

The *Presbyter*

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER ISSUE

September-October 2016 • Volume 45, No. 6



KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4708

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August 24, 2016

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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.

September 4—October 30

Sixteenth through Twenty-fourth
Sundays after Pentecost

September 4

The Rev. Dr. David W. McShane
* Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1-21;
Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24;
Luke 15:1-10

September 18

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 84;
Ephesians 1:11-16, 4:1-7, 11-16

September 25

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 145; Acts 10:34-48

October 2

Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 122 or 133; Luke 18:1-8

October 9

The Rev. Larry Farris
Mark 12:41-44; Luke 10:25-37

October 16

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 31:27-34;
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

October 23

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4;
Luke 18:9-14

October 30

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 65; Luke 19:1-10

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

A Minute in Ministry

As this *Presbyter* goes to print, our Vision Team is concluding its work and preparing a report for the August Session meeting. I am thrilled with the process! I am excited about our direction! I am confident in our ability to live into God's purposes for this congregation!

A small planning team of ministers and members with visioning experience outlined a process for our congregation. We began, with a luncheon, to review strengths and struggles from our past. Then, in many group settings, we assessed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges in our present, as well as dreams for our future. A survey, available to all members, elicited feedback about our congregational life. Sue Johnson and Jim VanBuren collated all data received to pass on to a 12-member Vision Team appointed by Session in May. This Team includes a balance of Elders currently on Session and members-at-large, intentionally representing a wide range of perspectives and experiences. The Vision Team met weekly through much of the summer, engaging in the work with exemplary commitment and grace. We pored over responses and information, drawing out consistent themes, values, and concerns. We shared laughter, questions, and honest conversation about realities and opportunities. Love reigned amid difficult moments, and drew us closer to one another. We did not always agree. We listened and sought creative possibilities. We are grateful for the Spirit's movement among us.

The Vision Team will present to Session priorities for our congregation to pursue, including strengths to build on, needs to address, and opportunities to explore. Amid all the details, it is inspiring to feel the energy we share! We believe our congregation enjoys appealing vitality and compelling purpose! We believe God calls us to loving, inclusive, and progressive efforts to seek fullness of life for all! We believe we are rich stewards of people and resources to fulfill this ministry and mission! We hope you will share the energy and conviction when our vision and priorities are publicized in the weeks ahead!

Now, how do we *live* our priorities in practice? How do our hopes and possibilities become real in service together? As ever, elected elders on Session catalyze, coordinate, and carry forward our shared ministry. And the Vision Team has identified lead committees for each priority area and its tasks. In the end, through all our hopes, dreams, and passions, God's purposes among us need *people* to make it happen. God needs us all to participate! I hope you will find a way to renew engagement in our congregation's ministry and mission. There is surely a place and purpose for each of us. Catch the vision! Commit to sharing the effort! Join the risen Christ among us in the witness of God's love for all people we meet and the community we cherish! So may we *live faith* unceasingly and in ever-new ways as a *Sanctuary in the City*!

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 and 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

Jonathan Willoughby (2018)

Endowment, Finance, Stewardship

Pamela Zandt (2018)

Finance, Personnel

(indicates class year)

* Committee chair or co-chair

A WORD FROM THE PARISH ASSOCIATES

(from the Reverend Larry Farris)

Question: What has four heads, eight arms and eight legs?

Answer: Your four Parish Associates, who will be helping out in various parts of our congregation's life in the period after Mary Van Andel's retirement!

Our congregation's four Parish Associates are the Reverend Dr. Larry Boutelle, the Reverend Liz Candido, the Reverend Larry Farris, and the Reverend Kathleen Robertson King. While each of us has participated in the congregation's ministry over the years, we have been asked to do a bit more during this time of transition. Who will be doing what is detailed below, but it is likely that you will be seeing a bit more of us in worship leadership, resourcing committees, and pastoral visitation.

The Larrys are both retired, while Liz and Kathleen both serve in campus ministry – Liz at Kalamazoo College and Kathleen at WMU. The four of us like to think we bring a pretty wide variety of experience and gifts to our work, and are grateful to have the opportunity to offer these to the congregation. In addition to the multiple limbs noted above, we also bring four hearts for ministry and for this church. We look forward to exercising those in support of First Presbyterian Church, its members and friends, and will seek to do so with energy, intelligence, imagination, love, and a sense of humor.

Below is a brief outline of ways we can expect each individual to serve.

Larry Boutelle will serve as staff resource for Hospitality Committee and Stewardship Committee; lead adult education opportunities; offer some pastoral care; and share in worship leadership.

Liz Hakken-Candido will offer emergency pastoral care; lead adult education opportunities; and share in worship leadership.

Larry Farris will serve as staff resource for Health Ministry Committee and Green Ps Committee; lead adult education opportunities; offer some pastoral care; and share in worship leadership.

Kathleen Robertson King will serve as staff resource for Deacons, providing some expanded pastoral care; lead adult education opportunities; and share in worship leadership.

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The FPC Endowment Fund continues to provide substantial support to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. In 2016, over \$155,000 will support our operating budget, the capital improvement fund, and specific local charities. In addition, approximately \$50,000 is available this year from the various designated funds. These sums are a direct result of the generosity of many donors over the years. And it is this generosity that will also carry these legacies forward for many years to come.

This year, the Endowment Fund has already received special gifts from the estates of Esther Anderson and Earl and Helen Jean Weimaster. These gifts are yet another expression of the many blessings bestowed on our congregation. Your Endowment Committee welcomes any gift to the Fund, without regard to the amount. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Endowment Fund.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: May 2016

The following motions were made and adopted:

- ♦ to approve the Building Use application from the Coalition for Common Ground: Reducing Gun Violence weekly, on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
- ♦ to hold a congregational meeting on August 14, 2016, for the purpose of approving the Covenant of Closure and dissolving the pastoral relationship with the Reverend Mary Van Andel, effective September 9, 2016.
- ♦ to approve the dates for Holy Communion for 2016-2017: September 11, October 2, November 6, November 20, November 27, December 24, January 8, February 5, March 1 (Ash Wednesday), March 5, April 16, May 7, June 4, July 2 and August 6.

Elders Dell and Willoughby were elected as commissioners to the December Presbytery meeting.



GIVE-A-BELL CAMPAIGN

The Worship and Music Committee is pleased to announce that the Give-a-Bell campaign has been a great success! There are only a few Handbells still available for sponsorship and dedication. Please call Elaine Johns at 323-7395 for specific information.

The committee decided to include Choirchimes in our bell program because of the opportunities they will provide for younger children to participate in the music program of the congregation. Including children and families in our worship experience is an important goal. The total cost of the 3-octave set of Choirchimes is \$1,706. So far, about \$250 has been given and designated for Choirchimes. Please consider a making a donation in any amount for this important ministry.

