

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / FEBRUARY 2024



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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Holy Moments

I close my email correspondence with this quotation from St. Teresa of Avila, "The feeling remains that God is on the journey, too." I was drawn to these words long ago, and most especially to the word "remains." The "feeling remains" speaks to me of strength for the journey, that no matter what happens, we are not alone on this earthly pilgrimage. God is on our journey, even when the journey is exhausting. God is on our journey, even when we feel we have lost our way or taken a wrong turn. God is on the journey even when we aren't getting along, even when we don't have the answers.

The Lenten Devotional we are sending out each week, Local Pilgrim, is an opportunity to remember that your life journey is a pilgrimage. Wherever your week takes you – to the grocery, or the beach, or the library, or the playground, holy moments are awaiting you. Watch for them. Expect to meet God in all places, all times. God is on the journey, too. God opens the path before us, a path of renewal and hope. This is the pilgrimage that leads past death, all the way to resurrection. Thanks be to God.

Cathy



Camp!

Peace Camp

Registration is open! As you are planning your summer, make sure to save the week of August 5-9 for Peace Camp!

We welcome campers who are entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade. Students entering 7th-12th grades are invited to be teen helpers. We meet from 9-11:45am each day.

As has been the case for the past few years, Peace Camp is totally FREE! We are looking forward to another great week where we learn how to live peacefully with others and with our world.



Ready to sign up? Look in Wednesday's eWeekly email communication for a link to sign up or register on our website home page (www.fpcholland.org)

Questions? Ask me!

Summer Camp Scholarships

It's time to start thinking about summer camp. If you are interested in sending your camper(s) to **any** Christian summer camp and would like scholarship information, watch the Wednesday eWeekly email communication for a link to download the forms. Please reach out to Pastor Paul with your questions.



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center, a place that is intentionally created for and by our children to experience, explore, and wonder. Our children thirst for more...in Worship Center after experiencing the Bartimaeus story, children were choosing what they would like to do during response time. One of our boys shared that instead of response time, he would rather learn more about the stories. This is WC, open for all to grow and given the freedom to choose.

During Lent, our younger children are on the journey to Jerusalem through the stories of the miracles of Jesus followed by stories of Holy Week. Our 3rd – 5th grade kids are experiencing Holy Week within the model of the City of Jerusalem. One candle on the WC cross is extinguished each week, flowers on the Worship Table are missing, Alleluia is buried in the desert box. With innocence and wonder they anticipate the resurrection of Christ Jesus; the return of the Alleluia, flowers, and the candle of Christ's Light, the light that shines through them every day.

As always, we invite you to join us; our children enjoy sharing what is happening in their Worship Center.



FPC was gifted with books in memory of our beloved nursery caregiver, Nancy Burkitt. Her family wishes that Nancy's love of reading is passed on to our children. Special thanks to Lanny Pollard and Brittany Pollard.

On the journey with you,
Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry



City of Jerusalem



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women continue to meet as the Miriam Circle for our current Bible Study with this schedule:

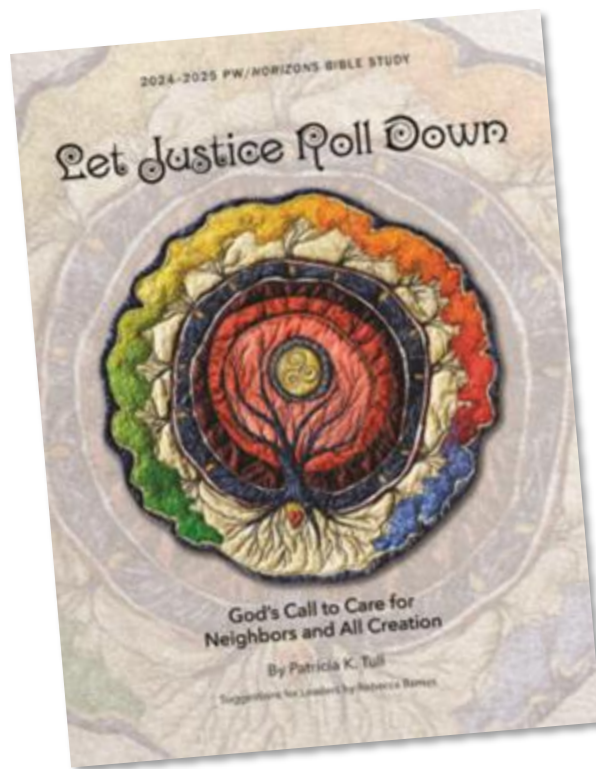
March 13 Lesson 7

April 10 Lesson 8

May 8 Lesson 9

June 12 PW Annual Meeting Picnic
(or rain venue)

We are beginning the planning for our new study beginning in September. This will fit in nicely with Pastor Paul's call to us about creation care



GET THE LATEST NEWS from **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Deacon's Caring Corner <>

This year's **Senior Brunch** included delicious food, mocktails (non-alcoholic cocktails), wonderful fellowship, live music performed by Lena D'Addona, and even a visit from a sweet bulldog puppy! The deacons are thankful for the work that went into this fun event.



Violinist, Lena D'Addona plays during brunch.

