



# presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / OCTOBER 2023

A Message from Rev. Cathy C. Hoop	2
A Message from Rev. Paul Van Kempen	3
Worship Center	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Happening Around FPC	6-7
Session Report	8
Connect Together	9
Volunteer	10
FPC Prays	11

## 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

While every season of the year offers us opportunities for gratitude, the fall overwhelms us with its abundance. The harvest is plentiful, from pumpkins to apples. Maybe your freezer holds blueberries from the summer's fields, or your shelves are stocked with tomatoes from the garden.

Someone along the way designated October as "Pastor Appreciation" month (Hallmark, maybe??), and Paul and I were offered kind words of thanks, and flowers at the October session meeting. I am still waiting for someone to create a card that reads "For the pastor and her spouse" on the front cover. So far, I've only ever seen "For the pastor and his wife." There's a definite hole in the market for more options in this area!

And all this appreciation makes me turn in appreciation for you. Why isn't there a "congregation appreciation" month?? You make this ministry happen – you are the hands and feet of Christ. You are the hands preparing coffee and cookies for Sunday mornings, and meals for those just home from the hospital. You are the bus drivers. You are the listening ears and the shoulders to lean on. You lend your voices in empowering song and you share your wisdom in caring for our resources. You teach, you nurture, you mentor. I am grateful for you – for the ways you practice compassion and forgiveness. For the ways you practice being servant leaders.

But I would be remiss if I didn't also say how grateful I am for this staff. When we meet together each week, I am blessed that each one takes a turn in leading us in a devotion, leading us in prayer. Last week I asked them to each bring a symbol of their labor, and their responses were unique and beautiful meditations. Here is one...Thom (the guy behind the scenes repairing things, removing snow, etc.) pulled two thin wires out of his shirt pocket. He has recently been tasked with swapping out all the sanctuary lights for LED energy saving bulbs. He explained that this is his third time to replace the sanctuary lighting, and each time has been a significant change, a progression. In thinking about that, he reflected on his own journey of faith, his journey of evolving faith. He has let go of some things he was told as a youth, but held on to the core, allowing his faith to evolve, to change, to develop. Isn't this how we seek to live as followers of Jesus? Always open to the possibility that we have more of God to experience, more of God to know? And isn't it a delight and blessing to have the opportunity to do this work together?

In gratitude for this congregation, for this staff –

Cathy





Rev. Paul Van Kempen  
Associate Pastor

## Interdenominational Youth Event

There's nothing like a little friendly competition to bring people together! On October 15, FPC youth gathered with youth groups from three area churches (Hope Reformed, Grace Episcopal, and First United Methodist) for a pasta lunch and some fun games. We had a blast running the relay race, throwing cheese balls onto Ben's shaving-cream-covered head, painting pumpkins with our noses, and getting to know our church neighbors who value the same things we do.

Oh, and if it matters to you, we won the most points and took home the 1st place trophy.

We're planning to meet with these groups again in the coming months and look forward to more competition and building more connection in our community.



*Participating youth groups were from Grace Episcopal, Hope Church, First United Methodist, and First Presbyterian Church.*





Lori Klinesteker

Children's  
Ministry Leader

## Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

Have you created your timeline with words and photos of your story? Worship Center 3rd – 5th graders have been learning about the books of the Bible and recently rolled out the timeline that resides with it. In the photo below, kids were working with the timeline and discovered that the shortest marker represented the life-giving time of Jesus.

Miss Beth came to both rooms to help the kids learn and sign the Doxology; PreK – 1st grade WC asked how to sign their names. One child shared that he is in an ASL class at school, while another child demonstrated the Power of Expectations model being used at his school. If you meet a WC kid, ask them to tell you the joke Miss Beth shared. During the response time after a Story in September, the Prayer Corner was a special place to be for this child in the photo.

The focus for WC offering will be providing non-perishable food for those in need. We are working with Community Action House who will deliver boxes for collection and pick up the food periodically. We invite the congregation to join the kids in bringing non-perishable food and placing it in boxes, carry it forward during Children's Time, or offer it to a child to deliver.

**Correction:** 4th graders who received Bibles during Worship in October were Gia Defeyter, Megan McFadyen and Daphne Teutsch.

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







## Presbyterian Women

It is hard to believe how fast 2023 is moving. PW was busy within our church but also in hosting the PW groups from around our Presbytery last April. Women across West Michigan donated about \$1,300 worth of new packaged undergarments for women and children to Resilience. Since FPC Holland does this every year, it is again your opportunity to pick up new undies or socks for children of all ages or women of all sizes. Bring your unwrapped gifts to worship on Sundays; we have a basket for collection. Resilience helps families fleeing domestic violence, often without “the basics.” Let’s take care of the comfort level as they tackle the hard work of helping these families. PW has domestic violence prevention and advocacy as one of its major goals across the denomination.

**ADVENT** - On December 13, please join PW for our annual Advent Lunch and some Christmas spirit in the narthex at 11:30am. There will be a choice of 3 hot soups, bakery bread, and dessert. There will be a free will offering. Please sign up beginning November 12 at church. Linda G promised to bring her harmonica for some singing! We plan to help decorate the church’s outdoor Christmas tree with some edible ornaments our animal friends can use during the winter. Help us string some raisin icicles or Cheerios on yarn! We will add some colorful pieces to that tree and have good fellowship.

