Presbyter

November-December 2019 October 24, 2019 Vol. 48, No. 6

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

321 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

(269) 344-0119

www.sanctuaryinthecity.org

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.

November 3

All-Saints Sunday Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Psalm 90; Ephesians 11:1-23

November 10

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury Psalms 98:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

November 17

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 21:5-19

November 24

Reign of Christ Sunday Communion served

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Psalm 95:1-7 and 96:1-6, 10-13; Colossians 1:3-13

<u>December 1</u> First Sunday of Advent

Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 Christmas Vespers — 6:00

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Christmas Eve

(see the next page for more details) Family Service 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service 9:00 p.m.

Contemplative Worship 11:00 p.m. Communion served

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

December 29

First Sunday after Christmas Day

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King The Rev. Larry Farris Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18 As the crisp, cool air, and riotous colors of autumn return to Michigan, and the holiday season draws near, I find my mind drifting more and more toward the practice of gratitude. A friend recently started posting on Facebook three things he is grateful for each day, as a spiritual practice. I enjoy reading his moments of gratitude – small and large – and was curious about what spurred him to do this. He pointed me toward an article by Madhuleena Roy Chowdhury about the effect that practicing gratitude has

on the actual functioning of our brains. Fascinating stuff! (https://positivepsychology.com/neuroscience-of-gratitude/)

In this article, Chowdhury points to research that shows that gratitude actually changes the way our brains react with the world around us. "The Mindfulness Awareness Research Center of UCLA stated that gratitude does change the neural structures in the brain, and makes us feel happier and more content. Feeling grateful and appreciating others when they do something good for us triggers the "good" hormones and regulates effective functioning of the immune system. Scientists have suggested that by activating the reward center of the brain, gratitude exchange alters the way we see the world and ourselves."

There is theological importance here, too. Paul writes to the Philippians, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8). And John Calvin taught that all that we have and all that we are are blessings from God, and the best use of those blessings is to turn around and return them in the form of gratitude to God. So, friends, this November and December, I invite you to join me in practicing intentional gratitude – in words and in actions. If you are on social media, post something you are grateful for each day and use the hashtag #fpckzoo. If the words you just read mean nothing to you, find a friend, and tell them what you are grateful for today. Let's become a community of gratitude and joy!

I'll get us started. I am grateful to serve among you. I am grateful for the joy and energy I feel in this community. And I am grateful for the opportunity to welcome the people of Pine Island Presbyterian Church among us. I look forward to seeing the ways that the creativity and passion they have brought to their ministry in Texas Corners affects our ministries downtown. I am excited to see what new possibilities their presence among us will bring!

On November 24, we will welcome our new members, including those transferring from Pine Island, and then we will celebrate! We will celebrate the excellent ministry they have done, and we will celebrate the new connections and new possibilities for serving together in the coming years!

Please be sure to come to church on November 24 and be the warm and welcoming community you are!

Peace.

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.



VESPERS SERVICE DECEMBER 15 — 6:00 P.M.

The Annual Advent Vespers Service will be held on Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This traditional service of lessons and carols will feature scripture readings, Christmas carols, choral music accompanied by organ, and a brass quintet. You are invited to experience this meaningful service presented in the beauty of our candlelit Sanctuary.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

The Health Ministry Committee is offering a service of Comfort and Hope during the Advent Season. Please watch the announcements for more information about this special service.

ADVENT

December 1 / First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship

Preaching: Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

December 9 / Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

December 16 / Third Sunday of Advent (2 services)

10:00 a.m. Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Chrissy Westbury Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10

6:00 p.m. Fifty-seventh Annual Candlelight Vespers

The Service of Lessons and Carols is one of the most beloved FPC Advent traditions.

(see article at left)

December 22 / Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 / Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Service

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Worship Service

Prelude at 8:40 p.m.

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

11:00 p.m. Contemplative Service with Communion

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20



CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday Evening Worship

First and Third Sunday of every month 7:00 p.m.

November 3: Guided Meditation Join Jill Barnum and Pastor Chrissy for a time of contemplation

November 17: Taizé Worship

December 1: Advent Prayer Stations Enter into the season of waiting with contemplative prayer stations.

December 15: Advent Vespers Service

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

We gather for a Praise and Prayer Worship Service in the Gathering Place at 6:15 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

Christmas Eve Contemplative Service

For those who may wish to worship toward midnight Christmas Eve / Christmas Day, we will offer a more contemplative service at 11:00 p.m. The spirit of the service will be less formal, more intimate, without choir, though some church members have volunteered to provide special music / accompaniment. Yes, we will have candles! Yes, we will share communion! Come share sacred space and time as we observe this holy night together.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICE

December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas around the World—everybody loves Christmas!

As the story of Christ found its way around the world, people from every corner of the earth began to add their own kind of music to celebrate Christ's birth.

