

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / MARCH 2023

A Message from Rev. Cathy C. Hoop	2
A Message from Rev. Paul Van Kempen	3
Worship Center	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Outreach Crop Walk	6
Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services	7
Connect Together	8
FPC Prays	9

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Light and Love

I'm looking forward to my first Easter in Holland, and I'm especially longing for spring. Many of you have asked how I'm adapting to the cold. Honestly, it isn't so much the cold that is a challenge, as it is the darkness in the morning. I'm accustomed to the sun appearing much earlier, and my body clock is struggling to adapt.

I'm eager to participate in the Easter morning sunrise service, gathering together at the edge of the morning, and welcoming God's light and love into this holy day.

But as much as I welcome the light, we all recognize our need for the gift of darkness. For some, a time to rest, for the "night owls," a time to be productive. In God's hands, much good emerges from the dark...an entire universe of delights. In God's hands, a risen savior emerges from the mystery of death. In God's hands, the tomb does not symbolize finality, but rather the womb of rebirth. If, as Phillips Brooks writes, "The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death, but that we are to be new here and now by the power of the resurrection," then the question for each of us is "How will I live into that newness?" Thanks be to God! Amen!

Becoming a More Light Congregation

At the March Session meeting, the Outreach Council brought a recommendation to the Session for FPC to affiliate with More Light Presbyterians, a move that confirms the commitment of this church to celebrate gender diversity as a gift of God.



The mission of More Light Presbyterians is this:

Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,

Continued on page 3



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Welcome Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

For the Lenten season this year, we have been asking questions together based on the stories from the Gospel of John. It has been a great joy asking questions with all of you, and it has been especially fun to see the ways that this series has interfaced with the Youth Group. The Youth Group has been asking questions all year long. We have been using a curriculum called *re:form* that helps youth ask and address some of the big questions of faith. Things like: *Is the Bible true? Can it be proven that God exists? Is God male? Why should I pray when God doesn't answer all my prayers?*

These are some big questions to ask! The youth haven't been afraid to dive into deep discussion and to provide their youthful perspective to age old questions.



This past week, the question the youth addressed was; *Can I be a Christian without going to church?*

We talked together about how you can be a Christian without going to church, but that being in community with people is a big part of being a Christian. We have experienced this as we have asked questions together this year. It seems to me that a big part of being a Christian is asking questions together with people even if you aren't going to find an answer that satisfies everyone. Hard questions are easier to explore when you are in a community with people you love and care for.

It has been a joy to question with the youth group and it has been a joy to question with all of you this season! If you ever want to visit the youth group and ask questions with us, we'd love to have you!

Peace,
Pastor Paul

Becoming a More Light Congregation *continued*

queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

While our denomination fully supports the mission statement of More Light in theory, practice varies widely from congregation to congregation. Some congregations are much more welcoming than others. Our affiliation with More Light will make it easier for people who are

seeking an open and affirming church to find us. Also, this alliance will challenge us to live out our commitment more fully, both theologically and practically.

Please contact Paul or me if you have any questions. Also, you may want to visit mlp.org for more information.

~ Cathy



Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

During Lent, our children entered Holy Week in the Worship Center. It was a hands-on experience as 2nd – 5th WC children built the story within the walls of The City of Jerusalem. The PreK – 1st children experienced entry into Jerusalem with palms, last supper, washing of the feet, and a tomb that was built in their WC, they will celebrate Easter on their first Sunday back, April 16. Children in the PreK-1st grade WC made Alleluia cards to hide at home, filled with anticipation to unbury them on Easter morning.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at FPC on Easter morning April 9. Please have your kid(s) bring their own basket or bag for collecting the eggs. We will gather on the FPP playground, weather permitting.

An intergenerational soup lunch with games happened following the Education Hour in March. Great turnout, fun games and delicious food were enjoyed by all.

Sunday, April 2, and Easter Sunday April 9, the Education Time/Worship Center will not occur due to Spring Break and Easter. We will resume on April 16.

On our journey to the Empty Tomb,

Lori
Klinesteker





Presbyterian Women

Spring Gathering for Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women

On April 22, our church will host the LMPW Spring Gathering. This is our first opportunity to present our major renovations. Featured speaker is Rev. Carol Bechtel, author of this year's study for PW. She is Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary. Registration is open to all FPC Holland women, and we hope you can enjoy this special denominational event. 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. If you cannot attend, we would welcome your offerings.

Our circles will meet after Easter week. **Miriam Circle** meets April 12, May 10 at 9:30 am at the church **Hannah Circle** meets 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: **FPCHollandPW**

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org



Saturday, March 11
Presbytery Meeting
featuring guest speaker,
Rev. Jimmie Hawkins,
Director of the Office of
Public Witness and the
Presbyterian Ministries
at the UN.



March 26 Installation of Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

Outreach

CROP Hunger Walk - Sunday May 21

After several difficult years during the COVID pandemic, the Holland-Zeeland Area CROP Hunger Walk is back on a new date and location! This year's walk will take place on Sunday May 21 from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Centennial Park in downtown Holland. It will be a part of Hunger Awareness week that includes the postal food drive on Saturday May 20 and the hunger walk on Sunday May 21. The CROP hunger walk supports hunger relief both locally and around the world through CWS. Having the hunger walk begin at Centennial park will allow us to have greater visibility in our community. There will be Information booths from the local hunger relief agencies as well as opportunities for food and fellowship in the park before or after people walk.