**SACRED ENCOUNTERS** - Our Bible study of the presence of Jesus in Luke and Acts will continue on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 9:30am until May 2024. November will feature Lesson 3. Our Facebook group is “FPC Holland PW” and will have a blog from the denominational PW before each Circle study date. Join us in the Michigan Room for some study, sharing, and snacks. All women are welcome.

**LEAST COIN** – Today found me in new prayer for the safety of our POTUS as he travels to Israel, and for the recovery of HAMAS hostages. “Please: an end to hostilities there.” And for the good outcome of a biopsy. Then for a friend having heart issues. So, I added 5 pennies to my cup before the sun came up. Sometimes the events of the day call for many pennies. Our Least Coin offering is collected every month, and we all join our pennies with the least coin of countries where women around the globe are also in prayer. So, when you take it to our God in prayer – keep track of your pennies, too. Many blessings come from our humble prayers.

~ Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

Our next meeting is November 8, 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)

## <> Happenings Around FPC <>

**Thursday, October 12th, 15 members of our church worked on two Habitat for Humanity homes on 36th Street off South Washington. They helped construct external walls, insulate a basement, and set support beams for main level flooring. They discovered one of the homes in that development is promised to Mohammad Zadran and his family (a refugee family our church sponsored when they immigrated from Afghanistan)! We hope to work on that home in the near future. If you would like to participate, contact Bill Haines or Tim Staal**



**Group from FPC who attended, *Young Frankenstein the Musical* at the Holland Community Theatre.**



**Blessing of the Animals** // Thanks to everyone who came out with their pet! An offering was taken for Harbor Humane Society and donations of pet food, tall kitchen garbage bags, and Dawn dishwashing detergent were accepted.



## <> Happenings Around FPC <>



**Halloween Trunk or Treat** and soup pot-luck was a great success! Both children and adults had great costumes and enjoyed the festivities!



More  
photos on  
page 10



## <> October Session Report <>

The Session of FPC\* met on Tuesday, October 17, at 7:00pm with all members present. Cathy and Paul received cards and flowers from the Session in recognition of Clergy Appreciation Month.

Bob Knittel, treasurer, presented the financial report.

The Nominating Committee, represented by Gail Hering and Danielle Peterson, presented the nominees for the elder and deacon classes of 2027, as well as nominees for the nominating committee. The slate will be presented to the congregation for approval. (Congregational meetings are announced two weeks in advance of the meeting which takes place following the worship service.)

The nominating committee will also bring a proposal to the congregation for a change to the current by-laws which do not allow an active elder to serve two back-to-back three year terms on the Session. The new recommendation would be to drop the requirement of one year of inactive service between terms with a limit of only two terms in succession.

The Session received updates from the various councils of the church which included reports of upcoming events.

As we prepare for Stewardship and the budgeting process, the council chairs were asked to submit their financial requests, especially if they anticipate any unusual expenses. As Stewardship is also the sharing of our many talents and abilities, the council chairs were asked to assist with the creation of a "Time and Talent" form which can be shared with the congregation in hopes of helping people connect their abilities with ministry needs both within and outside our church.

The Session will meet again on November 21 at 7:00pm.

\*The list of the active elders (as well as deacons) can be found in each Sunday's worship bulletin, as well as on the church website.

As always, we encourage you to hold the pastors, elders, and the work of the Session in your prayers.

## <> Deacon's Caring Corner <>

**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

**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)



# 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, November 3** and **November 17**. Questions? Contact David Ford.

## Common Threads Group

The group 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 1-3pm in the Ontario room. Come and go as you are able. We hope you'll join us! Our next meeting is **November. 20**.



## 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:

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:

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.

# SAVE THE DATE

**GVSU Arts Chorale Fall Concert // November 1** at 7:30pm at the Cook DeWitt Auditorium. Bus sign-up and possible car pool information located across from the office.

**Outreach Partner** // Resilience is hosting a free workshop for survivors 18 years (and older) on Spirituality, Religion, and Abuse. Learn more about spiritual and religious abuse, available resources, and a framework for healing. **Thursday, November 2** at 5:30pm. Resilience is located at 411 Butternut Dr. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by emailing [MaddieL@ResilienceMI.org](mailto:MaddieL@ResilienceMI.org)

**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. Call the office for more information.

## <> Volunteer <>

### Volunteer Opportunity at Community Action House

Are you looking for an easy and fulfilling way to act as Christ's hands and help feed the hungry while enjoying the company of some of your First Pres friends during this season of Thanksgiving? Here's your chance!

Community Action House is looking for small groups of volunteers to help with their Thanksgiving Food Distribution at Food club. We are hoping that we can provide folks to help on both November 18 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm and November 25 from 11:30 to 2:00 pm.



Groups, families, and individuals are welcome to join! Ages 10+ are welcome to join, and children between 10-15 years old should attend with a parent or guardian.

If you are interested, please stop by the Outreach area or talk to Tim Staal, Janet Hostetler, Bill Haines, or Shanna VanKempen. Additional information can be found at [volunteer.communityactionhouse.org](http://volunteer.communityactionhouse.org)

**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.



Trunk or  
Treat  
Continued







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



### **STEWARDSHIP: Blessed to be a Blessing**

As we have been blessed, we respond in gratitude to God.

You are each a gift to this congregation and through your generosity  
we are able to be a gift to our community and world.

As we seek to be good stewards of our resources, we will be  
preparing our church budget and sharing that information with you.

Please be in prayer as you consider your commitment to FPC  
through your offerings of time, talent and financial donations.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4: 1, let us each think of ourselves  
"as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries."