



Presbyterian *Profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / OCTOBER 2024

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

A Benediction

As I write this five days from Election Day, here is a benediction for the election season, from a fellow Michigander:

May you remember that all politics and all platforms and all legalities and all borders and all leaders are temporary.

May you recall that political movements and boundaries and personalities and programs are here one day and gone the next. All of these are passing away.

May you resist the temptation to place ultimate trust in any person, policy, party, movement, or nation — even a beautiful idea that is embodied by a nation — because there is no nation with an eternal foundation.

May you know that your kingdom is not of this world but of the world that is coming to this world and that is not yet here.

May you in the same breath grasp that engagement with the things of this world — not escape from its harsher, darker realities — is the sacrificial pattern of Jesus Christ.

May you discover your role in the just and merciful governance of the world God made good and pursue that cosmos-converting vocation with love amid the world's brokenness and grittiness.

May you see your work in the world — all of your callings and activities — as a participation in bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth.

May you have strength and beauty and determination and wisdom as you love your neighbor and your enemy as Christ has loved you, seeking with all persons to bring justice, mercy, and lasting peace.

May you comprehend that your salvation is not dependent on whom you vote for in an election, or in whether you vote; that you are under no biblical or theological or moral obligation to vote for a person or party or proposal or initiative if that vote violates your conscience.

May you have empathy for the political decisions of others that you find troubling — particularly those of family and close friends. May you have ears to hear what lies at the heart of their political concerns, and eyes to see the noble but imperfect search for goodness that is motivating their choice, especially if you strongly disagree with the candidate, party, or politics they support.

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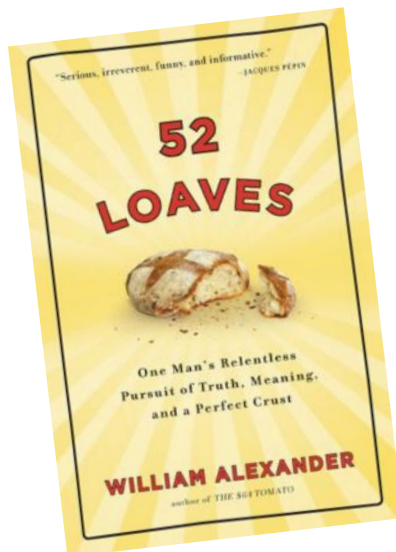
Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Here

This past month I read a book (recommended to me by our Maintenance Director, Thom Samuelson) called, *52 Loaves*. In the book the author, William Alexander, tracks his yearlong project to bake the perfect loaf of peasant bread. He builds a brick oven in his backyard, acquires a 12-year-old levain (a sourdough starter), breaks his oven with an attempt to introduce steam into the baking process, and travels to France to bake bread with monks at a monastery.

In the book, Alexander celebrates the simplicity of bread. Just a few ingredients combine to make a loaf with nutrients that can sustain life. But in the simplicity, there is also complexity—ratios, rise time, oven temperature, humidity and more. Somehow bread is both simple and complex at the same time.



As Christians, we are well aware of this duality in bread. Each month, when we gather to celebrate the Communion Meal, we partake in a simple piece of bread. To our senses it is nothing special, just a piece of nutrition dipped in juice. But that little piece of bread holds the complexity of our faith. We worship a living savior, present in the meal. We taste, in the simple bread, his goodness and grace for all of us.

This month, as we partake in the meal together, taste the simplicity of the bread, taste and see that God is good.

Pastor Paul



Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

At a Baptism, we are asked "Will you as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture [child's name], by word and deed, with love and prayer? Will you?"

During worship on October 27, 4th graders Eli Kregger, Marian Reynolds and Jesse Rund-Scott were presented with their Bibles, God's Word for us. The liturgy by Pastor Cathy and Pastor Paul, was rich and filled with promises, offerings of help, hope, and prayer. Eli, Marian and Jesse came to God's Word surrounded by the community of faith that is FPC.

Here are the parts that were read by their Parents and Mentors.

(Parents) "As we read these words to you, we promise: to listen to your questions, to share ideas, to be honest about our doubts. We want to grow with you in faith and knowledge."

(Mentors) "We hope as you read the Bible, you will bring not only your faith but also your questions and your doubts. Here you have a loving, supporting, listening and teaching community. We want to grow with you in faith and knowledge." Jon McFadyen (Eli), Sandy Peterson and Linda Clark (Marian) and Corene D'Addona (Jesse).

