

"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"

321 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

(269) 344-0119

www.sanctuaryinthecity.org

WORSHIP OVERVIEW FOR MAY

<u>May 6</u> Sixth Sunday of Easter The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer John 15:8-17, Acts 8:26-40;

<u>May 13</u> Seventh Sunday of Easter The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer John 17:6-23, Ephesians 1:15-23

> <u>May 20</u> Pentecost Communion Youth Sunday

May 27 Trinity Sunday The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Isaiah 6:1-8, John 3:1-17



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. At a recent writers' conference, Kwame Alexander (Newberry Award-winning author) began a keynote lecture by quoting from 2 Corinthians—God's promised "Yes" to us in life with Christ. Alexander talked about experiences of "no" on his way to publishing poetry and novels for youth, and about important people in his life journey who said "yes:" parents, spouse, teachers, and friends who affirmed, encouraged, and challenged him on his way to "success."

There are so many voices we hear saying "no." No … didn't get the job. No … health has not improved. No … don't want to be together. No … don't have enough; not good enough. No … someone like you couldn't possibly do that. Time and again, Jesus met people who'd heard plenty of "no", and he gave them a clear "yes." In our church life together, at best, people experience "yes." Yes, you are loved and can love others. Yes, you have valuable abilities. Yes, you make a difference. Yes, you're good and beautiful and kind. Yes, we'll listen. Yes, we'll forgive. Yes, we'll work together. Yes … this is the way God wants life to be for you and me and our community.

"Yes" is more than a superficial "nice". Sometimes the way to "yes" is through "no." Alexander recalled a college professor of creative writing who consistently gave him C's. Not lacking confidence, he thought: "Me, a 'C'? No way! And this third time a C-?" This is where quoting 2 Corinthians really fits. You see, Paul shared a particularly contentious relationship with that congregation. They said a lot of "no" to one another. Paul urged the people to share a ministry of reconciliation—saying "yes" in a world of "no." For God, who said "let light shine in the darkness," radiates the light of that love in our hearts.

Alexander's "C" professor became one of his biggest supporters and a close friend. And she, who never goes to funerals, wrote a poem and spoke at his mother's service. It was precisely through some of the most difficult "no" experiences that Alexander came to one of the most meaningful sources of "yes."

That is God's promise for us in this season of resurrection. Roman and religious leaders said a big "NO" to Jesus on the cross. God said a bigger, more powerful, and enduring "YES!" We feel it personally. We pursue his way of compassion, his truth of sacrificial love, and his life of grace and peace for our whole community. In these weeks after Easter, we've begun blessing our children by singing: "Yes, Jesus loves me!" May our worship proclaim for all to share a big and beautiful "Yes, God's Love is in my life!" May we know of needs and say: "Yes, I'll help!" May we meet in committees and chat in conversation through a Spirit that ever moves us away from "No, but …" to "Yes, and we could …" All so that through us, God will touch others who come to believe: Yes, I can begin again! Yes, my life has meaning! Yes, there is goodness amid the brokenness! Yes, there is hope for our world!

"For in Christ, every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.' For this reason, it is through Christ we say 'Amen' to the glory of God!" (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Grace and Peace, Seth

CHURCH REPORTS

WORSHIP OVERVIEW FOR JUNE

June 3 Second Sunday after Pentecost The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer 1 Samuel. 3:1-10; \2 Corinthians. 4:5-15

June 10 Third Sunday after Pentecost The Rev. Larry Farris 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 17 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Habakkuk 1:1-2:3; Mark 4:35-41

June 24 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:13; Mark 4:26-34

July 1 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer 2 Samuel 3: 31-39; Mark 5:21-43



Finding it hard to get to church on Sunday mornings in the summer? Don't worry! That's not your only opportunity to worship with your FPC family!

We call our Saturday evening Worship service SEEDS (Seeing God's Emerging and Evolving Direction and Sustaining Love) because we see it as a place to plant seeds of faith and to nurture one another. We meet in the Gathering Place, rather than the Sanctuary, so that we may be more flexible in our seating arrangements. We are casual and comfortable. We use a mixture of traditional and contemporary music, including — but not limited to —gospel, jazz, classical, and Taize. The idea is to make worship accessible and interactive.

We are a fidget-friendly zone. We provide coloring pages and colored pencils and encourage note-taking, doodling, or whatever is most comfortable as long as it is to the glory of God and not totally disruptive to others.

SEEDS Worship is every Saturday at 5 p.m.

Special dates to note:

<u>May 12 and June 9</u> — Dinner Church! Bring a dish to pass, and join in a shared meal as we Worship.

