

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARCH 2019

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6 @ 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we begin our Lenten journey together with a service of readings, quiet reflection and the imposition of the ashes.

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Rev. Linda Knieriemen
Pastor



Mad. Grateful. Sore.

That was how I felt last Sunday morning after turning my ankle at 8:15. There's no good story to tell: I wasn't on an icy driveway being yanked by a dog; I wasn't running away from a dragon; I wasn't in 3" stilettos. I simply missed the bottom step while heading down the back stairway to unlock the door. When I saw my ankle lying horizontally on the floor I knew it was bad even before the pain kicked in—and hurt it did. Like the Devil. What also kicked in, however, was the early service emergency care team. Feeling faint, I found one of M and M Cafe benches to be a fine stretcher and gratefully accepted the ministrations of my "emergency responders". Michelle brought me water and made a Ziploc bag ice bag and Mike held the ice; Dean readily agreed to pick up an extra liturgist duty; Cully brought me ibuprofen and rounded up my sermon manuscript and picked up the announcements and the Children's Message; Tim set a chair and foot rest on the chancel from which I could preach.

And there was more caregiving to come. Between the services Alan showed up with an ACE wrap and set of crutches. Larry drove my car home. By second service the pain had subsided and most of my helplessness had passed, but not without granting me an opportunity for an afternoon of contemplating what I could learn from this accidental fall.

I don't believe God is some kind of an ogre "sending" suffering or trials to teach us lessons, but I do believe that when suffering happens, we can try to make meaning of the event. I've thought about three things the last few days while I've tended this foot:

+Whether one travels at 5 mph or 50 mph the place the destination will look the same. I usually go at 75mph! Now as I walk down the hall I'm trailing behind rather than leaving someone else in my wake. To be forced to slow down and let my foot heal has meant my whole body was allowed to rest as well.

+FPC has eager, trained, sensitive caregivers. Three athletic coaches, one Red Cross worker, a nurse, and two physicians gave me matter of fact and wise advice. They weren't just there for me. They would be there for you.

+And finally, I am grateful. For this community of faith, its support of me, and for all of us together. Caregivers, whether pastoral or medical or parental, are notoriously bad patients. Gratitude rises to the surface when we are knocked off our game and need to depend on the kindness of others.

So we move into Lent, the long waiting period for Easter. I invite you to slow down, even if a sprained ankle or flu or a surgery doesn't force it upon you. Travel a little slower and smell the roses. Look around on a Sunday morning and know that we are gifted in the congregation to do and be for one another and the world exactly what God needs us to do and to be. And finally, be buoyed by the fact that we are in interdependent web of bodies and souls inhabiting this little piece of soil, and let your gratitude arise.



Rev. Katherine Culpepper
Temporary Associate Pastor

A Season of Change

Change is underway! Of course, change is always underway (or in-the-way, depending on your attitude). When I arrived this morning there were trucks and a “Specialized Demolition” trailer in the parking lot, parked in unusual ways. I can hardly wait to see what kinds of creative parking patterns emerge as all of our friends arrive and depart throughout the day! Thankfully, there is still enough of the familiar appearance of the facility to ease the discomfort of disruption.

As with the building, we are doing the same with our season of Lent. We are studying the very familiar Lord’s Prayer by deconstructing and creatively considering what it says and what it means for our faith and our ways of communicating with God. It will be an exercise in flexibility as we pray the familiar in some unfamiliar ways.

We’ve had a soft start to Lent this year. Rather than try to force the rhythm of our lives into the dictates of the calendar, we opted for flexibility. Any opportunity to practice flexibility during our

construction seems like a good idea. Over 30 of you have signed up for Lenten study groups as of this writing. We realize there might have been some confusion regarding start dates and if

