



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / MARCH 2024

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop
Senior Pastor



Photos from the February 24th Women's Retreat. This year's theme was "God's Face". The retreat was lead by Rev. Cathy Hoop's sister, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell.





Teaching Series

As many of you know, I have had the privilege over the last two years to participate in a Doctor of Ministry program at Western Theological Seminary. It has been an enriching experience for me personally (and I hope for the church—you don't know how many sermon ideas have come from books I have read for my class!).

It is coming time for me to start writing my thesis, but before I do so, I would love to “pressure test” some of my ideas with all of you. This April, I will be teaching four Adult Education classes based on my Thesis, and I would love to have you there to hear what I have been thinking about, and to add your thought and ideas!

The topics:

April 7: The American Dream: History and Cultural Impact

April 14: The American Dream and the Climate Crisis

April 21: The American Dream and the Church

April 28: Crafting a New American Dream

I hope to see you all there!

Pastor Paul



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center: A vision that became reality in the mid 1980's. Weaving gifts through generations. Throughout the years, Judy Faber and Colette Volkema De Nooyer hosted WC Celebrants for a time of fellowship, enrichment, affirmation, and nourishment for body and soul. During an evening with Judy Faber, she shared the book *"Water Bugs and Dragonflies" – Explaining Death to Young Children*, written by Doris Stickney.

During Lent this year, after reading this book with WC children, they created beautiful dragonflies and were gifted with a book to bring home.

According to Doris Stickney, the world of imagination is more real to children than the visible one. With unerring honesty, they see through our flimsy pretenses. "I don't know," is an honest admission. But "I believe" gives our children confidence in a future to be anticipated and in a Creator whose plan can be trusted.



Education Time for Youth and WC will not meet April 7 due to spring break. May 19 is our last class before we part for summer break.

Peace Camp will be held August 5-9 from 9-11:45 each day. We welcome campers who are entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade. Students entering 7th-12th grade are invited to be teen helpers. As has been the case for the past few years, Peace Camp is totally FREE! If you are ready to register (camper or teen leader), head on over to our church website, www.fpcholland.com

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Christ's Light shines bright. Alleluia has been unburied from the Desert Box.. Flowers returned to the Worship Table.. Children are wearing their white liturgical stoles...

Christ is Risen Indeed,
Lori Klinesteker
Children's Ministry





Presbyterian Women

Circle Bible Study will continue with ***Sacred Encounters*** on April 10 for Lesson 8 and May 8 for Lesson 9. We will collect the annual Birthday Offering both months – you decide how much per year! Also, continue to fill your Least Coin container at home as your prayers rise each day! (Some months need more prayers than others, right?)

To celebrate together a successful first year of combined Circle groups, our Annual Meeting will be an Indoor Picnic on June 12th, in the narthex. Choose from sandwich options and please join us for lunch and planning for 2024-25. Plan to order your new study book for September if you have not subscribed to the Horizons magazine already.

Our new study beginning in September is ***Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to care for Neighbors and All Creation***. Patricia Tull, author, is a biblical scholar who wondered what an ordinary person can do about climate and crisis. So,

she learned about ecology and teaching people of faith what she learned. This fits nicely with Pastor Paul's DMin focus as he moves forward, so this is a good time to be involved. In our fast-changing world we are reminded as Christians that we are called to speak out (Exodus 23:6, Deuteronomy 16:20, Amos 5:24) to urge our society to act for just transitions.

New and interesting info is often posted on our Facebook group: FPCHolland PW.

J Magennis,
Communications

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

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Outreach <>

At the March meeting of Outreach Council, two discretionary contributions were approved: Several months of research and discussion concluded with approving expenditure of \$500 from the discretionary fund to purchase a badly-needed dental camera for the Holland Free Health Clinic. This relatively costly single item will allow dentists to treat patients more effectively. It has been on HFHC's Wish List for some time.

Thank you to the many people who brought personal grooming supplies (tooth brushes, soap, deodorant, and more) for distribution at HFHC during a February. Volunteers and clients were delighted by and grateful for the generosity of our members and friends. Thank you to everyone who gave to this mission. Your support for this quiet community resource means people who otherwise might be forgotten, will be remembered.

Outreach Council also approved the donation of \$500 to Out on the Lakeshore to be a sponsor for Pride Day, June 29, 2024. Our donation gives FPC a booth at the event. Our booth has been a popular venue at Pride Day, and we look forward to another successful event.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions to the work of Outreach in our local community as well as the larger world. This year our congregation has pledged \$12,000 to global mission! Yes, we are a giving people.

Want to help? Our Pride day booth welcomes you! See Chris Urbaniak or Gail Hering.

Good Samaritan 'Welcome Home'

Basket Drive // We will be collecting items for the Welcome Home baskets throughout the month of April. Thank you for your generosity.

"Welcome Home" Basket Drive

When a person experiences homelessness, they often give up everything they own in pursuit of safe shelter—including what most people would consider "the essentials." So, anytime a person exits homelessness, Good Samaritan provides that household with a Welcome Home basket—a laundry basket filled with household and personal items. You can help provide one of these baskets to brighten someone's day as they open the door to their next phase of life.

In a medium- to large-sized laundry basket, we recommend filling it with items like these:



- Toilet paper
- Paper towel
- Trash bags
- Paper plates
- Plastic utensils
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Toilet bowl brush
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Toothpaste (adult and children's)
- Toothbrushes (adult and children's)
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Wash cloths and hand towels
- Broom & dustpan/mop
- Plastic wrap/aluminum foil
- Calendar

The list above includes common essentials, but is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Any personal and household essentials are welcome.

