



Presbyterian *Profiles*

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Looking towards Pentecost

As we look towards Pentecost (June 8th) and listen again to the story of the day that God's Spirit emboldened uncertain disciples to go back out into the world with the news of God's expansive welcome, I pray we will also be emboldened.

I pray we will be emboldened to ask questions of ourselves and of one another.

Let us challenge ourselves with the truth that there is always more we can learn about our faith, about scripture, about God. Let us gather on Sundays with expectation, asking, "What will God do in our midst today?"

How is God calling us to be a witness in our communities?

How is God calling us to be *in* the world but not *of* the world?

That day of Pentecost, people were gathered from a myriad of places; they spoke a diversity of languages. In that diversity, God rejoiced. It was just as God had dreamed at creation. Within the diversity, there was the unity of the Spirit. God's Spirit was calling them together in joy, in companionship, in faithfulness.

Pentecost is still unfolding around us. The disciples were accused of looking foolish (even drunk!) on that first Pentecost celebration. Let us not be afraid to make ourselves foolish for God as well. Let us love this world around us with expansive joy.

Blessings,

Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Courage to Pray

A few weeks ago, I sang the song, *Plowshare Prayer* by Spencer LaJoye. Several of you asked for the lyrics. They are printed on page 9. I would encourage you to listen to Spencer singing it, if you haven't already done so. To hear Spencer, copy and paste this url into your browser: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhOZv5i7CHY>).

This song doesn't sound like the kinds of songs we usually sing on Sunday mornings. It is not theologically dense. The melody isn't particularly sweeping. Instead, it sows something smaller—something softer, yet deeply sacred: a prayer in the language of weariness and hope. The lyrics are raw and tender—maybe less polished than what we might expect in a worship service, but this is why they ring so true. They are prayers forged in real life—in the trenches of grief, anger, doubt and vulnerability. The song invites us to bring our whole selves to God—even if our whole selves are broken into pieces.

This song gives us a way to pray that feels real. It feels authentic. The prayer doesn't rush to resolution. It dwells in the tension. The end of the song doesn't even resolve—it is left hanging asking us to imagine how we might faithfully move forward.

May we all have the courage to pray like this—not just in song, but in the way we live.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Paul



Have you considered joining us for Wild Wonder Camp (Peace Camp)? Happiness is guaranteed.

Wild Wonder Camp will be held June 23-27 from 9-11:45am each day at FPC. We welcome campers k-6th grade (entering in the fall) and teen helpers from 7-12th grade. We are seeking adult volunteers and assistants as well.

We are looking forward to another great week where we learn how to care for creation!

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

Peace,
Pastor Paul



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Worship Center Kids – YOU, along with the Good Shepherd, are the heart of the Worship Center. It has been a wonder-filled year being with you and witnessing a part of your faith journey. Your presence is important.

WC Celebrants – Gwen Boeve, Marie Burkholder, Carrie DeFeyter, Lori, Nate Laux, Jen Laux- Ludwig, and Sandy Updegraff; your spiritual guidance, faith, dedication, and commitment, continues to keep the Light of Christ burning. You are appreciated.

May has been a busy month – Marian, Charles, Ellarie, Ian and Whitney sang and signed Doxology with the Congregation in Worship (thank you Miss Beth M. for sharing your gift of ASL with us!). *Worship Center story, Gifts of the Spirit*, included the kids lighting their candles to the Gift of the Spirit they wished to receive. On Sunday, May 25, the kids had an interactive project to participate in and share what being inclusive and welcoming to all means to them. The world needs to be more like our kids; my heart is full. Kids and youth gathered for ice cream and fruit bars to celebrate a great year of Education Time. Education Time resumes in September.

For All, we are grateful.

Lori Klinesteker,
Children's Ministry





Presbyterian Women

You know when you go to the dentist and they give you a toothbrush? So look in your drawers and find those wrapped toothbrushes and bring 'em to church. We have a solution! Check out the list in the right column for more ideas. Same with wrapped bars of soap, combs, bandages, and towels.

Our members will be attending a SYNOD gathering of PW groups in Battle Creek in late June, where all these items will go into Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits for use in regional disaster areas after wildfires or floods.

