



Presbyterian *Profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / JANUARY 2025

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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

Follow Me

Dear Friends,

I needed this today. Maybe you do, too.
From theologian Walter Bruggemann:

Where you lead us, we will follow:
He called and said, "Follow me."

We are his followers, baptized into his company.

He called us to follow him into a world of fear
and threat and anger,

To follow in obedience,
To follow in gladness,
To follow in buoyant confidence...

In this hour of baptismal reflection,
Revive our new identity in Jesus,
Revive our pledge of fresh obedience,
Revive our passion

For our world of need,
Of violence,
Of poverty.

Look on this old, tired world with your mercy, and
Make new,
Make things new for us,
Make things new for those who are sick or who grieve,
Make things new for those with power and wealth,
And for those without power and wealth,
Make things new on this very day.

Hear our pledge that we will walk into that world with you,
So that the world may breathe easy again,
With thanks and joy and peace. Amen.

Peace be with you, children of God –
Remember that you are baptized, and be thankful –

Cathy



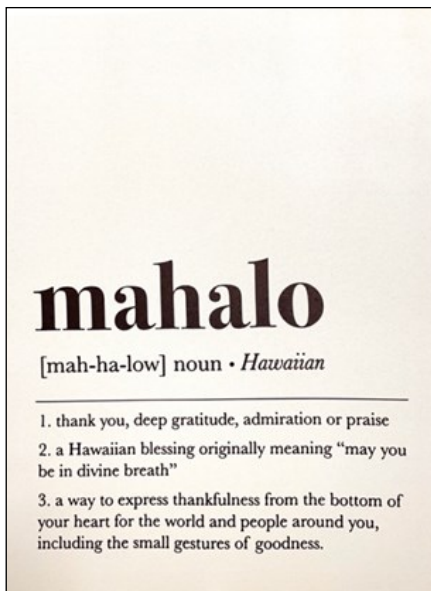
Rev. Paul Van Kempen
Associate Pastor

Gratitude

This past month I spent 2 weeks in Hawai'i. I was there with my DMin class learning about how the native people of Hawai'i cared for the land and how the church can care for creation by emulating the practices of the Hawai'ian people. I learned a lot and can't wait to share it with you.

Another take away from the trip was the word "mahalo". When we arrived in Hawai'i, I heard people using the word "mahalo" in place of "thank you" and I started doing the same. I didn't really know what the word meant, but when a waiter brought me food or when an uber driver dropped me off, I said, "mahalo" instead of "thank you".

In the house we were staying (in one of the bathrooms of all places) was this sign:



Suddenly, the word I had been using meant so much more to me. Mahalo wasn't a new way to say thanks, it is a word with deep spiritual meaning. As I learned more about Hawaiian culture, I came to realize that mahalo wasn't just a word, but it was a way of life. The Hawaiian people lived lives of gratitude—for each other, for the land, for the water, for the taro and the coconut.

My time in Hawai'i was a reminder to me to live a life of gratitude, for big things (like grant-funded trips to Hawai'i) and the little things (like sign on bathroom walls.)

May you be in divine breath.

Mahalo.

Pastor Paul



Lori Klinesteker
Children's
Ministry Leader

Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

Baptismal Waters Overflow...Special moments continue in the Worship Center.

During January, Pre-k through 2nd shared the story of Jesus' Baptism – John the Baptist. Following the story, a second grader was telling about his favorite part – the River Jordan; he said, "I'm really glad it didn't happen in the Dead Sea because it's made of salt, and all the people would just float."

Continuing the next Sunday, we talked about the promises and commitments made at baptism, shared photos of infants through adults being

baptized at FPC and of Pastor Cathy's former Church, along with the similarities and differences practiced in other church.

We are all Children of God, born of the same worth and in whom God is well pleased.

