



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
March 22, 2026 // 10am  
Fifth Sunday in Lent // True Allegiance

**CENTERING WORDS:**

“Ultimately, God rules this world; it is a matter of whether we acknowledge and live by this or not.” ~Illustrated Ministry, *Work of Imagination*

**ENTERING GOD’S PRESENCE**

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**GREETING**

One: The God of life be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

**GATHERING SONG #70 *What Does the Lord Require of You?***

Janet Morrow

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Erin Magennis

One: Come into God’s presence,  
you who imagine and you who seek,  
you who disrupt and you who repair.

**All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

One: Come into God’s keeping,  
you who bear the divine image,  
you who are in this world but not of it,  
you who feel tested or tried.

**All: In Christ, we gather and we belong.**

One: Come into God’s presence,  
singing for joy and for justice;  
bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

## \*OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN #346 *For the Healing of the Nations*

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, you see the powerful people in this world as they scramble for more, keeping the weak in places of suffering. Even though we are aware of their evil alliances, we contribute to these systems and power structures with our money, our time, and our attention.

**All: We confess that our purchases support harmful practices and abusive regimes. We confess that our entertainment choices, at times, center people who mock the weak. We confess that our participation in consumerism and disposability causes destruction of creation. Forgive us for aligning our allegiance with systems and corporations that harm life and cause suffering. Help us resist the temptation to devote ourselves to worldly ways that offend your righteousness. We choose to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, so we might have open hands to serve you better. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN #727 *The Servant Song* (vs.1-2)

ANTHEM

*When the Poor Ones*

arr. David M. Cherwien

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Mark 12:13-17

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: Give to the world what is the world's...

Exhale: ...give to God what is God's.

## SERMON

*True Allegiance*

Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

All: **We believe there is no other object of our allegiance or devotion that compares to the Way of Jesus.**

**This devotion supremely outmatches any allegiance to country, team, or people group.**

**We believe that when we divide our allegiance among other powers, our faith is diluted by lesser ambitions.**

**We lose sight of our calling, and we compromise our values.**

**We believe our allegiance to Christ's way of love and justice informs all other promises, contracts, covenants, and relationships.**

**When forced to choose between Caesar's way and Christ's way, we choose Christ because Christ first chose us. Amen.**

\*HYMN #372 *O For a World*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

### LIFE AT FIRST

*Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you. If you have a prayer request, you are invited to fill out a prayer card (found in the pew-backs) and put it in the offering plate. The ushers will deliver it to the pastors.*

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY #606**

**All: Praise God whose image we all bear.  
Praise Christ whose mercy we all share.  
Praise Spirit making justice grow.  
One God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**All: Generous God, we bring our gifts before you and your church like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. May each gift of every size bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**One: ...Gracious One, in your mercy,**

**All: hear our prayer.**

*Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator," "Our Mother," or "Our Parent."*

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #716** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

**CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING SONG #747** *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

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**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis,  
FPC Choir, Marcia Huizenga, Erin Magennis, Janet Morrow

**Thanks to:** Sound and Video Tim Richardson, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,  
M&M Café Providers, Kiki Leman and Nursery Care Providers

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lenten Book Study Adult Education** // Continues today at 11:15am in the Michigan Room as we study the book, *Turning Over Tables*, by Kathy Escobar.

**Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary** // Help us create a beautiful worship space for Easter Sunday by purchasing a plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. Pat's Floral will deliver potted daisies that will be in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, then can go home with you after the service. Order forms are available outside the church office. Please put forms and payment in the bookkeeper's office **by Sunday, March 22** (checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line). Contact Lauren Stouffer if you have any questions.

**Member in Need of a Ride to Church** // Bob Morris is looking for a ride on Sunday mornings. He lives near the church. Though he has a bike, the weather has not been very conducive for riding lately! Please look him up in the church directory and give him a call if you can help. Questions? Contact Cathy.

**Lenten Labyrinth Experience** // March 26 from 6:30–8pm

Join Pastor Paul for a guided prayer labyrinth experience in the fellowship hall. The evening will include learning about the labyrinth, a guided walk, and time for reflection. All are welcome. Can't attend? The labyrinth is always open for personal prayer — consider walking it during Holy Week.

**March 29 is our Fifth Sunday Offering** // The month of March brings the blessing of a 5th Sunday. On 5th Sundays we hold a special offering to support one of our outreach partners. This month, we are supporting Good Samaritan's housing ministry. For over a decade Good Samaritan has served Ottawa County as the designated Housing Assessment and Resource Agency. In support of their philosophy that safe, stable and affordable housing is a basic human right, they provide supportive housing services and rental assistance to households in crisis. Your generous prayers and support are truly appreciated. You can find more information about Good Samaritan in the Outreach kiosk or on the web!

