

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 a.m.

January 6

Epiphany Sunday

Communion served

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

January 13

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Ordination of Elders and Deacons

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22;
1 Corinthians 12:1-31

January 20

Second Sunday after Epiphany

The Reverend Dr. Liz Candido
Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10

January 27

Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 121 and 122; Luke 4:14-21

Continued on page 2

MINUTE IN MINISTRY

I love gift giving! 'Tis the season as I write, of course. And so it'll still be when you read. Remember, as we tell the story, the magi / kings don't arrive with their treasures until Epiphany, January 6! They brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In our contemporary exchanges, what would be meaningful to the one giving, and to the one receiving? What would express our loving relationship? I love scheming about meaningful gifts. I love receiving those that bear thoughtful care, whatever the monetary value. 'Tis the season!

Actually, in our living faith, 'tis always the season for gifts; ones we receive in Divine Grace, and ones we offer in gratitude. Our Stewardship Committee this year broadened our pledges to include time / talents given beyond financial support needed. That's faithful recognition and encouragement. And I'm often grateful for the abounding faithfulness of people sharing in the ministry and mission of our congregation. Making meals. Serving meals. Visiting. Decorating. Tutoring. Teaching. Singing. Ringing. Counting. Fixing. Baking. Planning. Contributing myriad material gifts in kind. Santa's list among us would go on and on and on! If Santa filled the sleigh with *our* gifts alone, I'm not sure Rudolf & Company could get off the ground!

Here's the truth about gifts I cherish. In the giving, we are fully alive. We see it in people's eyes and feel it in their spirits – the joy and satisfaction in a meaningful contribution, the longing and frustration when ways to give or live into one's gifts is not clear. Put ribbon and bows upon us ... we all want to ***be a gift*** to others and our world! "In giving we receive," it is said. Yes, true. Except it's far beyond any question of or motivation for personal gain. It's a reflection of how Sacred Love created us to be fulfilled in symbiotic relationship with others. We need to receive as much as we give. In the exchange we are fully alive!

Together in our congregation, we strive to be a gift of God's love for others in our community. A sanctuary in the city where anyone can feel welcomed and nurtured in body, mind, heart, spirit as there is need and desire, and find a way to give. A sanctuary for the city, trying to grow goodness, support flourishing, seek the fullness of God's peace everywhere for everyone far beyond our walls and windows. Truth is, anything we have to offer, from programs to paying bills, flows ultimately only from the generosity of individuals like you. That is the cycle of grace and gratitude on the way to peace. That is the glory of God – "a human being fully alive".

As we celebrate the New Year, I celebrate all our generosity. It expresses loving devotion to God in Christ. It makes Jesus Christ continue to be revealed among us and through us. Some of us may make New Years' resolutions for self-improvement. That's good ... nothing wrong with it. And maybe a variation or extension could be considering what treasures in us feel unused / unfulfilled, and how we can become even more of a gift to others.

Grace and peace to you,



The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor

*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.*

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 a.m.

February 3

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Communion served

The Reverend Chrissy Westbury
Jerimiah 1:2-10; Psalm 71:1-6

February 10

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jonah 1:1-16; Luke 5:1-11

February 17

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 17:5-13; Luke 6:17-26

February 24

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Genesis 45:3-15; Luke 6:27-38

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday Communion

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

* The Scripture passages listed with an asterisk are from the *Book of Common Worship* (1993) and may change.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, our congregation will host the ecumenical Ash Wednesday service we share with the Methodist and Congregational churches. Mark your calendars for March 6 at 7:00 pm. The service will include combined choirs and communion. Let's plan to begin a meaningful Lent together!

THANK YOU TO DEACONS AND ELDERS!

At the turn of the calendar year, we end and begin terms of service for Deacons and Elders in our congregation. We extend much appreciation for the dedication and competent caring work of the following people who are concluding terms of service as Deacons and Elders.

Deacons: Dorothy Castor, Dan Dowswell, Keith and Nancy Johnson, and Donna Schonveld.

Elders: Sam Beals, Jonathan Willoughby, and Pam Zandt

When you see these individuals, please extend your heartfelt appreciation! And we look forward to contributions of the following people who *begin* their service in leadership of our congregation:

Deacons: Martha Flynn (joining Mike Boersma, Aedin Clements, Kathy Cooney, and Karen Nellums, who continue another term).

Elders: Heather Cloetingh, Liz Hamilton, Scott Wilson (joining Stuart Deming, Elaine Johns, Sue Johnson, and Brian Nederveld who continue another term).