Eli, Marian and Jesse, with God's help, read and listen with openness, curiosity and imagination. And ask questions in trust.

Blessings and Grace,
Lori Klinesteker





Presbyterian Women

It's THAT time of year...Halloween, "Fall back" with DST, oh, and an election! We are busy people with lots on our plates and leaves on our lawns. We think of squash and pumpkin foods, breads, canning some jam, pickling an abundance of red onions.

Once a month, the Miriam Circle women of FPC Holland gather for Bible study – on the second Wednesday morning of the month at 9:30am. There are snacks! One member each month prepares the lesson, and we view the study author's video. In October, we spoke about Land Justice, and in November, we move on to Food Justice – which naturally seems to flow right from land to Food. Where does our own food come from? When are we hungry in our community? Are there hungry people in our community? Linda and Wayne Pynnonen were recently honored for serving more than 5,000 hours at Community Kitchen over the years. They know this assignment.

So, okay, we tried out meeting in Fellowship Hall where the sound was better, but the setup did not work, not to mention the lack of windows. Return to the Michigan Room was the voice of the majority. We just need a device to amplify the study leader. We will work it out so everyone can hear.

This photo was taken by circle member Marti of Carleen – also a circle member - in her spidery outfit at the Trunk or Treat we held after church on



October 25. The children and youth of our church helped set up tables for soups and for eating them! The costumes were GREAT! There were lots of soups to try!

You will find our Presbyterian Women in the choir, the nursery, subbing in the office, offering coffee and cookies after Church, on the Session, on a committee. We are mothers, grandmothers, single, married, widowed. It is just good to have this deeper connection to each other. We invite you to join us any month. We will meet for our Christmas Soup Luncheon on December 11 in the Café and narthex, with 3 soups to try, breads and dessert for \$5. Don't forget that our basket for donations of cozy underwear and socks for RESILIENCE will be next to the entry elevator.

PW Communications,
Janet Magennis

GET THE LATEST NEWS *from* PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Session Summary <>

The Session of FPC held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 15, opening with a devotional and prayer from Cassie Kregger.

As we discussed another chapter from *Sailboat Church*, we considered how Christ would define a "successful" church and how the culture defines a "successful" church. Rather than being about the size of the congregation or the extensiveness of the property, we discussed success as the way the community honors God by caring for one another and serving the community in love. We also discussed this question: "Has FPC found its mission?" As author Rev. Joan Gray writes, "Each congregation must discover its own mission; each one must discern what is beside its name on God's to-do list." We haven't fully defined our answer to that! More discernment to do.

The Session also heard from the Business Council regarding two matters: Dave Zessin offered additional guidance to the Session members for understanding our financial statements and their councils' budgets; and he shared information about the upcoming stewardship season. As the Stewardship Committee, partnering with the Business Council, moves forward with its work, we hope to be able to encourage all members of our community to find ways to connect the gifts they have with the needs of the church and the Holland community.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

<> Stewardship Committee <>

As we begin thinking about stewardship for the upcoming year, we ask that each of us examines our particular role in our church. We will be considering our church as a sailboat. We are all traveling together in this little sailboat of ours, affected by currents and the winds, and voyaging onward to our destination. Each of us on our journey must do our part. Some may help navigate our course, some take their turn pulling on the ropes to keep our sails trim, while others may be called on to cook our meals or scrub the decks. We all bring our unique gifts to the crew, whether practical, spiritual, or financial.

During October and November, we are hearing from each of the church councils about what is involved in the operation and life of our church. Please think about ways that the spirit is calling you to help move us forward.



We will also be asking you to pledge your financial support for the coming year. Please consider this for your own spiritual health. We do this so that we can plan an accurate budget for the year that will allow us to not only cover the costs of operations but aspire to do more as a church that serves as a prophetic voice and example in our community.

We ask that the gentle winds of the Holy Spirit guide us so that our church can be a place where all are welcome and all experience the Love of God.

