

A photograph of a field of sunflowers at sunset. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow that illuminates the scene. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with some in sharp focus in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

# presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / SEPTEMBER 2023

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## CHURCH STAFF

### Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

### Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff  
cathy@fpcholland.org

### Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor  
paul@fpcholland.org

### Hannah Campau

Administrative Assistant  
office@fpcholland.org

### Marlene Field

Bookkeeper  
Marlene@fpcholland.org

### Lori Klinesteker

Clerk of Session &  
Children's Ministry Leader  
lori@fpcholland.org

### Chuck Norris

Director of Music  
charles@fpcholland.org

### Jane Oosterhouse

Custodian  
jane@fpcholland.org

### Thom Samuelson

Maintenance  
thom@fpcholland.org

### Sue Stock

Communications  
sue@fpcholland.org



Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

## Seasons

Needless to say, I'm a huge fan of Christmas and Easter, Advent and Lent, the promises, dreams and hopes that these seasons offer for us. These are sacred seasons. Still, the fall brings special days, too, and before the rush of the Christmas season arrives, we have the opportunity to pause and give thanks. Two of my favorite services take place in the fall.

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 15 we will have a service of Blessing of the Animals, a tradition that comes to us through the life of St. Francis of Assisi. You may be aware that it was St. Francis who introduced the idea of a "living nativity," complete with manger, ox and ass. His hope was that his community could regain the understanding of the simplicity and humility with which Jesus entered this world. It is said that St. Francis recognized all creatures of the earth as his siblings, that he would preach to the birds and befriend the wolf. And so, we, like Francis, will take time to give thanks for the creatures of the earth, for dogs and cats, birds and horses, fish and lizards, all the furry, finned, scaled and feathered creatures that enrich our lives.

On Sunday morning, November 5, we will celebrate "All Saints' Day," a service tinged with sorrow for those who have transitioned from this earth, those whom we dearly miss, a service of remembrance, but also a service that looks to the future. Even as we grieve, as we remember those who sat beside us in the pew or shared a table over coffee, we give thanks for the lives they lived and for God's promise of a home beyond our imagining. We give thanks for the day when we will gather together around God's table in welcome and celebration.

I invite you to take a moment to give thanks for the saints who surround you. Maybe they come in the guise of a beloved pet. Maybe they come as a kind neighbor or fellow congregant. Let us give thanks every day for those who are God's face to us: God's compassion, God's joy, God's abundant presence. Amen.



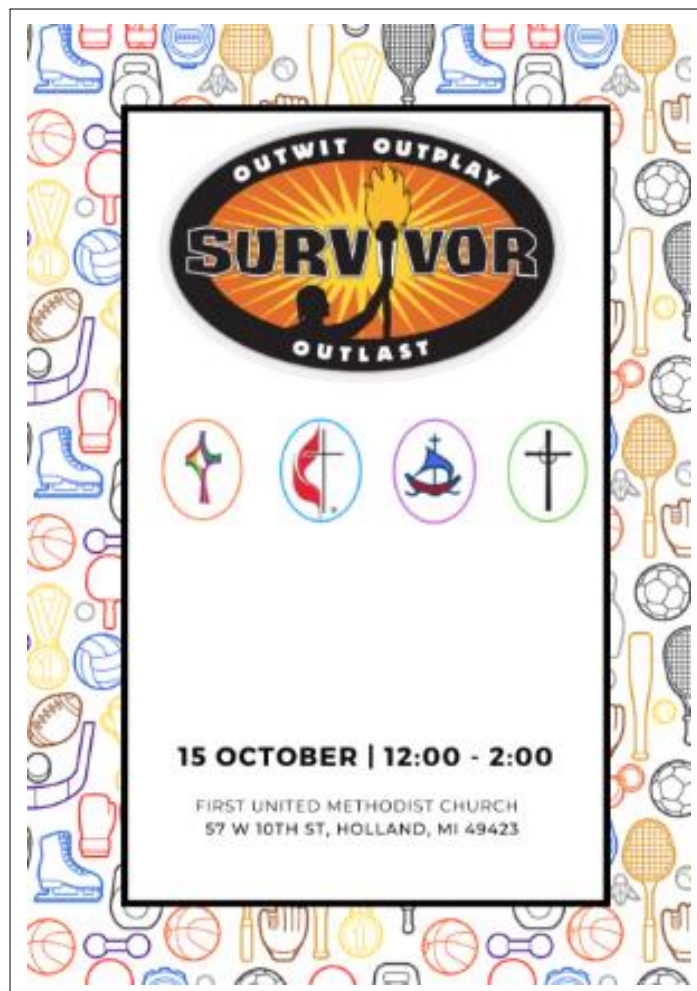
Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

## Youth Group Fun

This fall, the youth group at FPC is continuing our series where we ask hard questions and think carefully together about what we believe and why. We are beginning this fall with three questions about other beliefs: Why are there so many religions? Why am I Christian? and Why are there so many denominations? We had incredible conversations last year and I anticipate the same this year!

