

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / NOVEMBER 2021



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Before going to bed Saturday evening,
remember to turn your clock back 1 hour.

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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

I am one of those people who never wins any contest. Counting the jellybeans in a jar at the church picnic didn't win me the jar full. Buying raffle tickets never won me the hand made quilt. And a scratch off lottery ticket was just that—a ticket. UNTIL October 19!

I was invited to attend the Women's Literary Club luncheon by our new member, Mimi Keller. Little did I know that she is a past president of the group and was seated at the head table along with the current president, her guests, and the main speaker for the day—Wade Rouse.

That fact alone made me feel like a winner. Time to sit at lunch with the author of *The Charm Bracelet*, which I had read only a few weeks earlier, made my day. Bev Plagenhoef and the book group here at church read the novel, and I always get a copy of what they are reading just because I love to read. I took my own charm bracelet to the luncheon hoping that I might find a way to share it with the author. I never imagined sitting with him for a whole lunchtime. So I was a winner.

But imagine how giddy I became when I won a copy of his latest book *The Secret of Snow*. If you need proof, go to the Holland Sentinel webpage and click on "Holland Women's Literary Club hosts author talk" to see me hugging my copy of the book. You will also see Mimi and me sitting together.

Rouse writes under the pen name of Viola Shipman, his grandmother's name. He deeply appreciates all she was to him. His novels explore many aspects of personal relationships, especially those among friends and with families. He also writes with a love for the state of Michigan.

Rouse is a resident of Saugatuck; his descriptions of the beauties of our state wake me up to the realization that we have a wonderful home here with changing seasons, the Lake, and an abundance of creatures and vegetation. I am looking at the colors of leaves with new eyes this fall.

I am grateful as we approach the season of Thanksgiving that I can expand my understanding of others through conversations and discussions. Books are an excellent way to delve into how others handle emotional situations and memories. Holidays sometimes bring out the worst in families. This year let's all try to remember the best parts of our past and our relationships. We have much to celebrate when we look for those little glimpses of the ways God works through love and forgiveness. It makes us all winners as we move towards the future.

Grace and peace,
Linda



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Thanksgiving

Twelve years ago, Shanna and I celebrated our first Thanksgiving as a married couple. We were living in a small apartment in New Jersey and all of our family was twelve hours away here in West Michigan. Feeling nostalgic and maybe missing home a bit, we decided to cook a full Thanksgiving meal for just the two of us. We made mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce, and yes, a full turkey. We cooked the *whole day*. *It was an incredible amount of work, and by the time we sat down to eat, we were tired and less than thankful for the meal in front of us.*

The next year we started a new Thanksgiving tradition that continues to this day. We go to Trader Joe's and buy all of the frozen foods that look good to us. Then we spend Thanksgiving Day watching the parade and the dog show and eating frozen junk food. It is one of my favorite days of the year.

Now that we have kids, we have continued this tradition. We bring the TV up from the basement, we turn on the fire, we stay in our jammies and we eat junk food while watching the parade. The kids love it almost as much as I do. We do go to our families Thanksgiving meals (which are often not actually on Thanksgiving) but Thanksgiving morning is family time.

It is easy to forget what Thanksgiving is all about, but we have found that by keeping it simple and focusing on spending time with our family, we are more able to be thankful for all that God has given us, without getting distracted by the stress of the holiday.

However you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, remember that it is a day to give thanks to God for all of the good in your life!

Happy November!

Pastor Paul



Advent intergenerational event // Plan to join us on Sunday, November 28 at 3pm to prepare for Advent. We will make nature-friendly ornaments for our outdoor tree, decorate cookies, and make advent wreaths to take home. ***All are welcome!***



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center in the outdoors is amazing. Kids are finding ways to reference nature into our stories; the beautiful weather we've been blessed with, and being with brothers, sisters, and friends of all ages is sweet.

We are continuing to provide Worship Center on the playground during the 10a Worship Service. When it is safe to do so - along with the approval of parents - we will return indoors. All children are invited to join us. During the 11:15a outdoor Worship Service, parents are welcome to have their children on the playground with supervision provided by a parent-led rotating schedule. Masks are required.

Families, please join us on Sunday, November 28 at 3p, as we enter into Advent with a multi-generational gathering to make new or refresh your Advent wreaths with pine boughs and candles, create ornaments for our FPC outside Christmas tree, decorate (and eat...) wreath cookies, and enjoy hot cocoa together.

Photos are from the 2nd annual Trunk or Treat event held at FPC. If you have suggestions of some fun activities that our families would enjoy, please share with us.