We will have an information table in the Gathering Place during September, and you are invited to stop by to try out a Handbell or Choirchime, to get more information, or to make a donation.

Our thanks to everyone who has already participated in this campaign!

YOUR COINS HELP OTHERS

As we begin a new program year in the life of First Presbyterian Church, your Deacons wish to remind you how your coins—pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters you find in the bottom of your purse, in your washing machine, in coat pockets, and those you may find on the ground—can make a difference for others. Coins are what build the Benevolence Fund the Deacons use to help those in need within our own congregation and those beyond our four walls.

The Deacons are not funded in the church budget. Our operational funds are acquired by your generosity of coins "dropped" into the weekly offering plates. Only loose change is credited to the Benevolence Fund. Paper money is credited to the General Fund. The Deacons' other source of funding (after expenses) is your donation at the Barista table for the coffee and donut holes.

Your generosity helps the Deacons sustain their endeavors to share God's love for all when in times of need.

Yours in Christ,

Sue E. Potts
Deacon Moderator

Nancy Johnson
Deacon Co-moderator



SANCTUARY IN THE CITY - CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

....submitted by the Finance Committee

The campaign kicked off on June 30, 2013, after months of surveys, educational meetings, mailings, and face-to-face conversations. The results are the culmination of the efforts of the nearly 200 members who volunteered in some way to the campaign.

If you are one of those volunteers, the Campaign and Finance committees thank you! The campaign would not have succeeded without each of you!

The committees would especially like to thank Dr. Marvin Ludwig for sharing his many years of expertise, enthusiasm, and spiritual direction; “Marv” was an inspiration from beginning to end! Marv now lives at the Fountains, so if you have the opportunity, please send him a note of thanks. You can see a living exhibit of Marv’s love of the Lord in a display of his work in the hallway of the office on the second floor of the church house.

In addition, the committees are also very grateful for all of the expertise and hard work that Sam Clark, Dan Schut, Bill Sorensen, and Jonathan Willoughby brought to the steering team. And the team would like to thank Pastor Seth for assisting the committee with casting the vision, rich sermons encouraging stewardship, assistance with messaging, and prayerful guidance throughout the campaign.

So now, dear friends, we have reached the technical end of the campaign as of June 30, 2016. The “end of the campaign” is really just a day on the calendar to report where we are, since living into our lives as a Sanctuary in the City is truly in its infancy here at First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo.

Our goal was to raise \$1.1 million. The first priority was to pay off the debt left from the much-needed renovations and upgrades to our campus. The second goal was to seed a Capital Improvement Fund for current and future maintenance of our historical campus.

Consider the following recap since June 30, 2013:

Contributions as of July 30, 2016

\$ 999,437.07	of the \$1.1 million pledged
<u>(62,490.00)</u>	in Remaining Pledges
<u>\$ 936,947.07</u>	Pledges Received
\$ 12,268.11	Overpaid Pledges
\$ 60,113.84	Non-Pledged Contributions
\$ 91,961.70	Kalamazoo Community Foundation Funds
\$ 21,457.71	FPC Endowment Distributions
<u>\$ 11.14</u>	Interest Earned

\$1,128,273.84 Total Campaign Contributions Received

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Expenditures: June 2013 - July 30, 2016

\$ 46,129.09	Campaign Expenses
\$ 879,609.89	Renovation Note payable to FPC Endowment
\$ 23,813.56	Roof Repairs
\$ 12,335.12	Sound System Repairs/Upgrades
\$ 7,272.00	Water Softener
\$ 1,293.75	Ceiling Repair
\$ 3,501.42	Floor Scrubber – ½ Paid by PW–Kuney fund
\$ 722.20	Drain Inspection & Repair
\$ 21,834.84	Exterior Survey & Engineering Fees
\$ 43,746.33	Sanctuary Roof Replacement
\$ 4,105.00	Boiler Repair – Main Condenser

\$1,044,363.20 **Total Expenses, Repairs & Replacements**

Balance Remaining in the Capital Improvement Fund

\$ 83,910.54	Current balance - Capital Improvement Fund
\$ 62,490.00	Remaining Pledge Balance Expected

\$ 146,400.54 **Anticipated Balance – Capital Fund Forward**

Was the Campaign a success? YES! Did the congregation meet the goal to raise \$1.1 million and pay off the remaining debt of the much-needed renovations? YES!

Did the congregation seed a Capital Improvement Fund for the purpose of meeting current and future maintenance requirements to our historical downtown campus? YES!

Is there more to do? Always! It is never too late to make a contribution to the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Fund at First Presbyterian Church. As you can see by the expenditures outlined above, the funds to maintain our campus will be an ongoing reality.

All additional funds received that are earmarked for the Campaign will be deposited into the Capital Improvement Fund held at Schwab and managed by the Finance Committee. This fund has spending rules approved by Session.

It is with humble thanksgiving that these gifts have been received and utilized as the congregation has requested. "Thank you", all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo for your continued generosity, so that we may continue to be a light in the world and continue to grow and live into the *Sanctuary in the City* that we have been called to be.

Praise be to God from whom ALL blessings flow!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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 Dowsnell
Nancy and Keith Johnson
Barbara Palmer
Donna Schonveld



Please note:

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

A LETTER FROM MARY

Dearly Beloved of God,

On this morning following the grace-filled retirement reception you provided for me, I am overwhelmed with gratitude at your kindness and generosity. I will remember the careful preparations: the invitation, the congregational card, the deacons' gift of a personalized hymnal, the gorgeous garden and wild flowers, the acorns, the abundant table, and especially your faces, your words, your blessings and prayers, and your spirits.

From the first day with you on March 6, 2011, you have made it possible for me to minister with you and, alongside Seth, welcoming me into your lives, your homes, and your hearts with enormous generosity and trust I have cherished. You have been affirming, encouraging, and empathetic about the demands of ministry (and I didn't even need to complain!). You have both created and participated in opportunities to grow and connect, and responded generously to calls to serve, often having hoped to be invited, and declined when you needed to. You have been generous in forgiveness and invited me into tender moments in your lives and the sacred spaces of your spirits. I am humbled and overwhelmed by these gifts, and truly thankful!!

And now, you have blessed me on to this next season of my life. In recent weeks, you have prayed and sent tender condolences following my Mom's death. Yesterday, you sent me off with a lovely party and more generous expressions of your gratitude and affection than I could have hoped for or imagined. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

I leave you with an insensitive and ageist, but very funny takeoff on the Serenity Prayer – the Senility Prayer, as best I can recall it.

God, grant me the selective memory to
forget the people I never liked anyway,
the recall to remember the ones I love,
and the eyesight to know the difference. Amen.

