

presbyterian *profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2026

A Message from Rev. Cathy C. Hoop	2
A Message from Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen	3
Worship Center	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Outreach	6
Happenings Around FPC	7
Pastoral Leadership Feedback Survey	8
FPC Prays	9

CHURCH STAFF

Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

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



Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Grateful and Blessed

Reading lists, deadlines, discussion boards, grades (!). This summer, as I jumped back into the academic world, I was so grateful for your words of affirmation and encouragement. Someone (outside the church community) asked me what I hoped to do with my degree, what was next after I graduate. ("If I graduate," I thought.) But my answer was this: I don't see this as a bridge to the "next thing" but as the opportunity to strengthen what I am currently called to be and to do at FPC.

I appreciate the interest so many of you have expressed in my studies and I look forward to being able to share more of what I am learning with you. We have seen how Paul's environmental work has encouraged our community in its commitments to care for God's creation, and I hope my studies can have a similar positive impact.

So, yes, I'm busy, but this community comes first, before any assignments or deadlines. Please know that! And thank you for being the curious, open-minded congregation that you are. Thank you for your commitment to education. I am grateful and blessed,

~ Cathy





Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor
and Director of Music

Fall Preview

It is so cliché to say this, but I can't believe summer is over already! It is time to start thinking about fall, and as we do so, here is a preview of what we'll be doing in Youth Group and in worship.

Youth Group:

This year our theme is going to be Colossians 2:7: *"Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation for your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught. And be grateful."*

Throughout the year, we will be looking at the different trees in Scripture (I think we did this as a sermon series before my time here). It is amazing how, by looking at just the stories and passages involving trees in Scripture, you can walk through the whole story of God's interaction with humanity. We'll begin with the trees in the creation narratives, hear about the olive tree in Noah's story, encounter Moses and the burning bush, read about trees in the Psalms and the prophets, look at some of Jesus' parables, hear the story of the cross, and end with the tree of life in Revelation.

It should be a lovely season of learning and growing together in Christ.

Choir:

This fall, the choir will be singing every Sunday from a wide selection of anthems. We'll be singing some favorite songs, like The Servant Song by David Schwoebel and Take My Life and Let It Be, arranged by Thomas Keesecker; some new songs, like Love Will Rise Again by Mark A. Miller and Salaam, Shalom by Mark Burrows; and returning to some of our favorite composers, like Mark A. Miller, Karen Marroli, and Gwyneth Walker, who write music about a God who cares for the poor and the broken and calls us to bring justice to this world.

I am excited to make music together again this fall. If you haven't sung with us before, we'd love to have you! Rehearsals are at 9:00 a.m. before the 10:00 a.m. service. Childcare can be provided with some advance notice.

Fall Kick-Off:

It is a tradition at FPC to begin our program year with a Kick-Off Celebration on the Sunday after Labor Day. Join us for a picnic on Sunday, September 13, immediately following worship.

We will gather outside (28th Street will be closed) to enjoy hot dogs, with both meat and veggie options, and sides provided by you. Bring yard games to share—Corn Hole, Ladder Toss, whatever you like to play! Come ready to enjoy a joyful day together as a community!



Lori Klinesteker

Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Education Time begins

Sunday, September 20 from 11:15am – 12:00pm.

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.

Kids, the summer is flowing into autumn; we are looking forward to reuniting with you and hearing all about your summer adventures. In Worship Center, we are awed as you discover where you find yourself IN the Story, being with you in the circle as you wonder, question, and are witness to “aha!” moments, and follow as you choose how you wish to respond to the Story. We share our lives and take care of our space while treating one another with kindness, respect and love.

Eagerly waiting to be with you ~

Rotating Celebrants:

(Pre-K – 2nd grade) Lori Klinesteker, Kathy Sexton, Sandy Updegraff;

(3rd grade – 5th grade) Gwen Boeve, Marie Burkholder, Jen Ludwig Laux.

Invaluable assistants on call: Carleen Bauer, Nate Laux, Kiki Leman and Nancy Staal.