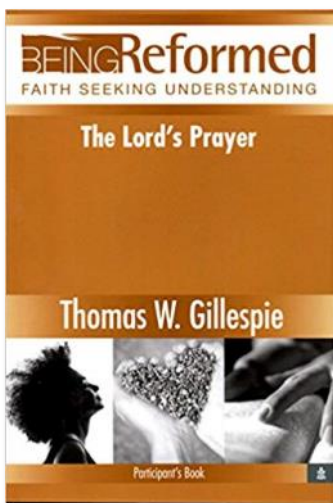
you missed the first gathering of a group, please feel free to join in at the second gathering. There are still study books available. Groups, meeting days and group leaders include:

Sundays @ 9:50 a.m.,
Michigan Room - Brigitte Kemink,
Huron Room (Youth) - Lauren Stouffer

Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.,
Michigan Room - Jack Hyde

Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m.,
Michigan Room - Linda Knieriemen

Fridays @ 3:30 p.m.,
Freedom Village - Paula Perkins, Bill
and Priscilla Klerekoper



Each group will need to make some decisions regarding their meeting times. Spring break will disrupt the Sunday Mid-Time groups but the other groups may choose to meet during that week. We’re flexible. ***All are welcome!***



Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry Leader



Worship Centers KEEPING IN TOUCH

Who would you invite to Dinner?

During our morning in worship with the 3rd/4th/5th grade Worship Center, the Parable of the Great Banquet was being shared.

After the Parable, kids began to wonder. "I wonder why the first people who accepted the invitation all declined with excuses on the day of the feast"? *"Pharisees did not believe this was The One they were waiting for, the promised Kingdom" and "they were too busy with their own lives to do what was the right thing to do – to follow Jesus and to make Jesus number one".* "I wonder why the (maimed, lame, poor and blind) weren't invited first/or with the Pharisees? *"Maybe, like in school, you should invite everyone together, so no one is left out" and "The Pharisees thought they were rich and probably too good to eat with the others".* "Parables are like seeing with Epiphany Eyes and Ears".

Jesus, the One who was willing to speak to those who no one else would speak to; He did not believe that sick people were being punished by God, and He healed them; Jesus believed that the Law was made to help people not to hurt them; He was not afraid to stand up to the Keepers of the Law – the Pharisees; Jesus told parable stories to help us see the way God sees. Is it no wonder that people began to follow Him?



WC children will be assisting Kids' Food Basket with their Sack Supper program. It is estimated that 14% of the kids in Ottawa County are food insecure – they can't count on having access to good, nourishing food every day. This program provides over 1,000 sack suppers, 5 days a week in Ottawa County.

How can our children help other children in our Community?

- Gift Kids' Food Basket with our offering from Worship Center
 - Decorate sack lunch bags, hoping to bring joy to the recipient
 - Donate food items that we collect, for Kids' Food Basket; Dried fruit cups or pouches, Toasted oat cereal, Goldfish crackers or Cheez-Its (off-brand accepted), Pretzel twists. Wish List; Snack size zipper bags.
- DISCLAIMER: OFF-BRAND IS GREAT! *Food Basket serves a peanut and tree nut free friendly menu.*** Bring your offering of food to your Worship Center. A basket will also be provided in the Book Nook.

Bring an extra healthy snack to school to share with a friend.



**Third annual
PEACE CAMP
is the week of June 24 – 28!**

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday, March 3 | Meet Your Deacons
6:00-7:30pm
Meets at church in the M&M Cafe |
| Sunday, March 10 | Board Game Night
6:00-7:30pm
Meets at the Edwards home
(86 E. 28th St) |
| Sunday, March 17 | Dinner in Member Homes
6:00-7:30pm, locations TBA
RSVPs will be needed so watch your email
for more information! |
| Sunday, March 24 | Ice Cream Sundaes and Group Games
6:00-7:30pm
Meets at the Schreur/Stouffer home
(120 Lake Forest Drive) |
| Sunday, March 31 | NO MEETING due to Spring Break |

DID YOU KNOW?

