

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2020

Great Adventure of Faith

A Place for All: God's intention in the Kingdom of God
and Jesus' example

A Place for All: Our welcoming practice at FPC

A Place for All: The theme for our building renovation at
First Presbyterian Church

Our church has been on a great adventure of faith over the past year as we further express our values and live into becoming an even more welcoming, accessible, and safe place for ALL.

Our renovation project is one part of this calling; the building of our ministries within and beyond the church structure itself continues.

To mark this season of our Place for All journey, you are invited to a weekend of celebration!

- **Saturday January 4th** from 2-4p featuring an open house, guided tours, ribbon cutting festivities, music, and refreshments
- **Sunday January 5th** ONE 10a worship service thanking God for its completion and rededicating the building to the service and glory of God. A catered celebratory meal will follow in the Lower Level Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

This is a significant moment in Life@First, and we are eager for all who share special fondness, past or present, for the First Presbyterian Church building and its people to join us for these festivities. ***Come celebrate!***

ON THE COVER

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Come and celebrate!

Come and worship!

Come and share in Life@First.

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Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

After Bricks and Mortar

"Without a vision the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

We are alive and flourishing: A vision has come to fruition!

- In 2014, an unformed idea for building improvements became a goal of the Strategic Plan.
- In 2016, Session appointed a Building Project exploratory team.
- In 2017, Session contracted with architectural firm Cornerstone Architects and at the end of that year presented plans to the congregation.
- In early 2018, Session authorized a Capital campaign and contracted with consultant John Laster of Horizons Stewardship.
- In late 2018, with pledges for 1.1 million dollars in hand, ***A Place for All*** was authorized.
- In March 2019, with Cornerstone architects and Lakewood construction on board, we broke ground.

On January 4-5 we celebrate a vision which Session, staff, and all of you believed would augment First Presbyterian Church's ability to do God's work in worship, outreach, and fellowship. The full-size elevator will serve those for whom stairs are a challenge; the renovated and consolidated children in worship areas say "you're important" to our youngsters; the ramp in the sanctuary serves worship leaders and choir members unable to safely maneuver stairs; an expanded narthex area offers both added space and a safer entrance during wet and icy weather; a gender-neutral restroom offers a shower and washer/dryer. And more! Attention to natural light, fresh furnishings, and carpet. And for spiritual practice and contemplation, a labyrinth designed right into the carpet in the Fellowship Hall.

But... the project was never only about bricks and mortar. If we believe the Spirit of God is calling us to be a vibrant, fresh Place for All, there is another sort of building we must do: building our church community through new visitors and members; creating intergenerational ministries as well as events for specific stages and ages; strengthening our care for one another through illness and loss; continuing our emphasis on strong, creative, world relevant worship; reaching out to those who need the people and the spaces of First Presbyterian Church. This is not just the ministry of staff or Session. It's work for us all. *Continued on page 2.*



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Love and Logic

Parenting with Love and Logic
One of the best villains in all of cinema and literature (in my opinion) is The Trunchbull from Roald Dahl's Matilda. The Trunchbull is the headmistress of the school that Matilda attends and she is a true terror for the kids. She hammers, throws a girl by her pigtails, she has a narrow closet lined with glass and nails called the Chokey to put misbehaving kids in, and every kid in the school is afraid of her.

The Trunchbull has a discipline ethic that she sums up in a phrase: "Use the rod, beats the child, that is my motto." It is a horrible way of treating children and it makes for a deviously good villain.

Does the Trunchbull's motto sound familiar to you? It is very close to an old saying "spare the rod, spoil the child" which finds its roots in a verse in Proverbs 13: "Whoever spares the rod hates their children. But the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them."

So, the worst villain (in my opinion) is using a variation of a Bible verse as her motto. The Bible verse suggests using a rod if you love your children. Maybe you spanked your kids, maybe you didn't, but either way, taking parenting advice from the Bible is confusing and sometimes problematic.

