



presbyterian *profiles*

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

## Living Together as Community

Living together as a community of faith isn't always easy. Even the healthiest of families have their conflicts, so it isn't any wonder that churches (and denominations) also have their internal struggles. Moments of tension can also be moments of clarity, opportunities to examine what it is we believe, and how we will live out that faith in public.

But let's be honest, we would much prefer it if we could all get along all the time.

Fortunately, the gospel accounts of Jesus' own life remind us that his life was not without conflict. The truth of his life and the complexities of his teachings made some uncomfortable, made others angry.

Recently, our Session (active ruling elders) engaged in a conversation about providing space for Out on the Lakeshore's Drag Storytime event. (Please visit OOTL.org for more information about this advocacy organization which FPC supports.) I invited LGBTQ+ members and parents of LGBTQ+ individuals to the conversation since our current session is composed of straight, cis-gender individuals.

We met with Kate Leighton-Colburn, OOTL's executive director to learn what a drag story time is and what it isn't. We learned about the purpose of drag story time (literacy and diversity), the safety protocols, and the performer (who grew up in Holland). We prayed and we listened. The opinions varied from deeply supportive to intensely opposed. In the end, the vote was not unanimous, but the event moved forward. The event moved forward peacefully and without protests or chaos.

The event moved forward, providing families who wanted to participate an opportunity to do so in a safe environment.

I am sorry to share that two elders and one deacon felt the need to resign over this decision, but I also want you to hear the truth that one of our LGBTQ individuals shared, "This is actually the first time in my life that I have felt that a faith community respected LGBTQ folks enough to trust that this extremely marginalized minority community can make

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Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

## Survey Results

This summer, over the course of three sermons, I introduced the topic of my DMin thesis to the congregation and asked for your help by filling out a survey. 100 of you (yes, exactly 100—it makes percentages so easy!) filled out the survey. Here are some preliminary thoughts on what we can learn from the survey.

**Take away #1:** We are concerned about climate change.

84% of you were “worried” or “very worried” about Climate Change. This is higher than the national average of 58% by a large margin.

**Take away #2:** We aren’t *that* concerned about Climate Change.

One of the key factors that causes individuals and organizations to act on Climate Change is how acutely that individual or organization feels the effects of the Climate changing. Only 47% of you thought that climate change would harm you personally. We are broadly concerned about Climate Change, but we don’t necessarily worry about its effect on us as individuals.

**Take away #3:** We are concerned about the future of the Church.

57% of you are “worried” or “very worried” about the future of the Global Church. We are more worried about the Climate than we are about the church, which I think says something about our faithfulness as followers of Christ and our deep concern for the climate.

**Take away #4:** We aren’t that concerned about the future of this church.

Only 29% of you were “worried” or “very worried” about the future of FPC Holland. (Only 4 of you were “very worried”!) Does this mean we are confident in the mission and vision of FPC Holland? Or does it mean that we aren’t yet feeling the effects of the church crisis in our home church?

**Take away #5:** We have a wide array of definitions, and perspectives on the American Dream.

While there were some clear trends in the data about the Climate and Church, our thoughts on the American Dream are all over the map. Many of you think the American Dream has been of benefit to you as individuals and the country. Others think it has caused harm to the country and the climate. We have a lot to unpack here, which is great!

This year during the education hour, in our council meetings, through book groups, and special guests we will explore these topics further. I can’t wait to keep learning with all of you!





Lori Klinesteker  
Children's  
Ministry Leader

## Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

As families settle into the routines of a new school year, we are excited to be back in our Worship Center beginning **September 17**. Kickoff for fall programming and education time is on Sunday, **September 10** at 11:30am. Potluck brunch will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship Center will be in the same two dedicated spaces located in the lower level. Come to a space created for children to experience the awe and wonder, respond to the story in a way that they choose, have quiet time in the prayer corner, and take time To Be Still and Know that God is Here.

In August, many attended the play *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. The performance was grand and especially sweet to see our own FPC family with parts in the play. Hats off to Annie Lou VanderMeer Howell, Gail Hering, Beth Magennis, and Darrin Parker.

