



presbyterian *profiles*

Music To Your Ears

Written by, Gary Smith, Elder for Worship

Get prepared to listen to beautiful new sounds of worship at
First Presbyterian!



Music is an important component of worship, moving us emotionally and helping us find new ways to connect and grow in faith.

We were blessed to receive a generous bequest, a portion of which was earmarked for music enhancement. After deliberation in both the Worship Council and Session, we are pleased to share that we will soon be adding some exciting new elements to our music program, benefitting both services. You will see a reconfigured chancel featuring a grand piano and slightly modified choir loft, and for the 1st Service, the regular contribution of a classic trio of professional musicians playing flute, cello and piano. The trio will also play on occasion at the 2nd service. The addition of the musicians will begin in September, with chancel changes happening shortly thereafter.

The calibre of the musicians and calibre of the instrument promise to create a component of worship that we hope will be both beautiful and meaningful.

Please come join us for worship and listen for the sounds of the Spirit.

ON THE COVER

Our Fall sermon series will be called *Reconstructing Family Values*. Learn more in the Message from Linda found on page 2.

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CHURCH STAFF

Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

Nancy Burkitt

Nursery / Child Care
nursery@fpcholland.org

Sheri Harris

Administrative Assistant
office@fpcholland.org

Karla Kammeraad-Bos

Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@fpcholland.org

Lori Klinesteker

*Clerk of Session &
Children's Ministry Leader*
children@fpcholland.org

Linda Knieriemen

Pastor
pastor@fpcholland.org

Chuck Norris

Director of Music
music@fpcholland.org

Jane Oosterhouse

Custodian
custodian@fpcholland.org

Thom Samuelson

Maintenance
maintenance@fpcholland.org

Sue Stock

Publications Specialist
publications@fpcholland.org

Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor
associatepastor@fpcholland.org



Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

Reconstructing Family Values

Yes, our fall Sunday morning theme is meant to grab your attention and raise your eyebrows!

This fall season begins with a reconstructed FPC building—almost, but not quite completed.

First came the noisy, messy, chaotic deconstruction and demolition in the spring and early summer and then the more exciting reconstruction.

New construction and reconstruction sure beat deconstruction! But the former can't happen until completion of the later!

Family Values? Now there's a politically loaded and religiously laden term! Those who use it presume everyone knows what they mean, and that every family (and politician) should affirm the same values, that there is only one way to be a religiously faithful family, and, in other words, that there is one way to do family "right."

By "family" we mean this church family, this faith community—First Presbyterian Church of Holland congregation. Values? Christian churches share some common values, but there are in the Christian world and even in the Presbyterian world, both large differences and subtle nuances. And that's okay! Christians and the churches they worship in do not need to be some cookie cutter version of "proper" church.

Initially constructed during the creation of the Strategic Plan of 2014, and recently de- and then re-constructed at Session's August meeting, these ten FPC Value statements try to express who we are, how we do what we do, and what we want others to know about what makes us this particular family. No one need sign on the bottom line, but I expect they will ring true for members and friends of the church family. If they don't, what a good place to further the conversation!

I once read that differences in the way Christians "do" church isn't about the meat, it's about the seasonings. There's no reason to criticize the seasonings others use—salsa or herbal, curried or Southern fried. We don't need to criticize another's palate or culinary "school."

It is helpful to occasionally observe our seasonings, remembering that the "protein" doesn't change: Christ is the head of the church, the One who shows us what the reconciling love of God is like, the One whose message to love God and one another as ourselves, and the One who compels us to trust him in this life and into the Next.

Reconstructing Family Values? Yes! And what a great opportunity we all have this fall to invite someone to church and show them the spice of Life here at First Pres!

Value Statements
found on page 5.



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Wiggles of Encouragement

As of this morning, my son, Benjamin, is missing one of his top front teeth. It was a momentous moment full of fear and joy and innocence. It is easy for us to see that final tug as the moment that he lost the tooth, but in reality, Ben was losing the tooth for much longer.

Several months ago, he noticed that the tooth was starting to move, but just slightly. Each day he worked at it little by little—twisting, tugging, touching with his tongue. Last week he took a bite out of a snow cone and it really loosened up the tooth. (It was more of an ice cone than a snow cone). This morning it was hanging by just a thread and he gave it one last tug and it finally popped out.

The tooth didn't come out with just one pull. Each wiggle, bite of food, tiny tug, brought the tooth to the point where it was ready to fall out.

