

321 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

(269) 344-0119

www.sanctuaryinthecity.org

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 a.m.

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday Communion

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

March 6

Ash Wednesday

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 10

First Sunday of Lent

Kerry Egan
Deuteronomy 26:1-11;
Psalms 91:1-2; Romans 10:8b-13;
Luke 4:1-13

March 17

Second Sunday of Lent

Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri
Genesis 15:1-12; Psalms 27;
Philemon 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 24

Third Sunday of Lent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalms 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 31

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

MINUTE IN MINISTRY

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." – Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*, 1973

This is one of my favorite quotes about vocation. In fact, when I was finishing seminary and putting my information out into the world looking for my first call, this was the opening line on the website I created to give Pastor Nominating Committees a chance to get to know me. It will come as no surprise to most of you that what I do gives me great, great joy! I love being in ministry with all of you! And I love exploring with you where we can meet the world's deep hungers. We have exciting days ahead here at First Presbyterian as we think about our vocation as a congregation! We are one of sixteen congregations chosen from across the nation to participate in a pilot program through Louisville Seminary called the Myrtle Collaboration.

The Myrtle Collaboration is named after Esther – whose Hebrew name, Hadassah, means the myrtle tree. Esther has come to be an archetype of faithful response to God's call in a particular time and place. The Myrtle Collaboration encourages congregations and individuals within congregations to consider what God might be calling them to do in their time and place. Recently, Sue Johnson, Mary Lou Boughton and I spent several days at Louisville Seminary, along with teams from seven other churches in the pilot program exploring these questions through the frame of stories. What are our stories? What are the stories we tell ourselves and what are the stories our community tells about us? And how do those stories reveal something about who we have been, who we are, and who God is calling us to be in this time and place. Calling stories do not have to be as dramatic or as singular as Esther's. Often our callings are revealed in the ordinariness of life – the seemingly small moments we look back on and think "There. That's where everything changed."

Over the next several months, we will be asking you to share those stories and to explore with us what living into our vocation might look like. We have been asked to think big, to think outside the box – and we are being given the resources to do so. Whatever project we create from this listening and exploring will be funded by a \$30,000 grant to actually implement it.

But this project is not, ultimately, about programming. It is not even primarily about revitalization or renewal or growth or any of those church buzzwords in this current cultural climate. It is about discovering who we are, now, as a called community and a community of calling. It is about claiming our history and our stories – not to sit in or wish for a past that is gone, but to recognize how God has led this church through its 185 years to be the church we are today. And it is about asking questions about who God calls us to be now and into the future.

So who is God calling us to be in this particular time and place?

I invite you to share your stories. I want to hear from you. Write me an email, come to my office, meet me for coffee. There will be more formal organized opportunities to share stories in the coming months, but don't think that you have to wait for that. My door is open. We cannot explore what it means to be called by God as a community unless we know one other.



*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 DURING LENT AND HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 a.m.
(unless noted otherwise)

April 7

Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; John 12:1-8

April 14

Palm Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 19:28-40; Philippians 2:1-11

April 18 — 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 19 — 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 20 — 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday

April 21

Easter

Communion

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 24:1-12; Luke 24:13-49

April 28

Second Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 5:27-32, Psalms 118:14-29;
Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Our observance of Holy Week will begin with other churches in Bronson Park at 10:00 a.m. with the “Blessing of the Palms”. As Jesus paraded into Jerusalem amid the cultural and political powers of his day, so we will gather together with other churches to share the blessing of the palms, scripture reading, and a short litany for the day. Following this very brief time together, we will proceed into our respective sanctuaries for Worship.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18, – 7:00 p.m.

On Maundy Thursday we remember the events of the last evening Jesus spent with his disciples – the meal they shared, the prayer in the Garden, Jesus’ arrest and the disciples’ betrayal and abandonment. And we remember that in the midst of all of that, Jesus continued to teach the way of love, the way of abundance, the way of communion. This service will follow a Tenebrae rhythm of readings, music, and dimming lights and will include the Lord’s Supper and musical leadership by the choir.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19, – 7:00 p.m.

On Good Friday we will gather to worship in a quiet, more contemplative mode, remembering the ancient story of Jesus’ crucifixion through the traditional last words of Christ. The service will incorporate scripture, poetry, song, and silence.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, APRIL 20, – 7:00 p.m.

Often we skip straight from the immediate devastation of Good Friday to the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday. This service offers an opportunity to sit with the silence of the tomb and to find ourselves in the fear and uncertainty felt by Jesus’ followers in that in-between-time. This will be a Taize-style worship service with music, readings, and periods of silent contemplation, held in the East Transept.