A basket will be next to the elevator for these gifts.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE HYGIENE KITS

Please help us gather up these items!

- > GALLON-SIZE ZIPLOC BAGS
- > HAND TOWELS 16 X 28
- > WIDE-TOOTH COMBS
- > SOAP BARS – Individually Wrapped
- > ADHESIVE BANDAGES
- > TOOTH BRUSHES – Individually Wrapped

*thank
you*

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

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Outreach <>

We are proud to again have a very popular booth at Holland's PRIDE Festival June 28th, 1:00-6:00 at **Kollen Park (new park venue)**. We have a button maker that allows anyone to design their own button to take with them. We need volunteers to help set-up (11:30 - 12:30), participate during the festival (1:00-3:00 and/or 3:00-6:00) and tear down (6:00-7:00). There is a sheet on the sign-up table in the lobby. Please consider volunteering for this fun event. If you have questions, call Chris Urbaniak (616-836-9293) or Cassie Kregger (616-298-4164).

Maybe You? // We are looking for someone with a large back yard that will be willing to host the annual SHRIMP BOIL. Everything is provided (tables, chairs, food, set-up & clean-up), we just need the space. In the past it has been held in August, but we are very flexible. Contact Chris Urbaniak (616-836-9293) if you want to consider volunteering. Thanks.

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

Habitat for Humanity // The next Habitat workdays are scheduled for June 19 (8am to noon only) and July 10 (1pm to 4pm only). Questions can be directed to Bill Haines, wehaines@icloud.com

Music Leadership at FPC // The Personnel Council has been working with Pastor Cathy and Pastor Paul for the last several months on how best to fill the music leadership role at FPC. After a 6-month trial period, Paul has determined that he would like to take over the music leadership on an ongoing basis. This is wonderful news for our church family. Now it's up to Personnel to formalize this added responsibility.



Absorbing the role of music leadership not only expands the scope of Pastor Paul's current position; but also adds to Pastor Cathy's position as she covers some of the responsibilities Paul has had in the past. In light of these changes, the Personnel Council is supplementing both Cathy's and Paul's income using previously approved funds to support this endeavor.

<> 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.

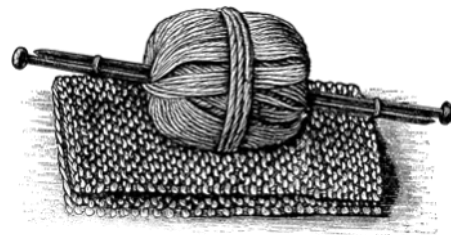
If you would like to learn more about how to be involved in any of these ministries, contact deacons@fpcholland.org or call the church office.

<> 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 fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Superior Room. Future meeting dates are June 25, July 23, and Aug 27. Contact Cathy with any questions. *All are welcome.*

Men's Discussion Group // Meets at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. We will meet June 13 & 27. *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 will be June 8 discussing the book, *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purnell. 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 June 16.

<> May Session Report <>

The Session of FPC held its regular meeting on May 20th with Cathy moderating. Cassie opened the meeting with a reading from Ephesians and a prayer.

Kathy and Don Sexton (transfer of letter) and Richard Hulse (reaffirmation of faith) were welcomed into the membership of the congregation. Our new members shared their faith journeys and experiences, and what brought them to FPC. They will be welcomed in worship at a later date.

Connections Council is looking for a location for the Shrimp Boil, and are hoping that a member will be willing to have this event at their home.

Finance/Stewardship will be wrapping up the, *A Place for All* capital campaign (phase 2) on Sunday, May 25th.

Outreach will be planning "5th Sunday" special offerings to be used to support emerging needs in our community.

Worship is excited to share that Rev. Barb Scheur will be preaching for *More Light Sunday* on June 22nd.

The Session voted to hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 1 for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee. The proposed committee includes: Lauren Stouffer (active elder), Cassie Kregger (active elder), and members at large: Linda Clark, Rebecca Gardiner, Mari Dissler, Ann Siakel, Sandy Peterson and Gail Hering as a representative of the Deacons.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Paul.

The next regular meeting of the Session will be on Tuesday, June 17 at 7pm.

