

The *Presbyter*

MARCH-APRIL ISSUE

February 24, 2016 • Volume 45, No. 2



KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4708

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321 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

(269) 344-0119

www.KalamazooFirstPres.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

March 6

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Worship

The Rev. Mary Van Andel
2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

March 13

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Worship

Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

March 20

Palm Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 19:28-40; Philippians 2:5-11

March 24

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship

Communion served

March 25

Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Worship

March 27

Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:13-49

(Please refer to page 2 for more details
about activities during Holy Week.)

*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 fresh memories in mind of our community Ash Wednesday service, I'm considering what it means to take on a spiritual discipline. For many people, the word "discipline" means committing oneself to an act for the sake of penance: practices such as increased prayer, periods of fasting, or refraining from a pleasurable activity. Clearly, those practices have deep spiritual meaning and value for many people. Over time, I've come to think of engaging a *discipline as paying intentional and concerted attention*, a practice as applicable to spiritual maturation as to any other art. As dancers practice for hours each day, paying attention to the work of building strength, agility, Endurance, and refinement of movement, while scientists repeat painstaking experiments many times to clarify and certify results, and new readers cultivate skills of eye/brain co-ordination, letter recognition, phonetics, and deductive reasoning, so Christians pay intentional and concerted attention to something. This Lent, I intend to direct my attention to the wisdom of others, especially insights that have remained with me, but which deserve deeper reflection.

An NPR story brought my friend, Curt, to mind. The reporter interviewed a woman who was using theatre as a vehicle for self-awareness and healing with people who are incarcerated. Growing out of his love and knowledge of Shakespeare and his desire to do justice, Curt had pioneered a similar program some years before, called Shakespeare Behind Bars. Curt found that as prisoners immersed themselves in the characters of Shakespeare's plays, the experience was no less than transforming. They gained insight into their own histories and subsequent actions, as well as the capacity to see themselves as more than prisoners: as people with strength of character, compassion and hope for their lives, even if in prison.

I told Curt about the feature, and expressed regret that he had not been interviewed, since he had pioneered the work. He smiled serenely and said, "She hasn't taken anything from me. I just give it all away." That very brief conversation happened several years ago, and I'm still thinking about his response. I remember the look of serenity in his eyes. His open-handedness seemed to have set him free. His generosity made a difference in me.

Since independence was a necessary trait in my early life, I had to learn, quite intentionally, to allow myself to admit need. Of course, life, loss, and brokenness also have a way of cracking the American illusion of the rugged individual. As I've matured, I've become quite able to ask for help, and far better at discerning of whom it is safe to ask help. Now, admitting need, whether material, functional, or emotional, is rarely difficult, although sometimes I still have a hard time figuring out what I need. Now, recognizing that all of us have legitimate needs, I wonder what it means to "give it all away"? For a disciple of Christ's, what is the balance between having a healthy self-respect, acknowledging that we all have legitimate needs for material sustenance, creativity, work, love..... and simply being grasping: having too strong a need for things, recognition, ownership, love, control, or security?

I don't know the answers to my own questions. However, I have observed some things that will inform my mulling over what it means to "give it all away". Over the course of 36 years of pastoral ministry, keeping vigil at the deaths of many of God's children, I know that what counts in life is the quality of human relationships, even if brief, late in coming, and sometimes, very unlikely. I note that relationships anchored in genuine love are most difficult for those who have hidden themselves, perhaps out of fear, old wounds, shame, or "rugged individualism." I note the life-giving freedom my friend's generosity seemed to give him and conferred on me. I experience that people who are honest about their humanity, and all that entails, including how hard it is to give it all away, free the honestly human in others. There's a freedom, a grace and lack of judgment about them that is liberating. I invite you to join me, intentionally paying attention to something that has been asking for your attention for some time now, welcoming God's wisdom, and not just in Lent.

May Christ's peace be yours,

Mary

Mary Van Andel, Associate Pastor

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

April 3

Second Sunday of Easter
Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Acts 5:27-32; John 20:19-31

April 10

Third Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Mary Van Andel
* Acts 9:1-6; Rev. 5:11-14;
John 21:1-19

April 17

Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 23
Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5

April 24

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35

*The Scripture passages listed are from the *Book of Common Worship* (1993) and might change. Please check the weekly Bulletins for more current information.

**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 attempt to interpret the meaning of the passages and to discover implications of the text for growing in Christ.

WORSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY—MARCH 20

Our observance of Holy Week will begin with other churches from around Bronson Park at 10:00 a.m. with the "Blessing of the Palms". *Due to expected cold weather, we will gather in our Sanctuary this year!* As Jesus paraded into Jerusalem amid cultural and political powers of his day, so we will gather together with other churches to share the blessing of the palms, scripture reading, and a short litany for the day. Following this very brief time together, we will proceed into our respective sanctuaries for Worship.

MAUNDY THURSDAY—MARCH 24

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' commandment to love, in the face of his impending arrest and crucifixion. Our worship, beginning at 7:00 p.m., will relate the narrative events of the first Maundy Thursday as told in the gospels of John and Luke, in a Tenebrae rhythm of scripture readings, interpretive reflection, hymns, and dimming lights. This service will include the sacrament of holy communion, and participation by our Choir.

GOOD FRIDAY—MARCH 25

On Good Friday we will gather to worship in a quiet, more contemplative mode, remembering the ancient story of Jesus' crucifixion. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with our neighbors from North Presbyterian Church invited to share worship with us.