EASTER, APRIL 21

Our Holy Week worship will conclude with a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ during the regular service at 10:00 a.m. on Easter morning. Our worship will include communion, special musical brass accompaniment, and, of course, floral decoration of our Sanctuary as a beautiful expression of the life abundant we share in God’s love.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

March 6, 12:00 p.m.

In addition to our evening Worship with other Bronson Park Churches, we will offer a shorter and more intimate service at noon on Ash Wednesday, March 6. We will gather in the East Transept of the Sanctuary to mark the beginning of our journey through Lent with a service of prayer, scripture reading, and imposition of ashes. Especially if it is difficult for you to attend the evening Worship, we hope you will join us for this service.

March 6, 7:00 p.m. —First Presbyterian Church

We will mark the beginning of the Lenten season, once again, by sharing worship with the other Bronson Park Churches on Ash Wednesday, March 6. It is our year to welcome our friends from around the park to share in a time of worship, communion, and the imposition of ashes. Music will be provided by a choir made up of voices from the various congregations, and clergy from all of the churches will participate in leading worship. Pastor Chrissy will be offering a reflection on Isaiah 58:1-12 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. We look forward to sharing this special time of worship with you!

ALL CHURCH READ AND DISCUSSION FOR LENT

In this coming season of Lent we will foster opportunities to read together and discuss Kerry Egan's book *On Living*. Here are some times and places for discussions:

- Sunday, March 10 in Room 314 / 315 after Worship, with Kerry Egan, in person!
- Tuesdays at noon in Room 300 (led by Seth) – March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16
- Sundays after Worship, in Room 301 led by Chrissy, Pat, Seth) – March 24, 31, April 7, 14

From the book jacket:

“As a hospice chaplain, Kerry Egan found the dying rarely want to talk about God, at least not overtly. So rather than talk, she listened—to their stories of hope and regret, shame and pride, mystery and revelation and secrets held too long. Most of all, though, she listened as her patients talked about love— love they gave unconditionally, love they didn't know how to offer or wished they'd received, love they belatedly learned to grant themselves. With each story she was graced with the chance to witness firsthand what she calls the ‘spiritual work of dying’—the work of finding or making meaning of one's life.

On Living isn't a book about dying. It's a book about living, about making whole the brokenness we share, by finding courage in the face of fear, the strength to make amends, and compassion for others and for ourselves. In this profound and beautiful book, Egan passes along these precious, necessary gifts.”

We have made arrangements with This is a Bookstore on Oakland Drive to have copies of the book in stock for purchase. Support your local bookseller!

The book is also available from Amazon and in the church library.

First Presbyterian Church Easter Flowers - 2019



The Chancel Guild encourages you to memorialize or honor someone at Easter by purchasing an Easter flower. The flowers will be placed in the chancel in a display that will glorify God, as it symbolizes the joy and splendor of the resurrection.

Fill out the form below and mail or deliver it to the church office with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Deadline: Sunday, April 7

A list of the memorial flowers and donors will be printed in the Worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 21.

I/we want ____ plants (\$15 each). Check for \$ _____ enclosed.

Plants are dedicated to the glory of God and given

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

☐ *in memory of* OR ☐ *in honor of*

Given by:

Name _____

Phone or e-mail _____

MCSHANE COLLOQUIUM: KERRY EGAN

On March 10 and 11, we will host Kerry Egan as 2019 McShane Colloquium presenter. Kerry Egan is a hospice chaplain and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School (and a good friend of Liz Candido!). She has been featured on PBS and CNN, and has essays published in numerous print and on-line publications.

Egan will preach on Sunday morning, March 10, followed by time to reflect with her on the sermon, her book (see below), or anything else that comes to mind.

Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm, Egan will invite us to reflect on the power of stories to help us make meaning in life. How do we tell our own stories?

Egan is speaking again on Monday morning from 9:30-11:30; this event in the McShane Colloquium is typically targeted for congregational leaders, but everyone is invited to attend!

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CO-MODERATOR IS COMING!

Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri, Co-Moderator of our PC(USA), will be coming to lead us in worship on Sunday, March 17. Cintron-Olivieri shared in moderating the General Assembly in summer 2018, and then continues to lead our denomination for the subsequent two years. She will speak at Presbytery on Saturday, March 16. On Sunday morning among us, she will preach, followed by an opportunity to reflect further with her about realities and vision of our church—in Room 314 / 315.

