



presbyterian *profiles*

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CHURCH STAFF

Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

Marlene Field

Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@fpcholland.org

Hannah Campau

Administrative Assistant

office@fpcholland.org

Lori Klinesteker

Clerk of Session &

Children's Ministry Leader

lori@fpcholland.org

Linda Male

Interim Pastor and Head of Staff

linda@fpcholland.org

Chuck Norris

Director of Music

charles@fpcholland.org

Jane Oosterhouse

Custodian

jane@fpcholland.org

Thom Samuelson

Maintenance

thom@fpcholland.org

Sue Stock

Publications Specialist

sue@fpcholland.org

Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

paul@fpcholland.org



Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

welcome

On October 2, 2022, the congregation welcomes new members. Four of them met with Session through a zoom conversation on October 19, 2021, and two more met with Session by zoom on August 16, 2022. Because of the COVID shut down we were not able to introduce the 2021 members to the congregation publicly. To help us welcome these recent members, I am sharing a little information about each of them. I enjoyed time with them in the classes we had together to prepare for membership and am thankful for the gifts they bring to this congregation. Please reach out and get to know them better.



October 19, 2021

Paul and Martha (Marty) Dobosz

Paul majored in electrical engineering at Ferris State University and is a semi-retired consulting engineer. His hobbies include model railroading, aviation, and amateur (ham) radio. He has been affiliated with a variety of Christian churches, and we are glad he found us at First Presbyterian.

Marty attended both Ferris State University and Eastern Michigan University, majoring in elementary education. She is a retired teacher. Some of her interests are reading (book clubs), walking, and bird watching. She is a grandparent volunteer as a teacher aide/library helper. She previously was Presbyterian before having membership in other churches; we are happy to welcome her back.

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Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Youth Group Fall 2022

Sometimes it is hard to get a read on what kids like these days--maybe you have experienced this with your kids or grandkids. It seems that every week (maybe every day!?) brings along a new trend/activity/style/challenge on TikTok.

But two things that youth will always love are bracket based tournaments and sugary cereal. This fall the youth group will be determining the best sugary cereal by pitting them against each other in this bracket. What cereal do you think will win?

Instead of trying to chase trends, we will also be talking about the core of what we believe as Christians using a curriculum called "re:form". This curriculum addresses key theological concepts in reformed theology in ways that are accessible and applicable to teens. I hope that it will inspire deep discussions and deeper faith for our youth!

Youth group meets after church at 11:00. If you are interested in what we are doing (or just want to try the cereals of the week) feel free to stop by the youth room!





Lori Klienesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Welcome to the Worship Center!

FPC returned to our fall educational programming on September 25. We were especially glad to welcome back our children and Celebrants to our lower-level Worship Center rooms. We want to invite you to learn about the Worship Center and the ways we invite our children to explore and experience faith at FPC.

Celebrants of the Worship Center were invited forward during Worship, received blessing and encouragement from Rev. Paul, lit their candles from the Christ Candle, and proceeded to carry the Light of Christ's Light to the Worship Center.

On the first Sunday, excitement was felt as our children gathered together – reuniting in a way that has been absent for a while. Among the celebrating, storytelling, and reuniting – I failed to take photos; hopefully the children were able to share with their grownups and families their experiences.

The Worship Center is a Montessori-based way of inviting children to experience God. Stories build on each other and follow the liturgical calendar. Children help create the physical environment by changing the liturgical colors, lighting the Christ candle, and identifying the season of the church year.

Each Sunday, Children enter the Worship Center space ready for worship and sit in a circle on the floor and connect with each other. Children light the Christ Candle and set the table for worship. The Celebrant tells the story, and the children wonder together about what the people in scripture might have thought or felt. Children then respond to the story through movement, art, prayer, re-telling the story using physical materials, or however they choose.

The Worship Center is truly the space in our church that invites children to enter into the awe and wonder of faith. We welcome you to see the rooms and to experience the Worship Center for yourselves any time. We are so glad to be on this journey of faith with the children at FPC!

Christ's Light is Infinite,
Lori Klienesteker



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women gathered in September to begin their new study with both the Miriam and Hannah Circle members meeting together. They celebrated the PW Birthday Offering, raising \$212.50 toward the denominational effort. They also presented a gift of \$1,000 to our Presbyterian Preschool, an annual PW gift for many years. COVID years have severely impacted internal giving, so a new opportunity to give an annual pledge instead of monthly giving was offered. Women of the congregation are welcome to support PW, by the way!

The new Celebrating Sabbath study, authored by Rev. Dr. Carol M. Bechtel of Western Theological Seminary, has a video for each meeting, and also offers a study blog and a piece of music. Many of these study resources will be posted monthly on our fledgling Facebook page: FPC Holland PW. We are happy to order study books for church members, at \$10.



Planning is now underway for April 22, 2023, when FPC Holland will host the Spring Gathering of the Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women. Rev. Bechtel will be the featured speaker, bringing her harp. She was the guest minister at FPC Holland on September 25, so we are fortunate to be in the same community. She has previously authored a PW Study for the denomination.

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

Hannah Circle meets at the church - and on Zoom - on 2nd Thursdays at 1:30 pm.

All Are Welcome!