**Maundy Thursday Service April 2 at 6pm** // Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread and a brief intergenerational service that will include an opportunity to wash each other's hands and feet. Sign up on the sign up table to contribute soup, salad, bread, or fruit. Volunteers are also needed to help to help set up and clean up.

**Easter Breakfast** // Our annual Easter Breakfast (9am) plans are in the works. The menu includes baked French toast, ham, beverages, fresh fruit and baked goods including gluten-free and nut-free. The breakfast is free (donations are accepted) but we do need volunteers to help make this breakfast enjoyable for all.

Please volunteer on the sign-up table in the lobby. Hope you can join us!

- Saturday, April 4th at 10am to set up
- Sunday, April 5th at 8:00am to set-up and serve
- Clean-up at 11:00 after the service.
- Sign up to bring baked goods (No nuts, no nut oils, no nut extracts or flavors)
- Sign up to bring Gluten-free baked goods
- Sign up to bring fresh fruit

**Habitat for Humanity** // Next Habitat for Humanity workday is **April 9**. Questions? Contact Bill Haines, wehaines@icloud.com

**Men's Book Group** // All meetings are held at FPC on the second Monday of the month at 2:30pm. Join us! Our next meeting is **April 13**: *Gales of November* by John U. Bacon.

**Presby What?** // Would you like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), or about First Presbyterian of Holland? Curious about membership at FPC? Join us on **Sunday mornings (4/12 - 5/3)** at 11:15 - 12:00 in the sanctuary for an opportunity to learn about the history, theology and mission of the PC(USA) and FPC. A sign-up sheet is available on the entryway table. Questions? Contact Cathy at cathy@fpcholland.org.

**Rev. Doug Brouwer invites you to join him for:** Faith Speaking Into Crisis: What does the church say when it can no longer be silent? The church does not confess its faith in a vacuum. The great Reformed confessions of the modern era were forged in moments of crisis — when the comfortable formulas of routine religion were no longer adequate, when the gospel itself was at stake — not unlike today. Each of the documents studied in this series was the church's answer to the question: What do we say in this moment?

- Session 1) The Barmen Declaration (1934),
- Session 2) The Confession of 1967,
- Session 3) The Belhar Confession (1986), and
- Session 4) The Accra Confession (2004)

**Class runs: April 12 - May 3** in the Michigan Room. Virtual option will be available.

**Community-Wide Song & Prayer** // Celebrating together the International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. "There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." Ephesians 4:4. **Sunday, April 19** at 5pm at Maranatha Church (918 Central Ave, Holland). For more information go to [www.CUSPholland.org](http://www.CUSPholland.org).

**4 Week Spring Taiji Class** // Discovering the Health & Balance Benefits of Taiji (tai chi)  
Taiji is a natural exercise to do and is one of the most effective workouts today to enhance mobility, improve balance while bringing relaxation. Taiji is an uplifting healing exercise for the body & mind promoting overall health & well-being. Known as an internal martial art, taiji has evolved over the years into an effective way to relieve stress and anxiety because it promotes relaxation and now well known for improving balance on many levels. It is an exercise for every age.

What: Four Week Spring Taiji (tai chi) Class

**Dates: Tuesday April 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th** // Time: 5:30pm - 6:15pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church 659 State Street, Holland Michigan

Cost: \$40.00 includes access to free online practice and lesson videos

Questions: [chris@timefortaiji.com](mailto:chris@timefortaiji.com) or call 616-541-5933

**Escape Ministries** // If you need help with a project and want to give youth a job, hire a youth team from Escape Ministries to do it! We show up with a truck, an adult team leader, three insured-youth workerd, and most of the tools needed for spring or summer projects such as weeding, mulching, cleaning, moving, or whatever else you need. Inquire at [escape-out.org/hire](http://escape-out.org/hire) or call 616-396-4481 x210.

**Save the Date** // As you start making summer plans, consider joining us at Mystery Creek Campground for our paddle weekend, July 10-12. Come and camp or come for just the day - paddle or just hang out with us. It's a wonderful way to spend time outdoors growing friendships and having fun! Watch for more details.

### Holy Week and Easter Sunday Service Times

**March 29** - Palm Sunday

**April 2** - Maundy Thursday service at 6pm. This is a family friendly event that will take place in the Fellowship Hall. This service will include a simple meal of soup and bread. Sign up in the narthex.

**April 5** - Easter Sunday

6:30 am Sunrise Communion service in the FPC Memorial Garden

9-10am Easter breakfast

9:30am Easter egg hunt

10am Worship with Communion

## ADVOCACY FOR ALL

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**



Walter Brueggemann sees lament as essential to faith and justice. He argues lament is the language of people who refuse to accept the world as it is and dare to voice their pain, grief, and protest before God. Lament interrupts denial and makes space for truth-telling about suffering and injustice. By lamenting, communities resist silence and passivity, opening themselves to God's new possibilities.