<> Outreach <>



The third weekend in May is Holland Hunger Awareness weekend. There are two major events we hope First Pres folks will participate in. On Saturday May 18, postal volunteers will be collecting food donations from your homes on their postal routes. On Sunday May 19 the Holland Hunger Awareness event and CROP walk will take place at Centennial Park in downtown Holland from 1-3pm.

The Hunger Awareness Event will include information about local efforts to combat hunger as well as activities for families, and food provided by local hunger relief agencies. You will also have the

opportunity to make a difference for hungry people locally and around the world by your participation in the CROP Hunger walk and your donations. All people are invited to the Hunger Awareness event - bring your kids and their scooters or wagons, bring your dogs and your signs - even if you can't walk, come and experience the festivities and fellowship of other Presbyterians fighting hunger. Please see Tim Staal for any questions.

To join our team of walkers or to donate, go online to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/hollandmi>

<> Session Summary <>

The FPC Session held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00. Bill Evenson opened the meeting with a devotional, reflecting on how vital it is for each of us to have someone to lean on.

Bob Knittel, the treasurer, reported on our current financial picture, which has room for improvement. Giving has been down in January and February compared to previous years, and, though we worked hard to trim the budget, contributions are not covering expenses. This is a "wake up call" for our congregation, and we will consider how to effectively communicate with the membership concerning our financial picture.

The Session also discussed the need to extend personal invitations to church members to participate in the work of the councils, especially Spiritual Growth and Worship. We hope to help people find ways to share their gifts and skills with the congregation.

As a tool for reflection and visioning, the Session will be reading and discussing *Sailboat Church* by Joan S. Gray. (Is your church a rowboat church or a sailboat church? Are we rowing against the current or allowing the Spirit to fill our sails?)

The Session will meet again on Tuesday, April 16th.

CONNECT TOGETHER

Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. April & May meeting times; **April 5 & 18**. Questions? Contact David Ford.

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 **April 15**.

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. **April 14** we will be discussing, *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover.

Contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com if you have questions.

The Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club gathers on the first Monday of each month at church at 7pm. **April 1** we will be discussing *The Women of Copper County* by Mary Doria Russel

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us Saturday, April 20th, 7:30pm at Holland Community Theatre to see the well-known beloved play, *On Golden Pond*. Tickets are \$18. Sign up in the narthex. Optional dinner at the Curraugh at 5:30pm.

<> Worship Arts <>

Thank you all for donating your maps to help decorate the church. We will be removing the maps from the walls after the Easter service. Please pick up your maps from the main office if you would like them. Otherwise, we will recycle the maps. Thank you, Beth Magennis

Let's Pray Together

JOY & GRATITUDE

- > Lauren Stouffer and Barb Schreur welcome foster siblings Kimora and Kalayah

IN SYMPATHY

- > Condolences to the family and friends of Eric Heller, husband of Megan Heller, who passed away on March 9 after a lengthy illness. Visitation will be at Dykstra Funeral Home, Mulder Chapel on March 22 from 4 - 7pm
- > Condolences to the family and friends of Martin Keller, husband of Mimi Keller, who passed away on March 12. The family will honor his life with a private graveside service.
- > Condolences to the family and friends of Glenda Simpkins, who passed away on March 13. Plans for a celebration of her life will take place in the coming weeks.

PRAYERS FOR

- > Megan Heller and the Heller family after Eric's service on March 23
- > Mimi, prayer of thanks for the support of the congregation after Martin's passing
- > Steve Magennis who was at church after recovery
- > Linda Gebben is home and recovering
- > Lee Streeble's nephew, Jackson, defibrillator at age 17
- > Rebecca Gardiner's dear friend diagnosed with cancer.
- > Doug Johnson's son, Matt, prayer of thanks for healing after several eye surgeries
- > Jill Russel's mother, Carrie, moving to Resthaven Maplewoods
- > Bob Knittel, who is recovering at home after suffering a heart attack last week.
- > Kristin Goddard, mourning the passing of Glenda Simpkins
- > Cindy Kiddy following surgery and treatment for a second form of cancer
- > Lois Rodgers brother Russell (in Detroit) dying from three different forms of cancer
- > Berniece Harper, who was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- > Ted and Joy Oyler, as Ted has been diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia

- > Lou and Cathy's great-niece, Olivia, who has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- > Lois Rust's grandson
- > Jess Kregger's cousin Adam was diagnosed with stage 3 testicular cancer
- > Fran Rosensteel's sisters Susie and Phyllis
- > Wendy Cole (Gail Hering's niece) continuing with chemo and possible bone marrow transplant in the future
- > Jim Veltman's brother, who has been diagnosed with cancer
- > Linda Holmes continued recovery
- > Danielle Peterson's father, Dennis Mishoe
- > Those grieving the loss of a loved one
- > Prayers for those who join us in worship online that they will sense the love and peace of Christ
- > Those struggling with loneliness, living with mental health needs, processing emotional pain and struggling with addictions.
- > Those who suffer from Covid and long Covid

YOUTH@FIRST

- > Prayers for students, families and faculty working to encourage one another.
- > Prayers for a safe spring break

COLLEGE STUDENTS

- > Prayers for a safe spring break

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

- > Beau Bennett (son of Mary and Dick Bennett) - Appledorn Living Center South
- > Allen Brady - Vista Springs
- > Marilyn Chamberlain - Resthaven Maple Woods
- > Dean Effken - Riley's Grove in Zeeland
- > Roy & Meriem Elwell - Freedom Village
- > Judy Faber - Living at home dealing with Parkinsons
- > JoAnn Karn - SKLD in Zeeland (Rm 204)
- > Lois Rust - Appledorn Living Center South
- > Phil Sturdevant - Lake Michigan Senior Living in Ludington



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