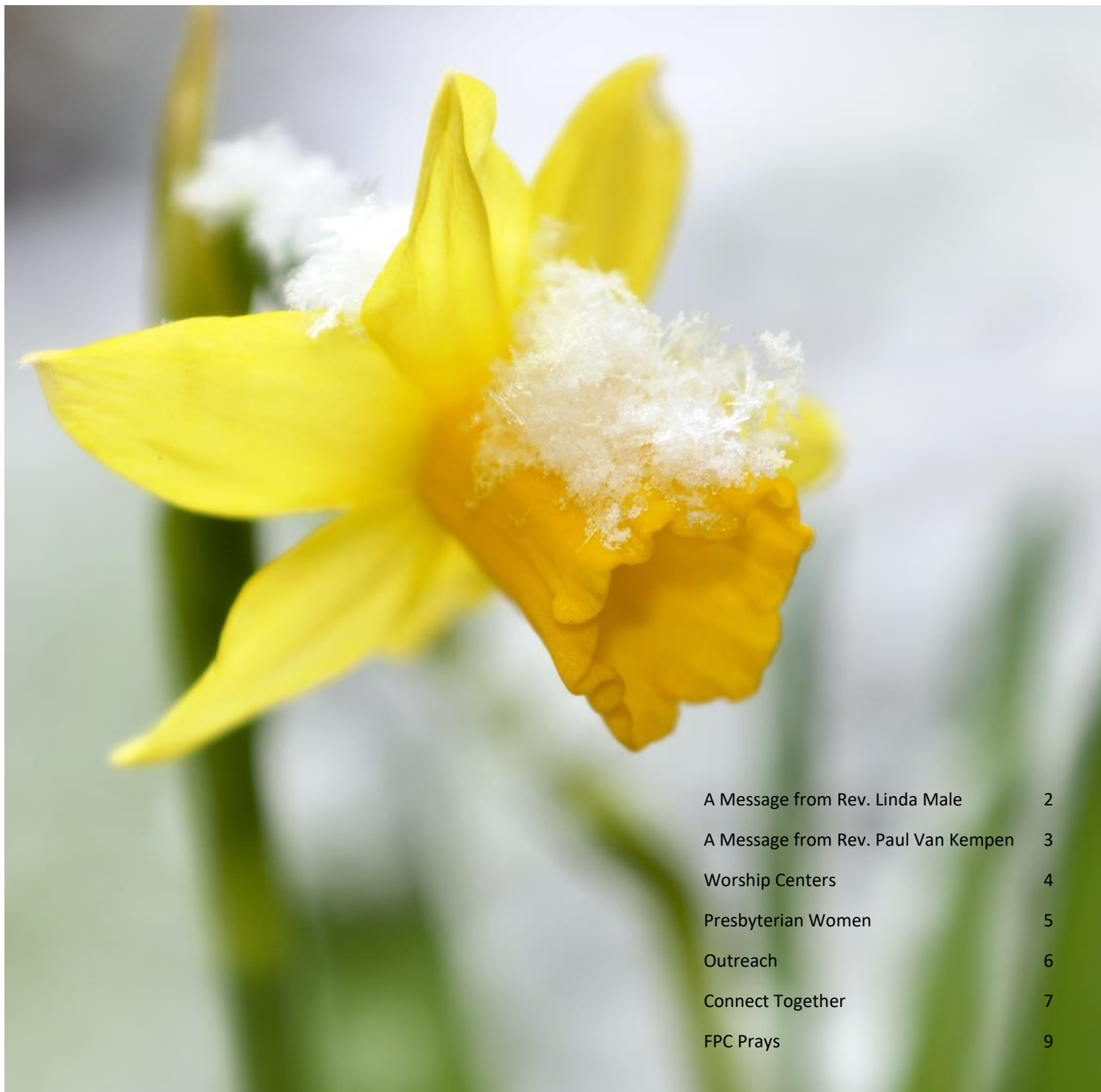


presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / MARCH 2021



A Message from Rev. Linda Male	2
A Message from Rev. Paul Van Kempen	3
Worship Centers	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Outreach	6
Connect Together	7
FPC Prays	9

CHURCH STAFF

Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

Sheri Harris

Administrative Assistant
office@fpcholland.org

Lori Klinesteker

*Clerk of Session &
Children's Ministry Leader*
children@fpcholland.org

Linda K. Male

Interim Pastor and Head of Staff
pastor@fpcholland.org

Chuck Norris

Director of Music
music@fpcholland.org

Jane Oosterhouse

Custodian
custodian@fpcholland.org

Nancy Rodgers

Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@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 Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

I really appreciated Doug Brouwer's sermon on Transfiguration Sunday (February 14) because he reminded us to "pay attention." Pay attention to all that is around us. One semester I filled in for the religion teacher at Grand Rapids Christian High. I learned so much while presenting her writing lesson called "God Glimpses." Her intent was to instill in the students an awareness of the unexplainable presence of God living with them. Reading those papers written by ninth grade students helped me to open my eyes to the unseen.

