

# presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2020



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Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

## Lent

I grew up in a mostly Roman Catholic community in northern New Jersey where at the beginning of Lent, even in my elementary class, Ash Wednesday brought the question "What are you giving up for Lent?"

In my childhood Presbyterian church, we didn't even use ashes for Ash Wednesday, and the idea of giving up something for Lent was downright peculiar. As an adult, I've experimented with giving something up. Chocolate one year. (I failed miserably.) The Lent without wine was more successful!

The practice began as part of the Great Fast or Lenten Fast. Originally this was about food: an empty stomach would serve as a reminder of a parallel spiritual hunger which is filled by communion with Christ. This suffering would also serve as a way to remember and identify with Christ's suffering on the cross. For some Christians, this serves to strengthen their relationship with God. Others find it odd. How could giving up chocolate impact my spiritual life? On the other hand, fasting from gossiping, selfishness, buying what you don't need, and mindless or hateful ranting on social media— these make the world a better place.

A more Protestant interpretation of Lenten practice has been to take something on, often a spiritual discipline: meditation, prayer, Bible study, mission service. This makes more spiritual sense

to me. Using these pre-Easter days as kick-starting a more Christ-like life has merit. More regular worship attendance is a common "add-on" during these weeks. Or say "I love you" to one person every day. Or thank one person every day for being in your life. Follow the recommendation of St. John Chrysostom "No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time



*Continued on the top of page 9*





Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

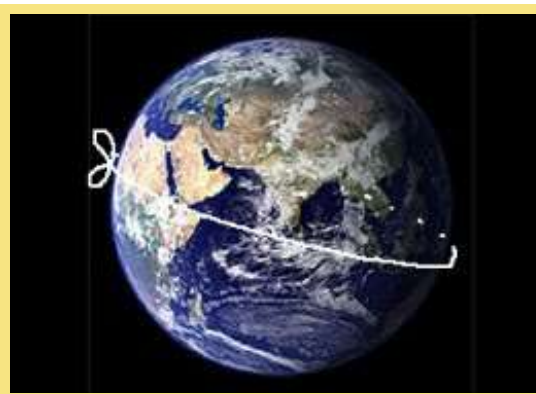
## A Math Problem

A couple of the youth at FPC are lovers of math. Maybe you are too. If you aren't, I promise there is a point to talking about math.

Anyway, here's a math problem for you: Imagine you stretched a rope tightly around the earth, so it was hugging the surface all the way around. You would need a rope 40,075 km long—or a few to tie together...) Now imagine you wanted to raise that rope one meter off the ground all the way around the earth. How many extra meters will you need to add to the rope so it wraps around the earth 1 meter off the ground?

Do you have your guess? It seems like you would need miles and miles of rope, right?

Actually, if you do the math, you'll find the answer is only 6.28 meters of rope. (Circumference and radius are proportional, so if you add 1 meter to the radius, you add  $2\pi$  to the circumference—6.28 meters. I read about this in a great book called, What If?



That's crazy, isn't it!? It seems like such a small amount of additional rope to raise the whole thing off the ground all the way around the earth. This little math problem reminds us of how a small effort, a small change can have massive implications.

I encourage you this month, during lent, to think of the small changes you can make that will have a large impact. Who can you call this month? What acts of service can you engage in? What small things can you do in your life? What spiritual practices can you engage in? These small things might not seem like much, but they can have a huge impact in your life and in the life of those around you.



**YOUTH@FIRST  
MARCH SCHEDULE**

- March 1: Lesson night at Church
- March 8: Service Night
- March 15: Grandville Mall Scavenger Hunt
- March 22: Lesson night at Church
- March 29: Board Game night



Lori Klienesteker

Children's  
Ministry Leader

## Worship Centers: Keeping in Touch

During the Season of Lent through Eastertide, we invite you to experience the City of Jerusalem with the WC children as we live through the stories of Remembering Jesus: Riding on a Donkey; 30 Pieces of Silver; Last Supper; Arrest; Trial, Denial, Crucifixion; Empty Tomb;

Appearance to the Disciples, Appearance By the Sea; Great Commission, culminating with Ascension. Our Journey takes place each Sunday as the story continues to build each week. Worship Center / Midtime does not meet on April 5 (Spring Break) or April 12 (Easter Sunday).

