first
presbyterian
church

GRACE IN ACTION



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
November 15, 2026 // 10:00 am

CENTERING WORDS:
Grace interrupts. Grace, by very nature, is not what you expect.
Grace reverses expectations. That's how you know it's grace.
~ Suzanne Guthrie, The Edge of the Enclosure

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 #399 *God Welcomes All* Erin Magennis

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Lauren Stouffer
One: Sometimes we hear the story.
Left Side: Sometimes we tell it.
Right Side: Sometimes we ignore it altogether.
One: Sometimes we're the ones who offer the welcome.
Left Side: Sometimes we're the ones who return.
Right Side: Sometimes we're somewhere in between.
One: Sometimes we're lost.
Left Side: Sometimes we're found.
Right Side: Sometimes we're a little bit of both.
One: But all the time, God is writing the story.
Left Side: All the time, God is calling us home.
Right Side: All the time, God waits for us, ready to celebrate.
All: Come, let us worship God!

***OPENING PRAYER**

***HYMN** *Come Ye Sinners* (Bulletin/Screen)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Paul van Kempen
One: God, you know us so well.
you call us to mirror the extravagance of your love,
But instead we place limits around it.
We withhold forgiveness to others.
We resent the grace others receive.
Like the wandering child, we have strayed from your home,
chasing what cannot satisfy and forgetting whose we are.
Like the dutiful child, we have kept score,
standing outside the celebration with folded arms and hardened hearts.
All: Forgive us when we are lost and when we are resentful.
Forgive us for the times our church has closed the door
instead of running down the road, arms open wide in welcome.
Soften our hearts, turn us toward home,
and teach us to love as you love: extravagantly, joyfully, without limit.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who welcomes us. 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 *Come All You Children*

* *You are welcome to rise in body or in spirit.*

ANTHEM *Welcome Home* Mark A. Miller

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15: 11 – 32, The Voice

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *For the Sake of Joy* Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

***HYMN** *When We Have Wandered* (Bulletin/Screen)

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**

One: Take this offering, God.
Add it to that welcome, to that feast, and robe,
and ring that you offer the least and the lost.
Add it to your party fund,

All: and then make us the party planners,
the door openers, the cupcake makers,
the decorating committee,
the potluck organizers,
the people of God who make everyone feel wanted
and welcomed and loved back to life.
Do all this and more in Jesus' name, 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** #649 *Amazing Grace*

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG** #747 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*
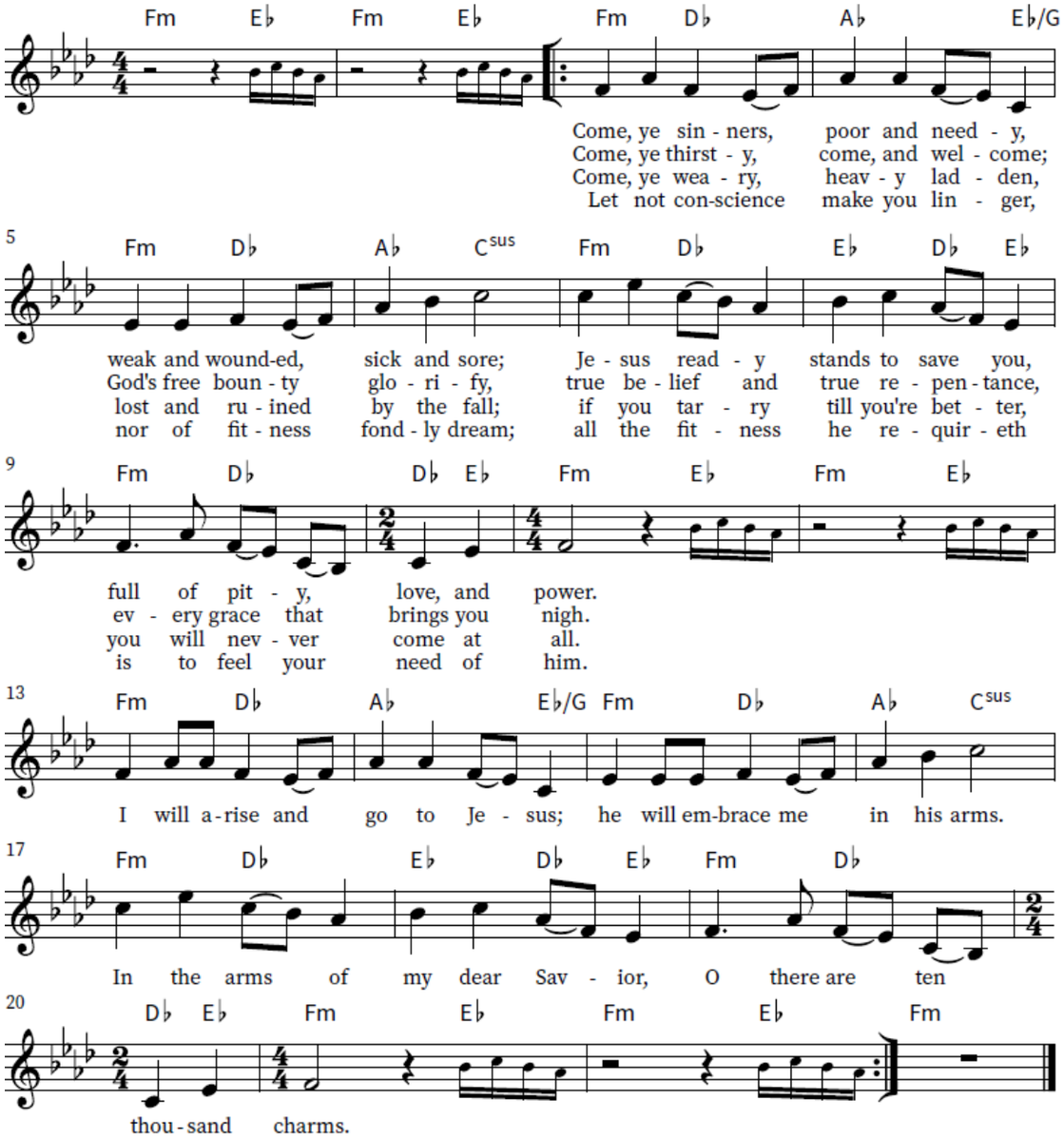
Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis, Kayla Reed, FPC Choir, Rose Gifford.

