



Taking Shape

As our construction project takes shape and we can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, it's inevitable that we would experience a delay. In this case, it's the elevator. The "revised" schedule calls for installation (its actually constructed on site—sort of like something you buy from IKEA) in early December. That will be followed by a couple weeks of finish work, and THEN WE'LL BE DONE. As a result, we've moved the dedication event to January.

The other big components still to be completed are the installation of the light panels behind the chancel stained glass windows along with new railings/hand rails on the south stairway, sanctuary ramp, and the ramp in the new narthex area.

Once all of the construction has been completed, the new narthex furniture will be installed.

The good news is that the project continues to be a bit under budget and that has allowed us add a couple of items not originally included in the scope of the project—like new ceiling tiles in the current narthex to match the tiles in the new area.

The refreshed landscaping has been installed along with a new drip irrigation system to help ensure that the landscaping remains viable. Mulch will be installed once it is clear that the noxious weed that had taken over parts of our landscape has been eradicated. Repairs have also been made to the existing irrigation system.

Thanks to everyone (especially our staff) for your patience during the project. We are all looking forward to a renewed energy in our church life supported by our renovated facility!

presbyterian *profiles*

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

Blueberries and Poets



In this November month of Thanksgiving, I'm embarking on the challenge of recording what I'm thankful for. Try it! List five "thankfuls" every night or three every morning or 100 in one early morning reflection as I have recorded here:

My first cup of morning coffee, dark chocolate, Australian red wines, blueberries on my granola, peppermint tea, Aldi, nonfat Greek yogurt, clean water, roasted Brussel sprouts, home grown and made pesto.

Dark silent predawn mornings, pink hued sunrise greeting my eastward drive to church, snowplow drivers, freshly fallen snow, sunshine with snow flurries, an evening summer breeze, maple trees' crimson leaves in fall, rain after a 90 degree day, Lake Michigan, the spring's first crocus.

The Far Side, Peanuts, David Sedaris, Gene Wilder in Young Frankenstein, a child's giggle, Tina Fey, Robin Williams, unintended puns, poems of Ogden Nash.

"Undo/redo", technology natives, proofreaders and grammarians, this I-pad, memories of my first manual typewriter, phone booths, Skype, ATMs, automatic garage door openers.

Physical therapists, massage therapists, CBD cream, crutches, my pilates instructor, removable arch supports, Arcopedico shoes, anyone who tells me my mascara is smudged, pedicures, cool mist vaporizers, Mucinex.

The privilege of sitting vigil with a dying member and their family, truth-tellers even when the truth is painful, the FPC staff team, Worship Center Celebrants, the Spirit touching my heart through the 8:45 service trio, Paul Van Kempen's children's messages, the Place for All Building Team, unexpected notes of affirmation, parishioners who trust me with their pain.

Continued on page 4



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Figuring It Out

A few months ago I was out to dinner with my family. As we were seated at our table, the host handed out kids' menus with crayons to occupy the kids while Shanna and I tried to figure out what to order for everyone. On this particular kid's menu there was a maze. Ben, my 6 year old, started to work on the maze (every kid loves a good maze, right?). A few minutes later he turned to me, frustrated by the maze.

"I can't figure it out, Dad," he whined. "Must be a tough one," I said, "but no need to worry, I am a maze master."

I picked a new color of crayon and started at the beginning, winding my way through the maze like a pro (read: like an adult doing a child's activity). But wouldn't you know it, I soon found that I was stuck too. Shanna gave it a go and, after she also got stuck, we came to the realization that there was no way out of the maze. It was a trap! The designer of the kids' menu had tried to create a quiet activity for children and instead had designed frustration for the whole family!

In the soon-to-be-completed lower level at First Pres, we have a maze of sorts on the floor of the fellowship hall. This path is called a labyrinth, but I promise you won't get lost or trapped in it. In fact, you may find yourself in it. The labyrinth is a spiritual practice that has its roots thousands of years ago (the earliest dated labyrinth is from 1200 BC). Though these labyrinths were not designed for spiritual use, over time, Christians came to use these maze-like paths on the ground as a place to walk and to pray. By walking the winding path, the prayer is able to leave behind the noise and hurry of life and wind their way to the center of the labyrinth, centering themselves in Christ. As they exit the labyrinth, they wind their way back into the world, ready to love and serve the Lord.

