



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / JUNE 2021

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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

I attended a memorial service on Sunday May 23. There had been a small service outside shortly after the death occurred, but this was a service for a wider group of family members who were not able to attend earlier in the COVID shutdown. It was held in a Presbyterian church that has been following the masking/distancing protocols because she and her wife were members of the congregation.

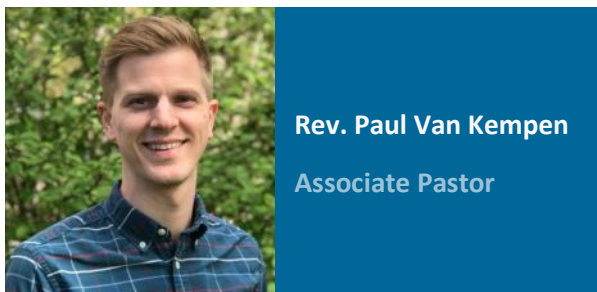
Several people were unmasked when I entered the sanctuary, all of them not members of the congregation. The church itself was set up as it is when the congregation is worshiping on Sunday—every other row empty, distance between small groups of people, well ventilated. I thought the pastor handled it gently when she announced how much the congregation appreciated those who followed the masking guidelines, but she did not dismiss anyone unmasked.

We are entering a strange time in our efforts to come back together as a congregation. Wearing masks or no masks? Singing or not? Passing the peace by shaking hands or in some other way? Serving cookies from a tray or handing them out individually wrapped? And that is just a description of worship in the parking lot. How will we be able to move to more freedom inside the sanctuary?

I am sure we all have questions, but I am grateful that session has made a plan to move ahead. Plans can change, but for now it has been refreshing to worship outside, able to sing our glorious hymns, hear the choir, and participate in responsive readings. My favorite is the eye contact not available on a recording.

Our reopening plan did not address funerals in the church. Pastor Paul and I have always been available for a graveside or Memorial Garden service with a small attendance, but we have several families who are waiting for a gathering to celebrate a life and witness to the resurrection. The session will be discussing our need for memorial services. We already have guidelines for "normal" times, but we need to rethink how we can adjust those to accommodate the current situation in our congregation.

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Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Re-wiring Our Brains

There is an excellent Youtube channel called *Smarter Every Day* where the host, Destin, explores science topics in interesting ways.

One of his most watched videos is called *The Backwards Brain Bicycle*. In the video, a welder friend of his has created a backwards bicycle using some simple gears. The bicycle turns left when you steer right and right when you steer left. This bike is almost impossible to ride. Destin has lots of people try to ride it and no-one can do it.



You can watch the video [HERE](#):

Riding a bike is easy to do once you learn how, but re-learning on the backwards bike is really difficult. Destin says in the video, “Once you have a rigid way of thinking in your head, sometimes you cannot change that even if you want to.”

He was talking about the bike, but I think this is a valuable lesson for all of us. We are often stuck in our rigid ways of thinking, and even if we want to change it is incredibly difficult.

Destin, determined to conquer the backwards bike, spent 8 months learning to ride it. He got pretty good at it, But then something odd happened—he tried to ride a regular bike again (on the streets of Amsterdam) and he couldn’t do it. He had rewired his brain and it took him some time to be able to ride a normal bike again.

This past year has been a season of “re-wiring” for our brains. We had done church the same way for years and years, but this past year forced us to re-learn what it

means to be a church and how to worship together. I think this is good—it is good to expand beyond our rigid ways of thinking.

But also, as we move toward meeting in the building again and returning to some kind of normalcy, we may have some trouble getting going again. There will be some things that have changed, there will be things that need to change. There may be some difficulty as we re-learn how to be a church. This is normal.

Though this past year has been hard, it has helped us grow. We have learned to do church in a pandemic and as we re-learn church, let’s keep our hearts and minds open to the new ways that we can be the love and light of Jesus Christ in the world.

Peace Camp Camper Form click [HERE](#)

PEACE CAMP
Paths Toward Peace

WHEN:	August 9-13, 2021 9:00a - 11:45 each day
WHERE:	First Presbyterian Church, Holland
WHO:	Campers: Kids entering grades 1-6
Teen Leaders:	Teens entering grades 7-12
Volunteers:	You!



