



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / NOVEMBER 2022

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Rev. Linda Male

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Linda's Keyboard

If you have been in my office since I returned from Salt Lake City, you might have seen a picture propped up in my bookshelf. It is one my sister-in-law Cindy gave me when we were there for my brother's funeral. I always liked this picture as a child; it reveals something about the personalities of both the sister and the brother. I am glad my parents had formal pictures of us taken at various stages of our lives. I smile every time I see this childhood reminder.



I can see Jim's dimples inherited from our maternal grandfather. We both have the blond hair of little Dutch kids. We both are "blessed" with our dad's ears, even though our mom had nicely shaped smaller ones. I always thought Jim favored our mother's side of the family, but in his last week of life, he looked so much like our dad that I wondered how I had missed seeing it for so long.

During this season of Advent I have been pondering how our theme of The Tree of Jesse leads us to remember of God's faithfulness. Tracing the history of God's acts from creation to the birth of a King makes me value more and more how important memories are. As we look back over our own histories, we can trace God's hands at work in our lives. Similarly, as we observe how our own family groups get complicated at time we can appreciate how patient and forgiving God is towards the families of the world.

Jesus' history included many weak and frail characters, but he became one of us anyway and lived among us full of truth and grace. We don't really know his personality and how his ancestors contributed to his mannerisms, his physical attributes, or his devotion to God. Truly human and truly divine, we say in our creeds. The human Jesus at the end of his life truly resembled both his Father and his mother. His family memories are all recorded for us to share. Enjoy remembering the photo album of the Jesse tree as we move through Advent. You might find something you missed seeing all along.

Grace and peace, Linda



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

The Jesse Tree Advent

Our theme for Advent this year is The Jesse Tree. The Jesse tree is a way to connect the stories of the Old Testament to the coming of Jesus Christ. These stories speak of God's love, faithfulness and justice. On November 27, many church members created ornaments with depictions of 25 stories from scripture. Each day they will hang one of these ornaments and reflect on the passage. If you didn't make a set of ornaments but you still want to follow along at home, here is the list of scripture passages for each day.

December 1: The Jesse Tree

Symbol: Stump with branch
Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-2

December 2: Creation of Humans

Symbol: Globe/Adam and Eve
Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31

December 3: The Fall

Symbol: Snake and apple
Scripture: Genesis 3

December 4: Noah's Ark

Symbol: Noah's Ark
Scripture: Genesis 6:11-14; 7:17-8:3; 9:8-13

December 5: The Promised Land

Symbol: Tent and camel
Scripture: Genesis 12:1-7

December 6: God's Promise to Abraham

Symbol: Starry sky
Scripture: Genesis 15:1-6

December 7: Joseph

Symbol: Joseph's coat of many colors
Scripture: Genesis 37:1-36

December 8: The 10 Commandments

Symbol: Tablets
Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-22

December 9: Rahab

Symbol: Red rope
Scripture: Joshua 2:1-21

December 10: Ruth and Boaz

Symbol: Grain
Scripture: Ruth 2:1-4:12

December 11: God Chooses David to be King

Symbol: Crown
Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-15

December 12: David the Shepherd-King

Symbol: Sheep/shepherd's crook
Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-5

December 13: Solomon Builds God's Temple

Symbol: Temple
Scripture: 1 Kings 5:5; 1 Kings 6

December 14: Esther Saves Her People

Symbol: Scepter
Scripture: Esther 4

December 15: Isaiah's Prophecy of a Savior

Symbol: Sun
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

December 16: Isaiah's Prophecy of the Second Coming

Symbol: Wolf and lamb
Scripture: Isaiah 11:6-9

December 17: Jonah and the Whale

Symbol: Whale
Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5

December 18: Daniel and the Lions' Den

Symbol: Lion
Scripture: Daniel 6

December 19: Prophecy of a Savior Born in Bethlehem

Symbol: City of Bethlehem
Scripture: Micah 5:1-5

December 20: Elizabeth and Zechariah

Symbol: Praying hands
Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

December 21: John the Baptist

Symbol: Baptism shell
Scripture: Matthew 3:1-6

December 22: God Chooses Mary

Symbol: Virgin Mary
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

December 23: Angel Appears to Joseph

Symbol: Angel of the Lord
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

December 24: Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem

Symbol: Sandals
Scripture: Luke 2:1-5

December 25: Jesus Is Born

Symbol: Baby in manger
Scripture: Luke 2:6-21



Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

The intergenerational Trunk or Treat gathering on October 30, was enjoyed by all. Crock pots of soup, trunks of treats, games, prizes and so many of the participants were adorned in their Halloween costumes; all gathered to have a great time. To the many volunteers, we appreciate your participation.