<u>May 19 and June 16</u>— Contemplative Worship – based on the Taize style of worship.

NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

In the coming year, as we plan and dream of the ways FPC can continue to do God's work in the world, we are striving to share with the congregation more information that impacts and ensures the success of the ongoing ministries and missions. Some, but not all, may be aware of the *per capita* giving in which our congregation participates with the Office of the General Assembly.

So what is *per capita*? *Per capita* is annual giving that provides the entire church with the means to build and sustain relationships and to share God's love through mission and ministry between the Office of the General Assembly and the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as well as every congregation and mid-council ministry. It is how Presbyterians are trained 1) to become better ruling elders, deacons, and ministers of Word and Sacrament, 2) to discern God's call in their lives, 3) to participate in the life of the wider church by serving on General Assembly committees and commissions, and 4) to participate in the life of the Church universal, working and living in fellowship with others around the globe.

The annual rate is a per-member apportionment through which all Presbyterians are called to take part in supporting the whole church. As we prayerfully consider our contributions to the 2019 stewardship campaign, please be aware that the FPC *per capita* rate for current active members is \$28. 98. The value of this contribution allows our Presbyterian heritage and identity to live on.

We look forward to sharing more information at our May 6th "Spring into Stewardship" festivities. See page 10 for details.

SESSION

Clerk of Session: Allison Hammond

<u>CLASS OF 2018</u>

Sam Beals Stuart Deming Elaine Johns Sue Johnson Brian Nederveld Jonathan Willougby Pamela Zandt

CLASS OF 2019

Richard Coryell Diane Durian Don Meldrum Kelsey Oliver Laurie Tupper Jim Van Buren

CLASS OF 2020

Mary Lou Boughton Laura Ford Craig Kortlandt David Rozelle Janet Todd Pamela Tritsch Philip Ward

CHURCH REPORTS

CONGREGTIONAL DEACONS

Class of 2018

Mike Boersma Dorothy Castor Dan Dowswell Aedín Clements Nancy and Keith Johnson Karen Nellums Donna Schonveld

Class of 2019

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

Class of 2020

Donita and Gary DeBruin Susan DeJong John and Lisa Diamond Miranda Howard Bruce and Ruth Lubbers Kenneth Sparks Jim Stephenson

Please note:

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

"THANK YOU"

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

ON BEHALF OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE Limits on the Use of FPC Endowment Funds

It is the church's good fortune to have a number of endowment funds that have been established for specific uses. Often forgotten are the limits on how endowment funds may be used and, in many instances, how much may be withdrawn at any particular time. This is as it should be as, the church has an obligation to its donors and future generations to be scrupulous in observing the terms of its endowments. Otherwise, prospective donors would be discouraged from funding endowments to the church.

In light of this past year's shortfall in pledges, there may be an unstated misunderstanding as to whether endowment funds may be used to address the shortfall. Unfortunately, they cannot. For example, one of the endowments is limited to providing partial college scholarships. The fact that these scholarships are being provided is not necessarily indicative of the financial well-being of the church. The scholarships are drawn from the endowment, and not from the general budget.

The church does have a very substantial general endowment fund that can be used to support its annual budget. Indeed, in recent years, the general endowment fund has provided a substantial contribution to the church's operating funds. Otherwise, significant budget shortfalls would have occurred. In addition, the general endowment has contributed to the building maintenance fund. However, the general endowment fund is also subject to limitations as to how much may be withdrawn. Given these limitations, the general endowment fund is not expected to be able to address this year's anticipated budgetary deficit, let alone contribute to the building maintenance fund.

Stuart H. Deming





where faith grows and hungry people are fed

2018 DOWNTOWN CHURCHES' VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (at FPC!)

"Abundance Orchard" Vacation Bible School is focused on stories about food and eating that are found in the New Testament. Each day's program is based on a different scripture passage and includes a thematically-connected memory verse

Our Downtown Churches of Kalamazoo (First Congregational Church, First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church) invite you to our annual Vacation Bible School, June 18 – 22 from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon.

Who can come?

Vacation Bible School is open to all children from four years of age to those completing fourth grade. Invite your friends! All children must be at least four years old and fully potty-trained. A nursery will be available to VBS volunteers with children aged three and younger.

Schedule

Each child will be assigned to a crew and all will begin each day in the Sanctuary for our opening, which includes a Welcome, songs, an appearance by our Hunger Heroes, and Prayer. The crews will then circulate through five different stations, including interactive BIBLE STORIES, fun ARTS and CRAFTS projects, GAMES to get everyone moving, scrumptious SNACKS, and MISSION stories and activities. The crews will gather together for the VBS Closing in the FPC Sanctuary every day.

