

Presbyterian *Profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2025

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Look to God

This summer has felt more like a "southern" summer than a Michigan one. Perhaps the intense heat our bodies have been experiencing is a reflection of what our souls have also been enduring in these troubling times. We continue to witness brutality unfolding around us, especially directed at our immigrant neighbors. We continue to witness our nation becoming increasingly divided and angry. Hope can grow very weak.

Yet, we look to God, and to the strength found in community. We hold fast to what God has asked of us, "to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly," and continue to be people of bold faith.

At our August Session meeting, Lauren shared the following poem, an encouragement to tend your soul as you care for all of life.

Blessings and peace -
Cathy

"Instructions for Having a Soul" by Joseph Fasano

Take it out in the rain sometimes.
It has vast, invisible wings that gather dirt
and need rinsing.
When it tries to kill you
that is because you've forgotten
to let it look into someone's eyes
for longer than a minute.
It needs that the way a bee needs nectar
in the early morning dew.
Every so often, take it on a journey.
Let it read long, hard books
and let it stare into the depths of the sea.
Yes, you can give it chips and whiskey
but from time to time let it kneel
in a place that is holy
like the simple cathedral of the willows.
All it wants is to live, to keep becoming.
Nourish it, and it puts down roots, it opens.

Continued on page 6



Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor
and Director of Music

Fall is Here!

There is something about the fall season that feels like a fresh start. The air turns crisp, routines settle in, and our church comes alive with new energy for the program year! This fall both the Youth Group and Choir are kicking off exciting

YOUTH GROUP:

Our Youth Group meets every Sunday from 11:10-12:00. This is a great way for middle and high school students to catch up after worship, eat some snacks, play games together and explore what it means to follow Jesus. Our theme this fall is “Walking with Jesus” -- each week we’ll dive into stories from the life of Jesus in fun and interactive ways as we explore who Jesus is and what following him means. The youth group also has some special events this fall:

September 21 – *All Presbytery Youth Event*, First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, 5:30–7:30 p.m. (bus provided)

September 28 – *Crane’s Orchard Corn Maze*, 1:00–3:00 p.m., with friends from First Pres Grand Haven & Holland UCC (bus provided)

November 2 – *Halloween Party!* With FPGH and Holland UCC (details soon)

If you’re a student (or know one!) this is the perfect time to jump in. Bring a friend, bring your questions. You’re welcome here!

CHOIR:

Fall is also a wonderful time to try out the choir! We do more than just sing—we laugh, pray, and create community together. We have many members who have sung for years, but there is always space for new voices!

We rehearse every Sunday at 9:00. We have a ton of great music planned for the fall! Come be a part of it!



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Welcome back to Worship Center; a calm, meditative, safe and sacred space that is intentionally prepared for children to continue to explore their faith journeys, among friends.

Worship Center is divided into two spaces, Pre-K through 2nd grade, and 3rd grade through 5th grade. Parents, you know your child best, if you would like for your child to be in a room that is not their age group, please inform Lori Klinesteker.

We are excited to welcome Kathy Sexton to Worship Center as Celebrant. Her gifts, love and faith are a true blessing for all.

Kids - Summer was grand, we are looking forward to reuniting with you and hearing all about your

summer adventures, and welcoming you to worship with us in your space, finding yourself in the Story, responding in the way you choose, while establishing friendships in a kind, inclusive, and peace-filled way. Gwen Boeve, Marie Burkholder, Lori Klinesteker, Jen Ludwig Laux, Nate Laux, Kiki Leman, Kathy Sexton, and Sandy Updegraaf.

You are always welcome in this place, as Celebrant, Assistant, Guest, or to share your talent, personal experience, travels etc., with the kids. Sharing your Light with us, truly spreads Christ's Light into the world.

