

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2022

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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

Most of you already know that I missed a few weeks of church activities during August. Plans changed more than once around my visit to see my brother Jim after he entered hospice care at home. Finally we settled on an August 3 flight to Salt Lake City. The timing was just what we all needed. We had good conversations with Jim as he became weaker, and we were present for his death on August 9.

We reconnected with his children and grandchildren as well as his wife Cindy's family and a couple of our first cousins. A former pastor and good friend of theirs conducted the service on August 20. His three adult children and I spoke of our memories. Since Jim was a photographer, a slide show of a selection of both his family and his nature pictures added the perfect dimension to the service that witnessed to resurrection.

I am thankful for the prayers and the expressions of condolences from the deacons and the congregation. One card quoted "Life starts with love and ends with love." I believe Jim and I could whole-heartedly assent to that. We had loving parents and we loved each other. Over all was the embracing love of God that we knew and tried to give to others. Jim was a warm, friendly, and caring person who served God in his family, his work, his music, his photography—pretty much every part of his life! In his last note to his kids, he wrote, "Be happy for me."

When our twin grandchildren were born early on August 18 in Denver, Cindy's sister said to me, "The circle of life." In the midst of tears, Joy. And, to compound the joy our granddaughter became engaged over that weekend before we flew home. I know God takes care of us in ways we would never have imagined. In life and in death we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ. This we believe.

Grace & Peace

Linda





Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Fall Updates

Youth Group Update

This August, several of the youth from FPC took a day trip in the FPC bus to Michigan Adventure. We had beautiful weather, and tons of fun on the coasters and in the water park! If you see the youth around, ask them about it!

Youth Group is going to look a little different this year. Instead of meeting in the evening on Sunday, we are going to **meet right after church at 11:15**. Youth are busy these days, and this time will better fit into their packed schedules! Most weeks we will meet in the youth room for snacks, some games, and a lesson but some weeks we will take the church bus and go for an adventure (Corn maze, Fast Food Progressive Lunch, Allegan Air, Sledding, Mall Scavenger Hunt, and more)!

We are looking forward to a great year!



One Service for Fall 2022

Most years (except during Covid) we return to two services a couple weeks after Labor Day. This year, the Session and Pastors have agreed that one service at 10:00am on Sunday will best serve the congregation. By remaining at one service, we will be able to have the best worship, the best fellowship opportunities, the best education offerings for kids, youth and adults, and the lightest load on our wonderful volunteers.

We kick off our fall season on September 11 with a reception following the service; the new fall Sunday morning schedule begins on September 18:

9:00am - Choir and worship leaders gather to prepare for the service

10:00am - Worship (with Nursery care and Celebration Time)

11:00am - M & M Café

11:15am - Worship centers (Children's Sunday School), Adult Education, Youth Group, Small Groups, Music Opportunities

*We're looking forward to all
that God has in store for us this fall!*

Michigan Adventure crew



Lori Klienesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Our kids have had a great time connecting this summer! The annual FPC paddle weekend in July provided opportunities for intergenerational connection and fun. Campers enjoyed a new closer to home site at the Pigeon Creek campground, and close to 40 members and friends of FPC enjoyed paddling from Hemlock Crossing toward Lake Michigan.

At the Outdoor Discovery service the first week in August, the children were led on a nature walk with ODC staff. They found frogs, tramped through the meadow to pick (and eat!) wild blackberries, and even held a praying mantis!

Paddle weekend group and children learning at the Outdoor Discovery Center during outdoor worship.



The annual FPC shrimp boil extended an invitation to our kids and offered hotdogs for those who prefer a less fishy option. It was like a breath of fresh air to have them join in. Finally, our young families had planned an end of the summer event at the Zeeland Splash Pad for pizza and fun. However, the weather forecast was not favorable and this was canceled.

As we look forward to the new school year, we are excited to welcome our children back into their Worship Center rooms located in the lower level. Worship Center begins Sunday, September 18 and is our Sunday morning education program for children in preschool through 5th grade. Thanks to our new and returning Worship Center Celebrants for their commitment to making the stories of scripture come alive for our children.

May the Light of Christ continue to shine in each of us during this new school year.