Drop Off and Pick Up

To insure the children's safety, we are asking that an adult accompany the children into the church each morning. We are also asking that the children be picked up from inside the church by noon each day.

Registration

Vacation Bible School is FREE; however, registration is required. Please complete the registration form (at the church doors and online), and return it to one of the VBS Downtown Churches by June 9. Feel free to make additional copies as needed for friends and family. Register early, so you don't miss this great program!

Questions? Please contact:

Dr. Patricia Stromsta, Christian Education Director at First Presbyterian Church, <u>pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org</u> or (269-344-0119), or the Christian Education Department at a participating church.

Anti-Racism Presentation

Allison Hammond and Donna Schonveld recently attended a 48-hour-long seminar (over a 3-month period) entitled *Doing Our Own Work*. As stated on the website (www.alliesforchange.org), "this intensive seminar is for white people who seek to deepen their commitment to confronting and challenging white racism and white privilege where they live and work." Allison and Donna are excited to share some of their thoughts and experiences with you. Come to help build a stronger foundation for our Sanctuary in the City. A list of resources will be available.

We will meet at 11:30 on Sunday, May 6, in Room 301.



PRAYER PARTNERS

This group meets monthly to pray for our church, the Church universal, and one another. We base our prayers and discussion on a variety of books and resources.

For more information about this group, please see the list of Prayer Partners posted outside Room 206 (Pat Stromsta's office). Feel free to ask any of members of this group 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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

CALLING ALL 5th GRADERS:

May 20, after church – Youth Fellowship Bridging! Next year, when you are in 6^{th} grade, you will officially be members of the FPC Youth Group! We'd love to have a chance to get to know you and talk about our plans for next year. You are invited to join the youth downstairs after church for lunch and some fun time – just a chance to hang out and get to know one other.

At 11:30, in the Youth Room, parents will have a brief opportunity to meet with Pastor Chrissy to talk about youth opportunities at FPC.

KIDS IN BOXES – May 18:

Our Annual Kids in Boxes lock-in will take place on May 18-19 at Richland FPC. Watch for more information in your email. If you do not get the youth emails and would like to be added to the list, email Pastor Chrissy at Chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org.

MISSION TRIP – June 23-30

Nineteen youth and four adults will return to Colcord, WV this summer to continue our relationship with that community as we engage in painting, building, and repair projects, experience a culture very different from our own, and participate in building our own community through work, fellowship, and prayer. Watch for opportunities to support these kids! We especially covet your prayers for the safety and enjoyment of everyone involved.

ATTENTION GRADUATES!!

If you, your child, or grandchild is graduating from high school, college, or grad school this year, we want to recognize and celebrate their achievement! Graduates will be recognized in Worship on Sunday, June 3. Please contact Pastor Chrissy to be sure your graduate is included in this recognition!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 20

Be sure to join us in worship on Children and Youth Sunday, May 20, as we celebrate the ways in which the Holy Spirit moves through our kids and youth, and creates in them leaders that can show us the way of active, living faith! Youth from FPC, as well as our county-wide youth group, will take primary leadership roles in the service.



PRESBY 101 —Creeds and Confessions— What do Presbyterians Believe?



May 27 and June 10 after worship – Room 301 Led by Pastor Chrissy Westbury

For over 2,000 years, the Church of Jesus Christ has sought to be faithful to Christ's teachings in the midst of changing cultures, attitudes, and beliefs. The Book of Confessions was created by Presbyterians in 1967 to remind us that we get a better view of the road ahead when we remember the path forged by those who came before us.

Often arising out of times of crisis, these documents —from every era of our history —create a strong chain, linking us with people of every time and place who have called upon the name of Lord and have stood firm in the face of oppression and falsehood. Each is a powerful witness to how people of faith articulated their understanding of the meaning of God's saving action in Christ, and God's will for the Church at a particular moment in time.

When Presbyterians are ordained as deacons or as ruling or teaching elders, they promise to be guided by these Confessions, but how many of us actually know what they say? Come and learn...the good, the bad, and the *beautiful* of our confessional documents!

COFFEE WITH CHRISSY AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

June 17 at 11:15 in the Library

WELCOME! If you are new to our community, or if you have worshiped here for a while, welcome! Do you have questions about this church? Are you interested in learning more about membership or how to become more connected to the life of the congregation? Join Pastor Chrissy and members of the Congregational Life Committee for an informal time of coffee and conversation after Worship.

