



presbyterian *profiles*

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

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A Call to Live Out Faith

As followers of Jesus we turn to scripture as a critical resource for understanding our world and our place in it. From the creation story on through to the stories of Jesus' life and his followers, we trust scripture to help us connect with God and with God's presence in our lives.

As Presbyterians (PC, USA), we also turn to our Book of Confessions as a tool to help us understand scripture and how we are to live as witnesses to God's grace. Recently Rev. Doug Brouwer taught a 4-week series highlighting critical points in our nation and world when the church felt called to acknowledge its failures and to speak out for justice and truth through the creation of a confession of faith (Barmen, Confession of 1967, Belhar).

From June 22 – July 2, our denomination's General Assembly will gather in Milwaukee and among the many items of business, they will be receiving a proposed new confession. The sixteen theologians who have been crafting this document sought to write confession specifically for "the church in this new millennium."

Margaret Aymer, co-moderator of the Special Committee to Write a New Confession, offered this reflection on the document's structure:

It begins with grounding in Scripture and the character of God, then turns to an assessment of what threatens the integrity of God's Word today. From there, it articulates what the church believes in response to those challenges and concludes with a call to live out that faith through concrete practices of discipleship and public witness.

As a proposed addition to the Book of Confessions, the draft will have to be approved by the GA and then sent on to the Presbyteries for our vote as well.

Visit The Presbyterian Outlook (The Presbyterian Outlook - News and Articles from the The Presbyterian Outlook) for more information about this and other news from the General Assembly.

I encourage you to be in prayer for our denomination's staff and all the delegates who are already preparing for their participation in this vital gathering of elders and ministers.

Be watching for opportunities to gather and discuss the news (AI, white Christian nationalism, Israel/Palestine, gender affirming health care access, ordination standards, fossil fuel divestment and more...) coming out of the General Assembly.

Blessings,
Cathy



Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor
and Director of Music

Screen Survey Summary

After years of deliberation, we finally decided it was time to add screens to enhance our worship. Because this was a significant change for the congregation, we wanted honest feedback about what has been helpful, what has been distracting, and how we can continue improving. Thank you to everyone who took time to respond. The feedback was thoughtful and helpful, and it is clear that this congregation cares deeply about worship and about creating a space that helps us focus on God and connect with one another.

Several themes came through clearly in the survey:

Improved Participation: Many people shared that the screens have helped them participate more fully in worship. Several appreciated being able to look up to sing and speak together instead of looking down at a bulletin or hymnal.

Improved Accessibility: Others noted that the screens have improved accessibility, making it easier for those with hearing or vision challenges to follow along. Some also appreciated not having to hold a heavy hymnal throughout the service.

Music Notation: Many respondents were glad that we include music notation on the screens instead of only lyrics.

Improved Livestream: People also noted the improvements to our livestream system, especially the sound quality, which has helped those who are traveling or homebound stay connected to worship.

At the same time, the survey reminded us that technology can become distracting if we are not careful. The most common concern was slides changing too late, along with comments about overly busy visuals or the screens drawing attention away from the sanctuary itself. Those concerns are important, and we want to take them seriously.

In response, our worship committee and tech team are working on several practical improvements:

Operator training: We will continue to train volunteers to improve slide timing, while also looking for more volunteers to run the slides. There are three jobs in the tech booth (Cameras, Slides, Sound), and often we have two people running three jobs.

Clarity Awareness: We will assess our backgrounds and fonts for improved clarity and contrast.

Intentional Content Use: The congregation was split on the value of videos and images in worship. We will work to carefully and intentionally use videos and images that enhance worship instead of distracting.

Paper Usage: A few people commented that the screens have not significantly reduced our paper usage. We will explore ways to reduce the amount of paper we use each week.

The survey also highlighted how much quiet work happens behind the scenes each Sunday. We are deeply grateful for the volunteers who run sound, slides, and cameras each week. Much of their work goes unnoticed when things are running smoothly—and that is usually a sign they are doing an excellent job.

We are also always looking for more tech volunteers. There are roles for all skill levels, and having more help makes it easier to support worship each week.

As we continue learning together, our goal remains the same: to use every tool available to help people worship, grow in faith, and stay connected. Technology is never the center of worship, but when used thoughtfully, it can help remove barriers and invite fuller participation in what God is doing among us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Paul (on behalf of the Worship Committee)



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Celebrating a Joy-Filled Year in Worship Center

As Education Time draws to a close for the summer, we pause to celebrate the growth, joy, and wonder our children have shared together and to mark the vibrant feast of Pentecost that lights our path into summer.