Cintron-Olivieri is a life-long Presbyterian. She served as a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) to the 205th General Assembly (1993) and soon thereafter was ordained as a ruling elder at the Iglesia Presbiteriana en Caparra Terrace, San Juan, Puerto Rico. She has served on session, numerous committees at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels, moderator of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, and interpreter for General Assembly meetings since 2006. Cintrón-Olivieri earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's in education from Turabo University. In 2011, Vilmarie and her husband, Rev. José Manuel Capella-Pratts, moved from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Miami, Florida, where he is the pastor of First Spanish Presbyterian Church. Since moving to Miami, Vilmarie has taught ESL to adult students from all over the world in a language school in Miami. She also serves on a CREDO team with Seth Weeldreyer.

She is full energy and enthusiasm, passion for the church and vision for what can be, in God's grace. Plan to hear her, meet her, and share in her spirit ... on Sunday, March 17!

CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

Class of 2019

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

Class of 2020

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

Class of 2021

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

Please note:

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

“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.

ECO PALMS

First Presbyterian Church has ordered Eco Palms for Palm Sunday! More than 1,000 PC(USA) congregations ordered Eco-Palms in 2016. Joining with congregations from other denominations, churches across the United States will be waving almost 1 million Eco-Palms this Palm Sunday. Working together, we do make a difference!



Using Eco Palms ...

We Promote Social Justice

- Harvesting palms is an important source of income, but gatherers usually receive a low price.
- Gatherers will receive a higher price for their “fair trade” palms, improving their income.

We Promote Environmental Stewardship

- Palms protect valuable natural forests, because they provide income to forest communities.
- Palms will be “sustainably” harvested and managed, to protect the palms and the forests they need for shade.

Why a "Fair Trade" Palm?

- To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.
- To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

Did You Know?

- Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.
- At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds, and more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.
- Each palm plant produces two to five harvestable leaves over a two to four month period.

SESSION

Clerk of Session: Allison Hammond

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

CLASS OF 2021

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for March 3, after Worship, in the Dining Room. Please join us for a celebration of our church life, as we share the successes and joys of the year; we will begin with a potluck meal.

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

Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers in the nursery and toddler rooms during the meeting that follows the meal. If you will need childcare please sign up on the bulletin board located by Pat Stromsta's office.

CHURCH REPORTS

A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP

“Praise God from whom all blessing flow!”

Through your generous support, we are blessed with a beautiful and well maintained sanctuary, outstanding music, inspiring and caring clergy as well as outstanding support staff.

As a Sanctuary in the City, our outreach mission is vital to the surrounding community. We feed over 500 people at Celebrate the Vision and 25-50 people serve at Ministry with Community. We open our doors to 30 children through the Head Start Program and 39 volunteers tutor and bake cupcakes for 300 children at Edison school.

We are an engaged congregation with over 170 members committing their time and talents to one or more ministries, which is approximately 33% of our active membership and nearly 75% of our average weekly church attendees. We are grateful for these helping hands and the impact it has on others.

Your pledge gifts ensure that our mission and ministry remains vibrant and ongoing, knowing that we can anticipate this revenue. This year we received commitments from 199 pledging units for a total of approximately \$574,000. While we sincerely appreciate pledges already received, we are still falling short of our goals, especially in the number of units pledged. Per Capita pledges totaled \$7,182 for 130 pledging units equaling 239 per capita payments. Those unable to pledge are still highly valued and will always play an important role in our church.

As good stewards and in collaboration with the finance committee and committee leaders. Our 2019 goal is to achieve a balanced budget through thoughtful planning and responsible management.

With gratitude, Pamela Tritsch

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS (2019)

Christian Education Committee

Session: Sue Johnson (Chairperson), Heather Misner Kelsey Oliver, Janet Todd

Staff: Pat Stromsta (Director of Christian Education) Chrissy Westbury (Assoc. Pastor/Youth)

Children: Lisa Diamond, Cynthia Feucht

Youth: Chris Palmer, Allison Hammond

Adult: Sally Pitt-Van Buren, Ray Wicks

Library: Kathy Campbell

Nursery Pat Stromsta (Staff), Jamie Tuin

Bulletin Boards/Artistic Director – Jane Hamilton

Church School Teachers and (Shepherds)

Preschool (306)

Wendy King

Amy Miedema (Wendy Miedema)

Deb Taylor (Colleen Sherrill)

Kindergarten/1st Grade (308)

Heather Cloetingh (Grace Cook)

Karen Hassler (Janine Loughrin)

Angela Van Heest

2nd and 3rd Grade (305)

Lisa Diamond (John Diamond)

Cynthia Feucht (Laurie Tupper)

Allison Myers (Steve Breisach)

4th/5th Grade (303/304)

Amy Bell

Cindy Gleaton (Sherry Sorensen)

Rick Taylor (Patrick Gleaton)

Youth

Allison Hammond, Mike Hammond, Craig Oliver, Kelsey Oliver (Chrissy Westbury)

Childcare: the Bol Family, Aedin Clements, Bev Murray, Jamie Tuin, and Kirsten Yohe,

Hall Monitors

Mike Hammond (Lead), Chris Gleaton, Craig Kortlandt, Neil Miedema, Chris Palmer, Robert Wall Emerson

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!

