

The *Presbyter*

January - February 2017 Issue

Volume 46, No. 1



KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4708

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January-February 2017

January 4, 2017

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321 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

(269) 344-0119

www.sanctuaryinthecity.org

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

January 8

Epiphany Sunday

Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

January 15

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Ordination of Elders and Deacons

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Larry Farris

*Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 63; Matthew 4:18-5:12

February 5

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Isaiah 58:1-12; Col. 3:12-17, 4:2-9

February 12

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Genesis 2:4b-25; Matthew 5:13-16

February 19

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Matt. 5:38-48

February 26

Transfiguration of the Lord

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
*Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21;
Matthew 17:1-9

*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

So we've come to another New Year. However intentional we are (or not!) with resolutions, we sense the transition marked on a calendar and felt in our lives. We review the past months and experiences we've shared, for better or for worse. We look forward to anticipated joys and unexpected challenges that are sure to arise. And through it all, we long to live with meaning and purpose and peace.

As we mark the New Year in our congregational life, there are transitions continuing in our ministry and in the society around us. In this *Presbyter*, you will find an update from Ginny Dell on progress with our Associate Pastor search process. We are excited to be moving forward efficiently (thanks in part to all the good work done previously through the visioning process) and with great hopes for possibilities in this position, as we live into our priorities. See Ginny's article for more detail. And Liz Hakken Candido, one of our Parish Associates, offers reflection on the church in society from the perspective of her work among the Kalamazoo College community. I encourage you to note her important insights.

We will also mark our transition in leadership positions with the ordination and installation of deacons and elders on Sunday, January 15. It is always a time of inspiring worship which makes me profoundly grateful to be Presbyterian, as we recognize, affirm, and nurture our shared gifts for ministry in God's grace. In the many ways we seek to follow Jesus Christ, it is really a call to living faith that all of us share. As you consider responsibilities in your personal lives and your connection with our congregation, I wonder how you might nurture meaningful rhythms and routines?

Last year, I began service among the wider Presbyterian Church (USA) as a faculty member for CREDO. CREDO literally means "I believe" or "I give my heart to ...". Clergy who are actively serving in our denomination are invited to spend a CREDO week of reflection on all facets of a healthy life and ministry – spiritual health, mental health, physical health, financial health, vocational leadership, etc. I serve as spiritual faculty. Among many things I love about CREDO is the encouragement to formulate a personal "rule of life". It's sort of like New Year's Resolutions on steroids! These aren't legalistic rules for judgment, but more like guidelines, patterns, rhythms, and routines we identify to help nurture a vibrant life with God and service to others.

CREDO has been such a good experience, I wonder if there are ways we can use that kind of inspiration in our congregation. In truth, the simple fact is that we all have such rhythms and routines which we've formed, for better and for worse. The question really is how intentional we are about them. Christians in all ages have tried to be intentional in different ways, with varying practices and emphases. I seek to follow a rule of the Iona Community, with which I am associated. And I've modified their rule a bit to suit my personality and situation. In coming weeks of worship we will tell again the stories of the first disciples following Jesus. In that spirit, on Sundays January 29–February 19, I plan to offer reflection on some rhythms or priorities that I find important and helpful. Maybe they could catalyze reflection and practical inspiration for you, as well. And as ever, if you wish to speak further about any of these matters, please simply contact me!

Grace and peace to you,

Seth

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor

CHURCH REPORTS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MARCH 5

The Annual Congregational Meeting and shared meal are scheduled for March 5, following Worship, in the Dining Room. Please join us for a celebration of our church life, as we share the joys and successes of the year.

We will begin the festivities with a potluck meal. There will be a special surprise for the children!

Potluck dishes may be taken to the kitchen before Worship and will be tended and served by members of the Congregational Life Committee. Table service and beverages will be provided. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a main dish, vegetable, or salad; M-Z, a fruit dish or dessert.

Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers in the nursery and toddler rooms during the business meeting that follows the meal. If you will need childcare please sign up on the bulletin board located by Pat Stromstra's office. If you have questions, please call Kelsey Oliver at (269) 903-1077.



SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER

The following motion was made and adopted:

- to approve the Christmas Bazaar on December 4, 2016.

DECEMBER

The following motions were made and adopted:

- to approve a Finance Appeal Request for Elizabeth Bruce to perform a benefit concert in February, 2017, for the YWCA Domestic Assault Shelter.
- to approve the revisions to the Child Safety Policy as presented.
- to approve the Financial Appeal for the Youth Group fundraiser during New Year's Fest.
- to approve Scholarship funding for Ailish Weeldreyer.
- to combine Congregational Life Committee and Hospitality Committee.
- to approve a Building Use Request from John Petro for a WMU OLLI Continuing Education Class on Friday mornings from January 20 to April 14.
- to approve the 2017 Budget.
- to approve an Associate Pastor job description as revised from the October 26, 2016 approved job description.
- to approve the Ministry Information Form to be submitted to PCUSA for the Association Pastor Position with discussed revisions.
- to set a date for the Annual Congregational Meeting for March 5, 2017.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Greetings, friends,

At a recent Special Meeting of the Congregation, an APNC (Associate Pastor Nominating Committee) was formed and recently commissioned for the sole purpose of bringing to the congregation nominees for our next Associate Pastor.

