

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2021



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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

Many times I entered the building here at First Presbyterian before coming as your Interim Pastor. In the winter, I was very grateful for the ramp to the entrance from the parking lot because I could avoid any ice that might have accumulated on the steps. Imagine how delighted I was to come for my first day with you on February 8, 2021! The ramp was inside, and the entrance was flat from the parking lot. I was gratified with the beautiful improvements and the welcoming feel of the building. The light-filled space opening into the café drew me in.

Thank you to the *A Place for All* Construction Committee. Please read the following report and remember to give a personal "thank you" to anyone who served so well during a stressful two years. They personify tenacity and care for the congregation as well as the desire to be more welcoming to others. They have blessed us with their stewardship of God's gifts. Thanks be to God!

Welcome Back!

A Place For All Construction/Renovation

Nearly 2 years after construction on our *A Place For All* began, everything is now complete. Our goals for the renovation were to improve physical and psychological access to all parts of our facility — including the lower level; to improve safety, security, and technology; and to provide a more efficient use of existing space.

As we re-enter and occupy our facility after the Covid-19 Pandemic pause, here is the list of the new and different completed components:

- New north entrance with exterior canopy for sheltered drop-off
- Elevator to lower level and narthex; access ramp to chancel and improved access to choir loft
- Expanded narthex reducing bottlenecks and improving circulation
- South entrance and stair with new windows on exterior wall making access to the lower level more inviting
- Enhanced security and technology
- Arts and worship room — room for choir robes and sink for communion prep
- New and refurbished movable partitions in lower level to improve flexible space

Continued on page 6



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

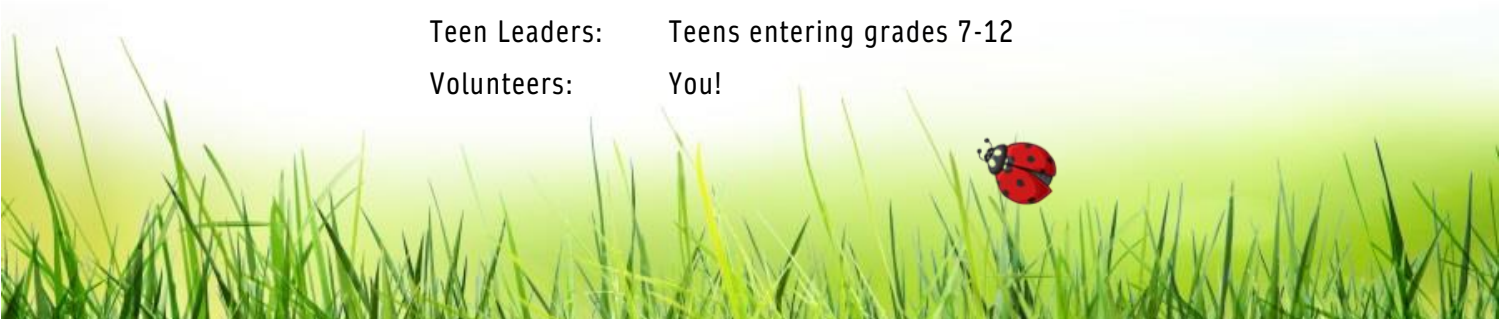
Peace Camp

Peace Camp is just a few days away!

Invite your best-friend, a neighbor or a friend you'd like to know better.



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



PASTORAL TRANSITION UPDATE

The Mission Study team is in the process of finalizing the mission study report which will be made available to the congregation once it is complete. Thanks to all who

completed the survey and participated in discussion groups. We received a total of 145 survey responses that provided valuable feedback about our goals, challenges, and opportunities as a church family.

The Nominating Committee has a fantastic slate of folks who were recommended by the congregation and have agreed to stand for election to the Pastor Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will ask Session to call a special congregational meeting at this month's Session meeting to officially elect the PNC and allow the committee to begin its work. The PNC will work closely with our transitional counselor from the Committee on Ministry through Lake Michigan Presbytery to call our next pastor. Please continue to keep this process in your prayers.



Lori Klienesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

~ Written by Lauren Stouffer

The kids at FPC have been busy enjoying the playground during Sunday services. They have painted rock paperweights, gone on a treasure hunt in the sandbox, and are revisiting the Fruit of the Spirit through stories, songs, and activities. They have enjoyed getting to express their creativity through sidewalk chalk and glitter glue.

