



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / MAY 2023

A Message from Rev. Cathy C. Hoop	2
A Message from Rev. Paul Van Kempen	3
Worship Center	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Outreach Good Samaritan	6
Deacons	7
Connect Together	8
FPC Prays	9

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Connections

On June 18 we will celebrate our first More Light Sunday at First Presbyterian. (Visit mlp.org to learn more about the work of More Light.) Affiliating as a More Light congregation solidifies a long standing commitment at FPC to work for the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in the life and ministry of the church and society. You may wonder why we made this step. Affiliating as a More Light congregation lends support to their vital work of education and advocacy. Our denomination will always have work to do as we continue to witness discrimination and abusive legislation against those who are LGBTQIA+.

I'm writing this even as the Target Corporation is under attack for selling PRIDE merchandise that supposedly had "Satanic" connections. (It didn't...) Target employees have been threatened, and these employees, some of whom are LGBTQIA+ are the very ones having to pull the merchandise from the shelves. The same t-shirts and tote bags that gave them joy to place on the shelves, they are now having to remove.

In Tennessee, the governor has banned "drag shows." In Grand Haven, residents are trying to shut down their Pride Fest, claiming that it is a danger to children. Books are being pulled from school libraries. Doctors are being forbidden from providing care to transgender children, youth and adults. Every day there is another news story, and every day I am reminded of the privilege with which I live as a cis-gender, heterosexual individual.

God didn't call any of us to a life of privilege. God did call us to a life of compassion. God didn't call us to a life of judgement. God did call us to a life of mercy.

By Christ's own example, we know we are to be people of welcome, not rejection.

Called as God's own to be God's welcome in the world, let us "draw the circle wide, and wider still,"* that God's compassion, mercy and love may be more widely known.

Join us on June 18, as we welcome Dr. Michael Adee, activist, teacher and the first executive director of More Light, as our guest preacher. Let us celebrate the diversity of God!

* "Draw the Circle Wide" is a choir anthem by the Rev. Dr. Mark D. Miller



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Refugia Church

As many of you know, I am currently in a Doctor of Ministry program at Western Theological Seminary. This program is called *Church of the Refugia* and it is loosely based on Deb Rienstra's book *Refugia Faith*.

So, what is a Refugium (pl. refugia)?

A refugium is a small, contained pocket of biodiversity and abundance in the midst of unfavorable conditions. The most vivid example of refugia are the pockets of life that quickly sprung up after the eruption of Mount. St. Helens. Biologists thought that the heat and ash would have completely destroyed the area around the volcano, but pretty quickly, life emerged from the ash. These refugia were the safe harbors where the diversity of life was protected through the crisis.

My D.Min. cohort is pairing this idea of biological safe-havens during crisis with the safe-haven of the church as we weather the many crises the modern church faces, including climate change.

As part of my D.Min. work, I will be doing a project where we learn together and explore the ways in which the church can respond to climate change and in doing so, be a refugia from the crises around us. I will be specifically looking at how the idea of the American Dream has shaped our theology and practices when it comes to our care for the planet.

I will be asking some of you to be a part of my work early this summer through surveys and interviews as I try to get a baseline of how this congregation thinks about climate change and how we think about the American Dream. I hope this work will be fruitful for this church and fruitful for the broader church moving forward.

Grace and Peace,
Paul



May 14 Baptism of Matthew Austin Reynolds.
Parents, Melanie and Andrew and siblings,
Marian and Cameron.



Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center for Pre-K through 5th graders started the summer break on May 21. An intergenerational potluck was held prior to the Crop Walk.

Through experiencing the stories of the weeks Following the Resurrection, Sharing the Light of Christ, Pentecost, Fruit of the Spirit, Good Shepherd and the Eucharist; our children are excited to share their Christ's Light with others. A child of ours shared "remember when we talked about, you know, the thing that people felt when the wind came? I felt it touch me for only a couple of minutes; I really did!"



Ways to be together over the summer: Peace Camp at FPC – June 26-30, Canoe trip in July, Outdoor Discovery Worship in August, Dinners for 7, enriched Celebration Time, Communion – all together. Please share your ideas of events we can do.

Christ's Light, Shining Through All,
Lori Klinesteker,



Big Beautiful Planet // Peace Camp 2023

Peace Camp teaches strategies and tools for inner peace, relational peace, and global peace through lessons, games, songs, crafts and more!

