

The *Presbyter*

MAY ISSUE

April 27, 2016 • Volume 45, No. 3



KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4708

Telephone: (269) 344-0119 • **Fax:** (269) 344-4645 • **Website:** www.KalamazooFirstPres.org

PRESBYTER HIGHLIGHTS—

- ♦ **NEW MEMBER PROFILES** (pages 4-5)
- ♦ **SPAGHETTI SUPPER - May 3** (page 9)
- ♦ **HEALING SERVICE - May 15** (page 3)
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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).

May 1

Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Acts 16:9-15; John 5:1-9

May 8

Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Mary Van Andel

* Acts 16:16-34;

Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

May 15

Day of Pentecost

Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:9-17

May 22

Trinity Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31;

Romans 5:1-5

May 29

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Pentecost

The Rev. Liz Candido

* 1 Kings 18:20-21, 30-39;

Gal. 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

* The Scripture passages listed with an asterisk are from the *Book of Common Worship* (1993) 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

In Worship through this Easter season, many scripture readings in the Lectionary come from the book of Acts. They recount experiences from the times when the earliest apostles received visions of how God called them to serve. What cultural realities did they face? Where should they go, even beyond accepted boundaries or apparent limitations? With whom should they share the good news of God's love in Christ? Often I am amazed at what courage, openness, creativity, energy, trust, humility, and willingness to sacrifice must have been necessary for them, in God's grace, to touch so many hearts, to inspire new followers of Christ, to establish the church as an instrument (in its better moments) of God's purposes in the world.

In this Easter season, we have begun a visioning process for our congregation. By the time you read this *Presbyter*, some events will already have occurred, and other opportunities are still to come. At the heart of living faith as Presbyterians, we trust God to continue speaking *through our conversation with one another*. We need everyone's voice, perspective, experience, hopes, and dreams. And we need to engage one another with the grace of openness, creativity, humility, and trust. What cultural realities do we face? Where is God calling us in service—maybe even beyond accepted boundaries and practices or apparent limitations?

As we've discussed in some classes, I like the image of living faith as an ongoing conversation across generations. Through laughter, tears, questions, crises, and new discoveries, people have "conversed" in our congregation for over 180 years. Each of us has joined at some point along the way. I'm excited by the expectation of others joining, as well. And however we "leave" this particular conversation, I trust that God's love in Christ will continue to be spoken through generations to come. That is good news! What do you have to share?

A pivotal point in Christian history came very early, among the first apostles. They discussed what really defined our faith and how we should live together when non-Jewish believers began to follow Jesus. At a council in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul told of "signs and wonders" God had done among them. At heart, the council faced together the question, the task, the privilege of envisioning how God's grace works among us, and what they should do in response. In the end, when they reached a decision, Acts recounts support given with the affirmation: "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us ..."

Please make the effort to participate in our "conversation" throughout this month. Session will approve members of the Vision Team. They will receive everything that is expressed in this initial period, and they will reflect together through the months ahead. In the end, some time later this summer, we expect that our council, the Session, will affirm a vision for our congregation to guide our life and witness to Christ in this time and place. At that time, I pray we will be able to say—with courage, energy, and willingness to engage in sacrificial service—it seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us!

Grace and peace to you,

Seth

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor

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

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

STEWARDSHIP

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35 (NSRV)



*The Gifts of God
for the People of God*

Imagine, if you will, for just a moment, that Jesus stands before you and declares himself to be the bread of life. In spite of what you might think, his words would have seemed as outrageous to his listeners 2000 years ago as they do to us now. Of course, the edge has been taken off somewhat because of the comfortable familiarity that now surrounds them - "I am the bread of life." But what if we could hear them as if for the first time?

For so many Christians, these words are so common that trying to imagine hearing them for the first time is as futile as trying to be someone else. For the soldier to be the teacher, or the clerk to be the circus clown is almost ludicrous, a flight of fancy. Some things are so much a part of what we are, of our structured belief systems, that we can hardly pretend them to be something different.

We can hardly think of Jesus apart from the bread and wine of the Eucharist. But it is not the bread of the communion meal that Jesus is talking about. Jesus wants his followers to understand that the gifts of God, the Gift of Jesus, are as necessary to their well-being as nourishment itself.

Know the Giver. Receive the gifts. Share with others, with all the world. God knows what we need, and gives abundantly. We open our hearts and minds and souls to receive. Then, and only then, can we grow in our personal giving.