Tim Staal,
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

<> Deacons <>

Deacons Provide Transportation and Handyman Services

// One of several services offered to church members by the Deacons include rides to those who need them. We have a team of volunteer drivers who will pick you up, take you to appointments, wait for you until you've finished your business, then take you back home. A second service is available from a team of volunteer handymen from our church who will come to your location and perform help with most household repairs. Both services are free of charge. Please contact Deacon Tom Glover if you need transportation or a handyman, or simply more information. Tom can be reached by phone at 616-994-6075 or e-mail at glovertn@gmail.com



Deacons // The deacons invite all seniors to join us on Saturday, Nov 16 at noon in the fellowship hall for a tailgate party themed fall soup luncheon. There will be sports trivia, and we invite you to wear your favorite team's colors, but non-sports fans are welcome, too (and there won't be a game to watch, but you're welcome to leave early if there's one that afternoon that you can't miss!). Sign up by November 10 near the elevator or by emailing deacons@fpcholland.org

<> Connect Together <>

Men's Discussion Group

Meets at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. We will meet November 1, 15 & 29. Join us. Contact Ross Hamlin (616) 399-0509 or Bob Gansen (269) 753-7024 if you have any questions.

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club meets the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe. Our next meeting is November 10 discussing the book, *Take My hand* by Dolan Perkins-Valdez. 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, hats, scarves and chemo socks. 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 November 18.

Grief Support

Once a month, a small group gathers for grief support...we listen, we share, we pray. One month we explored how grief is portrayed in art, another month we made memory jars and journal prompts. Most recently, we shared cookies and read children's books about grief. It was a beautiful experience. The group is open to all who need a safe space as they journey with grief. We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Superior Room. Our next meeting is November 20.

A Benediction

Pastor Cathy's article continued.

May you be grateful for the opportunity to participate in your government, and if you choose not to participate in the election may you find ways to make that non-participation more than a protest. May you act to help and protect the poor, oppressed, and defenseless who might have been helped or shielded by your vote.

May you realize that the kingdom of God is within you and that the Son of God sets you free even as you vote for whomever your conscience dictates, without anxiety or fear, for the Spirit the Father gives us does not make us timid, but bestows on us power, love, and self-discipline.

May your posture toward every human leader be driven by respectful prayer, and where protest, prophecy, and nonviolent resistance are needed, may you have the courage to speak, oppose, and critique — in humility and charity — their ideas and actions that oppose Christ and his kingdom.

May God grant you grace to affirm the humanity — the image of God — in every political candidate and leader, and civility to impartially and energetically embrace any pursuit of genuine human flourishing they propose.

May you perceive God's love for creation in sending Jesus to embody a New Humanity, and may you join in Christ's care for the earth and all its creatures and resources, for we await with patience not only the coming of the Son in the flesh but his perfect bride, a people who beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.

May you trust that Providence is working behind the scenes of history to draw all things to a good and fitting and proper end with justice and mercy.

Amen.

Kenneth Tanner, Church of the Holy Redeemer,
Rochester Hills, Michigan

Published in Sojourners' magazine.
A Benediction for Election Season | Sojourners

May the peace of Christ be with you,
Cathy



Celebration of All Saints'

In confidence of God's promises that when we leave this earth, we will be welcomed home to the arms of God, we take time on the first Sunday of November to remember those who have gone on before us. As we gather round Christ's table, we look to the day when we will all feast together around a table that has no end. This year we remember:

Marilyn Chamberlain
Roy Elwell
Glenn Van Haitsma
Berniece Harper
Eric Heller
Martin Keller

Carol Knutson
JoAnn Martin
Ruth Roberts
Glenda Simpkins
Jim Smith
Neil Taylor

<> Outreach <>

Our Fall Cleaning Drive for **Children's Advocacy Center** was a big success. We delivered a carload of cleaning supplies to a very grateful staff. One staff member mentioned that she has been needing to purchase items for the closet and now this will restock their shelves. These supplies will be available in Cora's Care Closet at CAC for families experiencing abuse to take as needed. *Thank you to all* who donated to this very important service in our community.



New Service Opportunity

// Refresh, a program run by Community Action House at First United Methodist

Church, will be offering a Seasonal Emergency Warming Center this winter. They plan to be open for our neighbors experiencing homelessness on nights when the temperatures drop to 10 degrees or below. This is not a shelter, only a place to be protected from the freezing temperatures. People will be given 2 blankets and a place to sleep on the floor in the gym of the church. They are looking for volunteers that are willing to be contacted at short notice to help man the center. Shifts will be from 8pm to midnight & midnight to 8 am. There will be trained people available to manage any issues that may arise. If this is something you feel you could do, please contact Janet Hostetler to hear more. Janethostetler@gmail.com or 740-704-4822.