All are invited and welcome;
Christ's Light will be shining,
~ Lori Klinesteker





Presbyterian Women

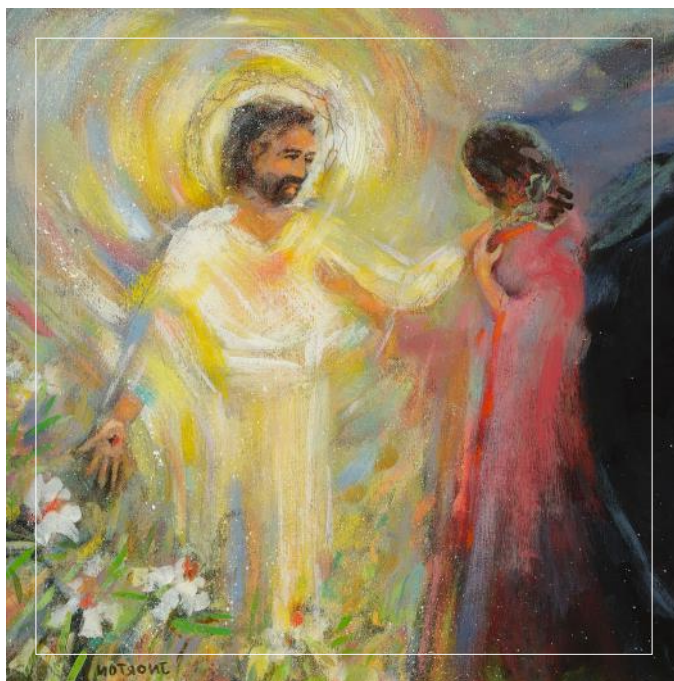
On Wednesday, September 10, Presbyterian Women will resume our annual Bible Study at 9:30 am when the Miriam Circle meets in the Michigan Room. Pastor Cathy Hoop will present the series, written by The Rev. Dr. Rashell Hunter.

Her blog for Lesson 1 says, “The PW Bible study explores recent women’s biblical scholarship and highlights models of resilience, joy and our identity in Jesus Christ. Mary, the Tower is a model of resilience. While some have diminished Mary, she was known as a witness to Christ and a tower of faith whom we should pay attention to, as she leads us to “the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”[6]

Interested? Have questions? Not sure if you’re a Presbyterian Woman? We welcome all church women to this monthly Bible Study. There is coffee and goodies and we take turns leading the Lesson and providing goodies. Discussion is good and these friendships are steady. Our “new” Michigan Room technology should enhance hearing and the video portion of the lesson.

Learn along with us!

Janet Magennis,
PW Communications



GET THE LATEST NEWS *from* PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Announcements <>

Worship Volunteer Opportunity // Would you like to participate in worship leadership? We have many wonderful volunteers who serve as liturgist each week, leading various readings in the service, but we always welcome new voices. If you would like to participate, please sign up on the table by the elevator. All ages are welcome. (If you are already volunteering, you do not need to sign up again.)

Nursery Announcement // Want to hang out with remarkable group of children and experience their joy and enthusiasm? We are seeking additional adults of all ages to engage with and provide care for the youngest members of our congregation during Sunday morning worship on a rotating basis. Growing our group of volunteers will help us continue this special ministry. To learn more, contact Sandy Peterson at ssb2peter@gmail.com or Lori Klinesteker at Lori@fpc.org.

Women's Retreat Volunteers // The Women's Retreat Planning Team would love to have a few more folks around the table. If you would be interested in assisting with the planning of this wonderful event (Feb. 2026), please contact Carleen Bauer by email at carleenbauer@gmail.com. Our retreat leader will be Rev. Barb Schreur.



Look to God *Continued from pg. 2*

But starve it, and the mind, the flesh is empty;
the world breaks down; symphonies go unwritten;
the rockets fall; the children die
in flames.

Listen. It is not too late
to wake it. Say the names
of the wild, the forgotten things:
bluebird, red wolf, robin; violet, child, clover.
You cannot save the world but you can open
the window for the trapped wren in the cellar.
Read a book to a blind man, to your father.
Tell a child you do believe her anger.
Make your life the first life that you save.

<> 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.

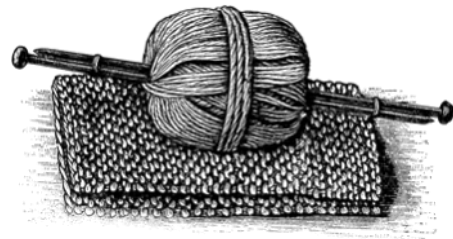
<> Connect Together <>

Men's Book Group // Join us September 8th (second Monday of each month) at 2:30pm at FPC. We will be reading the book, *An Unfinished Love Story* by Dorothy Kearns Goodwin. Contact Don Cowie with questions.

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. Our next meeting is Sept. 24. 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 September 12 & 26 *Join us!* Contact Ross Hamlin 616-399-0509 or Bob Gansen 269-753-7024 if you have any questions.