Typical Sunday Schedule:

11:15-12:15 – Sunday School
with lunch provided

12:15-1:00 – Youth Music

5:00-7:00 Youth Fellowship

This is a shared time with FPC
Kalamazoo FPC Richland,
Westminster PC, Pine Island PC,
and North PC.

We rotate meetings at FPC,
Richland, and Westminster.

All are welcome!

Mar 3	FPC	All Group
Mar 10	Richland	All Group
Mar 17	FPC	Lock-in!
Mar 24	Richland	All Group
Mar 31 and Apr 7	No Youth Programs	Spring Break!
April 14	Westminster	All Group
April 21	EASTER	No Youth Programs
April 28	FPC	CROP Walk

Church School Calendar: March and April 2019

March 3	Listen to Him	Communion	
March 10 CE Meeting	Who Is a Good Neighbor?	1 st Sunday of Lent	Daylight Saving Time
March 17 CTS Meeting	Little to Big	2 nd Sunday of Lent	All-Church Breakfast
March 24	Party Time!	3 rd Sunday of Lent	
March 31 Spring Vacation	No Church School	4 th Sunday of Lent	
April 7	Welcome Home!	5 th Sunday of Lent	
April 14 Palm Sunday	The King of Glory Comes	Holy Week	Hunger AA Meal
April 21 EASTER	He Is Risen!	Communion	All-Church Breakfast
April 28	Our Eyes were Opened		

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Please consider this a personal invitation to join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch on the first Friday of each month in spring.

Morning reservations are needed at the church by the *Thursday* before the luncheon. You are welcome to join your First Presbyterian Church friends, Friday at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 1, for lunch at Food Dance! If you have any questions, please call 353-3903 (Sue F).

April 5 Fieldstone Grill
3970 W. Centre Street, Portage, MI

May 3 Four Roses
663 10th Street, (Gunplain Township) Plainwell, MI

June 7 Summer Thyme Cafe
3928 Portage Street, Kalamazoo, MI

LADIES' 30'S/40'S GROUP

The Ladies' 30's/40's activity group continues to meet monthly with recent activities including learning how to make a NYC style pizza, a game night, and a night out for dinner. More fun events coming up! Please email amberbeals@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or wish to learn more. Your level of involvement can be as regular or as sporadic as your schedule allows (or doesn't allow!) No commitment required!

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle is a group of women who meet once a month to support one another in our Christian faith. We share concerns and joys, study together, and explore what it means to be a Christian woman in today's world. We also provide cookies for Celebrate the Vision on our meeting day. Our regular meeting time is the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 PM in the church lounge, downstairs next to the choir room – March 12 and April 10.

At the April meeting we will make plans for visiting shut-in members of the congregation. If you know someone who would enjoy a brief visit from a few ladies, please let us know. Contact Elaine Johns at 269-323-7395 or emjohns513@aol.com for more information.

For this year's study we have chosen the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study "God's Promise: I am With You". The focus of the study are those places in scripture where the words "I am (or will be) with you" are found, from Genesis through the Gospels, and how it speaks to particular circumstances – including our own. Each lesson is self contained, so new participants are welcome to join at any time. All women are invited and will be warmly welcomed!

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.

Rickman House Bingo Night Helpers:

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

THE KALAMAZOO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra at First Presbyterian Church is a series of free classical music concerts featuring small ensembles from the orchestra. The Burdick-Thorne String Quartet will present a program featuring music by Beethoven and Debussy on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm. The family friendly concert will be about an hour long, followed by a reception hosted by the Worship and Music Committee. The reception provides the opportunity for audience members to meet and interact with the musicians. Invite someone to join you and come enjoy an evening of beautiful music in our "Sanctuary in the City".

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 and 6:00 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.



CHEFS AND COOKS!

The Deacons are seeking volunteers to provide homemade meals for members of our church family. If you would be interested in assisting with this mission, or for additional information, contact Wendy King, jeffwendyking@gmail.com or Donita DeBruin dreamcoats44@sbcglobal.net.

