



presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / MAY 2024

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Pentecost

Pentecost. The "church's birthday." The day when a room full of Jesus' followers were shocked by wind and flame. Unable to stay within the shelter of their safe space, they were carried on the Spirit's breath, out into the world to bring God's love and God's invitation to transformation.

I was sad to be away for Pentecost (though the reason for being away was a happy one!) as I love the chaos of the Pentecost story. Pastor Paul planned a wonderful service with diversities of languages and music and instruments. The dove and flame installation contributed to the experience!

In what I would call the Spirit's behind the scenes work, the Session also "just happened" to be discussing the Holy Spirit, in a book we are reading together, *Sailboat Church* by Joan S. Grey.

Grey writes:

God's power changes things we cannot change and provides resources beyond what we have ourselves to do God's work. The Spirit can draw us together when, left to our own devices, we will remain divided. When every path seems blocked, the Spirit can show us God's way forward. The Spirit opens doors that to human strength remain stubbornly closed. Minds are changed and hard hearts softened not by our human arguments but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual gifts to fit us for God's work come from the Spirit.

How do you need the Spirit to work in your own life? How might you pray for the Spirit to be a dynamic force within our congregation, carrying us out into the world?

May you each be blessed with a deep awareness of the Spirit alive within you and working among us all.

Blessings,
Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Summer Reading List

One of the joys of summer, I find, is reading outside. In a hammock, on the beach, on our deck, or in a lawn chair, there is nothing quite like settling into a good book surrounded by the sounds, sights, and smells of God's creation. Over the past year or so I have read several books about God's creation, God's creatures, and how we can best care for them. If you have time this summer, spend some time in creation reading about creation.

Spineless: The Science of Jellyfish and the Art of Growing a Backbone by Juli Berwald

I read this book over a year ago while sitting on the beach in Mexico and I was completely transfixed. The science of Jellyfish is amazing, Juli's journey is inspiring, and her encouragement to care for the oceans is contagious.

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate by Peter Wohlleben

I have always loved trees. They are majestic, beautiful organisms. This book only made me love trees more. I referenced this book in my Pentecost sermon. Read it if you love trees and want to love trees more!

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Kimmerer is a botanist and a member of the Potawatomi Nation. She uses her scientific knowledge and indigenous wisdom to show how we can care for plants and for all of creation. Her writing is beautiful and I put this book down with so much appreciation for plants and for the way indigenous people care for the land.

The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonders of Consciousness by Sy Montgomery

Montgomery explores the wonders of the octopus, a truly incredible creature. This book chronicles her time visiting and caring for the octopuses at the New England Aquarium. Sy explores the world of animal intelligence, consciousness and connection between human and non-human creatures. A lovely book.

The Overstory by Richard Powers

The Overstory is a novel about nine people from different walks of life and their connection to the trees and, through the trees, to each other. It encourages activism and reminds us how we are connected to creation. It is a dense but compelling read.

Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World by Katharine Hayhoe

Hayhoe is a climate scientist, lecturer and Christian. In *Saving Us*, she gives some practical things Christians can do in response to the climate crisis. I particularly like the advice she gives for how to talk to people who are more skeptical about the climate crisis.





Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Triune God. God - Creator, Jesus - Redeemer, Holy Spirit - Sanctifier.

Worship Center follows the liturgical church year calendar, a circle without an end.

During the story of Pentecost on May 19, disciples, friends, and followers of Jesus were gathered for the Feast of Pentecost. It is written that the Holy Spirit blew like a great wind and tongues of fire touched upon them, surrounding them, and filling them so they too were able to share their belief in the Triune God with others.

As our Education Time for youth and children "ends or May 19 was our last day" for the summer, I am reminded by the Pentecost story that this isn't an end, our children and youth will continue on their faith journey and believing that the Triune God is with and within, can share their faith and belief with others.

Some ways that we can connect over summer: in Worship, Celebration Time, Young Family outings, Canoe and Paddle trip, White Caps game, and at Peace Camp. Please share any ideas your family may have for Young Family outings. Looking forward to continuing our time together in Worship Center this Fall.

Make time to Be Still, Feel the Presence of the One Triune God,

Lori Klinesteker,
Children's Ministry





Presbyterian Women

Mary Bennett was awarded the "Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership" Award on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

We think we actually caught Mary Bennett by surprise on May 5 when Pastor Cathy helped us present our Honorary Life Membership Award during worship! Mary has been so active in our congregation plus she has served the Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women on its board. Currently our Moderator, she will be nominated to serve again as our leader at our Annual Meeting and Indoor Picnic on June 12 in the narthex area. Sign up on the tall table in the narthex beginning May 19.

She shared her pin with the Miriam Circle on May 8 as they completed nine months of Bible study on the presence of Jesus in Luke and Acts. It was an interesting look at many aspects of Jesus' time of beginning the Church. These nine Lessons seemed to stir much good, deep discussion, and when plans changed, others picked up Lesson presentations. I led the Eunuch's story – which represented the first ripple of Christ's Church including those of other cultures.