On Nov. 23, we have an event planned to celebrate our new labyrinth. Terri Blanch, a labyrinth expert, will teach us about the history of the labyrinth and give some guidance for how to practice the labyrinth walk. After we learn, we will walk the labyrinth and then we will spend some time reflecting on our experience and talking about other spiritual practices we can incorporate into our lives.

I hope to see you all there!

LABYRINTH EVENT—NOVEMBER 23

9am - 2pm / Schedule

9-9:30	Practice Based Worship Service
9:30-10:15	Learning about the Labyrinth - History and Practice (Terri Blanch)
10:15-10:30	Break/refreshments
10:30-12	Walk the Labyrinth, journal, pray, as others walk
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:15	Reflect on the Experience of the Labyrinth
1:15-2	Spiritual practices for daily life (Rev. Paul Van Kempen)

All are welcome at this half day event to learn about the history and practice of the labyrinth, have a chance to walk the labyrinth, and to learn about other spiritual practices to carry into everyday life. As we prepare for Advent, one of the busiest seasons of the year, take a moment to slow down and to think about how you are connecting with God through spiritual practices.

YOUTH@FIRST

November 3, 10 and 17 - Lesson night at the church.
November 24 - Quaffels and a Christmas Movie from 6-8p. Location to be determined. If you have a nice movie viewing area, please let Pastor Paul know.



Lori Klienesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center for our young children begins with exploring different ways in which we can worship and praise God through prayer, music, dance and caring for our space. On October 6, the children were praising the Lord with their music and shared their joy with those gathered in the M & M Café.



their church in Arizona, they would be excited to offer the Worship Center experience there. We are blessed to have 30 kids on our rolls along with the support of 14 Celebrants trained and committed to worshipping and wondering with them.

An opportunity for our children to bond beyond Worship Center, Choir, and Celebration Time will be on

Passion for our Worship Center story and space was shared with two visitors on October 13. They expressed delight and shared that if they had more than 4 kids in

Sunday, November 13 from 12 to 3pm. Details will be coming.

Worshipping and wondering with our children – all are welcome! ~ Lori Klienesteker



Blueberries and Poets *continued*

College friends, step-children and grandchildren, visits from my Africa-living sister, reminiscing with 95 year old cousin Delphine about childhood at the Jersey Shore, my grandmother's recipe books, my mother's wedding China, my father's home communion set, my husband's green thumb and excellent sense of color.

Poets, even those I don't understand; prophets, even when we fail to listen; public servants, even when I disagree with them. Reporters with integrity, NPR, advocates for social justice and reform, leaders and volunteers in non-profit agencies, underpaid and underappreciated child care and elder care workers, first responders, public school teachers.

Our dog Porter: when rapidly doing his business on a rainy 40 degree day, his utter sense of abandon while

running at the dog park, how good he smells after a trip to the groomer, his thrill at an ice cube treat, when he curls up with me on the sofa, his silky smooth fur until he escapes the leash and runs through burs, the smell of his paw pads, affectionate licks when I return at the end of a day, the way he barks at dogs on TV.

Cuban Jazz, John Baez, Peter, Paul and Mary, Rhapsody in Blue, Lin-Manuel Miranda for Hamilton, Mozart or Brahms Requiems, anything by John Rutter, jump rope rhymes, Hine E Hine Maori lullaby sung by Kiri Te Kanawa.

That's 100. And there are ever so many more things for which I'm grateful, like you!

Presbyterian Women



NOVEMBER CIRCLE GATHERINGS

Welcome new members!

MIRIAM CIRCLE - November 13 at 9:30a

Study Leader is Mary Bennett

Host is Arloa Wirbel

HANNAH CIRCLE - November 14 at 1:30p

Study Leader is Janet Magennis

Host is Mary Ann McBeth

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 4 at 12 Noon

Save the Date!