ANN JOHNSON RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

Our Office Administrator, Ann Johnson, has completed a Level One Certification from the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church U. S. A.. Ann completed numerous courses and other requirements, including attending regional conferences in recent years (and hosting one in our church). Subject areas covered include church history, office administration, spiritual growth and discipline, Presbyterian theology and polity, and other personnel, safety, and administration related processes. She has invested hard work and dedication to reach this level of professional education and experience. We are grateful for Ann's commitment—including over ten years serving in our congregation! Please share your congratulations and gratitude, as you are able!

"SUSANNAH": MARCH ART HOP

"Susannah", one of America's most popular operas, will be presented at First Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 1 at 7:30 pm. The composer, Carlisle Floyd, is the son of a Mennonite preacher and these hymn tunes influenced his composition. The story is based on the Apocrypha's "Susannah and the Elders" and is the story of a woman standing up in the face of injustice and being shunned from her community.

The theme resonates as much today with the #metoo movement as it did when the story was written around 600 BCE. It is a moving story of human nature, and challenges the audience to make a difference in the way people are treated and accepted.

The cast includes Sarah Faasse, Trent Broussard, Jonathan Lovegrove, Keon Atkins, Ron Roys, Evan Snyder, Les Rowsey, Gaetan Gerville-Reache, Schyler Sheltown, Karen Albert, Elizabeth Hamm, and Karen Rowsey.

Accompanied is provided by Todd Wilkie, piano and Dr Joanna Steinhauser, violin.

Please join us on Art Hop night, March 1, for this production of "Susannah". You can go to this website for more details, or to RSVP your spot: <https://tinyurl.com/yxrzkzuv3>.



THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK GROUP

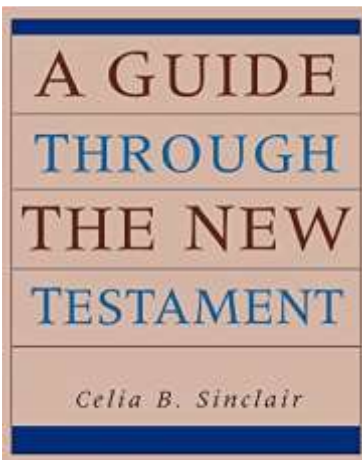
March 25 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

April 22 (Monday), 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300, Pastor Seth will facilitate our discussion of *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. In her international bestseller, Barbery introduces us to an intelligent, cultured widow who serves as a caretaker of an upscale Parisian apartment building and a troubled girl living in the building. This is a "moving, funny, triumphant novel that exalts the quiet victories of the inconspicuous among us." [Goodreads]

Faithful, by Alice Hoffman, will be discussed on April 22 at 7:00 p.m. Kathy Campbell will facilitate the discussion of this moving redemption story. Growing up on Long Island, Shelby is an ordinary girl until one night an extraordinary tragedy changes her fate. In a novel "at once heartbreaking and uplifting, Hoffman explores a young woman's recovery from tragedy with sympathy and grace." [Booklist Review]

We welcome everyone in the congregation. For more information, please contact Kathy Campbell at (517) 803-0481.



THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

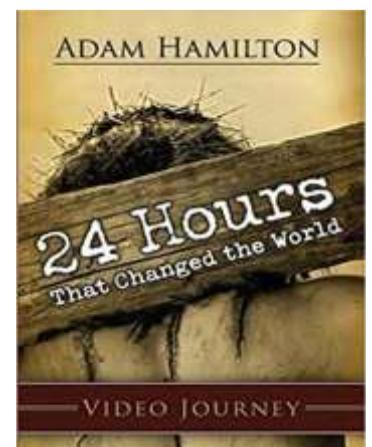
Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study is currently using; *A Guide Through the New Testament* by Celia Sinclair for the basis of our study of the 27 books of the New Testament. Each class offers an introduction to a book (or two) of the New Testament including charts, timelines and short pieces on special 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 am. Childcare is provided by Jamie Tuin in the nursery. Please join the 20+ women who gather for fellowship each week in Room 301.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENT STUDY: 24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

A 6 week Lenten Journey will begin on March 13th. We will meet in the Gathering Place from 6:15 - 7:15 for worship and prayer followed by a video series based on Adam Hamilton's book, *24 Hours that Changed the World*.

Adam Hamilton helps readers relive the one day in history that changed everything. Drawing on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible, Hamilton takes us to the Holy Land and provides a deeper understanding of the most amazing day in history. We visit the sites where those earth-shaking events took place, and we walk where Jesus walked along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross. Pat Stromsta and worship leaders and musicians from Celebrate the Vision will facilitate this journey. Each DVD session lasts approximately 10 minutes and is suitable for the entire family.