We hope that in this service you will feel a sense of unity with people of many nations as we share God's greatest gift to all of us at Christmastime.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, at **9:00 p.m.**, we will share in our traditional service of Candlelight Communion. Please note: in years past we have offered this service at 8:00 and 11:00. For a variety of reasons, Worship and Music Committee decided to try one service this year.

With the Sanctuary adorned in holiday greens, and with candelabra lining the aisles and the front of the chancel, we will sense Holy Love coming into our lives. Along with prayers, carols, scripture readings, and a sermon, we will share Holy Communion on this special night. Bells will peal to herald the birth of Jesus. We will conclude our worship service by singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

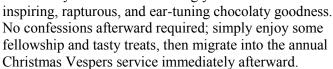
The data is in...

After years of Careful analysis...

...Chocolate **REALLY** does make music sound better!!

COME AND FIND OUT!

Please join us for the annual First Presbyterian Christmas Chocolate gathering: Bring yourselves, cookies to share if you can, and especially come ready for the most amazingly



When: 5:00 p.m., December 15 Where: The Gathering Place

First Presbyterian Church 321 W.South St., Kalamazoo

Don't worry, if you miss the chocolate beforehand, there just might be a little left over afterward....

Peace!





BUTTER BRAIDS

Thanks to everyone who ordered Butter Braids. Pickup dates are Sundays, November 11 and 18, in the Dining Room after church. We thank you for your continued support of the Edison Project.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR— DECEMBER 1

The Deacons will be offering their Holiday Baskets at the Bazaar again this year. Filled with tea, cocoa, or Equal Exchange coffee, plus a mug or two and small candies, each one is unique and tied up with a pretty bow. Priced at \$15.00-\$25.00 depending on size and contents, they are very affordable and will make lovely ready-to-go holiday gifts for someone special in your life.

So come to the Christmas Bazaar in the Gathering Place on December 1 for unique gifts! Browse products from the Deacons, the Hearts-to-Hands Card group, Martha Circle, the Boy Scouts, and jewelry by Karen Hassler.



Noisy Coins, Noisy Coins

Emptying wallets, oh, into the offering plate.

Down the pew it goes. Jingling is first rate!

Dimes and nickels ring, making spirits bright.

What fun it is to drop them in, a musical delight.

Oh! Noisy Coins, Noisy Coins, jingling in the plate.
All for our parishioners. Giving can elate!

Oh! Noisy Coins, Noisy Coins, jangling in the plate.
Serving our parishioners really feels so great!

GREEN P'S NEWS: RECYCLED ART SHOW AND ELECTRONIC WASTE DOCUMENTARY

Here's the challenge: it's coming this spring—our first recycled art show! Save those recyclables! Re-imagine, re-make, and re-invent a new use for things that we throw away all the time— such as shutters, batteries, single-use plastic bags, old toys, car parts, tools, and even outdated electronic waste.

The spring art show is open to members, friends of FPC, or any public school child, and individual, group, and family projects are welcome. Entrants can be adults or children. Projects can be made from only recycled materials, and the focus is to emphasize human creativity and repurposing single-use plastics to keep them out of the land fill.

Also coming in the spring: watch the award-winning (28 awards!) documentary, "Living on a Dollar a Day" with a guest speaker from California who educates us on the what, why, when, how, and especially who, deals with electronic waste.

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

November/December, 2019

Please join the Health Ministry committee for upcoming classes and services in November and December. We look forward to seeing you there!

November 10 - <u>Healing Service</u> after Worship - East Transept. The Reverend Larry Farris will lead us in this time of healing and restorative prayer. Please join us, whether or not you have a specific need for healing. All are welcome! This is a time to be together in quiet reflection and prayer.

November 12 – <u>Prayer Bead Workshop</u> 1-4 p.m. in the Gathering Place, all supplies provided. We will make our own prayer beads and string the beads for a meditative practice. Supplies will be provided, including a horizontal Cross bead. We will be making the beads by rolling paper. Participants may bring meaningful items to use if they wish. Possibilities are endless, as long as items are able to be strung on a cord.

The workshop is free, but please register with Ann Ross (269) 217-6193 or ann.ross@kalamazoofirstpres.org, or Jill Barnum, (269) 330-5995, so we know how many to prepare for! Watch for the Sunday afternoon Prayer Bead workshop offered in January/February 2020.

November 17 – <u>Health Promotion class</u> with Dr. Laura Ford, "Seek and secure support". Laura will also review the past year's health promotion classes to finish up as the year ends.

December 1 – <u>Blood pressure check</u> – Room 201, starting after Worship

December 22 – <u>Service of Comfort and Hope</u> after Worship – East Transept – led by the Reverend Larry Farris and the Reverend Kathleen Robertson-King. This is a time for quiet reflection, prayer, hymns, and candlelight.

