

The cover of the magazine features a close-up photograph of several tall, slender purple flowers with green stems and small buds. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field. The title 'Presbyterian Profiles' is printed in white, with 'Profiles' in a larger, italicized font.

Presbyterian *Profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / SEPTEMBER 2024

A Message from Rev. Cathy C. Hoop	2
A Message from Rev. Paul Van Kempen	3
Worship Center	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Session Summary	6
Deacons	7
Happenings Around FPC	8-9
New members	10
FPC Prays	11

CHURCH STAFF

Deacons

deacons@fpcholland.org

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
cathy@fpcholland.org

Paul Van Kempen

Associate Pastor and
Director of Music
paul@fpcholland.org

Marlene Field

Bookkeeper
marlene@fpcholland.org

Lori Klinesteker

Clerk of Session and
Children's Ministry Leader
lori@fpcholland.org

Lori Lepard

Administrative Assistant
office@fpcholland.org

Jane Oosterhouse

Custodian
jane@fpcholland.org

Thom Samuelson

Maintenance
thom@fpcholland.org

Sue Stock

Communications
sue@fpcholland.org



Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

Déjà Vu

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121)

Theologians believe this “psalm of ascents” may have been part of a collection of songs that pilgrims would have sung on their way up to Jerusalem for one of the major festivals. A pilgrimage may also be a spiritual, symbolic journey of the soul.

What terrain are you currently “traveling”? Are you encouraged and hopeful, lifting your eyes to the source of your help? Are you anxious and troubled, head downcast?

Sometimes my journeying feels like déjà vu.

Each election cycle in our nation brings its own troubles...divisions, name-calling, suspicions, rumors. We aren't surprised by it, but it seems to get worse every four years. The atmosphere causes us to question, to search. We may find the strength to be emboldened, or we may find ourselves paralyzed by uncertainty.

“What is truth?” Pontius Pilate asked Jesus. In the political chaos, we long for truth, we long to be able to trust those we elect to serve with moral integrity. We long for those we elect to try to work across divisions to find solutions so that we can become a truly united nation. Rev. Otis Moss III from Chicago speaks of the “yet to be United States of America.”

As election day draws near, let us pray. Let us pray for our neighborhoods, where dueling campaign signs speak of our varied perspectives. Let us pray for nation, for peaceful elections, for safety for all candidates.

In all that we say and do, may we be guided by the prophet's call, to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

May you know that God is on the journey, too.

Blessings and peace -

Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Symbol of God's Love

You're probably all familiar with my Children's Message bag. Most weeks during the children's message I pull something out of the bag. You never know what I'll pull out—a book, a magic trick, a trinket from my office, or (if the kids are lucky) some candy. It is a fun way to keep the kids engaged in the message. But the bag itself is really nothing special—it is just a string backpack that I pulled off a shelf at home when I started preparing children's messages here at FPC. It is blue and has sharks on it. The bag is just a vessel, it held no meaning. It could have easily been replaced by any other bag.

But soon I'll be introducing a new Children's message bag. I have always wanted a bag that was special, that meant something, that held meaning for the kids. I asked Janet Haines if she could make me a bag like that. She made me this beautiful new bag. The rainbow of the bag is the same fabric as my rainbow stole. It represents inclusion and welcome

and love for all people. The fabric in the center panel shows a diversity of kids—kids that are all known and loved by God. I couldn't have imagined a more perfect bag for the children's message!

I hope that the kids remember the things I pull out of this bag (and the lessons attached to them!), but I also hope that as they grow they remember this bag as a symbol of God's love for them and for all people.



Men's trip to the Gilmore Car Museum

We had a great time at the Gilmore. We saw some beautiful cars, ate lunch in the restored railcar diner, chatted on the bus, and had some great fellowship. Thanks to Bob Gansen for organizing and Jon Kreple for driving the bus! We're already talking about plans for next year.



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

On September 8, Worship Center began a new year in a beautiful and meaningful way when celebrants were commissioned during the worship service. WC kids and celebrants then lit candles from the Christ Candle and processed to their Worship Center to share the light of the Christ Candle with the candle on their worship table. The Good Shepherd is the heart of Worship Center; the story is shared in different ways throughout the year. As I was leading into the Parable, a 4th grader sitting next to me whispered, "I hope this is the one I always like to hear." It was! My heart was full.

After the story concluded, the kids shared:

"I'm always glad when the lost sheep is found."

"I know where the dark places are."

"The feast they have at the end is like Jesus and his guys before he dies, right?"

"It's communion."

"I am (pointing) -- this sheep."

When a story is shared with the kids, listening to where they see themselves in the story, their thoughts, questions, and wonder are simply amazing.

Wherever you are...the warm green grasses, the cool still waters, or the dark places, be certain the Good Shepherd has been there before you, is with you, and will lead you safely home -- then celebrate with a feast!

