

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

~ September ~

September 3

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21

September 10

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14

September 17

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Romans 14:1-12;
Matthew 16:24-28, 18:1-5

September 24

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Exodus 16:2-15; Philippians 1:21-30
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Matthew 20:1-16

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

*Grounded in living faith,
receiving diversity as a gift,
we seek to reflect Christ's light
in God's world.*

*Continually discerning God's
vision of grace and peace,
we share inspirational worship,
spiritual nurture, compassionate
service to others, and the pursuit
of justice—all to the glory of God.*

A MINUTE IN MINISTRY

You may know, this year marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. As the story goes, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed Ninety-Five Theses (protests about church practice) to the cathedral door in Wittenberg, Germany. One of the main abuses was selling "indulgences," that is, guarantees of salvation, or a means of getting into heaven. Over ensuing years church leaders attacked Luther and his positions. War spread across Europe among other major health and social problems. Within a decade, Switzerland became a center of protestant activity. John Calvin fled France for Geneva by the late 1530s. Others thought Calvin had good ideas and came to study / apprentice with him. Then they took his theology, government, and social welfare priorities back to their home countries. That's what John Knox did for people in Scotland, from whom we trace our particular Presbyterian lineage.

So what difference does it make for our living faith here and now? I daresay if leading Reformers came to Kalamazoo today, they probably wouldn't care about preserving vestiges of the past. The truth is that, to the best of our knowledge, 1517 is an arbitrary date chosen hundreds of years later to help create a national German identity. In Spirit, church leaders had spoken out for hundreds of years against abuses and tried to empower local people they served. And in Spirit, the real work continues to this day. Reformers would care more about what we're doing and how we are spreading good news here and now.

You see, more than theological ideas alone, the Reformation was really all about ethics, that is, how we live practically all we say we believe. So, amid the chaos and turmoil gripping Europe, John Calvin tried to make a real difference in Geneva. There the church:

- prioritized education for all people—including women and children—not just wealthy men;
- created hospitals to provide health care for all;
- established social services for refugees flooding in from all directions;
- established a government in which people shared power, the foundation of our democracy today.

John Calvin stressed that living faith is ultimately about how we help order our world with grace as God intends—nurturing love and abundant life for all.

Our congregation pulses with that same Spirit. Through programs, projects, and the individual commitments, we continue those same priorities in our service together, as well as many other ways we engage life in our community. Still, in the spirit of "Church reformed, and all always reforming", we know we are not perfect and need to continue learning. In the month of October, sermons will center on how the Reformation informs our contemporary witness. Educational opportunities will be offered to reflect more on the heritage we inherit and the mantle of witness we claim. Among other public events, an ecumenical worship occasion is being planned for Wings Event Center in the late afternoon of Sunday, October 29.

Grateful for all we have received, we will faithfully embody the spirit and practical intent of the Reformation, inasmuch as we continue loving and serving all people in whatever way possible every day. So may it be, always by the *grace* of God, and ever for the *glory* of God!

Grace and peace to you,

Seth

The Reverend Dr. Seth E. Weeldreyer

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

~ October ~

October 1

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion served

The Rev. Larry Farris

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4; 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

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

October 8

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-20; Philippians 3:4b-14

October 15

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Exodus 32:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9

October 22

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Exodus 33:12-23;

Ephesians 1:15-19, 3:14-20, 4:1-3, 25-5:2

October 29

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 22:34-46
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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

THE SATURDAY WORSHIP TEAM INVITES YOU TO SEE WHAT'S GROWING

SEEDS

....something new, from strong roots

....growing the community at a new time
and in new ways

....informal, welcoming all of God's
diverse creation

5pm Saturdays in the Gathering Space starting on

Saturday, September 9 at First Presbyterian Church

SEEDS: Seeing God's Emerging and Evolving Direction and Sustaining
Love

Questions? Call, email, or chat with Pastor Chrissy, Richard Coryell,
Kelsey Oliver, Bev Murray, Jeanne Case, or Cindy Hunter

HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, October 1

The Health Ministry Committee invites all in need of healing—physical, emotional, spiritual—to come to a Service of Healing following Worship on Sunday, October 1. 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 Associates Larry Farris and Kathleen Robertson King will lead the service.

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

THANK YOU

Thank you for the warm welcome! I am enjoying getting settled into my office and my new home. I have spent time this week meeting with and connecting with the rest of the staff and with the leaders of some of the areas with which I will be heavily involved, as well as planning and dreaming what might be possible in the weeks and months ahead. I look forward to being in ministry with you!

Generally speaking, I will be out of the office on Mondays. I am available by appointment the rest of the week, and will be in my office Tuesday through Friday, except when I am needed elsewhere. Feel free to contact me if we need to discuss anything, or if you just want a moment to introduce yourself and say, "Hi".

Contact information:

Office – (269) 344-0119, ext. 203

Cell phone – (989) 854-1124

Email – chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org

CHURCH REPORTS

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August, 2017

A motion to approve the changes to the Credit Card Use Policy and Credit Card/Local Vendor Use Guidelines as presented was adopted.

