



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / JANUARY 2022

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Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Grace, Peace and Love

When I was in High School the movie, "Saved" came out. "Saved" is a satirical comedy about a Christian High School, teen pregnancy, and homosexuality in Christian contexts. I think every High School youth group watched the movie and had a serious discussion about it (the satire was often lost on youth leaders). I vividly remember one scene where a group of girls that called themselves the "Christian Jewels" pull up in a church van next to Mary, who in their eyes is "backsliding into sin." They try to pull her into the van for an intervention, but Mary resists. Mary turns and starts walking away and as she does, the leader of the group, Hilary Faye, takes her Bible and throws it at Mary's back saying, "I am filled with Christ's love!"

Mary picks up the Bible and says, "This is not a weapon, you idiot!" The movie, in the most literal way possible, called attention to the fact that often (more often than we would like to admit) scripture is used as a weapon to marginalize, to exclude, to condemn, and to justify violence and hatred. Scripture is a beautiful book, but it is also a complicated book, and it can be twisted and turned into a tool for injustice instead of a message of grace, peace and love.

This winter and spring (starting Feb 5) we are going to be learning together how to read the bible (and how *not* to read the Bible) in our Midtime class called "How (Not) to Read the Bible." It should be an interesting discussion that will hopefully make us all better at reading scripture and finding the truth and love therein.

Join us!
Paul

Peace Camp 2022 // With My Own Two Hands

Peace Camp teaches strategies and tools for inner peace, relational peace, and global peace through lessons, games, songs, crafts and more! Our theme this year is *With My Own Two Hands*, based on the Ben Harper and Jack Johnson song. We will talk each day about how we can bring peace on earth with our own two hands. Questions? Ask Rev. Paul van Kempen

WHEN: June 20-24 // 9:00-11:45 each day

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church

WHO: Campers: Kids entering grades 1-6

Teen leaders: Teens entering grades 7-12

SIGN UP: Click [HERE](#) - OR -

Call the front office at 616-392-9022 - OR -

Head over to the FPC website www.fpcholland.org



Lori Klienesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Beginning February 6, FPC is planning to resume Midtime classes for adults and youth. With parents' input, the current status of the pandemic along with lack of vaccines available for our younger children, the decision has been made to provide childcare (ages 0 – 2 nd grade) during the 8:45a worship service. We recognize that many families will continue to choose to worship remotely until COVID cases are lower in the community so we will continue to email links to recorded Worship Center stories to our Young Families.

Our FPC community continues to care for our children, families connect in new and different ways, and are grateful to have been part of Jane's faith journey, and now to witness as she continues to grow, learn and contribute to our church as Youth Elder.

Gifts, making memories and celebrations:

-FPC families visited Fellin' Love Farms to see a live Nativity, scenic walk in the trails, interact with animals and a bonfire with hot cocoa. (2 photos at right)

-Journey to Bethlehem to witness the Birth of Christ with Ian and Ellarie in Worship Center.

-Snuggles (in memory of Nancy Burkitt) hand knit by Jane Hamlin, to provide comfort and warmth for the children.

-Books, many books - donated by Jackie Rozeboom for children's use.

-Much needed refresh and renewal in the Nursery and Celebration Time space, by Amy, with more to come. Stop by and check it out.

-FPC families and youth sledding at Van Raalte Farms.

-Annual gift of books from Brittany Pollard and family, in memory of her mother Nancy Burkitt.

-Jane Olney, being ordained and installed as Youth Elder.

We are grateful for unexpected blessings, we prayerfully navigate through this time of uncertainty, and are looking forward to the time when it is safe to be together again.

Sharing in the Light,
Lori Klienesteker





Presbyterian Women

Thank you for supporting our Christmas project to collect new and unwrapped underwear and foundations for women and children, supporting Resilience of Holland. Resilience (formerly Center for Women in Transition) is committed to ending domestic and sexual violence in our community.

Shop sales in 2022 and help us with this next fall!



Our two Bible Study groups are cautiously continuing to meet, however the Hannah Circle has gone to totally meeting by ZOOM.

Miriam Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30 am. Call Bev Plagenhoef for location.

Hannah Hybrid Circle meets on the 2nd Thursdays at 1:30 pm – ZOOM only until April. Call Janet Magennis for the link.

The call went out to make annual pledges to Presbyterian Women. Envelopes are in the narthex. We also support Least Coin, a world-wide practice of prayer, so join us with a penny, nickel, dime, or quarter for each prayer you raise! Women of the congregation can support our work through a gift mailed to the

MIRIAM CIRCLE

Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30am

Circle leader is Bev Plagenhoef

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

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

2022: Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Mission and Outreach



Forty beautiful new coats were delivered to Children's Advocacy Center to very grateful staffers. In addition 8 good, used coats were given to our friends experiencing homelessness at Refresh. Many hats, mittens and gloves were donated for children in need. Thank you for your generosity.



Update on Muhammad Zadrán

We are happy to announce that our church sponsored refugee friend, Muhammad Zadrán, passed his American citizenship test earlier this month. He participated in a Naturalization Oath Ceremony in Detroit on January 20th at 2:00pm. Because of Covid restrictions family and friends cannot attend.