Peace, Lori





Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women “Celebrating Sabbath” study kickoff

September 8 at 1pm / Fellowship Hall –
All are Welcome!

Plans are to begin our exciting new PW study with both the Hannah and Miriam circles together. We will, however, keep in mind that COVID is still with us. We will abide by conditions that may limit our plans at the time of our meetings.

This meeting will also be our Birthday Offering event, so there will be cake and coffee or tea. We will receive our study books and view the first video, then discuss a few future plans. Handbooks will also be available.

Our Facebook page is “FPC Holland PW” and it is active. We will announce meeting reminders, RESILIENCE support events, and news from the PW levels of the presbytery, synod, and denomination.

April 22, 2023, our PW will host the Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women for its annual Spring meeting. We will call on all our women to assist in morning coffee and snacks, lunch, and some designing for tables. And cleanup!

There is a need at RESILIENCE currently for back-to-school items. A collection box will be at church and the list of items is on our Facebook page or in a handout at church.

Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight

by Carol M. Bechtel

Suggestions for Leaders by Laura Mariko Cheifetz

In the nine lessons of this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts—we’ll consider Sabbath

- as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- as God’s intent for all of creation and that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God’s plans for our precious lives
- as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care



GET THE LATEST NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

online: PresbyterianWomen.org // Facebook: **FPC Holland PW**

Deacons' Caring Corner



Care Closet

The Deacons are beginning a virtual care closet where members of the congregation can loan and borrow durable medical equipment for short term recovery or caregiving seasons. Rather than storing items at church, deacons will keep a list of items folks have at home and can help connect folks to items they may need to borrow. Please contact deacon moderator Paul Van Kolken at pvankolken@hotmail.com or contact the church office if you currently have items such as walkers, commode chairs, shower benches, bed rails, knee scooters, wheelchairs, etc. that you would be willing to loan to those in need. And of course, contact the deacons if you have an upcoming surgery or are in need of medical equipment, too!

AED - Automated External Defibrillator

A member of the congregation recently asked for a reminder that we have an AED or defibrillator on the main floor of the church for emergency uses. It is located on a wall in the hallway running behind the sanctuary. A red and white sign with the letters "AED" protrudes from the wall indicating the location of a white wall-hung glass front box containing the "Heartstart" device packaged in a bright red bag. Opening the door to remove the bag will set off an alarm. Once the bag is removed instructions both printed and verbal will walk the operator through the procedures.

Deacons' Work

Among the work of the deacons, Nourishers have provided 33 meals since the beginning of May. Comforters visited a family and took books to two families that had babies.

Seeking More Cooks!

FPC has had an opportunity to show love to many folks in our congregation this summer as they recover from hospital stays, welcome new family members, and experience chronic illness. If you enjoy cooking and would enjoy caring for your church family in this way, contact Lauren Stouffer, lauren.stouffer@gmail.com to be added to the email list to be contacted via sign-up genius when needs arise. If you need meals or know of someone in the congregation who might, let us know!



Thank you to the church for all of the wonderful cards. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. I am feeling better now. ~ Marianne McBeth

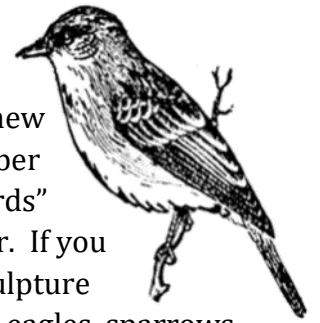
<> Worship and Arts Council <>

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Ministry

Earlier this summer, Worship and the Arts wrote and secured a grant from Presbytery to fund the new Deaf/Hard of Hearing ministry at FPC. Outreach Council is also supporting this ministry through 2022. As we begin to consider the budget for 2023, the Council is interested in the congregation's response as we assess the ministry and its future. In the next few weeks, we will launch a simple survey to get some feedback and hope everyone will take just a few moments to respond.

Art in the Church

We are hoping to put up a new display of art in early October related to Pastor Paul's "Birds" sermon earlier this summer. If you have a favorite photo or sculpture of birds in the bible such as eagles, sparrows, pigeons, doves or other birds that are meaningful to you please you're your contribution off in the church office (work will be stored in the choir room and will be secure. If you have questions you can contact Jan Brashler.