God bless and keep you all. *Mary Van Andel*

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

"Thank you to all our wonderful, thoughtful, FPC friends who sent get-well cards and wishes, called, and made us delicious meals during our recent surgeries. We greatly appreciate all of that you've done. Thanks so much."

Sue and Leo Thielman

"Dear Friends at FPC, I'm traveling a bit now, but will move in with my daughter, Margaret Manning, and her family in October while I look for a place of my own. Margaret, a member of this church, moved last December for job changes. You may reach us both at Margaret and Bart Manning, 2311 River Ridge Road, Arlington, Texas 76017. My cell number is (269) 254-2154. I will miss this wonderful church. Thank you all."

Best, *Deanna Evans*

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE



“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? (Matthew 6:25).

When I came to my first church as pastor we decided if I was going to preach tithing to the congregation we needed to tithe. My salary was just over \$3,000 a year, and we got the manse (house owned by the church). Luckily we had a second income to help us survive, but the tithing pledge was on both salaries. I actually do not remember it being a burden.

We’ve tithed ever since. It works. And you feel very invested in the life of the church and your faith. As Jesus said: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt 6:21) Yeah, I had to look it up, but I knew it was there.

Seth preached in July on how we do not give part of our life to our faith; we give all of our life to our faith. It’s also that way with our money, more than most of us think. So maybe part of that 10% or 12%, maybe less, when the child-raising or parent-assisting gets expensive. Maybe part of it goes to other heart-felt charitable needs. But finding the deep satisfaction of putting the treasure where your heart of faith is becomes a deep joy. Truly, a deep joy.

Yep, it’s time to think about church financial support again. Please think about where your treasure is and enjoy the ride.

*On behalf of the Stewardship Committee,
the Reverend Larry Boutelle*

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

College Connections is a program through which we seek to stay connected with our young adult members who are away at college. We try to reach out to these students with cards, care packages, and other expressions of our care and love. Watch for more details about specific projects in the weekly bulletins and in future newsletters.

Currently, we are contacting students and families to update contact information for the 2016-17 academic year. Please call or email Suzanne Weeldreyer if you have any questions or would like to update your student's information—(269) 283-4048 or sdaweeldreyer@gmail.com.

FPC HAYRIDE: OCTOBER 23!

It may be hard to believe, but autumn will soon be here, and calendars will be filling up. This is your chance to mark the afternoon of October 23 for our annual church hayride. Please join your FPC family for this wonderful fall tradition at Goethes’ farm.

- * Climb aboard and take a ride through autumn's splendor.
- * Enjoy crisp apples, apple cider and donuts.
- * Make friends with a variety of farm animals.
- * Have fun!

We will meet about 3:00 at Bruce and Laura Goethes’ farm—9775 West M Ave., Kalamazoo. Look for more details to follow in the weekly Announcements.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

If you have questions, please call either Kelsey Oliver (903-1077), or Brian Nederveld (685-8875)

BURDICK-THORNE STRING QUARTET AT FPC NOVEMBER 1

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 1, when we will again host the Kalamazoo Symphony's Burdick-Thorne String Quartet. They will present a free classical concert in our Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity to not only hear their beautiful music, but also to meet and talk to the musicians at the reception following the concert. For the congregation, it is also a good time to invite friends and neighbors to join you as we welcome all members of our diverse community.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEES AND CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Christian Education at FPC consists of two main committees:

Children and Youth Christian Education Committee meets every other month on the third Sunday of the month. We meet to discuss the current curriculum, classrooms, the child-protection policy, and other educational offerings.

The **Adult Christian Education Committee** meets quarterly (January/April/August/October) on the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 noon. Adult programs are initiated, planned, developed, and scheduled.

If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please contact Pat Stromsta, Director of Christian Education.

Church School will begin September 11.

The Church School Christmas Program will take place on December 24 at 5:00 p.m. Classes will be in recess December 25 and January 1st.

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



Church School begins September 11 with a new Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denominational children's curriculum. It will help transform the lives of children and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude.

Growing in Grace & Gratitude is rooted in the foundation of our Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship. The curriculum extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love, and it reaches beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace.

Two of the curriculum components, *Grace Sightings* online and a *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* e-book, encourage children and their parents or caregivers to continue the sessions at home and to live their lives as an expression of God's grace in the world. Visit growinggracegratitude.org for more information.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN PRAYER PARTNERS

Prayer Partners is a small group of disciples who meet monthly to pray for the Church, the world, the community and ourselves. Each year we explore a new book about prayer as the foundation for our discussions. This year we will read the book *Prayer 101: Experiencing the Heart of God*, by Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe.

Jesus' disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray". Like us, they had questions about why and how God calls us to pray.

In *Prayer 101*, Dr. Wiersbe addresses our deepest questions about prayer and gives us practical tools for incorporating prayer into our lives. Throughout this deeply spiritual book, the author points us away from legalism and toward joy, as we practice the daily rhythm of conversation with God.

Please join us on the first Sunday of each month in Room 301 at 9:00 a.m.

FALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

STORIES OF FAITH: A Frederick Buechner Sampler September 13–November 8

A new series of classes centered on a sampling of work by Presbyterian minister and author Frederick Buechner will begin Tuesday, September 13. Buechner relates stories of fiction and scripture with narratives of our life experience, to frame meaningful insights of faith. We will read together excerpts of his books, essays, and sermons, including a packet available at the office reception desk with the book *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale*. A schedule for weekly readings will be provided with the packet. Seth Weeldreyer will host the group discussions each Tuesday at noon in Room 300 from September 13 through November 8. You may pick up the material from the office reception desk or contact Seth with any questions.

NEW CLASS ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Please watch the weekly Announcements for information about a class series in October on the Book of Revelation, presented by the Reverend Dr. Larry Boutelle.



CELEBRATE THE VISION: WORSHIP SERVICE

**We hope that you will join us for
our 8th Year Celebration on September 14.**

Our Wednesday evening worship service begins at 6:15 after our community meal. Members of the congregation, community, guests, and friends are always welcome to worship with us through songs of praise, listening to God's Word, prayer, giving thanks and receiving God's blessing to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

This year our services are based on the book and videos, *Manna and Mercy* with Alan Storey. We will take a journey from Genesis to Revelation and examine Scripture so as to not distort the message, but rather to illuminate it for our time and place. We will begin this new Worship series on September 28.

Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study (Monthly)

The *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton* Series gently leads participants on a journey toward spiritual transformation and a more contemplative and peace-filled life. *Book One: Entering the School of Your Experience*, provides an introduction to Merton and contemplative living through prayers, readings from Merton and other spiritual masters, and questions for small-group dialogue. Women of all ages and backgrounds are invited to join this monthly group which will meet the first Wednesday evening of the month, beginning October 5. Coffee and tea will be served from 7:00 to 7:15. The lesson will begin at 7:15 and conclude at 8:15. Child care will be provided, if requested. Please see Pat Stromsta for more information or a copy of the booklet.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

A new study begins September 8, with a video presentation of *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*, by Adam Hamilton. Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. In this six-week video journey, you are invited to experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary. Coffee is served at 9:30, and our study begins at 9:45. Pat Stromsta facilitates this class. New and returning members, friends, and guests are always welcome.