If you would like to send a note to Muhammad - his address is:
517 136th Apt B10,
Holland, MI 49424



"Thank you to the Deacons for the Christmas package. Much appreciated, especially the snowflake."

*

"The lovely book of *Daily Joy* is so comforting. It helps during our time of sorrow."

*

The Deacons hope that 2022 allows for our in-person gatherings once again!

*

Deacons' Caring Corner



December found the Deacons meeting to put together gift bags for Seniors and shut-ins for the second year in a row. The idea was a way to connect with folks since we were unable to have our in-person gatherings the last two years, usually a senior Christmas luncheon and a summer picnic luncheon. Gift bags contained items like cocoa, tea, cookies, candy canes, an ornament and a small décor item, etc. A total of 77 bags were assembled for 110 individuals and were or will soon be delivered to each member of our church family that we've been able to identify as being over 79, along with those on the prayer list or living in assisted living or nursing homes. If we missed you, we apologize! We have discovered that the church's database doesn't include birth years for all church members, so in some cases, we've had to guess!

The Deacons enjoyed putting the bags together and letting folks know that we are thinking of them even though we haven't been able to have gatherings. We hope to revive the in-person gatherings next year!



77 festive holiday gift bags assembled and delivered to those on the prayer list or living in assisted living or nursing homes.

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 through May 2022 are:

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

March 7th - *The Bomber Mafia: A Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War* by Malcolm Gladwell

April 4th - *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America* by Russell Shorto.

May 2nd - *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* by Marcia Chatelain.

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.



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

December 2021 Update // It has been 3 months since the first meeting of the PNC, and a major milestone was reached this week. The Ministry Information Form has been uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection and fully approved and we are receiving Personal Information forms from potential candidates. This public document that can be searched (<https://clc.pcusa.org/OpportunitySearch.aspx>) and shared with any potential pastoral candidate. The search for a new pastor is a long process, and reaching this milestone feels like a big accomplishment. Please continue to pray for God's guidance as the PNC works through the information we are now beginning to receive.

Tim Richardson,
PNC Co-Chair

Adult and Youth Midtime // Beginning February 6, between services (10-10:50) Pastor Paul will be leading us through passages of the Bible and sharing tips for how to best interpret scripture as well as what mistakes we sometimes make. We will learn how to read the Bible as well as how not to read the bible. Join us!

Per Capita for 2022 // 2022 the Per Capita rate per FPC member will be 36.73 per member. In January of 2022 First Presbyterian Church of Holland will pay 14,472 to Presbyterian Church (USA) please consider helping offset this expense by paying 36.73 per member. Thanks for your faithfulness in all your support to our ministry.

Blessings,

Bob Knittel,
Treasurer

Let's Pray Together

IN SYMPATHY

- Our condolences to Chris Urbaniak upon the death of her husband, Tom Urbaniak who passed away Friday morning, January 28, 2022. Expressions of support may be sent to: Chris Urbaniak, 792 Holly Creek Dr., Holland, MI 49423
- Our condolences to Ben Snyder whose Dad Roy Snyder, passed away January 16, 2022. Ben has grown up at FPC and is the son of Danielle Peterson and is part of our youth group. Cards may be sent to: Ben Snyder, 409 W. 35th St, Holland MI 49423
- Our condolences to the family and friends of Erwin Gutsell, who passed away January 10, 2022. Expressions of care may be sent C/O Leslie Wills, 17438 Buchanan St., Grand Haven, MI 49417. A service will be planned for later when people are able to gather more freely.

FOR FPC

- For educators and health professionals who are exhausted from navigating and dealing with Covid/Omicron related issues.
- Search for candidates to fill the Administrative Assistant and Nursery Coordinator position(s)
- Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) as they search for our new Senior Pastor
- For the health of our congregation as we worship indoors

IN PRAYERS

- James Smith has been moved to Heritage Health Care in Zeeland for rehab after a short time in the hospital for a fall. He has some broken bones but no surgery is required. Cards may be sent in care of: Colleen Ball; 2492 Rhodora Drive, Zeeland, MI 49464
- Ron Gerow's brother Jim, dealing with cancer
- Chuck Smith recovering at home following a stay in the hospital
- Nancy Kreple's 95-year old mother Bette, transitioned from her home in Escanaba to Appledorn Living Center South
- David Williams dealing with newly diagnosed medical concerns

- Glenda Simpkins' friend, Evie who has ovarian cancer
- Dick Gebben, son of Linda Gebben, as he lives with the challenges and complications of ALS
- Rebecca Gardiner recovering from heart valve replacement surgery and doing much better
- Stephanie Edwards recovering after treatment for Ewings Sarcoma
- Eric and Megan Heller as Eric continues treatment under palliative care with hospice at home for 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

- Prayers of thanksgiving as children age 12 and older are eligible for the Covid-19 booster vaccine
- Safety for our children at school with rising Covid-19 cases

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

- Ralph Richardson - Freedom Village
- 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) - Appledorn Living Center South
- Wiley Wilson - Appledorn Living Center South
- Lois Rust - Appledorn Living Center South
- Marilyn Chamberlain - 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..*