

# presbyterian *profiles*



## *Advent & Christmas* WORSHIP

### December 12 at 5p

Do you ever want to simply unplug yourself from the Christmas scene - the advertisements, shopping, soliciting, and constant barrage of glitter and glee? Many people do. Some find the gleefulness too much in general. Some prefer to celebrate Christ's coming in contemplation rather than cheer. For those who have recently lost a family member, a job, a dream, a quieter more intimate celebration can be a better "fit".

On December 12 at 5p - yes, late afternoon so that you can come prior to getting home and settling in for the evening - join us in the sanctuary for scripture, music, prayers, candlelighting, and reflection.

### December 24

**5p** A Family Celebration for all ages.

**10p** A Service of Holy Communion and candlelight inviting Christ into our hearts and lives.



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Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

## Advent Memories

The beginning of Advent recalls memories of childhood:

I see us cuddled with blankets in the backseat of a not-well heated car returning from family Thanksgiving at my grandparents in Philadelphia. We are listening to the Army-Navy football game on the radio. The day before, we had made the traditional visit to Santa at the extraordinary Christmas display at Wanamaker's downtown department store. I now realize that we returned on Saturday not Sunday, as is the habit of most, so my father could be in the pulpit the first Sunday of Advent!

I also see my sister and me arguing about who would open the first window on the Advent Calendar, a meaningful, if contentious practice. I see that even Advent calendars have been commercialized today. One can purchase an Advent Dog or Cat treat calendar or a Wine-sample-a -day calendar countdown to Christmas!

Another memory centers on the first Sunday of Advent potluck dinner event and the accompanying activity of making real Advent wreaths from fresh greens. It's an olfactory memory as well, the cedar and pine boughs perfuming the church fellowship hall. We scrounged the supplies for three purple candles and one pink candle representing the 4 Sundays and the final white Christ Candle to be lit on Christmas Eve.

This year I invite you to center your Advent preparation time on more than football, visiting Santa, and rushing to get shopping done. Center your four weeks of this Advent Season on the Advent Candles' themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

- Be **hopeful** through disappointments and suffering, as were those waiting for the Messiah 2000 years ago.
- Seek and practice **peace** knowing it is found in God's abiding presence.
- Experience **joy**, (which is different from happiness or glee) in a deep-rooted sense of inner well-being which often arises spontaneously.
- And finally, act in **love**, spreading around the reason for Christ's birth: that humanity would experience the extent to which God's love will go.

Join us on Sunday mornings in Advent as we return to the basics, lighting the Advent candles, and reflecting on one of these themes each week.



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

## Advent Traditions

I have seen every episode of The Office at least three times—most of them more. I have read every Harry Potter book three or four times. I have watched the movie Matilda at least 30 times. I have listened to various renditions of the ABC Song about 30,000 times. (I have a 2 year old who is OBSESSED with the ABCs.)



out the same decorations, gather with the same people, and participate in the same traditions. It is beautiful, comforting, and reassuring. It is one of the reasons that we all love this season so much.

But, in these comforting traditions, Jesus is speaking to us anew. We have the opportunity, if we listen, to hear the story in a

We all have books, albums, TV shows, and movies that we return to over and over and over. There is something comforting about a familiar story or song. But we also find when we return to them again and again, that we discover something new each time—something new about the story or something new about ourselves. (Except for The ABCs—there isn't much nuance in the ABCs.)

new light, for a new time and a new place.

As we enter into the season of Advent, we prepare to visit a favorite old story. We sing our favorite old songs. We get

Take some time in this busy season to slow down. Set aside some time each day to sit in silence. Plan to come to church and walk the labyrinth. Read an advent devotional each day. Try to invite someone new into your traditions. And in all of this, listen for the story again. God is still speaking to us today, what does the story hold for you and for the world this year?

### WINTER-FEST / FEB. 7-9, 2020

It is time to think about our Winter Retreat. This year we are planning to go to Big Rapids for Winter Fest. WooHoo. The event is Feb 7-9. We will be spending time with other youth groups, worshiping together and Skiing/snowboarding together! If you don't ski or snowboard, don't worry--I don't either, but they have lessons available and it will be an incredible experience!

**If you are interested in attending Winter Fest, please let Pastor Paul know before DECEMBER 22.** There are limited spots and I want to get our deposit in early!

### YOUTH@FIRST DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 1	No Meeting
December 8	Lesson Night at FPC
December 15	Lesson Night at FPC
December 22	Christmas Party at Paul's House 14081 Pheasant Run, Holland





Lori Klinesteker

Children's  
Ministry Leader

## WORSHIP CENTER: Keeping in Touch

**Expectations and anticipations....**who will you be spending Christmas with? Do you know, or might there be a surprise visitor? In November, in two of our centers, King David of Israel appeared in third person, to share the story of growing up and being anointed King. Celebrants and children, wonder and explore, worship together, and build relationships... truly a gift for all.