As Ben was going through the process of losing a tooth, I have been listening to a song called "Your Labor is Not in Vain."

The song was written by Wendell Kimbrough as part of the "Porter's Gate" project—a collection of church leaders, musicians and artists that gathered to write music for the next generation of the church. It is a beautiful song. I encourage you to listen to it. (You can find it by googling the name or looking it up on youtube. If that doesn't work for you, stop by my office and I'll sing it for you!)

Here are some of the lyrics:


Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labor is not in vain

I am with you, I am with you
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you, called you by name
Your labor is not in vain

The song is about the work that we do in response to God calling us by name. At First Pres. we are working to make the world a more accepting, loving and welcoming place, but it often seems like these values come up against the values of the world. This can be tiring work as we come up against roadblocks and setbacks in our efforts to share the love of Christ.

But as the song reminds us (borrowing language from 1 Cor. 15:58), our labor is not in vain. God is with us, God has called us by name, and when we labor for the gospel, God is faithful to see us through. The work that we do each day is like the months of little wiggles that led to Ben's tooth finally coming out. Each wiggle on its own didn't seem like much, but together, through time and continued effort, the tooth came out. Each time we show love, each time we stand up for the oppressed, each time we open our arms and welcome all, each of these is a bit of work that will lead to a world where, as the song says at the end, "The houses [we] labored to build, will finally with laughter and joy be filled...and all that is broken be healed."

This is my encouragement to all of you. Keep working. Keep sharing the gospel of love and acceptance and welcome with everyone you meet. Let them experience the love of Christ through you, knowing that your labor is not in vain. Little by little the world will be healed and our homes will be filled with laughter and joy.



YOUTH@FIRST

**Youth@First will kick off
Sunday, September 15.**

Our fall mid-time class will take a closer look at the values that make FPC who we are as a community.

We will also meet Sunday evening from 6-7:30p.
Watch your email for more details.

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry Leader



Worship Centers KEEPING IN TOUCH

Are you seeking an intentionally organized space, to learn and live within the stories of the Bible, develop friendships within a community of people your age, and to find calm in a chaotic world?

A place is being prepared for you. We are looking forward for the new year for Worship Center to begin on September 15, at 9:45a. Worship Center grades PreK – Kdg.; 1st – 2nd; 3rd – 5th; will be located next to each other in our newly renovated space in the lower level. During the 8:45a Worship Service, 4th graders will be receiving their Bibles and Celebrants will be lighting a candle from the Christ Candle to guide the children as they journey to their new space. The guiding light, Christ's Light, will be shining bright.



In addition to our Celebrants from last year, we are excited to be welcoming Megan Heller to our PreK-Kdg. team.

In addition to Worship Center, another opportunity for our children and youth to be together is in Choir which is led by Dr. Norris and Mrs. Magennis during the 11:00a Worship Service on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

All are invited and welcome; Christ's Light will be shining,

~ Lori Klinesteker

Article from the Outreach Committee

Center for Women in Transition has changed their name to Resilience:

RESILIENCE
ADVOCATES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE™

Advocates for Ending Violence! Since 1977, Resilience has been providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the Ottawa and Allean communities at no cost. The mission of the organization will not change. Resilience will continue to respond to, reduce, and prevent domestic and sexual violence with the same level of integrity and professionalism as always.

Resilience has a wide range of volunteer opportunities that can accommodate even the busiest of schedules, and no gift of time or talent is too small. To learn how you can get involved, visit www.ResilienceMI.org/volunteer-opportunities/

Sherry Martens,
Volunteer Services Coordinator
She/Her/Hers
Direct Line: 616.494.1747
24 Hour Help Line 800.848.5991

Continued from
Message from
Linda

FPC Value Statements

We value creative worship in the Presbyterian tradition.

We strive to recognize God's image in all people and to be respectful of our differences.

We welcome all to Christ's Table.

We affirm that church membership and leadership are not constrained by human labels but by God's gifts and grace.

We believe lifelong spiritual growth happens by navigating life's tough questions as individuals and as a community of faith.

We value strengthening community through serving, playing, studying, and eating together.

We value sharing God's abundant grace and love in Jesus Christ today more than we value striving for salvation tomorrow.

We commit to outreach ministries through volunteering our time, talents, and treasures.

We engage together in thoughtful Biblical and theological reflection on social and global issues, encouraging honest questioning and response.

