



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / OCTOBER 2022

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Rev. Linda Male

Interim Pastor

Linda's Keyboard

Greetings from Denver, CO!! David and I are renewing family ties and friendships here in the Rockies. You will read this before I return home to MI, but I look forward to seeing you on November 6 for the congregational meeting to vote on our candidate Pastor Cathy and to approve her Terms of Call. I will miss the festivities for the open house on Saturday, but I anticipate being able to meet Cathy on Sunday.

Most of you know that our twin grandsons were born in August, and a big impetus for our trip now has been to see them and their two siblings. All our other grandchildren live in West Michigan, so it is a real treat to be able to have time for leisurely visits with this family. This week we took the two older kids to the Train Museum in Golden, CO. Building relationships starts early in life.

This is true about families, but it also is true about our church family. In less than two years of serving as your Interim Pastor, I have built relationships with so many. Sharing a cup of coffee, visiting in the hospital, planning a memorial service, working together as a staff, teaching in Peace Camp, moderating Session and communicating with deacons—I could go on, but you know what I mean. Leading worship and talking to children for their time in the service builds relationships in a different way! Building relationships in this family at FPC is foundational to all that we do.

Currently the congregational nominating committee is asking members to serve three-year terms for elders and deacons. They are looking for three elders, three deacons, and a youth elder (1-year term). To agree to serve these offices means that you have heard a call from God to lead this family in a specific way.

"Ruling" elders are divided into councils that build specific areas of the church: Worship and the Arts, Outreach, Connections, Spiritual Growth and Development, Building and Business, and Personnel.

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Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Sturdy Roots

When we think of the largest living organism, we might think of a blue whale, or maybe a giant sequoia tree. In truth, the largest living organism by weight is a stand of clonal Aspen Trees in Utah. These aspen trees don't reproduce. Instead, they send up new shoots from their roots. This means that every tree in the clonal group is a replica of the trees next to it. They are all genetically identical and they are all connected under the soil by their roots.

This clonal group of trees is called Pando and it covers 106 acres of forest and weighs about 13 million pounds. The individual trees in the group only live to be about 130 years old but scientists estimate that Pando as an organism is 80,000 years old.

Isn't that just incredible!?!

It is the roots of the clonal Aspen Tree that make it resilient and able to live for 80 millennia. If there is a fire, the roots are protected and quickly start sending up shoots to restore the forest.

This month, for our stewardship theme we are thinking about seeds of hope, and the trees that grow from them. We can easily picture the branches and leaves in the breeze, with birds nesting in them. But it is the part of the tree we don't see, the roots, that gives the tree its strength

and stability. Trees are connected by their roots. (They can actually communicate with each other using their roots and through a fungus called mycelium — that's an illustration for another Profiles.) And the roots of a tree often spread farther from the trunk than the canopy looking for water and nutrients to feed the tree.

This congregation has put down sturdy roots throughout the years. Through the faithful stewardship of this congregation, we have a stable foundation, and we are ready to start putting up some shoots that will grow and flourish into beautiful ministry in this place.

Stewardship season will end this year on November 13. If you haven't already, consider your pledge to this church and be a part of the stable foundation for the ministry that will happen here.





Lori Klienesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

The sacristy of a church is an extension of the chapel. Far from being a storage room, it is meant to house the most precious items in the possession of the church, and even the Blessed Sacrament itself when there is a need for it. These days, the sacristy is often a space overlooked in the planning process (much to the chagrin of sacristans), but it was not always so.

Our children are getting back into the routines and rhythms of Worship Center. The 2nd through 5th grade class even learned some Hebrew!

The preschool through 1st grade class has been hard at work learning about liturgical colors and creating space to worship. Pastor Paul came to share his stole, the meaning of stoles and answered their questions. We enjoyed making stoles which hang in our new Sacristy cabinet along with tablecloths in our liturgical colors, the Bible, and the Christ Candle that the children carefully set out each week at the beginning of our time together.