A motion to approve the changes to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund as amended was adopted..

A motion to approve the following dates for communion was adopted

September 10, 2017	February 18, 2018
October 1, 2017	March 29, 2018
November 5, 2017	April 1, 2018
November 26, 2017	May 20, 2018
December 24, 2017	June 3, 2018
January 7, 2018	July 1, 2018
	August 6, 2018

A motion to adopt the First Presbyterian Church Firearms Policy as follows was adopted:

To the maximum degree permitted by law, including but not limited to MCL § 28.425o(1)(e) and § 750.234d(1)(b), the possession of any firearms, including concealed weapons or portable devices that use electro-muscular disruption technology, is prohibited within the premises or on the property of the FPC.

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

LIVE GENEROUSLY: STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. – 2 Corinthians 8:9



2017

Live Generously, is the theme for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign. This theme is particularly appropriate as we focus on deepening our understanding of stewardship as a spiritual discipline, and we consider where God is leading us as a generous faith community. The campaign will begin on September 24 and conclude on Dedication Sunday, October 29.

During this time period we will talk about our faith, our passions, and our roles as God's generous stewards. As we increase our understanding of God's blessings and our own church's mission, we will see more clearly how our participation and support can make a difference in the congregation and beyond.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

Mike Boersma

Dorothy Castor

Aedín Clements

Nancy and Keith Johnson

Karen Nellums

Carolyn Neubauer

Donna Schonveld

Class of 2019

Tim Aldrich

Cynthia Feucht

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.

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons are happy to provide coffee, donut holes, and smiling faces each Sunday at the Barista. Your donations are essential to enabling us to keep it going, so please don't neglect our donation jar when you stop by. Fair Trade coffee is for sale each Sunday. We have K-cups, beans, and ground coffee.

Thank you for your support of the Deacons.

Please let your Deacon or the church office know if we can help you in any way.

LACEY'S REPORT FROM EDISON SCHOOL

Hello, everyone!



I last wrote you a couple of years ago about the fun I have being a part of the FPC volunteers at Edison School. Every Tuesday I listen to a class of 2nd graders read.

This year I hosted an end-of-the year celebration at our house for the class. On June 13, a school bus pulled into our driveway, and I greeted the students as they got off the bus. They were so happy to see me at my house. The humans played games and I mainly watched.

Oh, I loved the hikes we went on. I was always first, because, after all, it's my house and I know the way. The children were worried that I might get lost; I'm a pretty independent dog, though, and I like to go off the trail.

After lunch I got to show off. I showed everyone how I can run down the driveway and get the newspaper out of the mailbox.

Later, we went on a scavenger hunt and the children made pine cone bird feeders with peanut butter and bird seed. Those last two things are favorites of mine, so I hung out in that area, and I was thrilled when one little guy dropped a huge glob of peanut butter on his shoe. I cleaned it off for him and his shoe was spotless when I was done!

It was very hot and humid that Tuesday in June. The 15 children ate 100 popsicles and drank gallons of lemonade, apple juice and water.

At 1:30 it was time to say good-bye to my visitors. I received many hugs and pats as the students boarded the bus. The humans were exhausted and they only have two legs. How do you think I felt with four legs to get tired?

I look forward to seeing the special students at Edison School in the fall. I love them and they LOVE me! Maybe you want to be a part of our team. It would be great to meet you!

Blessings to you, my friends at FPC,
Lacie (Four Years an Edison Reading Dog)

BUTTER BRAIDS ARE BACK!

Butter Braids are back again this year. They are a frozen pastry dough that you bake – easy and delicious.

Flavors available are: Caramel Roll w/Caramel Glaze; Blueberry & Cream Cheese; Cinnamon; Raspberry; Strawberry & Cream Cheese. The cost is \$13 each. Cash and checks only, please.

They will be for sale on Sundays October 8 and 15 in the Gathering Place before and after the worship. We will have samples for you to taste. Delivery will be on Sundays November 12 and 19, just in time for the Holidays.

All proceeds go to the Edison School Project.

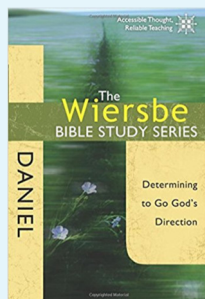
THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study:

New study begins September 14.

Daniel was a man who knew the Most High. He understood God's sovereignty, even in pagan Babylon, where the Jews were exiled, and he refused to compromise his faith. Amid a pagan nation, an arrogant king, ravenous lions, and a blazing furnace, Daniel and his friends sought God and found Him in a way that will inspire and strengthen your journey. The same God who shut the lions' mouths and rescued His men unscathed from the flames will consecrate you to dream His dreams and do His work, if only you allow Him.

This ten-week class will begin September 14 in Room 301. We meet at 9:30 for coffee, and our discussion begins at 9:45. Childcare is available in Room 305.



WEDNESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study: September 20

We are reading the book of James. This Bible Study Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month after our Celebrate the Vision meal. Members of the Congregation and the community are warmly welcomed.

