



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / DECEMBER 2021

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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

Dear Friends,

December begins my eleventh month serving with you in ministry. As a contracted Interim Pastor, I am very aware that my time with you is finite. We have already ended the liturgical year in worship and have begun the new cycle for Advent/Christmas. Our Christian New Year begins with birth but does not end with death. It ends with the new birth of creation and Jesus' promise to return. We walk to a different rhythm of life. We walk with hope.

For four weeks of Advent, we walk on the road to Bethlehem, and then we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Our walk on the road looks backward even as we move forward. We look back at the long wait to return to in-person worship. We look back at the losses around the world due to a virus we had no control over. We look back the many times we had to make quick reversals of plans and adaptations of routines. We look back at unexpected school closures. We realize we have changed how we see the world.

Walking the road during Advent takes on a new meaning this year especially. We are waiting for a new pastor. This kind of waiting is forward looking and is not static. It is a kind of rebirth. The PNC is ready to meet new possibilities as the members listen for the voice of the Spirit who calls them to follow along the road. We are patiently walking in a slow tempo, sure that the One who is faithful will be the reliable guide on our road.

Walking and praying; looking back while moving ahead; giving thanks for the One who takes on flesh for our sakes: all these add up to the Christian way to live through an Advent to arrive at Christmas and new birth. FPC anticipates a new way to walk together into a blessed future of loving service to a loving God.

Grace & Peace,
Linda





Lori Klienesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center. How are we connecting?

The parable of the Good Shepherd: a Shepherd who leaves his flock of ninety-nine sheep in order to find the one which is lost. This parable lives on the edge of a hospital bed where it began to flourish into the Worship Center style and Montessori method of living within the story. At FPC, it's been experienced at the funeral of an infant, devotions during Bethel Bible class, training of new Celebrants, new member orientations, Sanctuary during Children's Time, Worship Center each year and is now online. Connecting in unexpected places.

For the safety of all, WC children have been meeting on the playground during the 10am in-person Worship. Weather is changing quickly – we had to cancel on November 14 due to rain/snow. The Good Shepherd parable popped up online, kids were able to cut out and color their own pieces and “tell the story” along with the Celebrant online. Are we connecting with you?



Will reading his 4th grade Bible.



Children will continue to have options for children's ministry in ways that best meet the needs of their families. At this moment in time, Worship Center will be during the 8:45a worship service indoors and masked, along with the story being available online

Traditionally, FPC Christmas Eve Service includes the Children's Pageant leading to the Nativity. Due to Covid and for the safety of everyone, Young Families and First Presbyterian Preschool are invited to experience the live Nativity, animals, winter wonderland walk, bonfire and hot cocoa at Fellinlove Farms, 6364 144th, Holland 49423. This will be on December 12 from 4-6pm. All are welcome. We want to connect with you.

During this Season of Advent, may you wonder and shine as you carry the warmth of Christ's Light in your heart.

~ Lori Klienesteker

Thanks to Lauren Stouffer for sharing photos.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Annual Project for Resilience

Please support our local family shelter with NEW & UNWRAPPED underwear, socks, and tees this year. Bring your donations to church where there is a laundry basket in the entryway. We will deliver these by mid-December!

Our two Bible Study groups are cautiously meeting at church once a month:

Miriam Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30am

Hannah Hybrid Circle meets on the 2nd Thursdays at 1:30pm – with a Zoom option (call Janet for the link).

Now is the time to make your annual pledge to Presbyterian Women. Envelopes are in the narthex. We also support Least Coin, a world-wide practice of prayer. If you've been praying a lot more lately, then join us with a penny, nickel, dime, or quarter for each prayer you raise!

We made a plan for a combined PW event in December.

Given the cautions we need to take with the spike in COVID variant cases, the PW Team has agreed to cancel the planned event. All in-person events must include masking.



MIRIAM CIRCLE

Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30am

Circle leader is Bev Plagenhoef

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 (Call Janet if you would like the link. It will be emailed to you the night before*.)

Circle leader is Janet Magennis

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

Move that Bus!



Our 2002 bus has moved on to support another good service organization. The American Legion Honor Guard of Saginaw purchased it on November 15th. We had many interested parties (churches, tours, individual large family), but they were one of the first to contact us and offer to purchase. They are as excited as we were 3 years ago when we acquired it from Escape Ministries. This bus has enjoyed a long life of service!

Hat & Mitten Collection



During the month of December, we will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for all ages. They will be given to our partner agencies to help keep our friends warm. We focus mostly on children, but cold weather items for all ages are appreciated. Bring your donations to the church to help decorate our mitten Tree. Thank you for your ongoing support of our Outreach Ministry.



Aline Miller would like to thank the church for the cards she received during her illness. The cards meant so very much to her and encouraged her slow but steady recovery.

"Thank you." As you probably have heard by now my wife, Ann Mason passed away October 22 after a prolonged battle with cancer. Your cards and prayers were most welcomed. ~ Tom Mason

"The Lord bless you, because you have shown this kindness." II Samuel 2:5

Deacons' Caring Corner

Being a Deacon is a wonderful call to service. In a very real way, Deacons are the hands and heart of the church in our ministry of caring. Serving as a Deacon of First Presbyterian Church of Holland is a privilege and a blessing. It is also an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. As a Deacon, you are given the opportunity to know other church members in a deeper way, serving alongside them and growing in your understanding of the burdens people carry and how the church can help.

Some of the Deacons' activities include:

- Transportation Ministry
- Meals Ministry
- College Care Packages
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Greeting Card Ministry
- Visitation and Phone Contact Ministry

- Handy Worker Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- Food and Fellowship Events
- Nominating Committee Representation
- Others as needs arise.