TOGETHER WE PRAY:

The prayer ministry of First Presbyterian Church includes:

- A prayer line (by email) that is open to all members of the congregation.
- Prayer Partners a group of men and women who meet monthly to pray for the Church, members and staff of our church, for the world and for one another. New members are always welcome.
- Prayer 101 a new class based on learning about the many types of prayer and how to incorporate prayer into our lives—(January 2020)
- Prayer Note: a story about the power of prayer in the lives of members of the congregation in the bi-monthly *Presbyter*.
- Prayer Offerings after the Worship service. Members of our Prayer Ministry will be available in the East Transept after the morning worship service to pray with those who wish to share a prayer request.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY "LUNCH BUNCH"

Be part of a friendly group that lunches at 1:00 p.m. on the first Friday of every month at local venues around Kalamazoo and Portage. Please RSVP to the church by the Thursday before the luncheon.

November 1 Riviera Maya, 5036 S Westnedge Ave

December 6 Fieldstone Grill, 3970 W Center (Note time change to 12:30 p.m.)

January 3 Olive Garden, 6700 S Westnedge

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 p.m. in the Church Lounge, downstairs next to the Choir Room.

On November 13 we will finish the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study "God's Promise: I Am with You". The lesson teaches us that Jesus extends the promise of God's presence to his followers as they, and we, are sent out into the world. Primary scripture for this lesson comes from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jeanine Lewis will host our gathering on December 11. We will collect toys for Christmas distribution, share a Christmas devotional and enjoy fellowship together. We will also choose a new study to begin in January.

All women are invited and will be warmly welcomed!

Contact Elaine Johns at 269-323-7395 or emjohns513@aol.com if you have questions.

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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS (2019-2020)

Christian Education Committee

Session: Sue Johnson (Chairperson), Heather Cloetingh,

Heather Misner, and Janet Todd

Staff: Pat Stromsta (Director of Christian Education)

Chrissy Westbury (Associate Pastor/Youth)

Children: Lisa Diamond, Cynthia Feucht, Youth: Chris Palmer, Allison Hammond

Adult: Ellen Dykhuis, Bev Murray, Sally Van Buren,

and Ray Wicks

Health: Jill Barnum Library: Kathy Campbell Nursery: Jamie Tuin

Bulletin Boards/Artistic Director: Jane Hamilton

Church School Teachers (and Shepherds)

Preschool (Room 206)

Cindy Gleaton (Anna Gleaton) Liz Hamilton (Andrew Hamilton) Deb Taylor (Colleen Sherrill)

Kindergarten/1st Grade (Room 308)

Karen Hassler (Janine Loughrin Amy Miedema (Wendy Miedema) Angela Van Heest (Grace Cook) 2nd and 3rd Grade (Room 305) Lisa Diamond (John Diamond) Cynthia Feucht (Laurie Tupper)

Allison Myers (Steve Breisach)

4th/5th Grade (Room 303/304)

Amy Bell

Heather Cloetingh (Hillary Cloetingh)

Rick Taylor (Patrick Gleaton)

Youth:

Patti Corse, Allison Hammond, Mike Hammond, (Chrissy Westbury)

Childcare: Aedín Clements, Bev Murray,

Jamie Tuin, Kirsten Yohe,

Hall Monitors:

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

Catherine and Robert Wall Emerson

Church School Schedule, Fall/Winter: Preschool—S™ Grade				
Time:	Before Church	Lesson	During Worship	Other
Nov. 3	(Daylight Saving Time!)	Let Us Worship	Communion	Pat Teaching
Nov. 10		Jonah 10		
Nov. 17	No Church School Teachers mtg.	What Shall I Give?		All-Church Breakfast
Nov. 24	Christ the King Sunday	Esther Saves Her People	Communion	Pat Teaching
Dec.1	1st Week of Advent	A Child Will Be Born	Advent Wreaths	
Dec. 8	2 nd Week of Advent	Prepare a Road		
Dec. 15	3 rd Week of Advent	Jesus' Family Tree		All-Church Breakfast
Dec. 22	4 th Week of Advent	Emmanuel: God Is with I	Us	Christmas Eve Rehearsal
Dec. 29	Church School Recess			



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 Church of Richland, Westminster, Pine Island, and North Presbyterian Churches.

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
November 3		No Youth Fellowship
November 10	TBA	Fun Activity!
November 17	FPC	Youth Fellowship
November 24	Richland PC	Youth Fellowship
December 1		No Youth Fellowship
December 8	Richland PC	Christmas Party!
December 15 - January 5		No Youth Fellowship
December 31	FPC	New Year's Eve Fest Fundraiser!

