



presbyterian *profiles*

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Gratitude?

November is here, and we are entering a season in which our focus is gratitude...

Gratitude?

While there is still chaos in the Middle East,

While a hurricane has caused devastation in Jamaica, Cuba and Haiti,

While the government is still shutdown,

While those dependent upon SNAP wonder how they will fill hungry stomachs,

While the divide deepens...

I feel guilty to have so much for which to be grateful. What do I do?

In the face of all of this, my gratitude must deepen.

While I live in a place of peace and environmental stability,

While I have a roof over my head and food on my table.

In the face of all this, may our gratitude propel us into deeper care for those in need, bolder speech on behalf of the vulnerable, more sacrificial living.

In our gratitude, let us encourage one another to increase our efforts to care for our neighbors, to embody our gratitude through compassion.

Friends, let us continue to work for the world which God envisions, God's beautiful dream for all creation. One day...one day.

Peace be with you,

Cathy



Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor
Director of Music

Praying for Our Confirmation Students

We have three students who are beginning their confirmation journey this fall: Ben, Nora and Will. They had their first confirmation class on October 26 and will continue through February, using the *Big God, Big Questions* curriculum from the PC (USA). This is a time for our youth to ask honest questions, explore scripture, and think deeply and carefully about what they believe and how their faith connects to everyday life.

Each student is partnered with a mentor—Gary, Erin, and Lori—who will walk alongside them, sharing their experiences of faith and helping them discern how God is at work in their lives. We are deeply grateful for these mentors and the relationships being built through this journey.

When we baptize children in our church, we promise to nurture them in faith, to pray for them, and to help them know and love Jesus. Confirmation is one of the ways we live out that promise—it is the church community helping young people make their faith their own.

There are a few ways to support our confirmands:

1. Bringing a meal for them—there is a sign-up sheet in the M&M Café.
2. Pray for them.
 - a. Pray for open hearts and minds as they explore together.
 - b. Pray for wisdom, patience, and joy for their mentors
 - c. Pray that this is a season of growth and discovery for the student.

Let's surround these students with love and encouragement as they take these important steps in their journey with God.





Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Centers: Keeping In Touch

I am sharing with you a portion of philosophy authored by Colette Volkema DeNooyer in 2000, comparing the Sunday School model vs. Worship Center model. Children, environment and materials will be covered in a future article.

Blessed to be worshipping and wondering with our children;
All are invited and welcome.

Christ's Light is always shining.

Lori Klinesteker,
Children's Ministry

What's the Difference?

Sunday School model

Goals: Teaches facts about God and about our beliefs.

Content: The story/lesson has a specific moral lesson.

Children are expected to grasp and reiterate that moral concept.

Teacher: The teacher "tells" the children a story, as well as what they need to know about God.

Teacher is the leader and Director of all the children's activities during their time together.

Worship Center model

Enables children to encounter and experience God and then to give expression to that encounter.

Stories/Lessons are open-ended, allowing children the opportunity to "wonder" – to make the story their own.

Verbalization of conclusions is not mandatory.

Teacher (Celebrant) is "in" the story with the children. Allows story image to "rest" with children.

Teacher (Celebrant) is facilitator; making space for the work which only God's Holy Spirit can accomplish.

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Presbyterian Women

As we move from October, where we explored our identity in discipleship through the study of Mary and Martha, we can anticipate a more intensely personal experience in surviving difficult challenges and tests of faith. [And wow – this next Lesson is timely for me. Meeting our mid-70s with significant health issues for both of us has been multiple tests of everything in our lives the past couple years. Yet we don't feel alone because of our family and our congregational connections here at FPC Holland. PW is one of my abiding connections, and this year's PW study is one of the best.]

PW Miriam Circle will continue with Lesson 3 "Jesus is Tested" on November 12 at 9:30 am in the Michigan Room. The technology upgrades in the Michigan Room are very helpful to hearing each other and using the resources provided within the monthly study. A+ FPC!

