

Presbyterian *Profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / JUNE 2024

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Season of Change and Talent

As you explore this issue of *Profiles*, please be sure to read the tributes to Chuck, as we recognize his 26 years of service to FPC. These may inspire you to write your own message of thanks and appreciation! There are so many stories to share.

I know there is anxiety around what will happen when Chuck is gone! It isn't just about the music program, but also about the friendships that have been formed among the choir members and congregants.

I truly believe that we don't hate change, but we do hate – and avoid – pain. When change brings about a loss of any kind, we grieve. We were sad to see the talented trio disband, even as we could appreciate that their lives were moving in different directions. A season of music leadership is coming to an end, bringing change, bringing grief.

One thing we do not need to do is fear. Rose Gifford will continue to bring her wonderful gifts as a pianist. Karen Howells will continue to bring her creativity and energy as an organist, and we have another very talented musician in our midst, Pastor Paul. He has blessed our worship with his gifts, and he has much more to share! (It is also no secret that there is quite a wealth of musical talent within our worshipping community!)

When Chuck wraps up his ministry among us at the end of July, we will take some time to assess our musical leadership needs, with Paul expanding his music role. We will continue to lift our voices in song to praise our God. We will continue to be encouraged by choral music. We will continue to be united by the power of music to lift our hearts and souls. We will continue to bring our gifts of worship to God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Blessings,
Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor

Dates for Your Calendar

Habitat Work Day // Wednesday, July 3. Three more homes were started and one will belong to Mohammad's brother. For more information email Bill Haines at: wehaines@icloud.com.

Fourth of July Holiday // The FPC office will be closed **Thursday, July 4** and **Friday, July 5**. Normal office hours resume Monday, July 8.

Book Discussion // *Near the Exit: Travels with the Not-So-Grim Reaper* by Lori Erickson. Beginning **Sunday, July 7**, you are invited to join us for a book discussion on Sunday mornings at 11:15. Episcopal deacon and travel author takes us on her personal journey, inviting us to see that one of the most life-affirming things we can do is to invite death along for the ride. Books are \$11.00. (Also available in audio format through the library.) Sign up at the table near the elevator or contact Cathy. Cathy@fpcholland.org

Parking Lot News // Exciting news from the Building Council, the parking lot of FPC will finally be repaved starting **Tuesday, July 9** This process will last about a week and includes tearing out of existing material, grading, laying a base material, letting that set, then top coating and painting new stripes.

After the base material is graded and set, we will be able to drive on it over the weekend of July 13th and 14th so there will be no interruptions to parking for weekend services.

Camp & Paddle Weekend // Friday, July 12– Sunday, July 14 at Mystery Creek Campground, 9570 Wisner Ave, Newaygo, MI 49337.

In Celebration of Chuck Norris // Sunday, July 28 will be Chuck Norris' last day with us as Music Director. Under his leadership our music ministry has blossomed and flourished. Join us as we celebrate Chuck during coffee fellowship. Read tributes to Chuck on pages 8-10.

West Michigan Whitecaps Game // West Michigan Whitecaps take on the local rivals, the Lansing Lugnuts. We will be going on **Sunday, July 28**. Game time is 2pm.

Shrimp Boil // **NEW** This year's annual Shrimp Boil will take place **Friday, August 2** at 6pm at the Zessin's house. Renowned Southern grill master, Lou Hoop will be preparing the shrimp. More details to come.

Senior Summer Picnic // Saturday, August 3 at 12 noon. The deacons invite seniors to join us for a catered picnic lunch at the Dunton Park (290 Howard Ave, Holland, MI 49424) main pavilion. Sign up by Sunday, July 21 in the narthex or via email to deacons@fpcholland.org.

Save the Date // Mark your calendars for our outdoor worship service **Sunday, August 11** at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Watch for more details.

Peace Camp // Wild Wonder! Are you ready to explore the wild and wonderful world around you? Do you want to learn how to live in peace with the earth? Do you want to have fun, sing songs, make crafts and learn all about God's good creation?

Peace Camp will be held **August 5-9** from 9-11:45am each day. Campers entering K-6th and teen helpers entering 7th-12th grade are welcome! As always, *Peace Camp is totally free!* Sign up on our website homepage, www.fpcholland.org.



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Many hands, big hearts, dedication and passion; for this we give thanks to all of the Worship Center team and Nursery volunteers who share their love and are planting seeds of faith with our children on Sunday mornings and beyond.

