



# presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / OCTOBER 2021

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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

## Linda's Keyboard

Welcome to autumn in Michigan. Leaves soon will change! In this season, we are walking our way through the seven signs of Jesus' glory in the sermon series based on texts in the gospel of John. Alongside those sermons, we are placing the annual Stewardship Initiative. Bob Knittel, treasurer, and Nancy Rodgers, bookkeeper, have begun the process of forming an estimated budget for 2022. Sherry Martens, elder, and Gail Hering, committee member, are busy formatting information for the congregation that will aid in guiding our estimates of giving for the coming year. I am acting as a pastoral presence for this process.

A letter will arrive at your mailbox toward the end of the week before October 10. Yes, sent by snail mail! During the last four weeks of the sermon series, four of the Session councils will report at the outdoor worship service about how they have been stewards of our giving for 2021, and how they anticipate serving in 2022. They will touch on how not only money, but also time and talent, are utilized for God.

October 10 – Connections Council (accompanied by cider and doughnuts)

October 17 – Outreach & Mission Council

October 24 – Spiritual Growth & Formation Council

October 31 – Worship and the Arts Council

*Simple:* uncomplicated/not hard to understand or do/modest/humble/plain

*Generous:* abundant/big-hearted/liberal/unselfish/kind/freely giving or sharing

This process is simple and clear. We have been generous and unselfish in the past, and our goal is to continue that legacy for 2022.