The following members have been nominated to serve on this Special Committee of the Session: Chris Bol, Mason Coleman (Treasurer), Ginny Dell (Moderator), Jay Heckler, Craig Kortlandt (Recording Secretary), Brenda Noel, Kelsey Oliver, Sally Pitt-VanBuren (Vice-Moderator) and Pamela Zandt (Corresponding Secretary). The Session has approved \$10,000 in the 2017 Church Budget to complete the interviewing and moving expenses for this process.

The Session approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF) at the December meeting and moved the MIF to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for review and approval. The Committee on Ministry (COM) approved the MIF on December 20. The MIF is now in the process of being entered into the PCUSA Leadership Connection Website to seek possible matches. These matches will be forwarded to the APNC as they are received. The APNC will also be posting the MIF in other ways to seek as many candidates for evaluation as possible.

The APNC will resume its weekly meetings on January 9th until the work is finished. The goal is to have the field of candidates narrowed by early spring with the hope of hiring our new Associate Pastor soon thereafter.

The APNC would very much appreciate your prayers as we begin this most important journey of living out our faith together in this time and place.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny S. Dell
APNC Moderator

"THANK YOU" TO LEADERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

We are grateful to elders who, in December, concluded service on Session: Phyllis Buskirk, Mason Coleman, Ginny Dell, Heather Kortlandt, and Rick Taylor. Their contributions to our congregational life in myriad ways over recent years have been invaluable to the health and vitality of our common ministry. Thank you for your wisdom, insight, and extensive effort!

We are grateful to elders beginning new terms of service on Session: Richard Coryell, Diane Durian, Rob Wall Emerson, Tim Henson, Don Meldrum, Janet Todd, and Phil Ward. In addition, Kelsey Oliver and Laurie Tupper were re-elected to additional three-year terms.

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

Similarly, we recognize with gratitude the service of deacons who ended their terms in 2016: Kay Howson, Shari Schut, and Mary Smyser. We thank those who are beginning new terms as deacons: Tim Aldrich, Cynthia Feucht, Anna Hamel, Wendy King, Louise McCallum, Karen Nellums, and Carolyn Neubauer. In addition, we appreciate Karen Hassler, Judy Johnson, and Jackie Stults, each of whom accepted a second term.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

And we appreciate the diligent efforts of the Nominating Committee, which discerns and identifies candidates to fill these positions. For 2017, members of the Nominating Committee include: Ellen Dykhuis, Ron Johns, Brenda Noel, Bill Sorensen, and Sally Pitt-VanBuren.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE Special Events Coming to our Sanctuary!

Sunday, February 12, 4:00 p.m.

Wedding Music Concert to benefit the YWCA Domestic Abuse Victims Program. See article by Elizabeth Bruce on page 5.

Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.

"The Marriage of Figaro" presented by the West Michigan Opera Project. Free admission.

Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m.

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Trio. Free admission.

SESSION—2017

Clerk of Session: Allison Hammond

Sam Beals (2018)

*Property Maintenance
Congregational Life

Sam Clark (2017)

Endowment, Outreach

Richard Coryell (2019)

Congregational Life
Worship and Music

Stuart Deming (2018)

Communications, Stewardship,
Health Ministry

Diane Durian (2019)

Personnel, Property Maintenance

Pat Farris (2017)

*Health Ministry, Worship and Music

Diane Heckler (2017)

Health Ministry, Congregational Life

Tim Henson (2019)

Christian Education, Outreach,
Worship and Music

Elaine Johns (2018)

*Worship and Music, Communications

Sue Johnson (2018)

*Christian Education

Barbara Liggett (2017)

*Personnel, *Nominating

Don Meldrum (2019)

*Finance

Brian Nederveld (2018)

*Congregational Life

Kelsey Oliver (2019)

*Congregational Life, Health Ministry,
and Christian Education

Janet Todd (2017)

Christian Education
Congregational Life

Laurie Tupper (2019)

*Outreach, Property Maintenance

Jim Van Buren (2017)

*Stewardship, *Communications,
Finance, and Outreach,

Rob Wall-Emerson (2019)

Finance, Property Maintenance

Phil Ward (2017)

Property Maintenance

Jonathan Willoughby (2018)

*Endowment, Finance, Stewardship

Pamela Zandt (2018)

Finance, Personnel

(parentheses indicate class year)

* Committee chair or co-chair

CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

Dorothy Castor
Karen Cooper
Dan Dowswell
Nancy and Keith Johnson
Karen Nellums
Carolyn Neubauer
Donna Schonveld

Class of 2019

Tim Aldrich
Cynthia Feucht
Anna Hamel
Karen Hassler
Judy Johnson
Wendy King
Louise McCallum
Jackie Stults

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.

"THANK YOU"

The Deacons appreciate the response to the "noisy coins" endeavor. As you know, your change, dropped in the collection plate each Sunday, helps to assist and care for those in need. As the weeks tick by, please continue your generosity.

We also thank you for your support in purchasing the beautiful baskets of coffee, tea, and chocolate during the FPC Christmas Bazaar. Again, your generosity helps others.

A WORD FROM THE PARISH ASSOCIATES

(from the Reverend Liz Candido, Parish Associate)

I'm often asked why more young adults don't attend church. The answer, as you can imagine, is complicated and not easily answered in one paragraph. Still, one significant reason is that religious affiliation among millennials is historic. They know they are Christian because their grandparents are Christian or because they were baptized but not because of their own experiences in religious communities.