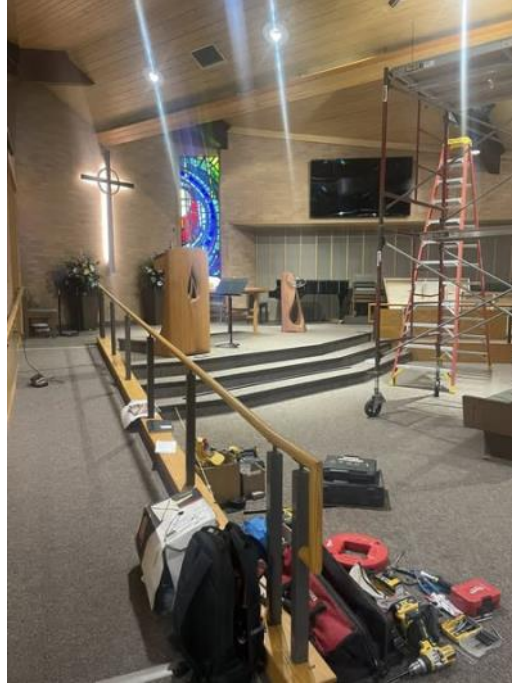
Women's Book Club // The Women's Book Club meets the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe. Our next meeting will be Sept. 14 discussing the book, *What I Can Do* by Mary K. Hoodhood and Liza McNeille. Contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com if you have questions.



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 Sept. 15.

<> Happenings Around FPC <>

Members and visitors may have noticed a change. A complete new lighting system has been installed in the sanctuary. One of the goals was to improve overall consistency of brightness in the pews. The second goal was to utilize LED bulbs, thereby reducing energy requirements and lowering costs. The third goal was to have lights dimmable, as needed, for special occasions. The final goal was to backlight the cross.



The 2025 FPC “Don’t Rock the Boat” float adventure / canoe trip took place the weekend of July 11-13 at Mystery Creek Campgrounds in Newaygo.

Thank you to Helen Teutsch for the photos.



The 2026 camp and paddle trip is planned for July 10-12, Please contact Helen Teutsch or Colleen Ball with questions.

More photos on page 10



<> Looking Ahead <>



Fall Kick Off Picnic // Join us for a picnic on Sunday, September 7th, immediately following worship. We will gather outside (28th Street will be closed) to enjoy hot dogs (meat and veggie options) and sides (provided by you!). Bring lawn games to share (Corn Hole, Ladder Toss, etc.) We will have a bouncy house for the kids! A joyful day to join together as a community!



Children's and Youth Classes Resume September 14th // Please contact Lori Klinesterker if you have questions about the children's Worship Centers (ages K – 5th) or Pastor Paul for youth group info!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Dinner for 7 // September 20 at 5:30pm. This event encourages couples & singles to gather in small groups for a meal and conversation. The hosts that sign-up provide the main dish and everyone attending brings a side dish or dessert. Parents, do you need a night out for adult conversation?? The Connections Council will reimburse your babysitting costs so that you may attend! Sign up in the lobby.

Holland Community Theatre // October 4th at 7:30pm presents, *The Mouse Trap*. Optional dinner at the Curragh at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$17. Sign-up in the lobby.

Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot along with a pie baking contest // October 26th at 4:00pm. Members open their trunks and pass out candy to costumed kids/adults. Home made pies will be tasted and voted on using tickets. Sign up to bake a pie!



Exciting News to Share!

Sheri Harris, former Building Administrator at First Presbyterian Church, Holland, Michigan, has accepted a first call to serve as the Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rome, Georgia. Sheri's ordination will take place on Sunday, October 26, 2025, in Georgia, but will be live-streamed from Westminster's YouTube channel so friends near and far can join in and attend this service.

Before Sheri moves with her partner, Les, she would love to gather with the friends, family and community here in Michigan who have been such an important part of her longer than expected journey to ordination.

An Open House is planned for:
Sunday, September 21, 2025
2:00 – 4:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church

It will be a time to reminisce, catch up, share stories, enjoy refreshments and celebrate new beginnings together. Your presence would mean so much to Sheri as she prepares for this next chapter.

Can't make it? Notes of congratulations or donations towards stoles or pastoral resources can be addressed to:

Sheri Harris
c/o Mickey Harris
3368 Thornberry Court
Zeeland, MI 49464



More photos from the 2025 FPC "Don't Rock the Boat" float adventure / canoe trip.



We'd love to have you join us next year!
July 10-12, 2026



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