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

First and Third Sundays of MOST months

(Note the change in January)

7:00 p.m.

January 6: Celebrating Epiphany and Following the Star

January 27: Taizé Worship

February 3: "Soup"er Bowl Dinner Church
Bring non-perishable food items for Loaves and Fishes

February 17: Taizé Worship

NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following motion was adopted at the November 28, 2018 Session meeting:

Appropriation from the Capital Fund for \$11,067 for installation of magnetic door hold openers for the internal fire doors on each floor.

MCSHANE COLLOQUIUM

We are pleased to announce that our McShane Colloquium speaker for this year is Kerry Egan. Ms. Egan is a hospice chaplain who lives in South Carolina and has written a couple of books. Her most recent, *On Living*, recounts stories of her chaplaincy work and how people have made meaning of life in that experience.

We will read *On Living* as our all-church read for Lent this year. And Ms. Egan will be with us for the McShane Colloquium on the first weekend on Lent, March 10 – 11. Mark your calendars and watch for more information about events and discussion opportunities!

OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY CO-MODERATOR IS COMING!

Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri was elected co-moderator at the 2018 General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (USA) which met this past summer in St. Louis. It is a two-year position Vilmarie shares with Cindy Kohlmann, as they build connections among all our sister churches and represent our denomination in wider relations of society.

Vilmarie is a ruling elder, elected as a youth in her home Presbyterian church in Puerto Rico. She has served the denomination in numerous capacities over the years, bringing a wealth of perspective and experience. She will preach in our congregation on Sunday, March 17, as well as speaking at a meeting of Presbytery the day before. Mark your calendars for this special occasion, and watch for more information!

SESSION

Clerk of Session: Allison Hammond

CLASS OF 2019

Richard Coryell
Diane Durian
Tim Henson
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

CLASS OF 2021

Heather Cloetingh
Stuart Deming
Liz Hamilton
Elaine Johns
Sue Johnson
Brian Nederveld
Scott Wilson

CHURCH REPORTS



FREE BRASS QUINTET CONCERT

At 7:00 p.m on Tuesday, January 8, The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet will present a free concert in our Sanctuary. The KSO offers these Community Concerts to give audience members the opportunity to meet and talk with the musicians. It also gives us the opportunity to invite the community into our very special sanctuary. The concerts are family friendly, about an hour long, and followed by a cookie reception in the Gathering Place. Invite friends and neighbors to enjoy a musical evening with you!

CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

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

Class of 2021

Mike Boersma
Aedin Clements
Kathy Cooney (1 year)
Martha Flynn
Karen Nellums

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 this information up to date.



New Member Connections

January 13, 11:15 a.m., Room 300

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.

PRESBY 101 —WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

February 24, 11:15 a.m., in Room 301

Rev. Larry Farris will offer an overview of the history and polity of the PC (USA). Where did we come from? How did we get here? What are some of the major issues that have caused our denomination to split, reunite, and change over the years? If you are new to our community or just curious to learn more, come join us!



THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our new study, *A Guide Through the New Testament* will begin on January 10. Each class will offer an introduction to a book of the New Testament, including charts, timelines and short pieces on special topics. We will have an opportunity to engage in the many open-ended questions that the text offers.

We gather at 9:30 for coffee and conversation. Our study begins at 9:45 and we dismiss at 11:00. Please join the 20+ women who gather for fellowship each week!

FPC YOUTH MINISTRIES

(FOR 6TH-12TH GRADERS!)

All 6th - 12th graders, come join us on Sundays!

11:15-12:15 Faith Formation

Pastor Chrissy and others will lead this time to explore the Bible, faith formation, and how we, as Christians, can respond to the world around us.

12:15-1:00 Youth Music Programs with Cindy Hunter

5:00-7:00 Community-Wide Youth Fellowship (see Youth Group calendar for weekly location)

FPC is fortunate to share youth fellowship with four other area Presbyterian Churches: First Presbyterian of Richland, Westminster, Pine Island, and North Presbyterian Churches.



WHEN	WHERE
January 13	FPC
January 20	Richland
January 27	Westminster
February 3	No Youth Group <i>Bells and Sunday School will still meet</i>
February 10	Richland
February 17	FPC
February 24	No Youth Group <i>Bells and Sunday School will still meet</i>

CHURCH ACTIVITIES



COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT MEET AT FPC

AA

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

Boy Scouts

Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Coalition for Common Ground

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.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Winter is here! Here are the 2019 First Friday Luncheon dates and locations.