To learn more about the Deacons contact Vern Hostetler, Pastor Linda, any Deacon or email us at deacons@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



Intergenerational Advent family night. Creating nature ornaments for the outdoor Christmas tree, decorating cookies, hot cocoa and celebrating the beginning of Advent with our friends.



Covid Hybrid Worship Plan

Effective November 28, 2021

- **2 Indoor Services @8:45 and 11:00**

- 45 minutes
- For vaccinated or low risk individuals (to be left up to the individual)
- Choir sings and FPC Trio plays on an alternating schedule at both services (TBD by Music Director)
- No congregational singing, music will be led by the choir, a small group or a cantor
- Masks required for congregation and choir
- Socially distanced using friendship pads
- Michigan Room and M&M Cafe designated as overflow spaces to aid in social distancing.
- Ushers present and trained to assist with social distancing and masking
- Children's message when children are present
- Contact free passing the peace and offering
- No communion (congregants will be invited to come to the outdoor service on the first Sunday of the month if they want to participate in communion)
- No M&M Cafe

- **Monthly Outdoor Communion Service (times TBD)**

- First Sunday of the month, times TBD
- 15-20 minutes
- Short communion liturgy and prayers (no sermon)
- If there is music, it will be guitar led or a cappella
- Masks optional

- **1 Online Service**

- Livestream of the 11:00 Sunday service
- Available to view live at 11:00 or any time after

- **Children's options**

- Parents always have the option to keep their kids in the service or to send them to children's programming
- Children's ministry options will be determined by the Children's Ministry Director in consultation with children's ministry leaders and parents. These options will be in keeping with the covid policies outlined in this document
- The Children's Ministry Director will keep families and the wider church body informed of changes

Covid Hybrid Worship Plan

Continued

- **Small groups and other building use:**

- o All non-church groups follow their own protocols (AA, Boy Scouts, Preschool, etc.) unless they are outside their designated areas in the building.
- o Masking required for all people upon entering the building and while using the church office area.
- o All church groups wear masks indoors

This plan will be in effect until Ottawa County Covid numbers return to below the Presbytery guidelines for three consecutive weeks (less than 7% positivity and lower than 8 cases per 100,000) or until Session sees fit to adapt the plan to ever changing circumstances.

Children's Covid Hybrid Worship Plan Revision

With the changing of weather it is time to move indoors; with Covid cases rising in Ottawa County being ever present on our minds, we are hoping to make this transition as safe as possible for everyone.

Beginning November 28, 2021, children through 5th grade are invited to Worship Center from 8:45 – 9:30a, during the first service on Sunday mornings. If you prefer to take your child(ren) into the Worship Service and bring them to us after the Children's Message, they are welcome. Both volunteers and children will continue to be fully masked, and be in either the temporary Worship Center (the large meeting room connected to the Preschool Room across from the Nursery), the Preschool Room or outdoors if weather is favorable. If large groups of children are present, they will be split into two groups. Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) outside at the Preschool door off the parking lot to the west of the main doors. Children are invited to journey through Advent from home with us, as the stories are available on YouTube.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

CHOIR & MUSICIANS

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charlesenorris@gmail.com

DINNER & THEATRE 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

Cassie Kregger
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616.298.4164

CONNECT TOGETHER



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:

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

January 3rd - *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe

February 7th - *The Corporation That Changed the World: How the East India Company Shaped the Modern Multinational* by Nick Robins.

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.

Christmas Event



Service Times

Young Families Christmas Event

December 12 from 4-6p.

Young Families and First Presbyterian Preschool families are invited to experience the live Nativity, animals, winter wonderland walk, bonfire and hot cocoa at Fellinlove Farms. *All are welcome.*

The farm is located on the south end of Holland at 6364 144th St., Holland, Mich 49423.

Quiet Christmas Service

December 16 at 7p

Do you ever want to simply unplug yourself from the Christmas scene - the advertisements, shopping, soliciting, and constant barrage of glitter and glee? Many people do. Some find the gleefulness too much in general. Some prefer to celebrate Christ's coming in contemplation rather than cheer. For those who have recently lost a family member, a job, a dream, a quieter more intimate celebration can be a better "fit".

Join us in the sanctuary for scripture, music, prayers, candlelighting, and reflection.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

5p - A Family Celebration for all ages.

11p - A Service of Holy Communion and candlelight inviting Christ into our hearts and lives.

Please note: There will only be one worship service on Sunday, December 26 at 10:00am. A link to live stream this service will be sent out Sunday morning.

Let's Pray Together

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jordan and Faye (Van Oostenburg) Owen; siblings Cooper, and Izzy on the birth of Sullivan James born on November 28, 2022. Mark and Julie Van Oostenburg are the proud grandparents.

IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers to Lauren Stouffer and Barb Schreur on the passing of Lauren's grandmother on Sunday, November 21, 2021

FOR FPC

Search for candidates to fill the Administrative Assistant and Nursery Coordinator position(s)

As we find Covid-safe ways to gather and stay in touch with friends, family and loved-ones during the holiday season

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

For the health of our congregation as we worship indoors

IN PRAYERS

Nora and Daphne Teutsch, diagnosed positive for Covid and staying home to quarantine

Dick Gebben, son of Linda Gebben, as he lives with the challenges and complications of ALS

Maryanne McBeth's sister, Pat Danly who is undergoing tests to diagnose problems with her blood

Dick Bennett recovering from surgery

Fran Rosensteel recovering from surgery

Rebecca Gardiner diagnosed with congestive heart failure

Tom Urbaniak ongoing health concerns

Stephanie Edwards recovering after treatment for Ewings Sarcoma

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

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

Prayers of thanksgiving as our children age 5 through 11 now have access to the Covid-19 vaccine

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 & 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..*