All of this is to say that parents often feel lost when they are trying to raise their kids. Where do you turn for advice? How do you piece together an ethic for parenting that raises your kids well? How do you discipline your kids so they grow to be independent and strong adults? Parenting techniques and ideas are ever-evolving and



parents have a hard time keeping up with what is best for their kids.

This is what Shanna and I are teaching a parenting class this winter. No one is an expert on parenting (we certainly aren't!), but we think that having honest and open conversations about parenting and sharing tips and techniques can help us to all be

better, more loving parents. Our hope is to engage in conversation with parents from the church and from the preschool and together to develop some parenting strategies that help us to love our kids well and to raise them to be independent and thriving adults.

The class will run on Monday nights from 6-7p on January 20-February 24th. Childcare is provided and the class is free. If you are interested, sign up online or look for a sign up between services in early January! We hope to see you there!



YOUTH@FIRST JANUARY SCHEDULE

- Jan 5 - We do not meet.
- Jan 12 - Welcome back party and art night.
- Jan 19 - Lesson night.
- Jan 26 - Lesson night.
- Feb 2 - Super Bowl Party!



Lori Klienesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping in Touch

Our kids all gathered together during the last part of Worship Center on December 22 to celebrate Christmas, we decorated (and ate) Christmas cookies and were invited to choose a new book as a gift. We resume Worship Center on January 12.



We purchased a copy of each book for the Book Nook as well. Six of the new titles available are: Whoever You Are by Mem Fox. "Little one, whoever you are, where ever you are, there are little ones all over the world just like you."

Explores differences along with the commonalities that make us all human. They All Saw a Cat by Brendan Wenzel. Explores how perspective shapes what we see. The text is a repeated pattern, the illustrations make the meaning. Mr. Peabody's s Apples by Madonna. Life lesson about the power of gossip. A Day's Work by Eve Bunting. An immigrant and his grandson take a day laborer job gardening. Told with sensitivity and with lessons about honesty and integrity. One by Kathryn Otoshi. Budding young readers learn about accepting eachother's differences and how it sometimes just takes one voice to make everyone count. Miracle on 49th Street by Mike Lupica. With sports emphasis, the book dives into big, deep questions about human nature and the human condition. Kudos to Amy VanderMeer for

doing an **amazing** job on the selection of books. For the balance of January, Worship Center will be centering on stories of: (PreK-K) The Magi, Jesus Boy in the Temple, Baptism of Jesus; (1 st & 2nd) Baptism and Temptation, Jesus Blessing the Children, Zacchaeus; (3 rd – 5 th) Healing the Paralyzed Man, Jesus and the Money Changers, along with The Way of Jesus. I invite you to share with the children, your memories and what meaning these stories had for you, as you were growing up.



Experiencing with the Children
as we follow Christ's Light,
~ Lori Klienesteker

SESSION UPDATE

Received preliminary 2020 budget for review; to be finalized in January.

Celebrated the joining of New Members on December 15.

Encouraging all aspects of FPC to embrace "How Can Youth - Younger Adults Be Part of This?"

Presbyterian Women



MIRIAM CIRCLE - January 8 at 9:30a

Study leader - Bev Plagenhoef
Study presenter - Jan Van Faasen
Hostess - Mary Bennett

HANNAH CIRCLE - January 9 at 1:30p

Study leader - Jauanna Jackson
Study presenter - Mickey Harris
Hostess - MaryAnn McBeth

The frozen months of January and February will find the Miriam and Hannah Circles diving into some heavy thoughts from Exodus 20:13-14, part of the Ten Commandments. Studying from the Bible about murder and adultery may seem challenging, but Rev. Eugenia Gamble's take on the 10 Commandments from LOVE CARVED IN STONE has generated some good discussion so far on Commandments 1 through 5. Negotiating the honoring of life and deep and faithful relationships will be interesting discussions. All women are welcome to attend.

The early December PW Christmas Luncheon was in the narthex, with the building subcontractors busily circling around us. Our simple meal was an opportunity to bring new, unwrapped underwear for families served by Resilience when they must flee an abusive situation. Women and their children often must leave with very little, so our gifts help to provide the "basics". We exchanged White Elephant gifts with the rule that no money could be spent. If laughter is the best medicine, we certainly left feeling better. Linda Gebben brought her harmonica and played Jingle Bells, and it was the perfect final note.

