



presbyterian *profiles*

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A Message from Rev. Cathy C. Hoop	2
A Message from Rev. Paul Van Kempen	3
Worship Center	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Worship Arts	6
Outreach	7
Advent & Christmas	8
Save the Date	9
Stewardship	10
FPC Prays	11

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Altering Time

Our time is oriented by God's time — always has been and always will be. God entered into our time, forever changing it. God lived time with us, forever altering what time really means.

Ultimately, God's entering into time disrupts time, displaces time, disorients time. Not always comfortably. Not always helpfully. Not always desirably. And never how or when expectable. Why? Because divinity took on mortality, eternity entered temporality, and love eliminated death. ~ Karoline Lewis.

A few years back I was reminded (as I slipped in a few moments late for a meeting) that "10 minutes early is too late." That was how the one who spoke these words lived, and I admire him for it. My husband accuses me of saying, "I'm ready," but then always doing three more things on my way out the door. (He's right.) I can usually make it to things on time. I'm rarely 10 minutes early.

Different cultures interpret time in their own ways. Many of our Latino friends carve out time in the afternoon for rest. My German friends always made space for an afternoon coffee. Some of us are early risers and others night owls. We learn our body rhythms.

Whatever our patterns, our circadian cycles, God meets us. God enters our time and changes it, disrupts it, rearranges it, from the smallest fraction of the hour to the longest expanse of time. As we enter this Advent season, let us watch for God's beautiful disruptions of time as we have planned it, and give thanks to God who loves us throughout and beyond the expanse of time.

Blessings and peace to you this Advent season,
Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

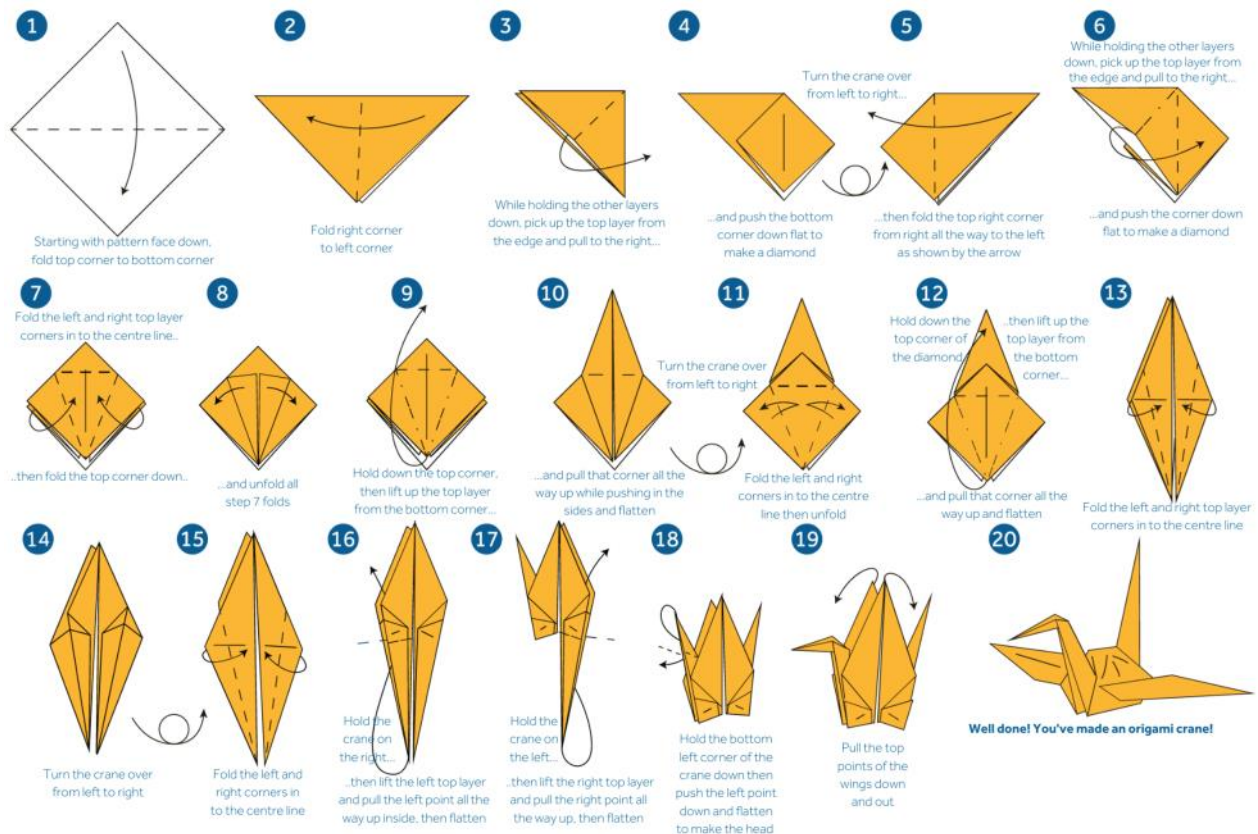
Prayer Cranes

Each week at the end of Youth Group we share our highs and lows from the previous week or for the coming week. You can think of it as prayers of thanks and prayers of petition. Some people call it Roses and Thorns. We call it Happy/Crappy.