EASTER—MARCH 27

Our Holy Week worship will conclude with our celebration of the Resurrection of Christ during our regular service at 10:30 a.m. on Easter morning. Our worship will include communion, special musical brass accompaniment, and, of course, floral decoration of our sanctuary as a beautiful expression of the life abundant we share in God's love. We are grateful to the Chancel Guild for their loving preparation of our Sanctuary.



**Holy Week
& Easter**

First Presbyterian Church Easter Flowers - 2016



The Chancel Guild encourages you to memorialize or honor someone at Easter by purchasing an Easter flower. The flowers will be placed in the chancel in a display that will glorify God as it symbolizes the joy and splendor of the resurrection.

Fill out the form below and mail or deliver to the church office with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Deadline: Sunday, March 13

A list of the memorial flowers and donors will be printed in the Worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 27.

I/we want ____ plants (\$15 each). Check for \$_____ enclosed.

Plants are dedicated to the glory of God and given

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

Given by:

Name _____

Phone or e-mail _____



Great CHILI COOK-OFF

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 wishing to enter chili in the competition is asked to contact Bev Murray at 342-0079 (cell), or e-mail 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 in the Gathering Place before the service 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!**

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

Strategic Visioning Process Soon to Come

In mid- to late April our congregation will begin a process of discerning vision for ministry and mission in years to come. A small group of individuals from our congregation, including clergy and elders with relevant experience, has been meeting regularly to plan the best way to share this process. Most importantly, we earnestly desire meaningful participation from as many people as possible.

Everyone has perspectives, dreams, hopes ... and a voice to share. Our congregation provides a vital, beautiful, inspiring, and relevant witness to God's love in many ways. And of course, we can always improve and expand our relationships and service. What is the church for? Why do you come? What are our strengths? What are cultural realities of change we must face? How is God calling us to follow Christ and engage our community through years ahead? We are finalizing details of the process. Please watch for more information soon!

It is exciting to consider the great potential of our congregation! As we open our hearts and minds to one another, ever in God's grace, may we trust the Spirit to give us vision, vitality, and joyful determination!

Sabbatical Presentation

A small group of elders and members from our congregation has been working with Seth Weeldreyer on a plan for sabbatical in the summer of 2017. We are completing an application for a major grant from the Lilly Foundation targeting clergy and congregational renewal. Before Session discusses final approval, we seek your perspectives, questions, and observations. Please plan to come to room 314-315 following Worship on Sunday, March 20, to hear a presentation and provide feedback to the planning group. We value your participation!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Self-Development of People

During Lent, we collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which provides funding for disaster assistance, hunger relief programs, and programs for community development, such as Self Development of People grants. Many will recall that a little over a year ago, a group which Kim Cummings supports received a grant to assist low income residents in winterizing their homes.

Please consider giving to this excellent, annual offering.

For further information please contact your local SDOP Committee members:

Raymond Wicks - Raymond.wicks@gmail.com or 598-1050

Nancy Maleitzke - nmaleitzke@gmail.com or 615-3269

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January, 2016

The following motions were made and adopted:

- to approve the Finance Appeal for the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Walk for Hunger from February 1 to May 1, 2016.
- to set the date for the Annual Meeting: February 28, 2016.
- to move the date of the March Session meeting from March 16 to March 30.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

The Endowment Fund supports many functions of our church. Most people think of endowments as providing for the future, and this is indeed a primary objective of FPC's Endowment Fund. That was and still is the clear intention of those who have contributed to this fund over the years.

But each new year is a part of our future. It is anticipated that during 2016 the Endowment Fund will transfer approximately \$116,000 to the general operation of our church and an additional \$15,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund. These amounts do not even include another potential \$50,000 that is available to Session committees to further the mission of your church. These activities include events such as the current Briner Lectureship featuring Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, Ph.D.

Through such distributions, the Endowment Fund plays a vital role in the life of the church today, tomorrow, and beyond. Please consider supporting the Endowment Fund through your contributions and estate planning.

FPC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Scholarship funds are available for active church members preparing for college. The money has been provided by bequests from generous donors from the past, and is now held in Endowed Funds. These bequests include the Edith Eicher Fund, the Grace Pond Fund, the Bernadine Cain Fund, the John Dunning Memorial Fund, and the Conner Education Fund (set up in 1996 in honor of Wayne Conner).

Application forms may be obtained from the Scholarship Committee. The Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to Session.

If you are interested in receiving an application form, please contact Bruce Goethe, Chairman, at 353-3733.

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

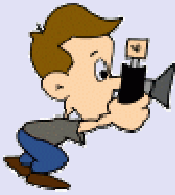
Dorothy Castor
Karen Cooper
Dan Dowswell
Nancy and Keith Johnson
Barbara Palmer
Brittany Robbins
Donna Schonveld



Please note:

If you have moved, or changed any contact information, please inform Ann Johnson in the church office ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org or call 344-0119, so she can keep your contact information up to date.

YOUR PHOTO IS NEEDED!



In large churches, a pictorial directory is an invaluable tool for helping members know and connect with one another on many levels. And changes keep happening: children are born, grow, and change; beloved friends are no longer with us; people move away, and many new members are added. All that change means directories have to be updated every few years. We are grateful to FPC's Hospitality Committee which has been doing the organizational work for creating a new directory.

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.

In the coming weeks, there will be frequent opportunities to make your appointments while at church and with the help of volunteers. Look for people wearing red aprons, seated at a table in the Gathering Place. It is also possible to make your own appointment on line. In the coming weeks there will be details, as well as tips for great photos, in the Announcements and on the church website. Once registered, you will receive an e-mail shortly before your photo session, reminding you of your appointment.

Remember, for a directory to help current and future members know one another, the essential ingredient is **you**. Please check your calendar, and make your appointment soon.