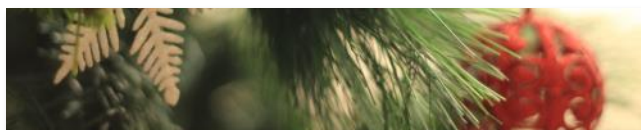
Worship Center children are sharing their love and resources by providing six new winter coats for friends in need with their offering. Children's Advocacy Center will distribute their gifts.



We have received two unexpected gifts from families this past month. Like the star over Bethlehem, we have spotlights that beam a single light over the Story in the WC; we are so grateful to you for making this gift of light possible. A second unexpected gift will enhance the Book Nook with new cushions and books; your thoughtfulness is appreciated as well.

May this season of Advent be filled with anticipation and wonder,.  
~ Lori Klinesteker

Above photo:  
Parents' Day Out - Friends' Day In.  
Below photo:  
Sharing our love with others.

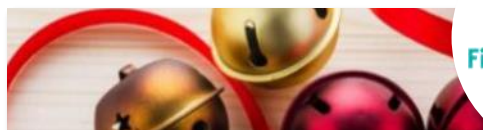


### SESSION UPDATE

Learning together - Continuing our book study *"Growing Young"* by Kara Powell. This month's chapter was Fuel a Warm Community - Warm is the New Cool.

Preparing for the preliminary budget to be received in December.

Planning for the celebration of the completion of *A Place for All*.



### JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE

**The First Presbyterian Preschool** is holding its annual fundraiser The Jingle Bell Jamboree, on the morning of December 7th at the DeGraaf Nature Center, 9:30-11:30a. We would like to invite the church membership to attend if they so desire, and to support the event by purchasing a ticket for either themselves or one of our scholarship families that may not be able to attend otherwise. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

# Presbyterian Women



## **DECEMBER CIRCLE GATHERINGS**

*Welcome new members!*

### **MIRIAM CIRCLE** - December 11 at 9:30a

Study Leader is Bev Plagenhoef

Study presenter is Linda Gebben

Hostess is Lynette VanOss

### **HANNAH CIRCLE** - December 12 at 1:30p

Study Leader is Jauanna Jackson

Study presenter is Jauanna Jackson

Hostess is Mary Ann McBeth

Study presenters will meet with Pastor Linda on December 4 to preview Lesson #4.

Our byword for PW over the past year of church construction has been FLEXIBILITY. We have moved around, held events upstairs, and kept in touch with each other through lives in times of personal transitions like surgeries, moves, travel, loss of family, loss of a circle member, or celebrating new grandchildren. Finding personal joy in these times together is what makes us strong in our faith-keeping.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** **December 4 at 11:30a**

On Wednesday December 4 at 11:30a our PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will come together for our Christmas Luncheon. This is when we bring our gifts of new unwrapped underwear items for women and children to use as clients of Resilience (CWIT) when they must flee their homes due to domestic violence. This is an important local mission of our PW. We will be in the narthex. The PW Coordinating Team will supply homemade soups, jello salads, bread from DeBoer's, and since Jauanna said we need a great cake, we will find that, too! There is no ticket cost, but please RSVP in the narthex.

For our fun we have declared a "no-spending limit" on bringing a treasure (think white elephant) from our own lives to wrap and give away. If there is a great story to share about the item, that will be even better! So bring the new underwear and a gift to share!

## SMALL GROUP LEADERS

### **CHOIR & MUSICIANS**

Chuck Norris

charlesenorris@gmail.com

### **DINNER & THEATRE GROUP**

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### **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



## WINTER HAT & MITTEN COLLECTION / December

As we 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.



## PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON / December 4 @ 11:30a

Our Christmas luncheon will be Wednesday December 4. 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](mailto:Mickey.harrisbc@yahoo.com).



## SENIOR CHRISTMAS BRUNCH / December 7 @ 10:30a

A brunch will be held on Saturday, December 7, 10:30a - noon, for senior members of First Presbyterian Church. Plan to join us and enjoy delicious food, fellowship, and live entertainment! Sign up in the M&M Cafe or by contacting the church office, 616. 392.9022 or email [office@fpcholland.org](mailto:office@fpcholland.org). Have a question? Contact Nancy Kreple 616.510.1241



## 2ND FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES / December 13 @ 7p

Friday night feature, *The King*; 2h 20m. The King is about a road trip across America in the Rolls Royce once owned by Elvis. It is mostly about a swatch of American culture that spanned the time of Elvis' life. Now, I know that does not sound appealing to most of you but I hope you give it a chance. It is actually better than the words that I can conjure up to describe it. Netflix review: Wayward Prince Hal must turn from carouser to warrior king as he faces hostilities from inside and outside the castle walls in the battle for England.