Grace and peace,  
Linda

Grace  
& PEACE  
~~~~~



Rev. Paul Van Kempen  
Associate Pastor

## Experiences of Faith

Hello!

It is time to kick-off another year of Youth Group at FPC. I am excited to get back together and to welcome some new faces. Our theme this fall is “Experiences of Faith.”

We are going to be looking at different ways individuals experience God (see schedule below) and exploring how we each experience God in our lives and in the world.

We will be meeting outside at the church weather permitting (except for a few events offsite). When the weather gets colder we will either move into the youth room or, depending on Covid numbers, we will move to Zoom. I will keep you informed of all changes.

Each “lesson night” (in orange below) will consist of snacks, games and a lesson on the chosen topic.

The blue “Event” nights will be at different locations and often at different times. I will send out an email with that information.

I can’t wait to get the fall started!  
See you Sunday!

Peace,  
Paul



| Date/Time 6:30-8:00 unless otherwise specified. | Location             | Topic                   | Special Info                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept 12                                         | Church               | Kick Off                |                                                                               |
| Sept 19                                         | Church               | Lesson Night: Music     |                                                                               |
| Sep 26                                          | Church               | Lesson Night: Nature    |                                                                               |
| Oct 3 (Afternoon)                               | Cranes corn maze     | Corn Maze               | We will meet at Cranes for the maze and for some donuts on Sunday afternoon.  |
| Oct 10                                          | Church               | Lesson Night: Film      |                                                                               |
| Oct 17                                          | Church               | Lesson Night: Art       |                                                                               |
| Oct 24                                          | Offsite location     | Halloween Bonfire       | Location TBD, likely Gary Smith's house or Lauren's house.                    |
| Oct 31                                          | No meeting—Halloween |                         | Youth are invited to help with the Church Halloween Party (date and time TBD) |
| Nov 7                                           | Church               | lesson night: Spiritual |                                                                               |







Lori Klinesteker  
Children's  
Ministry Leader

## Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Welcome back to a new year of Worship Center.

Our Worship Center space inside FPC is ready to welcome us back once it is safe to do so. While we wait, we are blessed with beautiful weather and are bringing the Worship Center space outdoors to the FPP playground! We have the wood chip mound for our mountain top stories, the sand box for our desert stories, and warm green grass to experience nature, the stories, and renew our friendships. All children are invited to join us. The WC model is modified to fit into our outdoor environment and for the time we have together.



The tradition of Fourth Graders receiving their Bibles took place on kick-off Sunday, September 19, 2021. Will Rund and Nora Teutsch received theirs during the Worship Service. Bibles for the rest of our Fourth Graders who were not with us are waiting for you in the Worship Center.



Enjoy the photos of our outdoor Worship Center, creations of Zen gardens, receiving of Bibles, family fun at Crane's and the Splash Pad, and even exploding watermelons with the Youth.

In life there is change, I am grateful to all who journey with us seeking the constant and never-ending love of The Good Shepherd who is always with us: through the warm green grass, the cool blue waters, and even in the dark places.

Christ's Light is shining; all are invited and welcome,

Lori Klinesteker





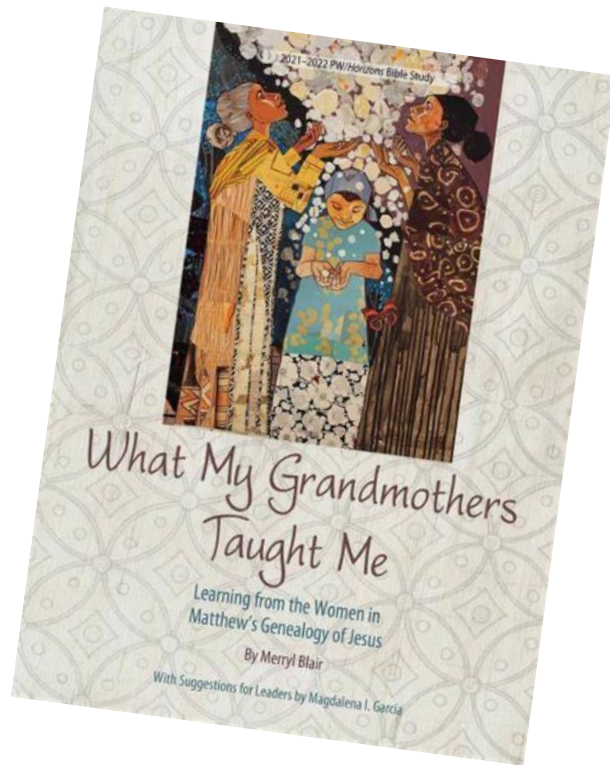
## Presbyterian Women

As we begin our new Bible study “What my Grandmothers Taught Me” we will learn more about the women of Jesus’ genealogy from the Bible stories we have shared over the years. Following our combined group kickoff with Pastor Linda Male, we now move into two groups once a month. We enjoyed her insights and had a birthday party to encourage gifts to the PW Birthday Offering that supports great projects not funded by our General Assembly.

We have formed a new Facebook Group just for us! Please look for “FPC Holland PW” and hang out for news and comments, reminders for meetings, or updates on events.

We are hoping for a Christmas brunch – so keep healthy!

Janet Magennis, PW Communications



### MIRIAM CIRCLE

Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30am

#### 2021

Oct 10, 2021, Nov 10, 2021, Dec 8, 2021

#### 2022

Jan 12, 2022, Feb 9, 2022, Mar 9, 2022,  
Apr 13, 2022, May 11, 2022

### HANNAH CIRCLE

Meets on 2nd Thursdays at 1:30pm with a Zoom option (the link will be emailed to you the night before\*)