FPC LIBRARY NEWS

In the past year, thanks to memorials donated to the library, new books have been added to the library's collection. The following is a list highlighting some of the new books available for borrowing:

New Non-Fiction Titles include:

- ◇ *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- ◇ *The Wright Brothers*, by David McCullough
- ◇ *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr
- ◇ *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown
- ◇ *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande
- ◇ *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*, by Adam Hamilton
- ◇ *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace*, by Anne Lamott
- ◇ *I Am Malala*, by Malala Yousafzai

Seven titles by Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, our Briner Lecturer for 2016, have been acquired, including *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies*, *What's in a Phrase? Pausing Where Scripture Gives You Pause*, and *The Color of Light: Poems on Van Gogh's Late Paintings*.

New Fiction Titles include:

- ◇ *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr
- ◇ *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah
- ◇ *Come Rain or Come Shine* (A Mitford Novel), by Jan Karon
- ◇ *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd
- ◇ *Orphan Train*, by Kristina Baker Kline.

New Children's Picture Books include:

- ◇ *If You Plant a Seed*, by Kadir Nelson
- ◇ *How to Babysit a Grandma*, by Jean Reagan
- ◇ *The Little Engine that Could* (Original Classic ed.), by Watty Piper
- ◇ *I'd Know You Anywhere, My Love*, by Nancy Tillman
- ◇ *Psalm 23*, illustrated by Richard Jesse Watson.

New Books for Older Children and Young Adults include:

- ◇ *Flora and Ulysses*, by Kate DiCamillo
- ◇ *Wonder*, by R. J. Palacio
- ◇ *The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings* trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien
- ◇ *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak
- ◇ *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate.

Look for new titles on the book cart located in the Gathering Place every Sunday, or in the Library (Room 212). Books are set up for self-checkout. Sign and date the library card in the back of the book and place the card in the designated box on top of the book cart or on the library desk. Books are due one month from the checkout date. Return books to either the box on the bottom of the book cart in the Gathering Place or in the book slot next to the library door.

Please use and enjoy the resources of your church library.

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

From March 13 through 15, our congregation will host a series of events with Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, 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

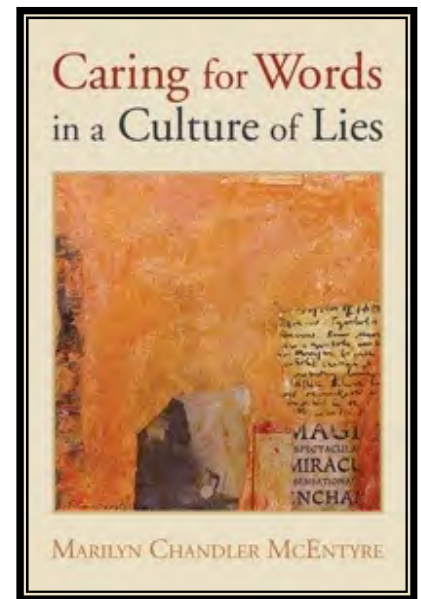
- **10:30 Worship:** Dr. McEntyre will preach at our regular morning worship service. There will be an opportunity to engage in further conversation and education at noon.
- **3:00 Public Presentation:** Dr. McEntyre will offer reflections on work by Rembrandt and others, guided by her original poetry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

Sunday evening, March 13 – Tuesday morning, March 15

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

From a course 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."

- The first session is on 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, made out and sent to FPC.



The following poem was written by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre in response to viewing Rembrandt's painting, "Christ on the Cross" (1631).

Fully human, fully God.
The one claim is clear enough,
the other so at odds with this
tortured image of defeat, only faith
could possibly consent.

Painters go at it again and again,
the paradox of Spirit leaving flesh,
luminous and torn, all-knowing
and abandoned.

Jesus cries out. He hangs
in ominous twilight.
The only light left
in an angry heaven
turns his flesh to gold.

What must the prayer of the painter be
who takes on such a task?

*Let my hand not recoil
from the body's truth,
nor my brush stray
from the story.
Let me be true to the darkness
you entered, O light of the world,
and to the awful beauty
of your agony.*

**CHURCH SCHOOL
SPRING SCHEDULE**
Preschool – 5th Grade

March 6

Class

March 13

Class

Daylight Saving Time

March 20—PALM SUNDAY

Class

Meeting of Church School teachers
and Christian Education Committee

March 27—EASTER

Communion

No Church School

April 3

Communion

No Church School / Spring Vacation

April 10

Class

April 17

Class

Meeting of Church School teachers

April 24

Class



For Church School information contact
Pat Stromsta at
pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org



Eco-Palms

They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!" — John 12:12-13

To celebrate Palm Sunday, our congregation will partner with the Presbyterian Hunger Program to use Eco-Palms — branches truly worthy of celebration.

Eco-Palm harvesters gather only quality palm fronds in a way that allows the plant to keep growing. The communities process and package the palms instead of selling to middlemen, allowing them to capture more of the profits. With this money, impoverished harvesters are able to buy shoes and school uniforms for their children and can pay for basic healthcare.

Five cents of every Eco-Palm sold for Palm Sunday directly funds projects that improve the lives of all community members. This money provides scholarships for students, pays a teacher's salary, and supports elderly members of the community.

This year, we share the jubilation of Palm Sunday with the people who harvested our palms. As we wave our palms, we can truly say, "Hosanna in the Highest!" For more information, visit www.pcusa.org/palms or speak with Pat Stromsta, Director of Christian Education.