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Thank you for your kind and generous expressions of sympathy after the unexpected passing of Dave.

Thank you for the beautiful service and the very comforting words from Cathy and Paul.

- For the choir under the direction of Paul, your voices spoke to my heart.
- For Tim R. and the technology that allowed family and friends all over the country to watch the service.
- For the hospitality provided after the service
- For special church members who quickly filled in for Dave on committees and Session.

But most of all, thank you for being our church home for over 44 years.

With love and appreciation,

Jan Zessin & family



<> Looking Ahead <>

ASL Classes NEW DAY & TIME // Would you like to take a class in American Sign Language?

Classes begin June 5th (Thursdays) from 6-8pm and run for 12 weeks. There will be no class the week of July 4th. Cost: \$60 (includes a textbook) Note: If you took this class last fall, and have a textbook, the cost is \$40. Please call the church office to register.

Bird Brunch // The Deacons invite the senior members to join them for a "Bird Brunch" on Saturday, June 7 at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy delicious food and play some bird themed games. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or you may contact the church office.

When you sign up, please let us know if you;

- * have special dietary needs
- * need to be picked up by the church bus
- * can help set up Friday at 1:00 in the afternoon or Saturday morning at 8:00am
- . can help clean up after the event



More Light Sunday // Join us June 22nd, and listen to our very own Rev. Barb Schreur, preach.

What is "More Light"? More Light is a partner organization working within the PC (USA), working toward the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) – and in society. MLP's work is about pointing towards a particular way of operating in Christian communities with God's abundance at the center of all we do and who we are. As a More Light congregation, we pledge to engage in ongoing education and advocacy at FPC, and one way we do that is by holding a More Light Sunday each year.



Whitecaps Outing // Join us for a group outing to see the West Michigan Whitecaps take on the Lake County Captains on Sunday, July 13. Game time is 2:00. We have seats reserved along the 3rd base line, with handicap seating available. We can use the church bus for those who don't want to drive themselves. Tickets are \$17 each with an optional hot dog/pop voucher for an additional \$6. FIRM deadline for signing up and paying for your tickets/food is Sunday, June 8.

Watch for a sign up sheet in the narthex soon. Contact Michele Richardson with any questions at 616-510-8683 or mjrichardson65@gmail.com.

Plowshare prayer

Written by Spencer LaJoye

Dear blessed creator, dear mother, dear savior
Dear father, dear brother, dear holy other
Dear sibling, dear baby, dear patiently waiting
Dear sad and confused, dear stuck and abused

Dear end-of-your-rope, dear worn out and broke,
Dear go-it-alone, dear running from home
Dear righteously angry, forsaken by family
Dear jaded and quiet, dear tough and defiant

*I pray that I'm heard
And I pray that this works*

I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
against you and your heart, against you and your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare, of sorts
that it might break you open, it might help you grow

I pray that your body gets all that it needs
and if you don't want healing, I just pray for peace
I pray that your burden gets lighter each day
I pray the mean voice in your head goes away

I pray that you honor the grief as it comes
I pray you can feel all the life in your lungs
I pray that if you go all day being brave
that you can go home, go to bed feeling safe

I pray you're forgiven, I pray you forgive
I pray you set boundaries and openly live
I pray that you feel you are worth never leaving
I pray that you know I will always believe you

*I pray that you're heard
and I pray that this works*

Amen on behalf of the last and the least
On behalf of the anxious, depressed, and unseen
Amen for the workers, the hungry, the houseless
Amen for the lonely and recently spouseless

Amen for the queers and their closeted peers
Amen for the bullied who hold in their tears
Amen for the mothers of little Black sons
Amen for the kids who grow up scared of guns

Amen for the addicts, the ashamed and hungover
Amen for the calloused, the wisened, the sober
Amen for the ones who want life to be over
Amen for the leaders who lose their composure

Amen for the parents who just lost their baby
Amen for the chronically ill and disabled
Amen for the children down at the border
Amen for the victims of our law and order

*I pray that you're heard
and I pray that this works*

I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
against you and your heart, against you and
your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare, of sorts



first
presbyterian
church

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