

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / MARCH 2022



Illustrating the season of Lent

Thank you to Lois Rodgers who created the drawings for the bulletin covers from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. The illustrations correspond to chosen spirituals sung during worship.



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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

On World Communion Sunday, October 7, 2007, the Rev. Linda Knieriemen preached my ordination sermon at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids. During the time you celebrated the year of your 50th anniversary as a congregation, the Sankofa Bird was your logo. Linda used the image as the basis for her sermon that afternoon. I don't remember the text, but I do remember the message!

I came from a different Reformed tradition and was learning the ways of being Presbyterian, not only as a member but also as a teaching elder/minister of word and sacrament. She knew I carried a lot on my shoulders and had conflicted feelings about my new place in the church universal. Her gift was to help me celebrate all the good I did not have to leave behind even as I moved towards a different way of life. My former network of colleagues was left behind as I struggled to keep touch with certain individuals and to find new partners in ministry. The Sankofa helped me affirm the ground of my faith while I looked forward to developing new ways to live.

Copied from berea.edu:

Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. The literal translation of the word and the symbol is "it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind."

The word is derived from the words:

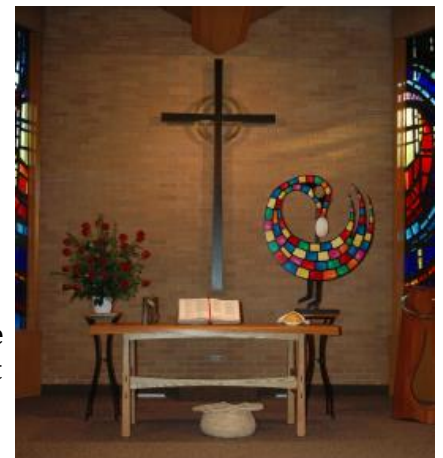
SAN (return),

KO (go),

FA (look, seek and take).

The Sankofa symbolizes the Akan people's quest for knowledge among the Akan with the implication that the quest is based on critical examination, and intelligent and patient investigation.

The symbol is based on a mythical bird with its feet firmly planted forward with its head turned backwards. Thus, the Akan believe the past serves as a guide for planning the future. To the Akan, it is this wisdom in learning from the past, which ensures a strong future. The Akans believe that there must be movement and new learning as time passes. As this forward march proceeds, the knowledge of the past must never be forgotten.



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Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Following Guidelines

Dear Church Family,

Sunday (Feb 27th) we announced changes to our COVID-19 response plan. We have used the CDC's information and metrics as our standard for life together over the last two years. Because of the ever-changing landscape of COVID, the CDC has created a new metric for assessing community risk that is based on hospitalizations and available hospital beds (among other factors). This new assessment method places Ottawa and Allegan County in the "Low" risk category. ([This webpage from the CDC allows you to check the community risk level for individual counties.](#)) According to the CDC guidelines, masking is optional in public spaces in low and medium risk counties. (see chart below).

This past weekend, the Session of FPC adopted these new metrics and guidelines as our congregation's COVID plan beginning on March 2.

What this means:

- Masking will be optional in the church building. (You are always welcome to wear a mask and we will continue to provide masks for those who want them.)
- Congregational singing will return.

- Communion will be celebrated during Sunday Services the first Sunday of the month.
- Childcare will be offered at the 8:45 service and there will be Worship Centers for kids during midtime. (Kid size masks are available.)
- We will continue to livestream the services so people can participate from home.
- Councils will begin to make plans to reintroduce programming as they see fit.

We will regularly check the CDC's County Check website. If Ottawa County's risk level rises to Medium or High, we will alert the congregation and adjust our masking and gathering policies based on the recommendations from the CDC.

This congregation has done an excellent job keeping each other safe and healthy through this pandemic. We should be proud of our efforts. We will continue to do our best to keep each other safe while following the new recommendations from the CDC.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Pastor Linda or Pastor 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 planned 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 – 2nd 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.

Gifts, making memories and celebrations:

- FPC families visited Fellin' Love Farms to see a live Nativity, enjoy a scenic walk on the trails, interact with animals, and drink hot cocoa around a bonfire.

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

- Snuggies (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 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.

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



Refreshed nursery space.



Presbyterian Women

While we are sad that our Presbyterian Women group is not needed to staff an info booth for Tulip Time this year, here is a link to many volunteer opportunities throughout the festival. The stipend we received for the 9 days of festival efforts has gone directly to our Presbyterian Preschool for many years.

[Tulip Time Festival, Inc.](#)

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.

MIRIAM CIRCLE

Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30am

Circle leader is Bev Plagenhoef

2022: 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: Apr 14, May 12



GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

online: PresbyterianWomen.org / Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA)

Mission and Outreach



Resilience- Advocates for Ending Violence is one of 10 agencies our church supports financially and adds support through item collections and volunteerism. Resilience, formerly Center for Women in Transition, is a comprehensive agency with programs and services focused on all aspects of domestic and sexual violence. In acknowledgement and appreciation of FPC's continuous support, Resilience would like to share a short success story of one of the many survivors helped through our Community Outreach Committee.

