



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL 2020

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Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

A Letter from Linda

Good People at First,

I've been having a wonderful experience visiting with you — more than 30 at last count — on your porches, driveways, side yards, and on my own deck! Thank you for receiving me, and Paul, and sharing your lives with us during this Season of Covid 19 when we don't meet regularly on a Sunday morning.

An almost universal question at these visits has been, "When do you think we'll be back worshipping again?" It's hard to believe it's been more than 5 months since we've worshiped in the sanctuary! Your acceptance of virtual worship has surprised and delighted me. When I click on the same email link you do and observe how all the various parts and pieces come together, from individuals blended into a choir thanks to Acapella software, to peering into Paul's bag during Children's Time, to image-accompanied prayers, to a sermon preached in an empty sanctuary, I am struck by the ways God provides for us to still worship, to still be church for one another. But being together, looking each other in the eye, passing the peace, offering a hug, will always be my preference. When?

Last month in your quarterly giving statement, you received a copy of the Session's Phased Opening Plan, a six-phased plan based on the opening plan for the State of Michigan. We are in Phase 4 of this plan. We will return to in-person worship in the sanctuary when we reach Phase 6. When? That's up to how the virus behaves, how we continue to curb its spread, and how soon a vaccine becomes available.

It's going to be a while.

Yes, some churches have chosen to convene inside for worship regardless of the scientific and medical advice to avoid large inside gatherings. First Presbyterian Church chooses otherwise.

The Session, the staff, and I believe that "being neighbor" means taking responsibility not only for one's own disease prevention but also to protect our most vulnerable. We will not gather in person until it is as safe as possible for all, not just some.

Continued on page 7



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Swing of Things

Hi Youth! I am excited to get back into the swing of regular meetings this fall! To try to make this accessible and fun for all of us, we are going to be doing a split between in-person events and Zoom meetings.

Take a look at the schedule, mark your calendars, and get ready for a great fall!

Date	Event/activity	Location
Sept 13	Kick off	Lauren's House
Sept 20	Lesson Night—Relationships: Parents	Zoom
Sept 27	Game Night	Zoom
Oct 4	Lesson Night—Relationships: Friends	Zoom
Oct 11	Afternoon outing	Crane's Orchard
Oct 18	Lesson Night—Relationships: Enemies	Zoom
Oct 25	Lesson Night—Relationships: Boyfriend/ Girlfriend	Zoom
Nov 1	Halloween Bonfire	Location TBD
Nov 8	Lesson Night—Relationships: Siblings	Zoom
Nov 15	Lesson Night—Co-workers/Classmates	Zoom
Nov 22	Game Night	Zoom
Nov 29	No Meeting	
Dec 6	Movie Night—Virtually (using something like Netflix party or another service)	Virtual Application
Dec 13	Lesson Night—Relationships: Elders	Zoom meeting
Dec 20	Christmas Party	Probably Zoom (unless I come up with something creative)
Dec 27	No Meeting	



Lori Klienesteker

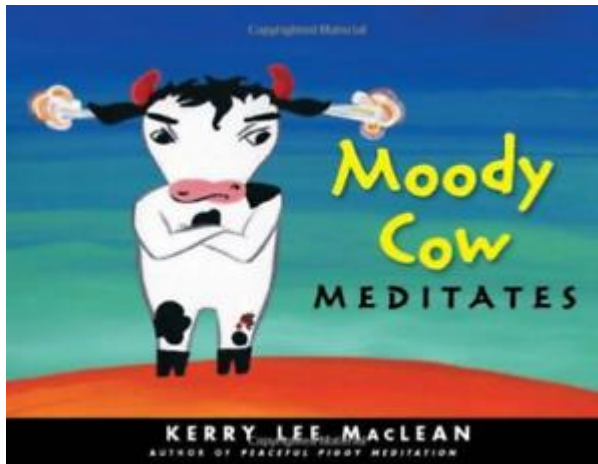
Children's
Ministry Leader

Glitter and Meteors

The book *Moody Cow Meditates* by Kerry Lee MacLean has a lot to say about feelings of anger, frustration and sadness. Moody Cow has a horrible day, including a bad dream, a fight with his sister, and a bicycle accident and lets his anger out by throwing his baseball through the window. His grandpa helps him learn to settle his thoughts and let go of his anger by making a Mind Jar (sort of like a snow globe with glitter inside) and teaching him to sit calmly, meditate, and let his thoughts settle like the glitter in the jar rather than letting his anger and worry get stirred up.