Children's Choir



Children in our Church School (2nd – 5th grade) are invited to join the Children's Choir, which will sing during our Palm Sunday and Easter Services. This is the first time in many years that our schools' Spring Vacation hasn't fallen before or during Holy Week. The Children's Choir will be a welcome addition to the services. We will meet to practice following Worship from February 28 through March 20.

Please call or e-mail Pat Stromsta for further information.
(pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org)

First Family Celebrations!

Our first Valentine's Day Party was observed by our youngest children and their families (Preschool – 1st grade) on February 14 following Worship. Eight families—a total of 38 people—attended the potluck. The children enjoyed Ms. Pat's macaroni and cheese and Valentine crafts. Most importantly – we enjoyed getting to know one another as members of our First Presbyterian Church Family.

On April 17 we will participate in another First Family Celebration and this time will invite the families of children in 2nd – 5th grades. We will observe Earth Day along with the Green P's and enjoy a potluck that highlights "green" food. Activities and education opportunities around our Earth Day observance will be available.

First Families – put the date on your calendar.

By the way – everyone is part of our First Family!

YOUTH MINISTRY SPRING SCHEDULE

March 6

Pine Island Presbyterian Church

March 13

Kalamazoo FPC

March 20

Westminster Presbyterian Church

For Youth Ministry information
contact Rob Bradford at
bradfordrr@gmail.com

CHOOSING OUR STORIES —YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Middle School through High School

This class series is based on the idea that our lives are built around the stories we hear and, more significantly, the ones we remember. We will draw from several of Marcus Borg's texts, including *The Heart of Christianity*, *Speaking Christian*, and also *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*.

This series will be held on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00, and will continue weekly for six weeks. (It began Feb. 12). Gatherings will be held at several host family homes. Come to one, or come to all six!

Contact Tina Nap for details,
and, if you plan to attend,
call (201) 455-4837 or e-mail
jantinaaleidanap@charter.net.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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.

MONTHLY "LUNCH BUNCH"

March 4 (Friday), 1:00 p.m.

Escape winter by joining us on Friday, March 4, at 1:00 p.m.
This month the Lunch Bunch is at THE FIELDSTONE GRILL,
3970 W. CENTRE ST. in Portage. Remember to call the church
(344-0119) by Thursday morning, March 3, to reserve a place.
But if the cold winter weather has left you forgetful, just come.
Also, feel free to call one of us if you need a ride.

Phyllis Curtis (345-8195)

Phyllis Music (323-3476)

Kim Cummings (342-6943)

Carmen & Ron Tanis

Betty Bridges

Helen Brady

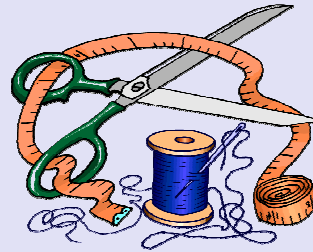
(Sue Forsch—out of town in March)

HEARTS-TO-HANDS STITCHERS

March 7 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

April 4 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers will meet on Monday, March 7, at 1:00
in the Sewing Room off the Dining Room. We will make chair-back
book caddies for Edison Environmental Academy, and other items
to be determined. All who enjoy sewing are welcome.



MARTHA CIRCLE

March 9 (Wednesday), 3:00 p.m.

April 13 (Wednesday), 3:00 p.m.

Martha Circle is a diverse group of women who meet on the
second Wednesday of each month from September through
May for fellowship, Bible study, and service to the church and
the community. Please refer to the weekly Announcements
for information about the spring meetings.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

March 9 (Wednesday), 5:30 p.m.

April 13 (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

ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST

March 20 (Sunday), 8:45 a.m.

April 17 (Sunday), 8:45 a.m.

The Men's Fellowship group will offer their monthly breakfast on Sunday, March 20 (also April 17) 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.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS NEEDLEWORKERS

March 21 (Monday), 1:30 p.m.

April 18 (Monday), 1:30 p.m.

Please refer to the weekly Announcements for information about the spring meetings.

THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

March 28 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

April 25 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

Thoughtful Readers Book Group will meet on Monday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. We will discuss *Orphan Train*, by Christina Baker Kline, Kalamazoo Public Library's Reading Together selection for 2016. This is a captivating story of two very different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman who was transported on an orphan train as a child from New York to the Midwest, and a troubled teenage girl who helps her sort through her possessions and memories and seek answers to questions from her past.

Our last meeting of the year will be held on Monday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. Marcia Cowell will facilitate our discussion of *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown, the *New York Times* best-selling story about the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal in Nazi Germany. Out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in desperate times.

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

*PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR INSERT OR WEEKLY
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
CHURCH ACTIVITIES NOT LISTED HERE.*



2016 Tree Seedlings

The Green Presbyterians (Green P's) is a church committee which works to increase our congregation's awareness of the environment and ways to take care of it. Every spring, tree seedlings are available through the Kalamazoo Conservation District.

This year, the committee will make the seedlings more easily available for members. Choose from evergreen and deciduous tree and shrub seedlings. These can be used for reforestation, for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat and food, and landscaping. The trees trap carbon in their wood and release oxygen into the air as part of their growth and metabolism.

Watch for additional information in the Sunday bulletins, and look for our table in the Gathering Place. Seedlings will be ordered by Sunday, March 13, and available for pick up at church on Sunday, April 24.

We will make the seedlings available as gifts. Donations to help offset the costs will be welcomed.

For additional information, you can go to kalamazooconservation.org. Yes, it will be a while before you can string a hammock between two of these trees, but we also all know that time passes quickly! Call Bruce Goethe with questions; 353-3733.