Doug said Barbara Brown Taylor was thankful for her gift of curiosity. In many ways, 2020 has not contributed to my curiosity. I was telling Pastor Paul that sometimes my head feels full of cotton, especially when I have been home without having the stimulation of contact with others. Even a good phone conversation or texting does not take the place of personal contact.

The feeling of dullness is more than just lethargy. It is a spiritual lack of attention to all the ways God is at work in this world. One saving moment in my months of inattention is my regular Zoom call with my Spiritual Formation Group. All of us feel more connected to each other and to God when we are done with our verbal examinations of where we have seen God during the month, even though we have not seen one another in person. But it's not the same as sitting around a table and leaving an in-person meeting that closes with a blessing and hugs all around.

I am happy to be able to work inside our church building as well as from home, because every so often I glimpse God at work in the few times I see someone from the staff or from the pre-school or from our time of recording a worship service. I know these occasions are simply little parables of all the ways God is working through each one of us wherever we are at home, work, school, grocery shopping—add your own place where you get a God glimpse. And don't stop paying attention to the "thin places" just because you feel stuck at home with a

Continued on page 8



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Daily Reflections

Have you heard the acronym ALICE?

It stands for “Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.”

The United Way and other organizations use this term to describe members of our community who are working but are still unable to make ends meet. Many jobs in Holland (and across the country) do not pay a living wage. The United Way found that 43% of Michiganders cannot afford basic household needs (even though many of them are employed). While surveying ALICE families, the United way found that among Black households in Michigan, this number was 63% and this number has increased in the past 10 years (up 11% for Black households compared to 1% for Michigan as a whole).

This is staggering information—first that there are so many households who are working and can’t afford basic needs, but second that this inequality affects more Black households. As Christians we are called to respond to the injustice we see in the world.

One way that we are responding to this inequity is by participating in the “21 Day Racial Equity Challenge.” This is a program that was developed

by Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., Dr. Marguerite Penick-Parks and was adapted by the Michigan United Way network. The challenge is a daily reflection on readings, videos and podcasts that will help to deepen our understanding of racism and increase our willingness to confront racism when we see it.



Several churches in the area are participating in this challenge together starting on March 1 (it’s not too late to join!) with that hope that through expanding our awareness, we will be able to better respond to the injustice and racism around us here in Holland and in the greater Holland area.

For more details click [HERE](#).



Lori Klienesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

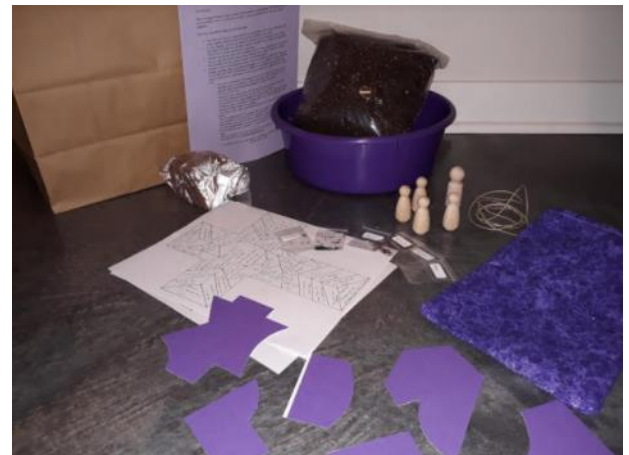
~ Written by Lauren Stouffer

The children at FPC have entered into the season of Lent. Kids met virtually on Zoom on Sunday, February 21, to plant Resurrection Gardens. (Maybe they will share pictures once their gardens have started to grow!) Families also received a simple puzzle to remind them of the sign of the cross and wooden peg dolls to use to retell the stories of Easter and the Resurrection at home during this season.

We hope you will continue to join us in hearing and living into the stories of Jesus' ministry on YouTube. This month we will explore the stories of the wedding at Cana, the parable of the Good Shepherd, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and the upper room.

Kids and families will gather on Sunday, March 28, for a special outdoor Easter celebration. Watch your email for more information.

The kids made and sent Valentine's Day postcards to some of the seniors and homebound folks at FPC last month and were delighted to receive cards back from some of you!



Daphne and Nora show off their Valentines.

FPC kids met virtually over Zoom to plant their resurrection gardens.

Lenten bags.

Photos courtesy of Lauren Stouffer.

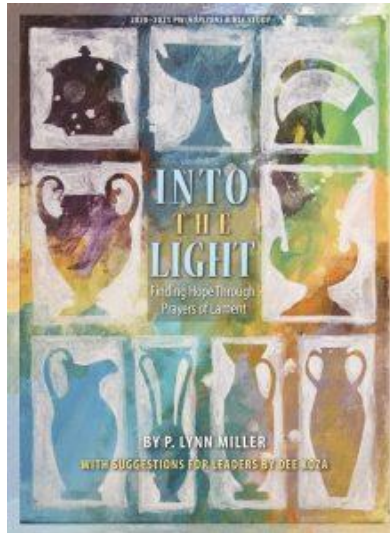


Presbyterian Women

Our Bible study this season is INTO THE LIGHT: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament.

