

Presbyterian *Profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / MARCH 2025

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

People of Faith

There is no denying that Christmas is for children: the joy of a baby, the presents, the magi guided by a star, the sheep and shepherds, the stable filled with animals. Jesus' birth is a story for all ages. But Easter is much more complicated. We have to filter the Easter story for the young. They don't need the details of Jesus' suffering and execution. They don't need to try to understand Jesus' anguish, or the anguish of those who loved him. They don't need to be weighed down by the world's injustices...not yet.

But we do. As people of faith, as followers of a rabbi and healer who was tortured and executed, we need to understand the realities of the path we have chosen to walk. There will be promises fulfilled, but there will also be trials. There will be miracles along the way, but there will also be heartache. This life of faith is rarely a walk in the park, and that seems especially true now. We are confronted with difficult choices: sacrifice or comfort? Engagement or passivity? Will we be the good Samaritan? Will we be the forgiving father? Will we be the one who seeks that missing lamb? These choices take energy, imagination, intelligence and love. Jesus isn't looking for martyrs, but he is trusting us to live into the fullness of God's vision for a world in which compassion and mercy are the default rather than the exception.

Let us live into the power of believing that God called life from death, that we might continue that work in the world. Thanks be to God, amen.

Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Youth Group Sunday FunDay!

Last week after church, the Youth Group took the church bus to Allegan. We went to Allegan Event to experience their indoor ropes course and climbing walls. The kids had so much fun! It was a great chance to build friendship and camaraderie among the youth. You wouldn't believe how loud they can sing "Let It Go" in the church bus (I don't think the Freedom Village, Appledorn and Warm Friend bus riders have ever made as much noise as the youth did!)

Check out these pictures (thanks to Gary Smith for being our photographer!).





Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

During the Season of Lent, the children in Pre-K – 2nd Worship Center have been preparing their WC by burying the Alleluia prayer card in the desert box; the Christ Candle was replaced with a wooden cross of six candles with one light being extinguished after the story each Sunday; the flowers, a sign of life and joy are not on the Worship table. The City of Jerusalem is built in the 3rd – 5th WC, Stories of Holy Week – Easter is told each week.

We are waiting and walking through Holy Week, a sad time as we know Jesus died on a cross. After the story during Lent, they are reminded that this is not the end of the story, for we know Jesus lives!

Alleluia prayer card is unburied, fresh beautiful flowers adorn the Worship Table and Christ's Candle shines bright.

Easter was celebrated in the Worship Center on Sunday, March 30.

Looking forward to being with everyone on Easter Sunday, April 20 for the Easter egg hunt and Breakfast.

Come, share the Light of Christ with us,

Lori Klinesteker



Worship Center and Youth Education Time does not meet on:

April 6 - Spring Break

April 13 - Spring Break

April 20 - Easter Sunday we will be gathering for an Easter egg hunt and Easter breakfast

Join us for Peace Camp:

Week of June 23 – 27, 2025



Presbyterian Women

Imagine, if you will, looking down onto this planet Earth we inhabit, as you travel around it 4,576 times. Two astronauts, Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore, launched for an 8-day space trip...that stretched to 9 months. Happily for everyone who gathered around that space capsule when it landed in the Gulf of Mexico near Florida, they were greeted by a curious pod of dolphins! And all God's creatures said, "Wow!".



This story is not yet finished. It does show the science and engineering it took to both launch and retrieve the astronauts, but we will be eager to see them both up and moving about after experiencing gravity again, and there will be interviews to see and hear. A previous astronaut said that it takes a few days before you don't expect to float out of bed upon awakening. He said even a pen feels heavy after being weightless for a while.

Our stories are not yet finished either. Our Lesson 8 focused on each generation's place in history, caught between past and future, and that "*our relationships to the past and future are fundamentally distinct.*" Then it said something I circled because it's relevant to me: "*We do not know the future because it has yet to be written. But we have the power to change what it will be. We are writing our grandchildren's history every day.*"

That is sobering, and this series of Lessons for **Presbyterian Women** to consider has been interesting and different as we personally consider the ways we can change now what will be for our grands.