We are hungry; there is bread. We are thirsty; there is Living Water. We yearn for quiet, for light in the darkness, for guidance, and for the hope of generosity. Jesus says, "Here I am."

Used courtesy of Ecumenical Center for Stewardship Studies

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

The Endowment Committee is charged with oversight of the Endowment Fund and related Designated Funds. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide income in support of the annual operating budget of the church. The Designated Funds also provide income to specific outreach activities, based on the wishes of the original donors.

The selection of investments is made in light of the philosophy and spiritual values of our congregation. These endowed funds are expressions of charity and compassion for and from the members of First Presbyterian Church. The Endowment Fund is intended to support our mission into perpetuity.

Consider your own gift to the Endowment Fund as one expression of your legacy to the church. Large or small, any gift is welcome in support of our ministry. The committee is forever grateful for those members of our church who have made commitments over the last 30 years, and to those who will consider a gift in the future.

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC—June 5

The annual All-Church Picnic is coming! Congregational Life would like to invite you to meet and eat with us one more time before the busy summer season begins! On Sunday, June 5, immediately following the worship service, we would like to meet you across the street in Bronson Park to share a meal.

We are going back to picnic basics with hamburgers and hot dogs, but would love for you to bring a side dish or dessert to share with everyone! If you have any questions, contact Kelsey Oliver at (269) 903-1077 or olivekel@mail.gvsu.edu.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—April

The following motions were made and adopted:

- ♦ to approve the Financial Appeal for the Youth Group Spaghetti Supper on May 3, 2016, with funds going for mission trips and conferences.
- ♦ to approve the disbursement of the memorial funds to the Endowment Fund as follows:
Fred Dinges, Virginia Mellis, Margaret Miller, Jean Smith, and Gordon and Virginia Stocking.
Total Distribution of \$895.00 to the Endowment Fund.
- ♦ to approve the Building Use Request of Food Addicts Anonymous for the use of one room weekly: Wednesdays from 4 – 5:50 p.m. for the remainder of 2016.
- ♦ to approve \$599 from the Ford-Neff Fund to support Jessegrace Ford on a mission trip to Nicaragua.
- ♦ to approve the Building Use Request for the Kalamazoo Singers to celebrate their 40th Anniversary on December 5 and 10, 2016. waiving the building use fee.
- ♦ to approve the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant Application as prepared as of March 30, 2016.

HEALING SERVICE—May 15

The Health Ministry Committee invites you to give yourself the gift of a protected time and space for healing prayer on Sunday, May 15, in the East Transept immediately following Worship. The Reverend Mary Van Andel will lead us in this time of healing and restorative prayer. The use of “healing prayer” is very familiar. When we pray every Sunday in Worship for healing the nations, the earth, our communities, one another, and ourselves, we practice healing prayer.

Please join us, whether or not you have a specific need for healing. All are welcome! This is a time to be together in quiet reflection and prayer.

Health Ministry Committee
Ann Ross, RN, BSN, FCN



READING ALOUD

STARTING A NEW BOOK!!

Now entering our 22nd year of reading books about how we might live, our Reading Aloud group is just now starting Paul Kalanithi's book, *When Breath Becomes Air*. A brilliant young neurosurgeon, Kalanithi is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Unable to continue his career, he writes about his personal formation, his training, and the last months of his life, as he and his wife struggle to hold things together, care for their new daughter, and find meaning as the end approaches. Join us at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday morning, upstairs in Room 300. For more information, call Kim Cummings (342-6943) or Garrett Boersma (375-3107).

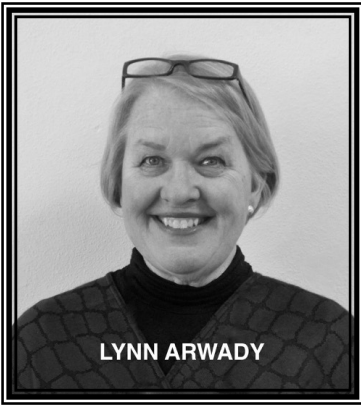
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S 2016 BIRTHDAY OFFERING

Since 1922, the PW's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve the lives of women and children around the world. We are asking for your support of this worthy project. Please make your check payable to "Presbyterian Women" and write "PW Birthday Offering" on the memo line. Envelopes are available in the Narthex and at the Lovell Street entrance. The deadline is June 10.

