

# **The *Presbyter***

**FEBRUARY ISSUE**

**January 27, 2016 • Volume 45, No. 1**



KALAMAZOO  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## ***FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

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*Presbyter*

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship is at 10:30 a.m.  
(unless noted otherwise).

### February 7

#### **Transfiguration of the Lord**

The Rev. Liz Candido

\*Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians

3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

### February 10—7:00 p.m.

#### **Ash Wednesday**

#### **Communion served**

Worship at FPC with  
Bronson Park churches

### February 14

#### **First Sunday in Lent**

#### **Communion served**

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
Isaiah 55:1-13; Luke 4:1-13

### February 21

#### **Second Sunday in Lent**

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
Isaiah 55:1-13;  
Philippians 3:12-4:1

### February 28

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
Isaiah 55:1-13; Luke 14:15-24

\* The Scripture passages indicated  
with an asterisk are from the *Book of  
Common Worship*, and may change.

*Grounded in living faith,  
receiving diversity as a gift,  
we seek to reflect Christ's light  
in God's world.*

*Continually discerning God's  
vision of grace and peace,  
we share inspirational worship,  
spiritual nurture,  
compassionate service to others,  
and the pursuit of justice —  
all to the glory of God.*

## A Minute in Ministry

With a new year come new questions and initiatives for our congregation. There are two particular matters to relay that are not directly connected with each other.

First, we are trying to determine how best to foster a visioning process for our congregation in years to come. Over the eight years since our last experience of visioning or strategic planning, much that defines who we are and how we feel called to serve has continued faithfully. And we've seen significant changes in our members, our community, and cultural realities. A group of ten ministers, elders, and members with strategic planning experience have met three times in the past six weeks. Of course, numerous possibilities for strategic planning or discernment processes abound. What is most appropriate and would best foster conversation among members of our congregation at this point? We have shared past experiences. We have gathered background information on our community and the wider culture. We have talked openly about concerns and desired goals for whatever we may share in months to come.

At this point, we continue work on clarifying details for a process. We seek opportunities for all people to speak and listen to one another as, together, we discern who we are in God's grace, and how we are called to serve Christ in our time and place. Questions we have posed thus far include: What is the church for in the ways of God and our world? Why do you come? Why is it valuable to you? What are fears, joys, hopes, and dreams for our congregation? If you don't attend regularly, how would you feel called to participate more? What is on the future horizon for ministry in our community and beyond, especially considering people who are presently completely uninvolved? How can we fulfill our holy commission to spread the good news of God's love? I invite you to consider such questions even now, and to watch for more details about holy conversations we might share in months to come.

Second, sisters and brothers in Christ at North Presbyterian Church face a significant time of transition in their ministry together. You may know that members of our congregation helped to establish North Presbyterian Church many years ago. Their congregation has a rich and well-esteemed history of service on the North Side and for our entire community. Congregation members have led important social service efforts, such as Ministry with Community and the Togetherness Group, among other efforts to nurture people who live with mental illness. Amid facility needs and fiscal realities, North is now assessing how best to continue their ministry in God's grace, including {the possibility} of moving to another site.

Many people in our congregation are well aware of spiritual gifts experienced through the good work of North Church. We have partnered with them extensively in recent years and are positively inclined toward doing so now. A small group from our congregation—four elders from Session, one staff person, and one member with significant experience of life at North Church—have already met twice with representatives from North Church to explore questions and possibilities. While there is much fondness between our congregations, we also attempt to be realistic. Many options for North Presbyterian Church are being explored to respectfully maintain the essential nature and spirit of their life together.

I urge you to share in prayer for our congregation and for North Presbyterian Church. Each church in its own way journeys through times of discernment about how best to serve Christ through God's gifts of grace among us. As we open our hearts and minds to one another, as have so many other faithful people from Biblical times through all ages and circumstances, may we trust God's Spirit to guide us in ways of life, hope, and peace.

Grace and peace to you,  
The Reverend Dr. Seth E. Weeldreyer

## THE SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, since every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation, and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.



A depiction of Jonah from the façade of the Amiens Cathedral (Thirteenth Century).

From the PC(USA) website:  
[www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org)

## PREVIEW FOR LENT AND EASTER

<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	February 10
<b>Sundays in Lent</b>	February 14, 21, 28; March 6, 13
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	March 20
<b>Holy Week</b>	March 20 – 26
<b>Good Friday</b>	March 25
<b>Easter</b>	March 27

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Continuing our custom as in recent years, we will begin the season of Lent by sharing worship with other Bronson Park churches on Ash Wednesday, February 10.

It is our congregation's turn to host this year. Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, with participation from our pastors, Mary and Seth, as well as numerous clergy and members from other congregations. We are also exploring possibilities for a joint choir to help lead worship. And worship will include communion and the imposition of ashes for those inclined to follow that ancient Christian spiritual discipline. We hope to share the occasion with you!

### You're Invited to Join in an "ALL-CHURCH READ"

Like Kalamazoo Library's All-City Read, FPC's Adult Education Committee invites you to participate in an All-Church Read: Marcus Borg's last book, *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*.

Though we mature in every aspect of our lives, many adult Christians attempt to make sense of life's perplexing questions by relying on religious beliefs they learned much earlier in their lives, often in childhood. When that proves inadequate, those same deeply spiritual people sometimes abandon faith ... or pretend to believe what no longer actually makes sense to them. In *Convictions*, Borg uses his own spiritual pilgrimage through life to address adult experience, questions, and behavior. He follows a clear formula: This is what I was taught. This is where I am now. Am I still a Christian? Do I have spiritual kin?

The author had a rare gift for making complex ideas clear, with his refreshingly accessible style. Copies of *Convictions* will be available in the Gathering Place and at the office reception desk. A \$20 donation is suggested. The book is also available on Kindle. If you would like to enrich your appreciation of the book by reflecting on it with others, several opportunities are available. As Borg is a favorite author of both Pastors Seth and Mary, each will lead a reflection group on the book. Mary will offer a group on the Sunday mornings of February, 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 9:00 a.m.; Seth's group will meet at noon on Tuesdays; February 16 and 23 and March 1, 8, 15, and 22. You may sign up for additional reflection groups when you pick up your book. This is one book you'll be grateful to have read!



## Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck

**Sunday, February 28**

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for February 28 following Sunday Worship.

Prior to the meeting, we will all share a potluck dinner in the Dining Room. We hope you can join us for this celebration of our church life and share in the many successes that we have had throughout the year.

Potluck dishes may be taken to the kitchen before Worship and will be tended until it is time to serve them.

Table service and beverages will be provided.

If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a main or side dish.  
If your name begins with M-Z, please bring a fruit dish or dessert.

Childcare will be available in the nursery for infants and toddlers during the business portion that follows the meal.

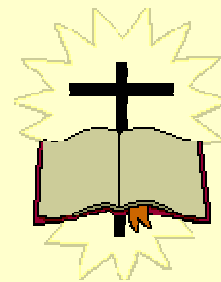
If you have any questions or concerns, please call Kelsey Oliver, Congregational Life Chairperson, (269) 903-1077.



## SAVORING THE LECTIONARY

**Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

You are invited to join other church members in the weekly lectionary study prior to Worship. During this time, we observe and discuss basic facts about the Scripture that will be used in the day's worship service. Together we will attempt to interpret the meaning of the passages and to discover implications of the text for growing in Christ.



## CELEBRATE THE VISION

**Wednesdays**

We continue to serve more than 100 men, women, and children a home-cooked, nutritious meal Wednesday nights at 5:30.

At 6:15 we meet in the Gathering Place to show our gratitude to God through our songs of praise, reading of the Word, and prayer.

Please join us for dinner, the worship service, or both.



## CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

### Class of 2016

Gary Beckwith  
Karen Hassler  
Kay Howson  
Judy Johnson  
Shari Schut  
Mary Smyser  
Jackie Stults

### Class of 2017

Bob Candido  
Kathy Cooney  
Lisa and John Diamond  
Nancy Klesert  
Nancy Maleitzke  
Sue Potts  
Joseph Sablan  
Colleen and Mike Sherrill

### Class of 2018

Dorothy Castor  
Karen Cooper  
Dan Dowswell  
Nancy and Keith Johnson  
Barbara Palmer  
Brittany Robbins  
Donna Schonveld

#### **Please note:**

If you have moved, or changed your phone or e-mail address, please inform Ann Johnson in the church office [ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org) or call 344-0119 so she can keep your contact information up to date.

## INQUIRERS CLASS SUNDAY, March 6

- ♦ Are you interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church?
- ♦ Are you considering making First Presbyterian Church your church home?

If you answered "yes" to one or both of the questions above, you are invited to participate in an upcoming Inquirers Class. This afternoon seminar offers an opportunity to spend some focused time with seasoned members, others who are also curious, and FPC's pastors and parish associates. It's a time to ask questions, learn more about the life and work of First Presbyterian Church, the practices and perspectives of the PC(USA), our place in the wider church tradition, and our ministries in the community and world.

The class will convene in **Room 314-315 on Sunday, March 6, immediately following Worship**, ending no later than 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by FPC's Hospitality Committee, you'll enjoy lunch for a good cause in the happy chaos of FPC's much-loved Chili Cook-Off (see page 8). Through the afternoon, you'll be able to connect with others, share experiences, and learn together. Then, if you're thinking about membership, you'll have a better idea if FPC is for you.

#### **RSVP and CHILDCARE:**

If you'd like to participate, ***RSVP to the church receptionist at 344-0119*** no later than Wednesday, March 2. Childcare is provided by well-qualified, trained adults, *however, we need to know how many children you'll be bringing and their ages.* Please provide their lunch and snacks.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Hospitality Moderator *Heather Kortlandt at (269) 352-1451 or Pastor Mary at 344-0119.*



## SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November, 2015

- A motion was adopted to approve the Christmas Bazaar on December 6, 2015 to fund supplies and mission support to six to seven church groups.
- A motion was adopted to approve the Annual Christmas Poinsettia Sale for decorating areas of the church campus.

## "THANK YOU"

### TO LEADERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

We are grateful to elders who, in December, concluded service on Session: Deborah Droppers, Marilyn Engler, Katherine Millar, Phyllis Music, and Brenda Noel. Their contributions to our congregational life in myriad ways over recent years have been invaluable to the health and vitality of our common ministry. Thank you for your wisdom, insight, and extensive effort!

We are grateful to elders beginning new terms of service on Session: Sam Beals, Stuart Deming, Elaine Johns, Sue Johnson, and Brian Nederveld. In addition, Jonathan Willoughby and Pamela Zandt were re-elected for additional three-year terms.

Committee assignments for the coming year are printed in the sidebar to the right. We look forward to your contributions!

Similarly, we recognize with gratitude the service of deacons who ended their terms in 2015: Judy Anderson, Ellen Dykhuis, Karen Meldrum, Barb Ross, Pam Tritsch, and Sally Pitt VanBuren.

We thank those who are beginning new terms as deacons: Karen Cooper, Dan Dowswell, Nancy and Keith Johnson, Barbara Palmer, Brittany Robbins, and Donna Schonveld. In addition, we appreciate Dorothy Castor, who accepted a second term.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

And we appreciate the diligent effort of the Nominating Committee, which discerns and identifies candidates to fill these positions. For 2016, members of the Nominating Committee include: Ginny Dell and Barbara Liggett.