Thanks to: Sound and Video - Tim Richardson, Daphne and Nora Teutsch, Greeter - Mary Bennett. Ushers - Bob Gansen and his team, Bus Drivers - Cassie Kregger and Chris Urbaniak, M&M Café Providers - Bob and Helen Teutsch, Marti Disler and Libby Dickinson, Nursery Care Providers – Kiki Lemen, Linda Bassett, Melanie and Marion Reynolds.

Next Week: Ushers –Mike Clark, Bus Drivers –Alan Martens and Josh DeVries, Liturgist-Cassie Kregger, M & M Cafe Providers –Paula Perkins, Gail Lopez, Bev Plagenhoef and Jauanna Jackson, Sound and video - Don and Kathy Sexton and Ben Van Kempen, Nursery Care Providers – Sandy Peterson, Paula Perkins, Corene and Lena D'Adonna.

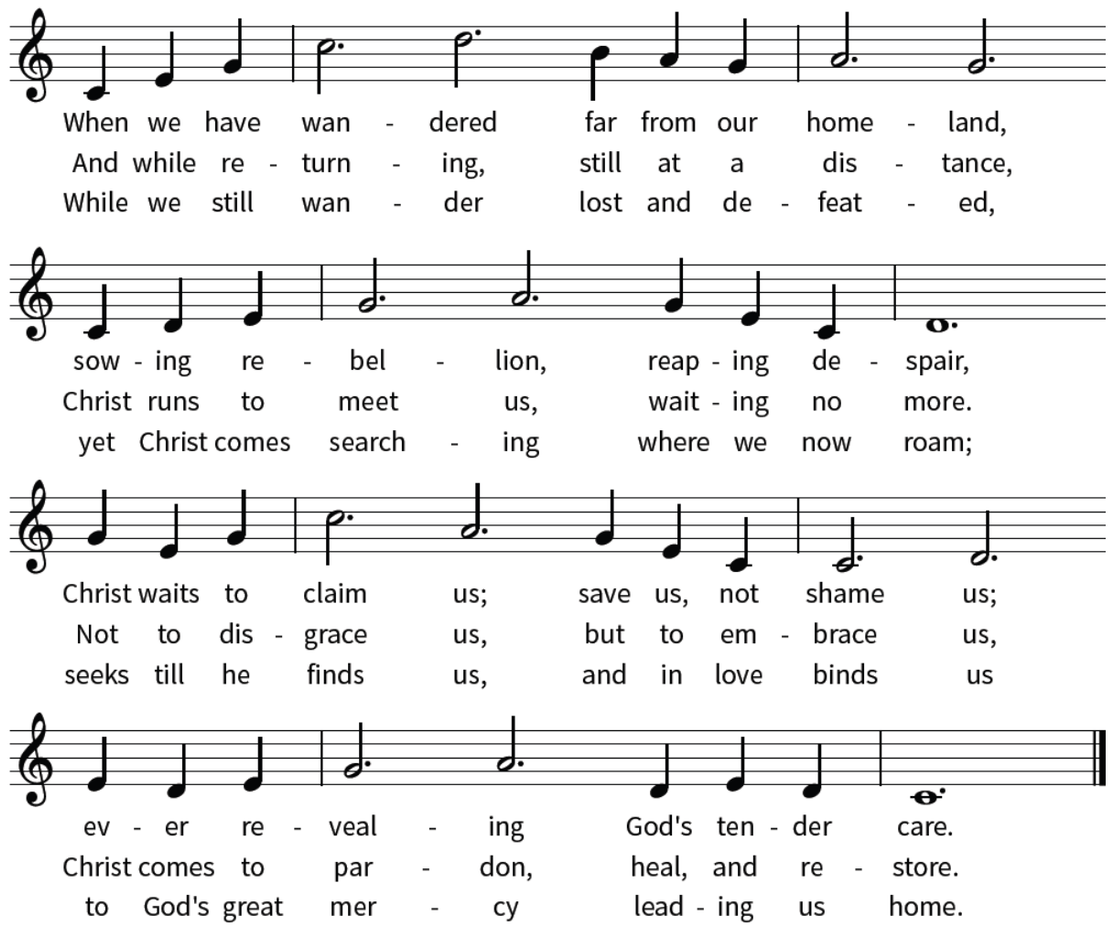
Come, Ye Sinners

Joseph Hart
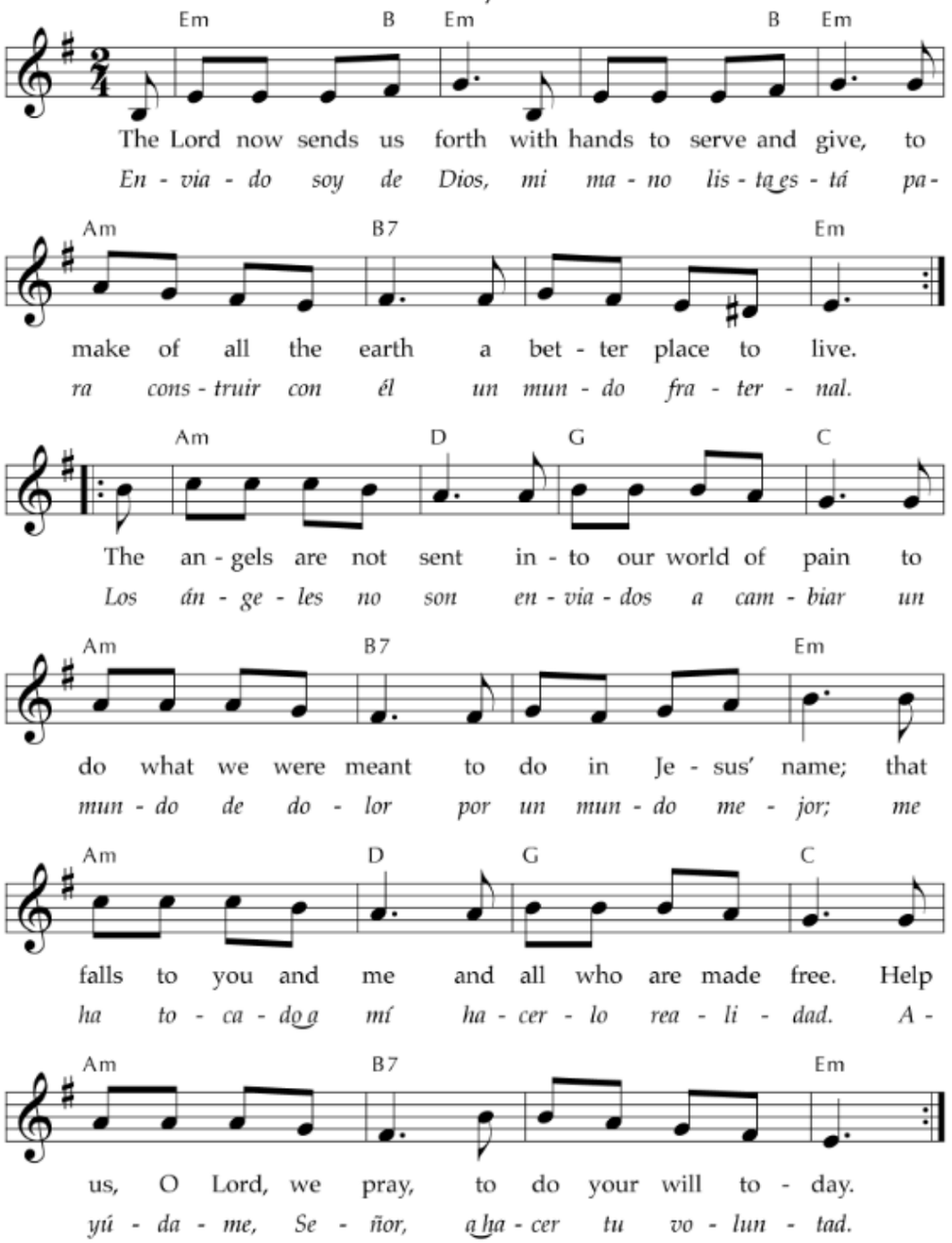


When We Have Wandered

Bjorlin BUNNESAN
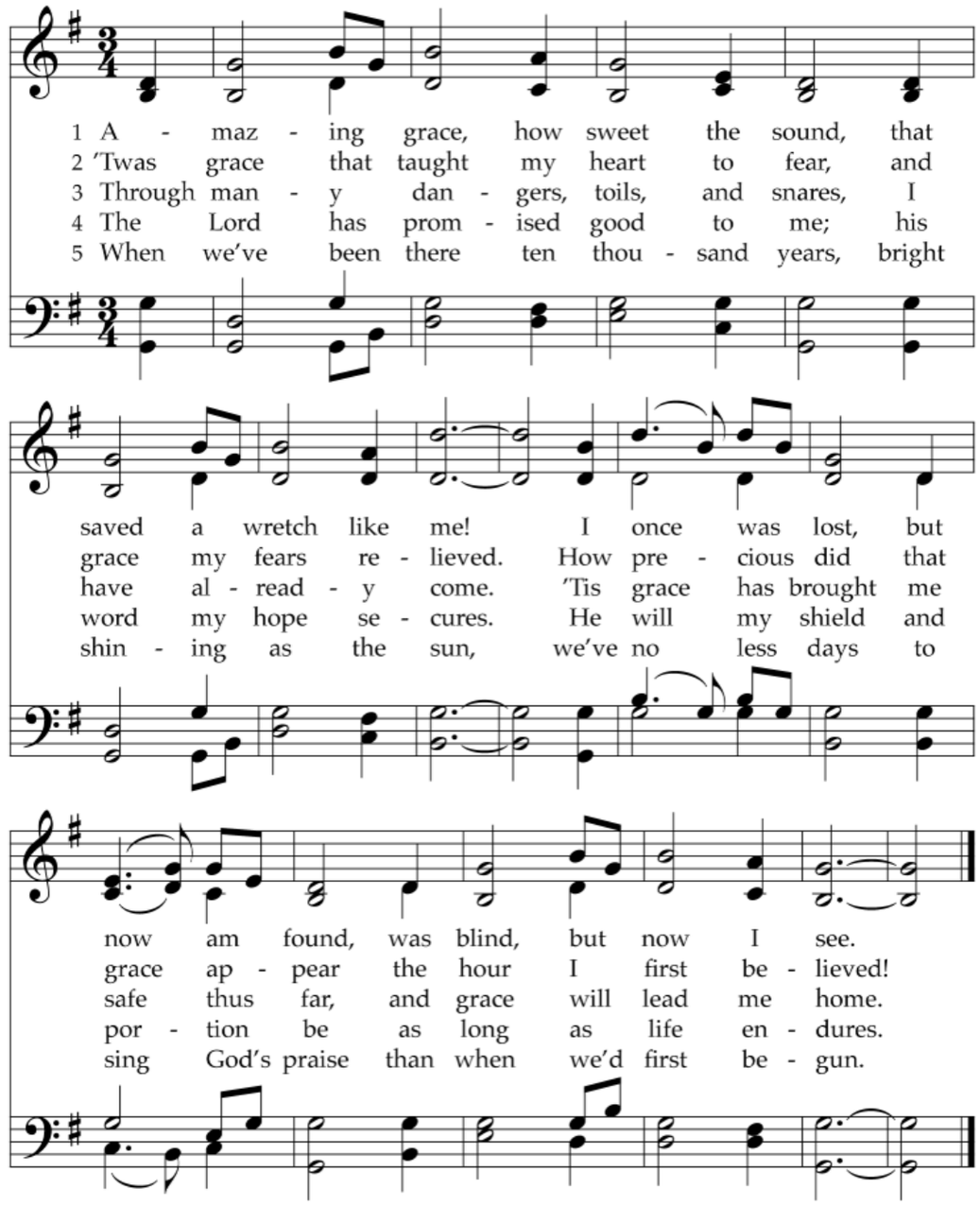


747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Enviado soy de Dios



649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Education // *The Wired Word*, Adult Education takes place following worship at 11:15am. Each week we explore a current event through the lens of faith. The newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other. This Sunday we are turning to the writings of Anne Carson, who was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature last month. Carson admits to finding God, "baffling!" *All are welcome*. If you would like to receive the lesson ahead of time, contact Cathy, cathy@fpcholland.org