#### 2021

Oct 11, 2021, Nov 11, 2021, Dec 9, 2021

#### 2022

Jan 13, 2022, Feb 10, 2022, Mar 10, 2022,  
Apr 14, 2022, May 12, 2022

### **GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

online: [PresbyterianWomen.org](https://www.PresbyterianWomen.org) / Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA)



# Mission and Outreach

## Update on the Zadran family that we supported coming here over 5 years ago.

*By Larry Lynn*

On March 16th of 2016, about twenty-five of our church members welcomed the Zadran family into America at the Gerald Ford Airport. This refugee Afghanistan family consisted of a mother (Javlay) and her three adult children (Muhammad, Radia, and Hajira). The church, as the co-sponsor with Bethany Christian Services, was well prepared to help this family become part of our community in many ways. In the beginning, we had close to fifty church members assist in settling the family. After about eight months, the family no longer needed our financial help, and other support was minimized.

Two significant changes occurred since their arrival. One, Muhammad, who speaks English, was able to arrange for his wife and three children to leave Afghanistan to join Muhammad in October 2017. Two, his sisters, who were engaged to be married before they left Afghanistan, returned to Kabul and got married there in August 2018. Over the last two years, visa documentation was finalized for the husbands to join their wives here in Holland. During the chaos in Kabul in mid to late August, they were able to leave Afghanistan.

Below is the updated status of the family:

Javlay, age 59, is a devoted grandmother and lives with Muhammad and Razia.

Muhammad, age 33, has been employed at D&W since June of 2016. His wife,

Razia, is 32 years old and the three children that arrived here in 2017, are Mustafa, age 9 and the twins Talha and Khadija who are 5 years old. Since arriving here, the family has grown with the addition of Mujtaba, age 3, and Musa, age 3 months.

Radia, age 27, has been employed at Hampton Inn since August of 2016. Her husband, Lahoor, was in maintenance in Afghanistan.

Hajira, age 25, has also been employed at Hampton Inn since August of 2016. Her husband, Rahim, was self-employed in Afghanistan. They also have a child that is now 2 years old.

The husbands arrived September 4th in Grand Rapids after a long ordeal getting out of Kabul.

### Looking for a donated bicycle

A request for a used bike for the Zadran family to be used by one of Muhammad's brothers-in-law who arrived recently from Afghanistan. If anyone is interested in donating, please call Larry Lynn 616.617.8944 or email: [oldrun09@gmail.com](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com)



*New church stoles unveiled.*

*Pastor Paul leading time with the children.*

# Mission and Outreach

## Citypaks Backpacks



*By Janet Hostetler*

### Citypaks Backpacks

You may have already seen these nifty backpacks around town. Check out the website: [www.citypak.org](http://www.citypak.org). These packs were designed specifically for and with the help of persons experiencing homelessness along with adventure travel gear manufacturer, High Sierra. We were able to purchase them with Outreach money for just \$22 per pack plus \$5 shipping.

The backpacks were distributed through the Refresh: Hygiene & Hope Program at First Methodist Church in downtown Holland. Several of our members volunteer regularly at Refresh. The program offers showers, clothing, mail services, food, and social services. If interested in contributing or volunteering, contact Janet Hostetler at [janethostetler@gmail.com](mailto:janethostetler@gmail.com).



*Young Families event at Cranes Orchard on September 26 following the worship service. Everyone enjoyed the cider, donuts and apple picking.*



## Deacons' Caring Corner

One of the ministries that the Deacons oversee is the visiting of members of our church family who are in assisted living facilities. Although visits were suspended during many months of the pandemic, now that vaccines are available, most facilities have reopened their doors to visiting. Many of our church members in assisted living are unable to get to the church even during normal times, so a visit from a fellow member provides a vital link to our church family as well as an expression of shared faith. What better way to speak about spirit than to quote the words of Jesus, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am also." The visit may include small talk, sharing of news from the church, sharing of relevant experiences of life, and faith and prayer. The visit can be scheduled monthly, bi-monthly or as needed. It will be different for each group that visits together. If you would like to be visited by a church member or Deacon, please contact us at the number or email below!

Just as important as those we visit, are those who feel they have a calling to visit. You don't have to be a Deacon to be on the Deacons' visiting team. Please let us know if you would like to be included in this ministry. We have a

God's Work.  
Our Hands.



few tools that we can share with you to help, so reach out to us!

Another related aspect of our visiting ministry is home communion which was also suspended due to the pandemic. Pastor Linda and Pastor Paul are ready to resume and may be accompanied by a Deacon or Elder. If you are interested in having home communion brought to you, contact us!