Lowering Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Emissions from Cars

Did you know that in 2014 an estimated 28% of the total U.S. energy-related CO₂ releases were from motor gasoline and diesel fuel consumption for transportation? We need to reduce CO₂ emissions from cars to slow global warming. Burning a gallon of E10 gasoline emits about 19 pounds of CO₂ (for B20 diesel, about 22 pounds). For more detail, go to www.eia.gov, and search "greenhouse affect climate" and "CO₂ per gallon".

To reduce your car's CO₂ emissions, reduce the number of gallons of fuel burned; e.g., by

- A. driving fewer miles, and/or
- B. maximizing miles per gallon (mpg) while driving.

As to the latter, here are a few suggestions:

1. Cruising in top gear at slower speeds normally increases mpg. For example, in the 50-80 mph range, a rough estimate of mpg vs. speed assumes $\text{mpg} \times \text{mph} = \text{a constant}$. If at 70 mph your car averages 30 mpg ($70 \times 30 = 2100$), at 50 mph expect about $2100/50 = 42$ mpg, about 35 mpg at 60 mph, and about 26 mpg at 80 mph.
2. Hypermiling techniques may be a tempting way to substantially boost mpg. But some should be avoided as dangerous or even illegal (e.g. closely tailgating, or "drafting", a semi).
3. A stopped car with engine idling obviously gets zero mpg. A typical fuel-injected car, when started, can immediately be driven away (preferably gently for the first mile or so on a cold winter morning), its engine more quickly warming up while driving.
4. The starter systems in hybrid cars are designed to withstand restarting the engine after every red traffic light stop; the starter motor in your non-hybrid car may not be. In the latter, idling a warm, fuel injected engine for a minute or so until the traffic light turns green, burns little fuel and may avoid early-starter motor failure, and the resultant repair cost and the risk of being stranded.
5. If you are replacing your present car, research could find the best fit in a more fuel-efficient car. Other things being equal, a smaller, lighter car gets better mpg (expect a 2500-pound car to get about twice the mpg of a 5000-pound car). Also, you may find a smaller car that unexpectedly fits your needs. For example, one small 2016 hatchback (per www.cars.com) has a maximum cargo volume more than twice that of a popular direct competitor and larger than that of the latter's next bigger brother, and has an EPA passenger volume bigger than either, and (per www.fuelly.com) has real-world mpg (averaged over multiple owners) better than either.

For a far more comprehensive presentation of ways to reduce your number of gallons of fuel burned, go to www.google.com and search "wikipedia energy-efficient driving".

From the Green P's (Ron Tanis)

Outreach and Community Service

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

Kalamazoo Drop-In Care Center

In partnership with our current Outreach support of the Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center (KDCCC), our congregation will collect donations from the KDCCC wish list of items they consume every week at the center.

Items needed include

- ◇ Paper plates (snack size and regular)
- ◇ Paper towels
- ◇ 100% apple juice
- ◇ Jelly (grape and strawberry)
- ◇ Baby wipes
- ◇ Goldfish or other snack crackers

During March, plastic bins will be located in the Narthex and in the office mailroom to receive these donations.

The Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center provides free short-term child care for low-income families with children from six weeks through five years of age. This Center provides a warm, safe, and supportive environment for children and their parents.

During 2015, KDCCC cared for 212 children from 153 families. Thank you for your continued support of this much-needed service in our community!



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://kalamazooCropwalk.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

FPC OUTREACH PROJECTS

Building Blocks of Kalamazoo
Celebrate the Vision
CROP Walk
Disaster Assistance
Edison School
Kalamazoo Deacons Conference
Kalamazoo Drop-in Childcare Center
Kalamazoo Habitat for Humanity
Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes
Ministry with Community and Sunday Lunch
Nicaragua Partnership
North Presbyterian Church
Open Doors
Rickman House
United Campus Ministry at WMU
Vine Street Neighborhood Project

Outreach (Ford-Neff Funds)

- Mission and Outreach Designated Endowment Fund
- Downtown Literacy Center
- Ghana Partnership
- Men's Community Bible Study ("Man-Up!")
- Special Offerings

KALAMAZOO DEACONS CONFERENCE

The Kalamazoo Deacons Conference is a local organization that works each day to make Kalamazoo a better place to live. KDC recognizes the physical and spiritual needs of the poor in our community and attends to these needs by sharing the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

While other organizations in Kalamazoo meet the physical needs of the poor and the homeless, such as shelter, food and clothing, KDC strives to fill the gap for the underserved and working poor of our community. The Kalamazoo Deacons Conference views these challenges and opportunities through the lens of the love, power, and grace that we receive through the Holy Spirit for their work.

KDC begins the day with an open invitation to spend time in the Scriptures and in prayer with the staff and those of the community who come to the building for support. Assistance is given to those in need through the DRS (Direct Response Servants) who take the time to listen and address the physical and spiritual needs of the individual and families that come to KDC. Physical needs that are met include transportation (tokens), I.D. and birth certificates, clothing, food, personal hygiene items, household goods, furniture, and appliances. Building relationship and treating each guest with dignity is also a priority. Prayer is offered for those who request it, along with the use of a prayer room when needed or desired. Devotional material is always available.

KDC assistance doesn't end there. Their desire to help men and women grow and develop initiated the S.T.E.P program, which offers certified training and certificates for both custodial training and retail sales. The implementation of more of these employment and development programs is in the future plans of KDC.



