Haines and Hostess is Elaine Wood.

HANNAH CIRCLE meets Feb 14 at 1:30p. Lesson leader is Priscilla Klerekoper and Hostess is JoAnn Petersen.



SMALL GROUP LEADERS

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris
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

Bev Plagenhoef
rvplagen@live.com
616.335.3942

WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

Mary Bennett

WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

Jauanna Jackson

YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com
616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak
cmurbaniak@comcast.net

Get the latest news from Presbyterian Women Online

Website: www.PresbyterianWomen.org

Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC USA)



A Place for ALL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The long awaited start of our renovation project is finally here. While we don't expect the disruption to be major, there will inevitably be inconvenience and some level of disruption for the next 6 months or so.

We will attempt to keep everyone informed of any needed changes in how we access and use our facility via on site signage, e-blasts, Profiles, bulletin announcements, etc.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in packing up (and disposing as appropriate) everything in the areas that will be impacted in the renovation!

Work in the lower level will begin on February 18. This will include the new Worship Centers, renovated Fellowship Hall, new family toilet, with washer/dryer and shower. Exterior work on the new north entry will begin in the Spring.

There is still an opportunity for you to financially support the project by making a pledge (or increasing your current pledge) to support the renovation that will enhance accessibility and safety of our facility as well as enhancing the functionality to support our programs and services. Please contact the church office, Bob or Krish Knittel, or Tom Urbaniak.

*We are thankful to God
that our renovation project
is now underway!*



*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..*