Planning ahead, November will see the return of the big basket next to the elevator for our annual Christmas support of RESILIENCE with women's



Lesson 3 Artwork: "The Temptation in the Wilderness" by Briton Rivi re

and children's necessities like underwear, socks, and foundation items. When a mother and children flee a bad domestic situation suddenly, they just need to go, not pack. So as you shop, please pick up some of these much-needed undies so RESILIENCE has a good supply to offer. And thank you for helping PW to fill this need.

Coming up December 10 at Noon is our annual PW Christmas Soup Luncheon in the narthex area. This event is an easy, social time. We will provide 3 hot soup choices, breads, and a simple dessert. All women of the church are welcome to join us. A sign-up sheet will be available mid-November. We have invited Jean Flower, whose art is currently in our narthex, to bring her program "Flight Feathers" to share with us! If you are curious about PW, come at 9:30 am and join us for Lesson 4, where we discuss God's grace and love because of who we are as beloved children – not just what we do.

Janet Magennis,
PW Communications

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 12 in the Michigan Room at 9:30 am.

GET THE LATEST NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> 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.



Congratulations to Janet Magennis who received the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Lifetime Award on October 19, 2025.

<> Outreach <>

It's Holiday Advocacy Time

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is again looking for sponsors for their children for the holidays. Child sexual abuse has many adverse effects on a family beyond trauma and physical harm, including a huge financial impact. Your sponsorship allows one less stressor on a family who is experiencing this devastation.

On November 16 & 23, I will have the names of 20 children that need sponsors in the lobby at church. The child's wish list will have items in four categories: wear, read, want & need. You can choose just 1 or 2 categories or all four. Feel free to sponsor a child with a friend dividing the list as you wish. Suggested spending per child is \$150. There will also be a list of items needed for the Stocking Store.



CAC STOCKING STORE

Help the Children's Advocacy Center stock a "store" for parents and caregivers to "shop" for their children's stockings!

ITEMS NEEDED

Candy	\$5/\$10 gift cards
Socks	Headphones
Hair accessories	Keychains/Lanyards
Lotions	Small Playdough Kit
Chapstick	Small Kinetic Sand Kit
Makeup	Hot Wheels
Nail polish	Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Art supplies	Temporary tattoos
Jewelry	Small toys
Bath bombs	LEGO kits
Stickers	Slime kits
Fidget toys	Travel games
Cards	& more

Please deliver donations to the CAC prior to Dec. 05

Gifts will need to be dropped off at CAC or back at the church by December 7th. There is also plans for a drop off event at CAC with availability to get a tour of the center. It is a great facility and if you haven't seen it, worth your time. More details on that when available.

If you are wanting to sponsor a child, but won't be at the church those days, feel free to contact Janet Hostetler at 740-704-4822 or email janethostetler@gmail.com.

Thank you!



If you would like to support the Stocking Store by making a monetary donation, click [here](#) or scan the QR code for our CAC Venmo.



Habitat for Humanity // Future Habitat work days are scheduled for November 13, December 11 and January 15. Questions can be directed to Bill Haines, wehaines@icloud.com.

<> Connect Together <>

Men's Book Group // Join us November 10 (second Monday of each month) at 2:30pm at FPC. We will be discussing the book, *Eiffel's Tower* by Jill Jonnes. 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 November 26. Contact Cathy with any questions. All are welcome.

Men's Discussion Group // We meet at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. We plan to meet November 14 & 28. 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 November 9 discussing the book, *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. 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 17.

<> Session Report <>

The Session held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 21, with all members in attendance either virtually or via Zoom. Bruce Rosensteel opened the meeting with a devotional reminding us about living with an attitude of compassion, for we never know what someone is dealing with. We continued with prayer before moving into the evening's work.

The Treasurer's report was received, with an optimistic outlook for our financial strength as we wind up the year. Rob Colten is transitioning in to the roll which Bob Knittel has held for many years.