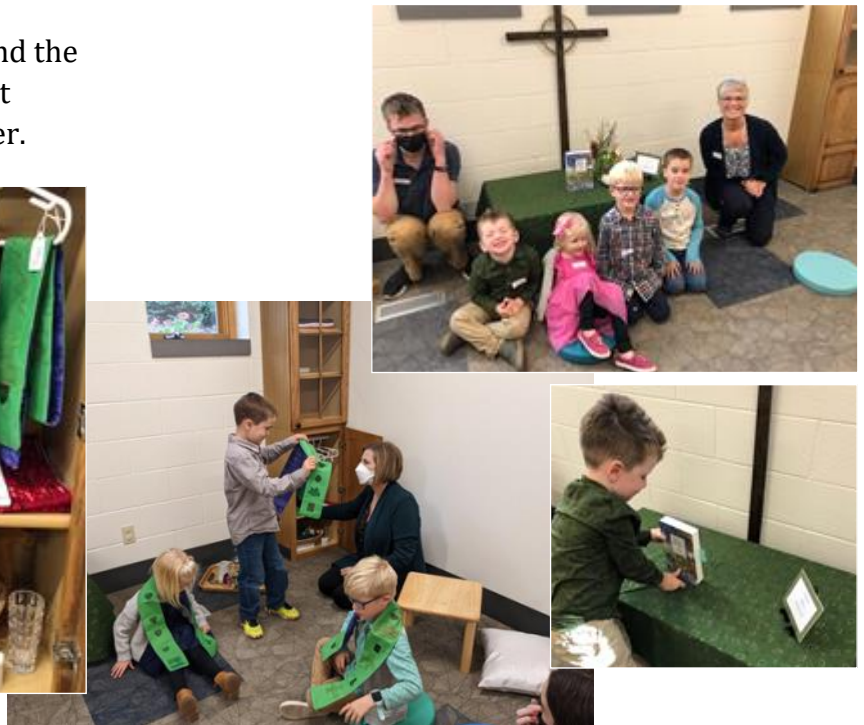
In Worship Center, Old Testament stories began with the Story of Creation. We all have enjoyed worshipping in our new spaces together and look forward to continuing to explore God's word through stories and response. There is an open invitation for you to come, be still and worship in the awe and wonder of faith with us.

We are excited to extend a warm welcome to Abbie Nutter (nursery supervisor) who will be part of Worship Center until there is a need for nursery care during the 11:15am Education Time.

We are so glad to be on this journey of faith with the children at FPC!

Christ's Light shines bright,

Lori Klienesteker

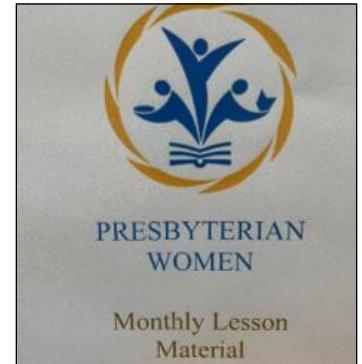




Presbyterian Women

After a combined rousing beginning in September, our two circles met in October with Lesson 2 of our Celebrating Sabbath series. We are implementing a new distribution system for resource material for our monthly circle study sessions with a notebook – in this photo – that will be on our PW shelf in the narthex café. Lesson 3 material will be found there ahead of our meetings on Nov 9 and 10. We have more study books available!

Dare we plan a Christmas luncheon event this year? We all need to get our COVID booster shots!



GET THE LATEST NEWS *from* PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

online: PresbyterianWomen.org // Facebook: **FPCHollandPW**

Linda's Keyboard *continued*

Deacons serve as Comforters, Nourishers, Transporters, and Handy Workers. These areas sometimes overlap, but each deacon works in the area that fits his or her gifts.

Nominations are confirmed by the vote of the congregation; officers receive the support of the whole family of FPC. If you are asked to serve, prayerfully consider your answer. A “no” or a “yes” answer is acceptable as long as you have evaluated your life in light of the call to serve. Not every answer is affirmative, and there are many reasons to defer a call to another year. However, if you can say “yes,” do it in the full knowledge that your family prays for and supports you.

I suspect you know all this information, but it is more than words. These actions build our family structure and help us do the work of ministry among us, around us in Holland, and beyond us to the world. As we welcome a new pastor, we can support her with a healthy and enthusiastic group of leaders who open ways for her to use her gifts fully.

