

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / JANUARY 2023

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CHURCH STAFF

Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

Hannah Campau

Administrative Assistant
office@fpcholland.org

Marlene Field

Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@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

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter
under heaven.... ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

Seasons come and seasons go. A very good season of life is hard to leave behind, but it is part of life to welcome and to bid farewell. The writer of Ecclesiastes knows how life goes. As hard as it is, we learn how to say, "Good-bye" or "God be with you."

I never expected after my last interim ended in 2017 that I would be called to another church for a temporary assignment. I officially retired with the PC(USA) the way I was "supposed to" and assumed I would find something to do as a volunteer in the presbytery. That worked until COVID came on the scene, and in 2021 I heard that Holland First Presbyterian Church needed an Interim Pastor.

I can say with thanks in my heart that this season of being with you has been one of the best in my life. I learned more than I wanted to know about online church, more than I expected about coping with a pandemic, and so much more about how God is good all the time. You are welcoming, kind, generous, and committed to the faith. I can be open with my interpretations of Scripture when I preach. I work with a staff that wants to do whatever it takes to serve the congregation's ministry. I believe I am a better person for being with all of you for two years.

Now we both enter a new season of life. I'll pretend I am retired, and you will welcome a new pastor. Let her into your hearts. Let her help create a bigger concept of who you are in the community and in the world. Receive with grace God's vision for FPC. Listen to the words of Ecclesiastes: In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good (11:6).

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Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Encourage Us to Action

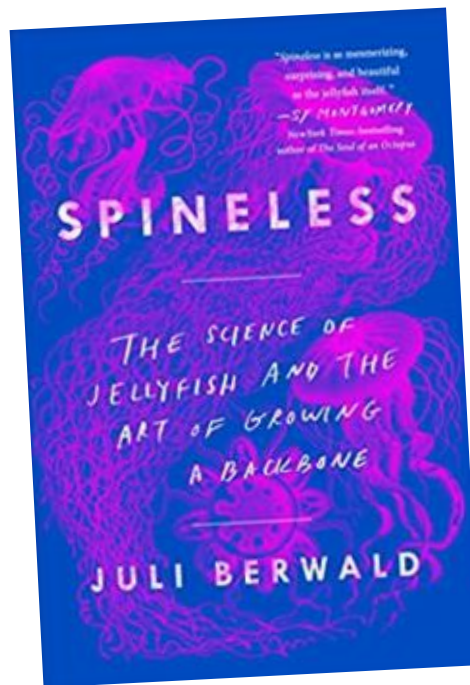
In November, Shanna and I took a long-awaited trip to Mexico. While we were sitting on the beach, reading, crosswording, and playing card games, we would periodically see people come out of the ocean looking at their legs as if something had injured them. We even saw one person treated with an ointment by the staff of the resort.

There was only one thing it could be: Jellyfish. The Jellyfish near Cancun are colloquially called “sea lice.” These sea lice are actually the larvae (the technical term is ephyra) of the thimble jellyfish. They have a light sting, but can cause a more severe rash if they are trapped in a bathing suit.

Seeing people come out of the water stung by Jellyfish was enough to keep Shanna out of the ocean, but it had the opposite effect on me. You see, I was reading a book called *Spineless: The Science of Jellyfish and the Art of Growing a Backbone* by Juli Berwald (a great beach read). I was loving the book, and even more so, I was loving jellyfish. Instead of being scared away from the water and the jellies, I was drawn to it. After reading so much about the weird and wonderful jellyfish, I wanted to experience it for myself, even if that meant getting stung.

So, while Shanna napped, I wandered in the water, back and forth, back and forth, like I was part of a search party. And, after about 25 minutes, I felt it.

A sharp sting followed by a dull burn on my left leg. I exited the water ecstatic—I had experienced something I had only read about!



Shanna didn’t get it. She couldn’t understand why I wanted to feel the sting of a jellyfish. The only explanation is that I was compelled by a book, by words on a page, to act in ways that seemed irrational to the world around me.

Each week, we gather together around a book filled with words that encourage us to action in the world. Sometimes, we are compelled by this book to act in ways that seem irrational to the world. The Word of God inspires us to care for people we don’t even know. To go places where we feel like we don’t fit in. To welcome people into the fold

that come from different walks of life.

I encourage you to get in the water. Be inspired by the words of scripture to change the way you live. Volunteer. Spread love. Advocate for justice. Bring peace to the world.

And do it all because you were inspired by the Word of God.

Peace,
Paul



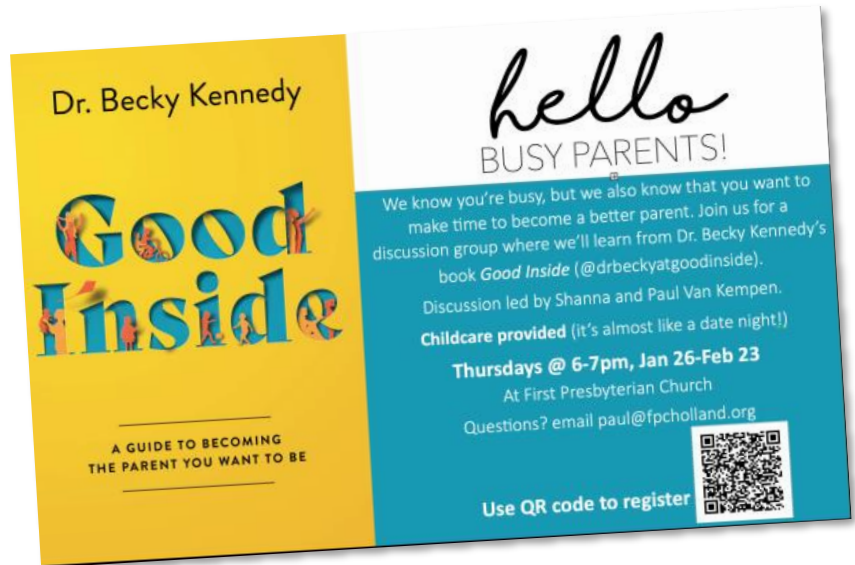
Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

