

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2020



A Message from Linda	2
A Message from Paul	3
Children: Worship Centers	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Community Partners	6
Mission and Outreach	7
Connect Together	8
Outdoor Worship	9
Keep In Touch	10
FPC Prays	11

CHURCH STAFF

Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

Nancy Burkitt

Nursery / Child Care

nursery@fpcholland.org

Sheri Harris

Administrative Assistant

office@fpcholland.org

Karla Kammeraad-Bos

Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@fpcholland.org

Lori Klinesteker

Clerk of Session &

Children's Ministry Leader

children@fpcholland.org

Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

pastor@fpcholland.org

Chuck Norris

Director of Music

music@fpcholland.org

Jane Oosterhouse

Custodian

custodian@fpcholland.org

Thom Samuelson

Maintenance

maintenance@fpcholland.org

Sue Stock

Publications Specialist

publications@fpcholland.org

Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

associatepastor@fpcholland.org



Rev. Linda Knieriemen

Pastor

A Letter from Linda

Perhaps you have come to be *right where you are for just such a time as this...*

Stewardship? How do we talk about generosity and budgets and pledging during a global pandemic? The “stay at home” directives, business shut-downs, job losses, virtual school, and yes, virtual worship have shaken us up. The longer the virus is circulating, the more anxiety and depression threatens to wear us down. Job loss and reduced work weeks have caused financial stress for some while others remain comfortable, watching their investments climb to all-time highs. Some of us see no end in sight to the pandemic so are concerned about a promise, a pledge at all. Meanwhile, as the Session puts together a budget for 2021, they know that we at FPC have 18 members who passed away this year. We miss their presence, their love, and their gifts.

And yet, the ministries of the church continue.

In this context, your Stewardship Council invites you to consider the story of Queen Esther, a young Jewish woman chosen by the king of Persia to be his queen. This position affords her considerable influence and power. When she learns that the king has issued an order to kill all the Jews in the realm, her father counsels her that the fate of her people rests in her hands, indeed, that she has a call from God: “for such a time as this, you have become queen.” So, she considers the situation, and she prays and asks all the Jews to do the same. She decides to risk, and then she acts, boldly presenting herself to the throne and pleading with the king to rescind the brutal order. She succeeds!

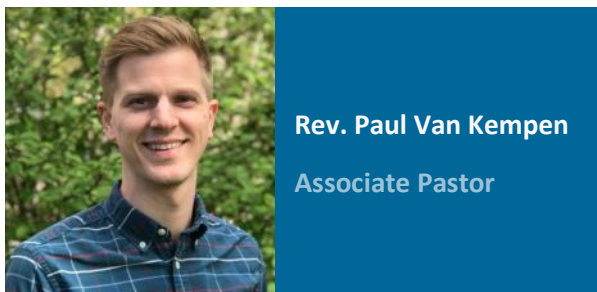
Esther didn’t make rash decisions; she takes her time.

She recognizes that she isn’t alone; she’s part of a community.

She realizes there will be risk involved but finds courage.

And she takes action. Action which bears fruit.

Continued on page 8



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Apple Picking and the Fruit of the Spirit

In the middle of September, a few families from FPC gathered at Crane's Orchard to pick some apples and to eat some cider donuts. We had a lovely afternoon.



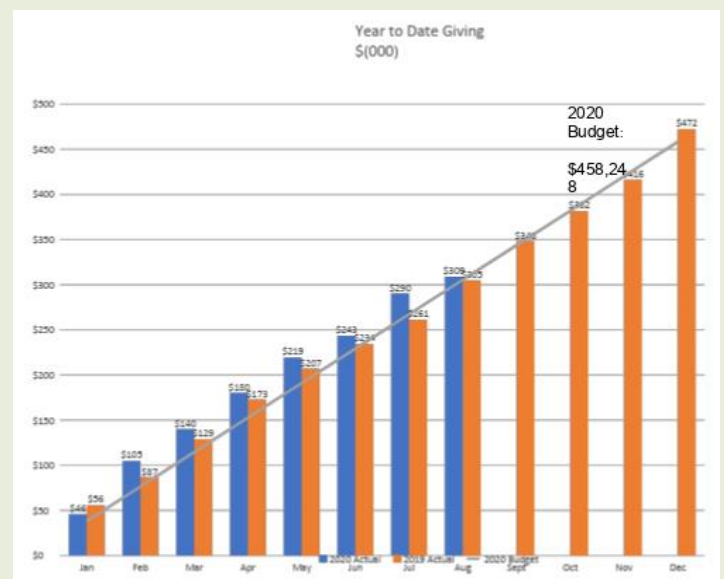
When we were there, my favorite apples—Honeycrisp—were not available for picking. I assumed it was because they are so popular and they were all picked. I have often wondered why they don't just grow more Honeycrisp apples. But then, as we were walking to the Cortland apples, we walked past the Honeycrisp rows and there were apples on the tree, but they had gone spotty and bad.

As it turns out Honeycrisp apples are only pickable for a few days and after that they are no longer good. If the orchard was only Honeycrisp, the apple season would be about two days long and there would be a lot of apple waste. The orchard needs a variety of apples for the season (and we need a variety of apples for eating, baking, apple sauce, apple cider, etc.).

