



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Ascension Sunday // May 17, 2026 // 10am

CENTERING WORDS:

When our service here ends, our wider service begins...
Jesus sends us into the world, for the love of the world!
~ The Salt Project

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee*

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING

One: The God of life be with you.

All: And also with you!

GATHERING SONG *Be Still and Know that God is Here* (Bulletin/Screen)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Will Rund

One: Why are we looking up to heaven?

**All: Christ has come;
Christ has risen;
Christ will come again.**

One: Why are we looking ahead to the future?

**All: The Holy Spirit is among us now.
In our baptism, we have already died and risen with Christ**

One: Why are we afraid of death and dying?

All: God's love casts out our fear.

One: Why are we afraid to follow Jesus?

All: In Christ, we have the promise of new life now,
eternal life to come.
In Christ, we join our hearts to worship God,
who has prepared for us to enter the reign of God.

***OPENING PRAYER**

***HYMN #276** *Sing a New Song unto the Lord*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Too often, Forgiving God,
we are hesitant in our proclamation;

All: seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.

One: Too often, Forgiving God,
we are half-hearted in our service;

All: reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.

One: Too often, Forgiving God,
we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources;

All: relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.

One: Too often, Forgiving God,
we look to the clouds for our inspiration,
in the vain hope of finding you there.

**All: Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith,
and open wide our hearts and minds to the empowering presence of our
risen, living, and ascended Lord, Jesus Christ.**

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

Come, Little Children

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1: 6 – 14

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

All: Thanks be to God!

John 17: 1 – 11

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Eternal Life ... Now!

Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

***LITANY FOR ASCENSION SUNDAY**

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new world has broken into ours—

**All: a world in which justice does come for the poor,
freedom comes for the prisoners,
and healing for the sick.**

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new community has been formed—

**All: a community that loves and cares for all members,
a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected,
a place where all find a place of belonging.**

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new creation has begun—

**All: all that was distorted is being restored,
all that is corrupted is being renewed,
all that was broken is being made whole.
Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
God's new world has begun.
Thanks be to God. Amen!**

***HYMN**

#761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

One: When there was a need, you came forward.

All: And so we thank you.

One: In the nighttime or daytime, on weekends and even in the coldest, darkest part of the year, you helped.

All: And so we thank you.

One: Elected and duly appointed or quietly, anonymously and unbidden, you did what needed doing.

All: And so we thank you.

One: Sometimes with the help of many hands, other times alone, you worked.

All: And so we thank you.

One: You gave your time, talent and even your treasure for the life of the congregation.

All: And so we thank you.

One: Your families and loved ones supported you in your efforts, worried for you when things piled up and perhaps grumbled at you for the extent of your commitment.

All: And so we thank your families and loved ones.

One: For all things great and small you have given this congregation, we take time today to recognize you,

All: To thank you and to celebrate you.

Thanks be to God for your compassionate service!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Here I Am Lord

arr. John Carter

***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, you have appointed us to be your witnesses
on our block, in our neighborhood,
and to the ends of the earth.
Fill these gifts with the power of your Holy Spirit,
and make them a blessing to your people
throughout the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S 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 #726 *Will You Come and Follow Me

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG *The Spirit Sends Us Forth* (Bulletin/Screen)**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis,
FPC Choir, Karen Howells, Will Rund

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

Be Still and Know

♩=120

Be still and know that God is here. Be still and know that

7

God is here. Be still and know that God is here.

THE SPIRIT SENDS US FORTH

AZMON

1. The Spir-it sends us forth to serve; We go in Je - sus' name
2. We go to com-fort those who mourn And set the bur-dened free;
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, To scat-ter joy like seed
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, The gos-pel to pro - claim.

1. To bring glad ti-dings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro-claim.
2. Where hope is dim, to share a dream And help the blind to see.
3. And, all our days, to cher-ish life, To do the lov-ing deed.
4. God's Spir - it has em-pow-er'd us; We go in Je - sus' name.