- The Luncheons are always at 1:00 p.m. on the first Friday.
- Reservations are due (at the church) by the Thursday preceding that date.
- Transportation can be arranged when needed.

January 4

Red Lobster

6555 S. Westnedge Avenue

February 1

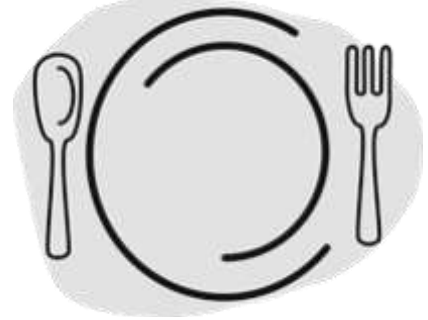
Hunan Gardens

5059 W. Main Street

March 1

Food Dance

401 E Michigan Avenue



MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet in the church lounge at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, January 9 and February 13, 2019. We will continue our study, "God's Promise: I am with You." We have learned that this is the most frequent promise in the Bible, and we continue to discover its relevance to our times and lives. We will provide cookies for CtV on those dates, also. All women are most cordially invited to join us for learning, fellowship, and service. For more information contact Elaine Johns at 269-323-7395 or emjohns513@aol.com.

HOLDING OUR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE IN PRAYER

Twenty-five members of our congregation (including a few friends) will be journeying to the Holy Land from January 14 – 25. We will visit historic Biblical sites and meet with the "living stones" – the people of Israel / Palestine – to better understand realities and concerns of our time. We expect to share immediate reflection on our experience in Worship on January 27; as well as plan another occasion for a more full report from participants. We value your prayerful support of our journey. Participants include: Jill Barnum, Sam and Carole Cupps, Stuart Deming, Linda Flores, Laura Ford, Eva Hanka, Susan Hanselman, Jeff and Wendy King, Sharon Melko, Al and Carol Parfitt, Ann Ross, Tami Schab, Donna and Paul Schonveld, Janet and Mark Todd, Jim and Sally Pitt Van Buren, Norm Van Donselaar, Seth Weeldreyer, Chrissy Westbury, and Pam Zandt.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

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

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

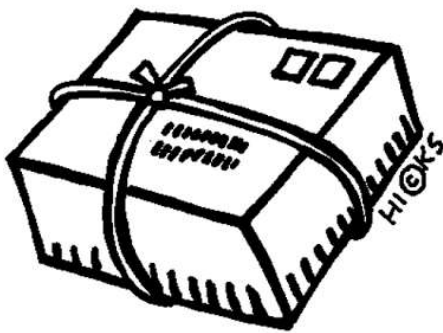
Thoughtful Readers Book Group will meet on Monday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. Our discussion of *Kindred* by Octavia Butler will be facilitated by Sue Johnson. "Dana is a 1970's black woman repeatedly and involuntarily whisked back in time to a 19th century plantation, where she becomes embroiled in the lives of the people enslaved there. A combination of slave memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction, *Kindred* is a classic time-travel novel by an acclaimed African American writer."

[Booklist Review]

On Monday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m., Suzanne Weeldreyer will facilitate our discussion of KPL's Reading Together selection for 2019: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. A teenager from a poor black neighborhood who attends an upscale private school finds her world shattered when she witnesses the fatal shooting of an unarmed friend by a police officer. "Thomas' debut, both a searing indictment of injustice and a clear-eyed, dramatic examination of the complexities of race in America, invites deep thoughts about our social fabric, ethics, morality, and justice."

[Booklist Review]

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



COOKIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Pastor Chrissy is seeking addresses for all of our FPC folks who are in college (grad school counts!). The youth would like to put together some care packages to send off this winter to bring a little warmth to our friends who are busy studying, growing, and figuring out how to do this adult thing. If you have a loved one at college (or if you are a college student) send Chrissy a name and address, as well as anything we need to know about allergies/food restrictions by January 31.

THE GREAT CHILI/GUMBO COOK-OFF RETURNS!

Yes, for the second straight year we are continuing our new tradition of having both chili *and* gumbo as part of our annual Cook-off. Here are the details:

WHEN? February 10, following Worship

WHERE? The church Dining Room

WHO? Everyone who loves to eat chili and/or gumbo. (On that note, if your group or organization is interested making chili or gumbo and entering this friendly competition, please contact Rick Taylor at 349-0867 or at baktaylor@chartermi.net.

WHY? To benefit the disaster relief organization, One Great Hour of Sharing.