Lori Klienesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

~ Written by Lauren Stouffer

Next time you are at church, take a few minutes to check out the new books we have. Many of our children and families picked out their own favorite books and donated a copy to our church library in memory of Nancy Burkitt. We will take time to remember Nancy as a church community along with our kids this month. We will continue to have a few books out on the kids' activity cart while we are worshipping outdoors and invite you to take a look. Our new books explore kindness, compassion, and love for each other--the same traits that Nancy shared with our children over her many years of caring for our littlest ones in the nursery.

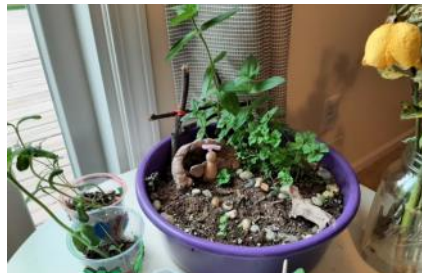
Remember the Resurrection Gardens the kids planted at the beginning of Lent? Some of them are still growing! Thanks to Lena, Mara, Nora, Daphne, Ben, Ian, Ellarie, Owen and Jack (and their parents) for sharing pictures with us.



On Pentecost Sunday, the children worked on some special projects while the adults were listening to the sermon. Here they are decorating their red shirts. We plan to continue to have special activities on the playground for our kids during worship during the summer. You can still watch the recorded Worship Center stories on the FPC YouTube page if you missed any.

SAVE THE DATE!

Young Families will gather on
Sunday, June 13, after the worship service.
Stay tuned for more details.



Van Kempen family garden (left)
Teutsch family garden (top middle)
D'Addona family garden (bottom middle)
Morrow family garden (top of page)
FPC kids designing Pentecost shirts.



Presbyterian Women

Rain or shine, we'll meet under the picnic area! Free will offering to cover our food. RSVP with your choice of a Panera box lunch of a half sandwich, chips, and cookie. Water available or BYO luncheon drink. Select from vegetarian or chicken salad sandwich choice – both sound delicious!

½ Modern Caprese Sandwich: Basil -white bean puree, sliced mozzarella, parmesan, arugula, smoked tomato confit, fresh basil, balsamic glaze, salt and pepper, toasted on Black Pepper Focaccia.

- or -

½ Napa Almond Chicken Salad Sandwich: Chicken raised without antibiotics tossed with diced celery, seedless grapes, toasted almonds and special dressing, and served with emerald green lettuce, vine-ripened tomatoes, salt, and pepper on Country Rustic Sourdough.

PW PICNIC & ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 16 at Noon

Dunton Park, Howard Ave

All are welcome!



We will consider our meeting plans for fall, preview the new Bible Study Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. "Tell me the stories of Jesus" comes to mind, doesn't it? What stories do we live from? What is our own Christian identity?

So, no more about Lamenting, although it was a timely choice for the year we have spent living with a ferocious pandemic. We learned that our relationship with God is ever present, and that is a precious gift.

Please call Janet at 616-490-4989 to make your choice by Sunday, June 13, as our Panera coordinator needs that time to prepare.

~ Janet Magennis, Past Moderator

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



A NOTE // Profiles will be on vacation the month of July and will not be published. Please send your articles/announcements/photos by July 15 for the August edition as we prepare to go back to school and plan for Fall activities.

Mission and Outreach



One of the mandates for the Outreach Council of First Presbyterian Church is to find ways for our church members to get involved. A group of volunteers from First Pres recently attended a training at the First United Methodist Church to assist with the **Refresh** program that is hosted there in collaboration with the Community Action House.

The Refresh program provides showers, counseling services, food, clothing, and a respite from the daily grind for our neighbors who are currently experiencing homelessness. As a drop-in center, Refresh: Hygiene and Hope also provides mail services, allowing visitors to receive important mail. One of the major barriers to successfully navigating available community resources is valid ID, and a place to receive official documents



through the mail is a bridge to achieving documentation. Coffee, snacks, free wifi, and access to the internet are also included. CAH's Homeless Outreach Specialists who are an integral part of the program trained in addressing and navigating the challenges of homelessness will be onsite. The program runs on Tuesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday evenings throughout the year. For more information about this program, co-sponsored with [Community Action House](#), click [HERE](#) for a video to see what Refresh is all about. Refresh also has their own Facebook page [HERE](#).