ADULTS

LECTIONARY STUDY 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.

Wednesday Afternoon Men's Bible Study: Man-Up!

This ecumenical, community-wide Bible study is led by Ray Wicks, who received his Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry from Western Theological Seminary in 2012. The group meets Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:00 (before our Celebrate the Vision dinner) and is open to members and non-members of First Presbyterian Church. The first study of the season, based the book, *T.D. Jakes Speaks to Men*, begins September 28. Join us whenever you can.

Tuesday Morning Men's Group

They are a hearty bunch! Arriving at the church at 7:00 each Tuesday morning, the "Men's Group" meets to discuss the life of First Presbyterian Church and their own lives. They also squeeze in some time to discuss scripture, and how that applies to their lives. They also prepare the monthly All-Church Breakfast. We can always get another chair around the table (or another apron at the Breakfast) if you would like to join us from 7:00 to 8:00 on Tuesday mornings.

YOUTH MINISTRY

It has been an extremely eventful summer in the world, the USA, and even Kalamazoo. People from all walks of life are coming together for one common purpose. People who previously did not share anything in common. People with different vocations, political views, and religious affiliations. This one common purpose has been monumental in the current forming of this community, and specifically, downtown Kalamazoo. Obviously, I am talking about Pokemon Go. If somehow you have been living under a rock, maybe you have missed the Pokemon Go phenomenon. It is huge. It is all over the world and right across the street from our church, in Bronson Park, there are numerous Pokestops and Poke Gyms. The beauty of the whole phenomenon is seeing so many people who would usually not be friends walking all over Kalamazoo together talking about Drowzees, Charmanders, Pidgeys, Zubats, and the ever elusive Dragonites. Yes, it is just a game. And yes, it is a bit silly sometimes. But what a great way to enjoy the summer - walking all over Kalamazoo with your friends, meeting new people, and catching 'em all!!

But sadly, summer is ending, and the fall routines will quickly be starting up for all of us. I am sure we will still find time for Pokemon Go, but we will have to negotiate that with soccer practice, school, homework, band, school musicals, and hopefully, Youth Group. My request to you this fall is to come and check out Youth Group. If you have never been before - give us a shot. If you are a regular attendee, keep coming. As always, we will focus on loving God and loving others this year. We do not stray too far from this, because if we aren't experts on these two Jesus commandments, we probably shouldn't get too hung up on all of the other stuff.

If you are in middle school or high school, come and check us out or send me a text (269) 806-5196. If you are a parent, call me or email me or find me on Facebook. I want to be available and accessible to all of you, and my hope is that I'll see you this year, whether it is at Church School, Youth Group, CtV, Ministry with Community, at a movie, your school, or at a Pokestop. Let's hang out. Let's talk about things in life that matter. Life is real and life is tough and your feelings and opinions matter. I'm here to listen.

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

FPC YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

September through December

September 11 - Parents' meeting following Worship (UL)
 September 11 - Individual church kick-off event - 5-7 p.m. at FPC
 September 14 - Celebrate the Vision at FPC (5:00 p.m.)
 September 18 - Joint church kick-off - 5-7 p.m.
 Westminster Presbyterian Church (Portage)
 September 21 - Celebrate the Vision at FPC (5:00 p.m.)
 September 24-25 - Overnight lock-in at FPC
 5:30 p.m., Saturday to 12:00 noon, Sunday
 September 28 - Celebrate the Vision at FPC (5:00 p.m.)
 October 2 - Ministry with Community 12:30—3:00 p.m.
 (Please sign up to attend)
 October 2 - Youth Group, 5-7 p.m.
 Pine Island Presbyterian Church (Kalamazoo)
 October 5 - Celebrate the Vision at FPC (5:00 p.m.)
 October 9 - Youth Group, 5-7 p.m.
 First Presbyterian Church of Richland
 October 12 - Celebrate the Vision at FPC (5:00 p.m.)
 October 16 - Youth Group, 5-7 p.m.—FPC
 October 19 - Celebrate the Vision (5:00 p.m.)
 October 23 - Youth Group, 5-7 p.m.
 Richland First Presbyterian Church
 October 26 - Celebrate the Vision (5:00 p.m.)
 October 30 - Youth Group, 5-7 p.m.
 Westminster Presbyterian Church (Portage)
 November 6 - Ministry with Community 12:30—3:00 p.m.
 (Please sign up to attend)
 November 6 - Youth Group, 5-7 p.m. (location t.b.a.)
 November 11-13 - URBAN PLUNGE, a Youth event held at
 First Presbyterian Church in Paw Paw.
 November 20 - Youth Group, 5-7 p.m.
 Westminster Presbyterian Church (Portage)
 November 27 - Thanksgiving Day (no meeting)
 December 4 - Christmas Party
 First Presbyterian Church of Richland

Summer Mission Opportunities: 6th through 12th Grades

Colcord, West Virginia

June 17—June 24, 2017

The New Wilmington Mission Conference (NWMC)

July 22—July 29, 2017

THE RAISING OF AMERICA

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 (12:00)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (7:00)

The U.S. is the wealthiest, most powerful country in the world. So why has our child well-being fallen to 26th? An alarming number of American children are entering adulthood with learning challenges, behavioral issues and even poor physical health. Those suffering the most risks, however, are the one in four children born into poverty. Their parents confess feeling fearful and guilty they won't be able provide what their children need in our fend-for-yourself society.

It doesn't have to be this way. We all benefit when we as a society better assure the conditions all children need for a strong start and the opportunity to realize their potential. What infants and toddlers need for a strong start is no mystery. A nurturing environment—safe, stable, and responsive—builds sturdy brain architecture, the foundation for future success in school and in life. **The Raising of America**, by the producers of *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?*, is part of a 5-episode documentary series that explores how a strong start for all our kids can lead to a healthier, safer, better educated and more prosperous and equitable America.

Members of the Congregation and the Community are invited to see Episode 1: **The Raising of America Signature Hour** (60 minutes) of this series followed by a discussion led by a representative from Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center.

The Raising of America will be shown at FPC on Sunday, September 18 (12:00 noon) and also Wednesday, September 21 (7:00 p.m.) in Room 301. For further information, contact Pat Stromsta, Director of Christian Education at pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

FPC SUPPER CLUB

The Supper Club is now organizing for its fall season. From September through November, volunteer hosts will convene groups of six to ten persons for an evening of good food and good conversation. Most suppers are potlucks in the hosts' homes, but some are held in restaurants. The Supper Club provides an opportunity to get better acquainted with other members and friends of the church.