FELLOWSHIP 456



Fellowship Group for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders! Kids in grades 4-6 are in an interesting, transitional situation.

They're kids who sometimes identify with teens much better than with elementary school kids. They're full of energy, forward looking and ready to move on. And they have a unique set of needs.

That's why we have Fellowship 456 — a ministry designed for kids in transition.

We gather on the second Friday of each month for fun, fellowship, and mission.

November 8 — 6-8 p.m. Service Night at the church. Come and make centerpieces and placemats for our Celebrate the Vision Thanksgiving Dinner! Supper will be provided!

December 13—6-8 p.m. Christmas Party (Location TBD) Bring a package of socks to donate to Ministry with Community and a \$5-or-under gift for a gift-exchange game.

For more information, or to volunteer with this group, contact Pastor Chrissy Westbury or Pat Stromsta, Director of Christian Education.



COME TO THE TABLE: STORYTELLING IN COMMUNITY

November 14, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place

Come join Pastors Seth and Chrissy for an evening of storytelling in the style of "The Moth" on NPR. Come to share a story, or just to listen. Storytellers will have six minutes each to share a story around the theme of "Gratitude." Bring a snack to share, and an open and welcoming heart! Remember that you will be limited to six minutes, to allow others to share, so plan and practice your story!

GETTING INTO THE GOOD PLACE

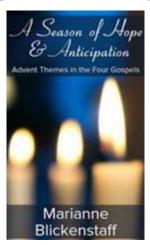
November 3, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place

Want to get into the "Good Place"? Sorry, no guarantees about the afterlife. But in this life, the TV show "The Good Place" is quite popular ... and funny ... and good fodder for conversation. Come watch a few selected episodes and chat with others about the insights and questions raised. On Sunday, November 3 at 3:00 p.m. come to the Gathering Place (a very good place to be, indeed!). No doubt about who's supposed to be able to get in – everyone is welcome!

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

Advent (beginning December 5)

Our Advent study this year, A Season of Hope & Anticipation, is written by New Testament scholar Marianne Blickenstaff. This study examines the Advent themes, including hope and anticipation, found in the four gospels.



We meet at 9:30 for conversation and coffee. Our study begins at 9:45. We dismiss promptly at 11:00.

This class is facilitated by Pat Stromsta.

PRAYER NOTES

Growing up, I was blessed to have the discipline, and privilege, of prayer modeled on a daily basis. Our family prayed together at mealtimes, we were taught the "Now I lay me down" prayer as little children, and then, later on, how to add our own little children petitions and thanks.

Prayer was treated as a natural element in our lives. I am so thankful that it is a part of my own life now—a way to offer thanks, to seek wisdom, refuge and comfort, a way to seek blessings for others and myself and a means to confess and ask forgiveness.

For me, prayer is a daily practice—and it does take practice much like playing an instrument or learning a new athletic skill. Sometimes I try something different, like a breath prayer, or praying the Psalms, or simply being quiet and waiting for God to begin the conversation.

I keep praying because it connects me to God and to others. It feeds me and gives me strength, hope, and peace.

Ellen Dykhuis

Outreach and Community Service

CELEBRATE THE VISION MEAL AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Celebrate the Vision is a ministry of Food, Friendship, and Faith for members of First Presbyterian Church, friends, and neighbors. We serve a home-cooked meal on Wednesday evenings at 5:30. Volunteers are always welcome. For those who enjoy baking, desserts are needed weekly for our guests. A dessert sign-up sheet is posted on the Outreach Board in the Gathering Place.

- A Praise and Prayer Worship Service is held in the Gathering Place at 6:15 on the first and third Wednesday of each month.
- The CtV Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served on November 27.
- Our Christmas Dinner and Christmas Shoppe will be offered on December 18. No dinner will be served on Christmas Day. In December, we will meet weekly in the East Transept to sing, to pray, and to prepare our hearts for the coming birth of Jesus Christ.

DONATIONS REQUESTED

Youth Advancement Academy, a program for students with discipline problems, reached out to the Outreach Committee for the following supplies for the students.

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush/paste
- Dental Floss
- Combs and haircare products
- Drawstring bags or backpacks
- Clothing items
- Books —young adult books
- Sports equipment
- Old magazines

Please contact Mike Boersma at (269) 720-1409 or mike.boersma@gmail.com for more information. You can place donations in a bin in the Narthex.

RICKMAN HOUSE BINGO

For many years, First Presbyterian Church has been assisting the residents at the Rickman House through a monthly Bingo program.

The Rickman House is an assisted living facility for adults with mental illness. The monthly FPC Bingo program combines live entertainment with donations of household and personal care items to the residents. Every month there is a need for laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies, personal care items like body wash, shampoo, soap, and toothpaste, toilet paper, and pop and snacks.

