



The *Presbyter*


July—August 2017 • Volume 46, No. 4

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—

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WORSHIP OVERVIEW

~ JULY ~

July 2

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Genesis 21:8-21; Matthew 10:40-42

July 9

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Larry Boutelle
Psalm 116:1-13; 1 Corinthians
11:23-26

July 16

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11;
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(The Scripture passages listed above
are from the *Book of Common Worship*
and may change.)

July 23

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Liz Candido
Genesis 28:10-19a;
Romans 8:18-25.

July 30

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Larry Farris
Exodus 20:8-11; John 14:1-6a

*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

We have made great progress in our pastoral leadership transition! As you may know by now, we elected Chrissy Westbury to serve as Associate Pastor at our congregational meeting on June 11. Other materials describe Chrissy's educational and professional preparation. I am excited about her extensive experience with youth ministry, her intelligent capacity for adult reflection, her creative spirit, her hopeful enthusiasm fresh from seminary education, and the fun, compassionate, affirming demeanor she exudes in relating with people of all ages. Chrissy comes to us distinguished by many awards upon graduation, and recommended very highly by leaders of Louisville Seminary. My spirit rises with joyful imagination of what wonders await us together in the ministry of Christ!

And I celebrate the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) experience! I was involved with beginning the search, framing expectations and clarifying process; and again, with discussions and discernment toward the conclusion. Throughout their work, APNC members impressed me with their observant perspectives, insightful questions, caring candor, thoughtful initiative, good humor, and faithful commitment rooted in love for one another and passion for our ministry. Our call to Chrissy is a product of their competence and a testament to their healthy relationship. Difficult moments they faced make their success and friendship more meaningful. The smiles, seriousness, and grace that Ginny, Sally, Pam, Craig, Mason, Chris, Kelsey, Jay, and Brenda displayed represent Presbyterians at our best!

As our transition continues, it is good to clarify roles and encourage collaboration with other Parish Associates and program staff. Chrissy will work closely with Pat Stromsta. We can expect that details of our youth program will evolve relative to Chrissy's vision and ideas, while Pat continues to lead faith formation efforts for children through all ages. Chrissy will provide leadership for our Saturday evening worship. As details continue to develop, she will connect with Cindy Hunter about musical components, as appropriate. Chrissy will join our pastoral care team, including Kathleen Robertson King, Ann Ross, and me. As she has for nearly a year, Kathleen continues to provide strong supportive leadership with Deacons. And we are very fortunate to be blessed with gifts of our other Parish Associates (PA's) Liz, Larry, and Larry. Chrissy will participate regularly in Sunday morning worship, while other PA's continue to offer their meaningful variety of caring leadership. In addition to other responsibilities, Chrissy will provide staff support to the Communications, Congregational Life, Green P's, and Stewardship Committees.

Chrissy will begin among us on August 14, with an installation service on Sunday, August 27. There remain other details to work out as we live into new parameters and possibilities for this Associate Pastor position. We hope Chrissy will settle in well, offer her gifts freely, continue growing, and experience grateful peace among us. Surely there will be challenges. Even more, I trust we will share much joy, beauty, goodness, and renewed purpose through our blessed reciprocity of ministry in God's grace.

Grateful to the Holy Spirit ever-present, empowering, and guiding us through life transitions, grace and peace to you,

Seth

The Reverend Dr. Seth E. Weeldreyer

CHURCH REPORTS

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

~ AUGUST ~

August 6

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost **Communion served**

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
Genesis 32:22-31; Romans 9:1-5;
Matthew 14:13-21

(The Scripture passages listed above
are from the *Book of Common*
Worship and may change.)

August 13

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 15:21-28

August 27

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Installation Service for
the Reverend Chrissy Westbury



Parish Associates

The Reverend Dr. Larry Boutelle
boutelle2@gmail.com

The Reverend Dr. 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

PASTOR SETH'S SUMMER SCHEDULE AND PASTORAL COVERAGE

After seven years of service to our congregation, Seth Weeldreyer would be due a three-month sabbatical, according to policies of our Presbytery and congregation. However, in this time of pastoral transition, Seth has postponed consideration of a sabbatical period for the near future. In recognition of that postponement, our congregation approved one week of additional continuing education time. Combining customary continuing education and vacation time, the Personnel Committee approved Seth's absence from July 5 to August 6. During that period, Seth will spend most of a week in the St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, followed by a week of reading, two weeks of family vacation, and one final week of education with Marilyn McEntyre at an event that includes other Presbyterian clergy in the area.