You, our Church Family are welcome and invited to be in Worship Center as Celebrant, Assistant, or Guest. God's world would glow even brighter as Christ's Light beams through you.

All are welcome, Christ's Light will be shining,

Lori Klinesteker,
Children's Ministry





Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will resume monthly Bible Study as the Miriam Circle begins on September 9 in the Michigan Room at 9:30 am. Coffee and treats will be shared as we open the new study: **United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other**. This is a study of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, written by Rev. Dr. Rhonda Mawhood Lee. This timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers still today. Study books are available. We look forward to seeing you!



Lesson One: Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God

YOU CAN TOO! As we have experienced many recent losses in our congregation, the families have been served faithfully with a meal after the services. Our Diane Hayes has the organization of these meals down to a science and calls on women of the congregation to respond with hands-on preparation or baked goods. The kitchen camaraderie is fun, and loving hands transform the Fellowship Hall into a relaxing venue for families and friends to visit and commune while they are together for memorial services. Recently, the meals were simple, colorful, and tasty, with dessert and drink options. The silver services were used for hot coffee and tea, gifts lovingly left to our use from church members.

BUT - we had requests for lemon bars that were brought for a recent memorial luncheon! *If you were the bringer of such heavenly baked goods, please share the recipe!*

Another dessert story: When the cake and cookies left from Arloa Wirbel's memorial service that we had planned to use at the June PW Indoor Picnic just a few days ahead were gone, we laughed and didn't mind a few less calories! We enjoyed getting to know

our speaker, Jean Flower and her inspired artistic pieces. The petunias on the tables were finally planted, to my worried husband's relief. Since we had a bad winter day for our 2025 Christmas Soup Luncheon and shared a single pot of soup – and the June picnic desserts went amiss – at least the 2025-26 Bible Study was really thoughtful and interesting. We look forward to opening this new study in September, and remind that *all women are welcome!*

Reaching my double-number birthday matching my double-number birthdate, it seems right to gift the PW Birthday Offering fund this summer. Envelopes are always available on the shelf near the new 28th Street accessible entry for your own celebrations.

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 September 30. 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 September 18 and October 2. 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 September 13 discussing the book, *Doorman Wanted* by Glenn R. Miller. 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 September 21. 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!

<> Outreach <>

Good Samaritan // **Good Samaritan** connects those experiencing homelessness and housing instability to secure sustainable housing. When a person experiences homelessness, they often give up everything they own in pursuit of a safe shelter. Good Samaritan provides that household with a 'Welcome Home' basket, a laundry basket filled with household and personal items.

We will doing a collection for these baskets during the month of September.

The items needed are toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, body wash, deodorant, all purpose cleaner, cleaning supplies (brooms, sponges, mops, etc), shower curtains, paper plates, plastic cups, plastic silverware, garbage bags, zip lock bags, aluminum foil and plastic wrap. Please bring these items to the church & place them in the outreach bins marked for them. There will be copies of this list in the outreach area.

Thank you for your help meeting this need. If you have any questions contact Mary Blackall at 616-212-5346.

Children's Advocacy Center // Children's Advocacy Center is requesting our help in restocking Cora's Care Closet. They are specifically asking for cleaning supplies. Families going through crisis are invited to access the closet for basic needs. A complete list of needed items is located near the Outreach shelves or in the Wednesday, eWeekly email. Bring items to the church and place them in the Outreach shelves marked for them or you can take directly to the center. Thanks for your help meeting this need. CAC is one of our partner agencies supported by Outreach Council. If you have questions, contact Janet Hostetler, 740-704-4822.

<> Happenings Around FPC <>



Sunday worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center, August 9.



<> Looking Forward <>

Fall Kick Off Picnic // September 13 Join us for a picnic on Sunday, **September 13th**, 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 yard games to share (Corn Hole, Ladder Toss, etc.) A joyful day to join together as a community!