Children's Time during Worship, Rev. Linda shared how special names were and how-to best honor and take care of them. (WC language – one of "The Ten Best Ways to Live") She then gave each child a large lace heart and stickers to decorate to show their love for God and Jesus. While decorating her heart, Nora shared that God's favorite color is blue and green for the sky and earth, and that together they make teal, her very favorite. The Good



Shepherd Parable came full circle for our 3rd /4th /5th grade WC kids on February 16. The story of The Good Shepherd and the Eucharist was presented with the sheep replaced with people representing many countries at Christ's Table. We then shared

the Agape Feast (Communion) together. The children present requested that we share this feast each month, "like they do in worship." Our children, your children, asking for communion to be shared together is truly a sign of the Good Shepherd being among us.

Sharing in Christ's Light,  
Lori Klienesteker



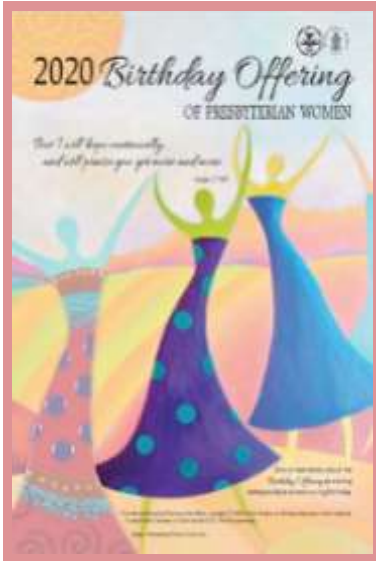
*Celebration time Valentines!*

# Presbyterian Women



**MIRIAM CIRCLE** - March 11 at 9:30a

**HANNAH CIRCLE** - March 12 at 1:30p



This lovely artwork announces opportunity to make a new Birthday Offering gift for your birthday. Anything from a penny per year on up! We will collect your gifts in September.

As Steve and I spend time away in the winter, I keep up with the study by joining a PW circle here at FPC Naples. Last week our circle was “host” for the monthly gathering, a luncheon with a special speaker or event. I can report that my “new” back kept me going for about 4 hours of helping with table settings,

delivering food to 13 tables, then helping with cleanup. We had 114 for a dinner-size lunch! The event of the day was a fashion show of items purchased for pennies on the dollar at the Options Store which supports the local shelter for abused women. Isn't it good to know that our efforts here in Holland to support Resilience are echoed across the country by PW in many congregations?

At PW Holland we also support our Presbyterian Preschool by helping Tulip Time with the 8th Street Info Booth. TT gives us \$1,000 that we give entirely to our own wonderful preschool for their use. We will begin in April to sign up for the week of Tulip Time in May. It was so much fun to be right downtown where the action is! We waved at tourists on the tours, saw our friends doing Dutch Dance, and enjoyed the parades. Parking was no problem. We already said an enthusiastic YES when they asked if we want that booth again! Join us and keep some time open for working in the booth.

## **GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

online: [PresbyterianWomen.org](http://PresbyterianWomen.org)

Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA)

## SMALL GROUP LEADERS

### **CHOIR & MUSICIANS**

Chuck Norris  
[charlesenorris@gmail.com](mailto:charlesenorris@gmail.com)

### **DINNER & THEATRE GROUP**

Chris Urbaniak  
[cmurbaniak@comcast.net](mailto:cmurbaniak@comcast.net)

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

Larry Lynn  
[oldrun09@gmail.com](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com)

### **MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**

Dave Ford  
[davidford56@comcast.net](mailto:davidford56@comcast.net)

### **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

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### **WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE**

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### **YOGA**

Gwen Boeve  
[ghekman@gmail.com](mailto:ghekman@gmail.com)  
616.502.4642

### **YOUNG FAMILIES**

Cassie Kregger  
[Cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com](mailto:Cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com)  
616.298.4164



# SAVE THE DATE



## March 8 > Deacon Sunday

At both services on Sunday, March 8, your deacons will be sharing how they serve the needs of our church family through the new system of Care Teams.