Martha* entered our Supportive Housing program after years of violence and stalking. Married for 15 years to a man who beat her starting during her first pregnancy, she suffered every degradation possible – verbal abuse, financial abuse, emotional abuse, and terrifying physical abuse. As a victim of childhood sexual abuse, Martha had no concept of a healthy relationship and a fractured relationship with her family. At age 30, her husband beat her so badly she nearly died. She tells us, “I looked like a creature. Just something un-human. My hair was ripped out, teeth were missing, I was bleeding everywhere. My eyes were so swollen I could barely see where I was going.” She crawled out of her bathroom window naked, running to a neighbor’s home in order to seek help.

What followed this assault was years of uncertainty. Martha had no money to her name, her ex-husband ruined her credit, and she had broken leases as her husband forced the family to move. Obtaining a stable home for herself and her children was impossible. “Landlords laughed at my application. Why would they take a chance on me?” Martha and her children bounced between different homeless shelters, moving often due to her ex-husband’s determination to find the family. At one point, he called each shelter within a 100 mile radius, threatening to bomb the facility unless they sent Martha and her children back to him.

Martha was eventually referred to the Resilience, where she was admitted immediately to our emergency shelter. There, she began a four month stay and connected with a highly-trained advocate. On the advocate’s advice, she applied for and was accepted to the Supportive Housing program. She tells us, “It was still difficult to find a space due to the high demand for rentals, but this time I had Resilience on my side. They made it possible for me and my children to find stability – we had a place that was ours for the next two years. I worked daily with my advocate on everything from budget-making, fixing my credit score, goal setting, and even parenting.”

After two years, Martha had a good rental history and an improved credit score. Using a Housing Choice Voucher, she successfully applied for an apartment on her own. The best part? “My children can make friends now. All those years moving from place to place, they could never make any friends.” Martha is now in therapy to deal with the trauma of her childhood sexual abuse, and looks forward to finishing raising her kids with the goal that they attend college. “Receiving housing assistance from Resilience changed my life. It’s that new start, the chance for a better future. The guidance I received helped me become a positive part of my community.”

Submitted by:
Danielle Evans, MS
Communications & Development Manager
Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence

Deacons' Caring Corner



Your team of deacons is ready to serve the congregation with rides, meals, conversation, help with odd jobs around the house and companionship as needed because of illness, bereavement, loneliness, or just needing a little nudge.

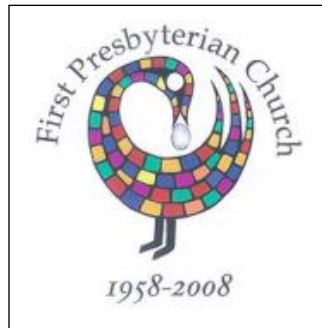
The work of the deacons is divided into care teams including comforters, nourishers, handy workers, and transporters, and all members of the teams maintain communication within care teams and maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality regarding congregational information.

Deacons for this year (2022) include Vern Hostetler, Gloria Ford, Jessica Kregger, Colleen Ball, Sarah Glover, Linda Winkelmann, Nancy Staal, Lauren Stouffer, and Paul Van Kolken.

The deacons meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month and maintain close contact with the Session. You may reach the deacons through the church office or by contacting the deacon moderator, Paul Van Kolken, by email at pvankolken@hotmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Linda's Keyboard *Continued*

I am recalling this to your memories because it feels as if we need to be the Sankofa in 2022. We want to move forward after two years of pandemic, but we can't walk ahead without looking back at where we have been. There is no point in racing towards a future without examining what has come before. What do we need to take with us as that egg of potential growth we bring into future days? What can we celebrate and then leave behind as unnecessary baggage for tomorrow?



We rejoice in being together for meetings again. Zoom is a lifesaver, and we don't want to give it up for the travel time it saves. On the other hand, zoom forever will keep us from personal interactions afforded by sitting around a table in person. The balance of both kinds of meetings is something we are learning.

The same can be said for live stream worship. Do we want to give it up now that we see the benefits for those who worship at home or while traveling? Do we fear that members won't return to in person worship? Find a balance.

Youth and children have not had much time in the church building. We know that young families can enjoy gathering without a building, but it is difficult to carry on a regular time of learning and worship together without coming inside once the weather is cold. Again, balance will be the key that enables intergenerational activities once again.

These are only three of many examples we can use to demonstrate a thoughtful, loving way to move ahead. It is not life as usual, but it is life the best it can be if we don't forget what we have learned during the past two years.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the public confession of our hope; let us consider how we can help others in love, not neglecting to meet together but encouraging one another.