These young people have also received strong messages about Christianity as a limit to their personal autonomy. Christianity, in their minds, limits their freedom of personal expression and supports moral teachings that they are unwilling to affirm; namely, Christianity is understood to be anti-LGBTQ, anti-science and anti-religious diversity.

One challenge our church, and every church, faces moving forward is thinking about how we communicate about who we are and why we are who we are today. So often, church is talked about as a stalwart against the modern world—the place that holds onto family values as the world changes, etc. Much of my work as a College Chaplain is spent trying to help students think about the modern world as a place to meet Christ. Faith is, I believe, not an invitation to resist the modern world, but a way of living fully and freely in that world.

First Presbyterian Church is uniquely situated to speak to these concerns. We are a sanctuary *in* the city, not *from* the city. My hope and prayer is that every person who walks through the doors of our church is challenged to meet Christ in the very real and complex city of Kalamazoo.



Below is a brief outline of ways we can expect each of the Parish Associate 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 P's 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.

ACTIVITIES

L.O.V.E (Living Our Vows Everywhere)

February 12 at 4 p.m.

organ and piano recital by Elizabeth Bruce
& special guests

No matter what our relationship status, we might feel pressure to “do something” for Valentine’s Day. Elizabeth, FPC’s organist, would like to help with the “do something” aspect of Valentine’s Day weekend this year.

Whether we’ve been married, never been married, fumbled through our vows with tear-filled eyes 50 years ago, or have at least seen the wedding scene in “The Princess Bride,” we are familiar with the traditional wedding vows of our faith. “*To have and to hold...to love and to cherish...*”

Elizabeth asks that we consider extending the “love and cherish” part of these vows outside of our relationship, outside of our church walls, and into the Kalamazoo community this Valentine’s Day. The YWCA of Kalamazoo supports survivors of domestic violence, and this organization’s work is *extremely* important.

This recital will be a combined “do something” opportunity and musical event. The theme of the recital is “wedding favorites,” and the program will include everything from Johann Pachelbel’s *Canon in D* to Charles-Marie Widor’s most famous *Toccata*. Some “off-the-wall” wedding songs will also be included, featuring special guests from KFPC and beyond. **Both monetary and “item” donations will be collected for the YWCA at this event. Elizabeth hopes to see you there!**

(If you’re lucky enough to be somewhere warmer than Kalamazoo on February 12, you can still donate by bringing items or mailing a check to the church office).

YWCA Top Ten Needed Items

Diapers/Unscented Baby Wipes (sizes 1 - 5)

African American Hair Care Products (new and unopened)

Baby Food (new/unopened, all ages and varieties)

Kitchen Items

(new or gently used skillets, cups, silverware, etc.)

Towels (new or gently used dish, hand, bath)

New Women’s Underwear and Bras (all sizes)

New Boys and Girls Underwear (ages 2 - 5 years)

Feminine Hygiene Products

(sanitary napkins/tampons, all varieties)

Facial Tissues

Adhesive Bandages/Thermometers

TIPS FROM GREEN PETE



RECYCLE OBSOLETE ELECTRONICS

Have some of those shiny new e-presents found under your Christmas tree created a traffic jam of e-orphans in cupboards and basement? Good news! Our area offers a number of free or low-cost and environmentally safe options guaranteed to recycle and keep them out of the landfill. Listed below are three good choices. We recommend that you consult their websites to confirm hours, accepted items, services like destroying hard drives, fees (if any), locations and hours.

--The Green P’s Committee

Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste

1301 Lamont Avenue, Kalamazoo

www.kalcounty.com/hhw

(269) 373-5211

Serves almost all Kalamazoo County residents and takes almost every e-thing without charge

Emerald eCycling

5111 E. ML Avenue, Suite A-140,
Kalamazoo

www.emerald-ecycling.com

(269) 978-1914

Schupan eScrap

2225 Glendenning Road, Kalamazoo

www.schupan.com/escrap-recycling

(269) 382-9811

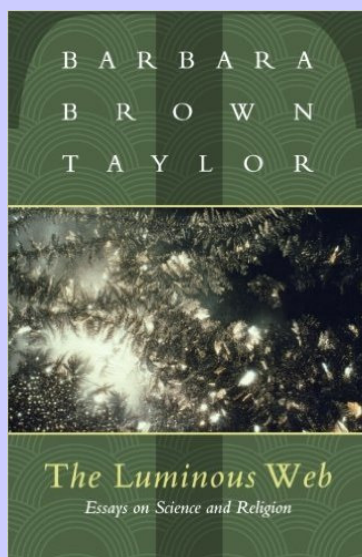
**CLASS PRESENTED BY
SETH WEELDREYER**

*The Luminous and Literary Web:
Glimpsing Faith through the
Vision of Barbara Brown Taylor*

**Tuesdays, January 10 – February 14
12:00 noon, in Room 300**

Seth Weeldreyer will lead reflection on excerpted writings from Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor has been recognized as one of the most influential preachers and speakers in America. She has served as an Episcopal priest, a college professor, and has written prolifically on a broad variety of subjects. In this class we will discuss together a few excerpts from her work, which includes theology, church life, science, and faith, as well as numerous books of sermons.