This training we received now allows these volunteers from our church to help with the Refresh program

Photos courtesy of Holland Sentinel staff writer Sarah Heth, article dated March 22, 2019. Additional thanks to First United Methodist Church in Holland.



PASTORAL TRANSITION UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our self-study survey and discussion groups over the past few weeks. If you have not yet completed the survey, please make time to do so before Saturday, June 5. You can complete your survey online [HERE](#) or return the paper copy you received in the mail to the church office. Everyone's input is important.

The Mission Study team is currently working on compiling survey results and will share the final report with the congregation when it is complete.

The next step in our transition process will be selection of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The Nominating Committee invites nominations from the congregation of folks who will be able to represent our

congregation in selecting a new head pastor. Please submit your nominations by Sunday, June 27 in the box that will be in the church office and at the outdoor services in June, or email names to pastor@fpcholland.org.

Please talk to people to ensure that they are willing to serve on the PNC before you submit their names. Questions about the commitment or the process can be directed to Rev. Linda Male, Paula Perkins, or Lauren Stouffer. The Nominating Committee will meet at the end of June to select a PNC with a goal of including people who represent various demographic groups at FPC. Those nominees will be presented and elected at a special congregational meeting.

CONNECT TOGETHER

Young Families // Young Families will gather on Sunday, June 13, after the worship service. Stay tuned for more details.

August 1 // Outdoor Worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Join us at 10a weather permitting.

Hymn Project // For our summer series in 2021 we'll be contemplating the favorite hymns of the congregation. We'll sing them, look at the lyrics, examine the scriptural basis, and celebrate the rich history of these hymns! If you would like to contribute the name of your favorite hymn and tell us why it's your favorite, fill out the form [HERE](#) or you can email Pastor Linda Male (pastor@fpcholland.org) or Pastor Paul Van Kempen (associatepastor@fpcholland.org)

Thanks for contributing!

Deacon's Prayer Shawl Ministry // Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? The Deacons would like to invite you to use your skills to make prayer shawls for members of our church family (men and women) who are going through difficult times. Shawls are made with Lion Homespun yarn in any color. Patterns are available and the Deacons can also reimburse for yarn or provide yarn to use. We will collect the shawls and distribute them. Don't knit or crochet? You can still help by donating funds or Lion Homespun yarn (3 skeins is enough to make one shawl) or by letting us know when you hear of members in need of prayer and comfort so that we can give them a shawl. If you have any questions or want to help, email us at: Deacons@fpcholland.org

In the Beginning



As we begin the process of selecting and welcoming a new Head of Staff, let's take a look back at our history to remember how we have become this congregation in this place. Chris Urbaniak will be our "history tour guide."



Back in 1957, the Methodist Church in downtown Holland was thinking of expanding their building. Some members felt it would be better to build a second church in another location. There was enough support for that idea that a canvas was made for a suitable site which turned out to be the Brooks' property at 28th and State Street; a deposit was made to secure an option. By now, some 30 families were interested. However, the Methodist Board of Extension decided to postpone the idea for two years. This disappointed the group which then contacted Dr. Frederick Wyngarden of Westminster Church in Grand Rapids who was on the Presbytery committee for church extension to see if it would be possible to organize a Presbyterian church. Soon, an ad was run to announce plans and welcome all who were interested. The first worship service was held March 15, 1958, in the Brooks' house, which was under option to purchase. A steering committee was formed, and after

meeting with Synod and other Presbyterian officials, the State Street property was purchased. A petition bearing 100 signatures was sent to Presbytery asking that the church be organized, and it was incorporated on June 26, 1958. A formal service of organization by the Presbytery was held June 29 at Western Seminary Chapel. 102 people came that night to accept their responsibility as members. Sunday school classes were organized, elders and deacons were elected, and a choir was formed, along with the Women's Association and Boy Scout Troop 147. After hearing many guest ministers, a call went out to the Rev. Bernard Vanderbeek to be the first pastor; he was installed September 24, 1958. A Kimball organ was purchased, and a children's program was organized with volunteers building furniture for a nursery. Two services were held due to the small seating capacity of the Brooks' house (or mansion as it was called). Session authorized the purchase of the property for \$37,500. The first class of new members was received, and the annual report showed that 105 charter members had increased to a total membership of 137.