Our children prepared a special thank you note for the WC team and the volunteers in the nursery. By using the pulp of recycled paper, the children created different shaped note cards then sprinkled them with wildflower seeds. We are hoping as the seed cards are planted into the ground, the beauty of wildflowers growing will be a gentle reminder of how much they are appreciated and valued.

All are invited and encouraged to be part of the Sunday morning worship. A sensory shelf for Godly play is located behind the sanctuary across from the stairs with activities and the children's bulletin. Celebration time is available following children's message during worship. Check the message board in the sensory shelf area to learn more about the weekly activity/time together for the older kids.

May the scattering of your seeds of faith be widespread.

Lori Klinesteker,
Children's Ministry



The recycling of paper is the process by which waste paper is turned into new paper products. It has a number of important benefits: It saves waste paper from occupying homes of people and producing methane as it breaks down. Because paper fiber contains carbon (originally absorbed by the tree from which it was produced), recycling keeps the carbon locked up for longer and out of the atmosphere. Around two-thirds of all paper products in the US are now recovered and recycled, although it does not all become new paper.



Presbyterian Women

Our 2023-24 season of monthly Bible study of “Sacred Encounters in Luke and Acts” concluded in May. It was our first year with both Hannah and Miriam circles combined, with 15-20 members each month. An indoor picnic was held in June, with sandwich choices from Jersey Mike’s and the delicious cookies from Evergreen Commons. Elder Carleen Bauer offered a look at how the feral cat population in our area is being addressed, where she is leading the organization “A Feral Haven”. She is an engaging speaker!

With a new Bible study beginning in September we will learn about *God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* in a series of lessons titled “Let Justice Roll Down” by Patricia K. Tull. She wondered how she as a biblical scholar could help with climate

crisis, with particular care for society’s least powerful members disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. She began learning about ecology, then teaching people of faith what she learned. Her title comes from Amos 5:24 “*Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.*” We welcome all women of our congregation to join us in this monthly study. We meet on 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30 am, September-May.

At the picnic we installed Mary Bennett as our Moderator, and Mickey Harris as Treasurer. Three other members, Bev Plagenhoef, Sarah Glover, and Janet Magennis round out the leadership activities. Study books can be ordered from Bev or Sarah, with an order to be placed this summer.



Carleen Bauer

GET THE LATEST NEWS from **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

We are adding more content on our Facebook page! // Facebook: **FPCHolland PW**

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Outreach <>



Photo courtesy of kidsfoodbasket.org

Looking for volunteers // Kids' Food Basket, one of our outreach partners, is in need of some volunteers to help with their small farm at Ridgepoint Church. The tasks vary depending on what is needed that day. Work shifts are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 10:30am. Individuals can sign up on their website, <https://www.kidsfoodbasket.org>. We are in the planning process for a group workday later this summer. Details to come.



Come take a look at the lovely new handicap accessible walkway to our Memorial Garden.

<> Worship & Arts <>



Outdoor worship // Sunday, August 11 at 10am join us for worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center pavilion.

Feel free to bring your favorite lawn chair to sit in. We will have lemonade, water and cookies. You are welcome to bring your own coffee! If you wish, bring a lunch to eat after the service, walk the fully accessible trails, have fun on the playground, or visit the animals and birds of prey cared for by the ODC. This service will be intergenerational, and all ages will be encouraged to participate!

A reminder that this outdoor service will not be live streamed (not available on YouTube).

<> Deacons <>

Senior Summer Picnic // Saturday, August 3 at 12:00 the deacons invite seniors to join us for a catered picnic lunch at the Dunton Park (290 Howard Ave, Holland, MI 49424) main pavilion. Sign up by Sunday, July 21 in the narthex or via email to deacons@fpcholland.org

<> Session Summary <>

The Session of FPC held its regular meeting on June 18th.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a devotional was offered by Jon McFadyen.

Prayer concerns were shared by Session members.

As we continue to read Sailboat Church together, we discussed how we define the word, "church," which the author understands to be a "divine, God ordained movement." Elders were invited to name three things they would want someone to know about FPC, what defines this congregation.

Much of our work continues to focus on the church's financial picture, which includes the intention to retire the debt on the renovations of the building. A mid-year report will be made to the congregation so that everyone will understand the financial concerns and needs of the congregation. Councils made their reports, but no action items were voted on at this meeting.