This year the Worship Center buzzed with energy with curious hearts asking big questions about God's love. Parables and Stories came to life, children prayed for friends, pets, and the wider world, our kids learned that faith is something we practice together—week by week.



Celebrating Pentecost in Worship Center then gathering to celebrate the year we had together with parachute games and pinwheels. Wind, a metaphor for the working of the Spirit. As you cannot stop the wind, surely in the same way you cannot stop a Pentecost Wind when it reflects the movements of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you to our Celebrants and Assistants who told stories with heart, prepared a space where every child knows they are seen, safe, and accepted; where they can speak courageously, wonder openly, be assured of God's great love for them and to share this good news with others. Thank you to parents and caregivers for sharing your children with us week after week, and to our congregation for praying, giving, and cheering our youngest disciples on.

As we transition into summer, children continue to grow their friendships; Wild Wonder (Peace) Camp June 22-26, Family Canoe Trip, Young Family gatherings, Celebration Time weekly following *Time with Children* (Pre-K – 2nd grade), Pop-up Celebration Time – which will be extended to include the older kids, and more.

May the same Spirit who birthed the church at Pentecost continue to breathe life into our children – and through them, into all of us.

Lori Klinesteker ,
Children's Ministry

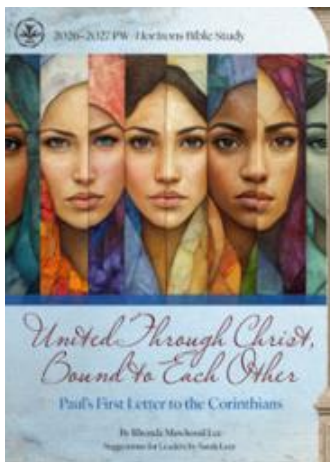




Presbyterian Women

Looking back...Looking ahead! Our Miriam Circle members enjoyed unusual perspectives on the Bible this past year, written by The Rev. Doctor Rashell Hunter, a leader of our denomination. We were faithful, open to some new ideas to explore, and shared with each other in love and support. We welcomed new women, and sadly, lost good friends to age and illness. The bonds become close. We welcome all women of this church.

We arrive at June, lessons completed, looking for fellowship and fun at our **Indoor Picnic**. On June 10 we invite your fellowship too. Please look for our sign-up sheet in the narthex. For \$10 select a choice of sandwich from Jersey Mike's plus a selection of homemade dessert bars and drinks. Our guest will be artist Jean Flower, who had some artwork and icons displayed during the winter at our church. Icon work is interesting and spiritual. She will share her artistry and inspiration.



Looking ahead, it's time to order our new study that begins in September, *United Through Christ/Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*. "Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return; he challenged his friends to be ready when that day came. Two thousand years later, the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. Our challenge remains to live in ways that demonstrate our trust in the resurrection." It is written by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. If you

haven't ordered the study, please call on Bev Plagenhoef.

Enjoy our Michigan summer! Continue to gather those Least Coin offerings for our International Prayer focus.

Janet Magennis,
PW Communications

GET THE LATEST NEWS from **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Connect Together <>

Men's Book Group // We meet at FPC the second Monday of each month at 2:30p in the Superior Room. Currently, we are taking a break for the summer and pick up again in September. The first two books after the break are: September 14 - *The Pathway Between the Seas* by David McCullough. October 12 - *Chicago's Great Fire* by Carl Smith.

Grief Support // We meet at FPC the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Superior Room. Our next meeting is June 24. 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.

Men's Discussion Group // We meet at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. Future meeting dates include June 12 & 26. Join us! Contact Ross Hamlin 616-399-0509 or Bob Gansen 269-753-7024 if you have any questions.

Women's Book Study // We meet at FPPC the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe. Our next meeting is June 14 discussing the book, *Chasing Shadows* by Lynn Austin. Contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com if you have questions.

Common Threads Group // We meet at FPC the third Monday of each month from 1-3pm in the Ontario room. Our next meeting is June 15. 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!

<> Community Events <>



Out on the Lakeshore PRIDE Celebration // June 27 from 12-5pm at Kollen Park. Out On The Lakeshore is proud to present the Holland PRIDE Festival at Kollen Park! Join us for an afternoon of fabulous entertainment, food trucks, merchandise vendors, resource booths, and activities for all ages.