## SESSION—2016

**Clerk of Session:** Allison Hammond

**Sam Beals (2018)**

Congregational Life,  
Property Maintenance

**Phyllis Buskirk(2016)**

Worship and Music

**Sam Clark (2017)**

\*Communications, Endowment

**Mason Coleman (2016)**

\*Personnel

**Ginny Dell (2016)**

\*Finance, Stewardship, Nominating

**Stuart Deming (2018)**

Endowment, Health Ministry

**Pat Farris (2017)**

\*Health Ministry, Worship & Music

**Diane Heckler (2017)**

Health Ministry, Hospitality

**Elaine Johns (2018)**

\*Worship and Music, Communications

**Sue Johnson (2018)**

\*Christian Education

**Heather Kortlandt (2016)**

\*Hospitality

**Barbara Liggett (2017)**

Personnel, Nominating

**Brian Nederveld (2018)**

Congregational Life, Hospitality

**Kelsey Oliver (2016)**

\*Congregational Life,

Christian Education

**Rick Taylor (2016)**

Christian Education,

Property Maintenance

**Laurie Tupper (2016)**

\*Outreach, Property Maintenance

**Jim Van Buren (2017)**

\*Stewardship, Communications,

Finance, Outreach, Worship and

Music, Property Maintenance

**Andrew Vanderklok (2017)**

\*Property Maintenance

**Ray Wicks (2017)**

Christian Education, Outreach

**Jonathan Willoughby (2018)**

Endowment, Finance, Stewardship

**Pamela Zandt (2018)**

Finance, Personnel

(indicates Class year)

\* Committee chair or co-chair



## RECURRING ADULT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAYS

9:00 a.m.

#### **Savoring the Lectionary**

(weekly)

*Focus on the lectionary passages that guide Worship each Sunday.*

9:15 a.m.

#### **Reading Aloud**

(weekly)

*Conversations about a selected book.*

### MONDAYS

7:00 p.m.

#### **Thoughtful Readers**

(fourth Monday of each month, except during the summer)

*Book discussions: one book each month, chosen by the group.*

### TUESDAYS

7:00 a.m.

#### **Men's Fellowship**

(weekly)

### WEDNESDAYS

4:00 p.m.

#### **Men's Community Bible Study**

(every Wednesday)

5:30 p.m.

#### **Celebrate the Vision**

(every Wednesday)

*An outreach ministry of fellowship, food, and faith.*

7:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study**

(third Wednesday of each month)

### THURSDAYS

9:30 a.m.

#### **Women's Bible Study**

(every Thursday)

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Exceptions to dates and times of these regularly scheduled meetings may occur. Please watch the weekly Announcements for possible changes.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DURING LENT

### ADULTS

#### Hope for Creation

Public Forums presented by the Green P's with speakers from a variety of groups.

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.: February 2, 9, 16, and 23

See article on page 8.

#### All-Church Read

*Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*, by Marcus Borg

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.: February 7, 14, 21, and 28

Additional dates/times are also being scheduled.

#### Reflections

Tuesdays at 12:00 noon: February 16, 23; March 1, 8, 15, and 22

See article on page 2.

#### Discussion on *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies*, by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, the Briner Lecturer for 2016.

Sundays at 12:00 noon: February 14 and 21

These discussions will be led by Seth Weeldreyer.

See article on page 9.

#### Briner Lecture

Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, Ph.D.

Sunday, March 13: 10:30 Worship; 3:00 Public Presentation

**Course Series** presented by Dr. McEntyre (participant fee \$100)

Sunday, March 13: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Monday, March 14: 9:30-11:30, 1:30-3:30, 6:30-8:30

Tuesday, March 15: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

See article on page 9.

### YOUTH

#### **Choosing Our Stories** – Youth Enrichment Middle School through High School

This series is based on the idea that our lives are built around the stories we hear, and, more significantly, the ones we remember. Topics will draw from several of Marcus Borg's texts, including: *The Heart of Christianity*, *Speaking Christian*, and *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*. Informal and potentially theatrical conversations will be held weekly, running in sync with the All-Church Lenten Study of Marcus Borg's book, *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*. Dates, times, and locations will be published in the Sunday Announcements. This series will be led by Tina Nap. Contact her at (201) 455-4837 or [jantinaaleidanap@charter.net](mailto:jantinaaleidanap@charter.net).

## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

<u>February 7</u>	Church School
<u>February 14</u>	<b>Communion during Worship First Sunday of Lent</b>
<u>February 21</u>	Church School <b>Church School Teachers' meeting Christian Education Committee meeting</b>
<u>February 28</u>	Church School
<u>March 6</u>	Church School
<u>March 13</u>	Church School <b>Daylight Saving Time begins</b>
<u>March 20</u>	Church School <b>Church School Teachers' meeting Palm Sunday</b>
<u>March 27</u>	<b>Communion</b> (no Church School) <b>Easter</b>
<u>April 3</u>	<b>Communion</b> (no Church School) <b>Spring Vacation</b>
<u>April 10</u>	Church School
<u>April 17</u>	Church School <b>Church School Teachers' meeting Christian Education Committee meeting</b>
<u>April 24</u>	Church School



For Church School information, contact  
Pat Stromsta at [pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org)

## YOUTH MINISTRY

<u>February 7</u>	Westminster Presbyterian Church will host the group.
<u>February 14</u>	First Presbyterian Church
<u>February 21</u>	Richland First Presbyterian Church will host the group.
<u>February 28</u>	Individual youth group at FPC
<u>March 6</u>	Pine Island Presbyterian Church will host the group.
<u>March 13</u>	FPC will be the host church.
<u>March 20</u>	Westminster Presbyterian Church will host the group.



For Youth Ministry information, contact  
Rob Bradford at [bradfordrr@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordrr@gmail.com)



## **The Great Chili Cook-Off is coming....**

On March 6 following Worship, the annual Chili Cook-Off will be held in the Church Dining Room. Everyone who loves to make or eat chili is encouraged to join in the fun. (Hot dogs will also be available).

Any church group that wants to enter chili in the competition is asked to contact Bev Murray at 342-0079 (cell), or e-mail her at [bhmurray@charter.net](mailto:bhmurray@charter.net).

The cost is \$3 per individual or \$5 for a family. This fee buys you sampling bowls, utensils, and your tickets or "Chili Votes." Ballot stuffing is encouraged and extra tickets can be purchased for \$1 each. Pre-pay before the service in the Gathering Place and avoid lines later in the Dining Room.

As always, the real winner is One Great Hour of Sharing. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of Christians to share God's love with people in need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development.

