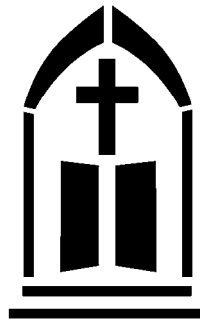


The *Presbyter*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE

Volume 45, No. 7



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.sanctuaryinthecity.org

PRESBYTER HIGHLIGHTS—

- ◆ ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES / *pages 2-3*
- ◆ ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR—December 4 / *page 7*
- ◆ CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—December 24 / *page 8*
- ◆ CHRISTMAS DINNER AND A SHOW—December 11 / *page 9*
- ◆ GREEN P'S: TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS / *page 15*
- ◆ NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS / *page 17*
- ◆ NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER CALENDARS / *inserted*
- ◆ A RENEWED VISION FOR MINISTRY AND MISSION (*see page 4*)

Christmas



KALAMAZOO

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyter

November-December 2016
October 26, 2016
Vol. 45, No. 7

321 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

(269) 344-0119

www.sanctuaryinthecity.org

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

November 6

All Saints Sunday

Communion served

The Rev. Liz Candido

November 13

Twenty-sixth Sunday

after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

November 20

Reign of Christ Sunday

Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

November 27

First Sunday of Advent

Communion served

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King

December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Service of Comfort (12:00 p.m.)

December 18 (2 services)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Candlelight Vespers (6:00 p.m.)

December 24 / Saturday

Christmas Eve (3 services)

Children's Program (5:00)

Candlelight Communion Worship

8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

December 25

Christmas Day

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

*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

I am excited to share more good news about progress with our visioning process and related work, beginning immediately!

At the August meeting of Session, the Vision Team presented priorities for our congregation to pursue in the next few years. Elders shared extended discussion at that meeting, and gathered again two weeks later for another special meeting focused on that report. With sincere gratitude for efforts of the Vision Team and with hopeful expectation for the good work we can all begin together, Session approved the Priorities for our congregation at its meeting on September 28. Two documents are available at the church entrances: 1) an extensive summary of data gathered during the visioning process; and 2) the revised and reapproved Vision and Mission statements of our congregation, along with details about six priority areas for 2017 – 2020. As noted before, these priorities are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all the ministry and mission we share. They respond particularly to concerns and opportunities which arose during the visioning process, as ways to further strengthen our life and witness. There will ever remain very good and important work that continues among many other committees and groups in our congregation! All of our efforts ultimately relate and support one another. All are needed as parts of the Body of Christ. All are entwined through the service of Christ's love, nurturing abundant life for the glory of God!

While all of our work connects directly and complements indirectly in wider perspective, we always need people to catalyze particular efforts. We have identified lead committees for each priority area. And some individuals who served on the Vision Team have volunteered to continue engaging efforts in their chosen areas of interest. I hope you will learn more about the priorities we envisioned, and find a way to get involved!

Building on the foundational work of the visioning process, we are already moving toward seeking a new Associate Pastor. Throughout the search process ahead, we want to ensure fairness and transparency, consistency with our priorities, and efficiency, without undue delays. As I write, the Personnel Committee is finalizing the responsibilities and expectations of the position to consider at our October Session meeting. A liaison member of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry will also attend that meeting to begin to coordinate action "decently and in order." Next steps include: requesting permission to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC); election of APNC members by the congregation; completion of forms and documentation related to the search; then moving into interviewing. I am hopeful that we can have the APNC formed and working by the holidays, with active consideration of candidates beginning early in the New Year.

Finally, through this interim period and beyond, we continue to be blessed with the work of our Parish Associates. You will find again in this issue an outline of areas in which each plans to serve. Please, contact them if you have any personal concerns or questions related to committees they support!

Grace and peace to you,

Seth

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor

A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

December 11

East Transept of the Sanctuary
immediately following Worship

The Christmas season can be a difficult time for those who are grieving, who find themselves living with the painful absence of a loved one, while so much of the world celebrates. The Health Ministries Committee invites anyone in our congregation whose holiday spirits are dimmed by the absence of friends or family members to come to a Service of Comfort and Hope following Worship on Sunday, December 11. Whether you have come a long way in your journey with grief, or are new to facing the pain of loss and separation, you are most welcome at this service. In word and music, prayer and silence, candlelight and ritual, we will bring our hurt to our God of love, who comes to us again and again with the healing touch of Christ. Parish Associate Larry Farris will lead this time of remembering, that we may glimpse the Light amidst the darkness of loss.

VESPERS SERVICE

December 18 - 6:00 p.m.

Please plan to join the Adult Choir for a traditional Vespers Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Prelude music featuring a guest brass quintet will begin at 5:40 p.m.

The format of the service of lessons, anthems, and traditional Christmas carols originated in 1880 in Cornwall, England. It provides an opportunity to experience the celebration of Advent and the coming of the Christ Child, and offers a welcome respite from our hectic daily schedules.

This service provides an opportunity for you to experience a beautiful service of scripture, seasonal music, lighting of candles, and a time of reflection as you prepare for Christmas. The Adult Choir looks forward to sharing the Vespers Service with you.

