



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / FEBRUARY 2023

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Shared Ashes

One year I was driving home from our Ash Wednesday service and I swung through an Arby's. There wasn't much food in the house and it had been a long day. When I got to the pick up window, the woman looked at me and made a small gasp. But she didn't gasp like people do who have no idea what the smudge was about. She took that inhalation of oxygen because she realized the day had caught her by surprise.

"It's Ash Wednesday!" she exclaimed! I'm Catholic, and I *always* go to a service, but it must be early this year!

I regretted that I had returned a container of "traveling ashes" to my office before heading home, so I did something that probably sounds more than a bit odd. I said, "Would you like some of mine?" (I honestly don't remember whether or not I mentioned that I am a pastor.) I had been generously smudged by one of our elders, so I reached up and transferred some of the ash from my forehead to my thumb. I asked her for her name. She leaned out the window and I made the sign of the cross on her head, "Tonia, remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return. May God bless you and keep you."

She thanked me, handed me my sandwich and I drove off towards home. I imagine she worked until 11:00 before being able to call it a day. I wonder if she washed them off, or left them until morning, as I tend to do.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

I don't expect to have such an encounter as this one again, but I will hope for other equally and unprepared holy moments.

As we enter Lent together, exploring the questions of our faith, I pray we will each be hopefully expectant of the curious ways God is at work in our midst, connecting us in ways we never imagined. And I pray that in the abundance of all we have received - love, hospitality, forgiveness, encouragement...even ashes...we will generously share, trusting there is always more than enough.

May God go with us on this Lenten journey as we await the promise of rebirth!

Blessings,
Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Welcome Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop



Thanks to Chris Urbaniak for capturing the festivities and warmth of Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop's first Sunday as Senior Pastor at FPC!



Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Children of FPC and the First Presbyterian Preschool shared what LOVE IS.....it was sweet to be part of the collaboration of the children of FPC and FPP playing together while parents were attending the parenting class based on the book, *Good Inside* by Dr. Becky Kennedy, led by Paul and Shanna Van Kempen.



Worship Center is back in full swing. WC 2nd – 5th finished February experiencing *Communion* and is entering into a Lenten journey through the City of Jerusalem. Come see, embrace and learn while the kids wonder and walk through the stories of Holy Week together, within the wooden display of the City. WC Pre-K through 1st have been continuing their timeline of stories as they experienced them. The week of *John the Baptist/Baptism*, they were invited to bring in photos of their own baptism. They began Lent with *Burying Alleluia*. Celebrant's heart is full - at the end of our time together PreK-1st grader asked the Celebrant to make another piece for his response time art, Celebrant agreed replying it would be there for him next Sunday, child responded with "only if you don't cancel again like you did the last two weeks". The Worship Center is theirs, a place to be, to explore, to respond in any way they choose.



In appreciation for all the book donations. They will be placed on the top shelves of the bookcases in the Book Nook. We will be placing our annual gifting of books received from the family of Nancy Burkitt in the Nursery. *"Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world."* – Jeanette Winterson.

Jesus said, "Let the little **children come** to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14.

Lori Klinesteker



Presbyterian Women

Our circle groups are enjoying the focus on *CELEBRATING SABBATH* authored by Rev. Carol Bechtel this year. Each study video has a message from Rev. Carol, where she moves us into a sacred moment of peace with her harp.

We look ahead to our big event coming up on **Saturday, April 22** when FPC Holland will be the host for the **Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women** from around our presbytery. Rev. Bechtel – with her harp -- will be the speaker. Aren't we lucky to have her nearby! And, all FPC Holland women are invited to attend. Registration will begin in March. Light refreshments will begin the morning as groups arrive, then we will move into worship and our speaker. Lunch will be available. Our **Presbyterian Preschool** will be the recipient of half the offering, and **RESILIENCE** will benefit from donations of new, unwrapped women's underwear. Let's be present!

We will encourage the LMPW visitors to Holland to take a whirl around the Spring beauty of Holland to enjoy early tulips and flowering trees that will be springing forth after lunch.

Janet Magennis,
PW Communications



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

Our monthly Bible study groups continue into the spring.

Miriam Circle meets March 8, April 12, May 10 at 9:30 am at the church

Hannah Circle meets March 9 via Zoom, and in person April 13, May 11
at 1:30 pm at the church

GET THE LATEST NEWS *from* **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

CONNECT TOGETHER



The family of Karen Wilson expresses sincere thanks to the entire congregation on the passing of Wiley Wilson. Your thoughts, prayers and concern were felt by all of us.

A book of Daily Peace in memory of Wiley was delivered by one of the Deacons. I look forward each day to seeing the photos as well as reading the words of wisdom.

Celebration of Life Service

A Celebration of Life service will be held for Elaine Evenson on **April 15** at 11am with a luncheon to follow.

All are Welcome.



Chuck Norris' GVSU Men's Choral Group

A free concert at St. Cecilia's in Grand Rapids on **April 1st at 7:30pm**. They will be singing music written and directed by Andre Thomas. We are offering transportation on the church bus. We will leave the church parking lot at 6:15pm. Please make your reservation with Carleen Bauer or Chris Urbaniak.

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



WORTHY OF TIME:
Whispers of
SOLITUDE



Guest speaker is Rev. Wendy Van Tassell. Cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch and beverages. Brochure with registration form is available at the information desk. Questions? Contact Bonnie Cowie at dbcowie@sbcglobal.net

Women's Book Club

The Women's book club will be discussing the following books:

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

April 9th - **The Children's Blizzard** by Melanie Benjamin

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

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



Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

Help create a beautiful worship space for Easter Sunday and purchase a plant. We will coordinate through Pat's Floral. Stay tuned for more information.

Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. The next meeting will be **Friday, March 10**. Contact is David Ford.

The Men's Book Club

The Men's book club will be discussing the following books:

March 6th - **The First Wave: The D-Day Warriors Who Led the Way to Victory in World War II.**

April 3rd- **The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to warn the World.**

May 1st- **Can We Talk About Israel?: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted**

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.



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