Outreach and Community Service

ANNUAL PEACE SERVICE

KALAMAZOO INTERFAITH COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

March 13

The First Congregational Church, UCC, 345 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, will host the **14th Annual Peace Service** at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 13, 2016. The keynote speaker is **Imam Dawud Walid**, whose talk is titled, *Islam: Social Justice and Islamophobia*. Refreshment and dialogue will follow the peace service. Free childcare is available. There is no admission charge. Voluntary contributions may be given to Bethany Christian Service to support Syrian refugees. Contributions made by check are tax deductible. Indicate "Refugee House" on the memo line.

Dawud Walid is currently the Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the largest advocacy and civil liberties organization for American Muslims. Walid is a regular political blogger for *The Detroit News*, and has been interviewed and quoted in approximately 100 media outlets, including *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, CNN, Al-Jazeera, and National Public Radio. He served in the U.S. Navy, earning two achievement awards. He received awards of recognition from the city councils of Detroit and Hamtramck, as well as from a number of varied religious and community organizations.

Convened in January, 2003, the **Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice (KICPJ)** welcomes people from all faith and spiritual traditions who wish to engage in local, national, and international issues involving peace and justice. The first Peace Service sponsored by the Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice, was held in March, 2003 at Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College, to protest the imminent war with Afghanistan. In addition to the annual peace services, KICPJ holds an annual forum each fall to discuss various social concerns related to peace and justice.

For more information about KICJP, please contact John Petro, john.petro@wmich.edu, one of several members from our church serving on the KICPJ board.



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

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

March Birthdays

1
Mike Millar
2
Kennedy Elliott
Jake Longman
Brett Schmiede
Bridgit Smith
Julia Watt
Catherine Willoughby
3
Judy Anderson
Ellen Dykhuis
Cory Fritz
Evelyn Garner
4
Kurt Kremlick
5
Cynthia Gleaton
William Hajek
6
Sandra Edwards-Garcia
Jonathan Herson
7
Kara Cheney
Bennett Loughrin
8
Clara Lynn Hay
Chuck Schmiede
Joshua Scott
9
Kristen Allen
Leslie Roberts
Sarah Walker
10
Marshall Klein
Charlie Warren
11
Scott Erdos
Jerre James
Phil Kechele
Wendy King
12
Todd Richman
Leigh Schultz
13
Rory Busby
Davis Crocker
Sara Malloure
Robert Murray
Barb Ross

14
Christopher Chambers
Greg Russell
Logan Upson
15
Bruce Lubbers
Nancy Owen
16
Richard Aldrich
Rob Bradford
Adrienne Bumpus
William Park
17
Julie Bol
Kenneth Dark
Sheila Park
Shayne Plemmons
Sue Weeldreyer
18
Brian Chambers
Don Goodling
Julie Kechele
Dean McWethy
19
Jacque Carter
Jana Marie Schnur
Robert Scholten
Benjamin Taylor
20
C.J. Carrel
Benjamin Lewis
Jean Miller
21
Brad Allen
Gary Dorrien
Dick Hodgman
Helen Lander
Amy Schreiner
Carol Payne Smith
22
Paulette Rayel
23
Sharon Bradford
Matthew Novak
Nolan Pessetti
Bob White
24
Craig Kortlandt
Jacqueline Metzler
Shari Schut
Jane Veech

25
Daniel Busby
Alexis Diamond
Bob Klesert
Nan Munn
26
John Houdek
Samantha Shaffer
27
Mary Brylowski
Dick DeVries
Diane Durian
Patrick Gleaton
Marty Meinzing

28
Laura Tribby
29
Taye Bradford
Sarah Chase
30
William Appel
Lou Grant
Chase Perricone
Marjorie Wardwell
31
Grant Coon
Patricia Farris
Peter Jorth

YEARS OF FPC MEMBERSHIP 50-Plus Years—Congratulations!

As a monthly feature, each *Presbyter* includes an “anniversary-by-month” list of our members who have been a part of the FPC family for fifty years or more.

These lists name each member by the month of his or her joining the church, and include only those who have been members for 50 years or more.

The entire list for the year is printed in the FPC Annual Report.

MARCH Anniversaries

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Winship Todd	3/24/1929	87
Morden Paul Schuur	3/29/1931	85
Dorothy Milham Gauntlett	3/21/1937	79
Mary Lou Stephenson Todd	3/21/1937	79
Caroline Richardson Ham	3/21/1940	76
Gloria Ross Landman	3/29/1945	71
Dayton Maynard	3/22/1951	65
Juanita Erdos	3/26/1959	57
Jeanene Lewis	3/30/1961	55
Annabelle Rigg	3/30/1961	55
Bruce Rigg	3/30/1961	55
Barbara Johnson	3/26/1964	52
William Johnson	3/26/1964	52

APRIL Birthdays

1	16 (none)
Mervin Burtis	17
Bryan Ross	Cari Anderson
Lucas Smith	Dave Drok
2	Ruth Lubbers
Connor Cloetingh	Corey Waterman
Jeremy Diamond	18
Martha Flynn	Elizabeth Bell
Ann Ihling	Nancy Johnson
Sue Madden	Amy Miedema
Robert Munn	19
Mark Schreiner	Julie Shaw
3	20
Julie Howard	Dorothy Gauntlett
Matt Molitor	Jonathan Willoughby
Mary Solomon	Jim Young
4	21
Sam Cupps	Sarah Graziano
Alexandra Desotelle	Emily Haite
Paige Smith	Addison Misner
Peg Strong	Cameryn Murray
5 (none)	Donald Roberts
6 (none)	22
7	Jeanne Case
Cynthia Feucht	23
Marilyn Jauch	Keith Johnson
Michelle Molitor	Brian Kastman
8	Philip Ward
Judy Johnson	24
Mary Ann Ven De Ville	Kate Bates
9	Robert Candido
Lisa Padgett	Greg Chambers
Gene Miller	Robert Jauch
Nanami Tsuchiyama	25
10	Diane Misner
Jim Weeldreyer	Kathy Smyser
11	Marjorie St. Mary
Kaiya Bates	26
Rollin Richman	Carolyn Houdek
12	27
Steve Cavanagh	Grace Jasinski
David Lewis	Megan Mahoney
Suzanne Macomber	Michelle Roberts
13	Pamela Zandt
John Bradford	28
Ben Palmer	Jane Todd
14	29
Ann Rohrbaugh	Kay Howson
15	30
Betty Bennett	Heidi Goodwin
Salim Harik	Jack Mellis
Jane Kraska	
Karen Lewis	