Wednesday December 4 at noon is our Christmas Luncheon.

We will be collecting underwear gifts for **Resilience** (only NEW with tags for women or children). We hope to meet in

Fellowship Hall! Please RSVP on the bulletin board in the narthex or to Treasurer, Mickey Harris at:

Mickey.harrisbc@yahoo.com.

*Save
the Date*

The annual **Women's Retreat**

will be held **February 21-23,**

2020, at the Geneva Camp and

Conference center. We are excited to

announce our retreat leader this year

will be Mary McKSchmidt, and our

topic will center around, Water for

Life. All women are invited. Feel free to

invite friends from outside our

congregation. Brochures with

information along with registration

form will be available mid-November.

Registration deadline is February 7.

Watch for more details.

Water
for Life

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

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WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

Peggy Purdy

pfpreads1480@gmail.com

206.910.4555

YOGA

Gwen Boeve

ghekman@gmail.com

616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Chris Urbaniak

cmurbaniak@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATE



Month of November - Coat Drive

Help keep Holland Warm! Time to attack closets and purge warm coats and jackets that will not be worn by your family. During the month of November, donate your good condition and clean coats to FPC. The Outreach committee will set out collection bins in the M&M Café. Your contributions will go to Community Action House. Additionally, we'd like to ask for donations of **NEW** coats for kids for the Children's Advocacy Center. They are in need of new coats for infants thru 5th grade. We will be collecting throughout the month of November, delivering them the first week of December. Plan ahead to donate mittens to the Mitten Tree in December and blankets in January.

2ND FRIDAY NIGHT

FILM SERIES

with Jack Hyde

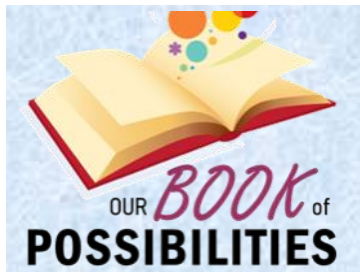
November 8 @ 7:30p - 2nd Friday Night Film Series

Eighth Grade (2018; 94 minutes) How anyone, child or parent, can survive a girl's life in 8th grade is heroic. And kudos to former teachers who in the midst of all this, try to teach these kids! Poignant, comedic; life is pretty complex for these young folks.



November 10 @ 9:45 - Next Steps - Belonging Class

Have you ever wondered what it means to become a member of a church? Are you feeling called at this time to a deeper sense of belonging here at FPC? Please join us November 10 from 9:45a-10:45a for the first part of a two part series in our *new* **Next Steps** series of classes. This particular class is intended for those who are considering church membership. **Next Steps** is a series of opportunities that will deepen our life of faith, teach us how to be the Church, invite us to discover what it means to be Reformed and part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and so much more.



November 17 - Our Book of Possibilities

Remember to complete and return your volunteer service record sheets to Sheri at the front office. We'll report campaign results in December. Thank you for your stewardship!



November 17 @ 12:15p - Parents' Night Out

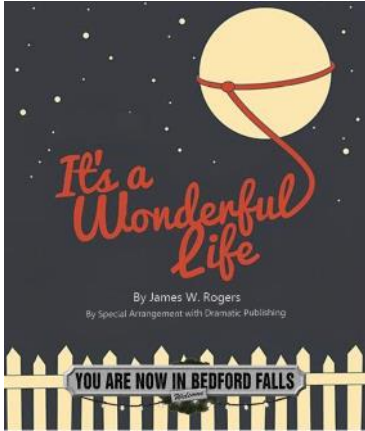
FPC is offering to care for your young children (through age 10) at the church from 12:15 - 3p so you can Christmas shop, go out to lunch, see a movie, or just go home and take a nap! Please sign up in the M&M Cafe so that we can plan lunch and activities. Also note any food allergies. We will be serving pizza and fruit juice for lunch. Drop your children off in the Michigan Room at 12:15p. The church will be locked until 3p. Please use the 28th street entrance for pick up. If you need to pick up your child early, call Chris Urbaniak (836-9293) or Lori Klinesteker (610-1244) and we will meet you at the door. **Please sign up in the M&M cafe by November 10th.**