This is usually an informal moment for us to connect as we hear about what is going on in each other's lives. But this year, we have re-established our practice of folding paper cranes while sharing our prayers. There is a long tradition of folding paper cranes (specifically 1000 cranes) as a sign of honor or good fortune. We fold cranes as we share our prayers and then each week, we hang them from the ceiling as a reminder of our prayers for each other and a symbol of our hopes and fears.

We have a ceiling full of cranes right now, and it is only going to get fuller! If you want to fold some cranes to add to our prayers, we'd love to hang them. Stop by at the end of youth group and we'll teach you how to fold a crane, or follow the instructions below and drop your cranes off in the youth room so they can be added to our ever-growing flock of hope!

Grace and Peace,
Paul





Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center, where Christ's light is shining, children are in awe while experiencing the mystery with open minds and hearts.

The need remains, Worship Center offering of non-perishable healthy food items continues to provide for those in need through our partnership with Community Action House. We are grateful for those who are joining the kids in their outreach, by placing donations in the tote on the bookshelf in the Book Nook near the M & M Café.



On November 12, Families were invited for their children to remain at FPC following the Education Time while the Parents had a "day out". Kids had lunch together, created ornaments for the Deacons gift bags, and played on the playground – a wonderful day was had by all; yes, not even a piece of glitter remained after the excellent vacuuming skills of the kids.

Preparing for the journey to Bethlehem,

Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry



Calendar for December Worship Center:

12/3, 12/10, and 12/17 - Worship Center will be held.

12/24 Christmas Eve and 12/31 New Years Eve –
no Education Time scheduled.



Presbyterian Women

“The busiest time of the year!” We hear this a lot around Christmas and it certainly can be busy. As we held choir practice last night, the sanctuary was adorned with ladders, stars not yet in place, and a bare Christmas tree. By the time we reach the first Sunday of Advent it will look more complete, ready for us as we wait together, worshipping together as our sacred space in busy times.

As we look back on a busy year of meeting Pastor Cathy and welcoming new friends to our Presbyterian Women Bible study meetings, we honor the circles of friendship and fellowship that touch all the women of First Presbyterian Church in Holland. Whether we meet for study or for a meal together, it is always lively. Lesson 3 was both interesting and uninhibited!



We look forward to our Advent Luncheon on December 13 at 11:30 in the narthex – which will also be ready for Christmas! There will be three soups, and breads to share, and some desserts. There is a free will offering and we ask every woman at FPC to bring an item or two of new, unwrapped underwear for women and children who are served by RESILIENCE at a time of domestic distress. Our fun will be to fashion some edible decorations for the outdoor Christmas tree that our neighborhood birds and animals can enjoy – while being safe for them.

Our Bible study will look at Lesson 5 on January 10 at 9:30 am in the Michigan Room. Our lessons can stand alone, so folks are always welcome to sit in. As always, we welcome your support for Presbyterian Women in our missional efforts.

Our next meeting is December 10, 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

<> Happenings Around FPC <>

Thank you to all who participated in the Tuesday, November 28 Parade of Lights in downtown Holland. The bus was adorned with more lights than you can imagine! It was great fun.



<> Deacon's Caring Corner <>

Deacons completing three-year terms are Linda Winkelmann and Colleen Ball. Linda served as treasurer and Colleen is the current moderator of the deacons. Each also worked with the comforters team in visiting shut-ins and those members in assisted care facilities, helping in writing cards for birthdays and general greetings from the congregation and providing prayer shawls, books and bulletins.



Incoming deacons are Glenda Simpkins filling the remaining 2 years of a term expiring in 2026 and Michelle Richardson, Lloyd Helder and Leah Waller for three-year terms expiring in 2027.

<> Worship and Arts <>

Thank you to all who contributed to our fall decorations in the Meet and Mingle Cafe. We will be taking down all of the fall decorations and putting up Nativity scenes again for our Advent season. If you would like to contribute Nativity scenes, please bring them to church and leave them in the office. We will start adding them in the Meet and Mingle Cafe on November 30 and will add more crèches as we receive them. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Magennis at bethmagennis@gmail.com.

Instant Church Directory is now on the FPC website!

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

<> Outreach <>



Thank you, FPC!