ADVENT

November 27 / First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship / Communion served

Preaching: The Kathleen Robertson King

December 4 / Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

December 11 / Third Sunday of Advent (2 services)

10:30 a.m. Worship

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55

12:00 p.m. Service of Comfort and Hope

Leader: The Reverend Larry Farris

(see article at left)

December 18 / Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

5:00 p.m. Annual "Christmas Chocolate"

(see page 6)

5:40 p.m. Musical Prelude featuring a guest brass quintet

6:00 p.m. Fifty-fourth Annual Candlelight Vespers

The Service of Lessons and Carols is one of the most beloved FPC Advent traditions. (see article to left)





CHRISTMAS WEEK

December 24 / Christmas Eve (Saturday)

**5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program
"A Shepherd's Story"**
Leader: Dr. Patricia Stromsta
This annual program will be presented by the children of FPC (more information on page 8).

On Christmas Eve, at both 8:00 and 11:00, we will share in our traditional service of Candlelight Communion. With the Sanctuary adorned in holiday greens and with candelabra lining the aisles and the front of the chancel, we sense Holy Love coming into our lives. Along with prayers, carols, scripture readings, and sermon, we will share Holy Communion on this special night. Bells will peal to herald the birth of Jesus. We will conclude our worship service by singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.



7:45 p.m. Musical Prelude
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Worship Service
Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20
10:30 p.m. Musical Prelude
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Worship Service
Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

December 25 / Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Worship

We will worship on Christmas morning at 10:30, our regular Sunday service time. Our worship will be much more informal, with prayers, scripture readings, and singing many carols chosen by anyone who attends.



Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

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

CATCH THE NEW VISION!

Documents summarizing data received and priorities approved through recent work of the Vision Team are available at church. A summary, "A Renewed Vision for Ministry and Mission", is inserted in this *Presbyter*. Please come to a meeting following Worship on Sunday, November 20, to discuss and ask questions about the six priority areas identified. We will meet in Room 314-315.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER, 2016

The following motions
were made and adopted:

- to approve use of the Basil Leong Memorial for an interpretive plaque for the sculpture on the front of the church.
- to allow the Finance Committee to conduct an annual review for 2017 in lieu of an audit. And the Finance Committee recommends that a review, rather than an audit, be completed on an annual basis, beginning 2017 for 2018.
- to approve the Request for Financial Appeals, received from the Communications Committee, to sell T-shirts for the church, in order to finance the purchase of more T-shirts.
- to approve \$2,000 from the Ford-Neff Fund for Eve's Angels Shelter for victims of human trafficking.
- to approve the Proposed Vision for First Presbyterian Church and the Proposed Priorities from the Strategic Visioning Committee, as amended.

A WORD FROM THE PARISH ASSOCIATES

(from the Reverend Kathleen Robertson King)

In the last *Presbyter*, Larry Farris offered a clever joke to describe the work of the parish associates. I'm afraid I'm far less creative, but I can say with confidence that all four of us parish associates are enjoying the opportunity to be part of the life of our congregation in new ways during this time of transition following our dear Mary's retirement! Although our roles and tasks differ, each of us is focused on supporting and resourcing folks with our particular interests and gifts. For my part, visiting people in homes, hospitals, and elsewhere, as well as working with Deacons, is a tender reminder that our lives can be richly lived and deeply blessed when we are part of a community of faith. My favorite poet, Wendell Berry, suggests that we often forget that "we belong to one another", with sometimes disastrous consequences. I am encouraged and inspired by the many ways I see FPC living out examples of what it means to truly belong to one another. Please know that four parish associates are here to support and celebrate the life of our congregation as we journey together!

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.

2017 CAMINO PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY

After hearing reflections on October 30 by Larry and Pat Farris, who walked El Camino de Santiago, plan to come the following Sunday, November 6, to explore the possibility of sharing such a pilgrimage experience in September, 2017.

Seth Weeldreyer will offer possibilities and preliminary estimates including time, itinerary, cost, and character of the experience. Bring your questions! We will meet from 12:00–1:00 in Room 301.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Stuart H. Deming

A year ago, I was asked to serve on the Session. While I was honored to be asked, in the back of my mind, my biggest fear was being asked to serve on the Stewardship Committee. Unfortunately, I was not able to dodge that bullet. So here I am, conveying a message on behalf of the Stewardship Committee.

In my short time on the Committee, I have come to learn three basic things:

1. First, only one person on the committee, the chair, and only two staff members, know the particulars of anyone's pledge. So if we are pressing you to send in your pledge for the coming year, please understand that we will not know the particulars of those pledges.
2. Secondly, the committee needs your help. We need more members, particularly female members, and we need and welcome your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can be more effective. We recognize that this is a terribly sensitive issue for all of us. So tap one of us on the shoulder, send us an email, or give us a call. We will welcome your input.
3. Lastly, and maybe most importantly, I have come to appreciate that as a church we have been actually operating at a deficit in recent years. What we take in is much less than what we actually spend. It is only because of the income from our endowments that the gap is being filled.

The bottom line is that we all need to step up. So please keep this in mind as you complete your pledge card for the coming year. And again, let us know how to do a better job of carrying out this delicate task.

For inquiries relative to obtaining a pledge card, making automatic drafts from a bank account, or addressing other administrative issues, please contact Louise Taylor by telephone at (269) 344-0119 or by email at louise.taylor@kalamazoofirstpres.org.