**Great chili recipes!  
Mexican music!  
Friendly competition  
and lots of fun!**

## **HOPE FOR CREATION**

**Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 7:00 p.m.  
in the Gathering Place, First Presbyterian Church**

Pope Francis' recent letter to the church and the world has brought new energy and attention to the faith imperative to care for creation—across the universal church, as well as in kindred faith traditions. Calls to people of faith to care for the earth are not new for most mainline Protestant churches, but those calls have rarely received the attention or implementation they need. As we learn more and experience the effects of climate change, people from many perspectives find they share the desire for clean air, pure water, and a beautiful and provident world for themselves and their descendants.

First Presbyterian Church's Green Presbyterians (the Green P's), are delighted to present an adult educational series focused on helping people of all faiths care for creation, based on their (often shared) religious roots, as well as their moral and civic values. Hope for Creation, Kalamazoo's ecumenical and interfaith group, whose purpose is to educate, motivate, and support care for creation on all levels, has planned this rich public dialogue, focusing on the scriptural and theological roots of Christians, Moslems and Jews, as well as insights from non-sectarian groups who share the call to care for the earth.

The public forums will meet each Tuesday of February: 2, 9, 16 and 23, at 7:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in the Gathering Place.

**Feb. 2:** the Rev. Fr. Charles Morris, Madonna University, with Imam Hafiz Nauman Akbar, Kalamazoo Islamic Center

**Feb. 9:** the Rev. Seth Weeldreyer, First Presbyterian Church, with Rabbi Matthew Zerwekh, Temple B'nai Israel

**Feb. 16:** the Rev. Nathan Dannison, First Congregational Church, with the Rev. Ruth Moerdyk, Disciples of Christ, and the Rev. Jerry Duggins, Westminster Presbyterian Church

**Feb. 23:** Climate Justice Fellowship: sharing information about climate justice and earth care activities

While greatest the benefit will be derived from participating in the entire series, each session will stand independently. If you're not able to participate in every session, come when you can! If you have questions, call Green P's moderator, Janet Scarrow, at (269) 381-6336, or Pastor Mary Van Andel at 344-0119.

## BRINER LECTURE ACTIVITIES

### **BRINER LECTURER for 2016** **Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, Ph.D.**

On March 13—15, our congregation will host a series of events with Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre as our Briner Lecturer for 2016. Dr. McEntyre is a writer and professor of medical humanities at the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program who leads retreats and writing workshops. She cares about connecting spirituality, politics, food, healthcare, care for the earth and its creatures, care for language and public discourse, and finding new ways to live together on a planet that needs healing.

Her writing has appeared in *The Christian Century*, *Weavings*, *Sojourners*, *Prism*, *Conversations*, *Christianity Today*, *Academic Medicine*, *Medical Humanities*, *Literature and Medicine*, and a variety of other academic and trade publications. Her most recent book, *A Faithful Farewell*, was published in spring, 2015. She earned her B.A. at Pomona College, her M.A. at U.C. Davis, and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at Princeton University. She has taught at Princeton University, the College of New Jersey, Mills College, Dominican University, and Westmont College, and now teaches at the UCSF/UC Berkeley Joint Medical Program. (from her website)

#### **Sunday, March 13**

- 10:30 Worship: Dr. McEntyre will preach during our regular morning worship service, with an opportunity to engage in further conversation and education at noon. (More details to follow)
- 3:00 Public Presentation: Dr. McEntyre will offer reflections on work by Rembrandt and others, guided by her original poetry related to each piece of art. She also plans to offer opportunities to share creative interpretation.

#### **Sunday evening, March 13 – Tuesday morning, March 15**

A series of sessions for clergy, congregational leaders, and interested others, centering on language of faith and our words for God titled: "Talking the Talk: Beyond and Behind Christian Clichés".

Here's a further description: "This course will focus on Christian, denominational, and congregational discourses, and how the ways we speak of and address God, the Bible translations we choose, the words we import from other faith traditions, and our relationship to historic churches imbedded in class systems and their language cultures, shape our practice of faith."

- One session begins Sunday evening (6:30–8:30). There are three sessions on Monday (9:30–11:30, 1:30–3:30, 6:30–8:30), and one session on Tuesday morning (9:30–11:30).
- Participant fee for these five sessions, including lunch on Monday and refreshments throughout, is \$100.
- Registration and payment to First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo.

### **Discussion of excerpts from the writings of Marilyn Chandler McEntyre**

In preparation for our upcoming visit from Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre as our Briner Lecturer this year, Seth Weeldreyer will host opportunities to discuss excerpts from her publications.

These discussions are scheduled to follow worship on Sundays, February 14 and 21 in Room 300.

At the office reception desk you will find copies of: one chapter from Dr. McEntyre's book titled "Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies", and excerpts for daily reading from her collection "What's in a Phrase? Pausing Where Scripture Gives You Pause".

If you have any questions, please contact Seth.

### **Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies**



MARILYN CHANDLER MCENTYRE

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IS UNDERWAY!

FPC's Hospitality Committee is hard at work preparing for a new congregational pictorial directory. A pictorial directory serves as an invaluable tool to help members connect with one another, so your participation is a very important to its value.

Your part as a congregational member is to set aside a time in your calendar and to make an appointment for your personal/family/friend *photographs between these dates and times:*

**April 20-23 and April 27-30, from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, and 9:30-3:30 on Saturdays.**

Do note, if you have a large family (5 or more) or would like a variety of sittings, perhaps with additional family members or friends, it would be wise to schedule *two* 10-minute appointments, back to back.

Photography settings are entirely without cost and include one complimentary 8 x 10 portrait. If you'd like additional portraits as gifts for family and friends, Christmas cards, etc., you will be able to purchase them, even of varied poses. Meanwhile, there will be frequent opportunities to make your appointments while at church with the help of volunteers, beginning at the annual meeting.

You will also receive information on how to sign up online. For now, please set aside a time slot and watch for more details in coming months. For a directory to be a great connecting tool, FPC needs you to be in it!

### HEARTS-TO-HANDS STITCHERS

**February 1 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.**

Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers will meet on Monday, February 1, at 1:00 in the Sewing Room off the Dining Room. We will sew flannel blankets for baptized babies. All who enjoy sewing are welcome.