HEALTH MINISTRY UPCOMING CLASSES ON "Healthy Aging": May 20 and June 10 After Worship

May 20, 2018: Legal and Financial Considerations of Healthy Aging

Join us for a discussion about legal and financial aspects of healthy aging. Jonathan Willoughby will lead a discussion about legal decisions including wills, durable power of attorney, and other topics. We will also have a social worker from Borgess Gardens to speak with us about financial decisions, and questions we may want to consider as we make certain decisions and changes as we age.

June 10, 2018: Health Promotion through Disease Prevention

Join nurse practitioner Laura Ford as she discusses ways you can safeguard your physical health to avoid the common problems that make aging more risky. We will discuss how to prevent diabetes, heart disease, and arthritis. Both classes will take place in Rooms 314-315 after Worship. We look forward to seeing you there!

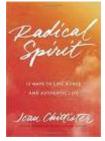
New Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study Begins May 24.

Coffee is served at 9:30 and our study begins at 9:45. New members are invited and always welcome! Feeling burnt-out from life, strung-out from social media, and put out by a society that always wants more from you?.

Joan Chittister, whom Publishers Weekly calls "one of the most well-known and trusted contemporary spiritual authors," is a rabble-rousing force of nature for social justice, and a passionate proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment. Drawing on little known, ancient teachings of the saints, Sister Joan offers a practical program to help transform our thinking and rebel against our fears, judgments, and insecurities. With a series of twelve simple rules for healthy spiritual living, Chittister not only reminds us, but pleads with us, to develop enduring values by shifting our

attention to how God wants us to live.

The six week study on this book will teach us how to accomplish this.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES



SECOND ANNUAL GREEN P'S FLOWER EXCHANGE

ATTENTION, GARDENERS!

Spring is almost here, even with those snowflakes! Many of us are happily anticipating getting our rite time of the year

fingers in the dirt. It's our favorite time of the year.

Many Sundays in the next few months will be **FPC FLOWER EXCHANGE DAYS** which will again allow donated <u>flowers</u> (wild and otherwise), veggies, small trees, and shrubs to find new garden homes with happy folks leaving church. (Please label plants you contribute with species name and suitable light requirements, since some of last year's exotic donations really tested our imagination!)

In addition, our exchange is expanding to include <u>flowerpots</u>, <u>hand</u> tools, <u>yard</u> gadgets, and <u>ornaments</u>, etc. and <u>bird/garden</u> books, and <u>used but clean bat</u> and bee houses. The <u>location</u> will again be near the Lovell Street (parking lot) church entrance.

2018 PLANT EXCHANGE SCHEDULE

The following Sundays from 9:00-11:15 a.m.:

May 5, 13, 20, and 27 (5/13 is Mothers' Day! Surprise her.) June 6 and 17 (6/17) is Fathers' Day! August 6 (Only one summer Sunday—summer is the time to *enjoy* the flowers.) September 16 and 30

October 7 (Fall is the time to split your plants and share the extras!)

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP DIGGING UP OR PLANTING?

If you have plants to donate or plant and need assistance, or would like gardening tips, just fill out the form on the Green P's information table in the Gathering Place, and leave it in the box there or in the GPs' mail box in the office. We will try to help.

Volunteer Job Board

Youth and Adult Christian Education

- Shepherds for classrooms extra set of hands and eyes to support the teachers.
- Childcare for our nursery sign up with Pat to assist our regular adult volunteers. Contact person: Pat Stromsta.

Celebrate the Vision

• Baking enthusiasts to occasionally donate about 80 desserts. Contact person: Pat Stromsta.

Special Event Ushers

 Ushers for funerals and other events on an as-needed basis. Contact person: David Dell at (269) 217-2357 or lrgn1955@aol.com.

Youth Group Lunch Providers

• We need people to provide lunch for 10-12 on Sundays after Worship. Contact person: Pastor Chrissy

SEEDS Saturday Worship: Greeters

• Greeters are needed for SEEDS services on Saturdays from 4:45-5:15. Contact person: Pastor Chrissy

Rickman House Bingo Night Helpers:

• Friendly people to assist Rickman House residents play Bingo once a month. Contact Person: Mike Boersma

GREEN P(RESBYTERIAN)S

Did you know that FPC is a recognized Earth Care Congregation through the PC(USA)? This means that we have taken a pledge to consider sustainable ways of doing ministry and caring for our building, our community, and our earth! We are also a member organization of Hope for Creation, a local interfaith group focused on issues of climate change and global warming and of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light. Because of our connection with MiIPL, all members of FPC are entitled to discounts on Energy Star appliances, Green Safe products, and more.