If you are interested in joining the Supper Club for the first time, or returning after a hiatus, contact Carol Parfitt at (269) 679-3073, or cparfitt@comcast.net.

BUTTER BRAIDS ARE BACK

Butter Braids are a delicious frozen pastry dough that you bake at home when you want a special treat for your family or friends. Orders will be taken on Sundays, October 9 and 16, in the Gathering Place from 9:30 to 10:30 and immediately following Worship (cash or checks only, please).

Your choice of braid flavors are

- ◇ Blueberry Cream Cheese
 - ◇ Cinnamon
 - ◇ Raspberry
 - ◇ Strawberry Cream Cheese
- New this year: Caramel Pastry Roll

The price is \$13 per pastry and proceeds will go to the Edison School Project. Order these pastries for an easy and extra-special taste treat!

You may pick up your order in the Dining Room following Worship on Sunday, either November 13 or 20 – just in time for the holidays.

MONTHLY "LUNCH BUNCH"

September 9 (Friday), 1:00 p.m.

In order to avoid a conflict with Labor Day weekend plans, our September Lunch Bunch gathering will move to Friday, September 9, at the Los Amigos Restaurant, 7375 South Westnedge Avenue, in Portage. As usual, we'll gather at 1:00. Remember to call the church by the prior Thursday to reserve your place at the table. Join us for great food and conversation!

HEARTS-TO-HANDS STITCHERS

September 12 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

October 3 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers will meet on Monday, September 12, at 1:00 in the Sewing Room, which is off the Dining Room. We will sew lap quilts, flannel blankets for baptized babies, and possibly other items. All who enjoy sewing are welcome.

Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers will meet on Monday October 3, at 1:00 in the Sewing Room. We will sew items for our church family and the wider community.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

September 14 (Wednesday), 5:30 p.m.

October 12 (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.

GREEN P'S

The environmental committee, the Green P'S, will not meet on September 5, due to the Labor Day Holiday. They will meet on Monday, September 19, and then again on Monday, October 3, in the Archives Room at 7:00 p.m. (See article on page 16.)



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

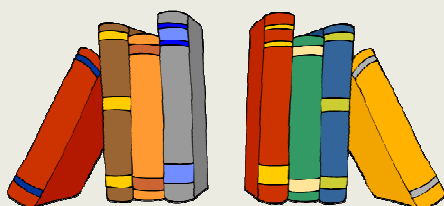
MARTHA CIRCLE

September 14 (Wednesday), 3:00 p.m.

October 12 (Wednesday), 3:00 p.m.

All women are cordially invited to the first meeting of the Martha Circle program year on Wednesday September 14, at 3:00 in the Church Lounge. Carol Payne Smith will chair a brief business meeting. Elaine Johns will provide refreshments. Susan DeJong will provide an overview of this year's *Horizons Bible Study*, titled "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes". Study books will be available at the meeting.

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday October 12, at 3:00 in the Church Lounge. We will discuss Chapter 1 of the *Horizons Bible Study*, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes".



THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

September 26 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

October 24 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

Thoughtful Readers Book Group will meet on September 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. Our discussion of *Never Broken: Songs Are Only Half the Story*, by singer-songwriter Jewel will be led by Donna Schonveld. Jewel explores her unconventional upbringing and extraordinary life in this inspirational memoir. She "writes lyrically about the natural wonders of Alaska, about pain and loss, about the healing power of motherhood, and about discovering her own identity years after the entire world had discovered the beauty of her songs." (*Goodreads*)

On Monday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300, Sue Johnson will lead our discussion of *The Turner House*, by Angela Flourney. A National Book Award finalist, *The Turner House* is a timely and accessible family chronicle about the Turners—Francis, Viola, and their thirteen kids—who have lived in a house on the East Side of Detroit for more than five decades. In 2008, Francis has died and Viola and the Turner siblings must decide the fate of their home, which is now worth just a tenth of its mortgage. Flourney has crafted a "wonderfully compelling exploration of family relationships and the generational changes that have shaped Detroit." (*Book Pages*)

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



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.

Coalition for Common Ground
Days and dates t.b.d.

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 Mondays
at 5:00 p.m.

MRC Industries / ASK

First and third Tuesdays

Church Life

FPC MUSIC PROGRAM

FPC CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing?

There is a place for YOU in the FPC Choir! The choir is open to all middle school and high school students, as well as adults. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 and will resume on September 8 in the lower level Choir Room. Please consider sharing your musical gifts with others. There is always room for one more voice!

NEW MUSIC: A BELL CHOIR

Interested in ringing handbells?

We are very excited about the addition of handbells and choir chimes to the Music Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. The fund drive is progressing well, and our new bells and choir chimes are scheduled to arrive in late October. The Bell Choir will be open to those with little to no experience, as well as to those with lots of bell-playing experience. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required; we can teach you that, as well!

If this sounds like a fun way to share your gifts of time and talent with others, please contact Cindy Hunter (see below) with your name, contact information, and bell experience. Rehearsal day and time will be arranged at a later date.

Contact: Cindy Hunter

cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org

(269) 377-2478

YEARS OF FPC MEMBERSHIP

50-Plus Years—Congratulations!

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

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

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER Anniversaries

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Dorothy Castor	Sept. 30, 1954	62
Barbara Powell Camisa	Sept. 29, 1955	61
George Gerpheide	Sept. 29, 1955	61
Shirley Gerpheide	Sept. 29, 1955	61
Phyllis Buskirk	Sept. 29, 1955	61
Diana Cain	Sept. 29, 1960	56
Whitney Hoag	Sept. 29, 1960	56
Elizabeth McShane	Sept. 29, 1960	56
Mary Brylowski	Sept. 28, 1961	55
Nancy Hamilton	Sept. 28, 1961	55
Helen Lander	Sept. 28, 1961	55
Jim Weeldreyer	Sept. 24, 1964	52
Sue Weeldreyer	Sept. 24, 1964	52
Margo Light	Sept. 30, 1965	51
Carol Payne Smith	Sept. 30, 1965	51
Carole Stoddard	Sept. 30, 1965	51
Wilma Cooper	Oct. 6, 1946	70
Leona Hefner	Oct. 2, 1949	67
Don Iffland	Oct. 3, 1957	59
Eleanor Pinkham	Oct. 2, 1958	58
Jean Chope	Oct. 1, 1959	57
Francine Kryger	Oct. 1, 1959	57

50-year FPC Anniversaries

Outreach and Community Service

RICKMAN HOUSE

The residents of the Rickman House need your donations of the following items: toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels, dish detergent, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and laundry detergent. Please leave your donations in the office mailroom.