### MONTHLY "LUNCH BUNCH"

**February 5 (Friday), 1:00 p.m.**

Escape winter by joining us at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5, at the Summer Thyme Café, 3928 Portage Road (parking in the back). We're free to order from their ample menu—field greens, wraps, sandwiches, etc. Most sandwiches are priced at about \$7.00; many desserts are \$2.50. Cost and choice of dish are your own choice. Note: the Quiche of Day (\$6.95) needs to be ordered at the time of your reservation. Call the church (344-0119) by Thursday morning, February 4, to reserve a place. But if the cold winter weather has left you forgetful, just come. Also, feel free to call one of us listed below (with a phone number) if you need a ride.

Sue Forsch (330-5012)  
Kim Cummings (342-6943)  
Betty Bridges  
Helen Brady

Phyllis Curtis  
Carmen & Ron Tanis  
Phyllis Music

### MARTHA CIRCLE

**February 10 (Wednesday), at 3:00 p.m.**

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 10, which is Ash Wednesday, at 3:00 in the Church Lounge. Carol Payne Smith will lead a discussion of Chapter 4 in our study book, *Bring Good News to the Poor*. We will bring boots and socks for our neighbors at Celebrate the Vision. Nancy Klesert and Marcia Cowell will provide refreshments. All women are cordially invited.



### MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

**February 10 (Wednesday), 5:30 p.m.**

A group for men of all ages meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the home of Jeff Ross, 4824 South First Street. It is a great time of fellowship and conversation about faith as we grow together in God's Spirit, seeking the fullness of peace, joy, and love. All men are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Ross or Seth Weeldreyer.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### **HEARTS-TO-HANDS NEEDLEWORKERS**

**February 15 (Monday), 1:30 p.m.**

If you would like to knit or crochet something for Edison kids or Celebrate the Vision, we have an inventory of donated yarn available for your use. Everyone is welcome. The group meets in Room 300.

### **ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST**

**February 21 (Sunday), 8:45 a.m.**

The Men's Fellowship group will offer their monthly breakfast on Sunday, February 21, starting at 8:45. These breakfasts are an excellent occasion for members of the congregation to gather for a delicious breakfast served by the best breakfast chefs in town! We suggest a \$5.00 per-family donation. Proceeds will support Celebrate the Vision.



### **THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP**

**February 22 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.**

Thoughtful Readers Book Group will meet in Room 300 on Monday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Our book for this month is *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok. When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor in the 1980's, she quickly begins a double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Drawing on her own experiences, Kwok adeptly dramatizes the tensions of an immigrant girl growing up between two cultures, surrounded by a language and world only half understood. *Girl in Translation* is an unforgettable novel of the hardships and triumphs of the immigrant experience and the strength of the human spirit to survive and even excel despite the odds.

New members are welcome. If you would like to have more information, call Kathy Campbell at (517) 803-0481.

### **YOGA CLASSES ON FRIDAYS**

This slow-flow yoga class focuses on the benefits of stretching, stress reduction, and strengthening. The class meets on Friday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30. These classes are open to anyone. A donation is suggested.



**PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
CHURCH ACTIVITIES NOT DESCRIBED HERE.**

### **PROCEEDS FROM BUTTER BRAIDS®**

While you are enjoying the Butter Braids® that you purchased last fall, we want you to know that the proceeds are being used to purchase *TIME for Kids*®, for 4th–5th graders at Edison School.

This news magazine is a source of non-fiction articles to help students write their own articles. It is similar to *Weekly Reader* and *Scholastic News*, but the teachers felt that it is a better choice for their students. The teachers are so grateful! Thanks for your participation in this worthwhile project!



# Outreach and Community Service

## RICKMAN HOUSE OUTREACH PROJECT CHRISTMAS BINGO REPORT

The Rickman House Bingo team of Carole Birch, Bruce Birkel, and Mike Boersma wish to thank the generous donors who responded to our request for prizes for the annual Christmas BINGO at Rickman House. We had good attendance and we served over half of the residents at Rickman House. We made sure that they received both essential goods, such as toilet paper and laundry detergent, and also presents, such as warm clothes and winter jackets. We also saw to it that they had all the pizza they wanted.

Donated prizes benefited both Rickman House residents and their family members. Many reported that they were using their prizes as gifts for family members.

The Rickman House Bingo team always welcomes additional volunteers. We'd like to thank Cheryl Holtman, who volunteered for the first time at the December gathering.

Rickman House is an assisted-living facility for adults with mental illnesses. There are currently 49 residents living there. Their ages range from the early 20's through the late 70's. Many residents have age-related problems, such as poor vision, diminished hearing, or lack of mobility. We would be delighted to have additional volunteers to assist these residents so that they can fully participate. Rickman House has been thoroughly remodeled and is now completely modern and accessible.

The monthly BINGO night is a big event at Rickman House. The residents look forward to this activity and mark their calendars accordingly. We play BINGO at 6:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of every month.

Please consider volunteering.

Thank you,  
*Carole Birch, Bruce Birkel, and Mike Boersma*



# Outreach and Community Service

## OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

### Kalamazoo Drop-In Care Center

The Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center (KDCCC) was established to provide free, short-term child care for low-income families with children from six weeks through five years of age. The objectives of our service are to enable parents with young children to more rapidly negotiate the maze of appointments and services often required to obtain employment or permanent housing, to register for school or attend classes, and eventually to attain self-sufficiency.

The Center also give parents a "healthy" break from the demands of parenting. The Center has created a warm, safe, and supportive environment for children and their parents. During 2015, they cared for 212 children from 53 families.

KDCCC is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parents may go in and register at any time during these hours. Space is limited to 20 children per day, but once parents register their children, they may reserve spots up to two weeks in advance. The KDCCC is located at the First Congregational Church.



### Thanks to Our CROP Walk Friends!

We are very grateful for your faithful participation in the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk! During 2015, the community raised over \$39,000, with more than 475 participants and more than 40 churches/groups/businesses joining in to help hungry and hurting people in our own community and around the world. The six local agencies shared nearly \$10,000, while Church World Service received the balance of the funds.