Check out MichiganIPL.org/MemberCenter for more information on these discounts. Hope for Creation's website has great information about local events and initiatives related to Earth Care: http://hopeforcreation.net/.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC JUNE 3

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining your church family for the annual All-Church Picnic on June 3 immediately following Worship.

Bring a dish of your choosing to share, and head across the street to Bronson Park for food, fellowship, and fun.

Hamburgers and hot dogs, beverages, and table service will be provided, (some of our best church chefs will be grilling to perfection).

Members of the Congregational Life Committee will be downstairs in the church kitchen starting at 9:00 to receive and tend your dishes of food, and transport them across to the park.

In case of rain, the picnic will take place in the Dining Room.



Out-to-Lunch Bunch

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

YOU are invited to lunch this spring with the Out-to-Lunch Bunch, at 1:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Reservations are needed; contact the church by the Thursday preceding the lunch date!

May 4, 1:00 p.m.

Four Roses, 663 10th St, Plainwell.

Please plan to attend and enjoy a springtime ride to Plainwell. You can be assured that the meal will please you — as well as the opportunity to converse with your fellow parishioners oneon-one! <u>Be sure to make your reservation at the Receptionst's</u> <u>Desk in the church office by the Thursday before, May 3rd.</u> For transportation call Tom @ 353-3903. Y'all come!

June 1: 1:00 p.m.

A new place! Creekside Grill at Angel's Crossing, 3600 East W. Ave, Vicksburg. Directions from 131: take 131 South almost to Schoolcraft, and turn left after passing McDonald's. Angel's Crossing will be farther down the road on the right. You can order from the menu or as listed on their website. See you there!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

May 21 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

Everyone in the congregation is cordially invited to attend a book discussion facilitated by Seth Weeldreyer about *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. The group will meet May 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. It will be the final meeting of Thoughtful Readers before September.

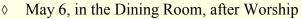
"Winner of an Edgar award, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliant novel about a young man, a small town, and murder in the summer of 1961. It is a moving account of what tragedy does to a boy, his family, and the fabric of a small town, and a testament to the enduring grace of God. Join us as we reflect on the life lessons to be gleaned from *Ordinary Grace*."

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

LADIES 305/405 GROUP:

It's not too late to join! Lots of fun monthly (weekend) activities planned including kayaking the Kalamazoo River (a generous gift from a FPC attender), pool parties, deck potlucks, dinners out, and more! If you are interested in learning more or being added to our group text to receive up-to-date event information, please text Amber Beals at 269-303-1673 or email <u>amberbeals@gmail.com</u>. Hope to hear from you!

"SPRING INTO STEWARDSHIP" FIESTA



- Come join your stewardship committee for a Fiesta!
- Taco Bar, Trivia Game (with fabulous prizes!), activities for the kids!

• Learn about the ways you can plug into the life of FPC. There is a place for you at the table!



COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT MEET AT FPC

AA Mondays and Thursdays at noon. Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Coalition for Common Ground Fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Crescendo Academy of Music Occasional Sunday afternoons

Downtown Community Literacy Center (DCLC) Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Food Addicts Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo Pipe Band Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo Singers Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

KNOW First Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

Outreach and Community Service

PENTECOST OFFERING (MAY 20)

As one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. This offering nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come —children, youth, and young adults. Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated on May 20. **Red is the color of Pentecost, and the congregation is encouraged to wear red that day.**

40% of this offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our church and local community. In 2017, our portion of this offering was donated to "Mothers of Hope", a local group that addresses poverty and addiction. They used these funds to provide an annual picnic for children and youth. 25% supports the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience, where communities at more than 20 sites in the US and around the world are served by young adults. Youth ministries receive 25% and child advocacy programs receive the remaining 10% of funds collected.

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth to begin life with a strong start a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. <u>Please give generously to this important offering!</u> Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

<u>RICKMAN HOUSE BINGO</u> <u>PRIZES</u>

Rickman House Bingo needs your help with prizes!

The Rickman House residents have indicated that they would like the following items: bodywash, perfume, hair products and accessories, make up, toilet paper (!), Dial soap, paper towels, and food items that can be prepared in a microwave.

The Rickman House Bingo team is also looking for additional volunteers to assist us. Please contact Mike Boersma at mike.boersma@gmail.com or (269) 720-1409 or for more information.

The residents really appreciate the contributions from FPC. Thank you for your ongoing support!



ISAAC "MOVING TOWARD JUSTICE" WALK/RUN/ROLL JUNE 30

Our first-ever Walk/Run/Roll–Building the Beloved Community: Moving Towards Justice! is planned for June 30, in Spring Valley Park, instead of a banquet.