Christ's Light is shining,  
Lori Klinesteker  
Children's Ministry

## <> Happenings Around FPC <>

**Blessing of the Backpack** // On August 27 children were invited to bring their backpacks to worship to receive a blessing for the school year and an awesome backpack tag! Preschoolers and babies with their backpacks and diaper bags were welcome, too! A new year of learning begins!





## Presbyterian Women

**Presbyterian Women Bible Study Kickoff**  
September 20th at 9:30am in the Michigan Room

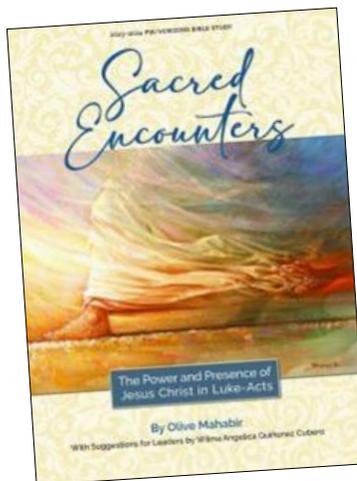
Our Bible Study from September through May will be introduced by Pastor Cathy Hoop. *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* begins in Lesson 1 with Elizabeth who was called by God to be available for God's purpose. Each subsequent lesson provides deeper insight into familiar stories we know from Luke and Acts. The Bible scripture passage is printed in each lesson. This study was written by the Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir, an ordained Presbyterian minister, who is "passionate about theological education and believes that learning can happen at any time and in any context." Her bio is on page 2 of the study book. The special art for each lesson was done by different artists.

Study books were pre-ordered, and we are happy to order more. *Horizons Magazine* is a subscription.

The Presbyterian Women magazine Summer 2023 *Horizons* has articles about our 2023 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women.

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:14-15

A little history here! This idea began in 1888, in Springfield, Ohio, when Eliza Clokey asked each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. A century later when two denominations combined as the PC(USA), the newly formed Presbyterian Women organization adopted the Thank Offering as one of the two grant making programs of the national organization. Since then, more than 1,600 different projects in the U.S. and around the world have benefitted from this little act of generosity. Just think what the vision and leadership of one single woman have accomplished!



Envelopes for this Thank Offering will be in the narthex on the PW shelf and in class study meetings. We hope you will consider your support of Presbyterian Women by your Mission and Least Coin offerings during each class. Some give once a year instead of monthly, especially if they travel during the winter. It is up to each person. All women of FPC Holland are encouraged to participate in

**GET THE LATEST NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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

Online: [PresbyterianWomen.org](http://PresbyterianWomen.org)

# Living Together as Community *continued from page 2*

decisions for itself about what kind of programming benefits LGBTQ folks in Holland.”

Hear these words from one of your siblings in Christ: “extremely marginalized minority,” and try to imagine that sense of exclusion. As God’s own, welcomed into God’s arms by God’s very mercy and grace, let us continue to labor to bring down the barriers and boundaries that cause people to lose hope in God’s love. God’s heart will always be tender toward the oppressed.



And because it needs to be said, resist the labeling of drag story time performers as groomers and pedophiles since there is no data to support this misinformation. The painful reality is that there are people of every gender and sexual orientation who are dangerous to children and youth.



If you would like to learn more about the history of drag from a reliable source, please view Kate’s presentation at: [https://youtu.be/\\_vnm52dNj2c](https://youtu.be/_vnm52dNj2c)

As always, Paul and I are both available for conversation.

Blessings and peace –  
Cathy

## <> Happenings Around FPC <>

**Summer Concert at FPC** // On July 23, we had the privilege of hearing our very own FPC trio, Nick Norris, Rose Gifford, and Andrew Plaisier, along with soloist Anna G. Bolton, perform a range of beautiful pieces during a summer concert performed in our sanctuary. Beth Magennis provided American Sign Language interpretation. The love offering received (almost \$700) supports our deaf and hard of hearing ministry. Contributions in support of this ministry are always welcome!