The Outreach Committee has begun planning for this year's CROP Walk, which will take place on Sunday, April 24, 2016 starting in Bronson Park. In addition to the usual system of forms and packets for registering walkers, this year it will be possible to do this online. Church groups can register as a team, and there will be a matching arrangement for all donations collected by youth, as in past years. Go to <http://kalamazooocropwalk.org> for information about the CROP Walk, and to register online. If you have questions about FPC involvement, please contact Jim Van Buren (344-0119).



## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Moderator:  
Laurie Tupper

The mission of the Outreach Committee is to promote faithful service both to our local community and to the wider world.

- **FPC Celebrate the Vision**  
(for our neighbors)  
Contact: Pat Stromsta
- **Center for Transformation**  
Contact: Carole Birch
- **Edison School Project**  
Contacts: Joyce Petro  
Carol Payne Smith
- **Ghana Partnership**  
Contact: John Petro
- **Kalamazoo Building Blocks**  
Contact: Kim Cummings
- **Kalamazoo Habitat for Humanity**  
Contact: Mike Boersma
- **Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes**  
Contact: Dick Baker
- **Ministry with Community:  
Food Pantry**  
Contact: Sam Clark
- **Nicaragua Partnership**  
Contact: Larry Boutelle
- **Rickman House BINGO**  
Contact: Mike Boersma
- **United Campus Ministry**  
Contact: Miranda Howard

# Outreach and Community Service

## COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT MEET AT FPC

### AA

Mondays and Thursdays at noon.  
Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

### Boy Scouts

Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

### Crescendo Academy of Music

Occasional Sunday afternoons

### Downtown Community Literacy Center

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.  
Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

### Food Addicts

Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.

### Kalamazoo Pipe Band

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

### Kalamazoo Singers

Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

### KNOW

Second and fourth Thursdays  
at 5:00 p.m.

### MRC Industries / ASK

First and third Tuesdays



## EDISON SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

Hello, Friends:

Our outreach program at Edison Science Academy is in “high gear”. Our tutors, bakers, classroom assistants, and visiting pets are all busy providing their respective talents. - THANK YOU, all.

I signed up as a third grade math tutor, but somehow I have transitioned into an in-classroom assistant for Ms. Powell, and I think I’ve found my new “calling”. I simply show up at my assigned time as she begins a new reading assignment. After the reading, the students break into small groups, usually three, and begin to discuss details about what they’ve read, and then transfer their thoughts to paper. This is where I walk around, listen to a group’s discussion, offer assistance if there is a question relating to the topic, or simply help in reading. I love it when an individual or a group asks me a question – they really are involved and want to finish their assignment.

Of course, children are curious, so there are other questions relative to my physical appearance – “Are you Filipino?” “Do you speak Chinese?” “Where’s Guam?”, etc. ...

We make an impact in the lives of these young children that I believe will make an immeasurable difference as they grow into young adulthood and beyond. I believe that the presence of our numerous volunteers lets them know that they are special, loved, and cared for. So please – continue your prayers for all involved – the children, the school staff, and the volunteers.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

WINTER: cold weather – students with sniffles NEED continuing supplies of facial tissues, hand sanitizers, chlorine-free sanitizing wipes.

FOOD: Snacks, such as cheese & crackers, graham crackers, animal crackers. You can obtain a lot of these in bulk at the big wholesale stores in town.

CLASSWORK: Ticonderoga pencils, big erasers, notebook paper

... You may bring these to church, deposit them in the “Edison Project” bin on the second floor, or write a check designated for the Edison Project, and we will purchase the needed supplies.

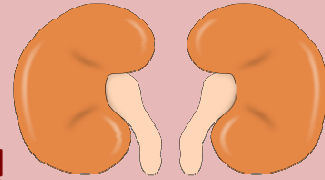
Submitted by Joseph Sablan (569-6243)  
richieandjoey@sbcglobal.net

For more information, please contact:

Joyce Petro at 342-6817 or [joyce@petroclan.com](mailto:joyce@petroclan.com)

Carol Payne Smith at 388-2278 or [paynesmith@aol.com](mailto:paynesmith@aol.com)

Sue Johnson at 276-9216 or [suebird.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:suebird.johnson@gmail.com)



## February is National Kidney Month!

When we think about the important organs of our body, we often first think first of our heart, or perhaps our brain. Our kidneys are amazing organs that I tend to overlook. In doing some research, I discovered these interesting facts about our kidneys:

- (1) Kidneys are two fist-sized organs in our back, on either side of our spine, just underneath our rib cage, and they
  - regulate the composition of our blood
  - keep the concentrations of various ions and other important substances constant
  - keep the volume of water in our body constant
  - remove wastes from our body (urea, ammonia, drugs, toxic substances)
  - keep the acid/base concentration of our blood constant
  - help regulate our blood pressure
  - stimulate the making of red blood cells
  - maintain our body's calcium levels
- (2) The kidneys filter about 180 liters (or 50 gallons) DAILY

Early dialysis machines were very large; now they are slightly smaller than a normal refrigerator.

The two main causes of chronic kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure.

Here are some tips from the National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for keeping our kidneys healthy:

- Keep your blood pressure at the target set by your health care provider. For most people, the blood pressure target is less than 140/90 mm Hg. This can delay or prevent kidney failure.
- If you have diabetes, control your blood glucose level.
- Keep your cholesterol levels in the target range.
- Take medicines the way your provider tells you to. (Important! Certain blood pressure medicines called ACE inhibitors and ARBs may protect your kidneys. Ask your health care provider for more information.)
- Cut back on salt. Aim for less than 2,300 milligrams of sodium each day.
- Choose foods that are healthful for your heart: fresh fruits, fresh or frozen vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy foods.
- Limit your alcohol intake.
- Be more physically active.
- Lose weight if you are overweight.
- If you smoke, take steps to quit. Cigarette smoking can make kidney damage worse.

Additional information can also be found at [NationalKidneyFoundation.org](http://NationalKidneyFoundation.org).