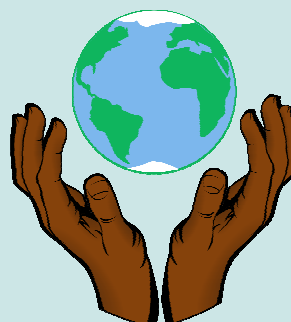
A packet of photocopies and the book, *The Luminous Web*, are available at the reception desk in the church office. Please contact Pastor Seth with any questions. Hope to see and hear you share in the conversation as we journey and grow together in living faith.



CLASSES PRESENTED BY LARRY FARRIS

January 15 (Sunday, following Worship)
“Harry Potter and C. S. Lewis Teach Us What Love Is”

Joanne Rowling’s Harry Potter novels have been widely embraced because of their wisdom and insight on many topics—the right use of one’s gifts, navigating adolescence, the importance of imagination, the power of friendship, the nature of evil, and what love is. Join Parish Associate Larry Farris to explore the last of these on Sunday, January 15, following Worship. Using another fine English author’s book, *The Four Loves*, by C. S. Lewis, we will explore how Harry comes to understand the power of love as contrasted with Voldemort’s love of power. Familiarity with the Harry Potter novels will be helpful, and those attending will also be helped by reading or listening to Rowling’s commencement address at Harvard University some years ago (available in book form as *Very Good Lives* or at harvardmagazine.com/2008/06/the-fringe-benefits-failure-the-importance-imagination.)



February 12, 19, and 26
Study of Pope Francis’ Encyclical on Climate Change
“Laudato Si’ – On Care for Our Common Home”

Pope Francis’ short book on climate change is a beautifully written document which speaks to this issue from the perspective of the Christian faith and links it to other crucial Christian concerns such as poverty. Parish Associate Larry Farris will lead a discussion of ‘Laudato Si’ – which means “Praise Be unto You” - over three Sundays, February 12, 19 and 26, following worship. Participants are asked to buy and read the first two chapters of the book prior to the first class. Inexpensive, good quality used copies of the book may be purchased through abebooks.com. The study guide we will use can be found at: presbypeacefellowship.org/sites/default/files/LaudatoSiStudyGuide_0.pdf.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Women's Bible Study Class

Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. We read and discuss Thomas Merton's *Bridges to Contemplative Living, Book 1: Entering the School of your Experience*. Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday Women's Bible Study

We will begin our study of Paul's letters on January 12 with 1 Thessalonians. Known as Saul prior to his ministry, Paul was born of Hebrew parents about A.D. 5, or a few years earlier, in Tarsus, a city of Cilicia. He later became a Roman citizen and also became fluent in speaking and writing in the Greek language. He was brought up in boyhood in Jerusalem, where he was taught by Gamaliel. Before he became a Christian missionary, he was a Pharisee. His trade was tent-making.

After his miraculous conversion in A.D. 37, he participated in missionary expeditions. On the first journey (A.D. 45-47), Barnabas was his partner. On the second journey (A.D. 50-54), Silas (or Silvanus) travelled with him. For part of the third journey (A.D. 50-54), Luke was his partner. Paul was imprisoned in Jerusalem in A.D. 58, in Caesarea from A.D. 58-60, and in Rome from A.D. 61-63 and from A.D. 65-67.

Although many letters in the New Testament are claimed to have been written by Paul, most scholars who have studied them have reached the conclusion that only seven of the letters were actually written by Paul when he lived in the early First Century, around 20 to 30 years after the death of Jesus. The late Marcus Borg urged us to read the New Testament in the order in which the books were actually written rather than the order in which they appear in modern Bibles. We should start with the letters of Paul because they are our earliest texts from the Christ movement.

The seven authentic or "undisputed" letters of Paul, in roughly chronological order, are as follows:

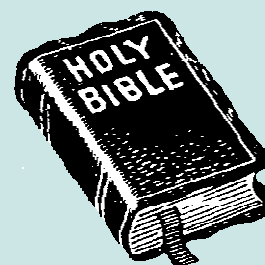
- 1 Thessalonians
- Galatians
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Philemon
- Philippians
- Romans

We meet at 9:30 for coffee, and our discussion begins at 9:45. New members are always welcome, and nursery is provided in Room 306.

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.



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 the ways in which it applies to their own lives. And on the first Sunday of the month they prepare the monthly All-Church Breakfast.

If there are other men who would like to join the group, we can always set another chair at the table (and get out another apron for the Breakfast). You would be warmly welcomed on Tuesday mornings from 7-8:00 a.m.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

"Thank you" to our outstanding teachers for their commitment to the ministry of faith formation with the children and youth at FPC.