Outreach and Community Service

17th ANNUAL SERVICE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

The 17th Annual Service for Peace and Justice will be held 5:00 pm, Sunday, March 24, at St Joseph Catholic Church, 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Keynote Speaker Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Detroit, will present an address on “Non-Violence: A Scriptural Call to Love.” Refreshments and Dialogue will follow the service.

Bishop Gumbleton is the founding president of Pax Christi USA and one of the founders of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights., as well as being a long-time activist for non-violence and peace. He also publishes the weekly homily from St. Leo’s Church in the *National Catholic Reporter* under the heading of “Peace Pulpit.”

This event is open to the public at no charge. A free will offering may be made to support the peace focus of St. Leo’s Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

The Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice (KICPJ) has supported this annual event since it’s founding in January 2003 in response to the imminent Korean War. First Presbyterian Church and many other Kalamazoo area churches as well as several faith communities from other traditions have actively supported this annual event through the years. In addition, an annual fall event regularly focuses on related peace and justice issues.

Cosponsors include the Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War (KNOW), Women in Black, Sisters of St Joseph, Kalamazoo Muslim Community, St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish, United Campus Ministry, Diocese of Kalamazoo, Wesley Foundation, St Joseph Catholic Parish, and other local groups focused on peace and Justice issues.

In case of questions, please contact Paul Clements or John Petro, active members of the KICPJ Board. Interested members from our church are invited to join with Paul and John to represent our congregation on the KICPJ Board.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Each year during Lent, Presbyterians share God’s love by giving to ministries that provide relief to those affected by natural disasters: food for the hungry, and support towards the self-development of poor and oppressed communities. Many of you probably remember putting your pennies, nickels, and dimes in a fish bank as your small way to help those in need.

Please prayerfully consider making a Special Offering this Easter season. You will be sharing God’s love by making a difference to those in need.



March Birthdays

1 Mike Millar	13 Davis Crocker Robert Murray Barb Ross	23 Sharon Bradford Matthew Novak Bob White	29 Taye Bradford John Fiore Sarah Chase
2 Kennedy Elliott Jake Longman Brett Schmiede Bridgit Smith Catherine Willoughby	14 Christopher Chambers Greg Russell Logan Upson	24 Craig Kortlandt Jacqueline Metzler Shari Schut Jane Veech	30 Lou Grant Chase Perricone Marjorie Wardwell
3 Ellen Dykhuis Cory Fritz Evelyn Garner	15 Bruce Lubbers Nancy Owen	25 Alexis Diamond Bob Klesert Nan Munn	31 Grant Coon Patricia Farris Lela Yohe
4 (none)	16 Richard Aldrich Rob Bradford Adrienne Bumpus	26 John Houdek Samantha Shaffer Scott Wilson	
5 Cynthia Gleaton William Hajek	17 Julie Bol Kenneth Dark Linda Meloche Shayne Plemmons Sue Weeldreyer	27 Dick DeVries Diane Durian Patrick Gleaton Marty Meinzinger	
6 Sandra Edwards-García Jonathan Herson	18 Brian Chambers Julie Kechele Dean McWethy	28 (none)	
7 Bennett Loughrin	19 Jacque Carter Jana Marie Schnur Robert Scholten Benjamin Taylor		
8 Clara Lynn Hay Chuck Schmiede Joshua Scott	20 Benjamin Lewis Jean Miller		
9 Kristen Allen Leslie Roberts Sarah Walker	21 Brad Allen Gary Dorrien Dick Hodgman Helen Lander Amy Schreiner Carol Payne Smith		
10 Colton Card Marshall Klein Charlie Warren	22 Paulette Rayel		
11 Scott Erdos Jerre James Phil Kechele Wendy King			
12 Todd Richman			



FPC 50+ ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Winship Todd	3/24/1929	90
Morden Paul Schuur	3/29/1931	88
Dorothy Milham Gauntlett	3/21/1937	82
Mary Lou Stephenson Todd	3/21/1937	82
Caroline Richardson Ham	3/21/1940	79
Gloria Ross Landman	3/29/1945	74
Dayton Maynard	3/22/1951	68
Juanita Erdos	3/26/1959	60
Jeanene Lewis	3/30/1961	58
Annabelle Rigg	3/30/1961	58
Bruce Rigg	3/30/1961	58
Barbara Johnson	3/26/1964	55
Mark Olmsted	3/23/1964	51