We also have the opportunity this year to partner with the youth groups from three local churches: Hope Church, First United Methodist, and Grace Episcopal. We will be “competing” in a quarterly tournament of silly youth group games. We will also have the opportunity to eat together, and to get to know each other. It is so good for our kids to know that there are like-minded churches and youth in the area. We are excited for this opportunity to partner with them!







Lori Klinesteker  
Children's  
Ministry Leader

## Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

Welcome Back to Fall programming at FPC kicked off following the September 10th Worship Service with a congregational brunch potluck. The attendance and food were grand.

Blessing of the backpacks/diaper bags was held in August. Children of all ages along with their backpacks came forward and were given a special blessing along with a tag as a reminder of our love for them and to go in peace. Extra tags are available in the office for children who weren't present and would like one.

Sunday, September 17, celebrants/assistants were commissioned along with lighting a candle from the Christ's Light in the Sanctuary to remind us of the light of Christ being spread throughout the Worship Center and the World. We are excited to be back in Worship Center. Children and adults have renewed energy and eagerness to explore their faith through the telling and response to the stories that are told within the space that was intentionally prepared for them. Come join us! Your presence would be helpful and appreciated. Education Time/Worship Center is from 11:15am until noon following the Worship Service.

We will be presenting Bibles to our 4th graders: Gia Defeyter, Mara D'Addona and Daphne Teutsch during Worship in October.

Christ's Light is shining.

Lori Klinesteker, Children's Ministry

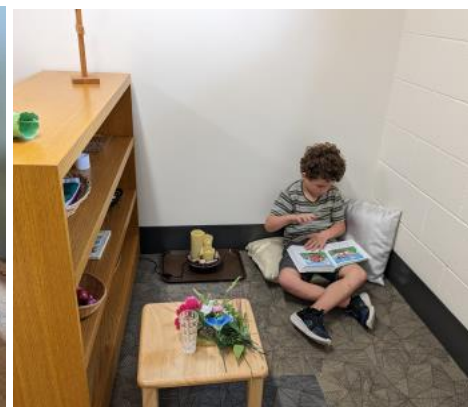
### **Captions Counterclockwise:**

Cameron and Ian responding to the story

Jesse arranging flowers for the Worship Table

The Parable of the Good Shepherd

Gabe in the Prayer Corner





## Presbyterian Women

PW now begins its Bible study journey of meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month until May 8. We had a great study kickoff in September with 19 women plus Pastor Cathy Hoop offering the introduction. The peek through the Books of Luke and Acts will be interesting. The art for each month is by different artists. A blog by the study author will appear on our Facebook Group page (FPCHolland PW) before each Lesson.

Presbyterian Women is collecting its annual **Thank Offering**. If a credit on your church statement is desired, please submit your offering in the Sunday plate with your name on the envelope. Our bookkeeper will do the rest! It is the same with our **Birthday Offering** and the **PW Pledge**. Don't forget to bring your **Least Coin** reflecting your prayer life to study sessions.

Will we once again have an Advent luncheon? We hope so! Let's all keep healthy and consider a fall update for those vaccines.

Janet Magennis  
cell: 616.490.4989



Our next meeting is October 11, 2023, at 9:30am in the Michigan Room

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

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

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

## <> Deacon's Caring Corner <>

**The Deacons Care Closet** has access to a number of helpful medical devices to borrow on a temporary basis. While limited, it is a start to help those recovering from surgeries or other medical procedures.

So far, the items available include knee scooters, walkers, bath bench, crutches, a narrow wheelchair, and a metal form to aid in putting on a compression sock.

If you need temporary use of a medical device, contact Deacon Paul Van Kolken at [pvankolken@hotmail.com](mailto:pvankolken@hotmail.com) or by phone 616.510-5058 to make arrangements. These items are not stored in the church but remain with the donors. Deacons will arrange for pickup and delivery.