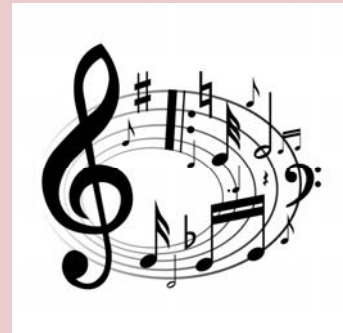


Burdick-Thorne String Quartet at First Presbyterian Church

**Tuesday, November 1
7:00 p.m.**

Our Sanctuary will be the setting for a concert of works by Shostokovich, Haydn, and Beethoven, performed by the Kalamazoo Symphony's Burdick-Thorne String Quartet. This free concert is an opportunity not only to hear their beautiful music, but also to meet and talk with the musicians at the reception following the concert.

For the congregation, it is a good time to invite friends and neighbors to join you as we welcome all members of our diverse community.



LECTIONARY STUDY

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

You are invited to join other church members in the weekly lectionary study that precedes 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.

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 Dowsell
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 NOTE FROM BOB BLOOMQUIST

I would like to thank everyone who visited, called, sent cards, and offered prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. It was very much appreciated and it helped to know I have such great friends.

CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE - DECEMBER 18

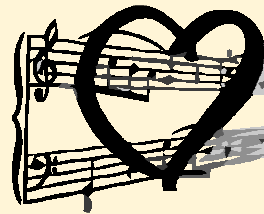
It's hard to believe, but it's time to look forward to another great FPC fellowship tradition: the annual Christmas Chocolate! This event will take place in the Gathering Place on Sunday, December 18, at 5:00 (just before the annual FPC Christmas Vespers service). It is a time to join friends and family in the spirit of the season, to enjoy delicious hot chocolate and yummy home-made cookies before the beloved Vespers Service.

Speaking of cookies.... We are once again putting out the call to all our wonderful church-family bakers to help with this event by providing two to three dozen cookies of your choice for us to share. Past years have proven the culinary skills of the FPC folks, and we look forward to this year's array. If you feel so led, please bring your treats to church either the morning of December 18, or just prior to 5:00. If you prefer, you may also drop them off at the church office earlier in the week. Thank you in advance for your delicious contributions!

MUSIC CORNER

FPC BELL CHOIR

First Presbyterian Church's handbells have been ordered and it is time to put together a bell choir! If you are interested in ringing bells and have NOT been contacted by Cindy Hunter, please call or e-mail her at (269) 377-2478 or cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org. Please consider being part of this new Music Ministry!



CHOIR CONCERT: CANDLELIGHT REFLECTIONS

December 10

The Kalamazoo Singers and the First Presbyterian Church Choir will join forces at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 10, at 7 p.m. for a concert titled "Candlelight Reflections." The concert is part of the Kalamazoo Singers' 40th Anniversary Season. It will feature both choirs performing seasonal selections, culminating in a performance of Morten Lauridsen's beautiful work, "Lux Aeterna." Do plan to join us! Tickets can be purchased at the door or at the following link: <http://www.kalamazoosingers.org/purchase-tickets-online/>.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

2016 THANK OFFERING

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PC(USA), INC.

The Presbyterian Women's Annual Thank Offering will be received between now and December 4. The Thank Offering supports projects that meet the needs of people who are elderly, disabled, homeless, or displaced, as well as children, youth, and women, through educational, health, peace, and justice programs, both in the U.S. and abroad. Grant recipients are chosen by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA), Inc. More information is available online at this site: pma.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/thank.

There are Thank Offering envelopes in the Narthex, at the reception desk, and at the Lovell Street entrance. Please make your check out to "Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women" with the notation, "Thank Offering" on the memo line.

DEACONS: "NOISY COINS"

In the near future you will begin to see "Noisy Coins", a dollar amount, listed below the weekly church attendance in each Sunday's announcements. As you know, "only" your coins, not the paper bills, are what support the Deacons' Benevolence funds available to help others in a variety of ways. There is a formal FPC policy that oversees this fund. Further questions may be directed to Sue Potts. The Deacons thank you for making a JOYFUL NOISE each week.

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

The Congregational Life Committee will once again be assembling care packages to send to our college students as they are preparing for finals in early December. This is a way that we can reach out to our students and let them know that though they are not here, they are an important part of our church family.

We would like to ask for your help in donating supplies for these packages. Small items, such as packaged snacks (crackers, cookies, energy bars, etc.), school supplies, toiletries (toothpaste, tissues, etc.), chapstick, lotions, or a deck of cards are a few ideas for these packages. Anything would be appreciated, so the next time you are shopping, please consider picking up an item or two for these kids.

There will be a collection box in the Gathering Place on Sundays through November. You can also leave items at the church office during the week. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bev Murray at (269) 352-0079 or bhmurray@chartermi.net. Thank you for your help!!!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 4

Gathering Place

before and after Worship

The Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Sunday, December 4, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., and immediately following Worship until 12:15 p.m. Any group interested in participating may contact Carol Hutton, hutton6077@chartermi.net or 373-3980.

BASIL LEONG MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The Tuesday Morning Men's Fellowship Group was the recipient of memorial funds in honor of Basil Leong. After several months of considering how best to honor Basil, a long-time member of the Fellowship, it was decided to erect a memorial plaque in the small garden at the base of the Kirk Newman bas-relief sculpture of Jesus, describing in detail the seven figures. Basil's family and Men's Fellowship are grateful to those who so generously contributed in Basil's memory.