The big event of the year is Christmas Bingo, where we give additional prizes, such as warm coats and bus tokens. We also have a pizza party for the residents. For Christmas Bingo, the Rickman

House residents have indicated that they would like such items as: winter coats and accessories like gloves and hats, as well as dish towels, bath towels, perfume, nail polish remover, calendars, additional hair products and accessories, makeup, makeup bags, movies, paper towels, food items that can be prepared in a microwave, and bus tokens.

Pizza and pop donations are always welcome.

Please consider volunteering with the Rickman House Bingo team for this impactful ministry.

Mike Boersma can answer any questions you might have; you can contact him at (269) 720-1409 or mike.boersma@gmail.com.

The Edison Project thanks you for your support. Butter braids are available to pick up after church, in the basement kitchen on November 17 and 24.

We could still use a couple of birthday treat volunteers and more tutors are always welcome.

TAPPING THE GENERAL ENDOWMENT

For a of number years, our church has experienced an annual deficit of over \$150,000. This means that we take in less in pledges and non-pledged income than we actually spend each year. Most members of our congregation are quite properly focused on the many missions of our church. But for those who have been involved with the church finances, the existence of this deficit this is well known. The reason why it has not caused a crisis is that we quietly take care of the deficit with funds from the income of our general endowment.

The Stewardship Committee wishes to bring this practice to the attention of the congregation. Often we are quietly asked about the need for a stewardship campaign when the church has a large endowment. The reality is that the church is already withdrawing over \$150,000 from the general endowment every year to cover the deficit. So the simple answer is that we *do* withdraw funds from the general endowment, and the amount being withdrawn is substantial.



As these decisions are made by the Finance Committee, great care continues to be exercised to ensure that the amount being withdrawn does not reduce the principal. Indeed, the amount withdrawn is less than the amount of the income generated each year from the general endowment. Nonetheless, limits exist on what can be withdrawn without putting at risk the long-run financial viability of our church. Our pledges and non-pledge income continue to represent the most vital component of our finances.

Despite our financial challenges, great progress can and will be made in the life of our church if we always remember that everyone has a place at the table. Whether it is through a financial pledge or the pledge of our time and talent, we must all work together to do our part.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we 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 our church.

~ Stuart H. Deming



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You can download the pledge card from our website at this link:

http://kzoofirstpres.org/stewardship/



THE CO-MODERATOR IS COMING!

On Sunday, December 1, the Co-Moderator of our national Presbyterian Church (USA) will be coming to lead us in worship and conversation about life in our church.

"Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri is a teacher and a Presbyterian Ruling Elder. A life-long Presbyterian, she considers serving as a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) to the 205th General Assembly (1993) a pivotal experience in understanding for the first time the scope of being a connectional church. Soon after serving as a YAD, Vilmarie was ordained as a ruling elder at the Iglesia Presbiteriana en Caparra Terrace, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

At some point in her life, she has served at the session, as a member and chair of several presbytery committees—including the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Nominating Committee—, vice moderator of Synod Boriquén and council member, a commissioner to the 212th General Assembly and as a member of the General Assembly Committee on Theological Education. Vilmarie has found great joy in working as an interpreter (Spanish/English) at the biennial General Assembly meetings since 2006 and at the past two Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gatherings. At a professional level, Vilmarie holds a B.A. in Education (English as a Second Language) from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master's in Education (Curriculum and Teaching) from Turabo University. Dedicating most of her adult life to education, teaching high schoolers and adults, she began her teaching experience as a Sunday School teacher.

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. A member of First Spanish and a PW (*Presbyterian Women*), she has served as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida (2017), is currently a member of the Leadership Council, serves as clerk of the Presbyterian Hispanic Latino Caucus, Synod of the South Atlantic chapter, and is a faculty member of a CREDO team. An organizer at heart, she loves arts and crafts, decorating and... Christmas! Vilmarie also enjoys spending time with friends and family relaxing over a good cup of Puerto Rican coffee."

Taken from: https://vilmariecindy.com/about/]

ENDOWMENT—(WHAT?!?!?!)

"I know I've heard that term before—endowment. Different committees at the church talk about using the 'endowment' for certain expenses that are important to that committee." The definition of endowment is "money or property given to provide an income".

First Presbyterian Church has several endowment funds that support programs, projects, and needs of the church. There are six (6) specific areas (committees) that review needs and make recommendations to the Session for approval. Those areas are:

- Building and Grounds-Designated Endowment Fund (Property Maintenance)
- Mission and Outreach-Designated Endowment Fund (Outreach)
- Christian Education-Designated Endowment Fund (Christian Education)
- Education-Designated Endowment Fund (Christian Ed and/or Scholarship)
- Worship and Music-Designated Endowment Fund (Worship and Music)
- Elaine Kuney Presbyterian Women Fund (Congregational Life)

There is a specific formula that determines how much of the "Fund" can be used annually. In general terms, it is an average of the invested income from the previous several years. In addition to these specific funds, there is a general endowment fund that supports the work and operation of the church.