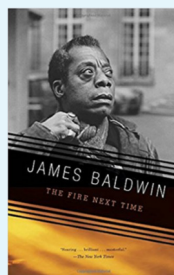


WHERE ARE WE IN THE STORY OF RACISM?

Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the "other", which is entirely contrary to the Word of God Incarnate in Jesus Christ. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are worth less than others. Because of our Biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC (USA) must stand against, speak against, and work against racism. To further our discovery and discussion about racism that we began this summer after reading *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, we will continue to offer classes, movies, and immersion experiences on racism to members of the congregation.

Our first offering will be a discussion based on the book, *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin. "A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, *The Fire Next Time* galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document that exhorts Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism."

We will meet after church (11:15 – 12:15) on October 8 in Room 301. Books are available from the church receptionist for \$10.00



Church School begins September 10.

Our curriculum, *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*, is rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity, where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship. The curriculum extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love, and it reaches beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace. Two of the curriculum components of *Grace Sightings* online and a *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* e-book, encourage children and their parents or caregivers to continue the sessions at home and to live their lives as an expression of God's grace in the world. For more information visit growinggracegratitude.org.

We are currently looking for one additional member for our team of 12 teachers to teach our Kindergarten and 1st grade class. Teachers participate in the classrooms once each month and are part of a three-teacher classroom team. If you are interested in this position email Pat Stromsta at pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org

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

REVOLUTION!

FPC YOUTH MINISTRIES

WHO: ALL youth in 6th –12th grades

WHAT: Opportunities to LEARN, CREATE, SERVE, and PLAY!

WHEN: Sundays

WHERE: FPC Youth Rooms (and the world!)

WHY: To grow as disciples, to form community with one another, to serve the larger community through service projects and mission trips, and to have fun!

An introductory meeting for parents and youth will be held after church in the youth room on **September 10**. Come meet Pastor Chrissy and help to shape what youth group will look like this year.

Pastor Chrissy is forming a Youth Ministry Team to assist in leading the youth group, providing lunches on Sundays, and coordinating details and communication about youth events. Contact Pastor Chrissy if you are interested in helping with the youth.



EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTIFUL ST JOHN'S BIBLE

During his study leave this summer, Seth Weeldreyer spent time at the St. John's Abbey in Minnesota. The Abbey commissioned a Bible (completed in 2006) created in the manner of medieval calligraphy and artistic illumination. The product is a stunning work of art and faithfulness. Donald Jackson, the lead coordinator and artist for the project, remarked: "The continuous process of remaining open and accepting of what may reveal itself through hand and heart on a crafted page is the closest I have ever come to God." On September 17, following worship in Room 314 / 315, Seth will share more about this Bible, including experiencing many of the artistic illuminations as an expression of faith.

SHARE A PILGRIMAGE JOURNEY

A group of sixteen people from our congregation will walk *el Camino de Santiago*, the ancient pilgrimage route in northern Spain, from September 21 – September 30. Beyond the actual days of traveling, pilgrimage is a spiritual discipline to inspire and guide ordinary life. Participants will offer an opportunity to share their experiences after Worship on October 15, in Room 314 / 315. Come hear more about practical details (landscape, food, etc.), humorous encounters, struggles, and spiritual insights gleaned through it all. As we grow in living faith together, opening our hearts to God and to one another, may our conversation continue to empower our everyday journey of life!

WORSHIP

WORSHIP TIME

The proposal to change to 10:00 the starting time for Sunday Worship was brought to the Worship and Music Committee last spring, and, after consulting with the Worship and Music Committee, it was decided to try it for the summer, gather input through a survey, and make a decision in August for a recommendation to Session. The survey results show a clear majority preference for 10:00 am as our regular Worship time. Of course, the decision was not unanimous, so we understand that some of you will be disappointed. But the Session has accepted our recommendation and voted to set our Sunday Worship time at 10:00 am.

We hope this earlier time will enable our members to enjoy more opportunities to engage in our life together. There are often sign-up opportunities in the Gathering Place for learning about and participating in classes or projects. Starting Worship just half an hour earlier lets people consider these opportunities without feeling rushed. After-church adult education classes will now get an earlier start, encouraging more people to participate. We are also exploring possibilities for music activities in that time slot, involving children and youth.

The before-Worship adult education classes have continued to meet at 9:00, with an emphasis on starting promptly. These small groups have the option of choosing to meet earlier, and the members of the individual groups can make that decision.

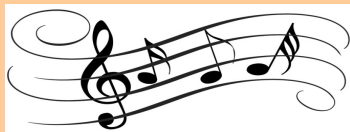
Many respondents expressed appreciation for an earlier Worship service as a way to get their day started earlier, while others expressed concern about being able to get to church earlier. We are hoping that this slightly earlier time will not prove too cumbersome, and that any problems can be worked out in good faith.

We would like to thank the more than 120 members who provided their perspectives. As ever, we look forward to hearing other questions or ideas as we all try to make Worship a meaningful expression of God's love, in service to Jesus Christ.