50-Plus Years of Membership —Congratulations!

As a monthly feature, each *Presbyter* includes an “anniversary-by-month” list of our members who have been a part of the FPC family for fifty years or more. These lists name each member by the month of his or her joining the church, and include only those who have been members for 50 years or more. The entire annual list is printed in the Annual Report.

APRIL Anniversaries

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Joan Gerpheide Colgren	4/14/38	77
Ruth Koffel Morris	4/17/38	77
Mary Ann Martz Ven De Ville	4/2/42	73
Jacqueline Reid Metzler	4/2/42	73
Mary Little Tyler	4/22/43	72
Jerre James	4/3/47	68
Kay Bilderback Burtis	4/14/49	66
Dorothy Callander	4/10/52	63
Dorothy Larkin	4/10/52	63
Julie Shaw	4/10/52	63
Joel Shepherd II	4/10/52	63
Priscilla Todd Blair	4/2/53	62
Amy Anderson	4/15/54	61
Carole Todd Shepherd Birch	4/15/54	61
Andrew R. Lenderink III	4/15/54	61
Timothy Shank	4/15/54	61
Helen Creager	4/7/55	60
Timothy J. Lenderink	4/7/55	60
Sue Grossman	4/18/57	58
JoAnn Yochim	4/18/57	58
Martha Meinzinger	4/3/58	57
Marilyn Lindbeck	4/3/58	57
Jerry Meinzinger	4/3/58	57
Nancy Raklovits	4/3/58	57
George Brooks	4/14/60	55
Richard Russell	4/14/60	55
Ruth Abbott	4/19/62	53
Charlene Hansen	4/19/62	53
Gregory Russell	4/19/62	53
Jane Veech	4/19/62	53
Gayle Stephenson	4/11/63	52
Jennalie Shepherd	4/11/63	52
Rosalyn Hogan	4/15/65	51
Jane Iannelli	4/15/65	51
Vincent Iannelli	4/15/65	51
Margaret Pifer	4/15/65	51
Mervin Burtis	4/7/66	50
Diane White	4/7/66	50

PASTORAL CARE AND HOSPITAL VISITATION

An important part of our ministry at First Presbyterian Church is to provide pastoral care, including hospital visits. When a church member is admitted, hospitals are no longer permitted to notify the home church. 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.

For more information, please see the fliers at the church entrances.



March is Organ Donation Awareness Month!!

Sign Up to Be a Donor: Don't Rule Yourself Out

All people regardless of age should consider themselves potential organ and tissue donors. There are few absolute exclusions (such as HIV infection, active cancer, systemic infection) and no strict upper or lower age limits. Potential donors will be evaluated for suitability when the occasion arises.

Too Old?

No one is too old or too young. Both newborns and senior citizens have been organ donors. The condition of your organs is more important than age. Someone 35 years old with a history of alcohol abuse may have a liver that is in worse condition than someone 60 years old who has never consumed alcohol. Doctors will examine your organs and determine whether they are suitable for donation if the situation arises. If you are under 18, you may need the permission of a parent or guardian to donate.

Medical Condition?

You may still be able to donate your organs. Doctors will evaluate the condition of your organs when the time arises. The transplant team's decision will be based on a combination of factors, such as your specific illness and your physical condition, to determine which organs/tissues can be donated. Organ donation is a simple way that each of us can make a difference in someone else's life.

This information was copied and pasted from website organdonor.gov. Go there yourself for more information on organ donation.

Ann Ross RN, BSN, Faith Community Nurse
Health Ministry Coordinator

Our Life Together

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.

In Memoriam

Kay Yunger was born on January 27, 1935 and joined FPC on October 4, 1964. Kay died on January 31, 2016.

Presbyter

PRESBYTER DEADLINES

May issue—deadline is April 18 (will be mailed April 27)

June issue—deadline is May 16 (will be mailed May 25)

July/August issue—deadline is June 13 (will be mailed June 22)

Parish Associates

Parish Associates:

The Reverend Dr. Larry Boutelle, boutelle2@gmail.com
The Reverend Liz Candido, ecandido@kzoo.edu
The Reverend Larry Farris, farrislw@gmail.com

United Campus Ministry Pastor and FPC Parish Associate:

The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, 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
Ext. 202

Associate Pastor

The Reverend Mary Van Andel

mary.vanandel@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 203

Christian Education Director

Dr. Patricia Stromsta

pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 204

Youth Director

Rob Bradford (269) 806-5196

bradfordrr@gmail.com

Director of Music

Cynthia Hunter (269) 377-2478

cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org

Organist

Elizabeth Bruce

elizabeth.bruce@kalamazoofirstpres.org

Health Ministry Coordinator

Ann Ross

ann.ross@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 211

Office Administrator

Ann Johnson

ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 205

Administrative Assistant

Norma Clack

norma.clack@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 209

Financial Coordinator

Louise Taylor

louise.taylor@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 206

Building Superintendent

Mike Noteboom

mike.noteboom@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 213

Custodians (Ext. 213):

Shawn Smith

shawn.smith@kalamazoofirstpres.org

Randy Randt

South Lobby Receptionist (Ext. 221)

Jim Cook

Nate Owens

Nik DeHaan

FPC Calendar - March, 2016

PLEASE NOTE: A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 15 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.