While Seth is away, he has arranged (with Personnel Committee approval) for Larry Boutelle to serve as a regular staff presence for our congregation. Larry will be available in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings through lunch. And Larry will respond to pastoral concerns as they arise, in coordination with Kathleen Robertson King and Ann Ross as they continue with their regular care for our congregation. Our Parish Associates will also lead worship according to the schedule found among worship notes in this issue of the *Presbyter*. If you have any questions, concerns, or needs, please call the church office.

IONA PILGRIMAGE: POSSIBLY IN SUMMER 2018

Seth Weeldreyer is exploring details of another pilgrimage to Scotland during the summer of 2018, spending a week in the Iona Abbey. Our trip would include a couple of days touring Scotland on the way out to Iona and on return. Dates are yet to be determined. Seth is in contact with Iona staff as the Abbey itself will be undergoing extensive renovation work during 2018, and available weeks to stay in the Abbey are yet to be identified. If you are interested in hearing more about a pilgrimage to Iona and would consider joining a group from our congregation, please contact Seth and plan to attend an informational meeting immediately after Worship on Sunday, August 27.

NEW CLASS: GROWING IN HOLY LOVE AMID DAILY LIFE

At best, reflection on the Sacred connects with ordinary routines and experiences we share. In this time of the church year, sometimes called "Ordinary Time", we are beyond special seasons and high holy days. We seek the basic promise of our faith—"God is with us"—in everyday rhythms and realities. We live into every day as the Body of the Risen Christ for God's purposes in our time and place. From August 8 to September 12, each Tuesday at noon in Room 300, Seth Weeldreyer will offer time to reflect on how we grow in Holy Love amid our daily life. We will read excerpts from books by Marilyn McEntyre and Martin Copenhaver—a kind of conversation between them—which we are privileged to share. Copies will be available at the office reception desk. Contact Seth with any questions. Otherwise, hope to see you there and to hear your perspectives!

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May, 2017

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, Elder Laurie Tupper made a motion to approve \$2,500 from the Ford-Neff Fund for the Vine Neighborhood Painting Project. Motion adopted.

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, Elder Laurie Tupper made a motion to approve \$500 from the Ford-Neff Fund for assistance for Emily Barnum to participate in an internship through the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, TX. Motion adopted.

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, Elder Laurie Tupper made a motion to approve the following from the Ford-Neff Fund:

- \$1,000 for the First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor
- \$1,000 for the Momentum Program through Urban Alliance, Inc.
- \$500 for Justice for Our Neighbors of the First Methodist Church
- \$500 for Tillers International
- Up to \$650 for the Garrett Bloom Eagle Scout Project.

Motion adopted.

On behalf of the Worship and Music Committee, Elder Elaine Johns made a motion to approve the Building Use Request from the Kalamazoo Children's Chorus to present a concert on April 22, 2018. Motion adopted.

On behalf of the Worship and Music Committee, Elder Elaine Johns made a motion to approve reserving the Gathering Place for New Beginnings worship services at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and that the service take priority in scheduling other events. Motion adopted.

SESSION—2017

Clerk of Session: Allison Hammond

Sam Beals (2018)

*Property Maintenance

Congregational Life

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,

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

2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever."

Psalm 112:4-6



"Live Generously", is the theme of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign. It is more than what we do with our financial resources, though that is important. To live generously, we are also called to be open to new ideas, to welcome the stranger, to volunteer often, and to forgive those who have offended us.

This year's stewardship theme is a call to action to each of us as followers of Jesus. He showed us the way to live generously: by welcoming the outcast, by overturning the tables of the money changers in the temple, by dining with the poor and healing the sick, by teaching, by forgiving, and by ultimately giving his life so that all might have life abundant.

We believe each of us is called to live generous lives, and that such generous living can transform us and our faith communities. During the coming weeks, each member will receive information about the 2017 Stewardship Campaign, "Live Generously".

CHURCH REPORTS

CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

Deacon Moderator

Nancy Johnson

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@kalamazooofirstpres.org or call 344-0119, so she can keep your contact information up to date.

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Barista is selling Fair Trade Coffee again. We now have K-cups available; they are recyclable. If we don't have the flavor or amount you need, please ask; we can special-order. We have a wonderful group of people serving as Deacons. If you don't know who your Deacon is, please check the picture board across from the Barista or contact the church office, Nancy Johnson, or Kathleen Robertson King.

Thank you for your continued support of the Barista and the "noisy coins" offering. We hope you are having a great summer!