Lori Klinesteker





Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women have been a part of FPC Holland for quite a while, and for many years the providers of all food-related times at the church. But it became overwhelming and original members had to seek more help. The control of Kitchen activities was wearily relinquished in the late 1990s and we helped design better storage and a much better kitchen before the larger remodeling of our church building. One comfort to the congregation is that most of us still prepare and serve for luncheons after memorial services at the church. So, if you are called for nut-free cookies – please say “YES” and stay to help put the kitchen back to its ready status.



Our Bible Study Kickoff in September with the guest leadership of Pastor Cathy Hoop was a reminder of our study this year of honoring our creation and learning about its justice issues. We began with Environmental Justice, sharing about our own community – what was at Riley Trails park before – do we have Superfund sites – water safety issues? The original tanneries in Holland just buried the pelts and that legacy was not pleasant to dig through. So, yes, Holland shares these kinds of issues with many other municipal areas. Each lesson can stand alone, so drop in on the 2nd Wednesdays at 9:30 am for good conversations.

PW has met in the Michigan Room for many years, but the audio quality in there is a problem for those with hearing issues. **On October 9th**, we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall, testing out the

location to decide if the audio system provides better hearing for the group. Please use the elevator for lower level to get to this gathering easily. We appreciate the church staff for assisting us.

Looking ahead, join us for ***Christmas Soup Luncheon on December 11 at 11:30 am***. Three soups will be available, along with breads and desserts. \$5. Can't beat that anywhere!

Finally, as you begin to spot deals for Christmas gift-giving, don't forget how easy it is to pick up new/unwrapped packages of underwear items for women and children served by RESILIENCE. And, in order to assist PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL this year we will be helping with their annual fundraising by selling car washing coupons for use at Quality locations. Great stocking stuffers.

Janet Magennis,
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Communications

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PURPOSE:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- . to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,
- . to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- . to work for justice and peace, and
- . to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom

GET THE LATEST NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Session Summary <>

The Session of FPC held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 17th, opening with prayer.

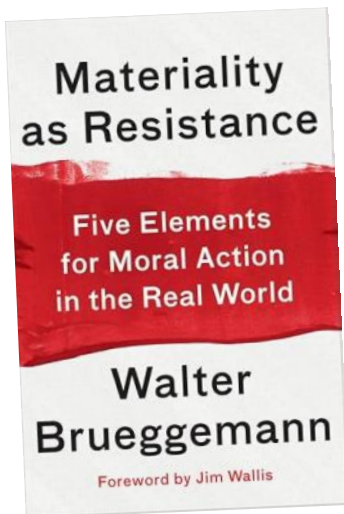
Fran Ford and Alana and Alan Coconour were joyfully welcomed into membership of our congregation. Approval was given for the baptism of Ivy Elizabeth Coconour on Sunday, September 29. Ivy's grandmother, the Rev. Dr. Barb Edema, will be officiating for the baptism.

After a devotional, the Session discussed another chapter of *Sailboat Church* by Rev. Joan S. Grey. We particularly spent time discussing the role of prayer in our lives, and how prayer transforms our individual lives and the life of our congregation. The author then challenged the reader to acknowledge that there are two things that we often are hesitant to release: our need for control, and our need for comfort. Are we trying to control things or are we listening for God's guidance? Is our need to be comfortable silencing God's call to us to be a voice of compassion, justice and grace?

The Session continued its work, hearing reports from the various councils, and receiving an update from the Nominating Committee (for the next class of elders and deacons...more coming soon!) and the Business Council. The Business Council has been working closely with the Stewardship Committee (chaired by Tim Staal) to plan an energetic stewardship season.

Please hold the elders in your prayers. Know that they are available to you, and that you can always find their names on the back of the worship bulletin. Pray that their hope will be continually renewed as they serve our congregation with energy, imagination, intelligence and love.

<> Save the Date <>



Adult Education Opportunity //
Beginning October 6:
Materiality as Resistance

After such great participation in the Christian Nationalism discussion, let's follow it up with a class that will guide us in the "what now?" How do we respond?

Using Walter Brueggemann's book, *Materialism as Resistance*, we will explore the difference between *materiality* and *materialism*. Brueggemann lays out how we as Christians may reengage our materiality for the common good. The topics include: money, food, the body, time and place. Join us at 11:15 in the Michigan Room. The class will meet Oct. 6 - Nov. 10. Cathy Hoop, facilitator.

Fall Senior Luncheon // The Deacons invite our seniors to a fall "tailgate" party (in the fellowship hall) on Saturday, November 16. Wear your team colors and we'll try not to cause a schism! We'll have chili and other game day treats.

Sign up at the sign up table or by emailing deacons@fpc.org by November 10.