You are heartily invited to sample and enjoy many different delicious varieties of chili and gumbo with your friends and family at FPC and then vote for your favorites! The suggested donation per person is \$5. Kids eat free! Your donation gives you five voting tickets to choose your favorite entry/entries. Additional tickets can be purchased at great deals to "stuff the ballot boxes."

Tickets will be on sale on February 10 before Worship, as well as downstairs at the Cook-off. Buy early; contribute often!

The event is always fun, but remember that the real winner is One Great Hour of Sharing, a disaster relief organization since 1949. Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians in this effort to share God's love with people in need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES



"CABIN FEVER" WRITING WORKSHOPS

Starting in January, the Health Committee will offer several AWA Writing Workshops for the fellowship, healing, and personal growth that activities like this provide when we're showing symptoms of "cabin fever". These workshops will include poetry-inspired prompts, fresh writing, and thoughtful group response.

Possible scheduling would include:

- . A 1.5- to 3-hour themed, stand-alone session one Saturday morning a month.
- . A 1-hour stand-alone session after the Sunday morning Worship Service.
- . A series of 1.5-hour weeknight sessions, or one monthly stand-alone session.

Workshops will be formed, based on interest. To sign up, please contact Jill Barnum at jimbarnum@gmail.com

SUNDAY CINEMA

Beginning in January, ministers of our church will offer the opportunity to watch and discuss meaningful films. On Sunday, January 27, at 3:00 pm, Seth Weeldreyer will host a conversation about "Won't You Be My Neighbor" (94 minutes, suitable for all ages). This documentary film explores the life and legacy of Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and popular TV personality. Come receive new insights into his inspiration and personal struggles, and perhaps share your own experiences with, and reflection on, his "neighborhood." Room TBD.

On February 24, Liz Candido will discuss the movie "Saved." Watch for more information.

ESTATE PLANNING: CONSIDER OUR ENDOWMENT FUNDS

By Stuart H. Deming

Often overlooked in the life of our church is the role of our endowments. Most well-known is the General Endowment Fund. Income from the General Endowment Fund is transferred to the church's operating budget every year. The amount transferred is determined pursuant to a mathematical formula. A portion of that amount is transferred to the Capital Fund for building maintenance needs. The formula which is used ensures that the General Endowment Fund is preserved, so that it will remain available for future generations.

The church has other, smaller endowment funds which, unlike the General Endowment Fund, are established for a specified purpose. Among these other endowment funds are funds established for (1) outreach, (2) scholarships for education, including higher education, (3) enrichment and continuing education, (4) programming for children and youth, and (5) music and worship.

Over the years, members who have felt strongly about the church's ministries have established an endowment fund or contributed to an existing endowment fund. The Endowment Committee will work with anyone wishing to establish an endowment fund or contribute to an existing endowment fund. Consultations can and will be made privately. Every effort will be made to accommodate and to identify the most cost-effective means of giving, with regard to taxes and other considerations.

Members often seek to contribute in the form of memorials which address needs of the church building. In conjunction with the Property and Maintenance Committee and Stewardship Committee, the Endowment Committee will work with members or their families to identify a suitable way in which a memorial may be made. Whether it is through an endowment fund or a memorial of some sort, gifts of members, of their estates, or from their family are always appreciated.

For anyone over 70 and one half, consideration should be given to qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from an IRA of making contributions to FPC to fulfill pledges or fund endowments. QDCs are not taxable and do not require itemization on one's tax return. They may also be used to satisfy required minimum distributions (RMDs). Before undertaking such a step, consultation with a financial advisor or a CPA is well advised. Alternatively, members of the Stewardship Committee will assist in securing the necessary guidance from experts.

Outreach and Community Service

HOPE FOR CREATION/EARTH CARE BREAKFAST

February 6, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Wesley Foundation on the WMU Campus (2350 Ring Road North)

Come meet with representatives of faith communities from all over the Kalamazoo area as we discuss how our faiths call us to work for climate justice. Earth care is not just about saving the whales and cleaning the oceans. There is a very real human cost to our abuse of natural resources. The people most affected by global climate change and pollution are the very people least able to fight the systems that continue to abuse our earth. People in developing countries contribute the least to our ecological crisis and are often affected by it the most. Let's talk about ways to make a more just and equitable world through caring for God's creation. An earth-friendly breakfast, with vegan and gluten-free options, will be provided.

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

Shine bright! The world needs you! As Presbyterians, we are bound together. We are united by a deep gratitude for the Spirit—the same Spirit that empowers us to share the love of Christ and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. God is at work in the world, and the Giving Catalog is one way for us to join in. It features almost 40 items to choose from—including livestock, garden wells, water filters, and support for women's empowerment projects.