A WORD FROM THE PARISH ASSOCIATES

(from the Rev. Dr. Liz Candido)

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan will come to an end on June 24. For a month, our Muslim brothers and sisters have been fasting from food and water during daylight hours. In Michigan, that means rising around 4:30 a.m. and eating a full morning meal and then fasting until around 9:00 p.m., when observant Muslims break the fast with an evening *iftar* meal. Christians don't fast very often any more, and when we do, it tends to be more tourism than commitment—the thirty-hour famine, for instance. The word "Islam" means "submission to God", and it strikes me that fasting is one way that Muslims demonstrate this submission—by centering their need for God above their need for food. I have nothing but admiration for Muslims and anyone who chooses to honor their commitment to God in this way.

As Ramadan comes to a close, it is worth noting that this year has been a bloody one for Muslims around the world. ISIS continues to carry out attacks in the Middle East and in Asia. In London recently, a terrorist mowed down worshippers leaving a mosque, while reportedly yelling about hating Muslims. As Ramadan ends, you might want to offer a word of encouragement to Muslims you encounter in the world. You might say, "Ramadan Mubarak" or "Blessed Ramadan."

I think all of us who are trying to put God at the center of our lives need as much encouragement as we can get these days.

SURVEY FROM WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee is surveying the congregation about the 10:00 worship start time.

A paper copy of the survey is inserted in this issue of the *Presbyter*. If you prefer to complete the survey online, it has been created in "Survey Monkey" and the direct link is: <https://goo.gl/5wi4cv>. There is also a clickable link on the FPC website and Facebook.

SUMMER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JAMES

June 21, July 19, and August 15

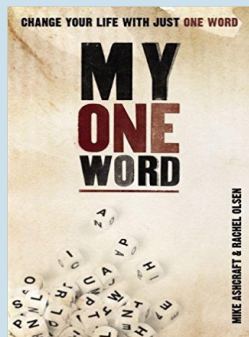
This new study will occur on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning June 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. No matter where you are on your faith journey, there is no better way to grow in spiritual maturity than by faithfully serving God and His people. The Book of James makes it clear that serving the Lord means putting faith into action in tangible ways that produce healthy fruit.

Join women from our church and the community in a 4-session study on the Book of James. Pat Stromsta will facilitate this class. Now is the time to see for yourself what a practical difference serving the Lord can make in your walk with God. Join us early (5:15) to serve dinner at Celebrate the Vision. New volunteers are always welcome.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (AUGUST)

In Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study we alternate our study/discussions between books of the Bible and books about what the Bible teaches us.

Our study for August will be *My One Word: Change Your Life with Just One Word*, by Mike Ashcraft & Rachel Olsen. The concept of "My One Word" is simple: lose the long list of resolutions—all your sweeping promises to change—and do something about one thing this year, instead of nothing about everything. Choose just one word that represents what you most hope God will do in you, and focus on it for an entire year. This single act will force clarity and concentrate your efforts. As you focus on your word over an extended period of time, you position yourself for God to form your character at a deep, sustainable level. Growth and change will result. This study will begin in August.



SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

Beginning July 9
"Water All around
the World"

Clean water is an essential component of health and human development. Our Summer Church School curriculum will take our children around the world to visit children in other countries to see how they live and how they deal with the limited access to safe water. Each week we will focus our attention on a single country which includes Honduras, Cuba, Mexico, Haiti and Ghana with stories of children in each country. The Bible study, mission stories, craft, games and songs all combine to shed light on the mission needs and opportunities of each country. We hope that you will join us for one or all six sessions of this curriculum.

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

TIPS FROM GREEN PETE



"HOW WE CARE FOR THE EARTH IN OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITY"

Thanks to the 45 FPC households who responded to the Green P's survey in May. They show that we are indeed taking seriously our designation as a Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation.

The results suggest that a great many of us have taken steps at home and travel to reduce energy consumption by recycling (38), lowering thermostats (32), using more efficient lighting (30), purchasing a more efficient car, and practicing green lawn and gardening and composting (15).

Members of 27 of the 45 responding households are members of, or provide financial support to, 22 community, state, or national environmental organizations, often several, thus enlarging their knowledge, influencing public policy, and contributing volunteer efforts to these projects. Most frequently mentioned were the Kalamazoo Nature Center (11), Sierra Club (7) Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (5), Environmental Defense Fund (3), and Clean Water for the World (3). Altogether, there were 56 memberships mentioned.

GREEN PETE'S SUMMER TIP:

Keep up the good work and discover and practice at least three new ways to care for God's Earth!