**Email:** [deacons@fpcholland.org](mailto:deacons@fpcholland.org) or [office@fpcholland.org](mailto:office@fpcholland.org). Office **Phone:** 616.392.9022.

Janet Haines, Sarah Anderson, Vern Hostetler, Gloria Ford, Jessica Kregger, Colleen Ball, Liz Hoffswell, Marianne McBeth, Sarah Glover, Linda Winkelmann

## Session Highlights:

- \* Outreach Council is further supporting 3 new members of the Zadrán family who have recently arrived into the U.S.; anticipate need for help with English lessons and transportation.

- \* Session reaffirmed guidelines in our original Reopening Phase-in Plan and is currently working on an update for options in resuming indoor worship.

Discussion surrounding the need to balance risk of isolation and ability to be true to the core mission of being the church with the risks of returning to indoor worship while COVID transmission rates are still high, continues.



Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed the Picnics for 7 event. A good time was had by all!



# Move that (new!) Bus!



Good news from the Transportation Ministry Team!

Three years ago, First Presbyterian Church embarked on a new adventure and purchased an older bus. We knew this bus had some rough edges and some weak spots, but for a jumping off point, this bus checked our boxes. So, we had the faith, gave it a little love, and put her/him on the road! This bus has taught us that this ministry is vital to the life of the church.

As was the plan, the trial period has ended. We have decided that the bus ministry is an excellent addition to our inclusive church, and we are ready for a more permanent solution.

It is with great joy that we share that we have purchased a newer bus! This bus has everything we wanted originally but compromised on for the trial period. Seatbelts! It also has fewer of the undesirable things . . . like rust!

With the increased safety features and reliability, we will now be able to find many more uses for this wonderful bus.

Our “new” bus was purchased for \$29,000 which includes the exterior artwork and the addition of the maximal number of seats allowed by law. The funds are available in the general fund thanks to the CARES Act grant. We will sell the current bus and celebrate the joy it has given us.

This is just the beginning. As our ministry grows, so does our need for support. Here are ways you can participate:

- drive the bus
- be a bus assistant
- wash the bus
- give financially (toward the purchase or upkeep)
- pray
- USE THE BUS!!!

We are grateful for the continued support in this FPC ministry. May God continue to bless us as we broaden the use of this bus to further God’s plans for God’s people.

With Love, Thanksgiving, and Joy on behalf of the Transportation Ministry Team and Session,

Cassie Kregger

## SMALL GROUP LEADERS

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### DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

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### YOUNG FAMILIES

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# CONNECT TOGETHER



**Dinner and Theatre at Holland Community Theatre** // October 9 at 7:30p  
*The Government Inspector*, a witty, smart, and wildly satirical play. When the locals in a small Russian hamlet learn that a government inspector is coming for a surprise visit, an unfortunate case of mistaken identity sends the whole village into a world of panic and greed. Contact Chris Urbaniak with any questions.



**Men's Non-Fiction Book Club** // Please join us on the first Monday night of the month at 7pm for discussion of books selected by the members. The books to be discussed for the next three months are as follows:

**October 4th** – *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates.

**November 1st** – *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez.

**December 6th** – *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West* by Megan Kate Nelson.

Whether we meet at church or on Zoom will be decided later. Contact Larry Lynn at oldrun09@gmail.com 616.617.8944 if you have any questions



**Young Families Trunk-or-Treat is back!** // FPC will host a small, safe Trunk-or-Treat event for church and First Presbyterian Preschool families on Sunday, October 24, from 4-5 pm in the parking lot. Come in your costumes or come dressed as yourself, bring treats to hand out to our children, and take the time to welcome and get to know our First Presbyterian Preschool families! Set up will begin at 3:30pm for those coming to pass out treats, and children will be invited to come with their parents at 4pm for games, art projects, and to get candy. *Looking forward to seeing you there.*



**Holland Free Clinic 5K Run/Walk** // Holland Free Health Clinic invites you to participate in our Run For Your Life 5k Run/Walk, on October 30. This is a Halloween-themed run/walk event. Registration is same day from 7:30-8:30am. Race starts at 9:00am. Volunteers are needed to set up, register participants, set course markers, man the race path, and run in the race. To [volunteer](#) contact: Briana at 616.392.3610, more information about the event visit the [Holland Free Health Clinic website](#)





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