Shalom,
Lori Klinesteker





Presbyterian Women

As we explore, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*, we are halfway in our justice studies. We agreed that air quality affects everyone and discussed some situations where there has been successful litigation to mitigate the effects of large animal farming corporations on air and water resources. Locally we had just heard that Consumers is partnering with a new business that will, over time, reduce the fly ash on their site for use in make concrete mixing. The complete end of burning coal for energy in our area by Holland, Grand Haven, and Consumers is well underway. We have all heard the "Let justice roll down like water..." quote from the book of Amos as a call to action.



We checked in on members' health and on those absent. We had great enthusiasm for the request to endorse a grant application to the denominational PW Thank Offering by Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity, and went on to alert the Session of our endorsement (yes, asking for forgiveness rather than permission). It would be an honor to have grant funds from the Thank Offering come to assist the repair of housing here in the greater Holland area for neighbors who qualify under the A.L.I.C.E. umbrella. They are Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed, who have jobs and housing that needs repairs and support. MSHDA funds do not cover repairs.

We are overjoyed that new technology is coming to the Michigan Room in the tech renovations underway over the winter. Yay! Those who do not hear well are especially grateful. When we meet on 2-12-25 we can peek in to see how it is going.

Janet Magennis, PW Communications

GET THE LATEST NEWS from **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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

Online: PresbyterianWomen.org

<> Deacons <>

There are many ways to get involved serving our congregation through the Deacon care teams, using your gifts to care for each other and strengthen our community. Current ministries coordinated by the deacons include:

Visitation: homebound members and those living in nursing homes can be assigned to a visitor from the congregation who will visit about once a month. These visits are a delightful way to connect with our friends who can no longer make it to church regularly. We also have visitors who sign up to visit folks during hospitalizations or grieving to provide extra support.

Cards: The card team receives regular emails when there are special needs in our congregation so that we can express support, care, joy, and celebration.

Meals: The Nourishers team receives invitations to provide meals for families after surgeries, hospitalizations, births, etc.

Transportation: The Transporters team provides rides to medical appointments for folks who are unable to drive

Handy Workers: The handy worker team provides light home repairs or other practical needs around the home.

Care Closet: Deacons maintain a list of durable medical equipment available to borrow from members of our congregation and connect folks with items as needed.

Home Communion: Any member who has been previously ordained as an elder or deacon can be part of our home communion program. We bring communion to homebound folks as an extension of our celebration of the Lord's Supper in worship on the first Sunday of the month. Teams of at least 2 elders or deacons serve communion to those who request.

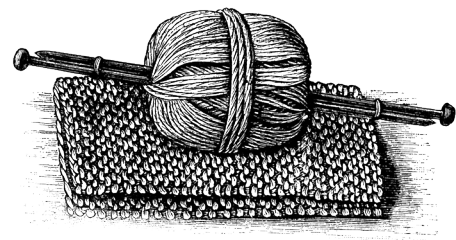
If you would like to learn more about how to be involved in any of these ministries, contact deacons@fpcholland.org or call the church office.

<> Connect Together <>

Grief Support // Once a month, a small group gathers for grief support...we listen, we share, we pray. The group is open to all who need a safe space as they journey with grief. We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Superior Room. Our next meeting is February 19.

Men's Discussion Group // Meets at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. We will meet February 7 & 21. *Join us!* Contact Ross Hamlin 616-399-0509 or Bob Gansen 269-753-7024 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 February 9 discussing the book, *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. 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 February 17.

<> Looking Ahead <>

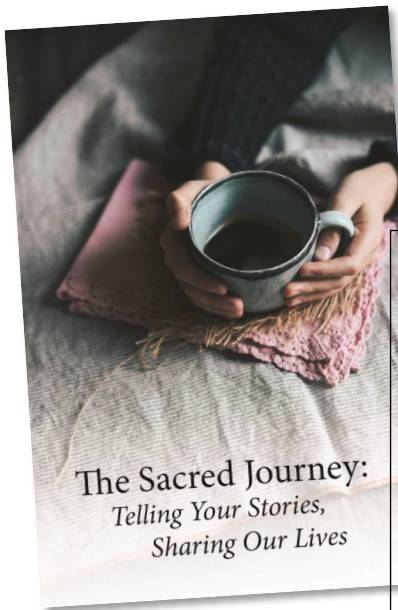


Habitat for Humanity // Upcoming Habitat workdays are February 13 and March 13. Questions can be directed to wehaines@icloud.com