The Beloved Community is an inclusive, democratic reality, which, while not devoid of conflict, is free from violence. It is a place in which our deepest values of abundance, equity, community, hope, and most of all love, are infused into our policies and practices so that every person is held as beloved.

This event will include a Walk/Run/Roll of 3.1 miles and also 1 mile for our youth, elders (in age), or anyone who desires a shorter distance. This walk/run/roll is open and inclusive for community members using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers. After the walk/run there will be community fellowship with food, music, singing, drumming, and performances from social justice, cultural and faith communities. There will also be vendors to promote connections and awareness to businesses, agencies, social justice organizations, health institutions, and faith communities. This is an event for all ages and all people. Join us!

More information and forms are available at: isaackalamazoo.org or ISAAC, 247 W. Lovell, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Give them to an ISAAC Leader or call 269-341-4213

May Birthdays

1 **Emily Curtis** Peg Hajek Edward Ihling Marilyn Walker 2 Ian Case Edith Cooper Estella Graziano Peggy Warlick 3 Nicholas Agostinelli Amber Beals Anna Clements 4 Carole Birch David Johnson Christian Rey 6 Connor Bigelow 7 Margo Clouse Claire Honevsett Nicholas King **Eleanor Pinkham** 8 Lynn Arwady Lauren Crabb Anna Diamond **Roland Prevost** Kenzie Ross 9 Rowan Kortlandt 10 Anne Louise Corvell Barb DeVries 11 Mary Elliott Evelyn Schut

12

13

14

15

Evan Breisach

Mozelle Padgett

Laureen Meeker

Lila Molitor

Caitlin Brooks Rob Padgett III

David Standish, Sr.

16 Brett Birch Cass Hough Elizabeth Lewis 17 Veronica Harik Ben Tribby 18 Kendall Coon Randy Eberts Brett Labian 19 Sharon Dulin William Klein 20 Samuel Beals Thomas Becker Janny Carrel Brian Finch Eva Hanka Cecilee Jarrad Norm McCallum James McGruder Sherry Sorensen Justin Tarr 21 Linda Dalrymple 22 Ethan Feucht Laura Ford Nancy Hamilton Jane Steurer Andrew Tavlor Aaron Van Heest 23 Susan Agostinelli Sue Grossman Riley Highhouse Thomas White 24 Jadyn Bradford Lisa Diamond Carol Eddy Ray Wicks 25 Marysol Millar Chris Palmer

26

Chris Bol Kathy Campbell Lois Elferdink Laura Gauntlett Nancy Harwood Siennah Miller Cathy Todd 27 Gretchen Coleman Karin Colvin Mimi Cummings Brendan Goethe Bruce Goethe Connie Houts Caleb Ross 28 Clara Herson Phil Torrence Julie Tyler

29

Susan DeJong Ken Freed Sharon Mattingly Richard Stewart 30 Jeff Barnum James Bishop Conner Diamond Susan Hanselman Amy Hirt Jeffrey King Gloria Landman Molly Longman 31 Kurt Droppers Karen Jarrad Donna Schonveld Chérrie Venema



50-Plus Years of Membership: MAY —Congratulations!

As a monthly feature, each *Presbyter* includes an "anniversaryby-month" list of our members who have been a part of the FPC family for <u>50 years or more</u>. 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.

Name of Member	Date Joined	# Years
Kay Vermeulen	5/21/61	57
Janet Gladstone	5/23/63	55
Jo Russell	5/23/63	55
Carol Schreiner	5/24/64	54
Jean Appel	5/26/66	52
William Appel	5/26/66	52
Jan Carpenter	5/26/66	52
Mary Fischer	5/26/66	52
Constance Houts	5/26/66	52

JUNE Birthdays

1

Bruce Birkel Bridgette Bol Shirley Gerpheide Greg Macomber Thomas Owen Ruthie Tyler Harrison Willoughby

2

Angie Jonas Adena Leibbrand Mark Olmsted Melanie Sherrill

3

Leona Hefner Katherine Lozeau Charri Withrow

4

Becky Chambers Elizabeth Coryell Shawn Mattingly

5

James Curtis Katherine Millar Maureen Willoughby

6

Amy Coon Matthew Johnson Jeanene Lewis McKenzie Pessetti

7

Nicholas Gleaton Matthew Grupe Sandra Hintz Pete Jarrad

8

Michael Baer Whitney Hoag Ruth Morris Sally Pitt-VanBuren Alex Schmiege Emily Stuut Jonathan Taylor