As she is enabled to lead, we will all grow stronger and closer together, serving God as a family in this home in Holland—FPC—we have a building from God, a house not made with hands.

Grace and peace,
Linda

Outreach Council

It's Fall and with Fall comes the return of winter clothing drives to help keep our friends & neighbors in Holland warm. November will be for used and new coats, December for hats, scarves, gloves & mittens, and January for blankets.

Our receiving agencies are ones that we partner with through Outreach Council. New coats (sizes youth 4/5 to adult L) will be given to Children's Advocacy Center. Used coats of all sizes will go to Community Action House and the Refresh program for persons experiencing homelessness.

Here's a brief update from Children's Advocacy Center to show you what they are doing and the need in our community.

Over the past year we have:

- provided 405 forensic interviews (these are done after a child discloses abuse)

- conducted 95 forensic medical exams
- provided 1,726 therapy sessions
- conducted 60 problematic sexual behavior screenings
- trained more than 15,000 adults and children in body safety (this school year we are projecting over 16,000 kids trained in body safety and allowing for a safe person and place to disclose what may be happening to them)

There will be bins clearly marked as "used" & "new" to receive coats during the month of November. As you clean out your closets for the winter, share the coats you haven't worn and add a new coat to your shopping cart to help with kids in need. Thank you for your generosity.

<> Connect Together <>

Knitters and Crocheters

Are you interested in making prayer shawls and having a time of fellowship? We had a wonderful, very enthusiastic turn out of 10-12 people for our first meeting in October! Third Mondays in the afternoon seemed to be the best date for those in attendance. Our next two meetings will again be in the Ontario Room (to the right after passing the office area and near the men's bathroom) on Monday, November 21st and Monday, Dec 19th, from 1-3 pm. You are welcome to come a little late or leave early as needed. We will have a few 'kits' of yarn and patterns if you need one. Lion Brand Homespun yarn makes a very soft and cuddly shawl.

For any additional information about the meetings, please contact Janet Haines: janethaines24@gmail.com or Sarah Anderson: andersons@hope.edu



The Men's Book

The Men's Book Club will meet Monday, November 7th. Book - *Facing the Mountain: An Inspiring Story of Japanese American Patriots in World War II*

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 Club

The Women's Book Club will meet Sunday, November 13. Book - *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.

Let's Pray Together

INSYMPATHY

- Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of, Jim Rodgers who passed away Sunday, October 2, 2022. Ashes will be interred at Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, MI. A memorial service will be held at FPC Saturday, November 12 at 11am. Expressions of care may be sent to Lois Rodgers at 4462 61st St., Holland, Michigan 49423

FOR FPC

- Welcome Abbie Nutter our new Nursery Coordinator
- Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) as they plan candidate weekend with Pastor Cathy
- For the health of our congregation as we worship indoors

IN PRAYERS

- Keith Hayes at the Meijer Heart Center for a heart catheterization procedure
- Ralph Richardson moving to a new apartment at Freedom Village
- Jen Laux-Ludwig that her multiple sclerosis goes back into remission soon
- Phil Sturdevant, in rehabilitation at Appledorn. Cards may be sent: C/O Laura Beckwith, 11236 CR 689, South Haven, MI 49090
- Mickey Harris, recovering at Mary Free Bed from a successful abdominal surgery to remove 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

- Prayer of thanks for the youth that are engaged, interested, and asking great questions!

HOSPICE CARE

- Eric and Megan Heller as Eric continues treatment under palliative care with hospice at home for cancer

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

- Jim Smith - Royal Atrium Inn in Zeeland
- Roy & Meriem Elwell - Freedom Village
- 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 (Rm 204)
- 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



A heartfelt thank you to all of you who sent cards to me following Jim's death.

I am overwhelmed with love.

Thank you,
Lois Rodgers

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: linda@fpcholland.org

Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Associate Pastor: paul@fpcholland.org.



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



Note from Worship Arts Council -

Advent is Coming! Worship and arts council is inviting members of the congregation with small or medium crèche/manger scenes to help decorate the parlor. We will be taking the birds down the last week of November and setting up the crèches for Advent. Join the decorating of our church home.