## March 13 > Second Friday Night Film Series

Now showing: ***What's Eating Gilbert Grape***. A dysfunctional family in small town Iowa mirrors the challenges and struggles of the entire town. A child has to function as the adult in this family with a mentally challenged teen, a chronically depressed mother, the hopelessness and decay of their house, and the changes coming to the town from the outside. A breath of air comes from a caravan of Airstream trailer travelers who pass through, one of them breaking down for a week and changing the life of the lead character. Johnny Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio, and others.



## March 22 > Young families event

Drop your kids off at church for lunch and childcare and join the adults for a lunch out *without kids*! Watch for more details and sign up in early March.



## April 25 > Holland Civic Theatre presents ***On Golden Pond***

Theatre outing at HCT to see ***On Golden Pond***. A love story of Ethel and Norman who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé who then go off to Europe leaving his teenage son behind for the summer. Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him. He also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness—and slang—in return. Time, they know, is now against them, but the years have been good and, perhaps, another summer on Golden Pond still awaits. Saturday, April 25 at 7:30p. Tickets are \$13. Optional dinner at the Curraugh at 5:30p. Sign-up in the M&M Café.

## March Midtime Schedule

- March 1 Scripture Deep Dive with Pastor Paul  
March 8 TBD  
March 15 Scripture Reading Practices with Barb Schreur  
March 22 Good Samaritan Presentation  
March 29 Scripture Deep Dive with Pastor Paul



## Keeping Our Community Warm, Thank you!

Between coats in November, hats/mittens/scarves in December, and now blankets in January, we have had a great response.

Twenty five blankets were collected and delivered to Community Action House during January. Thanks to all who contributed to our blanket collection.

~ Janet Hostetler



Thank  
you

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Holland friends,

As I get ready to return to Niger early March, I would like to thank you for the many cards and warm wishes I received around the time of my hip replacement surgery. They were very much appreciated! It has been good to be part of your church community during my time in Holland.

~ Marily Knieriemen





# Young Families Events at FPC

*Photo contributions by Helen Teutsch, Chris Urbaniak, Lori Klienesteker and Paul Van Kempen.*

## **JANUARY OUTING TO SQUARE PLAY**

in Washington Square, Holland.

We had a great time with 16 kids and 14 adults. 8 large pizzas and 60 breadsticks were enjoyed by all!



**FEBRUARY GET TOGETHER** of pizza and playtime in the Fellowship Hall.



**UPCOMING MARCH 22 GET TOGETHER**

Drop your kids off at church for lunch and childcare and join the adults for a lunch out without kids! Watch for more details and a sign up in early March.



## Deacon Care Team Sunday



At both services on Sunday, March 8, your deacons will be sharing how they serve the needs of our church family through the new system of Care Teams. Although it's true that deacons oversee each Care Team, we need your help! After each

service, the deacons will be in the M&M Café with sign-up sheets so that you can indicate your willingness to help out on the Care Team of your choice.

Being part of a Care Team isn't a big commitment. It just means that you'll be called on from time to time with the opportunity to help in a particular situation if you're able and available. Many of you are already serving on Care Teams for which we're very grateful. Many hands make light work!

**Comforters. Nourishers. Handy Workers. Transporters.**

## Lent ... *continued*

you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.'

None of these options resonate with your spiritual life? Try doing nothing. Yes, once a day, just sit. Turn off your phone. Don't read. Don't listen to music. Don't do yoga or meditate or write your grocery list. Just sit. Look at what's around you. Breathe it all in. Just be. Recall author Kurt Vonnegut's words "I am a human being, not a human doing."