Preschool

Janny Carrel
Deb Taylor
Wendy King

Kindergarten/1st Grade

Heather Cloetingh
Karen Hassler
Laura Goethe

2nd and 3rd Grades

Lisa Diamond
Cynthia Feucht
Cindy Gleaton

4th/5th Grade

Helena Lombardi-Tyler
Craig Oliver
Rick Taylor

6th – 8th Grade Church School

Sharon Bradford

9th – 12th Grade

Rob Bradford (Youth Director)
Kelsey Oliver

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

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

January 8

God Protects Jesus' Family - Matthew 2:7-15
Communion in the Sanctuary

January 15

Church School Teachers' Meeting
John Baptizes Jesus - Matthew 3:13-17
Preschool through First Grade will visit the library for a tour and story time with FPC librarian, Kathy Campbell

January 22

You are Salt and Light - Matthew 5:13-20

January 29

Jesus Teaches us to Pray—Matthew 6:9-15

February 5

Sow a Seed - Matthew 13:1-9
Communion in the Sanctuary

February 12

Jesus Feeds the Multitude – Matthew 14:13-21

February 19

Church School Teachers' Meeting
Jesus Walks on Water – Matthew 14:22-33

February 26

Listen to Him – Matthew 17:1-9

Future Dates

April 2—Spring Break (no classes)
April 9—Palm Sunday
April 16—Easter Sunday

Children's Choir

Children in grades 2 through 5 are invited to join our Children's Choir, which will sing on Easter Sunday (April 16) and on Children's Sunday (June 4). The Children's Choir will meet for rehearsal every other week, beginning March 12, from 11:45 to 12:15 in Room 314. Please contact Pat Stromsta if you have any questions or would like more information.

FPC YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Contact Rob Bradford if you have any questions about the FPC Youth Ministry.

(269) 806-5196 or bradfordrr@gmail.com

January 15	New Year Kickoff - FPC hosts, 5-7:00 p.m.
January 22	Westminster Presbyterian Church hosts
January 29	Kalamazoo FPC hosts, 5-7:00 p.m.
February 5	Super Bowl Party at the Bradford house (1315 Grand Avenue)
February 12	Westminster Presbyterian Church hosts
February 19	Richland FPC hosts
February 26	Kalamazoo FPC hosts
March 5	Alma Youth Mix, March 5th-7th
March 12	Westminster Presbyterian Church hosts
March 19	Richland FPC hosts
March 26	Kalamazoo FPC hosts
April 2	No meeting - SPRING BREAK
April 9	No meeting - SPRING BREAK
April 16	No meeting - EASTER



2017 MISSION TRIP

The New Wilmington Mission Conference (NWMC)

July 22—July 29, 2017

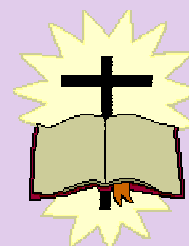
www.nwmcmission.org

An amazing mission conference aimed at middle school, high school, and college aged youth.

Deposit of \$50 due March 1.

If this is your first time attending, and if you participate in church-sponsored fund raising, you can attend the whole trip for only \$50. If this is a return trip for you, you can attend the conference for \$150.

Please sign up through the church so we can get the group rate! Thanks.



PRAYER PARTNERS

This group meets monthly to pray for our own church, the Church universal, and one another. We base our prayers and discussion on a variety of books and resources. This year we are reading the book, *Prayer 101*, by Warren Wiersbe.

For more information about this group, please see the list of Prayer Partners posted outside Pat Stromsta's office (Room 206). You are invited to ask any of these members about their experience with the group, and any other questions that you may have.

HOPE WOODS BIBLE STUDY

Hope Woods Bible Study meets the first Monday of each month from 11:00 to 12:00 noon at Hope Woods in Oshtemo. You are welcome to join us, as well. 15 women joined us for Advent meditations on December 19.

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

THE McSHANE COLLOQUIUM

March 13—Save the Date!

The McShane Preacher Colloquium was established in 1987 by FPC to honor the ministry of the Reverend Dr. David W. McShane.

Dr. McShane was a pastor at this church for 27 years, and during that time he hosted an informal weekly colloquium for area ministers.

This year Dr. McShane, Pastor Emeritus at FPC, is the speaker. His topic will be "The Biological and Biblical Roots of Liturgical Theology". Watch future weekly Announcements for additional information.



THANK YOU NOTE

from Carol Walters

I would like to thank everyone who visited, called, sent cards, and offered prayers during my recent rehabilitation. It was very much appreciated. I am home now and slowly recuperating and hope to see you all in the spring!

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Please make your reservations through the church receptionist by noon on the Thursday prior to the luncheon.

January 6 – 1:00 p.m.

Zeb's Trading Company, 7790 8th Street (Texas Corners)

February 3 – 1:00 p.m.

Olive Garden, 6700 S. Westnedge Avenue, Portage



HEARTS-TO-HANDS STITCHERS

January 9 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

February 6 (Monday), 1:00 p.m.

Meetings are in the Sewing Room, which is just off the Dining Room. All who enjoy sewing are welcome.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

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

February 8 (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 if you have questions.

HEALTH MINISTRY CLASS

"Being Transgender" - January 29

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, January 29, immediately following Worship. Come, be educated, ask your questions, and hear their story.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

January 23 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

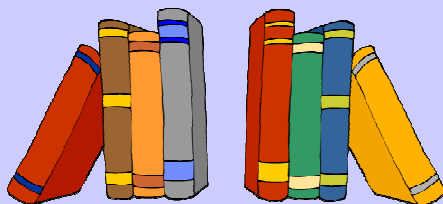
February 27 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

"In love we find out who we want to be.
In war we find out who we are." (Kristin Hannah)

The Nightingale, by Kristin Hannah, will be discussed by Thoughtful Readers Book Group on January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. This engrossing tale of two sisters' bravery in occupied France during World War II is a moving tribute to the courageous women who fought behind enemy lines during the war. Hannah has crafted a heart-breakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

On Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300, we will discuss KPL's 2017 Reading Together selection, *Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White*, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Basketball legend and cultural commentator Abdul-Jabbar uses his "unique blend of erudition, street smarts, and authentic experience in essays on the country's seemingly irreconcilable partisan divide—both racial and political—and his own experiences as an athlete, African-American, and a Muslim." [Goodreads] The "Washington Post" observed: Abdul-Jabbar "... has become a vital, dynamic and unorthodox cultural voice", exploring the heart of issues that affect Americans today.