To conclude we have a couple of future assignments:

1. For April 9, bring your phone with its INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY app and a general greeting card. (And we are gathering stuff for hygiene kits for those affected by natural disasters in the US. Hand towels

16 x 28, wash cloths, wide-tooth combs, soap bars individually wrapped, adhesive bandages, toothbrushes individually wrapped. We will take them to the PW Gathering of the Synod of the Covenant in Battle Creek June 27-28).

2. For May 14 when we conclude this lesson series: Bring a fresh flower or greenery from your yard – tulips! – and a poem, picture, or scripture about TREES that inspires you.

Janet Magennis, PW Communication

PRAYER: God of all generations, guide us to care for this world now so our children may inherit a beautiful, healed world in the future. And all God's people will say AMEN.

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, March 18th at 7:00, p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer and for the devotional, the elders were invited to engage with the prayer stations set up in the M & M Café by the Worship Council.

Action Items included the following:

The Finance Council requested approval of a second phase of the original “A Place For All” Capital campaign. The motion carried unanimously. As shared at the Annual Meeting in January, paying off the debt will save the church \$30,000 in interest expenses.

The Connections Council requested the approval of additional funding. The Council brought a sample of a “Welcome Bag” which could be given to visitors. The bag would contain information about the church, a magnet, some candies and a wooden spoon (produced by Holland Bowl Mill) with the

inscription: First Presbyterian Church on one side, and “Serve with Us” on the other. The motion was approved. The Finance Council will work on securing funding.

Buildings Council shared information about upcoming upgrades to the sanctuary lighting system. As there is sufficient funding due to a significant gift to the church, the council will move ahead with this necessary work.

Council reports included Connections council’s great response to monthly Wednesday night dinners for young families, and the excitement of welcoming new families.

Several councils could use additional members and were encouraged to reach out to congregation members with an invitation to participate.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

<> Outreach <>

Looking to Get Involved? // Would you like to learn more about the ways FPC Holland supports our community? The Outreach Council is seeking additional members to help us in vetting partners requesting our support. The council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in attending a meeting or learning more about our work, please contact Tom Salley for details. salleyt@yahoo.com or 616-612-8044.

Volunteers Needed // FPC Transporters Team was formed to help FPC members and their families whose circumstances don’t allow them to drive or find other means of transportation to shop, travel to medical appointments and church services etc.

Are you looking for a way to serve others? Consider joining our transportation team. Contact Tom Glover for more information, glovertn@gmail.com

We are collecting items for **Good Samaritan** ‘Welcome Home’ Baskets during the month of March. These baskets are given to newly housed families to get them started in their new home. Thank you for anything you can contribute.

Below is a list of list of needed items.

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

Habitat for Humanity // The next Habitat workdays are scheduled for April 17 and May 15. Questions can be directed to Bill Haines, wehaines@icloud.com

<> Deacons <>

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.

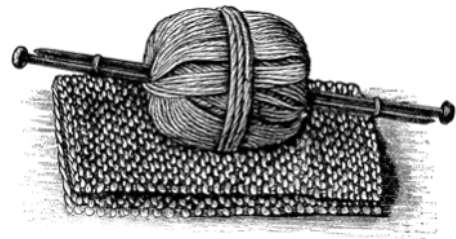
If you would like to learn more about how to be involved in any of these ministries, contact deacons@fpcholland.org or call the church office.

<> Connect Together <>

Grief Support // Once a month, a small group gathers for grief support...we listen, we share, we pray. 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 April 16.

Men's Discussion Group // Meets at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. We will meet April 4 & 18. *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 April 13 discussing the book, *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama. 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 April 21.

<> Looking Ahead <>

Easter Breakfast // We hope all of you can join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday morning beginning at 9am before morning worship. No reservation is necessary. We will serve baked french toast, ham, fresh fruit, baked goods, coffee, tea, water and juice.