FPC Choir // **September 13** Choir is starting up again on September 13, rehearsal at 9am for the 10am service. Whether you've sung with us before or are thinking about joining for the first time, everyone is welcome! Come have some fun, sing with great people, and add your voice to our worship! Childcare can be arranged for those who need it; please let us know if that would make it possible for you to participate. Email Pastor Paul (paul@fpcholland.org) to be added to the email list

Habitat for Humanity Work Days // **September 15** and October 15 are the next Habitat work dates. Work dates often fill up quickly so plan accordingly. Contact Bill Haines with questions, wehaines@icloud.com

Justice Reads Book Group // Hello Justice Readers! There were so many excellent books to choose from and a variety of votes, but James by Percival Everett took the lead. Our next meeting date is **Sept. 24** at 7pm. Hope you can be there

Theatre Outing // Join us for the musical comedy *The Addams Family*, at HCT on **October 3rd** at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$22. Sign up in the lobby. Dinner at 5:30pm at the Curraugh is optional.

Pastoral Leadership Feedback Survey

Over the next few weeks, Session will be inviting the congregation to participate in a pastoral leadership feedback process. This is part of our commitment to healthy communication, shared ministry, and mutual accountability as a church.

The survey is non-anonymous and intended to help strengthen our ministry together through thoughtful and constructive feedback. Individual responses will be reviewed only by the Personnel Council — pastors will not see individual comments. The Council will summarize overall themes to share with pastoral staff.

There are three ways to complete the survey, which works best for you?

1. A paper copy of the survey is available at the welcome desk for anyone who prefers to complete it by hand. Completed paper surveys may be returned in the sealed envelope provided, mailed to the church office, or placed in the Personnel Mailbox.
2. Using your phone to scan the QR codes (at right) to fill out the surveys.
3. Watch the Wednesday e-Weekly for links to click to fill out the surveys.

If you have not yet completed the surveys, we encourage you to do so prayerfully and thoughtfully by September 15th



**Rev. Cathy C. Hoop,
Senior Pastor**

Scan the QR code to fill out
Cathy's Feedback Survey.



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

Scan the QR code to fill out
Paul's Feedback Survey.

Let's Pray Together

IN SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Wendy K. Cole, niece of Gail Hering, who passed away Friday, August 28, 2026. A memorial service was held Saturday, September 5 at 2pm. Thanks be to God for grace and love from this life into the next.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Bill Evenson, who passed away Saturday, August 29, 2026. Thanks be to God for grace and love from this life into the next.

PRAYERS FOR

- > Tedd Oyler, who moved into hospice care this past week, and for Joy as she continues to care for him
- > Mike Van Houzen, receiving treatment for cancer
- > Cindy Helder's friend, Roxanne, who is experiencing heart problems
- > Jamie Blom's parents (Jim & Nancy) both dealing with health issues
- > Danielle Peterson's father, Dennis Mishoe, dealing with cancer
- > Steve Magennis' sister, Joan, who has cancer
- > George Rust, who is currently incarcerated, and struggles with mental health issues
- > Linda Holmes continued recovery
- > Those struggling with loneliness, living with mental health needs, processing emotional pain, and struggling with addictions
- > Those grieving the loss of a loved one
- > Prayers for those who join us in worship online that they will sense the love and peace of Christ

HOSPICE

Tedd Oyler
Lenore DePree
Mary Gray Nelson

YOUTH@FIRST

Prayers for students, parents and teachers for a safe and fun school year.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Prayers for college students especially freshman as they find their way in new surroundings.

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

- > Beau Bennett (son of Mary and Dick Bennett) – Appledorn Living Center South
- > Lenore DePree – Farmstead Assisted Living
- > Dean Effken – Riley's Grove in Zeeland
- > JoAnn Karn – Medilodge (Rm 301)
- > Lois Rodgers – Appledorn Living Center
- > Carolyn Russell - Resthaven Maplewoods
- > Lois Rust – Appledorn Living Center South
- > Phil Sturdevant – Resthaven Care Center
- > Ron Williams – Michigan Veteran's Home, Grand Rapids

If you would like to submit a prayer request for publication on this list, please send it to office@fpcholland.org.

If you would like to share a confidential prayer request, please contact:

Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop, Senior Pastor: Cathy@fpcholland.org

Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen, Associate Pastor: Paul@fpcholland.org



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