YOUTH COUNCIL

Did you know we have formed a new Youth Council? The Youth Council is connected to the Spiritual Growth Council. The mission of the Youth Council is to plan, coordinate and bring to life ministry with youth and their families through Mid Time, evening fellowship, confirmation, mission experiences and additional opportunities for spiritual growth. Youth Council members include: Elders Lauren Stouffer and Ben DeWaard; Dan Williams, Faith DeFeyter, Christin McFadyen, Will Anderson, Josh Laux, Ben Rund-Scott, Maya Edwards-Parker and Doug Smith. This group is currently staffed by Cully and will work closely with our new Associate Pastor when he/she arrives.

SAVE THE DATE

2ND FRIDAY NIGHT

FILM SERIES

led by Jack Hyde

Series runs January – May, 2019

Join Us in the Michigan Room

Showing March 8; God Knows Where I am

2ND FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

March 8 @ 7p

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 March 8: GOD KNOWS WHERE I AM (2018; 97 minutes) Independent film about the state of mental health treatment in today's world told through interviews and the diary of a homeless woman who died alone in an abandoned New Hampshire farmhouse. Outstanding cinematography.

BETHEL BIBLE SERIES

Spring session begins March 4

Join us as Judy Faber leads the Spring session of Bethel Bible Series. Plan to meet Thursday, March 7 from 1:30–3p in the Michigan Room.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, April 13 at 6p

Resurrecting the PROGRESSIVE DINNER! On Saturday, April 13th we will begin our first stop for appetizers at 6:00pm, then move in small groups to individual homes at 7:00pm and end the evening gathering again for desserts at 9:00pm. Individuals will either provide an appetizer or dessert and we will provide the hosts with the main course ready to cook. Sign up in the M&M cafe to bring an appetizer or dessert or to host. Weather should be good for traveling by then so join us!

HOLLAND CIVIC THEATRE

Saturday, May 18 @ 5:30p

Mark your calendars for dinner out and an entertaining live show of 'SUNSHINE BOYS' at Holland Civic Theatre on Saturday, May 18th. The theatre is performing their Tulip Time show for the community...after the throngs of visitors have left and the hustle and bustle has quieted down. Watch for more details in April Profiles.





I was excited to take part in our Reverse Stewardship activity and be entrusted with \$20 to be used at my discretion. I was thinking of adding my donation to the \$20 and sending it on to a well known ministry in our community that, according to the letter and return address envelope we had received in the mail, feeds "a homeless neighbor a hot, hearty Thanksgiving meal." But then something happened to change my mind.

After church that day I received the \$20 bill in an FPC envelope, my husband, Neal, and I went to confront a neighbor in our condo community about the car with two flat tires that had been sitting in his driveway for two weeks. The disabled car was in direct violation of our association bylaws, and the neighbor had not responded to email requests to rectify the situation. Neal, who is President of our condo association, was charged with the unpleasant task of going to talk to the neighbor about the infraction. I went with him as moral support, and we both were a bit anxious about what kind of reception we would get. The 20-something man who came to the door was no doubt expecting cross words since he had ignored the notices the car needed to be moved. He sheepishly explained his current unfortunate circumstances. His previous vehicle had been totaled in an accident and he'd lost his job as a result of not having transportation to work. He had bought the car in his driveway for \$500, not realizing the tires were going to go flat as soon as he got it home. Now, he was waiting for his first paycheck from a new job so he could pay for new tires. As he closed the door he happened to mention some other bills might not get paid, but he would make sure to purchase new tires for his not so new car.

Later that day we shared this young man's woes with another association board member. I explained to her the Reverse Stewardship Activity in which I was participating at church. We both decided to add another \$20 to the envelope from FPC and walked down the street to present our neighbor with \$60 to use toward the purchase of new tires. The big grin on his face as he accepted the envelope was all the thanks we needed.

This experience reminded me of the familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. In the parable, the "expert in the law" asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus replies, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." The lawyer challenges Jesus when he asks, "And who is my neighbor?" By this time Jesus is no doubt exasperated and tells him the story of the Samaritan who came across a half-dead man who had been attacked by a robber and stripped of his clothes. After bandaging the man's wounds, the Samaritan put him on his donkey and took him to a local innkeeper, to whom he gave two silver coins to look after the man until he could return to check in on him.