The Endowment Committee, which is a sub-committee or the Finance Committee, oversees the investment of assets within these funds. Anyone can make a gift of any size to any of these designated funds. With a gift of \$50,000 or more, and the approval of the Session, a new permanent "Designated Fund" may be established.

In future Presbyter issues, specific explanations will be provided regarding what each "Fund" is allowed to finance.

November & December Birthdays

NOVEMBER

1 Mary Lou Boughton Sue Cole Mark Ohrstrom Joseph Sablan 2 Dianne Hollenbeck Ellen Stults

Kelsey Oliver Jim Stephenson

Thomas Forsch Beth Jarl Annie Leong Mark Loehrke JoAnn Yochim

5 John Petro

Jocelyn Hodgman Seth Weeldreyer

Al García Sandra Standish

8 (none) 9

Miranda Howard Henry Klein James Steffey

Martin Baker Bridin Clements

Ryan Cahill Teresa Cavanagh Loden Krueger 12

Morden Schuur 13 Carol Hutton Micah Mechling

David McShane Heather Misner Mary Lou Todd Jay Heckler
Bruce Rigg
Donald Swetay

15

Miriam Bauserman Warren Misner

Gabriel Weeldreyer Dirk Westbury Louise Wright

17 Joe Agostinelli Ann Parfet

18 Andrew Arwady Belinda Drok Ailih Weeldreyer

Victoria Coleman Dean Panse Jean Scott

Jean Scott James Stefl 20

Kari Crook Sandra Dennehy Michael Ward 21

Grace Cook Luke Fouty Dorothy Larkin Jo Russell David Warren

22 Mackenzie Hunter Greg Leder Ann Ridge

23 Preston Meeker

David Fenton Barbara Graham-Palmer Marlena Kirton

25 Chuck Thiele 26 Warner Stears

27 (none)

28
RJ Davis
Susan Kremer
Vic Onweller
Sheliah Tramel
29
Dylan Davis
Diane Eberts

Jamie Cloetingh Terri Hunter

Karen Nellums

DECEMBER

1 (none)
2

Rosemary Coryell Andrew Hamilton Michelle Warren

Janet Gladstone Nathan Murray

Jeff Ross
5

Sairi Elliott Barbara Johnson

6 Donita DeBruin Sharon Gatewood Elizabeth Novak

7 Mark Longman Albert Newman

Carol Schreiner

Kevin King Noel Ocen-Gorgone Clery Ortiz

Ann Ross 9 Wilma Cooper Laura Fouty Thomas Kasdorf Sawyer Miedema

Barbara Rider

John Cooper
11
Ann Johnson
John Marsom
Nancy Thiele
12
Erin Gladstone
Ben Pileggi
Marti Straatmeyer
13
(none)
14

15 (none)
16 Jackson Fiore Douglas Veech
17 Stuart Deming

(none)

Julie Heath
Andrew Stults
18
Mike Hammon

Mike Hammond Fred Sammons Jill Wilson 19 Danielle Harik

20 Kevin Shaffer 21

Krista Matthews Shelley Rylander 22 Michael Boersma

Ted Crook John Marsom Lynn Russell 23

Denise Freed Rick Russell **24** Hunter Fisk Timothy Lenderink

Donald Meldrum

25

Tiffiny Hubbard

Mira Graziano Stacy McGruder Steve Pifer 27
Ruth Michelhaugh
John Robbins II
Kenneth Sparks
28
Jack Molitor
Shawn Smith

Shawn Smith Jackie Stults Toni Tyler 29

Alan Chase 30

Allison Hammond **31** *(none)*

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SESSION

Clerk of Session: Allison Hammond

CLASS OF 2019

Richard Coryell Diane Durian Don Meldrum Heather Misner 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

In Memoriam

Mary Ann Ven de Ville was born on April 8, 1928 and joined FPC on April 2, 1942. Mary Ann died on October 8, 2019.

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 allowed 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, even on 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

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.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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

Assistance for Worshippers

Hearing Assistance Devices for worship services can be requested from any usher, or you may call the church office in advance.

Copies of **Large-Print Bulletins and Announcements** are available every Sunday morning. Ask one of the ushers for a copy.

If you would like to receive **weekly e-mail updates** about events in the life of FPC, please contact Ann Johnson at 344-0119 and ask that your e-mail address be added to the list.

CD Ministry provides recordings of the Sunday morning services. Please stop in the office or call 344-0119 to place an order.

Gluten-free bread is served at all communion services.