The following local agencies receive funds from our Holland/Zeeland CROP hunger walk; Buen Pastor Migrant Day Care, Christian Neighbors, Community Action House - Holland, Evergreen Commons Adult Meal Program, Hand2Hand, Harvest Stand Ministries, Gateway Mission, Kids Food Basket, Salvation Army.

First Presbyterian Church has a long history of participating in the walk, with individuals, families, and youth group members walking and donating to fight hunger. Won't you join us this year? We hope to gather at Centennial Park at about 1:00pm to enjoy a simple meal together before walking so that others can also eat.

More information about the walk as well as links to sign up to walk or donate can be found at <https://www.hollandhunger.org/>

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Tim Staal - tstaal@gmail.com



Crop Walk 2022



Deacon's Caring Corner

The Deacons have been busy this past month sending cards, delivering Prayer Shawls, and arranging meals and transportation as needs arise. As a team, we are here for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you could use a little extra help or comfort once in a while. You can send an email to "deacons@fpcholland.org" and it will be directed to a team member best suited to your need.

Connections Council

The Connections Council and all the M&M volunteers are delighted with the growing numbers who enjoy fellowship and refreshments at the Meet and Mingle Cafe each Sunday before and after worship. However, while the fellowship is wonderfully no-cost, our refreshments are not, and the council budget is feeling a bit pinched by rising prices. Please remember to feed our donation jars every once in a while if you're able. Thanks!



Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

April 2 - Palm Sunday

No Education Hour due to spring break

April 6 - Maundy Thursday service at 6pm

This is a family friendly event that will take place in the Fellowship Hall. This service will include a simple meal of soup and bread. Sign up to bring soup and/or bread to share! Please have your contribution to the church by 5:45pm to set up. Sign up is in the Narthex.

April 7 - Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 12 noon at Third Reformed Church

April 9 - Easter Sunday

No Education Hour due to spring break

6:45am Sunrise Communion service happening at Prospect Park (two blocks from the church)

9-10am Easter breakfast

9:30am Easter egg hunt

10am Worship with Communion

Easter Breakfast Volunteers

Easter breakfast will take place Sunday, April 9 from 9-10am and we are looking for volunteers to assist with:

- Saturday from 10am - noon: Drop off nut-free (including nut oils, nut extracts or flavors) pastries, sweet breads and/or fruits

Saturday 10am - noon: Set up the dining room

Sunday 8am: Final set up / help serve breakfast

- Sunday 11am: Clean up

Sign up is in the Narthex. Please contact Linda Clark or Danielle Peterson with questions.



Thank you to the congregation from the Worship and the Arts council for ordering Easter flowers. cA reminder to take them home with you after the 10am Easter service.

CONNECT TOGETHER

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.

Celebration of Life Service

To all church members! The friends and family of Elaine Susan Evenson invite you to join us in a Celebration of Life Service for Elaine on **April 15, 2023**, at 11:00am here at the church. This will mark the third anniversary of her death. We promise a program filled with her favorite music, good stories, and many memories. Burial of her ashes will take place after the service. A luncheon will then be served. Please contact Bill Evenson at (616) 399-4650 or wdevensob1@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Holland Community Theatre

Join us at HCT **Sunday, April 23** at 2:00pm for the comedy, "Nana's Naughty Knickers." Optional dinner afterwards at the Curragh. Sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Desk next to the office door. Tickets are \$15. Contact Chris Urbaniak with questions.

Crop Hunger Walk 2023

The Crop Walk will be held this year on **Sunday, May 21** as a part of Holland Hunger Awareness weekend. Walkers and supporters from First Presbyterian will help fight hunger locally and around the world. More information will be coming in the Profiles and at the Outreach kiosk. For more information visit hollandhunger.org.

Women's Book Club

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

Due to Easter Sunday being April 9 we will meet April 16th - **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

The Men's Book Club

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

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.

Men's Study Group

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

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

Our church Directory is now on the FPC website!

Found on the password protected member area page; fpcholland.org/member-log-in.com

Let's Pray Together

FOR FPC

As we ASK questions together and as a community during Lent

IN PRAYERS

Bob Weber at home recovering from a recent hospitalization

Kristen Magennis recovering at home

Dean Effken recovering at home

Dean Effken's daughter, Shelley, as she grieves her husband's death from mesothelioma

Marti Disler recovering from foot surgery

Katie Hoffswell living in Turkey as she supports earthquake victims

Bob Martin recovering from a broken arm

Karen Salley for continued recovery

Jen Laux-Ludwig that her multiple sclerosis goes back into remission soon

Prayers for those who join us in worship online that they will sense the love and peace of Christ

Those living with mental health issues

Those processing emotional pain

Those struggling with addictions

Those grieving with the loss of loved ones

YOUTH@FIRST

Prayers for safety during spring break

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

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Prayers for safety on and off campus

HOSPICE CARE

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

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

Phil Sturdevant - Lake Michigan Senior Living in Ludington

Jim Smith - Royal Atrium Inn in Zeeland

Roy & Meriem Elwell - Freedom Village

Connie Oppenhuizen - American House

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. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop, Senior Pastor: Cathy@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..*