STOP HUNGER NOW: UPDATE

The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank all of you again for making the meal-packaging event such a success! Together we raised \$4,919.35 and packaged 13,824 meals. Our meals have been shipped! Below is a note that we received from Stop Hunger Now:

"We are delighted to announce that the meals from your meal-packaging event on 6/5/2016 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Indianapolis warehouse.

The meals will be received by our in-country partner LeSEA Global: Feed the Hungry - USA in Uganda. This shipment also included 20 water filters from Wine to Water.

These meals will be distributed through LeSEA Global: Feed the Hungry's daily feeding program for impoverished children in seven schools throughout the greater Kampala area of Uganda. After Stop Hunger Now meals first started distributing meals in January 2011, enrollment soared from 650 to 2,014 children by the end of the year.

Now LeSEA Global: Feed the Hungry reaches more than 15,000 children every day. Right now, the program in Uganda faces even greater needs as refugees from fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo make their way to Uganda. Feed the Hungry has committed to providing food and other basic needs—including clean water—to refugees in the Rwamwanja and Kiryandongo camps in Western Uganda."



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. Here are some programs in which we participate on an ongoing basis.

- **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
Sue Johnson
Joseph Sablan
- **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

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES!

We all know that most of our food crops rely on bees for pollination, but did you know that in the last ten years, up to one-third of honeybee “colonies” have been mysteriously dying each winter? This alarming situation has been attributed to the use of chemical insecticides – called neonics - that we buy in garden supply stores and apply to our lawns and gardens in an attempt to deter or kill “garden pests”.

On a much larger and more frightening scale, these systemic pesticides are routinely applied to crops such as GMO corn, soybeans, and canola. Plants and potting soil that have been treated with these pesticides are sold in garden supply stores where most of us shop. Largely unsuspecting, we buy these products and, if we grow edible plants in our gardens, we become part of the poison-producing – and consuming – process.

Unfortunately, bees are directly affected by feeding on plants treated with these neonics and, as a result, so are we. So what can we do? We can plant a “bee-friendly” garden – native plants, a source of clean water, and, if possible, a suitable place for bees to nest. We can buy organically-grown (and neonic-free) plants and flowers. We can avoid the use of neonics and toxic pesticides and encourage ladybugs! We can ask the big garden supply stores to stop selling products that kill bees!



**You, too, can become a member
of FPC's “Green P's”!**

EDISON SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

MISSION—DEFINITELY POSSIBLE!

Your mission—should you decide to accept it—is to help numerous young people who attend the Edison Environmental Science Academy work to achieve their best.

WHAT TO DO

Through Sunday, September 18, Joyce Petro and other volunteers will have a table set up in the Gathering Place where you can find out more information about Edison School. We hope you will sign up as a volunteer to tutor Reading or Math, or as a classroom helper or cupcake baker. If you have pets that are “child-friendly”, ask about how they may also fit into the volunteer roster.

REQUIREMENTS

All you need is a caring heart—and about an hour of your time each week.

GRADES

Pre-school through 5th grade.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Most of us are aware that many elementary teachers contribute needed classroom supplies/aids out of their own pockets. We can help in a big way, as we have done for years now, with some of the basic needs—not only for classroom supplies, but for simple human needs.

Learning tools:

Ticonderoga pencils, big erasers, wide-rule notebooks, and glue sticks (for fun projects).

Snacks:

Individual-size snacks like pretzels, cheese crackers, graham or animal crackers, etc. (Many of these are available in multipacks at warehouse stores.)

Health/Hygiene:

Large-size liquid hand sanitizers, facial tissues, and sanitizing surface wipes.

If you wish to contribute “to the cause”, you may make out a check to FPC with a note in the memo line, “Edison School supplies”.

The success of our collaboration with Edison School has been due, in large part, to your unceasing prayers. Please continue to pray for the school's office staff, for the teachers, for our tutors, helpers, and cupcake bakers. And pray for the wonderful children, that they feel God's presence every day in their lives.

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

Outreach and Community Service

GHANA PARTNERSHIP REPORT

September 2016

On Sunday, September 18, our congregation will have a special opportunity to meet and have conversation with the Reverend Joshua Heikkila, PC(USA) West Africa Liaison. During worship Josh will introduce himself in a Minute for Mission. Following worship, he will lead a special discussion in Room 314-315.

Our church has had a partnership with the Sokode Bagble Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, since 1991. In 2005 this partnership was expanded the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, PC(USA), and the Ho-East Presbytery, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana.

Over the past 25 years, 59 folks from our Presbytery (26 from our church), have traveled on one or more of nine mission trips to Ghana. During this same time period, 18 have traveled from Ghana to visit our church and others in our Presbytery.

Moreover, our church and Presbytery have reached out to our Ghana partners in many ways, including sending funds to help build and equip elementary school buildings, supporting scholarship assistance for 30 senior secondary school students, and funds to purchase 60 beehives for villages in the Ho-East Presbytery as a self-development project.

However, all this would not have been possible without the support of PC(USA) mission coordinators serving in Ghana, who have connected us and provided insights into the culture and traditions of Ghana and of Ghanaian churches.

The Reverend Heikkila has served as our mission coordinator in Ghana for the past eight years. Do come to the special session with Josh Heikkila on Sunday, September 18, to hear about PC(USA) mission outreach in Ghana and West Africa. This would be particularly valuable if you are interested in joining with us on our next mission trip to Ghana, tentatively in summer 2017.

— John Petro, Ghana Partnership Committee convener



REFUGEE ASSISTANCE IN KALAMAZOO

Refugees who fled terrible situations in Syria and other places are arriving after lengthy screening by the U.S. Government. Two organizations have responsibility of resettling refugee families in Kalamazoo, and they are looking to the community, especially church congregations, for support.

The Outreach Committee plans to invite speakers from these organizations to an information/education session in September, to learn how we can help.

If you would like to learn about how the Kalamazoo community is helping, you are welcome to contact either Evelyn Garner or Aedín Clements, who will keep you informed about related events in the Church and in the community. Please watch for an announcement about the September education offering on refugees.

Contact information:

- ◆ Evelyn
(garnerrev66@gmail.com)
- ◆ Aedín
(aedinclements@gmail.com)



HEALTH MINISTRY

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

Ann Ross
(269) 217-6193



HEALTH MINISTRY FALL OFFERINGS

Diabetes: October 2

Do you need a review of Type 2 Diabetes? Have you been told you have Pre-Diabetes? Does someone you love have Diabetes? Come, learn how to stay healthy with diabetes, including tips on diet, exercise and lifestyle. Taught by **Pat Farris, RN, BSN**, former director of the Three Rivers Diabetes Education Program, this class will directly follow Worship on Sunday, October 2, in Room 314-15.