Presbyter

As we recognize ways communication patterns are changing, and as we attempt to be good stewards of our resources, our congregation publishes the *Presbyter* six times per year in bi-monthly editions. Here is the schedule for the balance of the 2018-2019 program year:

<u>Issue</u>	Deadline for Content	Mailing Date
January-February	December 9	December 18
March-April	February 10	February 19
May-June	April 13	April 22
July-August	June 15	June 24

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 list, please contact Ann Johnson at ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org or 344-0119.

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

Michael 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

Shawn Smith

shawn.smith@kalamazoofirstpres.org *Ext. 213*

Custodians (Ext. 213):

Randy Randt

Mike Riggle

South Lobby Receptionists (Ext. 221)

Bruce Birkel Nik DeHaan Nate Owens

FPC Calendar - November, 2019

	9·00a	Christian Ed. Committee	/:00a	Presbyterian Men's Group
Friday/1		FPC Choir rehearsal		FPC Archivists
1:00p Out-to-Lunch Bunch (off site)		Reading Aloud		Weekly Staff meeting
Saturday/2—No activities scheduled		Childcare		Bulletin deadline
Sunday/3		Worship in the Sanctuary		Archivists
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS		Church School		Stewardship Committee
9:00a Prayer Partners				Worship and Music Committee
9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal		New Member Connections	Wednes	
9:15a Reading Aloud		Session Listening Post		Communications Committee
9:45a Childcare		Healing Service	12:00p	
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary		Facing Racism class		Chair Yoga
Communion served		Youth Faith Formation	-	_
10:15a Church School	-	Youth Fellowship		FPC Librarian on site
11:15a Youth Faith Formation	Monda		-	Celebrate the Vision: dinner
11:15a Outreach Fair		Deacon officers' meeting		Celebrate the Vision: worship
11:15a Blood Pressure Screenings	Tuesda	•		Session meets
11:15a Facing Racism class		Presbyterian Men's Group	Thursd	•
12:45p Ministry with Community		FPC Archivists		Women's Bible Study
(FPC serves the meal today)		Weekly Staff meeting		FPC Librarian on site
5:00p Youth Fellowship		Bulletin deadline		Finance Committee
	1	Archivists		Handbell Choir rehearsal
7:00p Sunday Evening Creative Worship		Worship and Music Committee		Stewardship meeting
Monday/4 1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers		sday/13		FPC Choir rehearsal
7:00p Green P's	12:00p	•	•	22—No activities scheduled
-		Chair Yoga		ny/23 —No activities scheduled
Tuesday/5	1:15p	FPC Librarian on site	Sunday	
7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group	3:00p	Martha Circle		FPC Choir rehearsal
10:00a FPC Archivists	5:30p	Celebrate the Vision: dinner		Reading Aloud
11:00a Weekly Staff meeting	5:30p	Men's Group, Off-site		Childcare
12:00p Bulletin deadline	6:30p	Outreach Committee	10:00a	Worship in the Sanctuary
2:00p Archivists	Thursd	ay/14		Communion served
Wednesday/6	9:30a	Women's Bible Study		Church School
9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry	11:00a	FPC Librarian on site	11:15a	Facing Racism class
12:00p Yoga	12:00p	Finance Committee	5:00p	Youth Fellowship
1:15p Chair Yoga	5:00p	Handbell Choir rehearsal	Monda	y/25
1:15p FPC Librarian on site	6:00p	Property Maintenance Committee	<u>11:00a l</u>	Early bulletin deadline
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner	7:00p	FPC Choir rehearsal		for Thanksgiving
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: worship	Friday/	15	7:00p	Thoughtful Readers
Thursday/7	Saturda		Tuesda	y/26
9:30a Women's Bible Study		BINGO Night at Rickman House	7:00a	Presbyterian Men's Group
11:00a FPC Librarian on site	Sunday		10:00a	FPC Archivists
12:00p Adult Ed Committee		All-Church Breakfast	11:00a	Weekly Staff meeting
5:00p Handbell Choir rehearsal		Lectionary Study	2:00p	Archivists
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal		FPC Choir rehearsal	Wednes	sday/27
Friday/8 No activities scheduled		Church School teachers' meeting	12:00p	Yoga
Saturday/9 No activities scheduled		Congregational Life Committee	1:15p	Chair Yoga
Sunday/10		Reading Aloud	1:15p	FPC Librarian on site
		Childcare		Celebrate the Vision: dinner
		Worship in the Sanctuary	Thursd	
PLEASE NOTE:		Church School		giving—Building is closed
A schedule of <u>community groups</u> that		Health Ministry Class	Friday/	
meet at FPC is on page 12 of this issue		Facing Racism class	J	Building is closed
of the Presbyter.		Youth Fellowship	Saturda	ny/30 —No activities scheduled
	-	Sunday Evening Taize Worship		•
	Mondo:			