Mary Bennett receiving the
"Presbyterian Women's
Honorary Life Membership" Award.

Beginning in September, we will gather again on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30am in the Michigan Room. Light goodies and good coffee accompany these monthly times together. Please feel free to join us, and if you want a study book, let Mary or Bev Plagenhoef know. They are \$10 and are available in Large Print, too. The new study touches on many of the themes Pastor Paul has offered this year as he works toward his DMin.

Please feel free to join us for the picnic – details at the sign-up location at church.

Janet Magennis,
PW Communications



GET THE LATEST NEWS *from* PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Outreach <>



Thank you for all your generous donations to the Good Samaritan welcome baskets. They were very much appreciated as they have several people moving into new homes in July, so the timing was perfect.

Outreach Council's representative presented a check to Executive Director Jeff Compagner of Holland Free Health Clinic. The \$500 donation underwrites purchase of a dental camera. This essential instrument will improve diagnostic examination. Funding was approved by Outreach Council from the emerging needs fund. HFHC has had the camera on their "Wish List" for a long time. The dentist in this picture is one of many local doctors who support HFHC with their time and skill to care for people who have no insurance and no other way to secure dental care. The Clinic is more than twenty years old and has long been supported by our Church local mission.



(L-R): Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop, Gail Hering, Jeff Compagner, Dr. Sarah Bouwkamp.

<> Worship & Arts <>

Calling all Communion servers! If you are an elder or a deacon who would like to serve communion in church, we would love to have you attend a brief refresher training after church on June 9 from 11:15 - 11:45am. We will have a sign-up sheet available so you can volunteer to serve.

If you are not able to attend, but would like to serve communion in the future, please send an email to bethmagennis@gmail.com and we'll be in touch

<> Session Summary <>

Presbyterians are known for their love of meetings, committees, and councils! This month we had not one, but two, meetings of our Session. The first meeting was a called meeting for the purpose of welcoming new friends into membership. We gathered for a light lunch and to hear brief accounts of what brought each of these people to our congregation. What a gift to have new members join us in our worship and work. (There was much expression of gratitude for the ways our congregation cares for one another - the warmth of the welcome and the Sunday morning bus transportation!)

If you haven't had a chance to meet some of these new members, please keep an eye out for them! We welcome:

Elaine Bisel, Audrey Bloemendaal, Cathy & Rob Colten, Donna Engels, Marcia Huizenga, Shirley & Lee Jansen, Melissa & Bob McAfee, Patti & Fred McConkey, Carolyn (Cary) Russell, and Lee Strebel.

Our regular Session meeting took place on May 21. The meeting opened with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions and prayer from Jen Laux where we reflected on the concept of "God's time."

The Session then spent time discussing *Sailboat Church* by Joan Gray, specifically thinking about how the Holy Spirit is the wind in our church's sails. We unpacked our conceptions of the Holy Spirit,

discussed our fears and concerns, and imagined what the church would look like if we allowed ourselves to be powered by the Spirit of God.

Council reports included a discussion from Building Council and Worship Council about sanctuary technology. The councils are in early conversations around screens and new live streaming technology for the sanctuary.

Personnel council submitted a summary of the employee reviews, including the 360 reviews that were completed for Pastors Cathy and Paul. The council will be looking to fill the open Office Administrator position in the near future.

Finance Council reported that they are beginning work on the stewardship campaign for October with a specific focus on increasing the number of pledges for the coming year. Pledges and contributions continue to be down from previous years.

Pastor Cathy was away for the meeting. Paul reported that he is co-officiating the Olney-Miller wedding on May 26 and that he is preparing for his class work in Iona, Scotland the first week of June with a family vacation in Europe to follow.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Paul. The next meeting is June 18, 2024.

<> Deacon's Caring Corner <>

There are many ways to get involved serving our congregation through the Deacon care teams, using your gifts to care for each other and strengthen our community. Current ministries coordinated by the deacons include:

-Visitation: homebound members and those living in nursing homes can be assigned to a visitor from the congregation who will visit about once a month. These visits are a delightful way to connect with our friends who can no longer make it to church regularly. We also have visitors who sign up to visit folks during hospitalizations or grieving to provide extra support.

-Cards: The card team receives regular emails when there are special needs in our congregation so that we can express support, care, joy, and celebration.

-Meals: The Nourishers team receives invitations to provide meals for families after surgeries, hospitalizations, births, etc.

-Transportation: The Transporters team provides rides to medical appointments for folks who are unable to drive

-Handy Workers: The handy worker team provides light home repairs or other practical needs around the home.



-Care Closet: Deacons maintain a list of durable medical equipment available to borrow from members of our congregation and connect folks with items as needed.

-Home Communion: Any member who has been previously ordained as an elder or deacon can be part of our home communion program. We bring communion to homebound folks as an extension of our celebration of the Lord's Supper in worship on the first Sunday of the month. Teams of at least 2 elders or deacons serve communion to those who request.