The deacons also have started to offer home communion to our homebound members. This is an extension of our community worship and celebration and was a meaningful experience of connection for the folks who participated in February. Anyone who has been previously ordained as an Elder or Deacon in the PCUSA can participate in our home communion teams, and we invite anyone who is interested to contact deacons@fpcholland.org for more information.



CONNECT TOGETHER

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club gathers on the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe. This month due to a change in schedule the group will meet on the third Sunday. Contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com with questions.

March 17 discussing *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Common Threads Group

All are welcome to join us the 3rd Monday of each month any time from 1-3pm in the Ontario room. Feel free to work on a prayer shawl, bring a project of your choice, or just come for the fellowship. Yarn is available! Our next meeting is **March 18**.

The Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club gathers on the first Monday of each month at church at 7pm. We welcome anyone to join us even though they may not have read the book. Our group is always looking for new members. Contact Larry Lynn at oldrun09@gmail.com or 616.617.8944 with questions.

March 4 discussing *To Rescue the Constitution: George Washington and the Fragile American Experiment* by Bret Baier

Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. December and January meeting times; **March 8 & 22**. Questions? Contact David Ford.

<> Outreach <>

The next Habitat workday is on **March 13**. You can work the am (8-12), pm (1-4), or all day. It is not possible to predict the work opportunities until the week we work. You will be updated if you join our Habitat email list. Please let Bill Haines wehaines@icloud.com know if you intend to join us or have questions.



We also have Learned that the Muhammed Zadron family is to receive a home and the work is to begin soon. Watch for the announcement that construction will begin. We hope to have a great response of support for the Zadrons.

<> Session Summary <>

February 2024

(The Session is the discerning body of the church, consisting of the active elders, treasurer and clerk, and pastors.)

On Tuesday, February 20th, the Session gathered for its regular meeting. After a Lenten devotional by Beth Magennis, the Session received a presentation from Gary Smith with a proposal to refresh the Outreach kiosk in the entryway. The Outreach Council has been discussing possibilities to improve the area where we meet with community partner representatives, collect donations for our partners, and provide resources and information about these partners. Gary brought a proposal that would incorporate two additional (and versatile) pieces of furniture, along with new collection bins and wall display boards. The Session voted to move forward on this project. (Since the meeting, a donor has offered to cover the costs of these improvements.)

The Session voted on two significant recommendations from the Finance Council. The first was a recommendation to proceed with capital

improvements to our facilities (repaving the parking lot, replacing furnaces, repairing the roof, replacing the lighting, and improving the sound system in the sanctuary) that will be possible due to a generous bequest. The Session voted to proceed with this proposal as this is in keeping with the family's hopes. The Buildings Council will proceed by seeking bids on this work.

The second proposal was to initiate plans for a second capital campaign to pay off the mortgage from *A Place for All* building renovations. It had been acknowledged that this would be necessary at the time of the build. A committee will be formed to proceed with this initiative.

In addition to hearing reports from each council, the Session decided to join in reading *Sailboat Church*. Written by Joan S. Gray, a pastor and former moderator of the PC(USA), *Sailboat Church* is an invitation to rethink mission and explore how to lean into the power of the Holy Spirit.

The meeting was closed in prayer. The next meeting will be March 19th.

SAVE THE DATE

Easter Breakfast // Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for Easter Breakfast prior to the 10am service on Sunday, March 31. We'll be gathering together once again in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy delicious food and celebrate together. Sign-ups for volunteer opportunities will be coming soon. We hope to see everyone there!

Dinners for 7 // Our next dinner will be Saturday, March 16 at 6:00pm. Small groups of couples and singles are assigned a house to enjoy an evening of good food and conversations. The hosts provide a main course and arrange with everyone else to bring the rest. The sign-up table is near the elevator.

Matilda the Musical // Come see Nora and Daphne Teutsch in: StageGR's, *Matilda the Musical* at Cornerstone University - Matthews Auditorium (3000 Leonard Street Northeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525).

Buy tickets at stageGR.simpleTIX.com

Show dates: Thursday, March 7, 2024- 7pm

Friday, March 8, 2024- 7pm

Saturday, March 9, 2024- 2pm & 7pm

Sunday, March 10, 2024- 1pm & 6pm

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

March 24 - Palm Sunday

March 28 - Maundy Thursday service at 6pm
This is a family friendly event that will take place in the Fellowship Hall. This service will include a simple meal of soup and bread. Please watch for a sign up sheet.

March 29 - Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 12 noon at Third Reformed Church

March 31 - Easter Sunday
7am Sunrise Communion service in the FPC Memorial Garden

9-10am Easter breakfast

9:30am Easter egg hunt

10am Worship with Communion

Easter Breakfast Volunteers

Easter breakfast will take place Sunday, March 31 from 9-10am and we are looking for volunteers to assist with:

Saturday from 10am - noon: Drop off nut-free (including nut oils, nut extracts or flavors) pastries, sweet breads and/or fruits

Saturday 10am - noon: Set up the dining room

Sunday 8am: Final set up / help serve breakfast

Sunday 11am: Clean up

Please watch for a sign up sheet.

Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary // Orders due by March 10

Help create a beautiful worship space for Easter Sunday by purchasing a plant. We will coordinate through Pat's Floral. Order forms will be printed in the church bulletin on Sunday, March 3 and 10. Order forms will also be available in the office or watch the eWeekly email communication for a link to download and print the form from home.



first
presbyterian
church

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