**The FPC deacons are so grateful** for the work of all of our community to care for each other by providing meals, giving rides, sending cards, praying for, and visiting those of us who need some extra help and encouragement. So far this year, we have 78 people participating in our care teams! If you want to learn more about how you can get involved, contact the church office or [Deacons@fpc.org](mailto:Deacons@fpc.org).



Let us know if you are in need of care by contacting any of our care team leaders below:

Comforters team (cards/visits): Nancy Staal

Nourishers team (meals): Lauren Stouffer

Transporters team (rides): Tom Glover

Handy Workers team (minor household repairs): Tom Glover

Care Closet (home medical equipment to loan or borrow): Paul Van Kolken

## <> Happenings Around FPC <>

**Fall Kickoff Update** // By using our reusable dishes and cloth napkins rather than disposable plates and tableware, we produced less than 1/4 of a bag of trash at this all-church meal! Special thanks to Jon and Nancy Kreple and Ben Rund-Scott for helping with the dishes and clean up. If you would be interested in helping FPC continue to reduce our waste and environmental impact by occasionally helping with laundering tablecloths/napkins and learning to run our industrial dishwasher, please email Lauren Stouffer, [lauren.stouffer@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.stouffer@gmail.com)







### **Become a Community Action House Volunteer //**

Recently our own Shanna Van Kempen, Annual Fund Manager at Community Action House, shared about their urgent need for volunteers. The most she has seen in her 3 years at CAH. They have made it easier than ever to sign up via their app as your schedule allows. They have needs at their Food Club, Community Kitchen, Resale Store, Refresh program, and with Food Rescue. You can do this individually or as a group.

If you find going alone a little intimidating, how about organizing a group of friends from FPC to serve together? There are opportunities to “adopt a shift” at any of their locations. Teams of 6-10 people are needed per shift. Ideally, we could find approximately 20 people that have interest in serving sometime. This way we can be flexible with everyone’s busy schedules. If you have interest in coordinating a team, please contact Janet Hostetler (740.704.4821) or Tim Staal (616.292.6503) from Outreach Council. It would be great if we could have a regular FPC presence at any or all of these sites, living out our value statement: “We commit to Outreach ministries through volunteering our time, talents & treasures.”

Scan the QR code at right to learn more or to sign up. If that’s not your way to learn, visit [communityactionhouse.org](http://communityactionhouse.org) or call 616.392.2368, ext. 153.



**Outfitting our Neighbors for Winter //** Outreach Council has been talking with our outreach partners about their needs for the winter and all are asking for winter clothing to come in earlier than our traditional November & December collection months. So, this year we are making October, “Outfitting our Neighbors for Winter” month. We will collect coats, sweatshirts, boots, hats, waterproof gloves & mittens (please no knitted ones). We will again have boxes for used and new items.

Children’s Advocacy Center accepts only new items and emphasized the need for adolescent and adult sizes. Refresh, Community Action House’s program for persons experiencing homelessness, said to think, “clothing suitable for camping.” Refresh serves only adults and predominantly men.

Go through your closets and share items you no longer need, plus throw in a few new items when you are shopping to share with our neighbors. Whatever you bring, we will find people in need of your gifts. We have a history of generosity at FPC. Let’s do it again!

**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.

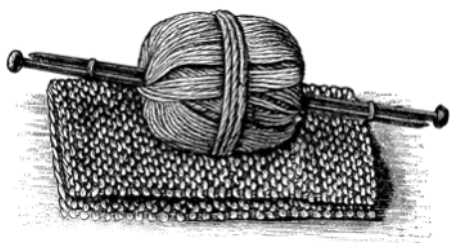
# CONNECT TOGETHER

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed Class - Virtual Option for The Wired Word** // For the next few weeks our Sunday morning class will be following The Wired Word, a curriculum which partners a current event in the news with scripture insights. Each week, the topic will be available on Thursdays and the supporting articles can be sent by e-mail to those who would like to read them in advance. (Contact Cathy, [cathy@fpcholland.org](mailto:cathy@fpcholland.org) to be added to the list.)

For those of you who would like to join the class virtually, please watch the Wednesday eWeekly for the Zoom link. The link will also be posted on the FPC website homepage and on Facebook Sunday morning.