## FPC CHOIR & WINDMILL CHORUS / December 15 @ 4p

Enjoy this free concert put on by our very own FPC Choir and





# SAVE THE DATE 2020



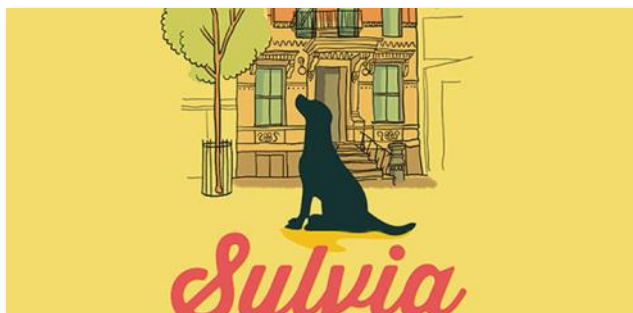
## BLANKET COLLECTION / Month of January

Help keep Holland warm! There are many members of our Holland community who need help to keep warm this winter. During the month of January, Outreach Council is collecting blankets for distribution to those who need them. A large green collection box will be in the M & M Café for donations. Please help fill the box. Blankets will be distributed with the cooperation of Community Action House.



## LOVE & LOGIC PARENTING CLASS / Jan. 20- Feb. 20

6-7 pm in the Fellowship hall / Cost is free / Childcare is provided. Raise happy and well-behaved kids with positive, loving tools. The Love and Logic approach to parenting is built around the science of caring and respectful relationships. An authentic, loving connection between parents and their children forms the foundation of good behavior and healthy decision-making.



## HOLLAND CIVIC THEATRE OUTING / February 1 @7:30p

Theatre outing at HCT to see SYLVIA. Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan from the suburbs and he brings home a dog he found in the park—or that has found him—bearing only the name “Sylvia” on her name tag. She offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. To Kate, Sylvia becomes a rival for affection. After a series of hilarious and touching complications, Greg and Kate learn to compromise, and Sylvia becomes a valued part of their lives. Tickets are \$13. Optional



## YOUTH WINTER FEST / February 7-9

This year we are planning to go to Big Rapids for Winter Fest. WooHoo. We will be spending time with other youth groups, worshipping together, and Skiing/snowboarding together! **If you are interested in attending Winter Fest, please let Pastor Paul know before DECEMBER 22.** Space is limited.



## ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT / February 21-23

The annual **Women's Retreat** will be held at the Geneva Camp and Conference center. Our retreat leader 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. Registration deadline is February 7. Informational brochures with registration form are available in the Narthex or on our website: [www.fpcholland.org/calendar](http://www.fpcholland.org/calendar).



## Outreach Committee Update

The Children's Advocacy Center is another one of our partner organizations supported by our Outreach dollars. They are a multi-disciplinary team comprised of representatives from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health committed to a collaborative approach to child abuse investigations and intervention. Their goal is to provide support services for child victims and their families which will enable them to heal emotionally and physically.

This past year survivors came forward and were served by the CAC.

478 children had a Forensic Interview.

100 children had a Forensic Medical Exam.

The clinical team held therapy sessions for 1,506 children and caregivers. The CAC also hosted 189 individuals in group sessions and provided Family Advocacy for 381 children and families.

They have also expanded their Prevention Education to serve K-5th grade (formally only 1st and 3rd grades) going from 8,000 students to 15,000 students in Ottawa County Schools.

CAC is always in need of items to restock their "store" where victims and their families are able to choose things they need. In November we did a new coat drive

and we thank you for your generosity. In addition, they are in desperate need of winter boots, snow pants, hats, and mittens. They are also requesting utensils, sponges, plates, cups, dish towels, cleaning and laundry items. These items can be dropped off at the center at anytime and given to the receptionist.

When asked about volunteer options, this was their response. "We have numerous opportunities to volunteer and become engaged in our work using your time and talent: [www.cac-ottawa.org/volunteer](http://www.cac-ottawa.org/volunteer). We appreciate our volunteers who work alongside of us every day! Whether this is through conversations with friends or weekly volunteering, we appreciate all the efforts taken to advocate for the Center. Thank you for all you do and for being a part of our community. Your support makes a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve."