We had a water day on the playground in June and will enjoy a chance to get wet again after church on **August 22 at the Zeeland Splash Pad, followed by ice cream at Captain Sundae.** Hope you can join

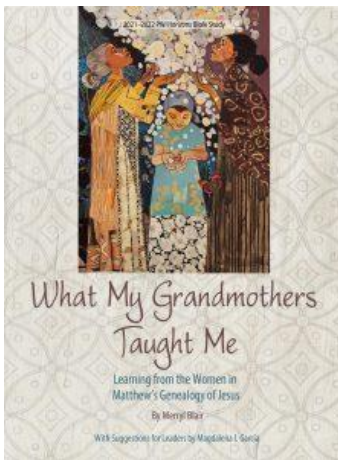


Thanks to Chris Urbaniak and Lauren Stouffer for capturing this super fun kids event.



Presbyterian Women

It was a very long time between our joyful Christmas 2019 Luncheon amidst the chaos of our church renovation and our Celebration Picnic on June 16, 2021. It was good to gather at Dunton Park and visit over our Panera lunch boxes. We agreed to proceed with some due caution into a September Gathering and Study Kickoff. We did not hold elections for a PW Coordinating Team, deciding we will move forward with both circle leaders and two more as a quarterly guidance and planning team. Bev Plagenhoef, Mickey Harris, Sarah Glover, and Janet Magennis will provide this service to PW.



When I think about my grandmothers, Ora Belle Alsabrooks Drake, from Virginia, made heavenly biscuits for breakfast every morning (but couldn't remember my name as Alzheimer's claimed her); and Effie May Tooley Travis, from Kentucky, crocheted around every washcloth I ever used as a child, plus she made her own soap that my mother used on laundry stains. I did learn to make those biscuits and to crochet, both gifts of the Spirit in my life. What do you recall from your own fond memories of family?

This year we will learn about the women in Jesus' family, those mentioned in the first chapter of Matthew. Their gifts and stories of life are probably similar to those we recall learning from our own grandmothers -- certainly a glimpse of lives far removed from today, but part of our own stories.

We invite all women of FPC Holland to join us in September. We offer two study groups that meet September-June:

- Miriam Circle meets on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30a at the church.
- Hannah Circle meets on 2nd Thursdays at 1:30p. We will be at the church with the option to join by ZOOM.

If there is interest for an evening study circle, we would love to know and will provide for technology to do so by ZOOM.

~Janet Magennis

The MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on August 18 at noon for their annual summer picnic at the home of Jan VanFaasen.

Please contact Bev if you wish to attend.
rbplagen@live.com

We begin anew with our interim pastor, Rev. Linda Male, offering the first lesson of our new Bible study. Please join us for birthday cake and bring your annual birthday offering!

Bible Study Kick-Off & Birthday Offering

Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 1p in the Fellowship Hall

See you there!

Linda's Keyboardcontinued from page 2

- New light panels behind the stained glass windows in sanctuary to replace the natural light lost in the new construction
- Addition of a Mission and Outreach kiosk to highlight the work of our community partners and volunteer opportunities
- Fresh furnishings including new carpet, lighting, and paint in renovated areas
- Worship Centers relocated to be together in the lower level, simplifying drop-off and pick-up for families
- Renovated Fellowship Hall with new flooring, including a prayer labyrinth
- New Family Restroom in lower level with accessible toilet, shower, washer and dryer
- Renovated men's and women's bathrooms in lower level
- Improved storage area for Boy Scouts

We look forward to the opportunities that our renovated facility provides to support both community activities and church program functions.

It's also important to remember that the areas renovated are **Phase I** of the master plan prepared for us by Cornerstone Architects. Areas not part of Phase I include the parking lot and storage building, sanctuary, staff office area, lighting in all non-renovated areas, and the south entry steps and porch.

We want to thank everyone for your participation and support in the needs assessment, planning process, and during the construction phase.

A Place for All Construction Committee

Larry Grinwis, John Kreple, Co-Chairs

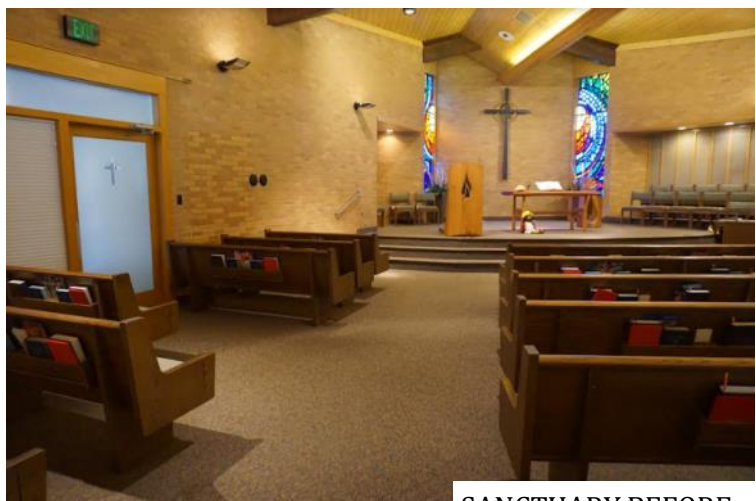
Larry Briggance, Bill Haines, Sandy Peterson