CHURCH SCHOOL

November 6
Communion

November 13

November 20
Christ the King Sunday
Communion

November 27
First Week of Advent
Communion
Advent Wreath-Making

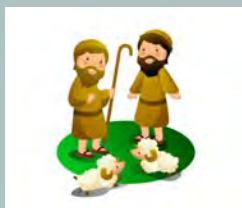


December 4
Second Week of Advent

December 11
Third Week of Advent

December 18
Fourth Week of Advent
Christmas Program Rehearsal
and Christmas Party during
Church School time

December 24
Christmas Eve Program - 5:00 p.m.
"The Shepherd's Story"



December 25 and January 1
No Church School
(resumes January 8)

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

THE CHILDREN OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WILL PRESENT
OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
"The Shepherd's Story"

DECEMBER 24th at 5:00 P.M.



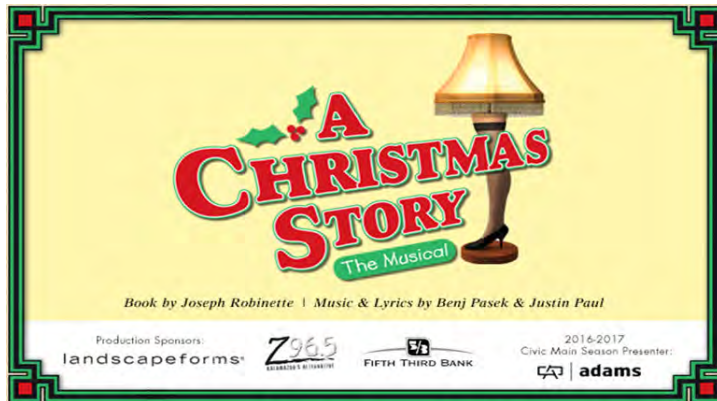
FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND GUESTS ARE INVITED.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT WREATHS

The Children of First Presbyterian Church will be making their Advent wreaths during Church School on Sunday, November 27, the first week of Advent.

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. It is a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles and often, a fifth, white candle in the center. Beginning the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading, devotional time, and prayers. An additional candle is lighted during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Many Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle, which is lighted on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The custom is observed both in family settings and at public church services.

In some churches, the candles represent hope, peace, love, and joy. Often the third candle, representing love, is a different color than the other three, representing the importance of love as the greatest of all the qualities that abide eternally.



Christmas Dinner and a Show

Sunday, December 11

Join us after Worship for a
Christmas Dinner followed by the show
"A Christmas Story"
at the Civic Auditorium
on Sunday, December 11
2:00 p.m.

Sign up for Dinner and/or the Show on the
bulletin board outside of Pat Stromsta's office.

Tickets are \$19.00 for Adults and Seniors,
\$15.00 for Children (under 12).

Checks are to be made out to the
Civic Auditorium
and must be received by December 4

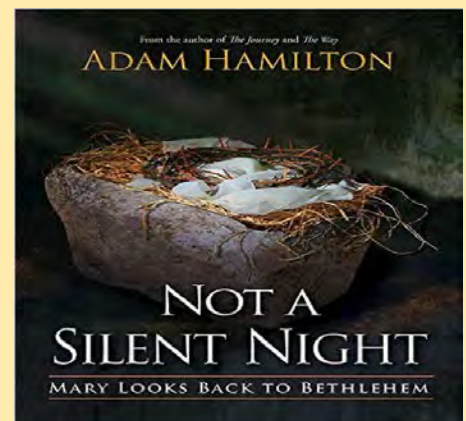
Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

Advent Women's Bible Study begins
November 17 and will meet for five
weeks (excluding Thanksgiving).
Coffee is served at 9:30 – our study
begins at 9:45 in Room #302. This
class is facilitated by Pat Stromsta.

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of
view—proud of her son, in awe of his
gifts and mission, guided by love for
him as a person and so much more.
In this book, Adam Hamilton begins
at the end: Mary is at the crucifixion
and resurrection. The story travels
back in time as she witnesses his
life and ministry; and ends at the
beginning, with the Christ Child born
in a stable: Mary's beautiful baby.
This year, experience Advent and
Christmas with Mary.

The five sessions are:

1. Beginning with the End
2. The Piercing of Mary's Soul
3. Amazed, Astounded, Astonished
4. Mary, Full of Grace
5. It Was Not a Silent Night



ADULTS

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*, began September 28. Join us whenever you can.



Tuesday Morning Men's Group

They are a hardy 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 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.

FPC YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

November and December

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 weekend (no meeting)

December 4 - Christmas Party
First Presbyterian Church of Richland



2017 MISSION TRIPS

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



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

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY "LUNCH BUNCH"

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

On November 4, join your friends at 1:00 p.m. to share good food and fellowship at the University Roadhouse, 1332 West Michigan Avenue. Call the Forsches at 353-3903 if you need transportation. Call in your reservations to the FPC receptionist at 344-0119 through Wednesday, November 2.

December 2 (Friday), 1:00 p.m.

On December 2, the group will meet for lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the Beacon Club. Menu choices: fish, chicken, or pasta. Coffee or a soft drink will be included; extra drinks are available at an additional cost. \$20 per person includes the gratuity. Because of the season, an early holiday plan is necessary, so reservations are required by November 22 and are firm. Please call the church to make your reservation.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS STITCHERS

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

December 5 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

During the November meeting, Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers will sew items to sell at the church holiday bazaar on December 4. During the December meeting, they will make fleece hats, mittens, and scarves for our downtown neighbors. Meetings are in the Sewing Room, which is off the Dining Room. All who enjoy sewing are welcome.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

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

December 14 (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. Contact Jeff Ross or Seth Weeldreyer with any questions.