Gifts to the Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the broken-hearted, and sharing our faith with young and old. Countless families need our help right now...help that is not a "handout", but a "hand up". Please pick up one of the "Giving Catalogs" which are in the Gathering Place and by each door through January. It's not too late to light up a life! Order live-changing gifts now. Each item you donate translates into a real and positive impact by supporting Presbyterian mission.

Thanks for your gifts!

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

Kalamazoo Drop-in Child Care Center

The KDCCC was established to provide free, short-term child care for low-income families with children from six weeks through five years of age. Located at the Congregational Church, it is open M-F from 11 am to 3 pm. Parents may go in and register at any time during these hours and may reserve spots up to two weeks in advance. This allows the parents to negotiate appointments and services often required to obtain employment or permanent housing, to register for school or attend classes, and eventually to attain self-sufficiency.

The Center also gives parents a "healthy" break from the demands of parenting. It creates a warm, safe, and supportive environment for the children. During January and February, we will be collecting needed supplies for the KDCCC. There will be a "bin" in the office mailroom for the following items: Sensitive baby wipes, size 4/5/6 pull-ups, 100% apple juice, medium or large vinyl gloves, glue sticks, snack-size paper plates, strawberry or grape jelly, paper towels, Dawn dish detergent, Tide laundry detergent, foaming hand-soap refills, and Clorox wipes.

Please help this very important mission!
Thank you!

THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Literacy is alive and well at First Presbyterian Church under the auspices of the Outreach Committee. A safe, learning environment epitomizes the Church's Sanctuary in the City mission. New students and tutors from outside the congregation (as well as church members serving as tutors) continue to address vital learning needs while the multi-year participation of students (despite health and life challenges) illustrates how First Presbyterian Church and the Kalamazoo Literacy Council continue to meet the needs of our community. Though reading, writing and computer study are the meat & potatoes of our weekly efforts, nothing has provided a clearer indication of our students' individual growth than joining the church, working at CtV, passing the driver's license written exam or receiving a scholarship to pursue career-related skills.

STEWARDSHIP: A TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED TO A NEW GENERATION

By Stuart H. Deming, Moderator, Stewardship Committee

In reflecting on stewardship, I am reminded of a sermon I heard while attending what is known as the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington. It was the church that Lincoln attended. Indeed, his pew is still there.

That sermon focused on who was really the most important member of that historic church. Despite all of the luminaries who attended the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church over many years, The pastor said it was a woman of no known fame, as we typically think of fame. She was the sole congregant on a Sunday when no one else attended. She was the vital link in the history of that church.

In recalling that sermon, it reminded me of what the focus of stewardship should be. Absolutely everyone counts, whatever their contribution may be.

It is in that vein that we redesigned the pledge cards so that everyone can pledge, whether it be in the form of money, time and talent, or both. In so doing, we have reaffirmed our commitment to keep confidential all information relative to financial pledges. Absolutely no one other than Louise Taylor has access to that information. That includes our clergy, as well as the Stewardship Committee.

So far, our renewed efforts have led to a greater percentage of pledges and a large number of members who have increased their pledges from last year. But regrettably, we have lost a number of members in recent years. Many have relocated, too many have passed away, and a number for various reasons, have left the church.

As you may know, we had a significant shortfall from this past year. Based upon current projections, we are unlikely to make up that deficit. Depending on the results of this year's stewardship campaign, rather significant spending cuts may be in the offing. Unfortunately, a number of our ministries may be adversely affected.

We need to be reminded that this church is the grateful beneficiary of so many who have given so generously in the past. Yet the harsh reality for anyone involved with stewardship is that for far too long we have relied on too few for financial support. That has to change.

As I admitted nearly a year ago, I sought in every way possible to avoid being involved with stewardship. No one likes to ask for money. But when asked to serve on the Stewardship Committee, I had no choice but to accept. This church has become a very special place in my life. I have to do my part. We all have to do our part.

As one who came of age in the 60s, I still tear up when recalling the soaring words of Kennedy's inaugural ... "A torch has been passed to a new generation." We are now at a similar time of change in the life of this church. As was the case in the 60s, mistakes will certainly be made by the newer generations.

But as was also the case in the 60s, great progress was and can be made. Remember our excitement as we heard the words, "Godspeed, John Glenn", as he lifted off into space. Remember the glorious refrain, "I have a Dream" as Martin Luther King, Jr. called for a more perfect union. And remember, it was a time when Republicans and Northern Democrats came together to bring about the most meaningful civil rights legislation since Reconstruction.