The Nominations Committee (chaired by Gail Hering) encouraged the elders to prayerfully consider who they would like to see around the Session table and bring those names to the committee.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

The next scheduled meeting of the Session will be on July 16th.

<> Connect Together <>

Men's Study Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. May meeting times; **July 5 & 19**
Questions? Contact David Ford.

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club is on summer break and will return in September to discuss the book, *Oath and Honor*, by Liz Cheney.

We welcome anyone to join us even though they may not have read the book(s). Contact Larry Lynn at oldrun09@gmail.com or 616.617.8944 if you have any questions. Our group is always looking for new members.

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club gathers on the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe.

Join us **July 14** when we discuss the book, *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks. Contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com if you have questions.

Common Threads Group

We hope that "Common Threads" reflects the fact that all are welcome. Many of us are crocheting or knitting prayer shawls, but feel free to come and work on other needlework or crafts, or just come for the fellowship! We meet the third Monday of each month from 1-3pm in the Ontario room. Come and go as you are able. We hope you'll join us! Our next meeting is **July 15**.



On behalf of Jesse, we want to thank you for the sweet cards and artwork that you all sent to cheer him up after surgery. He is doing very well, and he enjoyed getting so much mail. We have your well-wishes up as a reminder of how loved he is. ~ *Thank you! The Rund-Scott family*



In Celebration
of Chuck Norris

Before I ever arrived, I heard about Chuck! The story was frequently shared with me that when Chuck joined the staff of FPC, he took a group of faithful singers and transformed them into a stunningly talented choir. As you will read below in the reflections penned by those who had many more years with Chuck than I was privileged to share, Chuck's many talents brought out the talents of this community. Chuck's presence will be deeply missed, but our belief that music is an essential dimension of our worship will not change. In worship, we lift our voices together in gratitude, in petition, in praise.

*How often, making music, we have found,
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!*

~When in our Music God is Glorified (Glory to God, #641)

Chuck, thank you for helping us find – across 26 years! - that more profound, “Alleluia.”

Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

From Rev. Tom Nelson

The phone call that changed everything, well not quite everything but certainly the music program of our congregation. I will never forget that call from Chuck replying with some interest to our advertisement for a Director of Music. Chuck had just landed a little job at Grand Valley University and needed something more to really challenge him. It didn't take me two minutes to think, this is the guy we need and after interviewing and meeting the choir we got him, and what a catch!!! Twenty-five years of faithful and splendid directing!

I also will never forget the first Christmas music program under Chuck's direction. I, along with many in the congregation, were in tears, so beautifully done!!! These events and many more under Chuck's leadership I remember well even though my brain is now partially fossilized! So, thanks Chuck for the sweet memories and the long and faithful service.

From choir member Jan Van Faasen

As a choir member for over sixty years, under countless directors and accompanists, I feel qualified to say that Chuck is the BEST! We have all bonded together, learned together, sung together, and experienced our highs and lows together. When we hear compliments for the choir, it is because we're led by Chuck! His creativity, adaptability, and multi-talents have been a gift to us all.

And then there was the ROAD TRIP! We all piled into cars a few years ago and drove through the corn and soy fields to Mahomet, Illinois, to join with his former church choir. We ate together, laughed together, stayed overnight together, and sang “Kum-ba-yah” together.

Together we say THANKS TO CHUCK AND BEST WISHES!



In Celebration
of Chuck Norris

From Rev. Linda Knieriemen

If I had a dollar for every time someone said to me, “Until Chuck came, our choir was, um, lacking. He can get music out of a turnip.” Of course he can! He is a PhD trained university professor, a music education teacher, a multi-year experienced choral director, pianist, vocalist. He is a man serious about his faith journey. Chuck is no ordinary church choir director. How fortunate FPC has been over these 26 years that Chuck has given his time and talent in ministry with us WHILE being a full-time professor at GVSU.

But Chuck is more than one more proficient team member. He thrives on creativity. And embraces spontaneity. And fun!

It was not unusual for me on a Friday or Saturday afternoon to call Chuck and hesitantly share a musical idea that had arisen in my quirky brain during sermon preparation for that week. Chuck wouldn't berate me for the last-minute nature of my call. He'd take it as a challenge. He'd say, “I can do that.” And Sunday morning, the perfect musical complement to the morning's theme would arise. Spontaneity.