We are proudly a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



Thank You from Hajira Zadrán:

Dear friends at First Presbyterian Church, Thanks for the crib and stroller. I really needed these things. I really appreciate that you bought these for me. Thanks to everyone who has helped me. ~ Hajira

[NOTE: We found a great deal on the 2 items we purchased brand new at Community Action House and were able to give Hajira a \$100 gift card for items she will be needing in the future.]



Hello Dan (Williams),

We recently received the gift from First Presbyterian Church. **Thank you!! This gift in support of homeless street outreach, hunger relief and financial mobility means so much to our friends and neighbors. We appreciate our church partners like First Presbyterian** and recognize that having others who care as much about the community, and those that struggle to feel part of it, is the ONLY reason we are able to keep doing this work. I have no doubt that we are doing a better job of loving and serving others because of our connection with First Presbyterian Church. Please share with the rest of the pastoral team and church body, Dan.

In gratitude,

Meagan Maas,

CAH, Community Engagement Officer



SAVE THE DATE



September 8

Welcome Fall, Welcome Paul

- 10a All Church Ice Cream Social following morning worship.
- 4p Installation of Pastor Paul Van Kempen followed by food, fellowship and fun! Details to come.



September 13 @ 7:30p

2nd Friday Night Film Series

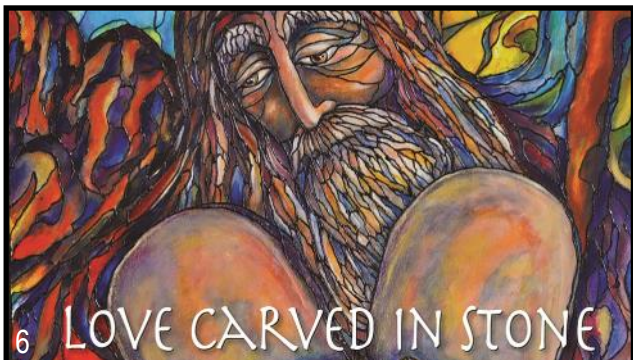
Unless otherwise noted, this group meets in the Michigan Room the second Friday of each month trying to avoid Tulip Time, Christmas, my birthday, and National Donut Day. Showing September 13, **Far From the Tree** (2019; 93 minutes) Invites viewers to rethink what it means to be a family. A profoundly human look at families raising children society deems abnormal. Down syndrome, autism, little people, and a family of a boy who committed an unspeakable crime. Shown at the Knickerbocker Theater, winter 2018.



September 15

Return to two worship services, and MidTime

On September 15, we return to two service times: 8:45a and 11a. Please join us as we dive into our new study - *Reconstructing Family Values*. MidTime for adults resumes on the 15th and we'll be looking at our Value Statements.



September 18 @ 1:30p

PW Birthday Party and Kickoff new Bible Study.

Join our PW birthday party and hear Pastor Linda as she begins our new Bible study based upon The Ten Commandments: ***Love Carved In Stone***.

SAVE THE DATE



September 15 Young Families Third Sunday Event

Immediately following the 11a service meet at Matt Urban Park play area. Grilled hotdogs will be provided. Bring food to share. Please let Cassie Kregger know if you are coming so there are enough dogs!



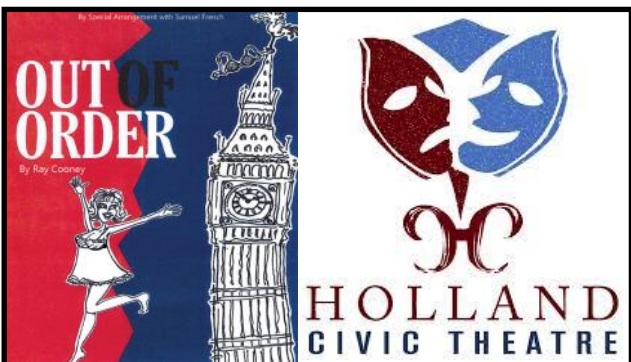
September 22 @ 8:45a Classic trio presentation; piano: flute and cello

Listen to the beautiful new sounds of worship at First Presbyterian. Music is an important component of worship, moving us emotionally and helping us find new ways to connect and grow in faith. Join us at 8:45!



September 25 @ 7p Interfaith Allies—Know Your Quaker Neighbor

Herrick District Library ~ Lower Level
In honor of the United Nations International Day of Peace, we are offering this event in the Know Your Neighbors Series since the Quaker faith is often known for its commitment to peace-making. Like all of our past events in this series, we will bring together a panel from a cross section of the Quaker faith community to speak.