November 23 @ 9a - Labyrinth Event at First Presbyterian Church

All are welcome at this half day event to learn about the history and practice of the labyrinth, have a chance to walk the labyrinth, and to learn about other spiritual practices to carry into everyday life. As we prepare for Advent, one of the busiest seasons of the year, take a moment to slow down and to think about how you are connecting with God through spiritual practices. **Schedule:**

- 9-9:30 Practice Based Worship Service
- 9:30-10:15 Learning about the Labyrinth - History and Practice (Terri Blanch)
- 10:15-10:30 Break/refreshments
- 10:30-12 Walk the Labyrinth, journal, pray, as others walk
- 12:00-12:45 Lunch
- 12:45-1:15 Reflect on the Experience of the Labyrinth
- 1:15-2 Spiritual practices for daily life (Rev. Paul Van Kempen)

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, November 30 @ 7p - Holland Civic Theatre presents... **It's A Wonderful Life**

It's A Wonderful Life theatre outing. Saturday, November 30 at 7p (early curtain). In our American culture, this story has become almost as familiar as Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*. The story is a natural for a stage adaptation. This fine dramatization not only celebrates the faith of the season, it also celebrates the American philosophy of life: hard work, fair play, and the love and support of one's family and community will be rewarded. Tickets are \$12. Optional dinner at the Curraugh at 5:00. Sign-up in the M&M Café. **NOTE: FPC is offering to reimburse anyone who needs childcare at their home. Make your own arrangements and we will reimburse you up to \$50. Sign up for everyone is in the M&M Café. Pay Chris or Tom Urbaniak.**



Month of December

As you prepare to face a Michigan winter, please consider helping others stay warm by bringing in NEW hats, gloves, and mittens to be placed on the Christmas tree located near the M&M Café. Watch for more details.



Wednesday, December 4 @ 12p - PW Christmas Luncheon

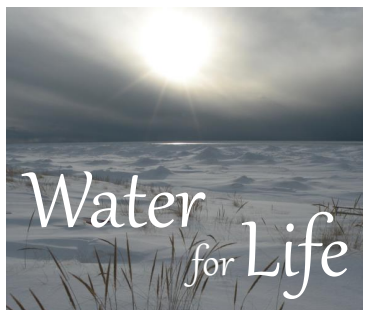
Wednesday December 4 at noon is our Christmas Luncheon. We will be collecting underwear gifts for **Resilience** (only NEW with tags, for women or children). We hope to meet in Fellowship Hall! Please RSVP on the bulletin board in the narthex or to Treasurer, Mickey Harris at:



Saturday, December 7 @ 9a - Senior Christmas Brunch

A Christmas brunch will be provided for senior members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. Join us for a time of gratitude and celebration. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board beginning November 24.

SAVE THE DATE 2020



February 21-23, 2020 - Annual Women's Retreat

The annual Women's Retreat will be at the Geneva Camp and Conference center. Our retreat leader this year will be Mary McKSchmidt, and our topic will center around, Water for Life. All women are invited. Feel free to invite friends from outside our congregation. Brochures with information along with registration form will be available mid-November. Registration deadline is February 7. Watch for more details.



Outreach Committee Update

ACTS Ministry - A 501c3 local outreach partner of First Presbyterian Church

ACTS (Arts, Community, Teaching, Serving) is a family ministry for kids. Nine years ago, Jaime Blom, ACTS director, was called to create a youth group for a church in the core city of Holland. In a few short months, it became apparent that these kids needed more than a Wednesday night program. They needed a group to call their family. Since then, ACTS Ministry has moved into a home on 13th Street in Holland and continues to grow.

ACTS currently serves 16 2nd-5th graders and 14 6th-10th graders. In addition to meeting weekly during the school year, Jaime Blom maintains a summer schedule for the kids. The younger group has been active in FPC's Peace Camp each summer.