Grief Support Group // Due to Thanksgiving, our next meeting will be a week earlier on Wednesday, November 18 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.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Event // *From Charity to Community: Addressing Homelessness*, Dr. Laura Stivers, author, speaker and advocate for faith based approaches to homelessness will be speaking at First United Methodist Church (57 W. 10th St.) Thursday, Nov. 19th at 6pm.

Habitat for Humanity // Our next work date is November 19. We will not work in December. Please reach out to Bill Haines with any questions, wehaines@icloud.com

Justice Reads // Our next read will be, *We the Women* by Norah O'Donnell, a fresh look at American his-tory through the eyes of women. We will gather on November 19th at 7:00pm for conversation and discussion. Join us!

Advent Event // Sunday, November 22 from 4 – 6pm. Join us for the inter-generational gathering and potluck! Enjoy fellowship and creativity as we join together to prepare for the Advent Season. Activities will include making gifts for our home bound friends, and for our unhoused neighbors. Sign up in the lobby to let us know if you are coming!

Holland Community Theater // December 12 at 2pm at HCT to see "Just in the Nick of Time", a comedy fun for the whole family. Chris Urbaniak has all of the details.

Volunteers Needed // The deacons are in need of a pool of people to drive church members to doctor appointments, get groceries, and other errands around Holland. Please contact Mark Van Oostenburg at mjmf@sbcglobal.net or 616 392-8773. Your assistance is greatly appreciated

Escape Ministries Work Teams // Could you use a little help around the yard this fall? A team from Escape Ministries would love to help you out! Their schedule has openings in the next few weeks, perfect to get your job done. Contact 616-396-4481.

Children's Advocacy Center Holiday Advocates // It's that time of year! Children's Advocacy Center is again asking our help to bring holiday cheer to the children & families affected by child sexual abuse. Last year the agency was able to support over 80 children and we became advocates for 20. This year we are committed to 25 children. We are excited to take on an even larger challenge.

There are several ways you can get involved.

1. Sponsor one or more children by purchasing gifts. Children's wish lists will have items in four categories: wear, read, want, & need. You will pick items in each category with a suggested spending total of $150 per child.

2. Join with friends to sponsor a child. Either shop together or each purchase gifts from one or more areas and put your gifts together.

3. Donate any amount of money and we will find shoppers to purchase the gifts for a child.

4. Buy stocking stuffers. We will have a list of items. When caregivers come to pick up their child's gifts, they are offered the opportunity to 'shop' in CAC stocking store to fill a stocking for their child.

Here's the timeline;

Nov. 15 & 22 - Names with wish lists will be available in the Outreach Kiosk.

Nov. 29 to Dec. 6 - collect gifts at the church unwrapped but with wrapping supplies. You are also welcome to take gifts directly to CAC if you prefer, but be sure to let us know.

If you have questions or want to get a name, but won't be at church those Sundays, feel free to call or text Janet Hostetler 740-704-4822 or by email janethostetler@gmail.com

Can't wait to see our lobby full of Christmas cheer again. It's one of the things we do really well at FPC! Thank you!

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 *and* 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: ollice@fpcholland.org

FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of 1he PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at MLP.org