Begin to look for the Tulip Time Information Booth signup in early April. Tulip Time is May 2-10. Our new assignment to the 8 th Street location was busy and fun, especially during the parades. If you don't have a costume we have the hats and red scarfs for the men's costume right in the booth, to wear with a blue shirt and dark pants. We hope to commission a couple larger black vests to complete the "look". It's a great location and our stipend from TT, Inc. goes to our Presbyterian Preschool for its needs.

Looking ahead to February:

MIRIAM CIRCLE - February 12 at 9:30a

Study leader - Bev Plagenhoef
Study presenter - Jean Williams
Hostess - Aline Miller

HANNAH CIRCLE - February 13 at 1:30p

Study leader - Jauanna Jackson
Study presenter -
Hostess - Nancy West

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

online:

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

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WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

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jauannaj@yahoo.com
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YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com
616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Cassie Kregger
Cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com
616.298.4164

SAVE THE DATE



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.



January 4 & 5 > Church Building Rededication

- **Saturday January 4th from 2-4p** featuring an open house, guided tours, ribbon cutting festivities, music, and refreshments.
- **Sunday January 5th ONE 10a worship service** thanking God for its completion and rededicating the building to the service and glory of God. A catered celebratory meal will follow in the Lower Level Fellowship Hall following the worship service.



Early January > Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University

9 session, evening based class based on Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University program. Classroom facilitators, Don Cowie and Bill Haines. Stay tuned for more details! If you can't attend this session, the class will be repeated in the future.



January 10 > Second Friday Night Film Series

Now showing: *Frantz*. French with subtitles. After WW1, a bereaved fiancé sees a stranger by the grave of her beloved. The story unfolds from there.



January 19 @ 12 noon > Next Steps / Belonging Class

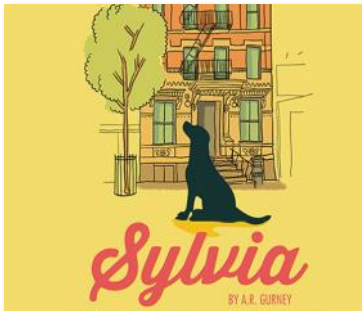
Have you ever wondered what it means to become a member of a church? Are you feeling called at this time to a deeper sense of belonging here at FPC? Please join us Sunday, January 19 at 12 noon for the first part of a two part series in our *new* **Next Steps** series of classes. This particular class 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.

SAVE THE DATE



Jan 20 - Feb 20 > Love and Logic Parenting Class

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. 6-7p in the Fellowship hall / Cost is free / Childcare is provided. Sign-up in the Narthex or online at; www.fpcholland.org.



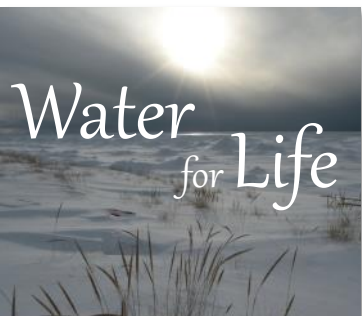
Feb 1 > Holland Civic Theatre Outing

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. **Show begins at 7:30p. Optional dinner at the Curragh at 5:30p. Sign-up in the M&M Café.**



Feb 7-9 > Youth Winter Fest

This year we are planning to go to Big Rapids for Winter Fest. **WooHoo!** We will be spending time with other youth groups, worshiping together, and Skiing/snowboarding together! Talk with Pastor Paul if you have questions, or are interested in going.



Feb 21-23 > Annual Women's Retreat

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 Feb. 7.** Informational brochures with registration form are available in the Narthex or on our website: www.fpcholland.org/calendar.