This is our prayer.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Linda

Grace
& PEACE
~~~~~

## Black History Month Display: Maasai Tribe Art

Thank you to Hollee Graber for sharing her collection with us during the month of February.

This collection was gathered together over a period of some 20 plus years while I served as a medical missionary in Kenya, Africa, beginning in 2000. Dr Martin Graber and I worked specifically with the Maasai Tribe in the country of Kenya, Africa. In the village of Ngoswani, we recently completed a full medical hospital to serve the needs of some 200,000 people. Our location is in the SW sector of the country where this community of Ngoswani is located. It is a day trip from the famous Maasai Mara where all the wild animals are located. Many safari buses heading for an adventure pass us by daily. Also, we built several school classrooms and educated doctors, clinical officers, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, and pastors. It has been my privilege, therefore, to bring their artwork to the attention of you here at FPC during our Black History Month. You will see carvings of rhino, lion, elephant, zebra, antelope, giraffe, cheetah, cape buffalo hippos, masks, Turkana woven baskets, and artful batiks. It is my pleasure to share these works with you.

Enjoy!  
Hollie Graber



Installation of Elders and Deacons on Sunday, January 30, 2022



Outdoor Communion on  
Sunday, February 6, 2022



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

# 2022 CROP Hunger Walks

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

## CROP Walk 2022

The 43rd annual Holland/Zeeland Area CROP Hunger Walk will be held this year on April 23 and 24.

For more than 40 years, concerned members of First Presbyterian Church have been walking and donating to fight hunger both locally and around the world. Nine local agencies that provide meals to hungry people in our Holland area are supported by monies collected. Around the world, Church World Service (CWS) uses the money to provide food relief and development services to refugees and victims of war, famine, and food inequality. CWS is already working on the ground with refugees from the War in Ukraine.

After two frustrating years, now is our chance to make a real difference. Won't you join the First Pres team as a walker or with your donation? You can join our First Pres team online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/teams?event=hollandmi>.

Information about the CROP Walk will also be available at the Outreach Kiosk at church for those who prefer. More information is also available on at <https://www.hollandhunger.org/>

# Welcome



Welcome Marlene Field, our new Bookkeeper. Marlene will hold office hours on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Stop in to say, "Hello"!

## SMALL GROUP LEADERS

### CHOIR & MUSICIANS

Chuck Norris  
charlesenorris@gmail.com

### DINNER & THEATRE GROUP

Chris Urbaniak  
cmurbaniak@comcast.net

### MEN'S BOOK GROUP

Larry Lynn  
oldrun09@gmail.com

### MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Dave Ford  
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### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

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616.335.3942

### WOMEN - MIRIAM CIRCLE

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616.335.3942

### WOMEN - HANNAH CIRCLE

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616.490.4989

### YOGA

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616.502.4642

### YOUNG FAMILIES

Cassie Kregger  
Cassie.hildebrandt@gmail.com  
616.298.4164

# CONNECT TOGETHER



**Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary** // Help create a beautiful worship space for Easter Sunday and purchase a plant.. We will coordinate through Pat's Floral. Choose from a Hyacinth plant, Daffodils, or Tulips. Plants are \$25 each. Please call the office with any questions or if you'd like to place an order.

**Community Wide Taizé Service** // The Holland area group, Christian Uniting in Song and Prayer (CUSP) is sponsoring a Taizé Prayer in our community on Monday of Holy Week, April 11th, 7:30pm, at St. Francis de Sales Church, 13th Street and Maple Ave. We will be offering prayers and songs originating from the Community of Taizé in France whose captivating music and contemplative form of prayer has found its way around the world. Please join us for this time of contemplation and meditation through prayer and song. The building is large and well-ventilated. All are invited to join in song and prayer.

**Maundy Thursday Service** // Join us for a special Maundy Thursday service at 7pm, Thursday, April 14.

**Easter Sunday Breakfast** // One of our long-standing traditions here at FPC is the Easter Sunday Breakfast, and we hope to bring it back this year, along with - as soon as it's manageable - the M & M cafe. To make those happen, we'll need lots of help, so be watching for a call with opportunities to assist in both the breakfast and the cafe. Together, we can bring back "normal"!

**There is an Easter Sunday Breakfast sign-up sheet near the Outreach kiosk.  
Breakfast will be served in between services. All are Welcome!**

**Easter Egg Hunt** // Young families, an Easter egg hunt is being planned for Easter morning. Stay tuned for more details and how you can help pull together this fun event.



**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 being discussed are:

**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](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com) 616.617.8944 if you have any questions.



**Dinner and Theatre at Holland Community Theatre** // Holland Community Theatre is presenting the musical comedy, ***Guys On Ice*** as their spring show. In a cold world, on a cold day, on a frozen lake, little wooden shanties show little signs of life and are all most people know of a secret culture that thrives right here amongst us. Wonder no more. Here is a somewhat twisted take on the secret world of ice fishermen. Spend a day with our homegrown philosophers, Marvin & Lloyd. Join our group on April 30th at 7:30pm to see ***Guys On Ice***. Optional dinner at 5:45pm at the Curraugh. Make reservations by contacting Chris Urbaniak at [cmurbaniak@comcast.net](mailto:cmurbaniak@comcast.net) or call 616-836-9293 by April 15th.

Save  
the  
Date

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Saturday, June 18 for ***Dinners For Seven***. Watch for more details.

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