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.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



Lynn Arwady

Lynn is a retired educator, a lover of the arts, and a “granny-nanny” who spends half of each week in Oak Park, Illinois with her other grandchildren. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Kalamazoo Bach Festival and the Kalamazoo Children’s Chorus. An ordained elder, she has rung hand bells and served on numerous church committees. FPC member, Rand Arwady, is her son. She also has three daughters. Lynn is joining by letter of transfer from Second Reformed Church in Kalamazoo.



Jeff and Jill Barnum

Jeff is in property management with Edward Rose & Sons. Jill is an R.N. with Borgess at Woodbridge Hills. They have three adult children, one of whom is in heaven. Jeff is a fan of history, dogs, and Michigan State University. He also likes hiking, biking, and investing. Jill tutors at Edison School with her fluffy-doodle, Tess. She also enjoys reading, running, and hiking. Jeff and Jill are finding a new way to express their faith in what they describe as a calming, loving, and beautiful worship service. Jeff and Jill are joining by reaffirmation of faith.



Nancy Colburn

Nancy is a retired elementary school teacher. She and her husband, John, have two grown sons. Nancy has been a church organist and choir member. She worked with the American Red Cross and is a member of the Kalamazoo Singers, the DAR, and Ladies’ Library Association. She also enjoys quilting. On Sunday mornings, you will find Nancy in the soprano section of our choir, enjoying our traditional worship service. Nancy is joining by reaffirmation of faith.



Sheliah Tramel

Sheliah is a retired early childhood development worker. She moved to Kalamazoo to be near her daughter, who is a student at WMU; she hopes to make her home here in Kalamazoo. Sheliah enjoys knitting, sewing, and working on social justice projects. She already participates in FPC’s Celebrate the Vision and Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers, and is looking forward to tutoring at Edison School. Sheliah is joining by reaffirmation of faith.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ailih Weeldreyer

Ailih is a first-year student at Kalamazoo College and expects to major in political science. She enjoys ballet, traveling, and finding adventures. She participated in the Model United Nations at Kalamazoo College. She has enjoyed volunteering with the FPC Youth Group and going on mission trips. She hopes to find more opportunities for young adults to serve within the FPC congregation. Ailih is joining by profession of faith.

Gabriel Weeldreyer

Gabriel is a senior at Mattawan High School. He enjoys music in all parts of his life. He will be in the Drum Corps this summer, plays the trumpet in the marching band, and is a member of the National Honor Society and Model UN. He has done volunteer work here at FPC through the Youth Group and was a member of the group's mission trip to West Virginia. Gabriel is joining by profession of faith.

Deb Wiebeck

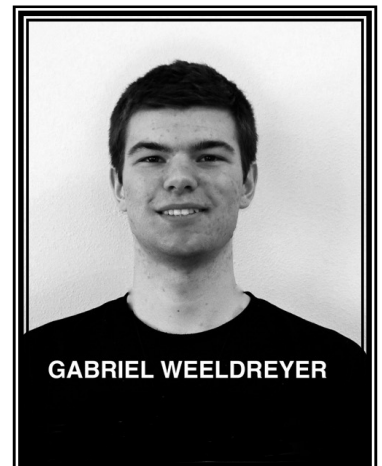
Deb is retired after 27 years in the insurance industry. She recently moved to Kalamazoo to be near her adult children. Deb is a trained Stephen Minister. She enjoys reading, sewing, knitting, and equestrian activities. She likes FPC's traditional worship service, music, and ministers. Deb is joining by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Brighton, Michigan.

INQUIRERS CLASS

Whether you've been here at FPC for a long time and just want to learn more about the church, or you're new to FPC, this is an opportunity to become better acquainted with the life and work of First Presbyterian Church, the practices and perspectives of the PC(USA), our place in the wider church tradition, and, if you choose, to become a member.

For further information, call:

Hospitality Moderator Heather Kortlandt at (269) 352-1451,
or Pastor Mary Van Andel at 344-0119.



CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

Class of 2016

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.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Following are needs of organizations that our church supports.

"Momentum" needs Coaches (Mentors) to work with students in the program. The program, which provides pre-employment training, coaching, and networking for the unemployed and underemployed, and connects them with sustainable employment opportunities.

Contact: Luke or Nicole at (269) 348-0978

"Justice for our Neighbor" (JFON) needs volunteers to gather information from immigrants, help with child care and/or hospitality. JFON makes available full-service legal aid for immigrants of low income in the Kalamazoo area.