SUMMER BOOK CLUB "WAKING UP WHITE"

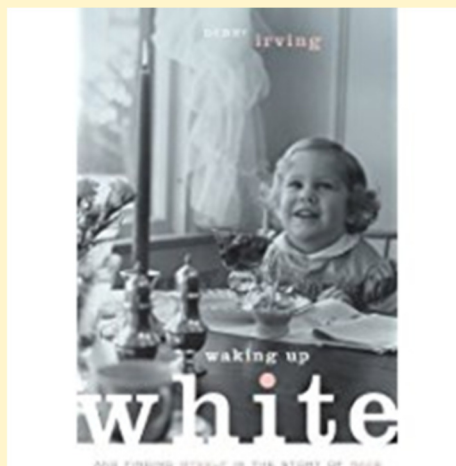
July 9, 16, 23, and 30

This summer we are offering a Summer Book Club based on the book, *Waking Up White: finding myself in the story of race*, by Debby Irving. The book study will take place over four weeks, beginning Sunday, July 9, at 11:15 in Room 301. The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (USA), have invited the church to read and discuss this book.

There are two wonderful gifts from this experience: when we pay attention to our discomfort, we can learn and change and love one another better, and we are all always (always, always, always!) held in the grace of Christ. Here's the thing: being uncomfortable isn't the only thing going on when reflecting on the stories in this book. What you'll find by using the questions after each chapter is that your life is much richer than you thought, it's more vibrant, and you have far more resources than you thought you did for understanding what's going on with racism in our country. Learning about how to interrupt racism is part of learning how to be a disciple of Christ. We're learning how to love God and love others as ourselves.

The first week we will discuss the first two sections of the book: *Childhood in White* and *Midlife Wake-up Calls* (pages 1 – 60).

Books are available at the Receptionist Desk for \$10.00. Wendy King, Sue Johnson, Donna Schonveld and Pat Stromsta will co-facilitate this class on racism.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, August 27

The Health Ministry Committee invites all in need of healing—physical, emotional, spiritual—to come to a Service of Healing following Worship on Sunday, August 27. The half-hour service will be in the East Transept and will begin as soon as the Sanctuary is clear and quiet. Scripture, music, prayer, the laying-on of hands, and anointing with oil will all be part of the service. Parish Associate Larry Farris will lead the service, and any questions about it may be directed to him (farrislw@gmail.com).

HEALTH MINISTRY SPONSORING:



Blood Drive with MI Blood When?

Tuesday, July 18, 12-6:00

Where? Gathering Place

Donating blood is easy. It doesn't take much time at all. Please consider donating! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place for the three weeks prior to the drive. Please sign up for a designated time; that way there won't be long waits on the day of the drive.

In order to run the blood drive, we need 25 people to sign up. Any questions? You can contact Ann Ross at 269-217-6193 or email ann.ross@kalamazoofirstpres.org.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

First Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

July 7—120 Taphouse & Bistro, 120 E. Michigan, Paw Paw

August 4—Los Amigos, 5480 Gull Road

YOU are invited to lunch this summer with the Out-to-Lunch Bunch, at 1:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month.

Reservations are needed; make them through the church by the Thursday morning of luncheon week.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

July 12 and August 9 (Wednesdays), 5:30 p.m.

A group for men of all ages meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the home of Jeff Ross, 4824 South First Street. It is a great time of fellowship and conversation about faith as we grow together in God's Spirit, seeking the fullness of peace, joy, and love. All men are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff or Seth.

CHANCEL GUILD

Chancel Guild will meet **July 15** to plan fall, Advent, and Christmas. If you are interested in becoming involved in decorating our campus for church holidays, come to the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the FPC Library on Saturday, July 15.

NEW MUSIC GROUP

Do you play an instrument, or like to sing in a small group setting? You might be interested in being part of a music group for the 5:00 p.m. Saturday worship service being planned to launch this fall. Contact Cindy Hunter at (269) 377-2478 for information or to volunteer your talents.

PRAYER PARTNERS

First Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

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.

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.

Outreach and Community Service

CELEBRATE THE VISION

Celebrate the Vision is a ministry of Faith, Friendship, and Food. At 5:15, members of our CtV Hospitality Committee welcome guests at our Lovell Street entrance. Guests sign in, receive a name tag, and join other guests and volunteers in our Dining Room. Devotions are offered before a home-cooked dinner is served.

On the first Wednesday of the month, a picnic is served from our South Street entrance. Guests may eat their meal in Bronson Park, or on the steps of First Presbyterian Church.