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.



MONTHLY BREAKFASTS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17

Mark your calendars now for the third Sunday morning each month from September through May, 2018. It's All-Church Breakfast season again at First Presbyterian Church!!

On those Sundays, bring the entire family to enjoy breakfast before Worship. We're opening earlier, since Worship time is now at 10:00. Arrive any time between 8:15 and 9:30 am and enjoy the food and fellowship. You won't regret it! Ask our regular breakfast customers! We are renowned for our fluffy pancakes, zesty egg dish and tasty sausage links. And the Men's Group sweetheart, Jane Hamilton, adds a touch of love to each breakfast with her wonderful homemade fruit syrups.



TIPS FROM GREEN PETE



FROM THE GREEN P'S AND OUR CONGREGATION'S COMMITMENT TO EARTHCARE

First Fall Meeting of Green P's Committee: Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00

We will be firming up and adding to our fall plans to confirm that our church is indeed a Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation.

Among events in the works area are:

- 1) a Go-See Visit to Kalamazoo's new and only "Tiny House" (a model for low-cost, low resource-consumptive living),
- 2) working with staff and other committees at First Pres to find suitable ways to further "green up" our building; and
- 3) continuing our "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repurpose" educational events, led by our mascot, Green Pete.

All who share our interest in God's creation are welcome to join us. For more Information about what we do, e-mail committee chair Janet Scarrow at janscarrow@gmail.com.

IONA PILGRIMAGE

We are considering another pilgrimage to spend a week in the Iona Abbey during the summer of 2018. The trip would include a couple of days touring Scotland on the way out to Iona and on the return. Specific dates are yet to be determined. If you are interested, please contact Seth Weeldreyer for more information.

THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

September 25 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

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

Thoughtful Readers Book Group will meet on September 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300 to discuss Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust at Ground Zero by Michael Hingson and Susy Flory. "In this moving and inspiring book, Hingson explains how he and his guide dog, Roselle, survived the horrors of the September 11 attacks. He also describes what it is like to be blind, his determination to achieve parity in a sighted world, and how rare trust between a man and his guide dog can inspire an unshakeable faith in each one of us." (Goodreads)

On Monday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300, we will discuss X by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon. "Co-written by Malcolm X's daughter, this riveting and revealing novel follows the formative years of the man whose words and actions shook the world. *X* follows Malcolm from his childhood to his imprisonment for theft at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him to forge a new path and command a voice that still resonates today." (Goodreads)

New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Kathy Campbell at (517) 803-0481.

HOW TO LOVE YOUR MOTHER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

There are many simple activities and practices we can build into our daily routines to help improve the environment and lessen the damage we do to it. Building on his Mother's Day sermon on loving Mother Earth, Parish Associate Larry Farris will lead us in sharing and exploring what we can do on a regular basis to fulfill our calling as stewards of God's creation.

CREATING A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 12 AND 19

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Most of us already practice some spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, worship, Bible reading, and giving - sometimes regularly, sometimes sporadically. Such practices are intended to enhance our awareness of God's work and leading in our lives, to open us to deeper understanding of both God and ourselves in God. Parish Associate Larry Farris will help us see both the wide range of such practices - and there are many! - and how, in an organized manner, we can incorporate them into our daily walk with God.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

HEALTH MINISTRY

Summer is coming to a close, and the Health Ministry Committee hope you've all had a wonderful, safe and healthy summer. We are looking forward to upcoming events and classes this fall.

EVENT:

On September 21, 2017 from 11-3 the Third Annual Kalamazoo Wellness and Recovery Fair will take place in Bronson Park. This event is "designed to celebrate National Recovery Month. The fair is planned and coordinated by The Peer Collaborative, a committee of people in recovery (peers) who advocate for empowering their peers to succeed in recovery from substance use and mental health concerns." (from Recovery Fair flyer).

Our church has been supportive of the recovery process and people in recovery for years. Our building hosts both Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Food Addicts (FA) meetings. If you are in recovery, know someone in recovery, or just want to know more about recovery resources in our area, come over for the Wellness and Recovery Fair.

CHICAGO TRIP TO SEE "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR"

The Chicago Lyric Opera will close its 2017-18 season with Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1970 rock opera, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR. A block of seats and charter bus have been reserved to see the Wednesday, May 9, 2018 matinee

performance. We will depart Kalamazoo at 8 a.m. and return at 11 p.m. Enjoy time in the city on your own in the morning, and dinner on your own prior to the return to Kalamazoo. The cost is \$125.00 per person and includes bus, ticket to the opera, and a small contribution to the Performing Arts Fund. Checks can be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Contact Cindy Hunter at 377-2478 or

cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org if you have any questions.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

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

September 8—University Roadhouse, 1332 West Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo (Date changed due to Labor Day holiday)

October 6—Moorsbridge Golf Course Grill, 7877 Moorsbridge Rd. YOU are invited to lunch this fall 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

September 13 and October 11 (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 **October 14** to plan 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, October 16.