Worship Center continues to be a special place for our Pre-school through 5th grade. It was a joy to welcome Lois Rodgers when she came to be part of our Worship. Our kiddos enjoyed sharing their space, answering her questions, and showing their special way of preparing for Worship. Enjoy these photos of the children creating a timeline of stories as a reminder of what they experience and are part of each Sunday.



We are grateful and honored to be sharing this space of Worship with your children.

Christ's Light shines bright,

Lori Klinesteker



Presbyterian Women

As December arrives we look forward to our time of Advent and we turn outward to finding gifts for those we love and to help those in need. Over the years our PW December practice is to re-supply *Resilience* with new, unwrapped undies for women and children. Look for a basket in the entry area, and add your goodies as you come into the church. It's the basic stuff!

They may have fled a domestic situation without much in the way of undergarments so SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, TEES and PJs for WOMEN, BOYS and GIRLS. So when you are shopping pick up a couple packages of any of the above. Don't wrap them or remove tags, please! Bring them in and we will get them to *Resilience*. Thanks!



Resilience: formerly Center for Women in Transition, rebranded in 2019 to become Resilience. Our mission is to respond to, reduce, and prevent domestic and sexual violence in Ottawa and Allegan counties.

MIRIAM CIRCLE

Meets monthly on the second Wednesday
at 9:30am in the Michigan Room

Circle leader Bev Plagenhoef

HANNAH CIRCLE

Meets monthly on the second Thursday
at 1:30pm in the Michigan Room

Circle leaders Janet Magennis and Jean Williams

GET THE LATEST NEWS *from* PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We are adding more content on our Facebook page! // Facebook: **FPCHollandPW**

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

CONNECT TOGETHER

Prayer Shawl Knitting/Crocheting Group

Are you interested in making prayer shawls and having a time of fellowship? We meet the third Monday of the month from 1-3pm in the Ontario room. Our next two meetings will be December 19 and January 16. 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.

Any questions please contact Janet Haines:
janethaines24@gmail.com
or Sarah Anderson: andersons@hope.edu

December Hat & Mitten Collection

As we prepare for winter, please consider helping others stay warm by bringing in new hats, gloves, and mittens to be placed in donation boxes near the M&M Café.

Looking ahead to January, the Outreach Council will be collecting blankets for distribution to those who need them in our community. Blankets will be distributed with the cooperation of Community Action House.

The Men's Book

The Men's Book Club will meet Monday, December 5.

Book - *Aftermath: Life in the Fallout of the Third Reich, 1945-1955.*

January 2 - *The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War.*

We will meet in-person in the Michigan room at 7pm. If you have questions, please contact Larry Lynn at oldrun09@gmail.com or 616.617.8944.

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet Sunday, December, 11.

Book - *Chasing Shadows.*

January 8 - *The Sun Will Shine*

We meet in-person in the M&M Cafe at 1pm. If you have questions, please contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com



Thanks to all who contributed creches which are now on display in the M&M Cafe. If you still would like to contribute your creche, please bring it to church and feel free to set it up or put it in the office.

If you contributed to the 'Birds' display, please pick up your items in the office. Thank you for loaning your works of art.



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 found on our website;
www.fpcholland.org/listen



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

Advent & Christmas WORSHIP

December 15 at 7pm - Quiet Christmas Service

Do you ever want to simply unplug yourself from the Christmas scene - the advertisements, shopping, soliciting, and constant barrage of glitter and glee?

Some prefer to celebrate Christ's coming in contemplation rather than cheer. For those who have recently lost a family member, a job, a dream, a quieter more intimate celebration can be a better "fit".

December 21 at 7pm - FPC Trio Concert

Our wonderful FPC Trio (Flute, Piano, Cello) is offering a short concert of holiday selections. An offering will be collected to support the denomination's Christmas Joy offering. A light reception will follow.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

6pm - A family celebration for all ages, children's pageant and FPC Choir.

11pm - A Service of Holy Communion and candlelight inviting Christ into our hearts and lives.

December 25 - Christmas Day Service

A link to a pre-recorded service will be emailed to you on Christmas morning. The link also will be posted on our Facebook page and on the church website.