In short, I believe that great progress can and will be made in the life of this church if we always remember that everyone, and I mean everyone, has a place at the table. In so doing, we must all work together to do our part.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to thank those who have pledged. For those who have yet to pledge, we look forward to receiving your pledge. And for those who are unable to pledge, you are very much treasured, as you will always play a vital role in the life of this church.

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:

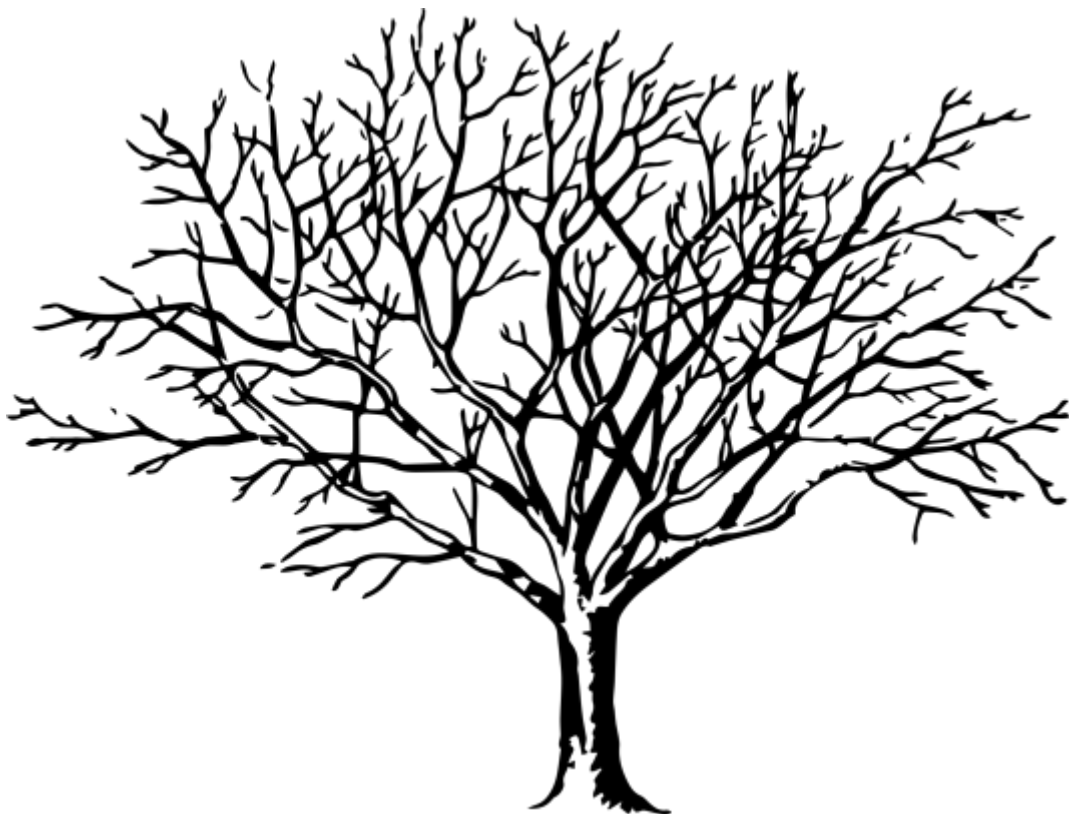
Seth Weeldreyer
(269) 283-4048

Ann Ross
(269) 217-6193



In Memoriam

Catherine “Katy” Chase was born on December 22, 1939 and joined FPC on October 3, 1957. Catherine died on November 29, 2018.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please consult the FPC church directory to be sure your contact information is correct! If you require any updates to your information, please contact Ann Johnson at ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org or 344-0119.

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. You may stop in the office or call 344-0119 to place an order.

Gluten-free bread is served at all communion services.

Presbyter

As we recognize how communication patterns are changing, and as we attempt to be good stewards of our resources, our congregation has been publishing the *Presbyter* six times per year in bi-monthly editions. Here is the schedule for the first half of the 2019 program year:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Content</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
March-April	February 11	February 20
May-June	April 15	April 24
July-August	June 17	June 26

Many of our members receive the *Presbyter* newsletter via e-mail only, in order to help the church conserve paper and other resources. If you would like to have your name removed from the USPS mailing, please contact Ann Johnson at ann.johnson@kalamazooofirstpres.org or 344-0119.