The councils were in the process of submitting their proposed budgets for 2026 as the church enters into Stewardship Season.

This year's theme is "A Chorus of Gratitude," celebrating our thankfulness to God through song as we encourage one another to participate in the life of the FPC through our gifts of time and finances.

No action items were brought to the Session from the councils.

Cathy brought a request for the Session to consider regarding partnering with FUMC's Refresh program in their efforts to provide a warming shelter during

the coldest nights of the winter. Refresh is seeking partners who might be able to open up overnight for a family in need of shelter. While most families are able to receive shelter through local agencies, there are a few occasions in which FUMC has a need for additional spaces. A training session for volunteers is being offered at FUMC on November 3 at 7:00pm, and several individuals are planning to attend. The Session approved the request to pursue this partnership with the provided training. Our insurance policy will also be reviewed, as was requested.

Lori Klinesteker, the Clerk of the Session, brought forward a list of names to be reviewed. The list included individuals who have not been participating in the life of the church, some for 5-10 years. The majority of these names will be removed from the church rolls. As we make a per capita donation to our Presbytery, this reduction in the rolls will enable us to reflect our actual membership rather than an inflated number.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Please note this is a summary of the meeting. Complete minutes are available upon request. FPC's Session meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

<> Happenings Around FPC <>



On Sunday, October 19th, we gathered with our furry friends to give thanks for the gifts they bring us! Here's a glimpse of Erin Magennis' Ashanti, who was seriously considering joining the choir!



Tunk-or-Treat and pie contest fun! // Thank you to all who helped to make make this event so much fun! The costumes were creative, the smiles contagious and the pies were delicious!



News from Hope College Office of the Provost // Deans' Council and Status Committee are delighted to announce the naming of new faculty to endowed professorships including **Dr. Leah Chase**, the Edward A. & Elizabeth Hofma Professor of Biology & Chemistry. Congratulations to Dr. Leah Chase and other faculty on their phenomenal work and service to the institution.



Stewardship: A Chorus of Generosity

The theme for our stewardship season this year is a "Chorus of Generosity." Music is a powerful presence in our lives, helping us celebrate, mourn, reflect, and feel the wonder and struggle of being alive. In short: music builds hope, culture, and community.

And that's where you come in. Communities of faith are one of the few places where neighbors sing together, and First Presbyterian Church is no exception, from hymns to prayers to choir anthems. Whenever we gather for worship, study, or acts of compassion, we *become* a kind of music, a beautiful melody that sustains and inspires. We become a chorus of generosity, supporting each other, our neighborhood, and God's wider world.

Our First Presbyterian church is a diverse community worshiping, working, and serving together, sometimes in unison, sometimes in harmony. Our differences of opinion, perspective, and passion make our chorus even stronger and more beautiful. A chorus of generosity, continually giving gifts to one another and the wider world, and therefore well worth supporting – which is exactly why I'm delighted to give, and doubly delighted to be a part of this year's giving campaign team.

A pledge card is available at church for your prayerful consideration. Please bring it with you to our Chorus of Generosity Hymn Sing on November 23 – a chance to join in God's spirit of generosity and celebrate the community we're building together.

In addition to our financial support we encourage you to lend your voices, hearts, and hands to be actively involved in the work of the church. Please prayerfully consider participating in Worship and the Arts, Community Outreach, Buildings and Grounds, Nurturing the Body, or Congregational Care.

Don't forget to also take part in our First Presbyterian Favorite hymns survey. Drop it in the offering plate or contact the office by November 20 with your suggestion so that we can plan the celebration for November 23.

Every gift matters – large or small. Everyone has a part to sing. All we have to do is raise our voices and make a joyful noise!

In harmony,
Tim Staal, and the Chorus of Generosity Campaign Team



*Worshipping^g serving^g and living with a 'fresh'
vision' of God's 'vibrant' energy and 'grace' for all.*