Blessings,

Ann Ross, RN, BSN, FCN

Health Ministry Coordinator

## PASTORAL CARE AND HOSPITAL VISITATION

An important part of our ministry at First Presbyterian Church is to provide pastoral care, including hospital visits. The hospitals are no longer permitted to notify the home church when a church member is admitted. We depend on members to call the church when a family member is hospitalized or needs a pastoral call.

Pastoral care is provided by the pastors, retired ministers from the congregation, and also the Health Ministry Coordinator. Every attempt is made to visit hospital patients on a regular basis, even on weekends.

Those doing hospital calling would appreciate knowing when any member needs a visit or special attention. Please call the church office, 344-0119.

If your call is an emergency and you are unable to reach a person at this number, please call one of these staff members:

Seth Weeldreyer  
(269) 283-4048

Mary Van Andel  
(269) 857-7010

Ann Ross  
(269) 217-6193



## "A MATTER OF BALANCE" WORKSHOP IN APRIL

The Health Ministry Committee is pleased to offer "A Matter of Balance", a four-week workshop designed to help people manage concerns about falls and increase physical activity. This free program is taught by the Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging, and will be held in our church building on Tuesdays and Fridays in April, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Look for more details and registration information next month.

## PASTA PRIMNAVERA

(from the Mayo Clinic website)

### Dietitian's tip

Traditional pasta primavera includes pasta topped with sautéed vegetables in a heavy cream sauce with butter. This lighter version is much lower in calories, fat, and sodium, and is fresher tasting. It isn't intended to be saucy like its traditional counterpart.

### Ingredients (serves 6)

- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup sliced zucchini or yellow squash
- 2 cups sliced red or green peppers
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon butter
- 1 cup evaporated fat-free milk
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 12 ounces whole-wheat pasta (angel hair or spaghetti)
- 1/3 cup finely chopped fresh parsley

In a large pot fitted with a steamer basket, bring about 1 inch of water to boil. Add the broccoli, mushrooms, zucchini, and peppers. Cover and steam until tender-crisp, about 10 minutes. Remove from the pot.

In large saucepan, heat the olive oil and sauté the onion and garlic over medium heat. Add the steamed vegetables and stir or shake to coat the vegetables with the onion and garlic mixture. Remove from heat; keep warm.

In another large saucepan, heat the butter, evaporated milk, and Parmesan cheese. Stir over moderate heat until somewhat thickened and heated through. Stir continuously and don't scald. Remove from heat; keep warm.

In the meantime, fill a large pot 3/4 full with water and bring to a boil. Add the pasta and cook until al dente (tender), about 10 to 12 minutes, or according to package directions. Drain the pasta thoroughly.

Divide the pasta evenly among individual plates. Top with vegetables and pour the sauce over the vegetables and pasta. Garnish with fresh parsley and serve immediately.

# February Birthdays

Are you looking for a way to pray for others in the church? Consider praying for each person on his or her birthday. One way to do that is to simply hold each person in the light of God's life-giving love. If you don't know the person, you may soon find yourself looking him or her up to introduce yourself.

**1**  
Bonnie Ayotte  
Andrew Bol  
Robert Crabb  
Deanna Evans  
Diane Heckler  
John Munn

**2**  
Robert Aspergren  
Tom Fischer  
Caroline Ham  
Carol McCloud  
Ryan Smith  
Pat Stromsta

**3**  
Deb Droppers  
Vincent Larkin  
Karen Trout

**4**  
Shelly Denny

**5**  
Amy Dark Bell  
Evelyn Hay  
Justin Kastman  
Bryant Stuut

**6**  
Bassam Harik  
Jim Henrickson  
Grace Novak  
Nathaniel Owens

**7**  
Paul Clements  
Adam Dalm  
Carrie Palmer  
David Smith  
Carole Stoddard

**8**  
Dotty Callander  
Christine Johnson

**9**  
Katherine Kremer  
Molly Mahoney

**10**  
Jeff Colvin  
Judy Van Solkema  
Keenan Millar

**11**  
Kelsey Kimm  
Clare Elise Miedema  
Al Parfitt  
Joyce Petro

**12**  
Don Anderson  
Larry Braak  
Thomas Reigel

**14**  
Amelia Yates

**15**  
Valerie Burke  
Tim Henson  
Carter Highhouse  
D.J. Jarrad  
Justin Hassler  
Randy Randt

**16**  
Grady Coon  
Fred Neubauer

**17**  
Dale Angell  
Sophie Gunderson  
Collin Palmer

**18**  
Annie Gauntlett  
Adam Peterik  
Robert Marciniak

**19**  
Jon Johnson  
Heather Kortlandt  
Isabel McCloskey  
Meredith Novak  
Ben Sikkink  
Carmen Stears  
Pat Tribby

**20**  
Jason Rylander

**21**  
Silas Conrad  
Anna Gleaton  
Alexandria Jonas  
George Kremer  
Blake Plemmons  
Richard Prince

**22**  
Gary DeBruin  
Trish Kittredge  
Zachary Lewis

**23**  
Bob Bloomquist  
James Steele  
Andrew VanderKlok

**24**  
Diana Cain  
Gary Dukes  
James Welch

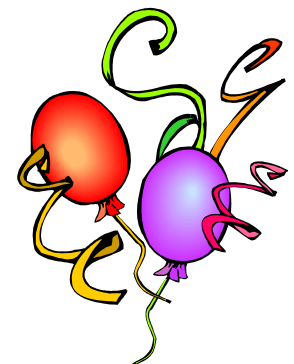
**25**  
Christopher Powell  
Andrew Santamaría  
Grace Santamaría  
Joseph Santamaría  
Timothy Shank  
Michael Sherrill  
Robert Smith  
Chad Yankovich

**26**  
Spencer Birch  
Ann Cooper  
David Jarl  
Karen Meldrum

**27**  
Jean Appel  
Deb Bender  
Amelia Howard  
Haley Labian  
Janine Loughrin  
Richard Nellums  
Marion Palmer  
Gary Wegenke

**28**  
(none)

**29**  
(none)





# FPC Calendar - February, 2016



## Monday/1

- 1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers
- 7:00p Green P's

## Tuesday/2

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 11:30a Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 7:00p Hope for Creation Series