## <> Deacon's Caring Corner <>

Each month the Deacons write about the work they do sending cards, visiting, providing meals, and helping with transportation. This month, Deacons Colleen Ball and Tom Glover share two articles that reflect a more personal side of what they do.

Wanda and Jack Bonham (past very active members of FPC Holland) both suffered strokes in the last few months. Wanda has recovered very well, but Jack lost mobility and has been moved to a facility where he can get the care he needs for his Alzheimer's and his stroke recovery.

At our Deacons meeting in July, it was suggested that a prayer shawl be sent to Wanda from the Holland FPC. A shawl was chosen and sent the next day. Recently, Bob Martin was talking with Wanda, and she expressed such thankfulness for the shawl. She said it could not have come at a better time, for she was having a bad day and it felt so good to know that people in Holland were still thinking of them. I called Wanda the other day to ask permission to share her story and we had a good long talk. She again expressed the joy she gets from wrapping up in the shawl and reading cards that are sent her way.

~ Written by Colleen Ball

Right: Jo Ann Karn  
with Chris Urbaniak

Below: Jo Ann Karn  
with Rev. Paul Van Kempen  
and Rev. Cathy C. Hoop



As a new Deacon, I was assigned to head up the FPC Transporters Team of 10 volunteers. The team was formed to help FPC Holland members and their families whose circumstances don't allow them to drive or find other means of transportation to shop, travel to medical appointments and church services, etc.

Deacon Nancy Staal, a member of the deacon's Comforters Care Team, recently visited longtime member Jo Ann Karn who is living at a skilled care facility known as SKLD of Zeeland. Nancy found that Jo Ann is wheelchair bound and thus unable to get out of her wheelchair to use a walker, much less get into a regular car, van, or bus. Nancy also learned that Jo Ann very much misses attending our church and seeing her many friends there.

My first thought was to arrange for our wheelchair accessible church bus to add a stop in Zeeland and pick up and drop off Jo Ann as part of their Sunday morning route. But that couldn't be done without completely disrupting the schedule and making all the people who depend on the bus late for church!

So, a plan B was developed. Chris Urbaniak agreed to drive the bus, with myself as a passenger, to SKLD Zeeland on a weekday afternoon to get Jo Ann and take her to FPC Holland. Jo Ann had never seen the new construction and additions to the building and had never met either of our pastors Paul Van Kempen and Cathy Hoop.

Plan B was executed on July 13. It was a heart-warming success, as seen in the photos. I'm told that Jo Ann still raves about what a great time she had that afternoon. So did I and everyone else involved in the event!

~ Written by Tom Glover

## <> Deacon's Caring Corner <>

**Deacons "Care Closet"** // Deacons continue to add medical devices to a "care closet" for the congregation to borrow on a temporary basis. The concept is for the lender to retain the device until needed and deacons will handle the transfer.

Devices available so far include two knee scooters, a variety of walkers, a narrow wheelchair, bath bench, and a metal form to assist in putting on compression socks. More items are needed including canes and crutches.

Deacon Paul Van Kolken oversees the "care closet." For information, to share medical devices, or to request a device, he may be reached by email at [pvankolken@hotmail.com](mailto:pvankolken@hotmail.com) or by phone at 616.394.9516 (land line - leave message) or by cell at 616.510.5058.

The Deacons of FPC Holland are here and ready to help in any way we can; just email us or call us. Our phone numbers are in the directory.

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Care Closet needs	Paul VanKolken <a href="mailto:pvankolken@hotmail.com">pvankolken@hotmail.com</a>

## <> Outreach <>

**Escape Ministries needs you!** // Escape Ministries is driven to connect youth from all backgrounds with relationships that count, opportunities that matter, and resources that help, rooted in the Gospel. Could you join the volunteer team at Escape this fall, and/or share the opportunity with a friend who might be a good fit?

The volunteer needs this fall are at various times of day and include van drivers/riders, tutors, can returners, group mentors, lunch providers, and more!

If you're interested, please fill out the volunteer form on the Escape Ministries website page: [escape-out.org/volunteer](http://escape-out.org/volunteer).

We'll get in touch with you to see if there's a good fit.  
Thank you!