Christ's Light is shining; all are invited and welcome!
Lori Klinesteker





Presbyterian Women

We are hoping to offer an **Advent event** for all women of the church in December as we track COVID numbers. It might be a tea with scones and little sandwiches with time for a Christmas craft. We will see! Meanwhile, please begin collecting your new and unwrapped underwear and socks for women and children served by RESILIENCE. There will be a basket in the narthex entrance for all church members to help us support this annual Project.

With some degree of trepidation, the “Hannah Hybrid” Circle met in October with 2 members joining by ZOOM and 9 in the Michigan Room. We viewed the Introduction and Lesson 2 videos for our new Bible study based on Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus: *What My Grandmothers Taught Me. The study writer, Meryl Blair, is a “saucy” Aussie, who was a senior lecturer in Old Testament at the seminary of the University of Divinity in Melbourne.* Well, her delightful accent and straight shooting on the real power behind the men in Matthew’s genealogy – the women – had us laughing.

After a somber year of studying Lament as a spiritual practice while living through COVID 19, it was so therapeutic to laugh and be together! As conditions are still fluctuating with the disease we will have the ability to be flexible with our study meetings, and that is also a joy. We have several circle members now in long term care whom we will “visit” with our notes and cards.

If we think Tamar, who carried Judah’s child Perez (even though she was his daughter-in-law), was interesting, in November we will visit with Rahab. She was a marginalized foreigner in Jericho, but she used her wit and initiative to lie to the king and shelter Joshua’s spies, and save her whole family, thus protecting the genealogy of Jesus. We meet the word “hesed” here again, “loyal love” and a reminder that the “steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.” It’s a great and complex story! Coming in December? Ruth!

Janet Magennis,
PW Communications

The Miriam Circle meets Nov. 10 at 9:30a. (Circle leader is Bev Plagenhoef.)

The Hannah Hybrid Circle meets Nov. 11 at 1:30p. (Circle leader is Janet Magennis. Zoom link will be sent on Nov. 9.)

MIRIAM CIRCLE

Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30am

2021: Dec 8, 2021

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

HANNAH HYBRID CIRCLE

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

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

Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity

Today, Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity announced our largest project to date: a joint development with Jubilee Ministries called Vista Green. This neighborhood will bring **42 affordable homes** for homeownership to the City of Holland.

18 of these homes will be Lakeshore Habitat homes!

To support this project, Lakeshore Habitat launched the *Strengthening Families, Building Community* campaign to raise \$2.4 million. Since March, a campaign cabinet made up of volunteers has been working to secure lead gifts, and to date, we have secured **\$1.6 million!**

To keep the momentum moving forward, and to engage the local church, we have several donors who are offering to **match** donations specifically by local churches. This is a dollar-for-dollar match, up to **\$35,000**, through the end of 2021. In addition to financial support, we are looking for churches who would like to commit to volunteering on this project.

Contact Travis at volunteer@lakeshorehabitat.org for more info.

To learn more about this project, visit www.building-community.org

Escape Ministries

What's new at Escape Ministries? Administrative changes for starters. Todd Krygsheld is the new Escape Ministries Executive Director. Jennifer Jones is the Associate Executive Director, a new position. Nikki Dykstra is also the new Administrative Director. AJ Westendorp, Connections Director, Kristina Sage, Education Director, Ruben Silvas, Westside Fitness and boxing, and other staff remain.

New programs include SUMMER BRIDGE, ESCAPE ZONE, AND CAREER CONNECTIONS.

SUMMER BRIDGE: Escape teamed up with the Community Foundation to support this program to help challenge, engage and prepare students going into the 9th grade. Students were able to practice material they will be experiencing within the first few weeks of 9th grade.

ESCAPE ZONE: This new and improved tutoring program is available to Middle School and High School students. They will get assistance on course material they will experience in their home school setting.

CAREER CONNECTIONS: During the summer months, 48 students had the opportunity to earn money, learn valuable job skills, and build life-changing relationships at Escape. Their first summer job experience plays a big part in determining their work habits for the rest of their life. Timeliness, attention to detail, initiative, respect, gratitude, and delight were some of the "Superpowers" that were taught. Trentin, a student, stated, "I wanted a job to help my mom out with bills, but my self-confidence was really low." He became a reliable leader on his team, weeding, harvesting vegetables, washing buses, and returning pop cans. He did it all. By the way, Escape has raised over \$60,000 with their pop can drive!

Escape is deeply grateful for our support. The Outreach Council intends to continue our support of Escape Ministries and hopes to have Todd and/or his staff come to FPC for a Minute for Mission and to meet at our Outreach Kiosk. If you would like to support Escape either by volunteering or financially, visit their recently updated website: <https://escape-out.org/>

Deacons' Caring Corner

The Transporter Care Team, led by Deacon Vern Hostetler, is willing and able to help you with transportation needs! Did your car break down and you need a ride to work, school, or to a doctor's appointment? Did your regular driver go out of town or leave for the season? Are you homebound with no transportation access? Do you need a ride to church and are not on the bus route? The Transporter Care Team is a group of church members who have volunteered to be drivers for other members who need transportation. It can be a one-time request or ongoing. If you have transportation needs, please contact Vern, any deacon or Pastor Linda. You can also **Email: deacons@fpcholland.org**.