On the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, we offer a worship service at 6:15 in the Gathering Place. This summer we are watching a six-session video-based study, "You'll Get Through This: hope and help for your turbulent times", by Max Lucado.

An evening Bible Study based on the book of James is offered on the third Wednesday of the month. Women from the congregation and community are welcome to meet in the Library at 6:30. (see announcement)

RICKMAN HOUSE

Rickman House needs prizes for their monthly BINGO games. Contributions of dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, and other personal care items would be appreciated. There is a box in the church mailroom for your donations.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Volunteers are needed for Habitat for Humanity projects on Saturdays in June and July. We need volunteers for construction and for food/lunch. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Mike Boersma at (269) 720-1409, or mike.boersma@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

The father of the Syrian refugee family is now happily employed in a factory, and the adult daughter is delighted with her work in a day-care center. The two youngest children are becoming quite comfortable speaking English, and one of the teen-aged girls had a piece of English writing published in the Loy Norrix school newspaper.

As co-sponsors, our congregation continues to assist the family of seven. Learning to drive is a priority at this moment. Both the father and the adult daughter now have a learner's permits and need much practice before taking the road test.

Our team helps the family with medical visits and with interpreting medical advice; with transport; with navigating the school system, and with dealing with household issues. The ESL/tutoring group formed by Carol Parfitt when the family first arrived has taken on a life of its own, and supports activities from English learning to after-school and homework help, and even some small gardening projects.

The group continues to appreciate additional help. Adding your name to the transport roster is a good way to get involved. Paul and Donna Schonveld maintain this roster.

On August 17, we plan to have a gathering in the Church. This potluck meal will provide an opportunity for our church community, the larger community of support, and the Syrian family, to meet and have dinner together. Please watch the weekly Announcements for further information about this event.

People occasionally contact our team to inquire about making donations. The Kalamazoo Refugee Resource Collaborative maintains a database where people may list items for donation or items needed: www.kalamazoorefugee.org. If you have heard of Orchestra Rouh, the orchestra for refugee children, and wish to donate a violin or cello, these donations are gratefully accepted by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra office in the Epic Center.



Outreach and Community Service



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JOINS ISAAC

The First Presbyterian Church Outreach Committee recently reviewed and evaluated ISAAC, known formally as Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community. The examination was to help us (FPC) better understand what and who ISAAC is, and to think through whether it is an organization that we want to support and join. The Outreach Committee's appraisal was favorable, and they moved and approved their support. They took the matter to Session, which approved FPC becoming a supporting member of ISAAC.

What is ISAAC?

ISAAC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization supported by foundations, membership dues (such as those FPC will be contributing), grassroots fundraising, and individual contributors. ISAAC is a faith-based community organizing group made up of 25 member congregations and organizations that have united to accomplish what cannot be done by individuals or single congregations. Together, ISAAC as an organization, focuses its collective people and organizational power on the most pressing issues of injustice in Kalamazoo County.

Who is ISAAC?

Quoting the ISAAC website which says "We are Christians, Jews, Muslims, Unitarians and non-religious. We are Black and White and Brown. We are suburban, inner-city, and rural. We are haves, have-nots, and have-a-little-want-mores. We are bold, tenacious, and we don't back down. We are putting feet to our faith!"

"As congregations and organizations, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of a just community. Even now, we are seeking to build a world where hope triumphs over fear, where God's abundance meets the needs of all, where we live in sacred and beloved community instead of dehumanizing isolation, where the sun of equality has risen, in a land where love endures. We are united across social barriers, organizing so that our common values are reflected in the world we share."

Kathy Cooney and Sam Clark have been elected by the FPC Outreach Committee to be delegates to serve on the ISAAC Leadership Board. Pat Stromsta has been elected by the Leadership Board to serve on the ISAAC Executive Committee in the capacity of Vice President for Leadership Development. Please feel free to contact Kathy, Sam, or Pat for more detailed information. In the weeks and months ahead, the Outreach Committee will bring the Congregation more information about ISAAC and our communal work.

VINE NEIGHBORHOOD HOME PAINTING PROJECT IN SEPTEMBER

Hopes are high for a renewal of our **Home Painting Project!** And come September, we will likely need LOTS of volunteers to help with food and water and all the support tasks, as well as with the painting itself.