9

Becca Coryell Allison Diamond Christine Yankovich

Diane Johnson Julia Weaver 11 Erin Arwady Connie Camburn Richard Coryell Nancy Raklovits

12 Dennis Engers Sylvia Jorth

13 Carla Kennedy Bill Sorensen

14 Stephanie Mellis Jacalyn Todd

15 Linda Bower Craig Misner

16 Brian Crabb Kelton Dalm Ken Kirton Leora Knickerbocker

17
Gail Dukes
Jessegrace Ford
18
Garrett Boersma
Gary Brown
Marten Compton
Matt Goodman

19

Sarah Lozeau Joel Shepherd Nathaniel Weeldreyer

20 (none)

22

21 Ava Coon Terrie Forsch

Minnie LaPoint Mark Rey 23 Matthew Schreiner Dianne Shaffer Joanne Stewart Morgan

Vander Veen

24 Chi

Christian Baer William Baer Barbara Baker Eric Kimm Richard Stewart

25 Bill Birch

26

Rand Arwady Jack Schnur Colleen Sherrill

27

Anna Miedema Carley Tuin Rosa VanHeest Aidan Ward Suzanne Weeldreyer Priscilla Willson

28 Sara Forsch

29 Amy Harik William Lee Gayle Sparks

30 Phyllis Curtis



50-Plus Years of Membership: JUNE —Congratulations!

As a monthly feature, each *Presbyter* includes an "anniversary-bymonth" list of our members who have been a part of the FPC family for <u>50 years or more</u>. 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.

Name of Member

Ann Hanselman Ihling Lois Elferdink Mary Lou Boughton Bill Kelser Date Joined# YearsJune 16, 194078June 16, 195563June 3, 196553June 3, 196553

10

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, please call one of these staff members:

Seth Weeldreyer (269) 283-4048

Ann Ross (269) 217-6193



In Memoriam

Phylis Mahoney was born on June 14, 1927, and joined FPC on January 4, 1948. Phylis died on March 2, 2018.

Rosalyn Hogan was born on September 30, 1930, and joined FPC on April 15, 1965. Rosie died on March 29, 2018.



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 bread is served at all communion services.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Associates

Parish Associates:

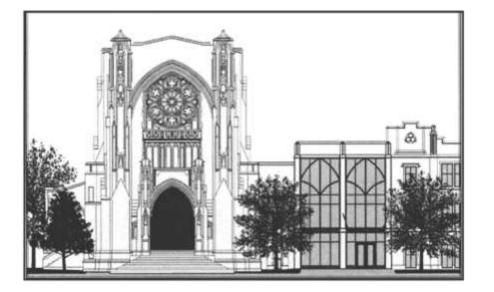
The Reverend Dr. Larry Boutelle, boutelle2@gmail.com The Reverend Liz Candido, ecandido@kzoo.edu The Reverend Larry Farris, farrislw@gmail.com

United Campus Ministry Pastor

and FPC Parish Associate:

The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, ucmkrking@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus: The Reverend Dr. David W. McShane



Presbyter

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

<u>Issue</u> July-August

Deadline for Content June 18

Mailing Date

June 27

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

Many of our members receive the *Presbyter* via e-mail only, in order to help the church conserve paper and other resources. To receive digital copies only, please contact Ann Johnson at <u>ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org</u>, or call 344-0119.





(269) 344-0119 (telephone extensions are listed below)

Pastor **The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer** seth.weeldreyer@kalamazoofirstpres.org Ext. 202

FPC

Associate Pastor The Reverend Chrissy Westbury chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org Ext 203

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

Communications Coordinator Anna Barnhart anna.barnhart@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 Receptionists (Ext. 221) Sam Clark Nik DeHaan Nate Owens





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EIBSL BRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4708

Telephone: (269) 344-0119 + Fax: (269) 344-4645 + Website: www.sanctuaryinthecity.org

BRESBYTER HIGHLIGHTS—

- ♦ VTL-CHURCH PICNIC—(page 8)
- ♦ **BENTECOST OFFERING** (page 11)
- ♦ YOUTH: MISSION TRIP —(page 6)
- ♦ CHILDREN: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—(page 4)

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- (1 bus 11 seged) and June (pages 12 and 13)
- CALENDARS—May and June (inserted)



AFFIX MAILING LABEL HERE



321 West South Street Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4708

FPC Presbyter / Calendar - May, 2017

PLEASE NOTE:

A schedule of <u>community groups</u> that meet at FPC is on page 9 of this issue of the Presbyter.