New members are welcome. For more information, contact 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

Outreach and Community Service

KALAMAZOO DEACONS CONFERENCE

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

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

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

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

VOLUNTEER AT KDC

KDC is seeking volunteers to work in the following areas:

Retail – at their resale shop, Simple Treasures:
4-hour shifts available
(10 – 2:00 and 2 – 6:00)

Direct Response Servant

Welcome guests, listen to their story, and decide how KDC is best able to serve their needs.
(Mon. – Thur. from 9:30 – 11:30 or 1:00 – 3:00).

Driver

Drive the KDC truck to pick up donations and make deliveries to the store, Simple Treasures.

For more information, please contact:

Yolanda Stewart at
deaconsconference.org

or

Pat Stromsta at
pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org



Outreach and Community Service

EDISON SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

by Joseph Sablan

Tracy Zarei has wanted to teach children ever since she was in the second grade. She knew she would have to go to college to become a teacher.

"She was a straight-A student," says her mother, Sheri, who was working double shifts in a nursing home to pay rent on their mobile home. ...

Then one day Tracy's world shifted... it was a positive pregnancy test. Tracy was a junior in high school. For many teenage mothers, this is when school ends and hardship begins. By age 22, only half of all single mothers in the United States receive a high school diploma, compared with 90 percent of their peers.

With her mother's help, Tracy went back for her senior year. Money would be tight, but perhaps she could enroll in community college, work her way toward a teaching certificate – and defy the stereotyped limitations of being a teen parent. "I couldn't just be another statistic," she says.

Enter the **Kalamazoo Promise**. A group of anonymous donors had agreed to pay for up to four years of college tuition for most students in the district who graduated that year – and for all future classes. The idea, says Ms. Janice Brown, a trustee of the scholarship, is to change the lives of young people first and the community second. "It's a transformative movement," she says.

It took Tracy six years to earn a bachelor's degree. The Promise covered 75 percent of her tuition, since she had attended a charter school for middle school (the program doesn't underwrite charter school students). So she worked part-time as a waitress, trying to juggle classes and child care, falling behind at times, going into debt.

Tracy graduated from Western in 2012—something she is certain she would never have been able to do without the Promise. "There would've been a point where I couldn't continue," she says. The fall after she graduated, Tracy got a call from **Edison Environmental Science Academy**. Today, the sign on the door to her classroom at **Edison**, which educates some of the poorest kids in town, reads: "Ms. Zarei's Super Heroes." ... "I can relate to a lot of families at our school," she says. "It's high poverty. They have their struggles, and I've been through all that."

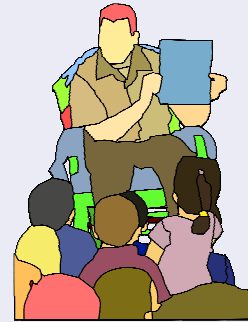
(condensed from an article by Simon Montlake, featuring the Kalamazoo Promise, entitled "Did Free College Save this City?" which included the story of Tracy Zarei (among others) and her struggles. Tracy is now teaching at Edison School.



EDISON
MAGNET SCHOOL GRADES K - 5
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ACADEMY

EDISON SCHOOL— Support from Butter Braids Sale

Thanks to all who purchased Butter Braids this year. Proceeds from the sale were used to help purchase the annual Christmas gift of a book for each of the students at Edison School.



For information about our outreach at Edison School:

Joyce Petro
342-6817
joyce@petroclan.com

Carol Payne Smith
388-2278
paynesmith83@gmail.com

Sue Johnson
276-9218
suebird.johnson@gmail.com

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

Outreach and Community Service

REFUGEE FAMILY SUPPORT

by Aedín Clements

The Syrian refugee family that is co-sponsored by our congregation arrived on December 6 to a hearty welcome and a warm, furnished home. The household of seven includes three adults (husband, wife, and daughter), two teen-age girls, and two young children.

Church members from four to eighty-four years of age have befriended the family and are providing support, including English classes in the home and transportation to medical appointments. We are busy finding employment and opportunities to integrate in the community, as well as helping the family with medical and educational needs.

The support coordinating group welcomes anyone willing to visit, to drive and accompany family members to appointments, or to offer any other assistance.

For information, please contact one of the following:

Evelyn Garner:
garnerev66@gmail.com
or (269) 375-2455

Aedin Clements:
aedinclements@gmail.com
or (269) 352-6856

The family is grateful for the help received, and delighted with the friendship of people from First Presbyterian Church.