WE'RE HIRING

Job Title: Lead Preschool Teacher – Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) AND 4's AM class

Employment Type: Part-Time, School Year

About the Role

First Presbyterian Preschool is seeking a dedicated and nurturing GSRP and 4's AM class Lead Teacher to join our team in Holland. As a Lead Teacher, you will be responsible for creating a high-quality, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate learning environment for four-year-olds. You will implement research-based curricula and work closely with families to ensure every child is prepared for kindergarten.

Key Responsibilities

- > **Curriculum & Instruction:** Plan and implement daily lessons using GSRP-approved curricula (e.g., Creative Curriculum) that support social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth.
- > **Assessment:** Conduct ongoing child observations and assessments to track progress and tailor instruction.
- > **Family Engagement:** Conduct required parent-teacher conferences and home visits to build strong home-school connections.
- > **Compliance:** Maintain classroom environments that meet Michigan Licensing (LARA) and GSRP implementation standards.
- > **Leadership:** Supervise and collaborate with the classroom aide and classroom volunteers to foster a positive team environment.

Required Qualifications

- > A valid Michigan teaching certificate and an Early Childhood Education (ZA) or Early Childhood-General and Special Education (ZS) endorsement, Birth-K, or PK-3 endorsement; or
- > A bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child development with a specialization in preschool teaching. The transcript will document a major, rather than a minor, in child development or early childhood education.

Benefits & Schedule

- > Competitive salary based on education and experience.
- > Professional development opportunities and teacher planning time.
- > A supportive, community-focused work environment in the heart of Holland.

How to Apply

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Marina Tronrud at firstpresbpreschool@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crop Hunger Walk // Please join us **TODAY** as we walk to alleviate hunger in our community and around the world. We will meet about 12:30 to have a little picnic at Centennial Park followed by the walk from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Centennial Park in Holland. Walk in solidarity with those who are hungry. Walking shows you care about those who don't have enough to eat. At the walk you can learn from the local agencies we support and enjoy a walk in the park. You can still register today or even after you walk at www.hollandhunger.org or sign in when you get to the park. Your support funds Church World Service and 7 local agencies in west Michigan. We'll see you there!

Women's Book Club // A reminder our group will meet today from 1-2pm in the M&M Cafe discussing the book, *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki.

Mental Health Awareness // May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Please visit the display in the M & M Café for many excellent resources. Pick up a green ribbon to wear in recognition of Mental Health Awareness! We will dedicate Sunday, May 31 to this vital conversation, and look forward to hearing from Christin McFadyen, a mental health professional.

Fifth Sunday Offering for May // In support of Mental Health Awareness Month, our Fifth Sunday offering will support the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan: Be Nice Initiative which offers 4 Simple Steps to recognize depression and prevent suicide (Notice, Invite, Challenge, Empower). For more information visit: www.benice.org

Sharing our Joys and Concerns // Each week in worship we share our joys and concerns with one another as a meaningful way to build connection in our community. If there is a prayer request you want to share on behalf of someone else - which we know is offered from a place of thoughtfulness - please check with that person first. We always want to respect one another's privacy and honor one another's dignity.

Wear Red for Pentecost! // Next Sunday, May 24, is Pentecost, the day the church celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit. We invite everyone to wear red, the liturgical color for this day, as we celebrate and acknowledge the work of the Spirit among the church throughout history. For more information visit www.pcusa.org

Celebrating Our Graduates // If you have a student graduating this spring and would like to celebrate that accomplishment with the church family, please let us know by emailing paul@fpcholland.org.

Common Threads Group // Our next meeting is **May 18** from 1-3 pm in the Ontario Room. 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! Come and go as you are able. We hope you’ll join us!

Grief Support // Our next meeting is **May 27** at 2pm in the Superior room. We are a small group that 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. Contact Cathy with any questions. All are welcome.

ASL Class // An American Sign Language class will be offered **June 10** - August 5 skipping July 1. We will meet on Wednesday nights in the Michigan Room.