Contact: Mollie Clements, (269) 226-0910
or revmolliecllements@gmail.com

Kalamazoo Deacons Conference (KDC)

"Simple Treasures". This volunteer position in the KDC resale shop involves greeting shoppers, creating an inviting atmosphere, and raising needed funds for KDC. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. is the time when the need is greatest.

"Direct Response Servant". Welcome guests, listen to his or her story and discern how KDC is best able to serve that person's needs. We have morning (9:30 to 11:30) and afternoon (1:00 to 3:30) openings in this rewarding position.



"Presbyter Folders"

Want to spend 2 to 3 hours once a month doing something important?

Most of those interested in the programs and activities of our church get their information on their computers. However there are many households that prefer to have a hard copy arrive in the mail. So each time a *Presbyter* is printed, some copies need to be folded and have the mailing address of the receiver(s) attached.

A group of folks has been meeting at 8:00 on the morning of the mailing date. In about 2 hours, our task is completed. Come join the team that makes that happen.

Call Ann Johnson at the church office (344-0119) or Phyllis Buskirk (375-2586). We'll add you to our list of folders.

CENTS-ABILITY

Happy are those who give food to the poor. Psalm 146:5-8

Everyone feels hungry on a daily basis. Most people are able to satisfy this craving and need. People who suffer chronic hunger don't have the option of eating when they are hungry. They have a primary need—how to feed themselves and their children today and tomorrow.

Food insecurity is the formal term for this condition. People living with food insecurity lack a stable, reliable means of getting the meals they need. We can help, because God has given us the heart and hands, along with the instructions, to provide food and other resources to the poor.

The children understand that they can provide relief for those who are hungry, through different programs here at First Presbyterian Church.

1. Bring canned and boxed food for our Loaves & Fishes barrels.
2. Come and serve a meal, or provide fruit or a dessert for the 100 men, women, and children who eat with us at Celebrate the Vision on Wednesday evenings.
3. Serve dinner at Ministry with Community on the first Sunday of the month.
4. Make a donation and/or walk in our annual CROP Hunger Walk.
5. Collect coins in the Cents-Ability cups for our STOP HUNGER NOW and future programs that address hunger.

Cents-Ability is a program we are facilitating, where the children and members of the congregation are asked to contribute a few cents to the Cents-Ability cups every time they sit down to eat. We will use these funds to help combat hunger through different agencies and programs.

For the month of May, we will be collecting money for STOP HUNGER NOW, an organization that gets food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable people, and works to end global hunger in our lifetime. Established in 1998, it has provided more than 225 million meals in 73 countries. Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, STOP HUNGER NOW operates throughout the U.S. and through affiliates in developing countries.

On June 5 (Children and Youth Sunday), we will use the money we have collected to purchase and then package food packets for the world. We are hoping you will encourage us with your contributions and your assistance in packaging these meals.

Matthew 25:31-46

I was hungry and you fed me.

Micah 6:6-8.

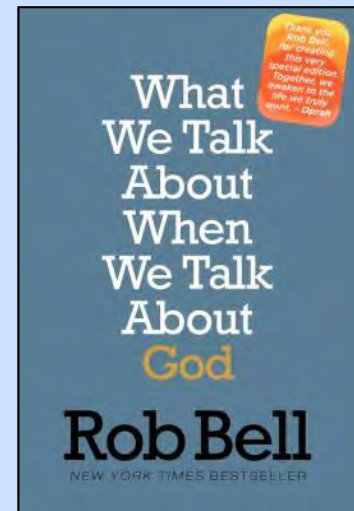
Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

NEW CLASS for ADULTS

“Talking about God and Our World”

Seth Weeldreyer will begin a new class on May 3. It will meet each Tuesday at 1:00 in Room 300, through June 14. We will discuss Rob Bell's book, *What We Talk about When We Talk about God*.

Copies of the book will be available at the church reception desk. Please read as much as you can of Chapters 1 and 2 before May 3. We look forward to continuing to grow in living faith together! If you have any questions, please contact Seth.