This fall we are working our way through the Fruit of the Spirit. Similar to apple varieties, our lives need all the fruit of the spirit. We can't just be loving or joyful, but we also need to be patient and gentle (and all the rest). We need all the fruit for the different seasons, challenges and opportunities of life. It turns out variety is essential for fruit -- both apples and the Fruit of the Spirit.

FPC Giving Revenue Update

Year to date Giving through August.
Thousands of Dollars



Thank you for your financial gifts.



Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

Back to school means new erasers, notebooks, pencils, and folders. Or, in the case of 2020, masks, Chromebooks, wi-fi hotspots, and strange new routines. Our students and educators are in our prayers this fall! FPC families got a visit from the church bus over Labor Day weekend to deliver some treats to help with the adjustment to our new normal. We hope that you enjoyed your donuts, are comfy in your new masks, and are lighting your Christ candle with us on Sunday mornings as we worship together virtually this fall.



Keep watching your email on Sunday mornings for Worship Center stories. This month our Celebrants will tell us the stories of Joseph, Moses, and the Exodus. We can remember together the ways God has always journeyed with God's people during times of uncertainty and change -- so we know that God journeys with us through these strange times as well. May we continue to share Christ's light in all we do



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

Presbyterian Women



ALL ARE WELCOME!

With Covid-19 restrictions in effect, we have engaged Pastor Linda to provide a video introducing the new Presbyterian Women study for 2020-21. She will offer this on video in October on our website, then the two study groups will meet for discussion. Please watch her video before study groups meet. If you wish to purchase a study book for \$10, please call Janet, 616-490-4989.

It's a whole new world this year and there are two gathering options! We will not be receiving study group offerings this fall.

IN PERSON: Miriam Circle members will be contacted with the place to meet in person on Wednesday, October 14, 9:30 a.m. Bev Plagenhoef is circle leader.

BY ZOOM: Hannah Circle welcomes all to join the discussion by ZOOM link on Wednesday, October 14, 1:30 p.m. Watch for the ZOOM link to be sent out with the eWeekly on both September 30 and October 7. Janet Magennis is circle leader.

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

News from our Community Outreach partner



What's new at Good Samaritan Ministries these days?! So glad you asked! Linda Pynnonen passed along this communication featuring a new program started in July.

The Eviction Diversion Program Team

In July, Good Sam launched an Eviction Diversion Program to meet the growing demand for eviction prevention services in the face of COVID-19.

As Ottawa County's designated Housing Assessment and Resource Agency, Good Sam received an allocation of \$767,898 in state coronavirus relief funds from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to run the program.

Most of that funding is used for direct financial assistance to cover a percentage -- based on the tenant's income -- of the back rent owed, and the rest will cover the administrative costs of the eviction diversion program, including hiring a team of temporary staff.

In the last 2 months, Good Samaritan has hired 6 new people to work in the Eviction Diversion Program including a Team Lead, Eviction Response Specialists, a Data Specialist, and Case Manager. The Good Sam Conference Room has been transformed into a work room for our EDP Team so they can manage the influx of calls and applications for assistance.

This staff is working with the Ottawa County courts to screen people who have had eviction proceedings filed against them for the program. And in collaboration with Mediation Services and Legal Aid of West Michigan, the program staff is working with tenants and landlords to reach an agreement to dismiss the eviction case and keep tenants in their homes.

"Every day, individuals and families come to us having spent the night in their cars or in the mission, and we work to get them stably housed.

This opportunity allows us to intervene before the family experiences the trauma of losing their housing.

~ Drew Peirce, Executive Director

There are currently 60 families that have been served directly at the courts, and another 120 with applications in and awaiting next steps. We anticipate serving hundreds of families by the end of 2020.

If you have questions about the program, or want to enroll, call 616.392.7159 or visit the Good Samaritan website:





You're invited to ...
Build the Block with Lakeshore Habitat!
Open to All!

We'd love to have you join us for one of our "Build the Block" event (Families are welcome!) Tour the Park Vista Place development, enjoy local goodies, and hear about the impact we've had over 30 years and our vision to serve more families in our community.

Tuesday, October 6, from 6-8 pm (Program at 7pm)
 Appetizers from Grow and Hudsonville ice cream will be served.

Wednesday, October 7, from 6-8 pm (Program at 7pm)
 Appetizers from Grow and Cranes cider and donuts will be served.

Pastors Event - Wednesday, October 7, from 9-10am
 Panera breakfast will be served.

FPC contributed \$1000 towards the Habitat for Humanity Unity Build which will go towards building 3 homes by Holland area churches. For more information go online to: www.lakeshorehabitat.org/

Mission & Outreach Council

The Mission and Outreach Council has been active this summer and fall supporting our Partners that have had specific problems and needs as a result of the Pandemic.

In August, \$1,000 was contributed to Kids' Food Basket out of our Emerging Needs Fund as they geared up for the new school year facing a large increase in need.

We also contributed \$1,000 to the Refresh Program at the Methodist Church. A video of the program was shared in a church service.