You did it again! You filled 2 appliance size boxes with coats, jackets, snow pants, sweaters, gloves, hats, boots and all things needed for 'Outfitting our Neighbors for Winter'. We donated 30 new beautiful coats, plus gloves & hats to Children's Advocacy Center. Ten lightly used coats & 2 pairs of snow pants to ACTS children. Our neighbors temporarily experiencing homelessness at Refresh received 35 coats, jackets, & sweatshirts. Seventeen dress coats & jackets went to Resilience for their clientele. And finally a bag of crocheted infant hats went to the Holland Clinic for their newborns.

Since I am the lucky person who delivers your generosity, I get to hear the many expressions of thanks. This text arrived the same day I visited ACTS from Jaime, "We got 5 coats into the hands of kids/teens just tonight already. Thank you and all our friends at FPC for helping us make this work happen and this ministry possible. We are grateful and blessed."



Worship Center Children's Offering

Now thru February Bring canned goods for
Community Action House



Non-perishable Food Collection // Worship Center children, are partnering with Community Action House in providing non-perishable food for those in need. We invite the congregation to join with the children by bringing non-perishable food and placing it in the labeled container in the Narthex or in the basket on the chancel during Children's Time in Worship. Thank you for participating with our children in their focus of offering through February 2024.



ED AND NANCY HANENBURG
**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTER**
OTTAWA COUNTY | MICHIGAN

Children's Advocacy Center Holiday

Advocates // First thank you for choosing a child from Children's Advocacy Center. Gifts may be brought to the church any time before & including, Sunday, December 3. Place your four gifts in one bag with a copy of your child's wish list so we are sure to get them to the correct child. Do not wrap gifts, but you may include Xmas paper if you wish. Place your bags under or near the tree in the Narthex. Same instructions for those of you bringing stocking stuffers or you may hang them on the tree. If you have questions or have any issues getting your gifts to the church, please call Janet Hostetler, 740-704-4822. Again, thank you for making a child's Christmas a happy one.

Advent & Christmas

WORSHIP

Advent Potluck and Luminaries - Sunday, December 3 at 12 noon

Join us after the education hour on December 3 for a potluck and intergenerational creative activity as we enter into the season of Advent.

Bring a dish to share and come ready to make a luminary to bring home. If your last name starts with A-K, bring a side or dessert. If your last name starts with L-Z, bring a main dish. Please keep potluck dishes nut-free. Sign up in the narthex if you can help with set-up at 9am before church or stay to clean up after we finish.

Service of Longest Night Wednesday, December 20 at 5:00pm

The Christmas season brings joy and sorrow, hope and stress. Please join us for this time of worship as we acknowledge the realities of our lives. Whether you are missing a loved one or just overwhelmed by the Christmas rush, we invite you to be with us for a time of honesty and hope.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunity

Beginning **Sunday, December 3** during Education hour at **11:15am** in the Michigan room.

Beginning Sunday, December 3 we will dive into the Amy-Jill Levine Advent Study: Light of the World. All the books for this study have been picked up. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office so that we can order more. It is also available on Amazon Kindle for \$9.

Out of Time Devotional Resource

Beginning **Friday, December 1**, please look for the weekly Out of Time Advent Devotional resource, which will be available through e-mail. We will also print a limited number of paper copies, which you may pick up on Sunday. May this beautiful resource be a blessing to our Advent preparations.

Christmas Service Times

Join us in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child!

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec 24) - 10am service

Family Christmas Eve Service and Pageant - 3pm service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion with Choir - 5pm service

SAVE THE DATE

The annual **Women's Retreat** will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Holland. The theme of the retreat is *God's Face* and our speaker will be Reverend Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell. We would love to have you join us! Invite a friend to share the day with you! The cost is \$40 and scholarships are available. Brochures with registration form will be available beginning January 1st. Online registration will also be available on the FPC website.

For more information, please contact Bonnie Cowie at dbcowie@sbcglobal.net, Sue Bohlander at hiker4625@gmail.com or Chris Urbaniak at cmurbaniak@comcast.net

The deadline for reservations is February 11, 2024.



Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell

CONNECT TOGETHER

Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. December meeting times will be **Friday, December 1, 15 and 29**. 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 **December 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:

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

Contact Bev Plagenhoef at 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:

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 or 616.617.8944 if you have any questions. Our group is always looking for new members.

<> Volunteer <>

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.

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!



*Servants of Christ
and Stewards of
God's Mysteries*

I Corinthians 4:1

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."

Stewardship packets have been mailed to your home if you were not able to pick yours up at church. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the ministries of FPC in the coming year. Pledge cards can be returned through the church office or by placing them in the offering plate. A Time and Talents Opportunity brochure is available, as well. We would love to help you connect with worship, fellowship and outreach opportunities.



Interested in hearing the sermon again?

Listen to past sermons found on our website;
fpcholland.org/listen



Wondering what's happening around the church?

Check the calendar of events found on our website;
fpcholland.org/calendar



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