Holland Community Theatre // Dinner and theater evening, Saturday, February 15th at 7:30pm to see *An Inspector Calls* at Holland Community Theatre. Description: After a young girl's death, an inspector calls to interrogate the family and finds to their surprise that they are all caught up in her demise. The play explores themes of social responsibility and society's failings, and serve as a reminder of our collective duty to one another. Tickets are \$18 payable to Chris Urbaniak in advance. Optional dinner at the Curraugh at 5:30pm. Sign-up in the narthex.

Save the Date // The annual Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Holland. The theme of the retreat is, *The Sacred Journey: Telling Your Stories, Sharing Our Lives* and the speaker will be Janet Salyer. Janet is a pastor, counselor and spiritual director and a delightful human being! Come be nurtured by her warmth, joy and spiritual depth.

We would love to have you join us! Invite a friend to share the day with you! The cost is \$45 and scholarships are available. The deadline for reservations is February 9, 2024



Brochures including registration form are available outside of the church office. Forms that you can download and print from home can also be found on our website homepage, www.fpcholland.org.

For more information, please contact Carleen Bauer at carleenbauer@gmail.com or Chris Urbaniak at cmurbaniak@comcast.net.

Let's Pray Together

PRAYERS FOR

- > Loren Meengs scheduled for heart surgery January 31
- > Neal Harris recovering from surgery after a fall
- > Steve Magennis recovering after a heart procedure (in Florida)
- > Marianne McBeth recovering at home
- > Prayers for Kevin Westrate, Marianne McBeth's son, who has been hospitalized after a fall.
- > Danielle Peterson's father, Dennis Mishoe, dealing with cancer
- > Fran Rosensteel's sister, Susie, recovering from a double lung transplant
- > Steve Magennis' sister, Joan, anticipating chemo after surgery
- > Hollee Graber's sister Julia, recovering from surgery for liver cancer
- > George Rust, who struggles with mental health issues
- > Lee Janssen who has been diagnosed with colon cancer and will be having surgery
- > Mike and Mary Ann Van Houzen, as Mike undergoes treatment for cancer
- > Cindy Helder, continuing to recover at home
- > Barb, Lauren, Kimora and baby Jace
- > Jen Laux-Ludwig, as her medical team seeks options for her MS
- > Ted and Joy Oyler, as Ted has been diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia
- > Linda Holmes continued recovery
- > Those grieving the loss of a loved one
- > Prayers for those who join us in worship online that they will sense the love and peace of Christ
- > Those struggling with loneliness, living with mental health needs, > processing emotional pain, and struggling with addictions.
- > Those who suffer from Covid and long Covid

YOUTH@FIRST

Prayers for students, families and faculty as they begin a new semester.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Prayers for students to focus on studies and provide encouragement and friendship to others

LONG-TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING

- > Beau Bennett (son of Mary and Dick Bennett) - Appledorn Living Center South
- > John Briggs - Quincy Place
- > Dean Effken - Riley's Grove in Zeeland
- > Meriem Elwell - Freedom Village
- > Judy Faber - Living at home dealing with Parkinsons
- > JoAnn Karn - SKLD in Zeeland (Rm 204)
- > Lois Rodgers - Appledorn Living Center
- > Lois Rust - Appledorn Living Center South
- > Phil Sturdevant - Lake Michigan Senior Living in Ludington

If you would like to submit a prayer request for publication on this list, please send it to office@fpcholland.org.

If you would like to share a confidential prayer request, please contact:

Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop, Senior Pastor: Cathy@fpcholland.org

Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Associate Pastor: Paul@fpcholland.org



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.*