Introversion and the Church: October 16

At least sixty percent of the people in the United States have extroverted personalities. That fact can leave introverts – many of whom are drawn to spirituality and the church – feeling like outsiders, or as if something about them is not quite normal. Drawing on Susan Cain's book, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, Parish Associate **Larry Farris** will lead an exploration of what it means to be an introvert in and out of church, and how introverts can recognize and rejoice in their particular gifts.

Being Transgender: November 13

Please join the Health Ministry Committee for a conversation on being transgender with **Amy Hunter**, Transgender Advocate for the State of Michigan, and her spouse, **Cindy Hunter**. We will meet in Room 314-315 on Sunday, November 13, directly following worship. Come, be educated, ask your questions, and hear their story.

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.

Our Life Together

Presbyter

As we recognize how communication patterns are changing, and as we attempt to be good stewards of our resources, our congregation will move to publishing the *Presbyter* six times per year in bi-monthly editions.

Here is the schedule for the balance of the 2016-2017 program year:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Content</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
November-December	October 17	October 26
January-February	December 26	January 4
March-April	February 13	February 22
May-June	April 17	April 26
July-August	June 19	June 28

Many of our members receive the *Presbyter* newsletter via e-mail only, in order to help the church conserve paper and other resources. If you would like to have your name removed from the USPS mailing, contact Ann Johnson at ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org or 344-0119.

The *Presbyter* is also available for viewing on the FPC website: sanctuaryinthecity.org.

In Memoriam

Francelia Davis was born on May 15, 1924, and joined FPC on April 7, 1977. Fran died on June 24, 2016.

Ruth Abbott was born on June 9, 1918, and joined FPC on April 19, 1962. Ruth died on June 27, 2016.

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

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

Cindy 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 - September, 2016

Thursday/1

9:30a [no Women's Bible Study]
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
11:00a DCLC
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal resumes

Friday/2

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/3

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/4

9:00a Prayer Partners
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a [no Church School today]
12:45p Ministry with Community
(FPC serves the meal today)
5:00p [no Youth Group today]

Monday/5

LABOR DAY / Church Building closed

Tuesday/6

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

Wednesday/7

9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
1:00p FPC Librarian on site
3:00p DCLC
4:00p [no Men's Bible Study today]
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/8

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
11:00a DCLC
6:00p Prop. Maintenance Committee
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/9

8:30a Yoga
1:00p Lunch Bunch (*Los Amigos*)

Saturday/10

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/11

9:00a Congregational Life Committee
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:30a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
Communion served
10:45a Church School
12:00p Parents of Youth meeting
5:00p Youth Group Kick-off

Monday/12

1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers

Tuesday/13

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p FPC Archivists

Wednesday/14

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
3:00p Martha Circle
3:00p DCLC
4:00p [no Men's Bible Study today]
5:30p Men's Group (*off site*)
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
7:00p Outreach Committee

Thursday/15

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

Friday/16

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/17

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

Sunday/18

8:45a All-Church Breakfast
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:15a Church School teachers' meet.
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
12:00p Class: West Africa Liaison
12:00a Film: *The Raising of America*
5:00p Youth Group (*at Westminster
Presbyterian Church*)

Monday/19

1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needworkers
5:30p Personnel Committee
6:00p Health Ministry Committee
7:00p Green P's meeting

Tuesday/20

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
1:00p FPC Archivists
7:00p Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday/21

12:00p Communications Committee
1:00p FPC Librarian on site
3:00p DCLC
4:00p [no Men's Bible Study today]
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
6:30p Session meeting
7:00p Film: *The Raising of America*

Thursday/22

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

Friday/23

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/24

5:30p Youth Group Lock-In
(through 12:00 noon Sunday)

Sunday/25

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 [no Youth Group tonight]

Monday/26

7:00p Thoughtful Readers

Tuesday/27

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p FPC Archivists

Wednesday/28

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
3:00p DCLC
4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
6:30p Session meeting

Thursday/29

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

Friday/30

8:30a Yoga

PLEASE NOTE:

A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 13 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.

FPC Calendar - October, 2016

Saturday/1

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/2

9:00a Prayer Partners
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
12:00p Health Ministry Class/*Diabetes*
12:00p Class: *How to Read Revelation*
12:45p Ministry with Community
(FPC serves the meal today)
5:00p Youth Group (Pine Island PC)

Monday/3

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

Tuesday/4

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
1:00p FPC Archivists

Wednesday/5

9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
1:00p 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
7:00p Women's Evening Bible Study

Thursday/6

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

Friday/7

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

Saturday/8

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/9

9:00a Congregational Life Committee
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:30a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
12:00p Class: *How to Read Revelation*
5:00p Youth Group (Richland PC)

Monday/10

7:00p Deacons meeting

Tuesday/11

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p FPC Archivists

Wednesday/12

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
3:00p Martha Circle
3:00p DCLC
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/13

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

Friday/14

8:30a Yoga
11:00p Chancel Guild meeting

Saturday/15

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

Sunday/16

8:45a All-Church Breakfast
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:15a Church School teachers' meet.
10:00a Christian Education Committee
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
12:00p Class: *How to Read Revelation*
12:00a New Member Class
12:00p Health Ministry Class/
Introversion and the Church
5:00p Youth Group (at FPC)

Monday/17

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

Tuesday/18

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
1:00p FPC Archivists
7:00p Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday/19

12:00p Communications Committee
1:00p 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/20

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

Friday/21

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/22

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/23

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
12:00p Class: *How to Read Revelation*
3:00p FPC Hayride (*Goethe farm*)
5:00p Youth Group (Richland First PC)

Monday/24

7:00p Thoughtful Readers

Tuesday/25

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p FPC Archivists

Wednesday/26

Presbyter fold / label / mail

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
3:00p DCLC
4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
6:30p Session meeting

Thursday/27

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

Friday/28

8:30a Yoga

Saturday/29

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/30

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 (Westminster PC)

Monday/31

(no FPC activities today)

PLEASE NOTE:

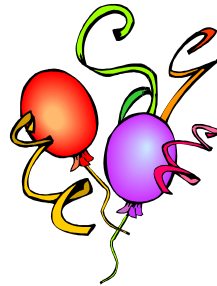
A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 13 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.