If you have an interest with helping other church members with transportation, we are always looking for new volunteers for the Transporters Care Team to ensure we can fulfill all our church members' needs. Even an occasional ability to provide transportation is helpful and you will always have the opportunity to decline if a request doesn't fit with your schedule. Feel free to reach out with questions!



Contact Vern Hostetler, any deacon, or Pastor Linda. You can also: **Email: deacons@fpcholland.org or office@fpcholland.org**.

Or call the church office: 616.392.9022.

Thank you ~

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

November Coat Drive

The weather is turning cooler and it's time to remember our neighbors needing warm coats for the winter. We will again be collecting new coats for the children at the Children's Advocacy Center. Sizes needed range from toddler to adult. With over 500 NEW clients each year, this need is constant every winter. CAC is very appreciative of any coats we can send their way. Coats can be sent directly to the Center with the address listed below, or bring them to the Church where we will have a box ready for your donation.

Children's Advocacy Center
Attn: Andrea Torres
12125 Union Street
Holland, MI. 49424



We will also be collecting good used coats of any size for Community Action House and for persons experiencing homelessness who come to the Refresh Program. There will be a second box clearly marked for used coats next to the Outreach Kiosk opposite the office.

Hope you can be part of this great opportunity for an urgent need in our community. If you have any questions, contact Janet Hostetler at 740.704.4822

All Saints' Sunday

October 31, 2021



It is our practice on every All Saints' Sunday to name and remember those who were a part of this faith community, who have passed away this year and who are now with the communion of Saints above.

Let us remember members, friends and clergy.

Shirley Effken	11/8/2020
Cynthia Taylor	12/2020
Nancy Burkitt	12/7/2020
Dolores Jacobusse	2/20/2021
Dennis Benson	6/10/2021
Bevis Richardson	7/30/2021
Tom Updegraff	8/14/2021
Mary Hoffman	8/16/2021
Peter Theune	10/10/2021
Ann Mason	10/22/2021

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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WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

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YOUNG FAMILIES

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616.298.4164

Let's Pray Together

IN SYMPATHY

Our condolences to the family and friends of Ann Mason, who passed away Friday, October 22. Expressions of care may be sent to Ann's husband: Tom Mason / 3681 160th Avenue / Holland MI 49424

Our condolences to Laurie Hekman and her family. Laurie's brother, Arthur "John" Mervenne, Jr. died on September 15, 2021

Our condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Peter James Theune, who passed away suddenly on the morning of Sunday, October 10, 2021. Expressions of care may be sent to Pete's wife: Judy Theune / 201 DeWitt Lane, Apt. 212 / Spring Lake MI 49456

Our condolences to the family of Helen Teutsch whose mother Josephine (Jose) Taylor, died October 6 at 77 years old of lung cancer. She lived in Granger, Indiana and is having a funeral in her home church, St. Pius X Catholic church on November 13, 2021. Condolences may be sent to: to Helen, Bob, Nora and Daphne Teutsch / 5898 Powderhorn Ct. SW / Wyoming MI 49418

FOR FPC

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) as they search for our new Senior Pastor

For the health of our congregation as we move to indoor worship

IN PRAYERS

Marianne McBeth struggling with ongoing health concerns and prayers for her friend Margo who has pneumonia

Connie Oppenhuizen who has moved following rehabilitation: Royal Atrium Inn #112; 400 Parkside Dr.; Zeeland, MI 49464.

Tom Urbaniak recovering from surgery

Stephanie Edwards completing treatment for Ewings Sarcoma

Eric Heller and his wife Megan as Eric receives treatment for prostate cancer which has spread to his bones

Pastor Linda's brother, Jim who is receiving chemotherapy for bladder cancer

Prayers for those who join us in worship online that they will sense the love and peace of Christ.

Those processing emotional pain

Those struggling with addictions

Those grieving with the loss of loved ones

YOUTH@FIRST

For encouragement and safety in their school routine and activities

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

Connie Oppenhuizen - Royal Atrium Inn in Zeeland

Sara Brady - American House

Bob and Jo Ann Martin - Riley's Grove in Zeeland

JoAnn Karn - SKLD in Zeeland

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. 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.

If you would like to share a confidential prayer request, please contact:
Rev. Linda Male, Interim Pastor: pastor@fpcholland.org
Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Associate Pastor: associatepastor@fpcholland.org.



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