PRAYER PARTNERS

First Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Partners will meet on September 10 at 9:00 in Room 301. A new season of Prayer Partners will begin in October. If you would like to be a part of a small group of brothers and sisters who are committed to praying for the Church, our particular church, the world, our community, and ourselves, please join us for our monthly time of prayer. We will meet in Room 301 at 9:00 a.m. on October 8, November 5, and December 3.

HEALTH MINISTRY CLASS: BEING MORTAL

On October 15, 2017, Marcia Cowell will lead a review and discussion of the book, Being Mortal, by Atul Gawande. Reading the book ahead of this class is not a requirement for attendance. Come join us in rooms 314-315 for what is certain to be a lively and interesting discussion.

HEALTH MINISTRY CLASS: HEALTHCARE IN HAITI

Join the Health Ministry Committee November 5 following worship in a discussion of healthcare in Haiti, set in the context of the fascinating history of Haiti, including how the slaves of Haiti fought and beat Napoleon Bonaparte, and why the country has so many difficulties! You will also learn what nurses are doing to change the healthcare crisis there. This class will be led by Pat Farris, who has made multiple trips to Haiti as a member of the Board of Directors of the Haiti Nursing Foundation.

Outreach and Community Service

CELEBRATE THE VISION – SERVING THE HUNGRY OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR 9 YEARS

Celebrate the Vision is an outreach ministry of food, fellowship, and faith at FPC of Kalamazoo. We refuse to be overwhelmed by the urgency of hunger in our community. Instead, we are taking one step at a time against hunger – hunger for food and hunger for God's Word.

We are currently serving 80 - 100 meals every Wednesday night. We gather in our Dining Room at 5:30 for a home-cooked meal, prepared and served by members of our community and our own church members. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, we meet at 6:15 in the Gathering Place for a worship service. As a result of this program, men and women from the community and congregation have a safe space to form relationships with those who may appear "different".

We always welcome additional volunteers to help us serve our meals and desserts. Blankets and articles of clothing, such as coats, hats, and mittens, donated by church members, are also given to those in need as our weather turns colder. Contact Pat Stromsta if you have any questions.

RICKMAN HOUSE

At 6 pm on the third Saturday of each month, several members of our Congregation spend Saturday evening playing bingo with the residents of the Rickman House, an assisted-living community for people with mental illness. Prizes are distributed to the Rickman participants, which, on their limited incomes, is the only way many of them can obtain such items. We need help from the Congregation to provide items, such as regular-sized bottles of dish soap, laundry detergent, household cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and other personal care items. Please place these items in the bin in the mail room. Thank you!!

New volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Mike Boersma for further information. (269) 720-1409 or mike.boersma@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

On Thursday, August 17th, more than one hundred people enjoyed dinner and a celebration of thanks for the Zamel family's first half-year in Kalamazoo. Thanks to all who participated, and especially to organizers Bev Murray and Catherine Wall Emerson.

Bev and Catherine, along with Maha Zamel and her daughters, made great preparations, and there was a festive atmosphere in the dining room. Eight-year-old Mohammed welcomed guests while Esraa proudly indicated the cupcakes that she and her friend Paisley Wall Emerson had decorated. Pastor Seth read a long litany of thanks, recognizing the Zamels, who have trusted strangers of a different faith, and individuals who donated and worked to make their transition a success. It was quite a list, and demonstrates just how many people it takes to enable a new family to negotiate all the various aspects of the lifestyle that we take for granted. Elizabeth Bruce and choir members led us in an upbeat American sing-along. The Syrian teens cracked up laughing at "Oh Susannah". Now that the celebration is over, we are turning our attention to the new school year, and anticipate much support for the teens at Loy Norrix, as well as for the younger children at Woods Lake Elementary School. Now that one family member has a driver's license, team members are working to ensure that the car which has been donated is properly insured, and to support continued driver's education so that other adults in the family will be able to drive.

Looking back at last December, we can't believe how much has been achieved. The two young children are holding conversations in English all the time, and the family has been through winter and summer now. There is still much to be done, and we look forward to the next school year.

ISAAC WORK COMES TO FRUITION

The newspaper headline reads, "Police Meet with Violent Kalamazoo Street Groups to End Killing." Alleluia! This is huge progress! The ISAAC Youth Violence Prevention Task Force has worked for five years for this day! Kalamazoo law enforcement and representatives of the city's most violent street groups met to find an end to bloodshed.

Chief Jeff Hadley said the KDPS conveyed a clear message: The next group whose member commits a homicide in the city, and the most violent groups, will face enhanced law enforcement attention. The meeting was part of a Kalamazoo Group Violence Intervention strategy. Last year, Kalamazoo became one of 26 jurisdictions across the country implementing the program to reduce homicides and shootings. For more details link to:

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2017/08/police_meet_with_violent_kalam.html

FPC is a member of ISAAC and looks forward to participating in the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force and the continued implementation of this important youth program. We are grateful to the Task Force for their faithful work to address the root causes of youth violence, and for their close work with our Public Safety and city leaders who are working to bring the "Group Violence Initiative" approach to our community. If you are interested in working directly with the Task Force, please be in touch with Kathy Cooney, Sam Clark, or Pat Stromsta.