HEALTH MINISTRY CLASS

"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 plan to meet in Room 314-315 on Sunday, November 13, immediately following Worship. Come, be educated, ask your questions, and hear their story.

NEW MEMBERS

October, 2016

Following the Inquirers Class held on October 23, FPC gained these new members who are joining by letters of transfer:

- John and Diane Marsom from Fenton, Michigan;
- Tim and Anna Hamel, and their three children, from Asheville, North Carolina; and
- Don Swetay, a former resident of Elkhart, Indiana.

Additional information about these new members will be printed in the weekly Announcements.

GIVE-A-BELL CAMPAIGN A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to all the members of the congregation who sponsored bells and made other generous donations, our campaign to raise money for handbells and choir chimes was completely successful! Thank you so much! The bells have been ordered and we expect delivery in November. You will hear their beautiful music ringing throughout our sanctuary in the upcoming months.

BUTTER BRAIDS

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!



CHURCH ACTIVITIES



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

MARTHA CIRCLE

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

Martha Circle will meet in the Church Lounge on Wednesday, November 9, at 3:00. Nancy Klesert will provide refreshments. Carol Payne Smith will lead a discussion of Chapter 2 of the Horizons Bible Study. Copies of the study book are available at our meetings. We will bring boots, gloves, and other winter outerwear for our neighbors at Celebrate the Vision.

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

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 14, at 3:00 at the home of Elaine Johns. We will each bring two or three dozen cookies for a cookie exchange. We will also bring new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program. All women are cordially invited to these meetings.



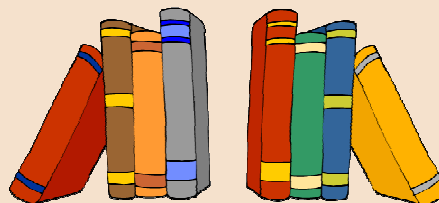
THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

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

December (no meeting)

Thoughtful Readers Book Group will meet on November 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. Our discussion of *The Wright Brothers*, by David McCullough, will be led by Sue Thielman. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner McCullough blends impeccable writing with historical rigor and strong character definition in his biography of Wilbur and Orville Wright. In this absorbing book, McCullough conveys both the drama of human flight and the courage, persistence, and genius of the Wright brothers.

Join us for a lively discussion of this "outstanding saga of the lives of two men who left such a giant footprint on our modern age." (Booklist Review). We welcome new participants. If you would like to have more information, call Kathy Campbell at (517) 803-0481.



Outreach and Community Service

DCLC (Downtown Community Literacy Center)

Hello, everyone!!! It is so good to have a chance to report on what your DCLC – Downtown Community Literacy Center is doing. We are one of fourteen Community Literacy Centers in the Kalamazoo Area. Our own DCLC (Downtown Community Literacy Center) opened April 30, 2014. The Kalamazoo Literacy Council has grown from 49 tutors serving 55 students in 2010 to 222 tutors serving 533 students in 2016.

At DCLC we offer tutoring in reading, writing, and computer skills. At this writing, we have 7 students. Two of these students are taking not just one, but two classes. We have a total of 8 active tutors. Two of these tutors are from outside our church family. We have one assessor on site; however, other assessors use our site, also.

In 2016 we have two students who went from Laubach 1 to Laubach 2 and one who progressed from Laubach 2 to Laubach 4. One of our students worked very hard to pass his driver's license test and completed that just this last month. We have had 82 students enter our doors since our opening in 2014. They came for Assessments, Reading, Writing and/or Computer instruction.

If you get a chance, please thank these dedicated DCLC Active Tutors: Lester Coleman, Tom Forsch, Sue Johnson, Nancy Maleitzke, Donna Schonveld, and Mary Smyser. Pat Stromsta has just recently stepped out of tutoring, as she is needed in other areas. The two tutors from outside our church are Marian Burkey and Sue Thayer.

The Kalamazoo Literacy Council, as well as our DCLC, is always in need of additional tutors. You may be interested in volunteer work such as English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, which is a primary need for refugees, and at this time, there are actually 311 more potential students than teachers in the Kalamazoo area. You may become an advocate for literacy.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please call one of the teachers listed above, or you may call the Kalamazoo Literacy Council directly at (269) 382-0490.

And thank you for supporting this rewarding ministry!

DCLC Tutors

2016-2017 PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

As Presbyterians, we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Copies of the Giving Catalog will be placed by the entrance doors during the holidays. Items that can be "purchased" for others include bags of seeds, farming tools, a family of chickens, a pig, a beekeeping kit, bunks beds for children, etc.

Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the broken-hearted, and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This Offering provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church, and also supports racial ethnic leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected during the Advent season. Please give as you are able to this important mission.

Outreach and Community Service

RICKMAN HOUSE CHRISTMAS BINGO

The residents at Rickman House have requested the following “prizes” for the Christmas BINGO.