April Birthdays



1 Mervin Burtis	18 Elizabeth Bell
2 Connor Cloetingh Jeremy Diamond Martha Flynn Sue Madden Robert Munn Mark Schreiner	Daphne Westbury Nancy Johnson Amy Miedema
3 Matt Molitor	19 Julie Shaw
4 Sam Cupps Alexandra Desotelle	20 Jonathan Willoughby Jim Young
5 (none)	21 Sarah Graziano
6 (none)	Addison Misner
7 Cynthia Feucht Marilyn Jauch Michelle Molitor	Cameryn Murray Donald Roberts
8 Judy Johnson Mary Ann Ven De Ville	22 Jeanne Case
9 Lisa Padgett Gene Miller	23 Keith Johnson Brian Kastman Philip Ward Chrissy Westbury
10 Jim Weeldreyer	24 Robert Candido Greg Chambers Robert Jauch
11 Kaiya Bates Margot Kinnear Rollin Richman Kirsten Yohe	25 Diane Misner Kathy Smyser
12 David Lewis	26 Carolyn Houdek
13 Ben Palmer	27 Grace Jasinski Megan Mahoney Pamela Zandt
14 Ann Rohrbaugh	28 Jane Todd
15 Betty Bennett Cecilia Crook Salim Harik Karen Lewis	29 (none)
16 (none)	30 Heidi Goodwin Jack Mellis
17 Cari Anderson Dave Drok Ruth Lubbers	

FPC 50+ ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL		
<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u># Years</u>
Joan Gerpheide Colgren	4/14/38	81
Mary Ann Martz Ven De Ville	4/2/42	77
Mary Little Tyler	4/22/43	76
Jerre James	4/3/47	72
Kay Bilderback Burtis	4/14/49	70
Dorothy Larkin	4/10/52	67
Julie Shaw	4/10/52	67
Joel Shepherd II	4/10/52	67
Priscilla Todd Blair	4/2/53	66
Amy Anderson	4/15/54	65
Carole Todd Shepherd Birch	4/15/54	65
Andrew R. Lenderink III	4/15/54	65
Timothy Shank	4/15/54	65
Helen Creager	4/7/55	64
Timothy J. Lenderink	4/7/55	64
Sue Grossman	4/18/57	62
JoAnn Yochim	4/18/57	62
Marilyn Lindbeck	4/3/58	61
Martha Meinzinger	4/3/58	61
Nancy Raklovits	4/3/58	61
George Brooks	4/14/60	59
Richard Russell	4/14/60	59
Charlene Hansen	4/19/62	57
Gregory Russell	4/19/62	57
Jane Veech	4/19/62	57
Jennalie Shepherd	4/11/63	56
Gayle Stephenson	4/11/63	56
Jane Iannelli	4/15/65	53
Vincent Iannelli	4/15/65	53
Mervin Burtis	4/7/66	52
Diane White	4/7/66	52
Minnie LaPoint	4/11/67	50

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

Carolyn Bristol was born on September 6, 1940 and joined FPC on February 10, 1974. Carolyn died on January 13, 2019.

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.



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, ucmrking@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus: The Reverend Dr. David W. McShane

Presbyter

Here is the schedule for the monthly issues of the *Presbyter* for the balance of the 2018-2019 program year:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Content</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
May-June	April 15	April 25
July-August	June 17	June 27

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



FPC STAFF

(269) 344-0119

(telephone extensions are listed below)

Pastor

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

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

Jared Montgomery
jared.montgomery@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

Shawn Smith
shawn.smith@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Randy Randt
Ext. 213

South Lobby Receptionists (Ext. 221)

Bruce Birkel
Sam Clark
Nik DeHaan
Nate Owens



321 West South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4708

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 West South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4708
Telephone: (269) 344-0119 • Fax: (269) 344-4645 • Website: www.sanctuaryinthechc.org

PRESBYTER HIGHLIGHTS—

- ♦ WORSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK—(page 2)
- ♦ MCSHANE COLLOQUIUM EVENTS—(page 4)
- ♦ ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—March 3 (page 5)
- ♦ EASTER FLOWERS—ORDER FORM (page 3)
- ♦ ALL-CHURCH READ FOR LENT—(page 3)
- ♦ BIRTHDAYS—March & April
- ♦ INSERT: (Church Activity Calendars (March/April))



THE PRESBYTER

March-April 2019 • Volume 48, No. 2

FPC Calendar - March, 2019

Friday/1

- 1:00p Lunch Bunch (*off-site*)
- 7:00p West Michigan Opera Project

Saturday/2

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/3

- 8:45a Bell Choir rehearsal
- 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 Blood Pressure Screenings
- 11:15a Class series: "Living Well Aware"
- 11:30a Annual Meeting
- 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

Tuesday/5

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

Wednesday/6

- 9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry
- 12:00p Ash Wednesday Service
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 7:00p Ash Wednesday Service
- 8:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Thursday/7