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

Tuesday/19

FPC Calendar - December, 2019

	7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group	0.00 W
Sunday/1	10:00a FPC Archivists	9:30a Women's Bible Study
9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal	11:00a Weekly Staff meeting	11:00a FPC Librarian on site
9:00a Bazaar	12:00p Bulletin deadline	1:00p Yoga
9:00a Prayer Partners	2:00p Archivists	6:00p Stewardship Committee
9:15a Reading Aloud	7:00p Worship and Music Committee	7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal
9:45a Childcare	Wednesday/11	Friday/21 No activities Scheduled
10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary	8:00a <i>Presbyter</i> folding	Saturday/22
10:45a Church School	12:00p Yoga	6:00p Rickman House Bingo Night
11:00a Bazaar	1:15p Chair Yoga	Sunday/22
11:15a Blood Pressure Screenings	1:15p Chair Toga 1:15p FPC Librarian on site	9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal
11:15a Youth Faith Formation	3:00p Martha Circle	9:15a Reading Aloud
12:15a Youth Music	5:30p Men's Group (off site)	9:45a Childcare
12:45p Ministry with Community	5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner	10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
(FPC serves the meal today)	7:00p Outreach Committee	10:45a Church School
5:00p Youth Fellowship	*	12:15a Youth music
7:00p Sunday Evening Creative Worship	Thursday/12	Monday/23
Monday/2	9:30a Women's Bible Study	Tuesday/24
1:00p Hearts-to-Hands Stitchers	11:00a FPC Librarian on site	—CHRISTMAS EVE
7:00p Green P's	12:00p Finance Committee	5:00p Family Christmas Eve service
Tuesday/3	1:00p Yoga	9:00p Candlelight Christmas Eve service
7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group	6:00p Property Maintenance Comm.	11:00p Contemplative Christmas Eve
10:00a FPC Archivists	7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal	service
11:00a Weekly Staff meeting	Friday/13 —No activities Scheduled	Wednesday/25—CHRISTMAS DAY
12:00p Bulletin deadline	Saturday/14—No activities Scheduled	Church Building closed today
2:00p Archivists	Sunday/15	Thursday/26
Wednesday/4	8:30a All-Church Breakfast	9:30a Women's Bible Study today
9:00a Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry	9:00a Church School teachers' mtg.	11:00a FPC Librarian on site
12:00p Yoga	9:00a Congregational Life Committee	Friday/27 —No activities scheduled
1:15p Chair Yoga	9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal	Saturday/28—No activities scheduled
1:15p FPC Librarian on site	9:15a Reading Aloud	Sunday/29—
5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner	9:45a Childcare	9:15a Reading Aloud
6:15p Celebrate the Vision: Bible Study	10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary	9:45a Childcare
Thursday/5	10:15a Church School	10:00a Worship in the Sanctuary
9:30a Women's Bible Study	11:15a Health Ministry class	10:45a Church School
11:00a FPC Librarian on site	5:00a FPC Choir rehearsal	11:15a (No Youth Sunday School)
5:00p Handbell Choir rehearsal	5:00p Youth Fellowship	12:15a (No Youth Music)
7:00p FPC Choir rehearsal	5:00p Christmas Chocolate	5:00p (No Revolution Youth Group)
Friday/6	7:00p Vespers	Monday/30—
1:00p Out-to-Lunch Bunch, Off-site	Monday/16	12:00p Bulletin deadline
Saturday/7 —No activities scheduled	6:00p Personnel Committee	Tuesday/31
Sunday/8	6:30p Deacons' meeting	7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group
9:00a FPC Choir rehearsal	Tuesday/17	10:00a FPC Archivists
9:00a Christian Ed. Committee	7:00a Presbyterian Men's Group	11:00a Weekly Staff meeting
9:15a Reading Aloud	10:00a FPC Archivists	Building closes at 12
9:45a Childcare	11:00a Weekly Staff meeting	_
10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary	12:00p Bulletin deadline	
10:45a Church School	2:00p Archivists	
11:15a Youth Faith Formation	6:00p Stewardship Committee	
11:15a Session Listening Post	7:00p Worship and Music Committee	LOOKING AHEAD:
11:15a Health Ministry	Wednesday/18	January 1, 2020 New Year's Day
11:15a Presby 101	12:00p Communications Committee	(Church building closed)
11:30a Comfort at Christmas Service	12:00p Yoga	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
12:15a Youth Music	1:15p Chair Yoga	
5:00p Youth Fellowship	1:15p FPC Librarian on site	

5:30p Celebrate the Vision: dinner

6:30p Session meets

Thursday/19

6:15p Celebrate the Vision: Bible study

Monday/9

Tuesday/10

10:00a *Presbyter*—deadline for articles