The congregation met in that large home until 1961, when they broke ground for a chapel-fellowship hall while still keeping Christian Education and offices in the home. As we grew, it was decided, because of costs, to expand the chapel-fellowship hall and tear down the Mansion. The church has stayed on the same property changing and/or adding on to the original chapel-fellowship hall building ever since.

Three names were considered when the church was being formed: State Street, Westminster, and First. The children's program was immediately organized to guide the young people. Members made benches and tables; classes began in June with Bob Jacobusse as Sunday School Superintendent. The first choir was a junior choir. Much of the alterations, maintenance, and custodial work were done by volunteers to make the Brooks' house a suitable church home.

Linda's Keyboardcontinued from page 2

If you are part of a family waiting for such a service, please let Pastor Paul or me know. We want to hear what your needs are, so that we can incorporate them into our session discussion. One hurdle to overcome is the after service meal. Will we limit it to finger food or cookies? Some people prefer a luncheon. Let's talk and see how we can move ahead to support grieving families while keeping everyone safe.

Christians are social people and need to live in community with both God and others. That piece is missing to a great degree during the pandemic. We pray that whatever looks different as we go forward, it will not mean losing community.

PREACHING SCHEDULE:

JUNE

June 6 - Rev. Linda Male preach
Rev. Paul Van Kempen (communion)

June 13 - Rev. Paul Van Kempen preach

June 20 - Rev. Paul Van Kempen preach

June 27 - Rev. Linda Male preach

JULY

July 4 - Rev. Paul Van Kempen preach

July 11 - Rev. Paul Van Kempen preach

July 18 - Rev. Linda Male preach

July 25 - Rev. Linda Male preach

Grace
& PEACE
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## SMALL GROUP LEADERS

### CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris  
charlesenorris@gmail.com

### DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

Chris Urbaniak  
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### MEN'S BOOK GROUP

Larry Lynn  
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### MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Dave Ford  
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### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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### WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

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### WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

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616.490.4989

### YOGA

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616.502.4642

### YOUNG FAMILIES

Cassie Kregger  
Cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com  
616.298.4164

# Let's Pray Together

## IN SYMPATHY

Kristi and Greg Kiekintveld and their family in the loss of Kristi's brother Fred Wise, on Sunday, April 25, after a two year battle with cancer. Expressions of care may be sent to: 1728 Virginia Place / Holland, MI 49423

Gayle and Bart Shumaker and their family in the loss of Gayle's mother Bonnie Veldboom, on May 22, due to Covid. Her father Ralph Veldboom is also ill but making a recovery. Gayle's sister has tested positive for the virus also.

Expressions of care may be sent to: 1009 N Baywood Dr. / Holland, MI 49424

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## IN PRAYERS

- Chuck Smith receiving therapy after his hospitalization
- Jo Ann Martin is home following a stay in the hospital due to change of medication
- Sheri Harris recovering from surgery
- Glenda Simpkins has returned home from rehabilitation
- Christina, a family friend of Don and Bonnie Cowie who is receiving chemotherapy for stage 3 ovarian cancer
- Stephanie Edwards who is receiving treatment for Ewings Sarcoma
- Dick Gebben (son of Linda Gebben) ALS diagnosis
- Eric Heller and his wife Megan as Eric receives treatment for prostate cancer which has spread to his bones
- Those struggling with addictions
- Those grieving with the loss of loved ones
- All people who are without a home

## YOUTH@FIRST

Congratulations to our graduates!

For our youth as they prepare to make confirmation  
For a students, parents and educators as the school  
year winds down

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## LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

JoAnn Karn - SKLD in Zeeland

Glenn Van Haitsma - Freedom Village

Charles Huttar (father of Sarah Anderson) -

Appledorn Living Center South

Beau Bennett (son of Mary and Dick Bennett) -

Medilodge of Holland

Wiley Wilson - Appledorn Living Center South

Lois Rust - Appledorn Living Center South

Marilyn Chamberlain - Resthaven Maple Woods

Lois Kane - Resthaven Maple Woods

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 [office@fpcholland.org](mailto:office@fpcholland.org).

If you would like to share a confidential prayer request, please contact:

Rev. Linda Male, Interim Pastor: [pastor@fpcholland.org](mailto:pastor@fpcholland.org)

Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Associate Pastor: [associatepastor@fpcholland.org](mailto:associatepastor@fpcholland.org).



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