*Advocacy is the holy work of imagination.* Once we lament, we must take loving action to help make things right. Advocating for ourselves and others is central to our faith because God imagines a world of wholeness, healing, and equity for all people. Scripture calls us not only to love God but also to love our neighbor in tangible, restorative ways. When we seek justice, we participate in God's work of making all things new.

#### **LAMENT: PAYDAY LENDING**

God of justice and daily bread, we cry out for those trapped by systems that prey on need. We mourn how desperation is met with exploitation, how quick loans become long chains, and how interest is weaponized against people experiencing poverty. We grieve for families crushed by debt, for elders choosing between medicine and food, for workers whose labor is never enough. We lament a world where profit is prized over people, and where dignity is sold at a cost too high to bear. The burden is great. The fear is constant. The cycle feels unbreakable. How long, O God, until economy serves equity, until all can live without fear? Lord, have mercy.

*Silence: Take a moment to reflect and lament  
as you prepare your heart for action.*

#### **ACT: BREAKING THE DEBT CYCLE**

What do you know about payday lending? Have you ever encountered someone caught in the cycle of high-interest, short-term loans?

Payday lenders often target vulnerable communities, trapping people in debt cycles that are nearly impossible to escape. Scripture often speaks to economic justice—condemning those who exploit the poor and calling communities to practice generosity and fairness.

This week, learn about payday lending and whether such businesses operate in your community. Research the alternatives: Are there local credit unions, community development financial institutions, or church-based microloan programs that offer fairer options? If you're able, consider how your congregation might help—whether by pointing people toward better resources, raising funds to help someone escape a predatory loan, or even starting a small microloan ministry. Economic justice begins with understanding the systems that trap our neighbors.

# What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G)

(D)

(Em)

(Bm)

B $\flat$

F

Gm

Dm

\*1.

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.

Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.

To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

(C)

(G)

(Am)

(D)

(G)

E $\flat$

B $\flat$

Cm

F

B $\flat$

*Repeat as desired*

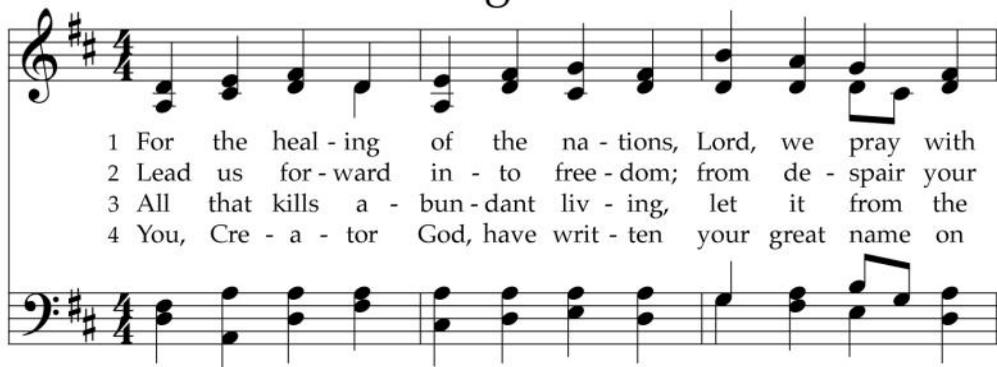
What does the Lord re - quire of you?

walk hum - bly with your God.

and walk hum - bly with your God.

\*The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.

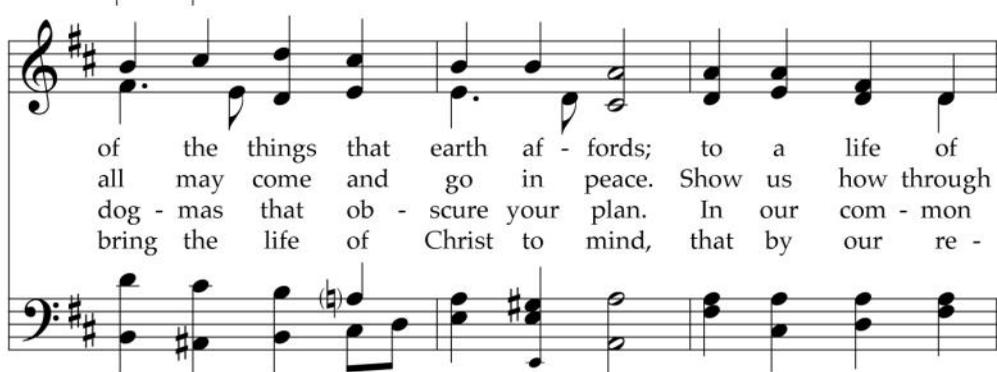
# 346 For the Healing of the Nations



1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with  
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,