The Worship Center was quiet during the month of January. See you next month!

Come share the Light of Christ with us.
~ Lori Klinesteker



Linda's Keyboard *continued*

You are not an “us” and “them” church, so stay the course and continue to be compassionate and open to what is around you. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep [God’s] commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone (12:13). And the greatest command is love.

Be at peace as you love and serve the God who loves you and calls you children of God. It has been an honor and a grace to live among you for two years.

With love,
Linda

Interim Pastor, February 2021 - February 2023



Presbyterian Women

In our Bible study of *Celebrating Sabbath* for 2022-23 we are halfway through our “thinking about Sabbath” year. We have roamed from Genesis to Luke so far, with a few Exodus stories. We have questions!

Do we mean Sabbath when we say “Sunday”?

Is it an old word of our faith traditions?

Do we actually get to rest on the Sabbath?

Does God provide for our needs if we don’t keep “keep” the Sabbath?

In February we will consider how accepting the gift of Sabbath often goes along with our gift of hospitality. Miriam Circle meets in person on February 8 at 9:30 am at church. Hannah Circle meets by ZOOM on February 9 at 1:30 pm. The ZOOM link is sent by email and is also posted on our Facebook group page: FPCHolland PW. ZOOM allows our snowbirds to attend, and our homebound friends. All are welcome!

We learned that as she waited to be picked up for the January meeting of Miriam Circle, our friend Aline Miller peacefully passed away. Her commitment to being active in our congregation and her Circle never flagged. She was faithful in worship, as we said a quick goodbye on January 1 before we headed South. It was a sad day for her Sisters in Christ in Miriam Circle to hear this news. We are all sisters in the Holy Spirit.

Janet Magennis,
PW Communications



Our Christ Candle for circle worship with our new symbol of support for each other.

Our monthly Bible study groups will continue throughout wintery times:

Miriam Circle will meet in person at FPC Holland on **February 8, and March 8** at 9:30 AM, weather permitting. If Holland Public Schools are closed, Circle will not meet.

Hannah Circle will meet only by ZOOM during the winter on 2nd Thursdays at 1:30 pm.

The ZOOM link will be sent a day ahead of **February 9, and March 9.**

This allows our snowbirds and homebound members to continue participation.

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. 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

Holland Civic Theatre presents 'SWEAT' about a steel mill in Reading, Pennsylvania in 2000 when the company was considering layoffs and hiring non-union Latino workers. This poignant play takes a look at the de-industrial revolution through the lens of a history play, but also delves into the issues of today: the economy, immigration, race-relations in American, and politics.

This thought-provoking play takes place on Sunday, February 12th at 2pm. If you are interested in joining us, please sign-up in the Narthex, contact Chris Urbaniak directly or watch the Wednesday eWeekly to sign-up online.

Tickets are \$15.
Optional dinner and play discussion at the Curraugh following the performance



The Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will meet Monday, February 6th discussing - *The Greatest Been Run Ever* by Donohue and Molloy

March 6th - *The First Wave* by Alex Kershaw

We meet in-person the first Monday of the month at 7pm in the Michigan room. 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, February 12th discussing - *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict

March 12th - *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

We meet in-person the second Sunday of the month at 1pm in the M&M Café. Questions? Please contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com

Save
the
Date

Women's Retreat

Worthy of Time: Whispers of Solitude

Please join the women of the church
for a one day retreat.

Saturday, March 18, 2023
9am - 4 pm at FPC

A brochure with more details
and registration coming soon.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Cowie at
dbcowie@sbcglobal.net

Let's Pray Together

IN SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt condolences to Karen Wilson, her family and friends as they mourn the loss of Wiley who passed away Thursday, January 26.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ralph Richardson who passed away Thursday, January 19.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Aline Miller who passed away Wednesday, January 11.

FOR FPC

- For Rev. Cathy Hoop as she begins her leadership as Senior Pastor
- For Rev. Linda Male as she transitions out of her role as Interim Pastor
- Prayers of thanksgiving for our many recent visitors and new members

IN PRAYERS

- Mary Deenik recovering from surgery on her elbow after a fall
- Carol Knutson Molitor as she recovers from abdominal surgery in Punta Gorda, Florida
- Karen Salley recovering at home
- Jen Laux-Ludwig that her multiple sclerosis goes back into remission soon
- Phil Sturdevant plans to move from Appledorn to a facility in Ludington, closer to his family
- Mickey Harris continues to recover at home following 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
- 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
- Lois Rust – Appledorn Living Center South
- Marilyn Chamberlain – Resthaven Maple Woods

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..*