Tuesday/1

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p All-Church Read
1:00p Archivists
5:30p Hospitality Committee (off-site)

Wednesday/2

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

Thursday/3

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a Library open
11:00a DCLC
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/4

8:30a Yoga
1:00p Lunch Bunch (*off site*)

Saturday/5 (no FPC events today)

Sunday/6

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Prayer Partners
9:00a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
11:30a Inquirers Class
12:00p Great Chili Cook-Off
12:45p Ministry with Community
(*FPC serves the meal today*)
5:00p Youth Group- Pine Island P.C.

Monday/7

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

Tuesday/8

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p All-Church Read
1:00p Archivists

Wednesday/9

12:00p Library open
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
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
7:00p Outreach Committee

Thursday/10

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a DCLC
12:30p Finance Committee
6:30p Property Maintenance Committee
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/11

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/12 (no FPC events today)

Sunday/13

Daylight Saving Time begins

9:00a Congregational Life Committee
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Reading Aloud
9:30a Adult Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
12:00p Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre: class

3:00p Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre: public presentation

5:00p Youth Group

6:30p Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre: class

Monday/14—Presbyter deadline

9:30a Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre: classes (through 8:30 p.m.)

7:00p Deacons

Tuesday/15

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
9:30a Dr. Marilyn Chandler McEntyre: class (through 11:30 a.m.)

10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

12:00p All-Church Read

1:00p Archivists

7:00p Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday/16

12:00p Library open

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 Women's Bible Study

Thursday/17

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a Library Open

11:00a DCLC

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/18

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/19

9:00a Chancel Guild work day

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

Sunday/20—PALM SUNDAY

8:45a All Church Breakfast
9:00a C.S. teachers' meeting
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
12:00p Sabbatical Plan Presentation
5:00p Youth Group (Westminster P.C.)

Monday/21

1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needleworkers
5:30p Personnel
6:00p Health Committee

Tuesday/22

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p All-Church Read
1:00p Archivists

Wednesday/23

12:00p Library open
3:00p DCLC
4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/24—MAUNDY THURSDAY

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a DCLC
7:00p Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday/25—GOOD FRIDAY

8:30a Yoga
7:00p Good Friday Worship

Saturday/26

9:00a Chancel Guild work day

Sunday/27—EASTER

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Reading Aloud/Lenten Group
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a [no Church School]
5:00p [no Youth Group meeting]

Monday/28

7:00p Thoughtful Readers

Tuesday/29

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p Archivists

Wednesday/30

12:00p Library open
3:00p DCLC
4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
7:00p Session

Thursday/31

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a Library Open
11:00a DCLC
7:00p FPC Choir Rehearsal

FPC Calendar - April, 2016

Friday/1

- 8:30a Yoga
- 9:00a Class: A Matter of Balance
- 1:00p Lunch Bunch

Saturday/2 (no FPC events today)

Sunday/3

- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:00a Prayer Partners
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Childcare
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
Communion served
New Members received
- 12:45p Ministry with Community
(FPC serves the meal today)
- 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/4

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

Tuesday/5

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p Archivists

Wednesday/6

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

Thursday/7

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

Friday/8

- 8:30a Yoga
- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance

Saturday/9

(no FPC events today)

Sunday/10

- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:00a Congregational Life Committee
- 9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Childcare
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/11

- 7:00p Deacons

Tuesday/12

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p Archivists

Wednesday/13

- 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
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 7:00p Outreach

Thursday/14

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a DCLC
- 11:30a Stewardship Committee
- 12:30p Finance Committee
- 6:30p Property Maintenance
Committee meeting
- 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/15

- 8:30a Yoga
- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance

Saturday/16

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

Sunday/17

- 8:45a All-Church Breakfast
- 9:00a Church School teachers meet
- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Childcare
- 10:00a Christian Education meeting
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 11:30a Potluck for children grades 2-5
- 12:00p Earth Care Fair
- 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/18—Presbyter deadline

- 1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needleworkers
- 5:30p Personnel Committee
- 6:00p Health Ministry Committee

Tuesday/19

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p Archivists
- 7:00p Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday/20

- 2:30p Directory photos
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 7:00p Women's Bible Study

Thursday/21

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a DCLC
- 2:30p Directory photos
- 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/22

- 8:30a Yoga
- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance
- 2:30p Directory photos

Saturday/23

- 9:30a Directory photos (until 3:30 p.m.)

Sunday/24

- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Childcare
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 1:00p CROP Walk registration
- 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/25

- 7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group

Tuesday/26

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p Archivists

Wednesday/27

- Presbyter folding/labeling/mailling
- 2:30p Directory photos
- 3:00p Library open
- 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/28

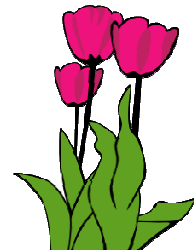
- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 2:30p Directory photos
- 11:00a DCLC
- 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/29

- 10:00a Class: A Matter of Balance
- 2:30p Directory photos

Saturday/23

- 9:30a Directory photos (until 3:30 p.m.)



PLEASE NOTE: A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 10 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.