**Looking for Volunteers** // The coordinators of the M & M Cafe are looking for potential new volunteers to support the efforts of the current volunteers for the fall season of October - December. If this is something you are interested in and have questions, please contact Peggy Purdy at 206.910.4555.

**Gateway Donations Provide Gift Cards for Those in Need** // If you donate items to Gateway and give FPC as your church, FPC receives credit. Every quarter the value is added up and the church is given a "credit card" to hand out to anyone who is in need. They can use the card at Gateway to purchase items they need. It's a win-win!



# CONNECT TOGETHER

## Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. The next meeting will be **Friday, Sept 8** and **Sept 22**. Questions? Contact 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 **Sept 18**.

## Women's Book Club

Meets at 1pm on **Sunday, September 10** discussing the book, *A Hope More Powerful than the Sea* by Melissa Fleming. On October 8th, we will be discussing *When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson. We meet the second Sunday of the month at 1pm in the M&M Cafe. Questions? Please contact Bev Plagenhoef at [rbplagen@live.com](mailto:rbplagen@live.com)

## The Men's Book Club

Meets **Tuesday, Sept 5** at 7pm discussing the book, *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann. On October 2nd, we will be discussing *Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by Timothy Egan. We meet the first Monday of every month at 7pm. We welcome anyone to join us even though they may not have read the book(s). Questions? Contact Larry Lynn at [oldrun09@gmail.com](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com) or 616.617.8944.

## <> Happenings Around FPC <>



**Annual Shrimp Boil** // 42 people enjoyed the Annual Shrimp Boil held at the Zessins' house this year. The beautiful weather provided the perfect backdrop for a time of blessed fellowship and delicious food.

# SAVE THE DATE

**Fall Kickoff Brunch Potluck** // It's almost time to kick off the programming year! To start the year off right, we are having a **church wide potluck after worship on September 10th** in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share. If your house number is ODD, bring something savory; if your house number is EVEN, bring something sweet! See you there

**Worship Center and Education Hour** (11-11:45am) // Classes begin on **Sept 17**.

**Holland Community Theatre Outing** // **Saturday, October 14** at 7:30pm we have tickets to see *Young Frankenstein the Musical*. This stage production is an electrifying adaptation of Mel Brooks' monstrously funny film and will leave you in stitches. The grandson of Victor Frankenstein inherits his family estate in Transylvania; he travels there and meets all the unique characters in and around the castle. The creature he creates eventually escapes and hilarity continuously abounds. Sign up in the narthex. Tickets are \$19. Chris Urbaniak can answer any questions.

**Guest Preacher & Teacher** // Avery Arden will be the guest preacher/teacher on Sept 17.

Avery, a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, and member of the Board of More Light Presbyterians, will be in town to preach and teach for the Presbytery of Lake Michigan's quarterly meeting in September. Avery, who is a member of Cathy's former church in Tuscaloosa, offered to preach and teach for FPC while in town. Here is a peek at the class offering:



Avery Arden

Responding to the call to love all God's children, how do we cultivate communities that fully include and affirm transgender people? In this class, Avery Arden (they/them, MDiv) will get us started exploring how to:

- Transform our minds with basic knowledge about who trans people are, the issues they face, and the gifts they offer;
- Transform our understanding of scripture by seeking out its good news for trans people, and expand our understanding of God by recognizing trans people's part in God's image; and
- Transform our language and our spaces to welcome trans folks in instead of shutting them out.

Come with your questions, come with ideas, or just bring yourself!

**Instant Church Directory is now on the FPC website!**

Found on the password protected member area page; [fpcholland.org/member-log-in.com](http://fpcholland.org/member-log-in.com)



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

## <> Happenings Around FPC <>

**Outdoor Discovery Worship Service** // On Sunday, August 6 at 10am, we worshiped and shared communion at the Outdoor Discovery Center. People were encouraged to bring their own lunches to eat after the service, walk the fully accessible trails, have fun on the playground, or visit the animals and birds of prey cared for by the ODC. This was an intergenerational service, and all ages were encouraged to participate!