While it might sound depressing to learn about lament, it has been very interesting to learn about and discuss this subject. We move in March to Lesson #7: Creation Laments.

We have learned about our own laments and disappointments, but more than that, have learned how lament is different from sadness, loss, and not being together due to disaster/disease. We have been refocused on how to structure and develop a Spiritual Practice in our prayers of lament to God, to remind us of our relationship to God.



"Laments spoken to God are prayers," it said in our Introduction to this study. In Scripture there are many laments "sung, prayed, spoken, painted, danced, or communicated in other ways. Laments bridge the space between our faith in God and the reality of living in our net-yet-redeemed world."

We often hurl our laments at God, asking that "something be done" to fix our problem. There may be some arguing! We describe the grievance we ascribe to God. We include a statement of trust in God. We call upon God to ACT. We expect that God will hear our petition. All of this keeps us in partnership with God, even when we are struggling. That is much better than going on feeling completely alone.

Hannah Circle Leader: Janet Magennis, 616-490-4989 jmmagennis@yahoo.com

Hannah Circle will meet on March 11, April 8, and May 13 at 1:30p by ZOOM.
Call Janet Magennis if you want the link: 616-490-4989.

Miriam Circle will meet on March 10, April 14, and May 12 at 9:30a.
Please call Bev Plagenhoef for information.

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Mission and Outreach

CROP walk Opportunities

The Outreach Council is glad to announce that the Holland Area Hunger Coalition is again hosting a CROP Hunger Walk this year to support local and national organizations in working to help our hungry neighbors. First Presbyterian Church has a long history of supporting the Holland Area CROP Walk.

Because of the on-going COVID 19 situation, walkers can choose to walk in person (while maintaining social distance) or separately.

The CROP Walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, starting at Holland Christian H.S. (Ottawa & West 40th) at 8-9a. The Sunday Walk is on April 25, at Beechwood Reformed Church on Ottawa Beach Rd. from 1:30-2:30p.



Walkers are encouraged to register online [HERE](#).

In order to encourage participation, local donors have agreed to sponsor two incentives:

- **Youth Group Challenge** (young people 21 and under): If a group of three or more raises over \$200, local donors will add \$50 for CROP.
- **Online Challenge**: for every \$100 raised online, local donors will add \$10 for CROP.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of hungry people both locally and around the world. For any questions or for assistance, contact Tim Staal, at tstaal@gmail.com

From our Deacons

During the pandemic, we have not been able to see as much of each other, but we can still help each other out! We regularly get requests from our members who need help with meals. This can be due to illness, injury, surgery recovery, or a new baby.

We know many of you would love the opportunity to help others in our church family, so we made it as easy as possible! We use "Sign-up Genius" to schedule meals, and we would love to add you to our "army of nourishers." How it works: let me or someone from staff know that you would like to provide meals on occasion, and we will add you to the email list. Every time there is a need, an email will go out with a link to a sign-up like the one

above. If you are willing and able to help, simply sign up for one of the available days by clicking the "Sign-Up" button. Then prepare your dish with love and deliver at the time and to the address on the sheet.

As they say, many hands make light work, so I hope you will add your name and email address to the nourisher list!

With Love,
Liz Hoffswell,
Nourisher/Deacon
lizhoffswell@gmail.com



CONNECT TOGETHER

Summer Camp Scholarships

Application deadline is March 31.

Children and youth within the Presbytery of Lake Michigan may get camp scholarship funds to attend a Christian summer camp from a special program through the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven.

Families are expected to pay, at a minimum, the camp registration fee then return a completed Youth Camp Program scholarship application with proof of registration that shows the balance due. Applications are due by March 31, 2021. The scholarship program will pay the remaining portion of the camp fee of up to \$500 per camper directly to the camp. No reimbursements will be made. Email lauren.stouffer@gmail.com for application information.

Outdoor Parking Lot Communion

Sunday, March 7 at 2p.

Weather permitting - we plan to gather in the parking lot for outdoor communion. Please wear your face-covering and dress for the weather. We look forward to seeing you.



**Save the Date:
Young Families Easter Celebration**

Kids and families will gather on Sunday, March 28, for a special outdoor Easter celebration. Watch your email for more information.

Spring Forward!

**Remember to set your clock ahead
ONE HOUR before going to bed
Saturday night, March 13**



Linda's Keyboardcontinued from page 2

head full of cotton. I want to pay more attention to the holy, and I hope you do, too. May this time of Lent be one of grace as we see the Light of Christ in unexpected places.

From *A Guide to Prayer (The Upper Room)*:

Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit open our eyes, ears, hearts, and very lives to your presence so that today we may worship and serve you in faithfulness, be blessing and healing reminders of your love to all whose lives we touch.

We offer our prayers in the name of Christ. Amen.



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



first
presbyterian
church

659 STATE STREET
HOLLAND, MI 49423

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