ACTS vision is guided by three words: Embrace – Equip – Empower. **Embrace** – Each kid is made to feel welcome and part of the family. **Equip** – Over time, meaningful relationships are built to give these kids the opportunity to learn and grow. **Empower** – Eventually, the kids become leaders within the ministry and help model for the next generation how to love and care for one another.



ACTS kids are coming from all walks of life, with many of them coming from chaotic life experiences. ACTS Ministry offers a safe, supportive environment. Meaningful relationship building is at the heart of ACTS Ministry. The goal is to have a lasting impact on the kids' lives to help each of them make progress in their personal situation. ACTS accomplishes this growth progress in a family atmosphere of working together, playing together, talking, laughing, praying, and sharing dinner together.

ACTS Ministry holds an annual art show and auction featuring the kids' art with all proceeds going to support ACTS. The 2019 ACTS Art Show and Auction will be held Thursday, November 21st, from 6-8 p.m. at the Holland Civic Center. To learn more about ACTS Ministry, go online to actsholland.com.

Note: Much of the text for this article and the below two photos were taken from the ACTS Ministry website.





CONNECT TOGETHER

Below are a handful of Adult Enrichment Opportunities at FPC.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP

Meets 1st Monday of each month @ 7p in M&M Café
Contact: Larry Lynn oldrun09@gmail.com

Meets November 4 - November Book: *Madame Fourcade's Secret War: The Daring Young Woman who led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler* by Lynne Olson.

Meets December 2 - December Book: *Say Nothing: a True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by Patrick Radden Keefe.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets every other Friday @ 7:30a in the M&M Café
Meets **November 1, 15 and 29**

Each month a different subject is discussed.
Contact: David Ford davidford56@comcast.net

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Meets 2nd Sunday of each month @ 2p in the M&M Café
Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942

Meets November 10 / November Book: *The Radium Girls: the dark history of America's shining women* by Kate Moore.

Meets December 8 / December Book: *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg.

WOMEN — MIRIAM CIRCLE

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 9:30a in the Michigan room
Bev Plagenhoef rvplagen@live.com 616.335.3942
Meets Wednesday, November 13

WOMEN — HANNAH CIRCLE

Meets 2nd Thursday of each month @ 1:30p in the Michigan room
Contact: Peggy Purdy pfpreads1480@gmail.com
201.910.4555
Meets Thursday, November 14

ADULT MID-TIME

Meets Sunday at 9:45a in the Michigan Room.

BELL CHOIR

Meets every Wednesday @ 6:15p in M&M Café.
Meets October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

ADULT CHOIR

Chuck Norris (director) charlesenorris@gmail.com
Meets every Wednesday @ 7p in the sanctuary.
Meets October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

YOGA

Gwen Boeve ghekman@gmail.com 616-502-4642
Meets every Tuesday @ 9a - location TBD
Session runs for 16 weeks, Sept 3-Dec 17, 2019. New students always welcome!



CONNECT TOGETHER

Below are a handful of Adult Enrichment Opportunities at FPC.

YOUNG FAMILIES

Meets 3rd Saturday (or Sunday) of each month at various times/places. Notified by email

Cassie Kregger cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com

616.298.4164

2nd FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30p in the Michigan Room. January – May. Join us!

Jack Hyde, nobodyzperfik@gmail.com

Meets November 8, showing: Eighth Grade (2018; 94 minutes)

DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

November theatre outing: *It's A Wonderful Life*

Saturday, November 30 at 7p.

Chris Urbaniak cmurbaniak@comcast.net 616.836.9293



Thank you so much to all of you who prayed for me, called, and sent many cards during my recent surgeries and blindness. Your caring gives me strength and hope as I continue to improve.

~ Linda Pynnonen



We just received our 11th check for \$1,000.00 because your church has continued to support us in saving their Direct Your Dollars grocery slips to feed the hungry people around the world, our nation, and in our own communities. Your total for September was \$4,603.00.

Thank you again.

~ Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk Committee



A friendly reminder our front office will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29. Pastor Linda will be reachable in case of an emergency.

Give thanks for God's goodness.
God's love endures forever.
1 Chronicles 16:34



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