<> Outreach <>

Zadran Family Celebration

A little over six years ago, First Presbyterian Church sponsored an Afghan refugee family in their resettlement here in the Holland area. The Zadran family members we sponsored included Muhammad Zadran, his mother Javlay, and his sisters Radia and Hajira. Many of our First Pres members were involved in helping provide transportation, English language practice, fellowship, and friendship to the Zadran family.

Since coming here to Holland, the Zadrans have thrived and prospered. Several other family members have been able to join them, including Muhammad's wife Rajia and their children (who were not able to come initially), two new husbands of the sisters, and others.

Mohammad and his family have been working hard and successfully in their new home.

We would like to honor and celebrate with them all their hard work and success. We would particularly like to celebrate two accomplishments.

- In January, Muhammad completed all the requirements and became a citizen of the United States.

- Muhammad was recently awarded a "Council of Excellence" award from his employer recognizing his quality work and hard efforts.

An outdoor gathering was held Sunday August 14 to congratulate the Zadran family.



Wondering what's happening around the church?

Check the calendar of events found on our website;

www.fpcholland.org/calendar

<> Around FPC <>

Thank you (to so many!) for photographing the fun times had by FPC friends and family around and away from the church this summer. Your pictures are worth a thousand happy words!

FPC paddle & Canoe Trip



Shrimp Boil



<> Around FPC <>

Outdoor worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center



Shrimp Boil

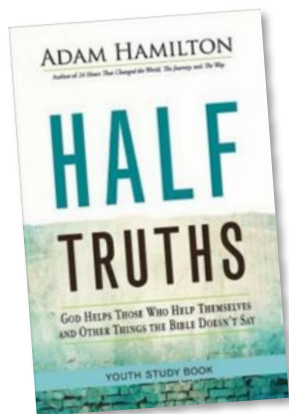


CONNECT TOGETHER

Adult Education Class

One of the offerings for education during the month of **October** is a book group reading of *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton, pastor of a United Methodist Church in Leawood, KS. Each week the sermon will use a chapter of the book as a resource. The plan is for everyone participating to have a book by September 25 in preparation for the class discussion on October 2; however, you are welcome to join the discussion at any time whether you have read the book or not.

Since this is an adult class, there is more emphasis on learning together rather than on a teacher led lecture. From week to week, you will have a chapter to read in the book. A signup sheet for ordering books will be available on September 18 during the education hour after worship. Class that week will be introductory and will have time for participants to share their own experiences of biblical "half truths."



Thank you for joining this class. Our hope as a staff is that these discussions will lead to broader and more inclusive sermons based on these topics.

Oct. 2: Ch. 1 (LKM, preaching)

WORLD COMMUNION

Everything Happens for a Reason

Oct. 9: Ch. 2 (LKM, preaching)

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

Oct. 16: Ch. 3 (PVK, preaching)

God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle

Oct. 23: Ch. 4 (PVK, preaching)

God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It

Oct. 30: Ch. 5 (PVK, preaching)

Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

On **September 11**, we kick off the fall season with the **10:00 worship schedule**. Formal classes begin on **September 18**. The adult class will be an introduction to the October classes as mentioned above.

September 25, the Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel preaches for the service. During the education hour, she will present her work on the new Presbyterian Women (PW) study guide for 2022-23. PW attendees will be interested in meeting her, but all are welcome to hear about her work as an author and Western Theological Seminary professor. We welcome her as a guest!

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will return from summer break with the following book discussion schedule:

Tuesday, September 6th - *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine* by Anne Applebaum.

We will meet in person in the Michigan room at First Presbyterian Church at 7pm. Please contact Larry Lynn at oldrun09@gmail.com or 616-617-8944 if you have any questions.

Women's Book Study

The Women's Book Study group will meet at 1pm on the second Sunday of every month in the M&M Café with the following book discussion schedule.

Sunday, September 11th - *Oona Out of Order* by Margarita Montimore.

Please contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com if you have any questions.



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