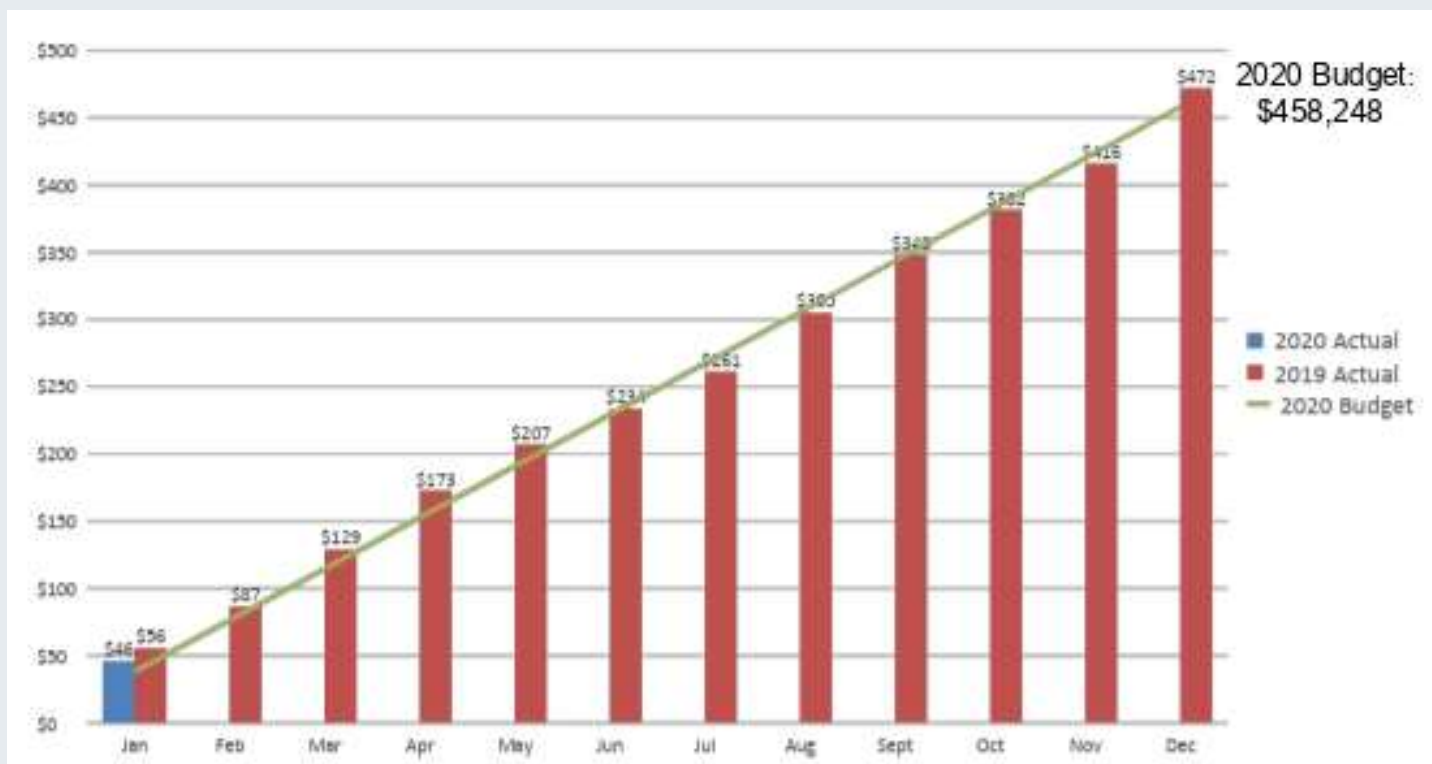
This Lent, practice being a human being. Now that's a good place to begin a spiritual life!

## FPC: Giving Revenue Update

### Year to Date Giving

Thousands of Dollars

Giving updates will be published on a monthly basis. Thank you for your financial gifts.





# 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 March 2 / March Book:** *I Heard You Paint Houses: Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran & Closing the Case on Jimmy Hoffa* by Charles Brandt.