You can easily make your own Mind Jar at home:
<https://heartmindkids.com/how-to-make-a-glitter-jar-for-mindfulness/>

Many of us may be having Moody Cow days lately. We miss seeing people we love. Some of us have lost family members or friends and have felt lonely,



worried, or scared. We are getting used to new ways of learning and working, going to school or work online or trying to remember to keep masks on all day that keep slipping off our noses. Sometimes it might help to sit quietly and watch the glitter in Moody Cow's mind jar settle. Or go

outside and listen to the birds sing and the leaves rustle. Or look at the sky early in the morning before the sun comes up and try to see a meteor.

This Fall, although we may not see each other much in person, we will try to remind each other to stop and wonder, to sit quietly and let our anger and worry and fearful thoughts settle so that we can treat each other with kindness and love. Keep an eye out for Worship Center stories online on Sunday mornings, and keep sharing Christ's Light

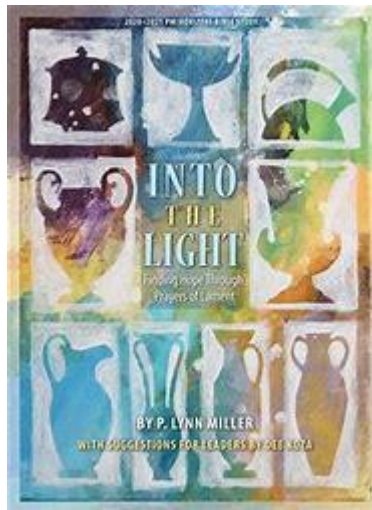
Please do keep in touch even while Lori Klienesteker is away on leave by contacting Lauren Stouffer at lauren.stouffer@gmail.com with any children's ministry needs.

Presbyterian Women

While the COVID-19 virus has made 2020 one bizarre year, our congregation has been able to continue with creative online worship. Our outdoor worship service at the Outdoor Discovery Center on August 2 was kind of amazing, since even with masks on, we could see the smiles in every eye at being in-person with each other after so long. It was a gift to offer our personal condolences to friends who just lost family members, and a delight to participate in the baptism of Ellarie VanKempen. We wanted to hug each other, but that was not safe.

Here is some beginning news for PW members: Bible Study for 2020-21 for our active PW Circles will begin in October. Study books are ordered and circle leaders will get them to you.

Three years ago, the Presbyterian Women, Inc. board selected the Bible study for 2020-21. "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" is an amazing act of great timing. Author Rev. Lynn Miller both wrote and illustrated this study, and it promises to be a helpful and thoughtful opportunity for study as we work through this time of dealing with a worldwide health pandemic. Our grief and sadness is a test of faith, but this will offer us a way to "reclaim the practice of lament to help us live faithfully in this in-between time, engaging the real world with our faith, and our faith with the real world."



We do not know exactly when it will be time to meet in our church building again, but we are planning to hold off on our first Circle meetings

until October. My term as PW Moderator ended in June, along with Jan VanFaasen, who has served us so well throughout many years. Jauanna Jackson has stepped down from leadership of the Hannah Circle. Sarah Glover's term as Program Coordinator has also ended. We appreciate and honor their gifts of leadership! Since PW was unable to meet for its June annual meeting, we offer the opportunity to form a small, interim leadership group until we can re-form as a PW Coordinating Team. A planning group will meet on September 3 at 10 AM, at my home, masked and socially distant. If you are interested, please join us.

Our Miriam and Hannah Circle groups are a friendly and supportive way to engage in Bible Study, share our lives with each other, and look out for our members dealing with health issues, loss of family, downsizing, and the trials that challenge us. Miriam Circle leader Bev Plagenhoef calls theirs a support group, and many do not use computers, email, or ZOOM. It is a very personal small group ministry! Our Hannah Circle has lost friends unexpectedly in the last year, and I will take on its leadership as we begin, with hope that a partner will lead when I am away for the winter. We might be more tech-oriented, but our friendship circle is a gracious presence in all our lives.