We have a homeowner in need: a delightful 70+ year-old single woman, very eager to somehow paint her home and better contribute to the renewal of her area of Oak Street. The Vine Neighborhood requested our assistance, and the Outreach Committee has come through with generous financial backing. Sam Clark is reaching out to the Trinity Lutheran and First Congregational Churches to secure their support, both of money and labor. We have high hopes that the success of our last project will make their decision to help an easy one. Not least, we have a professional painter ready to scrape, wash, and caulk the house in preparation for our own work—that of applying the primer and finish coats of paint.

So stay tuned! In early September, we will be reaching out. And this should be fun. Our homeowner is an extremely interesting, engaging, and generous person; our church partners are wonderful people, and the Vine Neighborhood, powered by multi-agency collaboration and active resident groups on individual streets, is an unusually positive area for us to support. We already have a list of eager volunteers from our last project, but whatever your level of physical ability, we need you!

To join us, just give Sam (342-6943) or Garrett Boersma (375-3107) a call.

Outreach and Community Service

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Moderator: Laurie Tupper

The mission of the Outreach Committee is to:

- promote faithful service both to our local community and to the wider world;
- represent a Christian presence in the community;
- reflect Christ's light through a dynamic ministry of compassion, social justice, and service; and
- kindle the vision of FPC as a light to our community and to the world.

Celebrate the Vision

Contact: Pat Stromsta

Edison School Project

Contacts: Joyce Petro
Carol Payne Smith
Sue Johnson
Joseph Sablan

Ghana Partnership

Contact: John Petro

Building Blocks of Kalamazoo

Contact: Kim Cummings

Kalamazoo Habitat for Humanity

Contact: Mike Boersma

Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes

Contact: Sam Clark

Ministry with Community: Food Pantry

Contact: Sam Clark

Nicaraguan Partnership

Contact: Larry Boutelle

Rickman House BINGO

Contact: Mike Boersma

United Campus Ministry at WMU

Contact: Miranda Howard

EDISON-LOY NORRIX PEACEJAM PROJECT

Earlier this year, your Outreach Committee, on behalf of the congregation, approved a grant to fund a project by the Loy Norrix PeaceJam group for their 11th year. PeaceJam is an international organization that inspires high school students to do community service work. The project they have been working on for 11 years has two components.

The high school students are taught literacy and comprehension skill techniques, which allow them to read and mentor with one or two 4th graders at Edison Elementary School during six sessions on Friday afternoons in April and May. Their objective is to help raise the students' reading scores by having better comprehension, and to instill in them enjoyment in being a better reader.

The second component is a College-bound Engineering Day at WMU and has been offered for 7 years. The objective is to expose the 5th graders to WMU, to have an adventure and opportunity to see up-front, hands-on Engineering projects, and the award-winning projects that WMU Engineering students have achieved. This allows the 5th graders to bond with a high schooler and to see first-hand educational opportunities in their city that are within their reach with the use of the Kalamazoo Promise.

This year, two of the 9th-grade PeaceJammers were in the Norrix/Edison Project when they were in the 4th and 5th grades. In the photo below, you will see 5th graders at WMU attempting to fly planes on simulators, with their high school mentors watching. It was a wonderful learning experience, and fun, too!



FPC Presbyter / Calendar - July, 2017

Saturday/1

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/2

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

Monday/3

1:00p [no Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers]
6:30p Deacons' meeting
7:00p Green P's

Tuesday/4—INDEPENDENCE DAY

The church is closed in observance of the national holiday.



Wednesday/5

9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
1:00p FPC Librarian on site
4:30p DCLC
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: picnic

Thursday/6

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

Friday/7

1:00p Lunch Bunch (off site)

Saturday/8

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/9

9:00a Congregational Life Committee
9:00a [no C.E. Committee today]
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:45a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
Communion served today
10:45a Summer Church School
11:15a Summer Book Club (1st of 4)

Monday/10

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Tuesday/11

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

Wednesday/12

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
3:00p [no Martha Circle]
4:30p DCLC
5:30p Men's Monthly Wednesday Evening Group (off site)
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
7:00p [no Outreach meeting]

Thursday/13

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
11:00a DCLC
12:30p [no Finance Committee today]
6:00p [no Prop. Maintenance meeting]

Friday/14

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/15

6:00p BINGO for Rickman House residents (off site)

Sunday/16

9:00a Flower exchange
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Summer Church School
11:15a Summer Book Club (2nd of four)

Monday/17

1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needleworkers
5:30p Personnel Committee
6:00p [no Health Ministry Committee]

Tuesday/18

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
10:00a Bulletin deadline
12:00p Blood Drive (through 6:00p)
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/19