One of those occasions was the summer of 2018. While deep into sermonating, I heard Aretha Franklin had died. The tributes to her and her music flooded the radio. So, I called Chuck and asked if there was a way we could recognize the passing of this great and soulful musical icon. The next morning while he improvised the prelude, we began to hear snippets of *R-E-S-P-E-C-T*. Those who had ears, heard --- and lifted their hearts in gratitude, not just for Aretha Franklin, but I believe, also for Chuck Norris. Fun!

Creativity, spontaneity, fun. And Friend! That's how I remember Dr. Charles Norris.

From choir member Sherry Martens

Thank you, but no “Good Byes”!! My appreciation goes beyond words; for your friendship, your musical expertise and patience as a vocal coach, both as a choir member and individual student. You've provided long lasting memories through musical experiences for so many people, I'm honored to be among them. Not that I always appreciated being pulled out of my comfort zone but being the excellent instructor/director that you are, you had a way of breaking down any musical piece, play, or opera, into teachable segments. You always knew we'd eventually bring it all together. You consistently proved we could reach musical heights that we could never have imagined. You challenged us as a choir, provided opportunities to grow, sometimes under protest, always having more faith in our talents than we ever did. I was truly amazed many times as a choir member with the selection of music, thinking, there's no way we're pulling that off, not questioning your ability, only my own. No surprise, each and every time, I was wrong. You are a master of your craft!

I remember the day we visited the church, before we were members. I honestly didn't think I'd be able to join FPC with its current quality of music. Shallow, I know. This was of course, before you took the role of Music Director. On my second visit, I couldn't believe the transformation listening to the choir under your direction, it was amazing. We were sitting behind a woman who turned around, suggesting I join the choir. Not knowing she was your wife at the time, it was a sign. We not only joined the church, but I immediately joined the choir. I'm so grateful our paths crossed, you will be truly missed as my vocal coach and director, but I'm comforted that you'll always remain my friend.

Wishing you all the best in your “partial” retirement!



In Celebration
of Chuck Norris

From choir member Bob Martin

"Always A Place For You", the title of an anthem written by Philip E. Silvey, (copyright 2018) commissioned by our church in honor of Chuck Norris's twenty years of service as our Musical Director.

Chuck's tenure has involved 3 Senior Pastor and 2 Interim Pastors. We are grateful for Chuck's love of our church which is reciprocated by the choir members for his guidance through many events never even imagined possible. Through GVSU Facilities the choir recorded a Christmas CD and was followed up with a CD which included favorite anthems. For 3 years the choir performed a Madrigal dinner with directorial assistance from Gail Hering and many, many costumes created by Laurie Gansen. Forgive me but I can't remember who prepared the food (I could guess), but I do believe the youth group served the meals. Chuck had the choir tackle anthems and cantatas which we had little faith we could handle - he even made up a Liturgical cheat sheet that included the phonetical spelling.

I do believe Chuck was proud of what the choir had accomplished over the years. On a good Sunday we started with 2 Tenors which turned into 7, we had so many Tenors that the Bass section had to seat two or three in the second row of the choir loft. There were also occasions when the men outnumbered the women. That was during the time when we came close to 30 in the choir. Chuck made arrangements for us to travel to his home church in one of those "I" States - Indiana or Illinois - to show off his accomplishments with First Presby Choir. We traveled with a number of spouses, sometimes referred to as the "Five Golden Rings", but that's another story. The church was more than gracious in providing housing and food. I do believe our Sunday singing made Chuck proud of how far we came under his tutelage.

Chuck has many hidden talents as he has written numerous responses for our services. His crowning glory was his writing and composition of *A Farewell Anthem* for Rev. Tom Nelson. I am honored to have been part of your musical journey at First Presby. You helped all of us grow in our musical abilities. There is "Always A Place for You" in the hearts of this congregation. You and your family will always be in my heart.
~ We are One in The Spirit -
We are One in The Lord.

From choir member Tim Staal

I have many fond memories of Chuck directing our choir efforts. - I particularly appreciated his patience with our chatty group, his encouragement that helped us stretch and perform works that we didn't think we were capable of, and his humorous acceptance of bad jokes from the men especially. I also really enjoyed some of the special programs we did. Two in particular come to mind for me: the Madrigal dinner and the production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Chuck invited us to his home in Jenison to help us figure out how to sing some of the difficult sections and sing them well.
Thanks Dr Norris!



*worshipping, serving, and living with a fresh
vision of God's vibrant energy and grace for all.*



Profiles goes on summer vacation!

Just a reminder that *Profiles* will not
be published during the month of July.

Look for the next issue at the end of August.