of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -



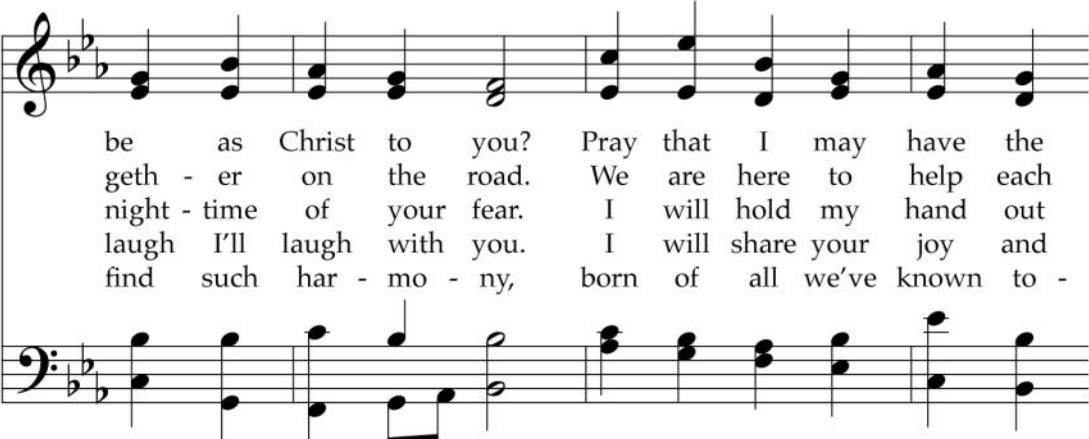
love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

# Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

## The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you  
5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the  
geth - er on the road. We are here to help each  
night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out  
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and  
find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.  
oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.  
to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

*(repeat stanza 1)*

8

# O for a World

372



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm)

(G)

F

Dm

B<sup>b</sup>



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D)

(Bm)

F

Dm



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G)

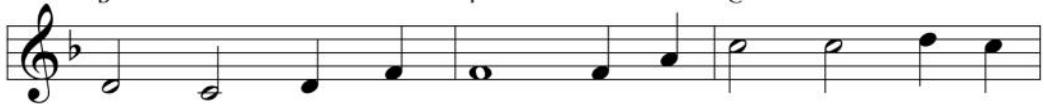
(D)

(A)

B<sup>b</sup>

F

C



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm)

(F<sup>#m</sup>)

(Bm)

(G)

(A)

(D)

Dm

Am

Dm

B<sup>b</sup>

C

F



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm)

(G)

(D)

Dm

B<sup>b</sup>

F



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

# 747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

## *Enviado soy de Dios*

Em B Em B Em



The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to  
*En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa -*

Am B7 Em



make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
*ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.*

Am D G C



The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain to  
*Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar un*

Am B7 Em



do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name; that  
*mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor; me*

Am D G C



falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help  
*ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad. A -*

Am B7 Em



us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.  
*yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.*

# STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop  
Paul Van Kempen

Lori Lepard  
Marlene Field  
Lori Klinesteker

Jane Oosterhouse  
Thom Samuelson  
Sue Stock

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff  
Associate Pastor and  
Director of Music  
Administrative Assistant  
Bookkeeper  
Clerk of Session &  
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## DEACONS:

**Class of 2027:** Kristin Goddard, Lloyd Helder,  
Michele Richardson, Leah Wallar

**Class of 2028:** Cathy Colten, Gail Hering,  
Fred Mc Conkey

**Class of 2029:** Carleen Bauer, Marti Disler,  
Mark Van Oostenburg

## ELDERS:

**Class of 2026:** Luke Rund-Scott (Youth)

**Class of 2027:** Jen Laux Ludwig, Tom Salley

**Class of 2028:** Jon Kreple, Lauren Stouffer,  
Chris Urbaniak

**Class of 2029:** Alana Cocanour, Paula Perkins

### **Children's Programming During Worship:**

Children of all ages are encouraged and welcome to be with us during worship. If you prefer an alternative:

- Nursery: Newborn - 3 years of age. Available for the whole service.
- Celebration Time - 4 years of age through 1st grade. Available after Children's Time.

### **Education Offerings After Worship:**

Education hour is from 11:15a -12:00p. *All are welcome to participate!*

- Adult Class - Michigan Room
- Youth - Youth Room
- Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade
- Nursery - Newborn through 3 years

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

659 State St., Holland, Michigan 49423 / Office: (616) 392-9022 / Email: [office@fpcholland.org](mailto:office@fpcholland.org)



FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of the PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at [MLP.org](http://MLP.org)