October 4 @ 7:30p Holland Community Theatre presents.. Out of Order

When Richard Willey, a government junior minister, plans to spend the evening with Jane Worthington, one of the opposition's typists, things go disastrously wrong. Friday, October 4th at 7:30p. Tickets are \$13. Optional dinner at the Curraugh at 5:30p. Sign-up in the M&M Café.



Fall Season of Stewardship begins Sunday, October 6.



Below are a handful of Adult Enrichment Opportunities at FPC

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

1st Monday @ 7p in M&M Café

Contact: Larry Lynn oldrun09@gmail.com

Sept. 9 - September Book: *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari

Oct. 7 - October Book: *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers who Brought the American Ideal West* by David McCullough

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

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

Meets **September 6 & 20**

Each month a different subject is discussed.

Contact: David Ford davidford56@comcast.net

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

2nd Sunday @ 2:00pm in M&M Café

Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

Sept. 8 - September Book: *A Stranger in the Woods: the Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel

WOMEN — MIRIAM CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday @ 9:30 in Michigan room

Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

WOMEN — HANNAH CIRCLE

2nd Thursday @ 1:30 in Michigan room

Jauanna Jackson jauannaj@yahoo.com 616.399.5322

ADULT MID-TIME

Sundays at 9:45a in the Michigan Room.

BETHEL BIBLE SERIES

Thursdays, from 1:30-3p in the Michigan Room

Judy Faber, jjfaber@sbcglobal.net 396.8117

Explore the Bible and learn about God's story and what that means for our journey with God.

BELL CHOIR

Every Wednesday @ 6:15p in M&M Café

ADULT CHOIR

Chuck Norris (director) charlesenorris@gmail.com

Every Wednesday @ 7p in the sanctuary

YOGA

Gwen Boeve ghekman@gmail.com 616-502-4642

Every Tuesday @ 9a - location TBD

Session runs for 16 weeks, Sept 3-Dec 17, 2019. New students always welcome!

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak cmurbaniak@comcast.net 616.836.9293

3rd Saturday at various times/places - notified by email

DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

Chris Urbaniak cmurbaniak@comcast.net 616.836.9293

October, February, April

DINNERS FOR 7

Chris Urbaniak cmurbaniak@comcast.net 616.836.9293

November, March

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.

2nd FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

Led by Jack Hyde.

The series runs the 2nd Friday of each month, January – May. Join us at 7:30p in the Michigan Room.

Presbyterian Women



ALL WOMEN OF FPC HOLLAND...PLEASE JOIN US on September 18, 1:30p for the Birthday Party and Kickoff of our new PW Bible Study.

Maybe we will be in Fellowship Hall by then? If not, upstairs with signage! There will be a giving opportunity to the PW Birthday Offering, and some cake, while Pastor

Linda opens our very interesting study based upon The Ten Commandments this year: **LOVE CARVED IN STONE**

Top Ten Reasons to Become Involved in PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

(Found this on the Presbyterian Women in the PC(U.S.A.) Facebook page:)

1. Use your time in meaningful ways.
2. Meet new people and make new friends.
3. Give direction to the future of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
4. Gain valuable experiences and share these with others.
5. Transfer your Christian belief into action.
6. Discover new outlets for creative expression and feel a sense of accomplishment.
7. Gain a sense of making a contribution to the lives of others.
8. Enjoy the fellowship and fun of working with others for a common purpose.
9. Grow and develop personally as a Christian woman and disciple of Christ.
10. Be challenged by Christ's call to be servant leaders.

Study meetings for Miriam and Hannah circles will begin in October and go through May.

Get the latest news from Presbyterian Women Online

Website: www.PresbyterianWomen.org

Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)



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

Jauanna Jackson
jauannaj@yahoo.com
616.399.5322

YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com
616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak
cmurbaniak@comcast.net

LOOKING BACK



Camp Greenwood



Young families event at Dutton Park



Construction week 18



PRIDE festival



Youth heading to Triennium



Peace Camp



Shrimp Boil

Thank you to everyone
who contributed these
photos .



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



On the 16th of July, the Deacons hosted a BBQ picnic dinner at FPC. More than 50 people came together for good food and fellowship. Adding to our enjoyment was entertainment by the Holland Windmill Chorus. Special thanks to Liz Hoffswell for her thorough planning of this annual event.