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC Librarian on site
- 1:00p Yoga

Friday/8

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/9

- 9:00p ISAAC training

Sunday/10

- 8:45a Lectionary Study
- 9:00a Prayer Partners
- 9:00a Christian Ed. meeting
- 9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal
- 9:15a Reading Aloud
- 9:45a Childcare
- 10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary,
Communion served
- 10:15a Church School
- 11:15a Healing Service
- 11:15a Session Listening Post
- 11:15a Youth Sunday School
- 12:15p Youth Music
- 1:00p McShane colloquium

- 5:00p Revolution youth group

Monday/11

- 11:00a McShane colloquium
- 5:00p KNOW

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
- 6:15p "24 Hours That Changed the World"
- 6:30p Outreach Committee Meeting
- 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Thursday/14

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC Librarian on site
- 12:00p Finance Committee
- 1:00p Yoga
- 6:00p Property and Maintenance Committee

Friday/15

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/16

- 6:00p BINGO for Rickman House residents

Sunday/17

- 8:45a All-Church Breakfast
- 8:45a Lectionary Study
- 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 Class "Living Well Aware"
- 7:00p Sunday Evening Taizé Worship

Monday/18

- 6:00p Personnel Committee
- 6:30p Deacons' meeting

Tuesday/19

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

Wednesday/20

- 12:00p Communications Committee
- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:15p "24 Hours That Changed the World"
- 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Thursday/21

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC Librarian on site
- 1:00p Yoga
- 6:00p Stewardship Committee meeting

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 Youth Sunday School
- 12:15p Youth Music
- 2:00p Concert with Jared Montgomery
- 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

Wednesday/27

- 5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner
- 6:30p Session meeting
- 6:15p "24 Hours That Changed the World"
- 7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Thursday/28

- 9:30a Women's Bible Study
- 11:00a FPC Librarian on site
- 1:00p Yoga

Friday/29

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/30

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/31

- 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
- 12:15p Youth Music

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

FPC Calendar - April, 2019

Monday/1

1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers

Tuesday/2

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group

10:00a FPC Archivists

11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

1:00p Yoga

Wednesday/3

9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:15p "24 Hours That Changed the World"

Thursday/4

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

1:00p Yoga

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/5

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

Saturday/6

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/7

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 "Faithful Discourse in a Fractured World" class

12:45p Ministry with Community

7:00p Sunday evening Worship

Monday/8

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Tuesday/9

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

7:00p Green "P"s

Wednesday/10

3:00p Martha Circle

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

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:15p "24 Hours That Changed the World"

6:30p Outreach Committee Meeting

Thursday/11

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

12:00p Finance Committee

1:00p Yoga

5:00p Bell choir practice

6:00p Prop. Maintenance Committee

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/12

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/13

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/14

8:45a Bell Choir rehearsal

8:45a Lectionary Study

9:00a Christian Education 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 Session Listening Post

11:15a Health Ministry meeting

11:15a Youth Sunday School

12:15p Youth Music

5:00p Revolution youth group

Monday/15

6:00p Personnel Committee

6:30p Deacons' meeting

Tuesday/16

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group

10:00a FPC Archivists

11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

1:00p Yoga

Wednesday/17

12:00p Communications Committee

4:00p Endowment Committee

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:15p "24 Hours That Changed the World"

Thursday/18

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

1:00p Yoga

6:00p Stewardship Committee

7:00p Maundy Thursday service,
Communion served

8:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/19

7:00p Good Friday service,

Saturday/20

2:00p Crescendo recital

6:00p BINGO for Rickman House residents

7:00p Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday/21— Easter Sunday

8:45a All-Church Breakfast

8:45a Lectionary Study

9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal

9:15a Reading Aloud

9:45a Childcare

10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary,
Communion served

10:15a Church School

7:00p Sunday evening Worship

Monday/22

Presbyter Deadline

7:00p Thoughtful Readers Book Group

Tuesday/23

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group

10:00a FPC Archivists

11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

1:00p Yoga

Wednesday/24

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:30p Session meeting

Thursday/25

9:30a Women's Bible Study

11:00a FPC Librarian on site

1:00p Yoga

5:00p Bell choir practice

7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal

Friday/26

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Saturday/27

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Sunday/28

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

12:15p Youth Music

1:15p Crop Walk

5:00p Revolution youth group

Monday/29

(no FPC activities scheduled)

Tuesday/30

7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group

10:00a FPC Archivists

11:00a Weekly Staff Meeting

12:00p Bulletin deadline

1:00p Yoga

PLEASE NOTE:

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