Robert H. "Rob" Bell Jr. (born August 23, 1970) is an American author, motivational speaker and formerly pastor. Bell received a M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary. He was the founder of Mars Hill Bible Church located in Grandville, Michigan, which he pastored until 2012. Under his leadership Mars Hill was one of the fastest-growing churches in America. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Love Wins* and the writer and narrator of a series of spiritual short films called NOOMA. In 2011 *Time Magazine* named Bell to its list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. [source: Wikipedia]

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE Spring/Summer 2016

Preschool – 5th Grade

May 1 Church School

May 8 Church School

May 15 / Day of Pentecost

Communion

Church School Teachers' Meeting

May 22 Church School

May 29

Children's Sunday Rehearsal
(Pat teaching)

June 5

Communion

Children's Sunday

**Church School will be in recess
from June 12 to July 3.**

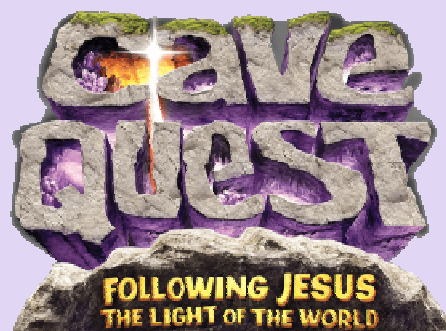
**Vacation Bible School
June 20-24.**

**Summer Church School
begins on July 10**



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

Cave Quest Vacation Bible School



At Cave Quest Vacation Bible School, kids experience God's Word in surprising and unforgettable ways! Each day, leaders reinforce one simple Bible truth, which makes it easy for kids to remember it and apply it to real life.

Kids will spend each day spelunking through field-tested activity stations with their Cave Crews (small groups of up to 5 kids and one leader). Every station is designed to reinforce the daily Bible Point in a hands-on, interactive way that keeps everyone engaged.

Daily Themes:

- Day 1: Jesus gives us hope.
- Day 2: Jesus gives us courage
- Day 3: Jesus gives us direction
- Day 4: Jesus gives us love.
- Day 5: Jesus gives us His power.

Downtown Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 20 – 24 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon at 1st United Methodist Church. There is no cost.

Volunteers are needed to serve as Crew Leaders and Assistant Crew Leaders. Other positions are also available.

Registration and Volunteer forms and additional information are available at the Cave Quest exhibit in the Gathering Place.

Please see or contact Pat Stromsta for additional information (pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org).

NEW WILMINGTON MISSION CONFERENCE

JULY 23-30

NWMC is a perfect opportunity for families or young people to come together for a week, learning about mission and what God is doing all over the world through the PCUSA. There are specific programs for all age groups; it doesn't matter if you are 2 years old or 92 years old!

Middle school and high school students can attend without their parents. Younger children must come with at least one parent. Each age group has specific speakers and programs every day, all day long. There are two times during the day where everyone at the conference comes together for worship, speakers, and fun.

Prices:

Adults - \$455

College, High school and middle school students - \$390

K-6 grade - \$275

Preschool - \$170

College and high school students can serve in the dining hall and only pay only \$270. Middle school students can help carry luggage and only pay only \$340.

There are also staff opportunities for adults. You may contact Sharon Bradford if you are interested in serving with young children all week. Staff fee is \$150.

The fees cover lodging, food, and programming for the week. We stay in college dorms and eat in the college cafeterias.

FPC members and friends who have attended in the past whom you may contact with questions:

Bob and Edith Rasmussen - Bev and Cammy Murray -
Nancy Maleitzke - Grace Cook - Becca, Rosie, and Alex Coryell -
Jessegrace Ford - Cindy and Patrick Gleaton

Contact Rob Bradford if you have any questions.
(269) 806-5196 or bradfordrr@gmail.com

FPC YOUTH GROUP SPAGHETTI SUPPER

MAY 3 (Tuesday)

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Donations will be gratefully accepted. All proceeds will benefit summer youth trips.

Menu:

Spaghetti w/meat,
spaghetti w/o meat,
salad, rolls, and drinks.
There will also be gluten-free options.

Come and spend some time socializing with your friends and church family, as well as helping to financially support summer youth trips!



YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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



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.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS STITCHERS

May 2 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers will meet on Monday, May 2, in the Sewing Room. We will make lap quilts. All who enjoy sewing are welcome.

MONTHLY "LUNCH BUNCH"

May 6 (Friday), 1:00 p.m.

We'll be gathering at 1:00 on the 6th of May, at the University Road House, 1350 West Michigan Avenue (corner of W. Michigan and Monroe St.). Most of you probably know the Roadhouse. It serves very tasty soups and salads, and a wide variety of heartier fare. Please call the church (344-0119) by Thursday morning, May 5, to reserve your place. See you there!

MARTHA CIRCLE

May 11 (Wednesday), 5:30 p.m.