Linda Knieriemen, Pastoral Staff

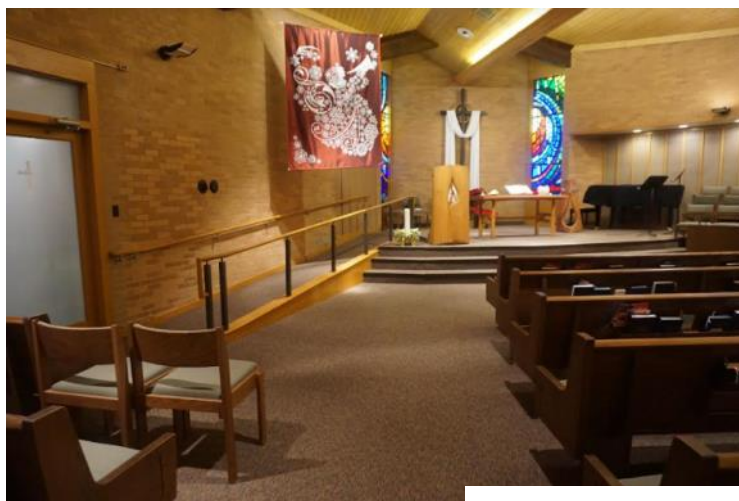


(Left) Renovated Youth meeting room

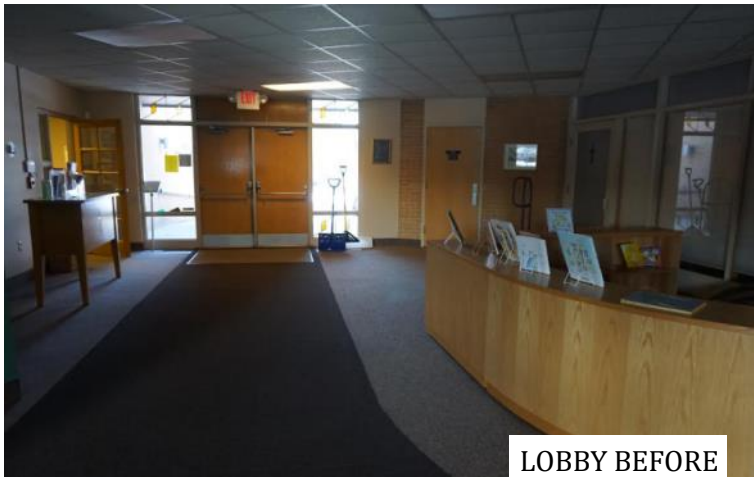
Thanks to Chris Urbaniak for these 'before and after' photos.