If you would like to learn more about how to be involved in any of these ministries, contact deacons@fpcholland.org or call the church office.

<> Connect Together <>

Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. May meeting times; **June 7 and 21**. Questions? Contact David Ford.

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club is on summer break and will return in September to discuss the book, *Oath and Honor* by Liz Cheney.

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.

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. Join us **June 9** when we discuss the book, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune. Contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com if you have questions.

Common Threads Group

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 come 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 **June 17**.

<> Happenings Around FPC <>

Celebrating our Graduates // Congrats to our graduates for all their hard work. We're praying for you as you get ready for the next steps of your journey!



Ben Snyder graduated from Holland High School on May 21st. Ben played tennis, sang in the men's choir, concert choir and Michigan State Regional Honors Choir

while at Holland High. He will be going to Michigan State in the fall, currently in their exploratory program.

Jack Burkholder graduated with his associate's degree from Grand Rapids Community College. He will be going on to Western to finish his biology degree in the fall.

Josh Laux graduated from the University of Michigan with degrees in political science and history. Josh will be taking a gap year to earn money, study for the LSATs, and apply to law school.



Earth Care Congregation Initiatives // As you might recall, we earned the designation of "Earth Care Congregation" from the PC(USA) in our continuing efforts to care for God's creation. Here are two ways you can help:

BYOM: Bring Your Own Mug! We throw away a lot of disposable cups on Sunday mornings for coffee and tea. **You are invited to Bring a Mug on Sunday** and save a cup from being thrown away. We would love to move to all washable mugs—if you would be willing to run the dishwasher on Sunday mornings to wash a few loads of mugs—reach out to Paul (paul@fpcholland.org).

Styrofoam recycling: Do you have a pile of Styrofoam in your house and you don't know what to do with it? Don't throw it away, the church can help you recycle it! On **Sunday June 9** (or during the week before), bring your clean Styrofoam to church, and the Kreples will collect all the Styrofoam and bring it to a recycling facility.

If you have other ideas of how the church can care for creation, reach out.

LOCAL EVENTS

Wear Orange (gun safety) > Sunday, June 9 > *from* 2 – 4pm @ Centennial Park
Juneteenth Freedom Festival > Saturday, June 15 > *f*rom 2 – 7pm @ Kollen Park
Holland Pride > Saturday, June 29 > *from* 12 – 5pm @ Centennial Park

<> Save the Date <>



Presbyterian Women Indoor Picnic // Wednesday, June 12, at 11:30 am. Please join us for some fun, fellowship, and a meal. A signup for your \$10 sandwich meal preference is needed!

Member Carleen Bauer, will present information about *A Feral Haven*, a quiet movement in our area to trap, neuter, and return homeless cats in an effort to reduce that population. We will have our annual election and installation of PW officers.

Please sign up in the narthex. All women of the church are most welcome!



Play Ball! // Join your friends from FPC as we watch the West Michigan Whitecaps take on the local rivals, the Lansing Lugnuts. We will be going on **Sunday, July 28**. Game time is 2:00pm. Tickets are \$16 with an optional \$6 food coupon which includes a hot dog and a drink. On Sundays, the first 1000 kids eat free! There is also pre-game catch and autographs on the field and kids can run the bases after the game. Deadline to sign up and pay for your tickets is June 28.

There is a sign-up sheet in the M&M cafe (near the elevator). If you have any questions, please contact Michele Richardson at 616-510-8683. Checks may be made payable to Michele Richardson. Cash payments are also welcome. Let's gather for a fun afternoon at the ballpark!



Get ready for the 2024 Camp and Paddle weekend! // We're excited for a new location and new memories to be made this summer. Join us **July 12-14** at: Mystery Creek Campground, 9570 Wisner Ave. in Newaygo.

You are welcome to bring your own kayak, canoe, or flotation device(s) or rent from the campground! We have reserved space for 8 trailers, unlimited tents, and 1 rustic cabin (first come, first serve). **Price:** \$40/night for trailers , \$40/night for rustic cabin , \$20/night for tents .

Head on over to our website (www.fpcholland.com) to register! Registration deadline is June 30.



Peace Camp // Are you ready to explore the wild and wonderful world around you? Do you want to learn how to live in peace with the earth? Do you want to have fun, sing songs, make crafts, and learn all about God's good creation?

Peace Camp will be held **August 5-9** from 9-11:45 each day. Campers entering K-6th and teen helpers entering 7th-12th grade are welcome! As always, Peace Camp is totally free!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out: paul@fpcholland.org. Head on over to our website (www.fpcholland.org) to register.



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



Looking Ahead

As we head into the summer months,
just a reminder that *Profiles* is on
vacation during the month of July. If you have
announcements or happenings that take place in
July and want them published in *Profiles*,
please submit them early for the June issue.
Thank you!