It was a rewarding experience to participate in this Reverse Stewardship activity and to help out a neighbor in need. I will probably still send a donation to the organization who will be feeding homeless people a hearty Christmas dinner!



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

March Book; *The Most Dangerous Branch* by David A. Kaplan

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 rbplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

March Book; *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*

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

Plan ahead for the PW Lenten Breakfast on Thursday April 11th at 9:30am. Please sign up in the narthex. There are no tickets to buy for this brunch event for church women, but your reservation is necessary.

Our timely topic will be: Believe in the Children of God: Refugee transitional foster care in west Michigan.

Please join us for this event to hear Rachel Stich, transitional foster care intake worker, who will

discuss West Michigan's response to the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. She will touch on the programs currently set up to help these children and their families, their demographics, the process from country of origin to reunification, funding and what those interested can do to help. After her presentation, Rachel will answer any questions about the refugee and immigrant policy, resettlement and services available.



SNOW-DRIVEN TECHNOLOGY// On a snowy day when even the church was closed, our PW Coordinating Team was scheduled to meet. Since one of us was in Florida and nobody in Holland wanted to drive anywhere, we set up a meeting by using an app for conferencing by phone and everyone got to the meeting by dialing in. How easy was this? Nobody had to leave home.

TULIP TIME // Get ready! For the 90th annual Tulip Time our group will be right downtown! Signing up this year will be both online and at the church, by the first week of April. The required training will be Wednesday, April 24, 11:30am at the Holland Police Department community room, lunch provided. Sign up with a friend or spouse. This will be a great year for us to be involved, and our stipend goes entirely to the support of our Presbyterian Preschool.

DATES // March circles will likely be at the church. Circle members will be notified in the bulletin and by email (or phone). All FPC women are welcome.

PWCT meeting is March 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Lesson 7 leaders meet with Pastor Linda March 6 at 2 p.m.

Miriam Circle meets March 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Lesson leader is Jan VanFaasen and Hostess is Mary Bennett.

Hannah Circle meets March 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Lesson leader is Marilyn Chamberlain and Hostess is Nancy West.

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
rbplagen@live.com
616.335.3942

WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

Bev Plagenhoef
rbplagen@live.com
616.335.3942

WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

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616.399.5322

YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com
616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak
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Get the latest news from
Presbyterian Women Online

Website:

www.PresbyterianWomen.org

Facebook:

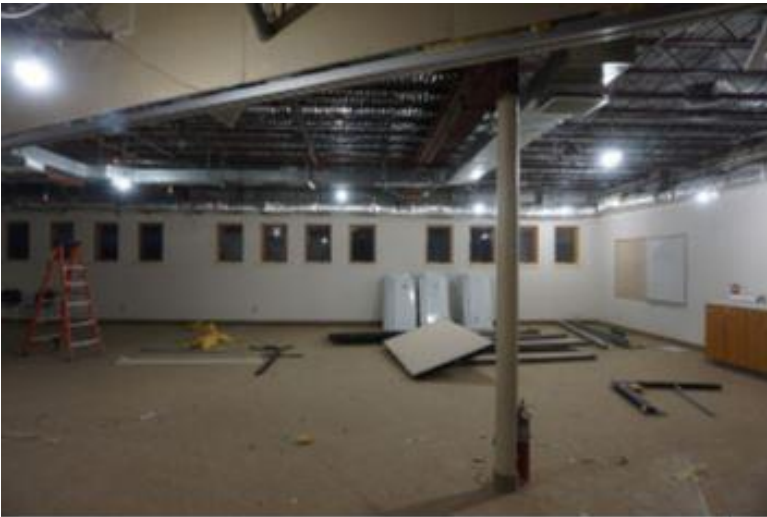
Presbyterian Women in the PC USA)



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

*a place
for* **ALL**
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Construction UPDATE Photos



*Many thanks to Chris Urbaniak who was on
hand to capture the progress with these photos.*

*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..*



A Blessing for Ash Wednesday

by Jan Richardson

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

Did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.

And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made,
and the stars that blaze
in our bones,
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.