RICKMAN HOUSE CHRISTMAS BINGO REPORT

The Rickman House BINGO team—Carole Birch, Bruce Birkel, and Mike Boersma—wish to thank super volunteers Cheryl Holtman and Sarah, and all of the generous donors who responded to our request for prizes for the annual Christmas BINGO for Rickman House residents in December. We had a good attendance and served over half of the residents.

We made sure that they received both essential goods, such as toilet paper and laundry detergent, and also presents, such as warm socks, movies, and winter jackets. We also made sure that they had all the pizza they wanted to eat.

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

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

The monthly BINGO night is a big event at Rickman House. The residents look forward to this evening and they plan their calendars accordingly. We have BINGO at 6:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of every month. The BINGO team always needs volunteers. We did have a new volunteer, Cheryl Hollman, whom we wish to thank for assisting us. So therefore please consider volunteering with us!

“Thank you” from Carole Birch, Bruce Birkel, and Mike Boersma



January & February Birthdays

JANUARY

1
Samantha Anderson
Diana Diamond
Gertrude Early
Elias Harik
Don Iffland
Jonathan Leasure
Katie Pavek
2
Sara Dorrien
Jacob Droppers
Chad Mellis
LaVonne Stavig
3
Don Gatewood
4
Christopher Light
Robert Wall Emerson
5
Jim Lewis
7
Jeff Bosma
Joey Droppers
Pintoo Hoffman
8
Sam Hubbard
9
Bertha Petrie
10
Andy Graham
Ellen Jarl
Doug Jonas
Wesley Mark Todd
11
Marcia Cowell
Carole Cupps
Frank Steele
12
Megan Dark
Neal Graziano
13
Maxine Reed
14
Matthew Callander
Natalie Dalm
Erin Diamond
Karen Hassler
Kendall Highhouse
Cain Kortlandt
Robyn Lewis
Andrew Roberts

15
Timothy Aldrich
Peter Lewis
Sophia Novak
Will Todd
16
Shana Brown
Richard Byce
17
Norma Clack
Jeffrey Oudsema
19
William Birch III
Wayne Conner
Bruce Houtman
Elisa Oliver
Andrew Van Ness
20
Clara Candido
Alison Perks
Pamela McGruder
Neil Stuut
21
Cameron Hay
Lauren Kastman
Jeannette Krueger
Carmen Tanis
William Western
22
Dan Dowswell
Jane Haselow
Frederick Hoag
23
Julie Hakken
Jordan Hollerbach
Kathleen Houtman
Nicholas Rey
Cameron Shaffer
24
Bradley Bell
Kathy Cooney
Peyton Goethe
Arria Hay
Mark Lubbers
25
Jane Beers
Bill Dulin
27
Jonah Anders
Jonathan Greko

28
William Gladstone
Charles Leibbrand
Conner Misner
29
Austin Leder
30
Claudia Britigan
Sarah DeRusha
Donald McCloud
William Rylander
Sarah Torrence
31
Sue Thielman



FEBRUARY

1
Bonnie Ayotte
Andrew Bol
Robert Crabb
Deanna Evans
Diane Heckler
John Munn
2
Robert Aspergren
Tom Fischer
Caroline Ham
Carol McCloud
Ryan Smith
Pat Stromsta
3
Deb Droppers
Vincent Larkin
Karen Trout
4
Shelly Denny
5
Amy Dark Bell
Evelyn Hay
Justin Kastman
Bryant Stuut

6
Bassam Harik
Jim Henrickson
Grace Novak
Nathaniel Owens
7
Paul Clements
Adam Dalm
Carrie Palmer
David Smith
Carole Stoddard
8
Dotty Callander
Christine Johnson
9
Katherine Kremer
Molly Mahoney
10
Jeff Colvin
Judy Van Solkema
Keenan Millar
11
Kelsey Kimm
Clare Elise Miedema
Al Parfitt
Joyce Petro
12
Don Anderson
Larry Braak
Thomas Reigel
14
Amelia Yates
15
Valerie Burke
Tim Henson
Carter Highhouse
D.J. Jarrad
Justin Hassler
Randy Randt
16
Grady Coon
Fred Neubauer
17
Dale Angell
Sophie Gunderson
Collin Palmer
18
Annie Gauntlett
Adam Peterik
Robert Marciniak

19
Jon Johnson
Heather Kortlandt
Isabel McCloskey
Meredith Novak
Carmen Stears
Pat Tribby
20
Jason Rylander
21
Silas Conrad
Anna Gleaton
Alexandria Jonas
George Kremer
Blake Plemmons
Richard Prince
22
Gary DeBruin
Trish Kittredge
Zachary Lewis
23
Bob Bloomquist
James Steele
24
Diana Cain
Gary Dukes
James Welch
25
Christopher Powell
Andrew Santamaría
Grace Santamaría
Joseph Santamaría
Timothy Shank
Michael Sherrill
Robert Smith
Chad Yankovich
26
Spencer Birch
Ann Cooper
David Jarl
Karen Meldrum
27
Jean Appel
Deb Bender
Amelia Howard
Haley Labian
Janine Loughrin
Richard Nellums
Marion Palmer
28
(none)

FPC Calendar - January, 2017

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Sunday/1

9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a [no FPC Choir rehearsal]
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
12:45p Ministry with Community
(FPC serves the meal today)

Monday/2

CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED

Tuesday/3

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

Wednesday/4

Presbyter labeling, mailing
9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
1:00p FPC Librarian on site
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/5