WHEN: June 26-30, 9:00-11:45 each day
WHERE: First Presbyterian Church, Holland (659 State St.)

WHO: Campers: Kids entering grades 1-6
Teen leaders: Teens entering grades 7-12





Presbyterian Women

The times, they are a changin'!

With some quiet sadness the Hannah Circle met in May for the final time. A combination of COVID, health changes, temporary and permanent changes of location, and tech troubles created this defining moment. We tried to continue via ZOOM, but it wasn't to be. Remaining Hannah members will move to the Miriam Circle.

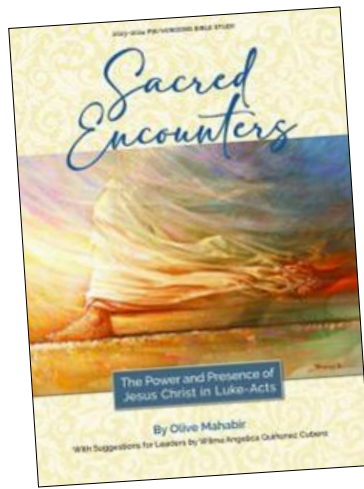
However, the hopeful news is that PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will be meeting in June for some fun! Make a reservation for your box lunch choice and we will "picnic" at the church at Noon on June 14. RSVP after church or online to janetofholland@gmail.com by June 7. Choose your sandwich, and drinks, chips, and something sweet will be available. We will do a little quick "business" in electing PW Officers.

Many thanks go to everyone who helped provide a lovely welcome for the Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women to our church on April 22. We had 79 women from churches around the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, whose offering of more than \$1,000 went to our Presbyterian Preschool. Also, we received nearly \$1,800 in new, tagged underwear for women fleeing domestic violence who are helped by RESILIENCE.

Looking ahead, we are now ordering study books for the new PW Bible study beginning in September with our kickoff. The study is *Sacred Encounters, finding the power and presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts*. We would also like to have

an Advent Brunch and Lenten Luncheon again. Here's to hoping we are finally recovering from Covid!

Janet Magennis, PW Communications
Join our Facebook Group - FPCHollandPW



Congratulations Graduate! Erin Magennis graduated from GVSU with a double major in Education and Math as well as a minor in Psychology. She hopes to teach math in a high school setting.

GET THE LATEST NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

Outreach



We will be collecting personal care/hygiene items and cleaning supplies for Good Samaritan Ministries to give to newly housed families, many who are coming from living on the streets. They are given these welcome baskets to get them started in their new homes. We will be collecting these items on **Sunday, June 11**, there will be collection containers in the Meet and Mingle/Outreach Kiosk area. Below is a full list of items needed. Please keep these items in mind as you do your shopping, thank you for anything you can donate.

At Good Samaritan Ministries, we seek to end poverty and homelessness. We do this through the connections we make with the individuals and families we serve. Many of our families come to us from living on the streets, in places not meant for human habitation, and from local shelters. Unfortunately, these clients have often lost many of their possessions throughout their journey. We are reaching out to you today to partner with us as we strive to provide each family in our housing program some household essentials to get them started in their new homes.

We need your support and are seeking donations to fill laundry baskets with hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and other household necessities. Would you consider donating the items listed below to help us achieve our mission of ending homelessness one family at a time. If you have any questions, I would be happy to provide you with more information about how you can help support our work at Good Samaritan Ministries.

If you are interested in partnering with us, we are seeking donations for the below items:

- Laundry baskets
- Toilet paper
- Paper towel
- Trash bags
- Paper plates
- Plastic utensils
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Toilet bowl brush
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Toothpaste (adult and children's)
- Toothbrushes (adult and children's)
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Wash cloths and hand towels
- Broom & dustpan/Mop
- Plastic wrap/aluminum foil
- Calendar



Deacon's Caring Corner

The Deacons are here to serve the needs of the congregation. We are made up of care teams to better meet your needs. The three basic teams include: Comforters, Nourishers, and Handy Workers/Transporters. Each team has a leader who facilitates the work.

Comforters make visits to members in their homes, the hospital or long-term care units to provide emotional support and be a friendly face. They also provide prayer shawls and inspirational books as needs arise. They also coordinate a large card ministry that sends cards for many occasions. This team does some of the work themselves, but also relies on the help of members who make visits and send cards.