Tuesday/1

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline 6:00p Stewardship Committee Wednesday/2 9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: Dinner Thursday/3 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 12:00p Adult Ed. Committee 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal Friday/4 1:00p Lunch Bunch (off site) Saturday/5 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship Sundav/6 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a Prayer Partners 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Stewardship Potluck 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:15p Youth Music 12:45p Ministry with Community, FPC serves the meal 5:00p Revolution youth group Monday/7 1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers 6:30p Deacons' Meeting Tuesdav/8 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline Wednesdav/9 5:00p Martha Circle (off-site) 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 11:30a Stewardship Committee 12:30p Finance Committee 6:00p Property Maintenance Committee 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/11 (no FPC activities scheduled) Saturday/12 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship Sunday/13 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a Christian Education Committee 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Session Listening Post 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:15p Youth Music 5:00p NO Revolution youth group Monday/14 (no FPC activities scheduled) Tuesdav/15 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline 6:00p Stewardship Committee 7:00p Worship and Music Committee Wednesday/16 12:00p Communications Committee 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner 6:30p Womens' Bible Study Thursday/17 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 11:30p Stewardship Committee 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal Friday/18 (no FPC activities scheduled) Saturday/19 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship 6:00p BINGO for Rickman House residents Sunday/20 8:45a All-Church Breakfast 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:00a Congregational Life Committee 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Senior Living Class 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:15p Youth Music 5:00p Revolution youth group Monday/21 5:30p Personnel Committee 7:00p Health Committee

Tuesday/22 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline Wednesdav/23 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship 6:30p Session meets Thursday/24 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal Friday/25 (no FPC activities scheduled) Saturday/26 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship Sunday/27 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Ladies' 30's/40's Group 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:15p Youth Music 5:00p NO Revolution youth group Monday/28—MEMORIAL DAY The church building is closed. Tuesday/29 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline Wednesday/30 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner Thursday/31 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

FPC Presbyter / Calendar - June, 2017

PLEASE NOTE: A schedule of <u>community groups</u> that meet at FPC is on page 9 of this issue of the Presbyter.

Friday/1

1:00pLunch Bunch (off site) Saturdav/2 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship Sunday/3 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:00a Prayer Partners 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:00p All-Church Picnic 12:15p Youth Music 12:45p Ministry with Community FPC serves the meal 5:00p Revolution youth group Monday/4 1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers 6:30p Deacons' meeting Tuesday/5 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline 7:00p Green P's Wednesdav/6 9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner Thursday/7 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal Friday/8 (no FPC activities scheduled) Saturday/9 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship Sunday/10 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Session Listening Post 11:15a Health Ministry Class 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:15p Youth Music 5:00p Revolution youth group

Monday/11 (no FPC activities scheduled) Tuesday/12 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline Wednesday/13 1:00p FPC Librarian on site 3:00p Martha Circle 5:30p Men's Group, Off site 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship 7:00p Outreach Committee Meeting Thursday/14 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 12:30p Finance Committee 6:00p Property Maintenance Committee 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal Friday/15 (no FPC activities scheduled) Saturday/16 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship 6:00pBINGO for Rickman House residents Sunday/17 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a Church School Teachers' Meeting 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:00a Congregational Life Committee 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:15p Youth Music 5:00p Revolution youth group Mondav/18 Presbyter deadline for articles 9:00a VBS 5:30pPersonnel Committee 6:00pHealth Ministry Committee Tuesdav/19 9:00a VBS 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Lenten All-Church Read 12:00p Bulletin deadline 7:00p Worship and Music Committee Wednesday/20 9:00a VBS 12:00p Communications Committee 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner 6:30p Womens' Bible Study

Thursday/21 9:00a VBS 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal Friday/22 9:00a VBS Saturday/23 Youth to West Virginia Mission trip 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship Sunday/24 Youth on West Virginia Mission Trip 8:45a Lectionary Study 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal 9:15a Reading Aloud 9:45a Childcare 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15a Church School 11:15a Ladies' 30s/40s group 11:15a Youth Sunday School 12:15p Youth Music 5:00p Revolution youth group Monday/25 Youth on West Virginia Mission trip 7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group Tuesday/26 Youth on West Virginia Mission trip 7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group 10:00a FPC Archivists 11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting 12:00p Bulletin deadline 12:00p Lenten All-church Read Wednesday/27 Youth on West Virginia Mission trip Presbyter folding/labeling/mailing 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner 6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship 6:30p Session Meets Thursday/28 Youth on West Virginia Mission trip 9:30a Women's Bible Study 11:00a FPC Librarian on site 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal Friday/29 Youth on West Virginia Mission trip Saturday/30 5:00p SEEDS Saturday Worship