## **Men's Study Group**

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. The next meeting will be **Friday, October 2** and **October 20**. 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**

The Women's Book Club will be discussing the following books on the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe:

Oct 8: *When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson

Nov 12: *The Book Woman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson

Dec 10: *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate

Contact Bev Plagenhoef at [rbplagen@live.com](mailto:rbplagen@live.com) if you have questions.



## **The Men's Book Club**

The Men's Book Club will be discussing the following books on the first Monday of each month at church at 7pm:

October 2: *A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by Timothy Egan.

November 6: *How to Educate a Citizen: The Power of Shared Knowledge to Unify a Nation* by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.

December 4: *Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives* by Siddharth Kara.

We welcome anyone to join us even though they may not have read the book(s). Contact Larry Lynn at [oldrun09@gmail.com](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com) or 616.617.8944 if you have any questions. Our group is always looking for new members.

**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)



# SAVE THE DATE

**Bell Choir Rehearsals begin October 1** // Sunday, October 1 at 11:15, anyone interested in joining the bell choir is invited to meet Chuck in the sanctuary for the first rehearsal of the year. Experience is not required!

**Habitat for Humanity Workday** // The Outreach Council invites you to participate in a Habitat for Humanity workday on **Thursday, October 12**. The shift begins at 8am and ends at noon. There will be opportunities for non-construction work. These opportunities will be shared in detail as we get closer to the date as well as the location of the house and transportation options.

We hope to have a good turnout. The church has not participated with Habitat in some time. The Outreach Council hopes that we can continue to support Habitat in this way as well as financially.

It is important that we inform Habitat staff how many volunteers will participate. Please call or email Hannah at the church office if you plan to attend. If you have specific questions email or call Bill Haines: wehaines@icloud.com or 989.400.2420.

**HCT 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, 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. See Chris Urbaniak for more details.

**Blessing of the Animals** // **Sunday, October 15** at 3p on the FPC playground. All pets are welcome. If your pet is a little shy (or difficult to transport), you are invited to bring a photograph.

**Young Families** // Trunk or Treat! Stay after Church on **Sunday, October 29**, at 12pm for FPC's annual Trunk or Treat and soup potluck! Bring soup or bread to share and fill your trunk with treats to give out to the kids.

**Dinners for 7! Saturday, November 4** // Individuals, couples, and families are invited to 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. Sign up in the Narthex by October 29.



## Wondering what's happening around the church?

Check the calendar of events found on our website;  
[fpcholland.org/calendar](http://fpcholland.org/calendar)



## Interested in hearing the sermon again?

Listen to past sermons found on our website;  
[fpcholland.org/listen](http://fpcholland.org/listen)

## <> September Session Report <>

### Session Summary – September 19<sup>th</sup>

The meeting was opened with prayer and a devotional. Each month the Session receives a Treasurer's report from Bob Knittel, as well as minutes from each council of the church, and the Deacons.

We also received a report from Gail Hering, chair of the Nominating Committee. This committee is in the process of inviting individuals to serve on the Session, the Board of Deacons and the Nominating Committee. They have been very encouraged by the responses and look forward to sharing the slate with the congregation very soon.

Carleen Bauer attended the Presbytery's quarterly meeting as a representative of the church (along with Paul and Cathy) which was held on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Two ministry candidates were examined and approved for ordination, which is always an exciting time for the denomination. Avery Arden was the guest preacher for the morning worship and a panelist with members of the Presbytery who responded to theological, practical and cultural questions regarding those who are transgender.

The session received letters from two individuals, one with questions regarding the Pride flag in the church, and another in support of allowing Out on the Lakeshore to use our space for drag storytime.

The meeting closed with prayer. The Session will meet again on October 17<sup>th</sup>.



#### **Blessing of the Animals**

Sunday, October 15

3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Playground  
659 State Street

All are welcome!

*If your pet is shy, feel free to bring a photo.*

We will gather donations for Harbor Humane.

Wish list items include: paper towels, pet foods,  
Dawn dishwashing soap,  
garbage bags.



Prayer requests are shared in the **Member Area** on the church website: [www.fpcholland.org/member-log-in](http://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](mailto:office@fpcholland.org).

If you would like to share a confidential prayer request, please contact:

Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop, Senior Pastor: [Cathy@fpcholland.org](mailto:Cathy@fpcholland.org)

Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Associate Pastor: [Paul@fpcholland.org](mailto:Paul@fpcholland.org)



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