Outreach and Community

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A HUNGER-ACTION CONGREGATION

“As disciples of a loving God who inspires us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God, we commit to faithful action to end hunger and address its root causes.”

The Presbyterian Hunger Program, PC(USA) is celebrating the faithful work of Presbyterians responding to the Biblical call to alleviate hunger and end its causes. It wishes to acknowledge the work we are doing to end hunger, and to be mutually inspired to deepen and broaden our ministries. First Presbyterian Church (through the work of the Outreach Committee) will be recognized as a Hunger-Action-Congregation on October 16, World Food Day. By being a Hunger-Action Congregation we covenant to work in all six of the following areas.

Ending Hunger and Its Causes: Six Areas

1. Hunger Alleviation: providing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions
2. Development assistance: addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development
3. Hunger Education: learning about systemic causes of hunger, leading towards faithful action that is informed and directed by directly affected people and partners
4. Lifestyle Integrity: adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all of God's creation
5. Corporate and Public Policy Witness: advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation
6. Worship: incorporating prayer, education, and integrating ending hunger and its causes into worship

More information about our work as a Hunger-Action-Congregation will be forthcoming as we approach World Food Day in October.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

On October 1, World Communion Sunday, we will be collecting the Peace & Global Witness Offering. This supports efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace, and to help forge a world that's more just. This transforming work of the Spirit can be accomplished only through the strength of our community in Christ. Together, we can help restore communities and bear witness to help bring the peace and love of God to all. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

Please consider giving to this very important offering!!

2018 CROP HUNGER WALK

And mark your calendars!! The 2018 Crop Hunger Walk will be Sunday, April 29, 2018.

VINE HOME-PAINTING PROJECT

NEEDED: HOME PAINTING PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

We need you! Our home painting project is upon us, and we need LOTS of volunteers to help with food and water and all the support tasks, as much as with the painting itself. Our action days are these: **Saturdays, September 23 & 30**, with **October 7** as a rain date.

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 has requested our assistance, and the Outreach Committee has come through with generous financial backing. Sam Clark is reaching out the Trinity Lutheran and First Congregational Churches to secure support - both money and labor. 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 the finish coats of paint. 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, is an unusually positive area for us to support. Whatever your level of physical ability, we need you! To join us, just give Garrett Boersma (375-3107) a call.

Outreach and Community

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

KALAMAZOO LOAVES AND FISHES

First Presbyterian Church continues to provide both monetary and volunteer support for **Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes** (KLF). Our support for this community program dates from its founding in 1982 by persons concerned about increasing requests from hungry people for food assistance. The KLF's mission is to feed the hungry in Kalamazoo County and to engage the community in the fight to end hunger.

The first "pantry in the grocery pantry program" was at Ministry with Community. It is the only one at a Drop-in center which operates Monday through Friday. The Pantry is primarily staffed by a volunteer corps of 55 - 70 individuals from area Presbyterian Churches and other organizations. This corps of volunteers dedicates over 140 hours per month to operating the KLF Pantry at MwC. In a recent year, this Pantry site served a total of 6,707 total food orders.

We at FPC, Westminster, and Pine Island Churches are embarking, this fall, on a campaign to recruit volunteers for the Pantry at MwC. Our reserve of volunteers is getting low; we need new bodies and faces to take on the challenges of running this important service.

We will kick off the volunteer recruitment campaign at FPC with a Minute for Mission on September 24, 2017, followed by a sign up opportunity in the Gathering Place after Worship. Please check your schedules, even clear away some time for volunteering. Direct your questions to Sam Clark, 269-327-0535, or e-mail, RSamClark@aol.com, or speak with any of our current FPC Pantry Volunteers.

KALAMAZOO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra will again partner with First Presbyterian Church to present three FREE Community Chamber Music Recitals this year. The first recital will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 at 7 pm in the FPC sanctuary. It will feature The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Artists in Residence, who will be performing their all-new Scott Joplin program. The concerts at First Presbyterian Church are part of the KSO's free community events, and are a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to share an evening with you in our beautiful space. The concert is followed by a reception, hosted by the Worship and Music Committee, where you can meet and talk with the musicians.

On January 9, 2018 at 7 pm, the KSO Brass Quintet will perform, and on April 24, 2018 at 7 pm, the KSO Thorne-Burdick String Quartet will perform in the FPC Sanctuary. Mark your calendars, spread the word, and plan to attend these free community recitals!

FPC Presbyter / Calendar - September, 2017

Friday/1

1:00p Lunch Bunch (off site)

Saturday/2

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/3

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]
 12:45p Ministry with Community
 (FPC serves the meal today)

Monday/4 LABOR DAY

The church is closed in observance of the national holiday.