<> Deacons <>

Deacons will Provide Transportation and Handyman Services

One of several services offered to church members by the Deacons include rides to those who need them.

We have a team of volunteer drivers who will pick you up, take you to appointments, wait for you until you've finished your business, then take you back home.

A second service is available from a team of volunteer handymen from our church who will come to your location and perform help with most household repairs.

Both services are free of charge.

Please contact Deacon Tom Glover if you need transportation or a handyman, or simply more information Tom can be reached by phone at 616-994-6075 or e-mail at glovertn@gmail.com

<> Connect Together <>

Men's Discussion Group

Meets at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. We will meet October 4 and October 18. Join us. Contact Ross Hamlin (616) 399-0509 or Bob Gansen (269) 753-7024 if you have any questions.

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club meets at FPC the first Monday of each month at 7pm. Our next meeting is Monday, October 7. Our October book is yet to be determined.

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

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club meets the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe. Our next meeting is October 13 discussing the book, *Magic Season* by Wade Rouse

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, hats, scarves and chemo socks. 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 October 21, followed by November 18.

In September, this very active group donated 14 cuddly, colorful shawls to Children's Advocacy Center in Holland and there are still plenty more for use for congregational needs. Thanks to everyone who supports the prayer shawl ministry with time, talents and materials!

<> Happenings Around FPC <>



Fall kick off potluck held September 8. A time of good fellowship and delicious food was enjoyed by all.



Labor Day weekend worship: *A Celebration of Our Many Callings* - congregants were invited to bring a 'symbol of their work' to celebrate the varied ways God calls us to share our gifts with the world.



<> Happenings Around FPC <>

Thank you to everyone who has been participating in the conversation about the possibility of installing screens in the sanctuary. Many of you attended the meeting on Labor Day weekend, others have e-mailed or called or spoken with Paul or I about your questions and thoughts.

Let me reiterate that we are not trying to rush a decision, although I understand that this idea was raised many years ago, so for some of you it has been a lengthy conversation!

I hope that you can trust that if we were to install screens, the purpose would be to improve accessibility, to improve the basic ability to participate more fully in worship. Will that be through screens? Maybe...Some of you have suggested other ideas which we need to explore, and we (staff, Worship Council, Buildings Council) appreciate your insights and ideas. We are listening.

I hope you can also trust that if we were to install screens, that would not be with the intention of changing the structure or tone of our services. The goal isn't to become a mega church or to be like a mega church. (We can be glad that there are

different churches for different types of worship experiences and there is the freedom to choose!) We aren't looking for a personality make over!

We hear the concern about the dominance of screens in our daily lives, and take that concern seriously. My personal experience, at my previous church, was interesting! The children didn't pay attention to the screens (unless we were sharing the illustrations from a children's book or something else pertinent to them). Many of the

adults continued to use a printed bulletin, while others found it easier to use the screens to follow the liturgy. There were no bouncing balls...no pulsing lights...no music videos...there was liturgy and hymns (with the music), and images when appropriate.

The goal is not entertainment or to appease our technology driven society, but rather to support our worshiping community and to give Paul and me some additional "tools."

I ask that you continue to pray for our elders, for Paul and me, as we seek a decision, a decision which we hope will not be divisive or discouraging, whatever that decision may be.



Pastor Paul facilitating the discussion of screens in the sanctuary.



<> Happenings Around FPC <>

New Members!

The Session of FPC was thrilled to welcome the following new members: Francis (Fran) Ford and Alana and Alan Coconour at the September Session meeting.

Fran, a fairly new resident to Holland, is sister to Ken Harper, and she lives upstairs from him at Freedom Village.

Alana and Alan Coconour also have family here at FPC. Alana is the granddaughter of Mimi Keller. Alana and Alan are parents to James (2 y/o) and baby Ivy. Alan is employed by American Express, and Alana is an educator.

We are thankful for these new members and look forward to getting to know them better!



Fran Ford



Alan and Alana Coconour, children James and Ivy.

Take A Book. Read a Book. Share a Book.

We have many readers at First Presbyterian Church. We are setting up two bookcases in the Michigan Room for members and those who attend First Presbyterian to, Take a Book, Read a Book and Share a Book. We have already received some donations and those will be up on the shelves to borrow very soon.

We will use the Honor System and you don't need to share a book to take one. If you take a book, we ask you please consider bringing a book or two to share with others. Please return any books you borrow so others might enjoy them.



Books that are contributed should be appropriate for members of all ages and backgrounds. The goal is a balanced collection to be enjoyed by all of our readers. Please avoid coffee table books and textbooks. We would love to have copies of beloved children's stories to share with our younger members. Young Adult books are also welcome.

We hope to have the book area open very soon.



first
presbyterian
church

659 STATE STREET
HOLLAND, MI 49423

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