Kids' Food Basket

Outreach Committee Up- date



Kids' Food Basket delivers an evening meal, a Sack Supper, each weekday to elementary children (ages 3-12), who experience hunger. Every child served attends a school where, on average,

70% or more of the student population receives free or reduced cost breakfast and lunch. For 17 years, we have grown from serving 125 children at two schools in Kent County to now serving approximately 8,800 children at 52 schools in Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa and Allegan counties.

Poverty is complex, but feeding a child is not. As chief hosts of this important work, we are only able to maximize our impact when we're truly connected to community. Volunteers fuel our mission daily; they sustain the activities of our organization by preparing, packing and delivering the meals. Each day, 30 volunteers come into our Ottawa & Allegan county location to serve over 1,000 kids. We engage individuals, families, organizations and businesses with their time, talent, and treasure. We are truly grateful to have First Presbyterian Church as one of our partners in this important mission.

After Bricks and Mortar *continued from page 2*

God needs our gifts of availability, creativity, and humanity to guide us in becoming truly A Place for All, not just a slogan.

So as we rededicate our building on January 4-5, commit yourself to talking about First Presbyterian Church with a friend — share us on Facebook, post a photograph on Instagram, write an email, or do it the old fashioned way



Where In the World?

Bruce Blitch. Bruce is currently living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He would love to stay connected with First Presbyterian Church. His information is updated in Servant Keeper and will be updated in the next directory.

Linda and Alan Avery relocated to southern California to be closer to their family and welcomed a new grandson, Ellis Arthur, who was born on Halloween. Linda says he was "the best treat ever." They would love to hear from their church family here at First Presbyterian Church and their contact information can be found in the most recent print of the directory or in Servant Keeper.

Nelson and Jan Zwaanstra have moved to North Carolina (to be closer to family) Their most recent contact information is current in Servant Keeper and will be correctly listed in the next printed directory.

We are excited to welcome back Nancy and Tim Stahl as they return from traveling the world and settle back into our community. We also celebrate that Kurt and Carleen Bauer along with their daughter and son in law are again attending here at FPC.

If those names are not familiar to you, please pause in your coming and going on Sunday mornings and introduce yourself. We are all so grateful for growing and changing times and all of those connections that glorify God and last a lifetime.

and talk up your church home with someone in the grocery line. And then keep yourself open to where you are being called to serve in this Place for All.

Together, we'll have an exciting year in living into our new spaces and watching for how the Spirit of God is directing us!

~ Linda



FPC Volunteer Service Survey Results

THANK YOU to FPC VOLUNTEERS for your service at FPC and in the larger Holland Community. Your volunteer service covered a four week survey period from October 20 to November 16, 2019. The results of the FPC volunteer service survey are listed below.

- Survey forms collected – 50
- Number of volunteer respondents – 60
(10 survey forms contained responses from 2 volunteers)
- Total volunteer hours – 1,756 hours
- Average number of hours per volunteer – 29 hours

Categories of Volunteer Service

Total Service Hours

FPC Volunteer Service (48 of 60 volunteered time at FPC)	821 Hours
FPC Outreach Service to affiliated agencies	217 Hours
Service to Holland Area organizations and groups	337 Hours
Neighborhood Service	81 Hours
Private Volunteer Service	300 Hours
Total Volunteer Service Hours by FPC Members	1,756 Hours

Thank
you

We had a generous response to our requests for coats for CAH. We delivered 36 new coats to a very appreciative staff.

A heart-felt thank you to all who contributed!



Annual Women's Retreat

The annual ***Women's Retreat*** will be held **February 21- 23**, 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.





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 olddrun09@gmail.com

Meets January 6 - January Book: *Barnum: An American Life* by Roger Wilson.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets every other Friday @ 7:30a in the M&M Café
Meets **January 10 and 24**.
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 January 12 / January Book: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

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, January 8

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, January 9

ADULT MID-TIME

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

ADULT CHOIR

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

YOGA

Gwen Boeve ghekman@gmail.com 616.502.4642
Meets every Tuesday @ 9a - location TBD
Session runs for 16 weeks, starting the second week of January. New students always welcome!

YOUNG FAMILIES

Cassie Kregger cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com,
616.298.4164
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.

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..*