During November, there will be a coat rack in the Outreach Kiosk to donate any coats that you no longer need or any extras in your closet. We will share them with our Outreach partner agencies.

Thank you again, Congregation, for your ongoing generous support of our partner agencies that provide important services in our community.



Habitat for Humanity // Our next workday is Thursday, November 14. If you would like to participate or have any questions please contact Bill Haines, wehaines@icloud.com.

Zadran Home Dedication Gifts // We will be participating in providing dedication gifts for the Zadran family in coordination with the First Reformed Church of Zeeland. We will fill a laundry basket with gift cards, brand new cleaning supplies, and home items. (Think Clorox wipes, Swiffer dusters and any items that are helpful to setting up a new home.) There are two labeled collection baskets in the Outreach Kiosk. The date of the dedication ceremony has not been set, but we will share it when it is. Thank you!



ASL Classes Conclude // For a series of Wednesday nights, a faithful group has been gathering with Sara Smith and Beth Magennis to learn a new language: ASL (American Sign Language). Sara brought her fabulous sense of humor and infinite patience to our time together. She taught us a vast amount of vocabulary and introduced us to how grammar works in ASL. Some of us came with very little knowledge, and others had had some previous experience. We had a great time (games, quizzes, conversations, and cookies!) and look forward to continuing our studies in the spring. Please see Beth Magennis or Sara Smith if you might be interested!

<> Announcements <>

Watch for your Giving Statement! // Third quarter giving statements have been sent out. Please look over your statement carefully and let our bookkeeper, Marlene, know if you have any questions. The best way to contact the bookkeeper is by email, marlene@fpcholland.org. Thank you for your support of the ministries of FPC.

Bus Drivers Needed // We are in dire need of bus drivers as we have recently had 2 “retirements” of long-term drivers. If you are interested in learning more about being a driver or assistant, please contact Chris Urbaniak at 616-836-9293. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated by other drivers and our senior riders. Thanks!

Fifth Annual Joy Huttar Memorial Recital // Enjoy the music of concert organist Reneé Anne Louprette on Sunday, November 3 at 3pm at Grace Episcopal Church in Holland. This is a free concert. (Our own Sarah Anderson is Joy Huttar’s daughter.)

Election Day Prayers // On November 5, you are invited to stop by the sanctuary or the labyrinth and spend a few moments in prayer. Let us pray for the wellbeing of all people in our nation. Let us pray for healing from the harsh divide that has emerged in our country. Let us pray for those whom we will elect as our leaders. Let us pray for trust, for peace, for hope. The church will be open to all: 8:30am - 5:30pm.

Yoga at First Pres! // Are you interested in learning or practicing yoga? Gwen Boeve will be offering instruction one Tuesday per month, to anyone of any level or experience. Next class will be Nov 12 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Please email Gwen at ghekman@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Take A Book. Read a Book. Share a Book. // The bookcases are now ready for Take a Book, Read a Book, and Share a Book in the Michigan Room. We invite you to borrow or share books from our collection. We have a good selection to start with and want to include more mystery, history, and fiction books. We welcome your donations. Beloved children's books and Young Adult Books are always welcome. Please stop by the Michigan Room and check out our selection.

Save the Date // There are many youth from FPC performing in this year's production of The Nutcracker at Avalon School of the Arts. Performances are Friday, December 6 @ 6pm and Saturday, December 7 @ 11am & 3pm at Zeeland Cityside Middle School (320 E. Main Ave). Tickets will be available for purchase in November.

Here are the parts they are playing:
Mae Boeve - Francis (Fritz)
Gia Defeyter - Soldier
Marian Reynolds - Candy Heart



Blessing of the Animals // It is said that St. Francis could converse with all creation. He preached to the birds, and he mediated with the wolves. He hosted the first living nativity, giving people an opportunity to imagine the night of Jesus' birth. Francis reminds us of our deep connection to all living things and inspires us to be continually grateful for the beauty of this earth.

Called to be God's care givers for creation, we gathered on Sunday, October 13 to give thanks for the animals who share our homes and lives. We asked God's forgiveness for the ways we fail to care for creation, and we asked God's blessing upon the dogs, cats, chickens, bearded dragons and even the toy animals that also bring us joy!



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