Nourishers help provide meals to members who might be in need of help in this area due to an illness or injury. They rely heavily on members of the congregation who have agreed to be on the list. When a need is made known to the team leader, they, in turn, contact one of their many helpers from the congregation to fill that need.

Transporters help arrange rides for members who are unable to drive themselves for any reason. When a need is made known, the team leader reaches out to those that have agreed to be on the list of drivers.

Handy Workers assist with small household repairs or maintenance or assist members in locating assistance with a job. When a need is made known, those that perform the work are congregation members that have expressed an interest in helping out in this area of need.

The team leaders are as follows:

Comforters - Nancy Staal
nancystaal@gmail.com

Nourishers - Lauren Stouffer
lauren.stoffer@gmail.com

Transportation -- Tom Glover
glovertn@gmail.com

Handy Workers -- Tom Glover
glovertn@gmail.com

If you have a need please feel free to contact one of the team leaders directly.

The other deacons who help with these teams are:

Colleen Ball - Moderator

Paul Van Kolken, Linda Winkelmann, Chris Olney,
and Terri Schamper

A Note from the FPC Bookkeeper

Online giving has been generous, and the frequency has increased over the last few years. While it is a huge blessing and certainly convenient to give online, we also have to come to the realization that most worthwhile things are not free. The organization, Presbyterian Foundation New Covenant Trust Company in return for processing and depositing that amount into the church's checking account takes a 2% fee that is paid by the church. If you are concerned about the fee, another option would be giving via automatic electronic funds transfer from your bank account directly into the church's bank account at Huntington bank. 100% of what you give will be transferred into our Huntington bank account. We offer two options; transfers can be made twice a month on the 7th and the 21st or once a month on the 15th. If you would like more information on how you can set this up you may contact the bookkeeper, Marlene Field, at marlene@fpcholland.org.

CONNECT TOGETHER

Please note, *Profiles* will be on vacation during the month of July returning in August. If you have a July or early August event /date that you'd like communicated in June, please email it to Sue@fpcholland.org by June 20. Thank you!

Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. The next meeting will be **Friday, June 2** and then on **June 16**. Contact is David Ford.

Common Threads Group

The gathering formerly known as the knitting and crocheting group has a new name! We hope that "Common Threads" reflects the fact that all are welcome. Many of us are crocheting or knitting prayer shawls, but feel free to come and work on other needlework or crafts, or just for the fellowship!

We meet the third Monday of each month from 1-3 pm in the Ontario room. Come and go as you are able. We hope you'll join us! Next meeting is June 19.

Women's Book Club

The Women's book club will meet at 1pm on Sunday, June 11 to discuss the book: **The Maid** by Nita Prose.

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 return from summer break in September.

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.

Dinner for 7 // Happening June 10th at

6:00pm! Individuals, couples, and families are invited to meet in small groups and enjoy a meal together. The hosts provide the main course of their choice and make plans with their assigned group to bring additional dishes. Hosts will be notified who will be coming to their home and will make plans directly with those individuals. It has been a favorite event in the past and we're excited to resurrect it again. Sign up in the Narthex by June 3rd

Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting & Catered Lunch //

Presbyterian Women invite all church women to join us on **June 14** at 12 Noon for a catered box lunch picnic and some fun. RSVP to Janet Magennis, jmmagennis@yahoo.com to select your menu item. A brief business meeting will be held to elect a moderator and treasurer.

Save the Date! // Our very own FPC Trio and special guest performers from Grand Valley State University will present a concert in our sanctuary on **June 18** at 2pm. A free will offering will be received to benefit the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ministry.

PRIDE Festival // We are looking for volunteers to help in our booth at the PRIDE Festival Saturday, **June 24th**. Our booth is very popular because we have a button making machine and everyone can design and make their own to wear or give a friend...and that gives us an opportunity to share what FPC has to offer the LGBTQ+ community.

We have 2-hour shifts: 10-12 (set-up), 12-2p, 2-4p or 4-6p (tear-down). There is a signup sheet in the narthex near the Outreach Table. Love to have you join us for a fun day getting our inclusive church out into the community.

Instant Church Directory is now on the FPC website!

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



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



A big thank you to all who walked in the CROP Hunger Walk and donated to fight hunger!