September & October Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Jackson Matthews
Todd Smith
Scott Van Ness | 12 Arthur Dodd
Mardy Grant
Dawn Marciniak
Laurie Tupper |
| 2 (none) | 13 Brenda Noel
Katie Pavek
Paul Schonveld |
| 3 Laura Boersma
Ella Brown
Stan Clouse
Max Hubbard
Bruce Hutt
Barb Kafil
Bob Kraska
Kristen Malek | 14 Andrew Johns
Gar Sarosik |
| 4 Marianne Crawford
Louise McCallum
Kenneth Potsic
Sandra Western | 15 Beth McShane
Jim Mitchell
Mary Smyser |
| 5 Charles Green
Diane Hunt | 16 Cameron Lozeau |
| 6 Carolyn Bristol
James Keckler
Brian Schultz
Timothy Tyler
Maya Van Heest
Deborah Wiebeck | 17 Cole Lewis
Ashley Schmiedege |
| 7 Christina McKee
James McNabb
Joseph Nickell
Lillian Sun Ok Park | 18 Lee Mizeur
Kay Vermeulen
Alex Wall Emerson |
| 8 Jan Bedrosian
Deborah Gauntlett
Craig Oliver
Annabelle Rigg
Kenny Sparks | 19 Anne Gladstone
Kevin Plemmons
Deborah Taylor |
| 9 Ginny Dell
Sue Forsch
Sue Potts
Garrett Wenger | 20 Caroline Elliott
Vincent Iannelli
Kaylin Taylor
William Willoughby |
| 10 Sam Clark
Mary Kittredge
Greg Lozeau
Ansley Peterik
Jim VanBuren
Andrea Walker | 21 Matt Bates
Helen Brady
Robert Brush
Cathy Cook
Linda Parks
John Todd |
| 11 Carol Parfitt
Sandy Rozelle
Lindsey Walters | 22 Susan Anthony
Derick Elliott |
| | 23 George Gerpheide
Laura Schreiner |
| | 24 Wilson Cheney
Char Hansen
Margaret Manning |
| | 25 Aiden Brown
Jean Chope
Laura Goethe |

- | |
|--|
| 26 Jane Hamilton |
| 27 Kevin Hollenbeck
Matthew Loughrin
Julia Migliaccio
Morgan Schut
Rick Taylor |
| 28 Robert Britigan III |
| 29 Marilyn Boal
Aedín Clements
Helen Ferrando
Cameron Malek
Jessie Stewart |
| 30 Elizabeth Dell
Gary Elfring
Roselyn Hogan |



OCTOBER

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 Gary Fergemann
Tom Fowle
Robert Tyler | 21 Kelsey Fox
Bill Kelser
Sue Johnson |
| 7 Kay Burtis
Will Carrel
Jordan Diamond
Isabelle Fisk
Elsie Johnson
Nancy Klesert
Nate Snyder | 22 Jennifer Munsel
Kathryn Novak
Sue Swartz |
| 8 Richard Hakken | 23 Ralph Jarl
Audrey Anna
Manning |
| 9 Marcia Cook | 24 Jan Boutelle
Brian Hirt
Dave Hutton
Alexandra
Plemmons |
| 10 Martha Ford
Sylvie Graziano
Brenda McGruder
Neal Miedema
David Rozelle
Richard Steele | 25 Mary Fischer
Margo Light |
| 11 Heidi Egloff
Elizabeth Honeysett
Ruth Moser | 26 Ron Marvin
Eliza Mellis
Dave Novak |
| 12 Evelyn Dalm
Izaak Marciniak | 27 William Leasure |
| 13 Elaine Johns
Danielle Labian
Paisley Wall Emerson | 28 (none) |
| 14 Jennifer Highhouse | 29 Susan Young |
| 15 Ione Ambrose
Jamie Schnur | 30 Sarah Cavanagh
Katelyn Forsch
Norm Goodling
Susanne Rose |
| 16 Katrina Kore
Drew Miller | 31 Barbara Camisa |
| 17 Joseph Ryan Angell
Rob Case | |
| 18 Lauryn Kindle
Judy Swisher | |
| 19 Priscilla Blair
Nikos Diamond
José Santamaría
Hazel Standiford | |
| 20 (none) | |



A CALL TO ACTION FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE!

The season of seeking Elders, Deacons, and committee members for next year's Nominating Committee is now upon us.

This is a committee with which many of you may be unfamiliar, since our work starts in late summer and ends in early November each year. The commitment is short, thus very important, as you will hear in these words from the Book of Order:

THE ROLE OF ELDER: As there were, in Old Testament times, elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit.

THE ROLE OF DEACON: The ministry of deacon, as set forth in Scripture, is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.

With regard to nominating both Elders and Deacons, the Book of Order states that "those individuals nominated should be

- ♦ persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, and brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment
- ♦ active members of the church, regular in attendance at worship, consistency of financial giving, understanding of the commitment to Presbyterian Policy, actively participating in the life of the congregation and wider church."



The Position Descriptions are located on the reverse side of this form, and in the Narthex, at the back entrance of the church, at the business office of the church, and may be requested by e-mail. If you would like to receive this information via e-mail, please direct your request to: ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org.

The nomination form is included in this *Presbyter* for your convenience. On these forms, you will also see a place to mark if you want to nominate people from the congregation to serve as future Nominating Committee members.

Please return any completed forms to the office or place them in the collection plate on Sunday morning. The deadline for nominations is September 23 so that the Nominating Committee can finish its work by the end of October.

**A Message to Members of First Presbyterian Church
from the Nominating Committee**

Once again it is the time of the church year when we give thought to selecting officers to serve our congregation. The Nominating Committee, grateful for the abundant gifts among members of our congregation, is ready to initiate the process.

We welcome your suggestions for the following three offices:

(1) Elder (2) Congregational Deacon (3) Church Nominating Committee Member

Please return this form with your suggestions to the church office,
or place it in the offering plate no later than September 23, 2016.

Name Suggested	Suggested Office (you may check more than one box per nominee)	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Comm.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Comm.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Comm.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Comm.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elder <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Comm.	

Nominated by _____ (optional)

The Office of Elder –

- Elders are the ruling body of the church, elected for a 3-year term.
- They have operational responsibility for the entire program and life of First Presbyterian Church, including Worship and Sacraments, Education, Missions, Stewardship and Budgeting, New Members, Staff and Facility Management, and Church Records.
- Time commitment: Monthly session meetings, participation on at least one committee of Session, and other meetings as necessary. Session typically meets on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month.
- Elders are ordained for life, installed to serve for one 3-year term, or to complete an unexpired term, on Session.

The Office of Congregational Deacon –

- Deacons are assigned a number of individuals and family members of our church as their primary responsibility.
- On behalf of the Session, Congregational Deacons carry out responsibilities with members and immediate families who may be in distress, ill, or lonely, and create opportunities to help parishioners know and care for one another.
- As a group, deacons work on special projects to benefit our church family, such as coffee hour, meals, or taking holiday flowers to homebound members.
- Time commitment: Monthly Deacons' meeting and additional time as needed with assigned families. Deacons typically meet on the second Monday of each month, are elected for a 3-year term, and are ordained for life.

**Requirements and a complete description of the work of church boards are in
The Presbyterian *Book of Order*, available in the Church Library.**

Church Nominating Committee –

- Members-at-large from the congregation, together with representatives from Session and Deacons, select nominees for church officers.
- Time commitment: Meet in late summer and early fall as needed to fill slate of nominees for above offices. Election takes place in late October.