Tuesday/5

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 12:00p Growing in Holy Love Amid Daily Life (class)

Wednesday/6

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

Thursday/7

9:30a NO Women's Bible Study
 11:00a FPC Librarian on site
 11:00a DCLC
 7:00p FPC Choir Rehearsal

Friday/8

1:00p Out-to-Lunch Bunch
 University Roadhouse

Saturday/9

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/10

9:00a Prayer Partners
 9:00a Congregational Life Committee
 9:00a C.E. Committee
 9:00a Lectionary Study
 9:00a Adult Choir rehearsal
 9:15a Reading Aloud
 9:45a Childcare
 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
 Communion served today
 10:15a Church School
 11:30a Youth Planning Meeting

Monday/11

1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitches
 6:30p Deacons' meeting

Tuesday/12

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 12:00p Growing in Holy Love Amid Daily Life (class)
 7:00p Green P's Committee

Wednesday/13

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
 3:00p 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 Outreach meeting

Thursday/14

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 Committee
 7:00p FPC Choir Rehearsal

Friday/15

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/16

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

Sunday/17

9:00a Flower exchange
 9:00a Lectionary Study
 9:00a Adult Choir rehearsal
 9:00a Church School Teachers' Meeting
 9:15a Reading Aloud
 9:30a Childcare
 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
 10:45a Church School
 11:30a How to Love Your Mother Class
 11:30a St John's Bible Experience

Monday/18

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

Tuesday/19

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 7:00p Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday/20

12:00p Communications Committee
 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
 4:30p DCLC
 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
 6:30p Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study (monthly)
 6:30p Session

Thursday/21

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

Friday/22

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/23

Vine Street Painting Project

Sunday/24

9:00a Lectionary Study
 9:00a Adult Choir rehearsal
 9:00a Christian Education Comm. Mtg
 9:15a Reading Aloud
 9:45a Childcare
 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
 10:45a Church School

Monday/25

7:00p Thoughtful Readers

Tuesday/26

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 7:00p Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday/27

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

Thursday/28

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

Friday/29

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/30

Vine Street Painting Project

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 - October, 2017

Sunday/1

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

Monday/2

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

Tuesday/3

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/4

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

Thursday/5

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

Friday/6

1:00p Lunch Bunch—
 Moorsbridge Golf Course Grill

Saturday/7

Vine Street Painting Project rain date

Sunday/8

9:00a Congregational Life Committee
 9:00a Lectionary Study
 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal
 9:15a Reading Aloud
 9:45a Childcare
 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
 10:15a Church School
 11:30a The Fire Next Time Book Class

Monday/9

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Tuesday/10

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/11

1:00p FPC Librarian on site
 4:00p Martha Circle
 4:30p DCLC
 5:30p Men's Monthly Wednesday
 Evening Group *(off site)*
 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
 6:30p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/12

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

Friday/13

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/14

9:30p Chancel Guild meeting

Sunday/15

9:00a Lectionary Study
 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal
 9:00a Church School Teachers'
 meeting
 9:15a Reading Aloud
 9:30a Childcare
 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
 10:15a Church School
 11:30a Class: Being Mortal -
 A conversation about Atul
 Gawande's Book
 11:30a Spain Pilgrimage Sharing Class
 3:00p Elizabeth Bruce concert:
 Reformation Rendezvous

Monday/16

Presbyter—deadline for articles
 5:30p Personnel Committee
 6:00p Health Ministry Committee

Tuesday/17

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
 7:00p Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday/18

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

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

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/22

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

Monday/23

7:00p Thoughtful Readers

Tuesday/24

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

Wednesday/25

Presbyter folding/labeling/mailling
 1:00p FPC Librarian on site
 4:30p DCLC
 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/26

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

Friday/27

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

Saturday/28

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/29

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

Monday/30

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Tuesday/31

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
 10:00a FPC Archivists
 10:00a Bulletin deadline
 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD:

November 23 and 24

THANKSGIVING

(Church building closed)

September - October Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

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

28 Robert Britigan III

29 Marilyn Boal
Aedín Clements
Helen Ferrando
Cameron Malek
Jessie Stewart

30 Elizabeth Dell
Gary Elfring
Rosalyn Hogan

OCTOBER

- 1 Karen Cooper
Helen Creager
Dawn Mahoney
Laura Staake
- 2 Ryan Fouty
Ron Van Der Slik
- 3 George Brooks
Ann Fergemann
John Thomas
- 4 Hilary Cloetingh
Jennalie Shepherd
William Smyser
Dave Todd
- 5 Heather Heckler
Rebecca Johns
Nevaeh Rogers
Mary Tyler
Nancy Wood
- 6 Gary Fergemann
Tom Fowle
Robert Tyler
- 7 Kay Burtis
Will Carrel
Jordan Diamond
Isabelle Fisk
Elsie Johnson
Nancy Klesert
Nate Snyder
- 8 Richard Hakken
- 9 Marcia Cook
- 10 Martha Ford
Sylvie Graziano
Brenda McGruder
Neal Miedema
David Rozelle
Richard Steele