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

Parish Associates

Parish Associates:

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



FPC STAFF

(269) 344-0119

(telephone *extensions* are listed below)

Pastor

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Associate Pastor

The Reverend Chrissy Westbury

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Ext. 203

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Building Superintendent

Mike Noteboom

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Ext. 213

Custodians

Shawn Smith

shawn.smith@kalamazooofirstpres.org

Randy Randt

Ext. 213

South Lobby Receptionists (Ext. 221)

Bruce Birkel

Sam Clark

Nik DeHaan

Nate Owens

FPC Calendar - January, 2018

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Tuesday/1

CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED

Wednesday/2

9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/3

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/4

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

Saturday/5

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/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
Communion served
10:15a NO Church School
11:15a Youth Sunday School
11:15a Class "Faithful Discourse in a Fractured World"
11:15a Health Ministry Class
12:15p Youth Music
12:45p Ministry with Community
5:00p "Revolution" youth group
7:00p Sunday Evening Worship

Monday/7

1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers
6:30p Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday/8

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p Yoga
7:00p KSO Concert

Wednesday/9

3:00p Martha Circle
5:30p Men's Group (*off site*)
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:30p Outreach Committee

Thursday/10

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
12:00p Finance Committee
6:00p Property Maintenance Committee
5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/11

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/12

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/13

8:45a Lectionary Study
9:00a Christian Ed Meeting
9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal
9:00a Christian Ed. Committee
9:15a Reading Aloud
9:45a Childcare
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
10:15a Church School
11:15a Youth Sunday School
11:15a Session Listening Post
11:15a Service of Comfort and Hope
12:15p Youth Music
5:00p "Revolution" youth group

Monday/14

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Tuesday/15

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p Yoga

Wednesday/16

12:00p Communications Committee
4:00p Endowment Committee
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/17

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
12:00a Adult Education Planning meeting
5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/18

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/19

6:00p Rickman House BINGO night

Sunday/20

8:45a All-Church Breakfast
8:45a Lectionary Study
9:00a Church School teachers' meeting
9:00a Congregational Life
Committee meeting
9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal
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
7:00p Sunday Evening Taizé Worship

Monday/21

(FPC building closed)

Tuesday/22

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p Yoga

Wednesday/23

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
6:30p Session

Thursday/24

9:30a Presbytery meeting
9:30a Women's Bible Study
5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/25

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/26

(no FPC activities scheduled)

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 Youth Sunday School
11:15a Ladies' 30's/40's group
12:15p Youth Music
5:00p "Revolution" youth group

Monday/28

7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group

Tuesday/29

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
10:00a FPC Archivists
11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00p Bulletin deadline
1:00p Yoga

Wednesday/30

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

Thursday/31

9:30a Women's Bible Study
11:00a FPC Librarian on site
12:00a Adult Education Planning meeting
5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

FPC Calendar - February, 2018

Friday/1

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

Saturday/2

(no FPC activities scheduled)

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

11:15a Class "Faithful Discourse in a Fractured World"

12:15p Youth Music

12:45p Ministry with Community

5:00p "Revolution" youth group

7:00p Sunday Evening Worship

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

1:00p Yoga

7:00p Green P's

Wednesday/6

9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/7

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

12:00p Adult Ed. Committee

1:00p Yoga

5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/8

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/9

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/10

8:45a Lectionary Study

9:00a Prayer Partners

9:00a Christian Ed. 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 Chili/Gumbo Cook-Off

11:15a Youth Sunday School

11:15a Health Ministry meeting

11:15a Session Listening Post

12:15p Youth Music

5:00p "Revolution" youth group

Monday/11

Presbyter deadline for articles

Tuesday/12

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group

10:00a FPC Archivists

11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

1:00p Yoga

7:00p Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday/13

3:00p Martha Circle

5:30p Men's Group, *Off site*

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

7:00p Outreach Committee Meeting

Thursday/14

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

12:00p Adult Ed. Committee

12:00p Finance Committee

1:00p Yoga

5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal

6:00p Property Maintenance Committee

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/15

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/16

6:00p Rickman House bingo night

Sunday/17

8:45a All-Church Breakfast

8:45a Lectionary Study

9:00a Church School Teachers' meeting

9:00a Congregational Life 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 Youth Sunday School