- ◇ dish towels
- ◇ bath towels
- ◇ body wash
- ◇ perfume
- ◇ calendars
- ◇ hair products and accessories
- ◇ makeup
- ◇ movies
- ◇ toilet paper(!)
- ◇ Dial soap
- ◇ paper towels
- ◇ makeup bags
- ◇ food items that can be prepared in a microwave
- ◇ nail polish remover
- ◇ bus tokens
- ◇ warm winter clothing items
- ◇ other Christmas gifts

The Christmas BINGO will be held on Saturday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are welcome!

For more information, contact Mike Boersma at either (269) 720-1409, or mike.boersma@gmail.com.



EDISON SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

by Joseph Sablan

We are grateful for those folks who are already working with our young children at Edison. However, we are still accepting a few more volunteers to work with a child, or a small group of children, on reading – listening to them read, helping with pronouncing difficult words, or even bringing your well-trained dog to listen to them read. If you can spare one hour a week, that would be just plain wonderful!

Most of the teachers on the Edison staff have not been teaching for many years, and would welcome an extra pair of hands. Please call one of the coordinators listed below to learn how you can participate in this important outreach program of our congregation.

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

If you do not have an hour every week, or do not feel you can help in the classroom, perhaps you could contribute a big bottle of hand sanitizer, a box of sanitizing wipes, or a few boxes of tissues. If you have any Legos or other hands-on games, such as Tinker Toys or Lincoln Logs that your children are not using, one of the teachers would like to have them.

The children would also welcome snacks, such as Rice Krispies Treats®, animal crackers, cheese crackers, etc.

If you would prefer that we purchase supplies as needed, please put a check in the offering plate, made out to “First Presbyterian Church”, with a notation in the memo line “for the Edison Project”. We will gladly purchase what is needed.

Thank you, and may the Lord continue to guide us in this ministry.



Outreach and Community Service

TIPS FROM GREEN PETE



THE WAY IS GREEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

You don't have to wait for the aroma of roasting turkey or the snow to fly to be planning to "green up" your holidays. Presbyterians are conservation thinkers, and as members of an Earth Care Congregation, we can pass our thinking on through our own individual and collective actions. Remember: Giant strides or baby-steps—they both add up!

Start with a change in thinking about the holidays by **resisting the consumerism-driven, wasteful, and stressful mindset we so easily pick up--and walk on the lighter side. Shift your thinking away from "STUFF" to celebrating the holidays in ways that show a genuine spirit of caring, sharing love, and reduce the load on our over-burdened environment.** Here are some suggestions to consider for your own holiday planning:

- ◆ Give a charitable contribution in honor of a family member friend who "has everything".
- ◆ Send email greetings or use recycled Christmas cards.
- ◆ Give homemade treats; use boxes with natural decorations.
- ◆ Use old cards to decorate compostable brown paper wrap, or reuse a paper gift bag with a "recycled, pass it on" sign on it.
- ◆ Substitute a live for a cut fresh or artificial tree (Norfolk pines can stay indoors and used again to freshen your air); other types of potted evergreens can be transplanted outside.
- ◆ Hold a "Yankee swap" gift drawing for your coworkers or extended family.
- ◆ For "green" decorating, try homemade or natural decorations, LED tree lights, reusable cups and plates.
- ◆ Make holiday to-do lists to minimize driving or bus trips.

**CHECK THE GREEN P'S' EXHIBITS IN THE
GATHERING PLACE FOR MORE GREEN HOLIDAY
HINTS, OR SHARE YOUR IDEAS THROUGH
OUR CHURCH MAILBOX #71
OR EMAIL janscarrow@gmail.com**

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Many members of FPC want to help the refugees who are arriving in Kalamazoo, so the Outreach Committee is supporting the Church's new refugee resettlement group, which expects to work with Bethany Christian Services to sponsor a family.

A new family will need mentoring and friendship in their first few months, and we hope to work with the resettlement agency by providing this support, as well as helping with material things like household supplies, clothing, and school supplies.

It is not too soon to think of how you might help. There will be calls for donations when the family first arrives, for items from spoons to sofas, from women's coats to babies' diapers. Until we know about a specific family, we will not know precisely what will be needed.

There will be opportunities to provide occasional transportation, to organize outings or social events, and to help with preparation of a family's home.

If you wish to be involved with this group, please contact Evelyn Garner. Email garnerrev66@gmail.com or phone (269) 375-2455.



Outreach and Community Service

GHANA REPORT

*by John Petro,
Ghana Partnership Committee*

Our congregation was very fortunate to have the Rev. Joshua Heikkila, PC(USA) West Africa Liaison, as a visitor on Sunday, September 18. Besides providing a brief overview of Presbyterian outreach to Ghana and W. Africa during the morning worship service, he met with interested folks from our congregation following the worship service and, later in the day, he met with others from Presbytery for conversation at an evening meal. Our outreach to Ghana has been immensely assisted by his presence in Ghana. The Outreach Committee annually includes funds to support Josh's ministry in Ghana.

John Petro and Raymond Wicks from our congregation represented our congregation and our Presbytery at the 15th Annual Ghana Mission Network meeting in September. Highlights of the 15th GMN meeting included conversations on leadership training, women's issues, outreach projects, financial concerns, visas, and also the topics of immigrant Ghanaian congregations and fellowships in America. One very interesting suggestion was that American congregations and their Ghanaian partners should consider establishing their own "green" congregational goals for carbon offset, thus stimulating each other to reduce carbon emissions.