We are looking for volunteers to provide baked goods and fresh fruit, help with food prep and set-up on Saturday morning at 10am, and help Sunday with prep, serving and clean-up after the breakfast. There is a volunteer spreadsheet on the sign-up table in the lobby. It's always been as enjoyable working 'behind the scenes' as it is to eat the delicious breakfast. So join us any way you can. If you have any questions, call Chris Urbaniak or Cassie Kregger.

Two New Adult Education Opportunities!

The Traveler's Path: Finding Spiritual Growth and Inspiration through Travel

Rev. Doug Brouwer will lead a series of classes inspired by his new book, *The Traveler's Path*. Travel shapes our identity, from ancient spiritual journeys to the modern movement of people across the globe. In his latest book, Douglas J. Brouwer, a pastor, scholar and lifelong traveler, invites readers to reflect on the profound, transformative power of travel in all its forms. The class will meet in the Michigan Room, Sundays at 11:15. Class begins April 27th.

Presby-What?

If you've been visiting with us and are curious about what membership in a PC(USA) church is all about, this class is for you! We will learn about the denomination's history and guiding beliefs, and how First Presbyterian of Holland lives out its calling to witness to the good news of God's love. All are welcome! This class will gather Sundays at 11:15 in the sanctuary beginning April 27th and run for 4 weeks.



Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

April 13 - Palm Sunday

No Education hour due to spring break

April 14 - Taizé Prayer Service // Christians Uniting in Song and Prayer (CUSP), is holding a community-wide Taizé Prayer on the Monday of Holy Week, April 14, at St. Francis de Sales Church (171 W. 13th St., at 7:30pm). The service will be an opportunity for Christians of the greater Holland/Zeeland area to come together for reflective, meditative prayer as we begin the holiest week of the year.

April 17 - Maundy Thursday service at 6pm

April 20 - Easter Sunday

No Education Hour due to spring break

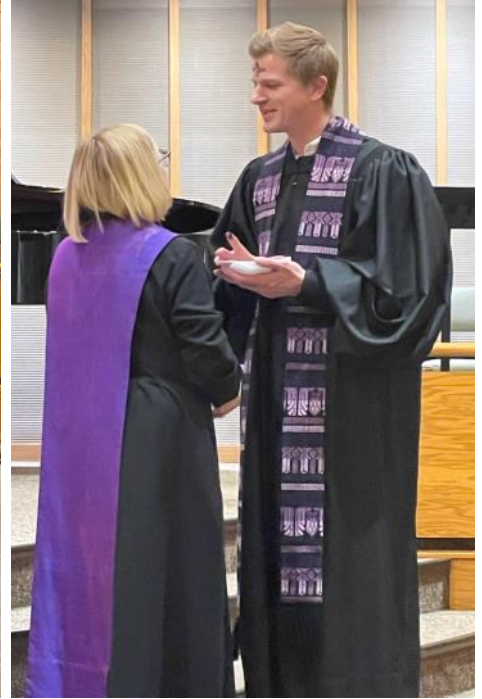
6:45am Sunrise communion service

9-10am Easter breakfast

9:30am Easter egg hunt

10am Worship with communion

<> Happenings Around FPC <>



Ash Wednesday service



<> Save the Date <>

Holland Community Theatre // Join us on Saturday, April 26th to see the comedy "Every Little Crook & Nanny" at HCT at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$18 at the sign-up table in the lobby. Optional dinner at the Curraugh at 5pm. See Chris Urbaniak with any questions.

Guest Speaker // The Men's Discussion group invites ALL adults (all genders) to come hear Dr. Andy Atwood (Semi-Retired Pastoral Counselor) speak to us on "grief work". Because this is a special speaker, we are opening the event to everyone. We will meet on Friday, May 2 at 7:30 am in the M&M Cafe. Questions, please contact Ross Hamlin, r.j.hamlin@att.net



Tulip Time is coming. Are you in need of a Dutch costume? Presbyterian Women are selling the costumes we used when we staffed the Tulip Time Information Booths. All costumes are priced \$25 and proceeds will be donated to the Preschool Scholarship fund. If you have a costume that you wish to donate, Please contact Linda Gebben, 916-801-6637.



first
presbyterian
church

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