Join us for this year's lovely and creative look at the Biblical forms of Lament! Details to come!

Janet Magennis,
Past Moderator

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

online: PresbyterianWomen.org / Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA)

A Letter from Linda ... continued

Last week, I received a communication from the Presbytery of Lake Michigan's Leadership Team recommending that its congregations not worship in person within their buildings prior to December 31, 2020. That full letter can be found on our church website at fpcholland.org. Your Session and our Presbytery share the same wisdom.

In the meantime, we will:

- > plan outside worship services the first Sunday of the month as long as weather permits, definitely September 6 and possibly October 4

- > continue our YouTube based worship

- > provide opportunities for connection in creative ways; (look for the church bus in your neighborhood soon!)

- > introduce new opportunities for Bible Studies, both on Sunday morning and Monday evening

- > encourage you to meet up with one another on the Preschool playground (when they are not in session) using the chairs the Deacons have provided for this purpose.

I hear rumors of a ukulele band. Stay tuned!

Creative. Flexible. Resilient. These are traits we are nurturing as a church family. What ideas do you have? How can we continue to be not only a worshiping community but a people in community together, supporting, loving, caring for one another?

I have a suggestion. Let's change the conversation. Instead of asking "when are we getting back to worship," let's remind ourselves that we have been worshipping every week since Covid 19 became part of our vocabulary. Let's talk with one another about what our experiences as members or friends of First Pres have been in these past 5 months. What has delighted you?

What have you learned about what church means to you? What God means to you? What you've discovered about yourself because of the changes we are living through? There just may be some things we won't want to lose when this pandemic comes to an end!

~ Linda



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Deacons have recently purchased four outdoor chairs and placed them in a shady spot within the pre-school playground enclosure. We would like to encourage church folk to use them for safe visiting.

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Bill Haines reports Escape Ministries is accepting soda can donations. Escape Ministries asks that any visitor to their building wear a mask. Please contact Escape Ministries at 616.396.4481 with any questions and for donations hours.

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Would you like to volunteer with Community Action House? Megan Maas, Director of Community Engagement is looking to schedule some regular Friday volunteers to help with food box distribution. She is looking for volunteers to help pack boxes at our warehouse site.

Check out volunteer opportunities on their website: www.communityactionhouse.org/standtogether

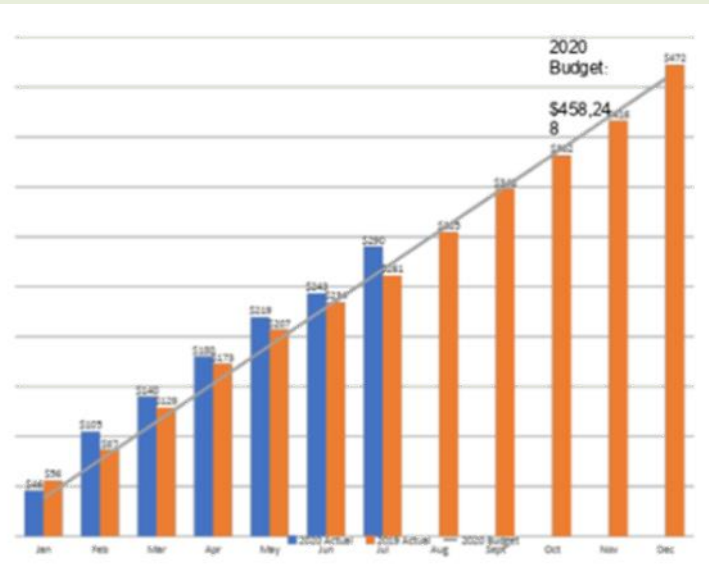
Questions? Please call Megan Maas, 616.392.2368 X109. Thanks so much for your continued support!

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For any Children's Ministry needs or questions while Lori Klinesteker is away, please contact Lauren Stouffer at lauren.stouffer@gmail.com

FPC Giving Revenue Update

Year to date Giving through July
Thousands of Dollars



Thank you for your financial gifts.

Mission and Outreach

Council News



On July 21st, members of the FPC Outreach Council attended the 2020 LEDA Summit on Race and Inclusion: Vision and Voices. LEDA is the acronym for Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance.