Martha Circle will complete the program year with a potluck supper on Wednesday, May 11, at 5:30 at the home of Carol Parfitt. Bring a dish to share. Beverages and table service will be provided. For more information or directions to 16341 Prairie Brook Drive, Schoolcraft, contact Carol at 679-3073 or cparfitt@comcast.net. All women are cordially invited.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

May 11 (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.

ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST

May 15 (Sunday), 8:45 a.m.

The Men's Fellowship group will offer their monthly breakfast on Sunday, May 15, starting at 8:45. These breakfasts are a great opportunity 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 help to support Celebrate the Vision.

FPC SUPPER CLUB SEEKS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

The FPC Supper Club is preparing for the spring/summer season. Volunteer hosts look forward to greeting a small group of diners for a leisurely evening of food and conversation. Most suppers are potlucks, but some take another format. Supper Club provides a great opportunity for new members to get acquainted, and for current members to know one another better. To join us, or for further information, contact Carol Parfitt at cparfitt@comcast.net or 679-3073.

Outreach and Community Service

"STOP HUNGER NOW"

"30 days or 30 Dollars!"

Meal-Packaging Event: June 5

The Congregational Life Committee is collaborating with Christian Education and the Youth Group to organize a meal-packaging event at FPC on June 5, following the All-Church Picnic. We are working with "Stop Hunger Now" to facilitate this event.

"Stop Hunger Now" is an organization driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

Since their founding in 1998, this organization has provided over 225 million meals in 73 countries. Based in Raleigh, N.C., "Stop Hunger Now" operates meal-packaging programs in 20 cities in the U.S. and in South Africa, Malaysia, India, Italy, Peru, and the Philippines. They distribute meals through feeding programs operated by partner organizations in developing countries that promote education, encourage children to attend school, improve students' health and nutrition, address gender inequalities, stimulate economic growth, fight child labor, and are crucial in addressing global issues.

In just under two hours, a group of 40 to 50 volunteers can package 10,152 nutrient-rich meals. Our goal on June 5 is to package at least that many meals—the minimum number requested by "Stop Hunger Now". In order to do this, we need to raise funds to pay for these meals at a cost of \$0.29 per meal. We are hoping to raise \$3,500.00 and to have at least 50 volunteers participate in this event.

Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

We are also asking you to prayerfully consider a donation.

~ A dollar a day for 30 days in May will buy over 100 meals!

~ If you give up one meal at a restaurant this month and contribute the money to stop hunger – you can buy more than 100 meals!

For more information or to make a contribution, please visit our "Stop Hunger Now" table in the Gathering Place during the month of May. You can also contact Bev Murray at (269) 352-0079 or bhmurray@charter.net.



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

First and third Mondays
at 5:00 p.m.

MRC Industries / ASK

First and third Tuesdays

Outreach and Community Service



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

TIPS FROM GREEN PETE



and REPURPOSE

A PLUS FROM THE EARTH CARE FAIR: “REPURPOSING” AT SPRING CLEANING TIME

If you were among the many adults and kids who thronged the “Earth Care Fair” in the Gathering Place on Earth Sunday, April 17, you saw exhibits that showed ways to direct your still-useful castoffs to folks who can make good use of them and might not otherwise be able to afford them. Here is more information about our sample organizations

Habitat for Humanity REStore: 7612 S. Westnedge accepts donations of new and gently used items for household furnishing, repair and rehabilitation. Call the hotline at (269) 381-5523 for information or to arrange a pickup. (www.habitatkalamazoo.org)

Kalamazoo Deacons Conference, 1010 N. Westnedge, has a long tradition of meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the poor in our community. Furniture, appliances, dishes, bedding (either repurposed in good condition or new) are welcomed. Call (269) 344-7333 for pickup of large items.

Partners in Transitions at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church helps formerly homeless families with children by providing basic household furnishings and household items, either in good condition or new: twin or double bed sheets, bath and hand towels, dressers, kitchen tables and chairs. Call Executive Director Bob Small at (269) 345-8553 with any questions or to arrange pickup.

This is only a partial list of appropriate service organizations in our community where your repurposed goods can continue their useful life.

Remember—

REPURPOSING IS RECYCLING PLUS!

Outreach and Community Service

EDISON SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

“WHY DO I TUTOR?”