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

Kalamazoo Drop-In Care Center

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

Items needed include

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

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

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

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

Partners in Housing Transition

Partners in Housing Transition is a semi-independent project of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. They partner with ten social service agencies in Kalamazoo to help formerly homeless families attain self-sufficiency by providing them with furniture and household furnishings. Last year, they provided furniture and basic essentials for over 100 families with 265 children.

They are looking for housekeeping items such as: dressers, beds, sofas and love seats, living room chairs, end tables, lamps, vacuum cleaners, place settings, blankets and linens, cooking pots, frying pans, small appliances, kitchen utensils, and cleaning supplies.

Please contact Robert Small, the coordinator, to arrange for pick-up or delivery. His contact information is (260) 385-2466 or rgsmall@St.LukesKalamazoo.org.

:

November & December Birthdays

NOVEMBER

1
Mary Lou Boughton
Sue Cole
Mark Ohrstrom
Joseph Sablan
2
Dianne Hollenbeck
Ellen Stults
3
Kelsey Oliver
Jim Stephenson
4
Thomas Forsch
Beth Jarl
Annie Leong
Mark Loehrke
Ilon Weeldreyer
JoAnn Yochim
5
John Petro
6
Jocelyn Hodgman
Seth Weeldreyer
7
Al García
Sandra Standish
8
(none)
9
Miranda Howard
Henry Klein
James Steffey
10
Conrad Angell
Martin Baker
Bridin Clements
11
Ryan Cahill
Teresa Cavanagh
Loden Krueger
12
Morden Schuur
13
Carol Hutton
David McShane
Heather Misner
Mary Lou Todd
Peter Todd

14
Jay Heckler
Carter Macomber
Katie Munn
Bruce Rigg
15
Miriam Bauserman
Warren Misner
Lizzie Stewart
16
Gabriel Weeldreyer
Louise Wright
17
Joe Agostinelli
Michael Palmer
Ann Parfet
18
Andrew Arwady
Billy Card
Belinda Drok
Ailiih Weeldreyer
19
Victoria Coleman
Melissa Grupe
Dean Panse
James Stefl
20
Kari Crook
Robin Davis-McNabb
Sandra Dennehy
Megan Phee
Michael Ward
21
Joni Cheney
Grace Cook
Dorothy Larkin
Jo Russell
David Warren
22
Mackenzie Hunter
Greg Leder
Matt Ohrstrom
Ann Ridge
23
Sabrina Johnson
Preston Meeker
24
David Fenton
Barbara Graham-Palmer
Elizabeth Kiewiet
Marlena Kirton

25
Chuck Thiele
26
Warner Stears
27
Alexandria Howard
28
RJ Davis
Susan Kremer
Vic Onweller
Sheliah Tramel
29
Dylan Davis
Diane Eberts
Tish Loveless
Karen Nellums
30
Wendy Beckwith
Jamie Cloetingh
Terri Hunter

DECEMBER

1
Andrew Allen
Betty Bridges
Suzanne Busby
2
Rosemary Coryell
John Gauntlett
Michelle Warren
3
Kendall Cheney
Janet Gladstone
Nathan Murray
4
Jeff Ross
5
Sairi Elliott
Barbara Johnson
Tom Michelhaugh
Braedon Peterik
Christina Selander
6
Donita DeBruin
Sharon Gatewood
Elizabeth Novak
Carol Schreiner
Evan Wenger

7
Mark Longman
8
Ericka Angell
Kevin King
Noel Ocen-Gorgone
Ann Ross
9
Wilma Cooper
Eugene Erdos
Laura Fouty
Thomas Kasdorf
Sawyer Miedema
Michael Pessetti
Barbara Rider
10
John Cooper
11
Carolyn Ehrnstrom
Ann Johnson
Nancy Thiele
12
Erin Gladstone
13
Emily Lawing
14
Gary Beckwith
15
Alex Rey
16
Elizabeth Money
Timothy Munn
Douglas Veech
17
Stuart Deming
Christopher Haite
Julie Heath
Andrew Stults
18
Mike Hammond
Fred Sammons
Mim Shannon
19
Danielle Harik
20
Kevin Shaffer
21
Janet Lawing
Krista Matthews
Shelley Rylander
Judy Smith

22
Michael Boersma
Catherine Chase
Ted Crook
Lynn Russell
23
Denise Freed
Rick Russell
24
Hunter Fisk
Timothy Lenderink
Donald Meldrum
25
Tiffany Hubbard
David Potsic
26
Mira Graziano
Stacy McGruder
Steve Pifer
27
Chrissie Hajek
Ruth Michelhaugh
John Robbins II
Kenneth Sparks
28
Jack Molitor
Shawn Smith
Jackie Stults
Toni Tyler
29
Alan Chase
Jerry Meinzingen
30
Allison Hammond
Emma Neill
Carolyn Neubauer
AnneMarie Snyder
31
(none)

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



50-year FPC Anniversaries

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.

YEARS OF FPC MEMBERSHIP

DECEMBER Anniversaries

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Ruth Moser	Dec. 29, 1953	63
Marjorie St. Mary	Dec. 30, 1964	52
Nancy Owen	Dec. 30, 1965	51
Thomas Owen	Dec. 30, 1965	51

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.

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, ucmrking@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus: The Reverend Dr. David W. McShane



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:

Issue	Deadline for Content	Mailing Date
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.