- > ASL level 1 class meets from 4-6pm. The level 2 class meets from 6:30-8:30pm.
- > The required book is *Learn American Sign Language*, by James W. Guido.
- > Class cost is \$60 with new book –or- \$40 if you already have the book.

Active Response to ICE Training // Todos Bienvenidos (means everyone is welcome) is hosting, Active Response to ICE training on **June 2**, 6-8pm. During the session, participants will learn how to effectively respond to ICE operations, and ways to support families impacted before, during, and after ICE encounters. Upon registration, the location for training will be provided. Use the QR code to register.



This event is sponsored by the Outreach Committee. Please contact Janet Hostetler with any questions, janethostetler@gmail.com or 740-704-4822

Justice Reads: FPC Book Group // *Everyone is welcome!*

Our next meeting is **June 18**, in the M&M Café from 7:00-8:30pm. We are reading, *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice* by Dina Gilio-Whitake

FPC Talent Show // FPC is hosting a Talent / UnTalent show on **Sunday, June 28** at 12:15 following a light lunch at 11:30. You can perform by yourself, with a friend, or a group. You can perform skits, musical members, magic tricks, ect. Performances must be FIVE MINUTES OR LESS. Not a performer? You will be able to sign up to display your talents such as quilts, woodworking, ect. *This will be a day of fun and laughter!* Sign up in the Narthex. Contact Cindy Helder with your questions: cindyloubear6@gmail.com or 616-848-7204 or text 989-859-2257.

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! Stay tuned for more details.



Summer is just around the corner! As you are planning your summer, make sure to **save the week of June 22-26** for Wild Wonder Camp at FPC! Wild Wonder Camp will be held June 22-26 from 9-11:45 each day. We welcome campers k-6th grade (entering in the fall) and teen helpers from 7-12th grade.

Wild Wonder Camp is totally free!

Follow the QR Code register.

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!

Thank You // The Women's Retreat committee would like to thank everyone who made this year's retreat a success. A special thanks to the Rev. Barb Schreur for her wonderful presentation that kept us all on the edge of our seats the whole day. It was such a wonderful time to meet and share experiences with our church women.

Thank you to everyone that made this possible!

Furniture Needed for Congregant //

Dave McBeth has moved into American House, and Dave and Marianne are looking for help furnishing his room. They are currently in need of: 1 floor lamp, 1 table lamp, 1 end table, 2 comfortable chairs, and a small table for a Keurig coffee maker. If you are able to help, please contact Marianne or email the church office at office@fpcholland.org

Sing a New Song unto the Lord 276

(Psalm 98)

Refrain



Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be



sung from moun - tain's high. Sing a new song



un - to the Lord, sing-ing hal - le - lu - jah!



1 Shout with glad - ness! Dance for joy! O come be -

2 Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - ior

3 Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry



fore the Lord.

And play for God on

now has come.

He has turned your

of the Lord.

The trum - pet sounds; the



glad tam - bou-rines, and let your trum - pet sound.

sor - row to joy, and filled your soul with song.

dead shall be raised. I know my Sav - ior lives.

to Refrain

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-t-erns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
let us fol-low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho-sen end.
blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

STAFF

| | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| Cathy Caldwell-Hoop | Senior Pastor and Head of Staff | Cathy@fpcholland.org |
| Paul Van Kempen | Associate Pastor and Director of Music | Paul@fpcholland.org |
| Lori Lepard | Administrative Assistant | Office@fpcholland.org |
| Marlene Field | Bookkeeper | Marlene@fpcholland.org |
| Lori Klinesteker | Clerk of Session & Children's Ministry Leader | Lori@fpcholland.org |
| Jane Oosterhouse | Custodian | Jane@fpcholland.org |
| Thom Samuelson | Maintenance | Thom@fpcholland.org |
| Sue Stock | Communications | Sue@fpcholland.org |

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,
Tim Staal

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



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