SANCTUARY BEFORE



SANCTUARY AFTER



LOBBY BEFORE



LOBBY AFTER



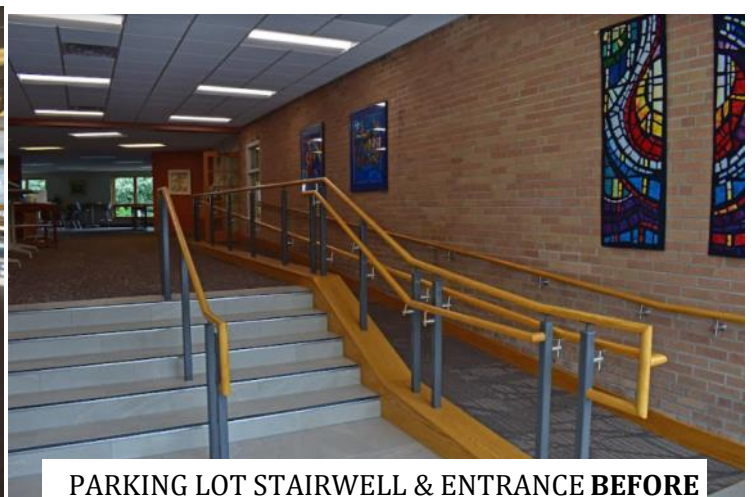
FRONT STAIRWELL BEFORE



FRONT STAIRWELL AFTER



PARKING LOT STAIRWELL & ENTRANCE BEFORE



PARKING LOT STAIRWELL & ENTRANCE BEFORE

Grace
& PEACE
~~~~~

## <> FPC Church History <> FPC Church History <>

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."



### **First Presbyterian Church 1958 – 2008**

For First Presbyterian Church's 50th Anniversary celebration, the Anniversary Committee decided to find an appropriate logo for our church as a symbol of the anniversary. We selected the mythical Sankofa (Sang-ko-fah) bird, inspired by the philosophical principle of the Akan people of West Africa called Sankofa, which says that in order to move into the future, one must go back and learn from the past. The Sankofa bird symbolizes this philosophy by flying forward with its head facing backward and holding an egg in its beak to symbolize the future. The committee felt the Sankofa bird symbolized the desire of First Presbyterian Church members to celebrate our past, gathering the best of what it has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move enthusiastically into our future. The logo was designed by long time church member Judy Giles.



### **In 1993 FPC installs new leaded glass windows**

Notice the original windows in the sanctuary in 1981, when Greg and Lori Klinesteker were married. In 1993, the current windows were installed and added to the aesthetics of the chancel.



## **In the Beginning #3**

- On June 29, 1958, a formal service of organization by the Presbytery was held at Western Seminary Chapel, and 102 people accepted their responsibility.
- The Brooks' property was purchased for \$37,500.
- Due to the small seating capacity, it was necessary to have two services, one in the morning and one in the evening.
- Deacons and Deaconesses were elected as 2 different groups, but were soon united as women were eligible to hold church offices. They acted as head ushers and arranged rides for Hope students wishing to attend in addition to their present duties.
- A Women's Association was formed on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The music committee arranged for the purchase of a Kimball organ.
- Guest ministers were used until the first minister, Rev. Dr. Bernard E. Vanderbeek of Charleston, West Virginia, was installed September 24, 1958.
- In November, a Boy Scout troop was organized and met in the garage
- The year-end report noted that 105 charter members had increased to a total of 137.
- In 1959, a manse at 555 College Avenue was purchased.
- A building committee was formed to plan new construction of a church.
- Year end membership totaled 195, and receipts were \$29,702.

Thank  
you

Dear Deacons, Staff & fellow Parishioners,

I want to take this time to thank you all for your thoughtful prayers, cards, love and wishes for a speedy recovery. I have never experienced such support, it has meant so very much to me during this trying time in my life.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Smith

## **CHOIR & MUSICIANS**

Chuck Norris

charlesenorris@gmail.com

## **DINNER & THEATRE GROUP**

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## **MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**

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## **WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE**

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## **WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE**

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## **YOGA**

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## **YOUNG FAMILIES**

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Cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com

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# CONNECT TOGETHER



**Sewing New Stoles** // 35 New stoles are being created to replace our blue choir robes. Each stole has 6 parts which had to be cut from fabric. That's 210 pieces! The concept, design, and purchase of material was led by Lois Rodgers and Janet Brashler from Worship Council, Nick Norris provided the photos for the artwork, and Wendy Dillingham stepped up to help with planning the cutting, fusing, counting, sewing, clipping, counting, trimming, pressing, measuring, counting. Volunteers met on 2 Saturdays and hauled in their sewing machines, ironing boards and irons, loaned tools and equipment, sent and brought treats, loaded and unloaded cars, moved tables and chairs, and probably other helpful acts. The worker bees were: Lois Rodgers, Janet Brashler, Wendy Dillingham, Janet Magennis, Beth Magennis, Darren Parker, Sherry Martens, Chris Urbaniak, Terry Schamper, Janet Haines, David Ford, and Colleen Ball...hopefully we didn't miss anyone! And an additional thank you to Jane Oosterhouse and Thom Samuelson for their staff support to set up and clean up for us. Watch for the debut!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Join the Sound Board Team** // With indoor services returning, the sound board team desperately needs to add a couple of new sound operators to keep the individual rotation lower, generally 1 or 2 services per month. Sound operators ensure microphones have good batteries, mute microphones, and monitor sound levels throughout the service. Training will be provided including working with another operator until volunteers feel comfortable.

Please contact Tim Richardson ([timr@portercorp.com](mailto:timr@portercorp.com)) (616.610.4576) or find me most weeks at the soundboard if you are willing to join the team that provides this service to enhance the worship experience in our church.

**Office Volunteers Needed** // Sheri is seeking office volunteers who may be around this summer to help with tasks such as collecting friendship pads, assisting with tidying up the sanctuary each week which includes sharpening / sanitizing pencils, assisting with volunteer coordination, and other tasks. Please email Sheri at [office@fpcholland.org](mailto:office@fpcholland.org) or call her M-Th 9a-3p at the church office 616.392.9022.



**Small Group Dinner and Theatre** // Join us for the performance at Holland Community Theatre of "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood." We have reserved a block of tickets for the 7p show on Friday, August 13th (that's right!...it's got to be better luck than the last year we've had). Optional dinner at the Curraugh at 5p. Contact Chris Urbaniak (836.9293 or [cmurbaniak@comcast.net](mailto:cmurbaniak@comcast.net)) to reserve your seat by August 5th. It will be great to see your smiling faces again! "What's the play about?", you ask....**It sure is hard to be humble when you're a swashbuckling, egocentric super-hero. But our gallant guy-in-green tries his best as he swaggers through "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood", a frantically funny, Monty Pythonesque retelling of the classic.**



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