\$500 was contributed to Escape Ministries as they have started a food program because so many of their students' parents have lost their jobs.

And \$1000 was contributed to the Habitat for Humanity Unity Build out of our Housing Budget as we have the past two years. They will be building 3 homes for the first time where Holland area churches come together to raise funds and volunteers for the build.

In September, the **Mission and Outreach Council contributed \$500 out of our Emerging Needs Budget to the Free Health Clinic** as they are adapting their building to reopen during the pandemic and **\$500 to Out on the Lakeshore** as we were not able to contribute during Pride Week that was cancelled this summer.

CONNECT TOGETHER



The Spiritual Growth Council is working on opportunities to gather virtually in Small Groups!

Virtual Dinners for 7. Small groups of 5-6 people would prepare their own individual dinner and connect by ZOOM to visit over a meal. Sign-up with Chris and be assigned to a group. [It would be similar to the Sunday morning ZOOM M&M CAFE gathering that has been meeting since we've gone virtual these last 6 months.] We'll pick a date later if there is interest.



The other opportunity is **Holland Civic Theater's** live performance of *Agnes of God* in November. HCT has not determined if there will be any in-house seating (with face masks and social distancing) or if all their performances will be virtual. If it's live, we could include an optional dinner beforehand or, if it's virtual, we could meet on ZOOM afterwards for discussion and drinks.

We'd love to arrange these small group gatherings to connect with one another again. Contact Chris Urbaniak if you are interested: call 616.836.9293 or email cmurbaniak@comcast.net



Young Family Events at FPC

October 25th from 4-5p

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

A Letter from Lindacontinued

If Queen Esther were speaking to us today, she might say, "Even in this challenging time of Covid-19, God is still calling you, just as God called me. Use your influence, your gifts, your relationship to the community to act for life! Consider and embrace your place in your church community, accept some risk, and act."

During this Stewardship Season, search your life to see what gifts the Holy Spirit has given you, particularly in these odd times. How are you uniquely positioned to serve God and this community through the ministries of the First Presbyterian Church of Holland?

Linda

Outdoor Worship at FPC

Sunday, September 6, First Presbyterian Church worshipped together outdoors. Thanks to Chris Urbaniak for capturing our time together with photos.



Kyle Magennis was ordained as Youth Elder.



Communion was served.



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

Bev Plagenhoef
rbplagen@live.com
616.335.3942

WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

YOGA

Gwen Boeve
ghekman@gmail.com
616.502.4642

YOUNG FAMILIES

Cassie Kregger
Cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com
616.298.4164

KEEP IN TOUCH

Ordination of Teresa Larson

Many of you connected with **Teresa Larson** during her time as our Youth Director at First Presbyterian Church. Her upcoming ordination service is on October 4th and will be live-streamed from Camp Greenwood. This respects the current COVID circumstance and presbytery gathering restrictions while acknowledging the special significance this location has played in Teresa's journey as she has traveled following God's call. Another place that held significance in Teresa's calling to ordained ministry is First Presbyterian Church.

Teresa's Mother, Chris, reached out to FPC in hopes we could participate in this day with a shower of cards and notes of memories, encouragement and congratulations.

Cards can be mailed to:

Chris Larson, 9261 Rossman Hwy
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827



Ordination of Brigette Kemink

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven and the Presbytery celebrate the ordination of **Brigette Kemink** which took place on September 20, 2020.

After working in business, Brigette returned to school and began the journey to join five family members in ordained ministry. Brigette earned a Master of Divinity from Western Theological Seminary in May 2019, then completed the Chaplain Residency Program in the University of Michigan Health System. She is pursuing a graduate certificate in disability ministry from Western Theological Seminary and chaplain opportunities in healthcare settings.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Brigette launched a multi-faith spiritual resource website for the Department of Spiritual Care at Michigan Medicine. This allowed her to incorporate her spiritual side with experience gained from working in business for more than 20 years.

Brigette and her husband, Paul Kemink, have two children, Emma and Payne.

Notes of congratulation may be sent to:

Brigette Kemink via email to; creativebrig@icloud.com or
18158 Shore Acres Road, Grand Haven, MI 49417



Let's Pray Together

IN SYMPATHY

- Our heart-felt sympathy to Lois Rust who tragically lost her husband, Rusty in an auto accident. Richard (Rusty) Rust passed away Monday, August 31. Our condolences go out to the entire Rust family.
- We extend our sympathy to Keith Ditch upon the death of his wife Barb, on August 26. Barb is mother of FPC member, Sharon Fisher (Matt), and grandmother of Jen Foley (Andrew), and Sarah Lamphere (Michael) and their families.

FOR FPC

- For FPC Preschool families and teachers.
- For our pastors as they continue to navigate ministry during this time of change and challenges.
- For our college students as they navigate academics, living in community, and virus concerns.
- As we plan for the fall and winter.
- Pray for those struggling with mental illness.

IN PRAYERS

- Charles Huttar, father of Sarah Anderson who had a stroke on September 12.
- 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 who are without a home.

YOUTH@FIRST

- For our youth as they learn how to stay connected with one another.
- For students, parents, and educators as they continue to live into the new normal of 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 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..*