The summit examined the effects of racial disparities and explored strategies for their elimination. The day-long conference involved hundreds of residents across the State of Michigan. It was designed to engage community members and key stockholders in eliminating racial barriers in the lakeshore region and beyond.

CONNECT TOGETHER



Young Family Events at FPC

Sept 20th at 4pm

Crane's apple picking and optional picnic following. We will meet to pick apples and share some safely distanced together time. Bring a picnic for your family and we can have dinner outside together.

October 25th from 4-5pm

Trunk-or-Treat in the FPC parking lot.

Join us for a socially distanced, outside event to show off your costumes and get some treats! Give your kiddos an opportunity to dress up in case community trick or treating is not a safe option this year.

Stay tuned for November and December activities! Questions or comments, please contact Cassie Kregger via email at jc.kregger@gmail.com



Family Ukulele Lessons

Who: All FPC member and friends

What: Group ukulele lessons with Chuck Norris. No musical experience or ability to read music needed!

When: Wednesdays at 7 pm
Starting September 16

Where: In the FPC ZOOM room

FPC will provide one ukulele per family. Chuck will provide the materials. YOU provide your time and the player(s)!

When we all return to church in person, we will have a big ukulele service. :)

Better Communication

How to set Gmail Spam Filter:

1. Log in to your Gmail account.
2. Click the GEAR icon at the top right and then click SETTINGS.
3. Go to FILTERS AND BLOCKED ADDRESSES and click CREATE A NEW FILTER.
4. In the FROM section, type the email address of the sender that you want to keep out of your Spam Folder.
5. Click CREATE FILTER.
6. Check NEVER SEND IT TO SPAM and ALSO APPLY FILTER TO MATCHING MESSAGES boxes.
7. Click CREATE FILTER again.

Keep emails
from FPC from
going into your
SPAM.
Here's how!

Worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center

Sunday August 5, First Presbyterian Church worshipped together at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Communion was served, Ellarie Van Kempen was baptized, and Pastor Paul's one year anniversary with FPC was observed. Thank you to Chris Urbaniak who captured this special day with photos.



SMALL GROUP LEADERS

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris

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YOUNG FAMILIES

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Let's Pray Together

IN SYMPATHY

- To Bruce and Fran Rosensteel who are grieving the loss of Bruce's father and FPC member, Dick Rosensteel who passed away August 13.
- Our heartfelt condolences to Lori Klinesteker on the death of her husband. Greg Klinesteker passed away on Sunday evening August 9. We also express our sympathy to their children: Tyler and Ari Klinesteker, Kyle Klinesteker, and Tyler and Katelyn (Klinesteker) Bonkowski.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jeanne and Bob Weber celebrating their 73rd wedding anniversary on August 23.

FOR FPC

- As we plan for the fall and winter.
- Pray for those struggling with mental illness.

IN PRAYERS

- Marianne McBeth's granddaughter and family in California who all have Covid 19.
- Bonnie Cowie as she recovers from hip surgery.
- Marilyn Chamberlain as she has relocated to Resthaven Maple Woods.
- Eric Heller and his wife Megan as Eric receives treatment for prostate cancer which has spread to his bones.
- Those dealing with the loss of loved ones.
- All people struggling and recovering from substance abuse.
- Victims of domestic abuse.

YOUTH@FIRST

- For the class of 2021 as they start their senior year.
- For students, teachers, and parents as they head back to school.

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

Beau Bennett (son of Mary and Dick Bennett) - Medilodge of Holland

Shirley Effken - Appledorn Living Center South

Wiley Wilson - Appledorn Living Center South

Lois & Rusty Rust - Appledorn Living Center South

Cynthia Taylor - Life House

Marilyn Chamberlain - Resthaven Maple Woods

Lois Kane - Resthaven Maple Woods

Dolores Jacobusse - Resthaven

Prayer requests are shared in the **Member Area** on the church website: **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. If you would like to share a confidential prayer request, please contact Rev. Linda at lindak@fpcholland.org.



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

Join Us!

September 6 - Outdoor worship at 10a on the south lawn (28th St.).

Please wear your face covering and bring your own lawn chair. Communion will be served and a congregational meeting will take place following the service.

September 13 - Join us online to hear Pastor Linda kick-off the fall sermon series [*Fruits of the Spirit*](#) , focused on Galatians 5:22-23.