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
4:00p Endowment Committee
4:30p DCLC
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:30p Celebrate the Vision: Bible Study
6:30p Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study (monthly)

Thursday/20

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

Friday/21

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/22

Youth Group at New Wilmington Mission Conference (through July 30)

Sunday/23

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:45a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Summer Church School
11:15a Summer Book Club (3rd of 4)

Monday/24

7:00p [no Thoughtful Readers]

Tuesday/25

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

Wednesday/26

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
4:30p DCLC
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship
6:30p [no Session meeting]

Thursday/27

9:30a [no Women's Bible Study]
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
11:00a DCLC

Friday/28

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/29

(no FPC activities scheduled)

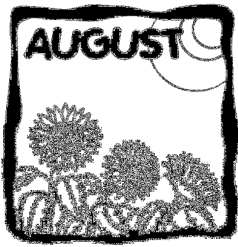
Sunday/30

9:00a Flower exchange
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Summer Church School
11:15a Summer Book Club (final)

PLEASE NOTE:

Community group meetings at FPC are not listed in the Presbyters because of space restrictions. Please see the weekly Announcements for these meetings.

FPC Presbyter / Calendar - August, 2017



Tuesday/1

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

Wednesday/2

9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
1:00p FPC Librarian on site
4:30p DCLC
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: picnic

Thursday/3

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

Friday/4

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

Saturday/5

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/6

9:00a Prayer Partners
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:45a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
Communion served today
10:45a Summer Church School
12:45p Ministry with Community
(*FPC serves the meal today*)

Monday/7

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

Tuesday/8

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
10:00a Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class: Growing in Holy Love
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/9

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
4:30p DCLC
5:30p Men's Monthly Wednesday
Evening 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
11:30a Stewardship Committee
12:30p Finance Committee
6:00p Property Maintenance meeting

Friday/11

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/12

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/13

9:00a Flower exchange
9:00a Congregational Life Committee
9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:45a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Summer Church School

Monday/14

6:00p Health Ministry Committee

Tuesday/15

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
10:00a Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class: Growing in Holy Love
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00p Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday/16

9:00a to 5:00p
Building closed for staff planning retreat
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:30p Summer Women's Bible Study

Thursday/17

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
11:00a DCLC
11:30a Adult Education Committee
5:30p Potluck with Refugee family

Friday/18

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/19

3:00p Boy Scouts 100th Birthday
Celebration
6:00p BINGO for Rickman House
Residents (*off site*)

Sunday/20

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:30a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a Summer Church School

Monday/21

Presbyter—deadline for articles
1:30p Hearts-to-Hands Needleworkers
5:30p Personnel Committee

Tuesday/22

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
10:00a Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class: Growing in Holy Love
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/23

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

Thursday/24

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

Friday/25

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/26

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/27

9:00a Lectionary Study
9:00a Flower exchange
9:00a Summer Choir rehearsal
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:45a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:45a [no Church School today]
12:00p Healing Service

Monday/28

7:00p [no Thoughtful Readers]

Tuesday/29

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
10:00a Bulletin deadline
12:00p Class: Growing in Holy Love
1:15p Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/30

Presbyter folding/labeling/mailling

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
4:30p DCLC
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p [no CtV worship today]
6:15p CtV volunteers meeting

Thursday/31

9:30a [no Women's Bible Study]
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
11:00a DCLC

LOOKING AHEAD:

Monday/September 4
LABOR DAY (Church building closed)

July Birthdays

1 Scott Oudsema	13 (none)	24 Grace Agostinelli Andrew Diamond David Scarrow	29 Amelia Case Sara Davidson John Diamond Catherine Wall Emerson Dave Hunt Judy Marvin Dan Schut
2 Larry Farris Bob Padgett Irma Prince Madeline Weaver William Wilson	14 Larry Boutelle Josh Droppers Jessica Hay Megan Staake Ryan Zeller	25 Nik DeHaan Janet Todd	
3 Carrie Busby Nancy Chandler Virginia Jacobowitz	15 Eunice Green Barbara Liggett Gary Zandt	26 Karen Jacobs Loretta Johnson Livia Lewis Sharon Longman Roberta Warnock	30 Dick Baker Claire Dulin Ellen Wolfe
4 Cynthia Hunter Angela Van Heest Lyssa Wilson	16 Alexandra Garside Molly Oudsema Andy Young	27 Abigail Candido Beverly Crabb Joyce Lander Gloria Lee Abby Pearson	31 Jan Carpenter Sally Carter Kristen DeBruin Ladislav Hanka Dayton Maynard David Stults Alana Tien
5 Ron Johns	17 Ethan Gunderson Carolyn Stults	28 Jeanne Fenton Sally Hume Bristol Mary Panse Grace Tiffany	
6 Bob Bauserman Hunter Macomber	18 John Card Nancy Colburn Bobby Highhouse Sierra Loughrin Brooke Zeller		
7 Hal Horneffer Tim Tritsch	19 Phyllis Buskirk Maeven Hirt Madelyn Marciniak Anna Miller		
8 Amy Anderson Jayne Clement Pam Tritsch	20 Bev Bloomquist Marilyn Lindbeck Paul Parks		
9 Ruth DeVries Katie Johnkoski Melanie Pessetti	21 Jennifer Barlament Brian Nederveld		
10 Cheryl Fritz Cindy Leder	22 Donna Bishop Careen Bumpus Kevin Mahoney Dennis Mattingly Diane White		
11 Bill Hubbard Maxwell Longman Marta Veech	23 Howard Hoffman		
12 Madison Angell Avery Diane Fuehr William Maze, Jr. Brian Panse Molly Stewart			