If you would like to volunteer at the FPC PRIDE tent, please see Chris Urbaniak. We always need help with set up and take down, but the most fun is welcoming folks to our booth where they can design their own buttons. Come help us spread the word that God loves ALL!

Visit <https://outonthelakeshore.org/holland-pride/> for more details.

Wild Wonder (Peace) Camp // June 22 - 26 from 9a - 11:45a each day.

Peace Camp is totally Free!

Campers: Entering Kindergarten - 6th grade
Teen helpers: Entering 7th - 12th grade.

Questions? Please reach out to Rev. Paul Van Kempen or Lori Klinesteker

Hope to spend the week with you!!!

REGISTER using the QR code.



<> Happenings Around FPC <>

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. Sign up in the Narthex.

> 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.

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. Questions? Contact Pastor Cathy.

Talent / UnTalent Show / FPC is hosting a Talent/UnTalent show on June 28th 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 numbers, magic tricks, etc. 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, etc.. Sign up sheets will be available along with costumes available to borrow. This will be a day of fun and laughter. Sign up in the Narthex. Need a costume to borrow? There's a list of costumes next to the sign-up sheet. Contact Cindy Helder with your questions: cindyloubear6@gmail.com or 616-848-7204 or text 989-859-2257.



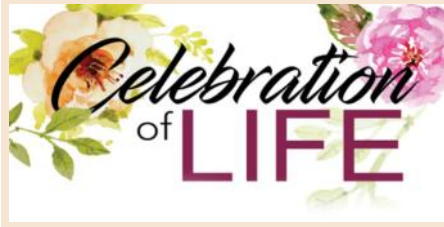
Paddle Weekend // As you start making summer plans, consider joining us at Mystery Creek Campground for our paddle weekend, July 10-12. Come and camp or come for just the day - paddle or just hang out with us. It's a wonderful way to spend time outdoors growing friendships and having fun! Stay tuned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



Renovation continues on the 28th street church entrance // The foundations for the ramp and new stairs are going in! Keep the crew in your prayers for safety as they work.

The first phase of construction was to remove the current stairway and top landing. The second phase brought in back fill and set up the forms for the third phase. Then the concrete will be poured for the footings for the ADA ramp. Following that will be the installation of the concrete forms for the top landing and the steps. Then more concrete. Once the concrete is set up and the forms removed, a brick veneer will be added to the ADA ramp walls that will tie them into the physical appearance of the building. There will be handrails to assure safety on the step portion and down the ramp. The final piece of this project will be the inclusion of a powered access door into the church.

<> Announcements <>



Celebration of the Resurrection for Arloa Wirbel

We will gather here on June 5th at 1:00pm for a celebration of Arloa's generous and compassionate life. If you would like to help with the reception, please contact Diane Hayes.

FPC Bus Assistant Needed // The Sunday morning bus service to 4 facilities in Holland needs a new assistant beginning in September. An assistant helps riders onto and off the bus and secures an Amigo (mobility vehicle) to the floor of the bus to and from the church service. The bus leaves the parking lot at 9:00am for pick-ups and gives riders 15 minutes after the service ends to have a cup of coffee, a cookie and time to share with friends before heading home. The bus is usually back in the parking lot by 11:45. There are 4 full-time teams and one floater team so that it only requires your service once a month. If you might be interested, let Chris Urbaniak know and she can arrange a ride-a-long so you can experience the commitment. It's an enjoyable time with riders who really appreciate the service.

Styrofoam Recycling at FPC // The good news: Our congregation has enthusiastically participated in keeping recyclable foam out of the landfill. The bad news: with only two volunteers handling this overwhelming collection, we could use your help. The material is extremely lightweight and the drop off location is in Byron Center. Please contact Jon Kreple jskreple@gmail.com or Nancy Kreple nkreple@gmail.com for more information.



Recognizing Our Graduates

Eli Edwards Parker
Maya Edwards Parker



Cameron Wallar graduated from Grand Rapids Community College with an Associate's Degree in Recording Technology. Cameron is looking forward to pursuing a career as a

professional music studio recording technician and live audio specialist.



Sam Martens will be graduating with a Master of Public Health from Grand Valley State University. His Master's capstone project focused on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence Use by Future Healthcare

Professionals. During his time at GVSU Sam was also a member of the GVSU Varsity Cross-Country and Track & Field teams. He was part of the 2021 GVSU Cross-Country National Championship team and ended his career with a best time of 29:19 for 10k (6.2 miles). For the last 6 years Sam has worked for Harmony Communities and now serves as a Home Manager caring for individuals with special needs.



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