Below are comments from some of our volunteers during the last school year:

- ◇ Children who are reading below grade level, on grade level, or above grade level need one-on-one attention, someone to listen to them and discuss what they are reading.
- ◇ Children need adults, in addition to their parents, who listen to, support, and encourage them.
- ◇ The strong appreciation by students for any “one-on-one” adult interest in their effort to improve academic skills, and the personal reward, for me, to share time with many wonderful young people.
- ◇ I have been (tutoring) in the fifth grade for several years, and find reading with a variety of students to be fun, educational, and satisfying... This is a place that is making a difference in the lives of these children. I feel it is an honor to be a part of that effort.
- ◇ I love little children and so much enjoy playing blocks, games, puzzles, and in the House Center. At the House Center, I am the Granny!...
- ◇ I feel like I am making a difference in their day...and hopefully for the long term.

On a recent visit to Mr. Travis' Peeps (pre-school), Richard Aldrich brought in the monthly cupcake treats. Mr. Travis, about 6'4" said one word in a very audible, but not shouted manner: “Children, **FREEZE!**” About 18 beautiful young children stopped whatever they were doing – looked at him with anticipation. “Children – Mr. Aldrich brought us some treats; what do we say?” An enthusiastic, unison “**THANK YOU**” burst forth from their smiling faces, and one girl literally ran up and hugged Richard's leg (that's about how tall she was). Now, doesn't that make your day? It certainly did it for us.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

HYGIENE: students with sniffles – NEED continuing supplies of facial tissues, hand sanitizers, and non-chlorine sanitizing wipes.

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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: 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.

For more information, please contact:

Joyce Petro - (342-6817) or joyce@petroclan.com

Carol Payne Smith - (388-2278) or paynesmith@aol.com

Sue Johnson - (276-9216) or suebird.johnson@gmail.com

Joseph Sablan - (773) 569-6243 or richieandjoey@sbcglobal.net

What is the Pentecost Offering?

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life.

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and is about helping young people begin life with a strong start—a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood.

Gifts to the Pentecost Offering unite young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children, and developing youth and young adult leaders

Congregations keep 40% of funds from this offering to support the local youth-focused programs.

60% of funds will be remitted to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support the Young Adult Volunteers program, Ministries with Youth program, in addition to education and advocacy for children at risk through the “Educate a Child: Transform the World” national initiative.

The Day of Pentecost is the Sunday most commonly chosen to collect the Offering. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this request.

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 by 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



MAY IS NATIONAL FOOD ALLERGY MONTH

How Many People Have Food Allergies?

- Researchers estimate that up to 15 million Americans have food allergies.
- This potentially deadly disease affects 1 in every 13 children (under 18 years of age) in the U.S. That's roughly two in every classroom.
- The economic cost of children's food allergies is nearly \$25 billion per year.

Food Allergies on the Rise

- According to a study released in 2013 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies among children increased approximately 50% between 1997 and 2011.
- The number of people who have a food allergy is growing, but there is no clear answer as to why.

Food Allergy Reactions & Anaphylaxis

- Every 3 minutes, a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room. That is more than 200,000 emergency room visits per year!
- A reaction to food can range from a mild response (such as an itchy mouth) to anaphylaxis, a severe and potentially deadly reaction.
- Food allergy is the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting.
- Teenagers and young adults with food allergies are at the highest risk of fatal food-induced anaphylaxis.
- Individuals with food allergies who also have asthma may be at increased risk for severe or fatal food allergy reactions.
- Symptoms of anaphylaxis may recur after initially subsiding, and experts recommend an observation period of about four hours to assure that the reaction has been resolved.
- It is possible to have anaphylaxis without any skin symptoms, such as rash or hives.

Foods Commonly Associated with Food Allergies

- Eight foods account for 90 percent of all reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish, and shellfish. Even trace amounts of a food allergen can cause a reaction.

Ann Ross, RN, BSN, Faith Community Nurse

Information taken from www.foodallergy.org.

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

Robert L. Smith was born on February 25, 1934, and joined FPC on September 30, 1965. Bob died on April 11, 2016.

Presbyter

PRESBYTER DEADLINES

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

MAY Birthdays

1

Emily Curtis
Peg Hajek
Edward Ihling
Marilyn Walker

2

Ian Case
Edith Cooper
Estella Graziano
Peggy Warlick

3

Nicholas Agostinelli
Amber Beals
Anna Clements

4

Carole Birch
David Johnson
Christian Rey

7

Margo Clouse
Claire Honeysett
Nicholas King
Jim Malloure
Eleanor Pinkham

8

Lynn Arwady
Lauren Crabb
Anna Diamond
Roland Prevost
Kenzie Ross
Lorraine Schneidenbach

9

Ian Blair
Rowan Kortlandt
Britt McDermott

10

Anne Louise Coryell
Barb DeVries

11

Mary Elliott
Evelyn Schut

13

Mozelle Padgett
David Standish, Sr.