As a partner organization, CAC is given some financial support, but we also encourage you to drop off items needed for their store and to consider volunteering at this wonderful asset to our community.





# Our Book of Possibilities

The annual stewardship campaign period is now complete and while we continue to receive additional input we can now report some preliminary results for the various aspects of the campaign:

## **Financial Planning – FPC gives generously**

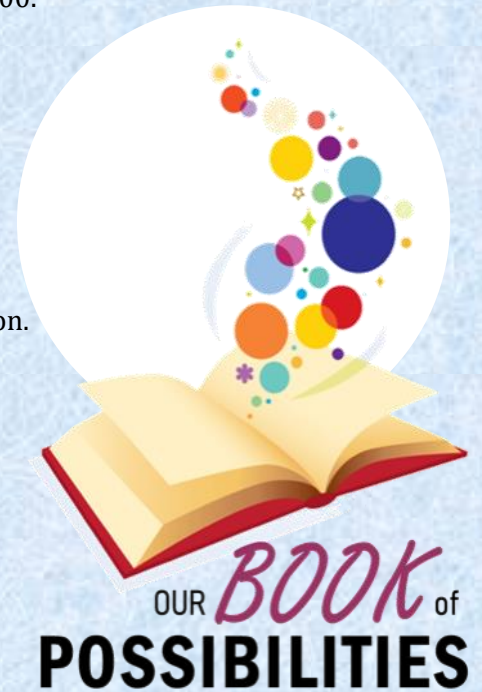
- To date 108 pledges have been received totaling commitments of \$327,000.
- Session will be developing the budget for 2020 in the coming weeks.
- Additional pledges can be submitted or mailed to the church office.
- Final results will be reported in the Annual Report

## **The Book of Possibilities – ideas big and small**

- To date 65 postings have been made to the “Big Book.”
- The submitted ideas have been recorded and will be distributed to Session.
- Additional ideas can be submitted to the church office and the “Book” will be updated.
- A full listing of all submitted possibilities will be published for all to see.

## **Service – in the church, local community, and beyond**

- Very early results include 45 service forms totaling 1,652 hours.
- Additional service forms can be submitted to the church office.
- Final results will be reported in the Annual Report



Save  
the Date

Water  
for Life

## Annual Women's Retreat

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. Registration deadline is February 7. Informational brochures with registration

form are available in the Narthex. You can also register online by visiting our website: [www.fpcholland.org/calendar](http://www.fpcholland.org/calendar).



## CONNECT TOGETHER

***Below are a handful of Adult Enrichment Opportunities at FPC.***

### **MEN'S BOOK GROUP**

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month @ 7p in M&M Café  
Contact: Larry Lynn [oldrun09@gmail.com](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com)

**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 **December 13 and 27**  
Each month a different subject is discussed.  
Contact: David Ford [davidford56@comcast.net](mailto:davidford56@comcast.net)

### **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month @ 2p in the M&M Café  
Bev Plagenhoef [rvplagen@live.com](mailto:rvplagen@live.com) 616.335.3942  
**Meets December 8 / December Book:** *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg.  
**Meets January 12 / January Book:** *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

### **WOMEN — MIRIAM CIRCLE**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 9:30a in the Michigan room  
Bev Plagenhoef [rvplagen@live.com](mailto:rvplagen@live.com) 616.335.3942  
**Meets Wednesday, December 11**

### **WOMEN — HANNAH CIRCLE**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month @ 1:30p in the Michigan room  
Contact: Peggy Purdy [pfpreads1480@gmail.com](mailto:pfpreads1480@gmail.com) 201.910.4555  
**Meets Thursday, December 12**

### **ADULT MID-TIME**

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

### **BELL CHOIR**

Meets every Wednesday @ 6:15p in M&M Café.

### **ADULT CHOIR**

Chuck Norris (director) [charlesenorris@gmail.com](mailto:charlesenorris@gmail.com)  
Meets every Wednesday @ 7p in the sanctuary.

### **YOGA**

Gwen Boeve [ghekman@gmail.com](mailto: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!

### **YOUNG FAMILIES**

Chris Urbaniak [cmurbaniak@comcast.net](mailto:cmurbaniak@comcast.net) 616.836.9293  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at various times/places - notified by email

### **DINNER & THEATRE GROUP**

Chris Urbaniak [cmurbaniak@comcast.net](mailto:cmurbaniak@comcast.net) 616.836.9293  
October, February, April

### **DINNERS FOR 7**

Chris Urbaniak [cmurbaniak@comcast.net](mailto:cmurbaniak@comcast.net) 616.836.9293  
November, March  
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.



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