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

Friday/6

1:00p Lunch Bunch (off site)

Saturday/7

9:00a Chancel Guild

Sunday/8

9:00a Prayer Partners
9:00a Congregational Life Committee
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
Communion served
10:45a Church School

Monday/9

1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers
6:30p APN Committee

Tuesday/10

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Glimpsing Faith*
(1st of 6)
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/11

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

Thursday/12

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

Friday/13

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/14

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/15

8:45a All-Church Breakfast
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a Church School teachers' meeting
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
11:45a FPC Deacon training
11:45a Farris class "Harry Potter and C.S. Lewis / What Love Is"
5:00p Youth Group (at FPC)

Monday/16

CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED

Tuesday/17

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Glimpsing Faith*
(2nd of 6)
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00p Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday/18

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

Thursday/19

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

Friday/20

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/21

6:00p BINGO for Rickman House residents

Sunday/22

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
5:00p Youth Group (at Westminster Presbyterian Church)

Monday/23

6:00p Health Ministry Committee
6:30p Deacons meeting
7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group

Tuesday/24

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Glimpsing Faith*
(3rd of 6)
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/25

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

Thursday/26

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

Friday/27

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/28

9:00a Lake Michigan Presbytery
Adm. Ministry Team

Sunday/29

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
11:45a Health Ministry class
5:00p Youth Group (at FPC)

Monday/30

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Tuesday/31

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Glimpsing Faith*
(4th of 6)
12:00p Blood Drive (through 6:00 p.m.)
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

FPC Calendar - February, 2017

Wednesday/1

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

Thursday/2

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

Friday/3

1:00p Lunch Bunch (*off site*)

Saturday/4

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/5

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
12:45p Ministry with Community
(*FPC serves the meal today*)
5:00p Youth Group—Super Bowl Party
(*off site*)

Monday/6

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

Tuesday/7

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Glimpsing Faith*
(5th of 6)
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/8

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

Thursday/9

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
11:00a DCLC
11:30p Stewardship Committee

Thursday continued

4:00p Finance Committee (*off site*)
6:00p Prop. Maintenance Committee
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/10

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/11

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/12

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Congregational Life Committee
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a Childcare
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
11:45a Class series: Climate Change
(1 of 3)
5:00p Youth Group (at Westminster)

Monday/13

Presbyter deadline for articles

6:30p Deacons meeting

Tuesday/14

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
12:00p Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class series: *Glimpsing Faith*
(final of 6)
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/15

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

Thursday/16

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

Friday/17

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/18

6:00p BINGO for Rickman House residents

Sunday/19

8:45a All-Church Breakfast
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Christian Education Committee
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a FPC Choir rehearsal
9:30a Church School teachers' meeting
9:30a Church School Children and Youth Committee
10:00a Childcare

Sunday continued

10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Church School
11:45a Class series: Climate Change
(2nd of 3)
5:00p Youth Group (*at Richland PC*)

Monday/20

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

Tuesday/21

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00p Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday/22

Presbyter labeling, mailing

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

Thursday/23

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

Friday/24

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/25

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/26

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
11:45a Class series: Climate Change
(final of 3)
5:00p Youth Group (at FPC)

Monday/27

7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group

Tuesday/28

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a Bulletin deadline
1:00p FPC Archivists
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

PLEASE NOTE:

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

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, including 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



NEW DATE - BLOOD DONATION DRIVE Tuesday, January 31

The Health Ministry Committee has invited Michigan Blood to conduct a blood drive here at FPC on Tuesday, January 31, from noon to 6 p.m. In order for the drive to be held, at least 25 people need to participate, so members and friends of the congregation are asked to sign up in the Gathering Place. Michigan Blood uses this donated blood locally, so you will be helping people from our own community, truly "giving the gift of life". Please prayerfully consider participating in this important work. Questions? Call Ann Ross, FPC Health Ministry Coordinator, at 344-0119, or Pat Farris, Chair of the Health Ministry Committee, at 350-5307.

50-year FPC Anniversaries

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.

JANUARY Anniversaries

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Sally Carter	Jan. 6, 1946	71
Phyllis Mahoney	Jan. 4, 1948	69
Jane Steurer	Jan. 4, 1948	69
Carolyn Ehrnstrom	Jan. 7, 1951	67
Phyllis Curtis	Jan. 3, 1957	60
Jayne Clement	Jan. 2, 1958	59
Bob Klesert	Jan. 4, 1962	55
Nancy Klesert	Jan. 4, 1962	55
Dolores Miller	Jan. 4, 1962	55
Bob Bloomquist	Jan. 4, 1962	55
Beverly Bloomquist	Jan. 4, 1962	55
Evelyn Schut	Jan. 3, 1963	54
Gloria Lee	Jan. 6, 1963	54

In Memoriam

Mary Solomon was born on April 3, 1928, and joined FPC on October 24, 1990. Mary died on October 31, 2016.

Jim Cook was born on January 7, 1943, and joined FPC on August 24, 2004. Jim died on December 7, 2016.

Betty Bridges was born on December 1, 1929, and joined FPC on November 11, 2002. Betty died on December 13, 2016.

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.

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
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, please contact Ann Johnson at ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org or 344-0119.

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

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 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



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