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 - November, 2016

Tuesday/1

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/2

- 9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
- 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 7:00p Women's Monthly Evening Bible Study

Thursday/3

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

Friday/4

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

Saturday/5

(no FPC activities today)

Sunday/6

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

- 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 Meeting / Camino Pilgrimage
- 12:00p Nominating Committee
- 12:45p Ministry with Community
(*FPC serves the meal today*)
- 5:00p Youth Group

Monday/7

- 1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers
- 6:30p Deacons
- 7:00p Green P's

Tuesday/8

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 12:00p Class series: *Stories of Faith*
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/9

- 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 3:00p Martha Circle
- 4:00p 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/10

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC Librarian on site
- 11:00a DCLC
- 11:30p Stewardship Committee
- 4:00p Finance Committee (*off site*)
- 6:00p Prop. Maintenance Committee
- 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/11

- 8:30a Yoga
- 5:00p Youth Group "Urban Plunge"
at FPC Paw Paw (Day 1 of 3)

Saturday/12

Youth "Urban Plunge" (Day 2 of 3)

Sunday/13

- Youth "Urban Plunge" (Day 3 of 3)
- 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 Nominating Committee
- 12:00p Health Ministry class:
"Being Transgender"

Monday/14

- 6:30p Deacons

Tuesday/15

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting
- 7:00p Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday/16

- 12:00p Communications Committee
- 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 7:00p Session

Thursday/17

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

Friday/18

- 8:30a Yoga

Saturday/19

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

PLEASE NOTE:

A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 12 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.

Sunday/20

- 8:45a All-Church Breakfast
- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:00a Christian Education Committee
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a Church School teachers' meet.
- 9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Childcare
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
Communion served
- 10:45a Church School
- 11:45a Congregational meeting
- 12:00p Strategic Vision Conversation
- 5:00p Youth Group (*at Westminster Presbyterian Church*)

Monday/21

- 12:00p Bulletin deadline (early this week, due to Thanksgiving)
- 1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needleworkers
- 5:30p Personnel Committee
- 6:00p Health Ministry Committee

Tuesday/22

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/23

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

Thursday/24

THANKSGIVING DAY

Friday/25

HOLIDAY / Church building closed

Saturday/26

- 9:00a Chancel Committee decorating

Sunday/27

- 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
- 5:00p [no Youth Group tonight]

Monday/28

- 7:00p Thoughtful Readers

Tuesday/29

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/30

- 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

FPC Calendar - December, 2016

PLEASE NOTE:

A schedule of community groups that meet at FPC is on page 12 of this issue of the *Presbyter*.

Thursday/1

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

Friday/2

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

Saturday/3

- 9:00a Chancel Guild decorating

Sunday/4

- 9:00a Prayer Partners
- 9:00a Lectionary Study
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:30a Annual Holiday Fair
(continues following Worship)
- 9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Childcare
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 11:45a Annual Holiday Fair (until 12:15)
- 12:45p Ministry with Community
(*FPC serves the meal today*)
- 5:00p Youth Group (at FPC Richland)

Monday/5

- 1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers
- 6:30p Deacons
- 7:00p Green P's

Tuesday/6

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/7

- 9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
- 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Bible Study today
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 7:00p Women's Monthly Evening Bible Study

Thursday/8

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

Friday/9

- 8:30a Yoga

Saturday/10

- 7:00p Choir Concert: "Candlelight Reflections"

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
- 10:45a Church School
- 12:00p Service of Comfort and Hope
- 12:30p "Christmas Dinner and a Show"

Monday/12

- 6:30p Deacons

Tuesday/13

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/14

- 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 3:00p Martha Circle (*off site*)
- 4:00p Men's Bible Study
- 5:30p Men's Group (*off site*)
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
- 6:30p Session
- 7:00p Outreach Committee

Thursday/15

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

Friday/16

- 8:30a Yoga

Saturday/17

- 9:00a Chancel Guild decorating
- 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 Reading Aloud
- 9:30a Church School teachers' mtg.
- 9:30a Church School Children and Youth Committee
- 9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 10:00a Childcare
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:45a Church School
- 5:00p Christmas Chocolate
- 5:40p Musical Prelude in Sanctuary
- 6:00p Candlelight Vespers Service

Monday/19

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

Tuesday/20

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting
- 7:00p Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday/21

- 12:00p Communications Committee
- 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/22

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

Friday/23

- 8:30a Yoga

Saturday/24—CHRISTMAS EVE

- 9:00a Chancel Guild decorating
 - 5:00p Family Christmas Program
 - 7:45p Musical Prelude in Sanctuary
 - 8:00p Candlelight Communion Worship
 - 10:30p Musical Prelude in Sanctuary
 - 11:00p Candlelight Communion Worship
- ## Sunday/25—CHRISTMAS DAY
- 10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
 - 10:45a [no Church School until Jan. 8]
 - 5:00p [no Youth Group tonight]

Monday/26

- Presbyter*—deadline for articles
- Church Building closed today

Tuesday/27

- 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
- 12:00p Bulletin deadline
- 1:00p FPC Archivists
- 1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/28

- 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
- 3:00p DCLC
- 4:00p Men's Community Bible Study
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner only

Thursday/29

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

Friday/30

- 8:30a Yoga

Saturday/31—NEW YEAR'S EVE

NEW YEAR'S FEST OF KALAMAZOO