## **MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**

Meets every other Friday @ 7:30a in the M&M Café

Meets **March 6 and 20.**

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 March 8 / March Book:** *Legacy of Mercy* by Susan Lynn Austin

## **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, March 11 at 9:30a**

## **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, March 12 at 1:30p**

## **ADULT MID-TIME**

Meets Sunday at 10a in the Michigan Room.

## **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, starting the second week of January. New students always welcome!

## **YOUNG FAMILIES**

Cassie Kregger [cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com](mailto:cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com),  
616.298.4164

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.

Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 7p in the Michigan Room. Meets January – May.

**March 13 showing: *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*.**



# Pray TOGETHER

Prayer requests are shared in the **Member Area** on the church website: [www.fpcholland.org/member-log-in](http://www.fpcholland.org/member-log-in). To maintain confidentiality, the Member Area, including the prayers, are password protected. The password is **Presby659**.

If you would like to submit a prayer request for publication on this list, please send it to [prayers@fpcholland.org](mailto:prayers@fpcholland.org). If you would like to share a confidential prayer request, please contact Rev. Linda at [lindak@fpcholland.org](mailto:lindak@fpcholland.org).

## IN PRAYERS

- Those struggling with new diagnoses and medical concerns.
- Those dealing with the loss of parents or grandparents.
- Erwin Gutsell as he heals from a fractured hip.
- Those afflicted with or recovering from addictions.
- Barb Scholten as she navigates respiratory concerns.
- Kristi Kiekenveld who continues to experience atrial fibrillation.
- Fred Wise Jr. as he recovers from esophageal surgery.

## HOSPICE CARE

- Ron Sisson at Resthaven
- Don Schreur at home (Barb Schreur's Father)
- Jim Oswald at Lakeside Vista
- Dave Cuthbertson at Heritage Skilled Nursing Home

## YOUTH@FIRST

- Pray for our young people as they mature, grow, and explore their identities.
- Pray for student drivers and their parents

## COMMUNITY / WORLD

- Pray for our Nation

## LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

Vern Gebben – Maplewood Cottages  
 Bonnie Jones – The Inn at Freedom Village  
 Mary Robertson – The Inn at Freedom Village  
 Dick Rosensteel – Freedom Village  
 Bev Cummings – Appledorn Living Center  
 Shirley Effken – Appledorn Living Center  
 Wiley Wilson – Appledorn Living Center South  
 Lois & Rusty Rust – Appledorn Living Center South  
 Cynthia Taylor – Life House  
 Lois Kane – Maplewood  
 Don Brower – Resthaven  
 Dolores Jacobusse – Resthaven

## FPC March Birthdays

March 01	Katherine Hoffswell Jo Ann Karn, Brett Roach
March 03	Jane Hamlin, Bev Plagenhoef
March 04	Bill Haines, Collin Magennis Jonathan McFadyen
March 05	Ken Harper, Carolyn Oswald
March 07	Sarah Anderson, Kurt VanHouzen
March 09	Linda Gebben, Don Williams Kathy Kreps, Jeff Rodgers
March 10	Berniece Harper, Martha Joynt
March 11	Dick Rosensteel
March 12	Barb Brassfield
March 13	Lois Rodgers
March 14	Elijah Kregger, Beth Rudick
March 15	Charles DeWaard, Ben Shumaker Eric Peterson
March 16	Amy VanderMeer
March 17	Meriem Elwell, Elaine Evenson
March 18	Jesse Rund-Scott
March 19	Jon Kreple
March 20	Jean Olney, Shawn Teegardin
March 21	Robert Chambers Daniel Hoffswell, Karen Yonker
March 23	Meri MacLeod, Bruce Rosensteel
March 24	Greg Klinesteker, Trina Ricketts
March 25	Lauren Roach
March 26	Dana Bauer, Matthew Converse
March 27	Carleen Bauer, Sandy Updegraff
March 31	Molly McCranner



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



## **YOUTH @FIRST**

Photos of  
the Super  
Bowl Party  
and  
Winterfest  
outing in  
Big Rapids.