12:15p Youth Music

5:00p "Revolution" youth group

7:00p Sunday Evening Taize Worship

Monday/18

6:00p Personnel Committee

Tuesday/19

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group

10:00a FPC Archivists

11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

1:00p Yoga

Wednesday/20

Presbyter labeling, mailing

12:00p Communications Committee

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship

Thursday/22

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

12:00p Adult Ed. Committee

1:00p Yoga

5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/22

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/23

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/24

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' 3-'s/40's Group

11:15a Youth Sunday School

12:15p Youth Music

5:00p "Revolution" youth group

Monday/25

7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group

Tuesday/26

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group

10:00a FPC Archivists

11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

1:00p Yoga

6:00p PEO meeting

Wednesday/27

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:30p Session meeting

Thursday/28

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

1:00p Yoga

5:00p Bell Choir rehearsal

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal



PLEASE NOTE:

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

January & February Birthdays

JANUARY

1
Samantha Anderson
Diana Diamond
Gertrude Early
Elias Harik
Don Iffland
Jonathan Leasure
Katie Pavak
2
Sara Dorrien
Jacob Droppers
LaVonne Stavig
4
Christopher Light
Robert Wall Emerson
6
Jim Lewis
7
Jeff Bosma
Joey Droppers
Pintoo Hoffman
8
Sam Hubbard
9
Bertha Petrie
10
Andy Graham
Ellen Jarl
Doug Jonas
Wesley Mark Todd
11
Marcia Cowell
Carole Cupps
Zachary Digby
Frank Steele
12
Megan Dark
Neal Graziano
14
Matthew Callander
Natalie Dalm
Erin Diamond
Karen Hassler
Cain Kortlandt
Robyn Lewis
Andrew Roberts
15
Timothy Aldrich
Peter Lewis
Sophia Novak

16
Richard Byce
Jacqueline Steffey
17
Norma Clack
Jeffrey Oudsema
18
Charlotte Wilson
19
William Birch III
Wayne Conner
Bruce Houtman
Elisa Oliver
Andrew Van Ness
20
Clara Candido
Alison Perks
Pamela McGruder
Neil Stuit
21
Cameron Hay
Lauren Kastman-
Atsalakis
Carmen Tanis
22
Dan Dowswell
Frederick Hoag
23
Julie Hakken
Jordan Hollerbach
Kathleen Houtman
Nicholas Rey
Cameron Shaffer
24
Kathy Cooney
Arria Hay
Mark Lubbers
25
Jane Beers
Ruth Minert
27
Jonah Anders
28
William Gladstone
Charles Leibbrand
Conner Misner
29
Austin Leder

30
Claudia Britigan
Sarah DeRusha
Donald McCloud
William Rylander
Sarah Torrence

31
Sue Thielman

FEBRUARY

1
Bonnie Ayotte
Andrew Bol
Diane Heckler
John Munn



2
Robert Aspergren
Caroline Ham
Carol McCloud
Pat Stromsta
3
Deb Droppers
Lois Heuchert
Vincent Larkin
Karen Trout
4
Shelly Denny
5
Amy Dark Bell
Evelyn Hay
Bryant Stuit
6
Bassam Harik
Grace Novak
Nathaniel Owens
7
Paul Clements
Adam Dalm
Carrie Palmer
Carole Stoddard

8
Christine Johnson
9
Katherine Kremer
Molly Mahoney
10
Judy Van Solkema
Keenan Millar
Jennifer Newman

11
Clare Elise Miedema
Al Parfitt
Joyce Petro
12
Larry Braak
Thomas Reigel
15
Valerie Burke
Justin Hassler
Randy Randt

16
Grady Coon
17
Dale Angell
Sophie Gunderson
Collin Palmer
18
Robert Marciniak
19
Jon Johnson
Heather Kortlandt
Meredith Novak
20
Emmit Newman
Jason Rylander

21
Silas Conrad
Anna Gleaton
Alexandria Jonas
George Kremer
22
Gary DeBruin
Trish Kittredge
Zachary Lewis
23
Carlos Becho
Bob Bloomquist
Jared Montgomery
James Steele

24
Gary Dukes
James Welch
25
Christopher Powell
Andrew Santamaría
Grace Santamaría
Joseph Santamaría
Michael Sherrill
Chad Yankovich
26
Spencer Birch
Ann Cooper
David Jarl
Karen Meldrum
27
Jean Appel
Deb Bender
Amelia Howard
Haley Labian
Janine Loughrin
Richard Nellums
Marion Palmer



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PRESBYTER HIGHLIGHTS—

- ♦ FPC SESSION MEMBERS AND DEACONS—2019
- ♦ NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ADULTS (PAGE 5)
- ♦ BIRTHDAYS—JANUARY & FEBRUARY
- ♦ CHURCH ACTIVITY CALENDARS—JANUARY & FEBRUARY