11 Heidi Egloff
Elizabeth Honeysett
Ruth Moser

12 Evelyn Dalm
Izaak Marciniak

13 Elaine Johns
Danielle Labian
Paisley Wall Emerson

14 Jennifer Highhouse

15 Ione Ambrose
Jamie Schnur

16 Katrina Kore
Drew Miller

17 Joseph Ryan Angell
Rob Case

18 Lauryn Kindle
Judy Swisher

19 Priscilla Blair
Nikos Diamond
José Santamaría

20 (none)

21 Kelsey Fox
Bill Kelser
Sue Johnson

22 Kathryn Novak
Sue Swartz

23 Ralph Jarl
Audrey Anna Manning

24 Jan Boutelle
Brian Hirt
Dave Hutton
Alexandra Plemmons

25 Mary Fischer
Margo Light

26 Ron Marvin
Eliza Mellis
Dave Novak

27 William Leasure

28 (none)

29 Susan Young

30 Sarah Cavanagh
Katelyn Forsch
Norm Goodling
Susanne Rose

31 Barbara Camisa

SPOOKTACTULAR SONGS

Elizabeth Bruce (organist at FPC) and friends will present a family-friendly concert on October 15th at 3 p.m. This event will feature some “scary” organ songs (e.g. “Phantom of the Opera” and Bach’s (in)famous “Toccata in d minor”) that aren’t *quite* fitting for Sunday mornings, but are definitely fitting for Sunday afternoons!

Elizabeth and special musical guests will cover multiple genres - from musical theatre to baroque-era Reformation organ music to celebrate its 500th anniversary this year. This program will feature musical “treats” for concertgoers of all ages! Children, grandchildren, neighbor children, and the “young at heart” are encouraged to attend this introduction to the organ/costume party event! Elizabeth will perform in costume, and she encourages guests to wear their favorite costume, or just street clothes, to the event.

We currently need helpers for the following tasks on the day of the concert. Please contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.bruce@kalamazoofirstpres.org if you might be able to assist:

Musical Volunteers: Longing to dress up as Elsa or Elvis and serenade the sanctuary with your favorite song? E-mail Elizabeth if interested!

Two small caveats:

This program is child-friendly; all songs must be appropriate for young ears.

Since this program is child-friendly, short songs are *especially* welcome and appreciated!

Transportation: We are in the early stages of planning for families from churches served by ISAAC to come to the program. We are likely to need volunteers to transport these families to and from the event.

Trunk-Or-Treat: After the program, we will hold a “trunk-or-treat” for concertgoers of all ages! Elizabeth was first introduced to this concept in Nashville, but since Michigan weather is a bit more unpredictable in October, we’ll do the suitcase variety as opposed to the car trunk variety of this Southern Halloween staple. In a “trunk-or-treat,” participants decorate candy-containing suitcases or bags. Each bag will have a corresponding donation jar and, in a friendly competition, concertgoers may “vote” for their favorite trunk while “trunk-or-treating” for candy in the Gathering Place!

Most importantly: All proceeds from the Trunk-or-Treat and a freewill offering collected at the event will benefit Orchestra Rouh. Orchestra Rouh, an initiative of the KSO and Gilmore Foundation, provides Syrian and other refugees with musical experiences that help reduce isolation, accelerate language acquisition, and make families feel welcome and appreciated within the Kalamazoo community.

ADULT MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for adults to become involved in the Music Ministry at First Presbyterian Church! We offer an Adult Choir and a Handbell Choir, as well as opportunities for vocal soloists and anyone who plays an instrument. Contact Cindy Hunter at 377-2478 or cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org for more information, and share your talents!

CHILDREN/YOUTH MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have elementary school children in grades 2-5, or middle - or high school – age children in grades 6-12? First Presbyterian Church has a place for them in our Music Ministry program! Sound interesting and fun? Contact Cindy Hunter at cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org or 269-377-2478 for more information. Whether they enjoy singing, play an instrument, or might like to try playing handbells or choirchimes, we have a place for your children at FPC. We are still in the planning stages of launching our Children/Youth Music opportunities, so share your interests and preferences now!

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) 425-5725
 Kathleen Robertson-King - (269) 808-3998
 Chrissy Westbury - (989) 854-1124
 Ann Ross - (269) 217-6193

In Memoriam

Margaret Jayne Clement was born on July 8, 1924 and joined FPC on January 2, 1958. Jayne died on July 28, 2017.

Timmy Tritsch was born on July 7, 1950 and joined FPC on July 17, 2001. Tim died on August 21, 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 served for all communion services at First Presbyterian Church.

PRESBYTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The deadline for content for the September-October issue of the *Presbyter* is October 16. It will be mailed on October 25.

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.



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A CALL TO ACTION FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please return any completed forms to the office or place them in the collection plate on Sunday morning. The deadline for nominations is September 24 so that the Nominating Committee can finish its work by the end of October.

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

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

We welcome your suggestions for the following three offices:

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

Please return this form with your suggestions to the church office,
or place it in the offering plate no later than September 24, 2017.

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

The Office of Elder –

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

The Office of Congregational Deacon –

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

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

Church Nominating Committee –

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



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