## Wednesday/3

- 9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
- 12:00p FPC librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

## Thursday/4

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC librarian on site
- 11:00a DCLC
- 7:00p Choir rehearsal

## Friday/5

- 8:30a Yoga
- 1:00p Lunch Bunch  
(Summer Thyme Café)

## Saturday/6

- 10:00a Chancel Guild

## Sunday/7

- 9:00a All-Church Read: *Convictions*
- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:00a Prayer Partners
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Child Care
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 12:45p Ministry with Community  
(FPC and REVOLUTION!  
serve the meal today)
- 4:00p Youth Group (at Westminster)

## Monday/8

- 5:30p Property Maintenance Group
- 7:00p Deacons

## Tuesday/9

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 11:30a Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 7:00p Hope for Creation Series

## Wednesday/10—ASH WEDNESDAY

- 12:00p FPC librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 3:00p Martha Circle
- 4:00p Communications Committee
- 4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
- 5:30p Men's Group (off site)
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:00p Choir rehearsal
- 6:15p [no CtV worship today]
- 7:00p Ash Wednesday Worship
- 8:15p Choir rehearsal

## Thursday/11

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a DCLC
- 11:00a FPC Librarian on site
- 11:30a Stewardship Committee
- 12:30p Finance Committee
- 7:00p [no Choir rehearsal tonight]

## Friday/12

- 8:30a Yoga

## Saturday/13

(no FPC events today)

## Sunday/14

- 9:00a All-Church Read: *Convictions*
- 9:00a Congregational Life Committee
- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Child Care
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary  
Communion served
- 10:45a [no Church School today]
- 12:00p Discussion / McEntyre writings
- 5:00p Youth Group (at FPC)

## Monday/15

- Presbyter deadline (2-month issue)
- 1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needleworkers
- 5:30p Personnel Committee
- 6:00p Health Ministry Committee

## Tuesday/16

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 11:30a Bulletin deadline
- 12:00p All-Church Read Reflection
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 7:00p Worship & Music Committee
- 7:00p Hope for Creation Series

## Wednesday/17

- 12:00p FPC librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Communications Committee
- 4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 7:00p Wednesday Women's Bible Study

## Thursday/18

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC librarian on site
- 11:00a DCLC
- 7:00p Choir rehearsal

## Friday/19

- 8:30a Yoga

## Saturday/20

- 6:00p BINGO for Rickman House residents (Country Meadows Apartments, Gull Road)

## Sunday/21

- 8:45a All-Church Breakfast
- 9:00a All-Church Read: *Convictions*
- 9:00a Church School teachers' meeting
- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Christian Education Committee
- 10:00a Child Care
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 12:00p Discussion / McEntyre writings
- 5:00p Youth Group (at Richland)

## Monday/22

- 7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group

## Tuesday/23

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 11:30a Bulletin deadline
- 12:00p All-Church Read Reflection (1/6)
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 7:00p Hope for Creation Series

## Wednesday/24

- Presbyter folding/labeling/mailling
- 12:00p FPC librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 6:30p Session

## Thursday/25

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC librarian on site
- 11:00a DCLC
- 7:00p Choir rehearsal

## Friday/26

- 8:30a Yoga

## Saturday/27

(no FPC events today)

## Sunday/28

- 9:00a All-Church Read: *Convictions*
- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Child Care
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 12:00p Annual Meeting and Potluck
- 5:00p Youth Group (FPC youth only)

## Monday/29

(no FPC events today)

### PLEASE NOTE:

A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 14 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### In Memoriam

**Eugenia Welch** was born on November 14, 1917, and joined FPC on January 3, 1963. Genie died on November 11, 2015.

**Violet Homfeldt** was born on February 3, 1921, and joined FPC on November 30, 1988. Vi died on November 26, 2015.

**James Overley** was born on June 30, 1934, and joined FPC on April 6, 1950. James died on November 28, 2015.

**William Dulin** was born on January 25, 1925, and joined FPC on March 27, 2009. Bill died on November 29, 2015.

**Arthur Freeman** was born on August 22, 1914, and joined FPC on October 16, 1946. Arthur died on December 29, 2015.

### Assistance for Worshippers

**Hearing Assistance Devices** for worship services can be requested from any usher, or you may call the church office in advance.

Copies of **Large-Print Bulletins** and Announcements are available every Sunday morning. Ask one of the ushers for a copy.

If you would like to receive **weekly e-mail updates about events** in the life of FPC, please contact Ann Johnson at 344-0119 and ask that your e-mail address be added to the list.

**CD Ministry** provides recordings of the Sunday morning services. Please stop in the office or call 344-0119 to place an order.

**Gluten-free Communion Wafers** are available at all communion services at First Presbyterian Church.



#### Parish Associates:

The Reverend Dr. Larry Boutelle, [boutelle2@gmail.com](mailto:boutelle2@gmail.com)  
The Reverend Liz Candido, [ecandido@kzoo.edu](mailto:ecandido@kzoo.edu)  
The Reverend Larry Farris, [farrislw@gmail.com](mailto:farrislw@gmail.com)

#### United Campus Ministry Pastor and FPC Parish Associate:

The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, [ucmkrking@yahoo.com](mailto:ucmkrking@yahoo.com)

**Pastor Emeritus:** The Reverend Dr. David W. McShane

### FPC STAFF

**(269) 344-0119**

(telephone extensions are listed below)

#### **Pastor**

**The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
[seth.weeldreyer@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:seth.weeldreyer@kalamazoofirstpres.org)  
Ext. 202

#### **Associate Pastor**

**The Reverend Mary Van Andel**  
[mary.vanandel@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:mary.vanandel@kalamazoofirstpres.org)  
Ext. 203

#### **Christian Education Director**

**Dr. Patricia Stromsta**  
[pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org)  
Ext. 204

#### **Youth Director**

**Rob Bradford** (269) 806-5196  
[bradfordrr@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordrr@gmail.com)

#### **Director of Music**

**Cynthia Hunter** (269) 377-2478  
[cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org)

#### **Organist**

**Elizabeth Bruce**  
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