GET THE LATEST NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
online: PresbyterianWomen.org // Facebook: **FPCHollandPW**

Linda's Keyboard *continued*

welcome



Hollie Graber

Hollie has a varied background from Aquinas College in religious education, chemistry, biology, and teaching. She worked as a medical technologist, has been a medical

missionary, and worked with several non-profits, especially facilitating grant proposals. She has traveled extensively and is interested in gardening, interior design, photography, reading, and Bible study. Her background includes several different faith groups, and she has joined the FPC choir and Worship and the Arts Council. Welcome.



Mimi Keller

Mimi holds degrees in psychology and early childhood education; she is retired. Her interests include HASP, wildlife photography, travel, and the Holland

Women's Literary Club. She has joined the Book Club at FPC. Both the RCA and the Presbyterian churches are part of her life. We welcome her to the Holland PC(USA).



August 16, 2022

Sarah and James (Jim) Veltman

Sarah attended Andrews University and Kellogg Community College and is certified in nursing. She went

from working as an LPN to being a surgical technician. She enjoys camping, kayaking, reading, and sewing. Her latest interest is learning to can food. Sarah volunteers with Circles and at FPC in the M&M café. Sarah came from a church that is very different from FPC but is delighted to find how open and accepting FPC is. She is a great addition to our congregation.

Jim is a graduate of Calvin College (now University) and Western Michigan University with credits in both psychology and social work (MSW).

Photography is one of Jim's passions, along with camping, kayaking, and reading; he brewed beer before it was popular. Jim's church background gives him grounding that lets him appreciate the freedom enjoyed at FPC. Jim began driving the FPC bus before he became a member. Thanks, Jim!

<> Report from Pastor Nominating Committee <>

Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee
September 11, 2022

I have been trying to provide updates to the congregation on the progress of the Pastor Nominating Committee (COM) search at least once per month. I know that all of August has passed by without an update.

The PNC has been focused on a single candidate for the past couple of months and hosted this candidate in mid-August for interviews, tours, and a neutral pulpit.

For the past 6 weeks, I have told people who have asked that I will have an announcement soon, and that the announcement would either be good news or the news that the PNC is starting over.

So here we are, into September of 2022. The PNC held our first meeting on September 22 of last year. Now, one year later, I have to stand here and make the announcement that I have said was coming.

It is good news!!

Reverend Cathy has accepted the nomination of the PNC for the call to First Presbyterian of Holland. I am holding back her last name just a little longer as it is extremely important that her current congregation hears about the coming change from her.

We will be planning a weekend at the beginning of November to bring Cathy back to Holland that will include a meet and greet opportunity, as well as a candidate service followed by a congregational meeting. If the congregational vote affirms the nomination, Cathy would plan to start in Holland at the beginning of February. This would be right at the 2-year mark since Linda Knieriemen's retirement.

The PNC: Helen, Bill, Erin, Cassie, Jennifer, David, and I are all extremely excited to be able to bring this nomination to the congregation. In Cathy's words: "Let's see what wonderful things God has in store, building upon the strong foundation you have created!"

Thank you,
Tim Richardson, PNC chairman

Session Report
September 20, 2022

The Session is calling a special congregational meeting for November 6, 2022, for the purpose of receiving the report of the PNC, voting on the called candidate, and approving her Terms of Call.

All members in good standing have a vote. The congregational meeting will be in person at 11:00 am after the communion service with Rev. Cathy preaching. The meeting will be available on Zoom for those who cannot attend the meeting in person. Please watch for a schedule from the PNC about times and places to meet the candidate in person during the weekend before the November 6 service. We give thanks for the PNC's work and pray for the candidate as she prepares for this weekend.

<> 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 drop 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.



Wondering what's happening around the church?

Check the calendar of events found on our website;
www.fpcholland.org/calendar



Interested in hearing the sermon again?

Listen to past sermons posted on our website;
www.fpcholland.org/listen

<> Around FPC <>



Congratulations to Emily and Joe Conklin on the birth of Theodore (Theo) Albert Conklin, September 10, 2022.

Emily is taking a leave of absence from her duties as accompanist.

Cards may be sent to 337 Eastern Ave. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503



Holland Community Theatre // Join us Friday, October 14th at 7:30pm for another production at HCT: California Suite, a Comedy by Neil Simon. Four comedic scenarios play out at a hotel.

Divorced couple Hannah and Bill argue over custody of their daughter. An actress frets over her Oscar nomination as her gay husband comes out of the closet. A businessman finds a comatose prostitute in his bed. And two competitive doctors settle their differences with a free-for-all tennis game. Sign-up in the church lobby. Tickets are \$15 per person. Optional dinner at 5:30pm at the Curraugh.

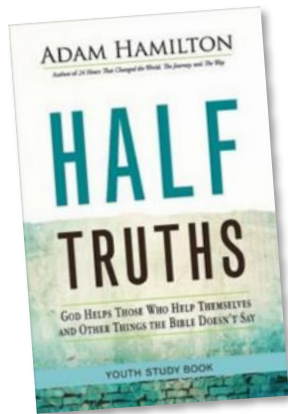
Please contact Chris Urbaniak at cmurbaniak@comcast.net if you have any questions.

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.



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

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will meet with the following book discussion schedule:

Monday, October 3 - *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purnell.

Monday, November 7 - *Facing the Mountain: An Inspiring Story of Japanese American Patriots in World War II* by Daniel Brown.

We will meet in-person in the Michigan room 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 Club will meet with the following book discussion schedule:

Sunday, October 9 - *The President is Missing* by Bill Clinton

Sunday, November 13 - *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan

We meet in-person the second Sunday of every month in the M&M Cafe at 1pm.

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..*