August Birthdays

1 Liam Beals Jacob Schut Caitlin White	13 Juanita Erdos	20 Mary Brooks	25 Connor Addison Samantha Fuehr Jeffrey Shaw Norma Smith	29 Alissa Britigan David Dell Caitlin Fischer Courtney Fischer Philip Hajek Henry Lewis Marvin Ludwig
2 Sandy Sebo	14 Mason Coleman Matthew Job Betty Van Der Slik	21 Nancy Maleitzke Dolores Miller Sydney Wilson	26 Morgen Baer Daniel Corse Geoffrey Wardwell	30 Mackenzie Jonas Kameran Long Julie Misner
3 Michael Bova Diane Marsom Jessica Tarr	15 Jill Barnum Ben Brown Christopher Honeysett Curtis Leibbrand Ronald Tanis Gabriel VandeWalle	22 Carol Barratt- Schmiege Ashley Carter Jane Iannelli Samantha King Tim Liggett	27 Bob Brown Alex Coryell Alice Malloure Michael Warlick	31 Patricia Corse Chuck Madden Paul Perks Julia Young
4 Olivia Goethe Nick Hunter John Kittredge Leroy Klose Wendy Miedema Graham Palmer	16 Emily Carson Brown Jason Grupe	23 (none)	28 Dorothy Castor Janet Scarrow Abigail Sherrill Zachary Warlick	
5 Kit Carrel Megan Dixon Bev Murray Jakob Schnur	17 Jill Aspergren Bucki Dulin Whitney Hollerbach Jennifer Klein Robert Radcliff Crystal Richman	24 Lynn Arwady George Hammond Carol McCloskey		
6 Kim Cummings Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox Emma Greko Aleks Kokushkin Beth Peterik Louise Taylor	18 David Campbell			
7 Annaliese Bol Logan Brown Marcie Compton Carol Steinman	19 Joan Colgren Brittany (Fisk) Robbins Stephanie Kiewiet David Klein Chloe Labian John Willson			
8 William Johnson				
9 Scott Carter Bob Cowell Colin Feucht Andrew Lenderink Mary Palmatier Leo Thielman				
10 Jack Mahoney Brian Watt				
11 Laura Cavanagh Jackson Fox Erin Leder Jeffrey Panse Erik Yettaw				
12 Ashleigh Allen Margaret Pifer				



50-Plus Years of Membership: AUGUST —Congratulations!

Each *Presbyter* includes an “anniversary-by-month” list of our members who have been a part of the FPC family for 50 years or more. Here you will find the names of these members, listed during the anniversary month of when each one joined the church. The entire 12-month list is printed in the Annual Report.

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Diane Johnson	August 29, 1957	60

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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, call one of these staff members:

Seth Weeldreyer - (269) 283-4048

Ann Ross - (269) 217-6193

Kathleen Robertson-King - (269) 808-3998

In Memoriam

Robert Crabb was born on February 1, 1951 and joined FPC on February 24, 1993. Robert died on June 14, 2017.

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 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The deadline for content for the September-October issue of the *Presbyter* is August 21. It will be mailed on August 30.

The *Presbyter* is also available for viewing on the FPC website: sanctuaryinthecity.org. Many of our members receive the *Presbyter* via e-mail only, in order to help the church conserve paper and other resources. To remove your name from the "paper-mail" list, contact Ann Johnson at 344-0119 or ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.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

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)

Nate Owens

Nik DeHaan

Sam Clark