14

Laureen Meeker
Lila Molitor

15

Caitlin Brooks
Fran Davis
Rob Padgett III

16

Brett Birch
Cass Hough
Elizabeth Lewis

17

Veronica Harik
Ben Tribby
Sandra Wegenke

18

Kendall Coon
Randy Eberts

Brett Labian

19

Sharon Dulin
William Klein

20

Samuel Beals
Thomas Becker
Janny Carrel
Brian Finch
Eva Hanka
Cecilee Jarrad
Norm McCallum
James McGruder
Sherry Sorensen
Justin Tarr

21

Linda Dalrymple
Pat Degen

22

Ethan Feucht
Laura Ford
Nancy Hamilton
Jane Steurer
Andrew Taylor
Aaron Van Heest

23

Susan Agostinelli
Sue Grossman
Riley Highhouse
Thomas White

24

Jadyn Bradford
Lisa Diamond
Carol Eddy
Ray Wicks

25

Marysol Millar
Chris Palmer

26

Chris Bol
Kathy Campbell
Lois Elferdink
Laura Gauntlett
Nancy Harwood
Siennah Miller
Cathy Todd

27

Karin Colvin
Mimi Cummings
Brendan Goethe
Bruce Goethe
Connie Houts
Caleb Ross

28

Clara Herson
Phil Torrence
Julie Tyler

29

Susan DeJong
Ken Freed
Sharon Mattingly
Richard Stewart

30

Jeff Barnum
James Bishop
Conner Diamond
Susan Hanselman
Amy Hirt
Jeffrey King
Gloria Landman
Molly Longman

31

Kurt Droppers
Karen Jarrad
Donna Schonveld
Chérrie Venema



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 50 years or more. Here you will find the names of these members, listed during the anniversary month of when each one joined the church. The entire 12-month list is printed in the Annual Report.

MAY Anniversaries

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Kay Vermeulen	5/21/61	55
Janet Gladstone	5/23/63	57
Jo Russell	5/23/63	53
Carol Schreiner	5/14/64	52

FPC Calendar - May, 2016

Sunday/1

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
 10:45a Church School
 11:45a Hospitality Committee
 12:45p Ministry with Community
(FPC serves the meal today)
 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/2

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

Tuesday/3

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 12:00p Bulletin deadline
 1:00p Class: "Talking about God and Our World"
 1:00p FPC Archivists
 6:00p Spaghetti Supper

Wednesday/4

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/5

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

Friday/6

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

Saturday/7

(no FPC events today)

Sunday/8

9:00a Congregational Life Committee
 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
 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/9

(no FPC activities today)

Tuesday/10

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 12:00p Bulletin deadline
 1:00p Class: "Talking about God and Our World"
 1:00p FPC Archivists

Wednesday/11

12:00p FPC Librarian on site
 3:00p DCLC
 4:00p Communications Committee
 4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
 5:30p Men's Group (off site)
 5:30p Martha Circle (off site)
 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
 7:00p Outreach

Thursday/12

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

Friday/13

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/14

9:00a Chancel Guild

Sunday/15

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
 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
 Communion served
 10:45a Church School
 11:45a Healing Service
 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/16—Presbyter deadline

1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needleworkers
 5:30p Personnel Committee
 7:00p Deacons

Tuesday/17

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 12:00p Bulletin deadline
 1:00p Class: "Talking about God and Our World"
 1:00p Archivists
 7:00p Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday/18

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/19

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

Friday/20

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/21

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

Sunday/22

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
 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/23

6:00p Health Ministry Committee
 7:00p [no Thoughtful Readers tonight]

Tuesday/24

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 12:00p Bulletin deadline
 1:00p Class: "Talking about God and Our World"
 1:00p Archivists

Wednesday/25

Presbyter folding/labeling/mailling
 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/26

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

Friday/27

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/28

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/29

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

Monday/30—MEMORIAL DAY

Church Building closed today

Tuesday/31

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 12:00p Bulletin deadline
 1:00p Class: "Talking About God and Our World"
 1:00p Archivists

PLEASE NOTE: A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 11 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.