Presbyterian Profiles

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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

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<u>All We Need</u>

"Anything you truly need is something your neighbor needs as well."

This concept is the foundation for our Lenten Devotional guide and our Lenten worship this year.

"We all need to breathe. We all need to drink water. We all need food. We all need human companionship. We all need shelter of some kind...our focus on individualism hides the truth revealed in the scripture: anything you truly need is something your neighbor needs as well. God is not satisfied until everyone has what they need. Do our prayers focus only on our individual needs? Or are they expansive, encompassing all of creation? In Isaiah 58, the prophet presses readers to recognize something provocative: Often, when we pray for ourselves-for our wants, our own desires, our own recognition, even our own basic necessities-it becomes quite easy to forget that there are plenty of people around us who don't have what they need to survive."*

God continues to expand our vision, expand our compassion, expand our ability to walk in the ways of God, loving God as we love our neighbor.

Please watch for the *All We Need Lenten Devotional*, which will be sent out each week. If you need a paper copy, please contact the office.

Peace to you this Lenten season -

Cathy





Puzzle Time

I love puzzles and I also love movies. One of my favorite online puzzles is called Cinematrix. You can play the Cinematrix on Vulture's website (it will come up if you google it). The puzzle is a 3x3 grid with clues for each column and row. The goal is to fill in the whole grid with unique answers that meet the criteria for each box. It is really fun and will test your movie knowledge. I thought it would be fun to create a Biblematrix for fun (and to test your Biblical knowledge. Try to fill in the grid. This is a pretty easy one, but maybe I'll raise the difficulty level in the future if there is interest!

Have fun and happy puzzling!

The Biblematrix:

Fill in a character from the Bible in each of the 9 squares below that satisfies the two intersecting clues from the x-axis and y-axis. No repeat answers in the grid!

| | Given a new name | In more than one | Appears in one of |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | book of the Bible | Jesus' genealogies |
| Old Testament | | | |
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| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| New Testament | | | |
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| | | | |
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| Female | | | |
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Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

A peak into the Worship Center this past month would have revealed the 3rd – 5th grades sharing the stories of "Who is He? Make Him King"; "Who Am I? The Good Shepherd - The Way, The Light, The Bread of Life"; "What does He Think God is Like? Parables of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Lost Son". In preparation for the journey through Lent and into Easter, the wooden setting of the City of Jerusalem is in the Worship Circle. Pre-K – 2nd grade kids experienced "Jesus, Boy in the Temple", "Jesus in the Wilderness", "Wedding at Cana", and "Jesus who Heals, Jairus' Daughter".



Gift of books

If you are curious, may wonder or might be interested in experiencing the Worship Center, please come. Your presence is always welcome, we would delight in the feeling of warmth and the connection.

Beth Magennis came to the Worship Center and taught us to sing and interpret in sign language, the Doxology. The kids are hoping to share their voices and sign along with you in Worship.

In memory of former long-time Nursery Supervisor, Nancy Burkitt, we received the gift of books for our kids to share as a gentle reminder of Nancy's love for them and of reading. A heartfelt thank-you to her family for this gift each year.

Come share the Light of Christ with us. Lori Klinesteker

Worship Center and Youth Education Time does not meet on: April 6 - Spring Break, April 13 - Spring Break, April 20 Easter Sunday



Celebration Time



Learning the Doxology



Presbyterian Women

Lesson 7 on March 12 at 9:30 am

Economic Climate Justice – moves our study of LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN into the final third of this Bible study year. As this is written the group just met in February, where Climate Change was the topic. These are fairly heavy issues in a time where our country's governance is under some turbulence. As we discuss these Justice issues, the basic realities of living in a time of political uncertainty are a call to be more aware of things we

cannot control, yet need to informed about.

The upcoming March study had me heading back to Lesson 2 where the topic of "who owns the Land" is discussed in terms of "are we owners or inhabitants" in Leviticus 25 with the Jubilee Law given at Mt. Sinai. If we interview any group of people, most would need to admit that we don't often muck around in the Old Testament. So, what does God require of us – the *very topic of worship on February 15th as this is written?*



To do Justice, love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with our God. It is no longer astonishing in the ways these themes often come together. In my decades of serving our Church, our Presbytery, our Synod, and our PCUSA denomination, it is no surprise that God reminds us that the Earth belongs to God and we are inhabitants called to "reduce suffering and strengthen the entire social network". Called to Serve.

An astonishing visual classification of economic distribution is compelling in that it shows us that the Global North and Global South present as "economically developed" OR "developing nations". I leave it as a question – which are we? What are we doing about it because our faith calls us to service?

Join us as we ponder our role in God's plan on March 12 at 9:30 am, hopefully in the new tech Michigan Room.

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

<> <u>Deacons</u> <>

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. **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 March 19.

<u>Men's Discussion Group /</u>/ Meets at FPC every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. We will meet March 7 & 21. *Join us!* Contact Ross Hamlin 616-399-0509 or Bob Gansen 269-753-7024 if you have any questions.

<u>Women's Book Club</u> // 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 March 9 discussing the book, *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline. Contact Bev Plagenhoef at rbplagen@live.com if you have questions.

<u>**Common Threads Group**</u> // 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 March 17.



Spring Forward // Get ready to lose a precious hour of sleep! Daylight Savings Time change is **Saturday, March 8th**. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

<> <u>Connect Together</u> <>

<> <u>Outreach</u> <>

On Tuesday, February 11, **Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity** held the long anticipated dedication for the Zadran family. Our Pastors and a group of supporters from FPC attended the ceremony recognizing the accomplishments of the family, volunteers and the Habitat staff. A cake and snacks were shared as the group congratulated Mohammad and his family.



We are collecting items for **Good Samaritan** 'Welcome Home' Baskets during the month of March. These baskets are given to newly housed families to get them started in their new home. Thank you for anything you can contribute.

Below is a list of list of needed items.

• Toilet paper • Paper towel • Trash bags • Paper plates • Plastic utensils • Dish soap • Laundry detergent • Cleaning supplies • Toilet bowl cleaner • Toilet bowl brush • Deodorant (men's and women's) • Toothpaste (adult and children's) • Toothbrushes (adult and children's) • Shampoo/ Conditioner • Wash cloths and hand towels • Broom & dustpan/mop • Plastic wrap/aluminum foil • Calendar

The list above includes common essentials, but is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Any personal and household essentials are welcome.

<> Looking Ahead <>

Ash Wednesday service // As the season of Lent begins, a time for reflection, gratitude and hope, we hope you will join us for worship and for the imposition of ashes at 7:00pm this Wednesday, March 5th. The service will be live streamed.

Lent Book Study: What We Remember Will Be

Saved // As we explore "All We Need" through our Lenten theme, we will learn together about what people hold on to in times of great loss. "Born of years of friendship and reporting, What We Remember Will Be Saved is a breathtaking, elegiac odyssey into the heart of the largest refugee crisis in modern history. It reminds us that refugees are storytellers and speakers of vanishing languages, and of how much history can be distilled into a piece of fabric, or eggplant seeds. What we salvage tells our story. What we remember will be saved." Two options: Thursdays at 2:00 or Sundays at 11:15. Thursday study begins **March 6** and Sunday's study begins **March 9**. Sign up at the table by the Outreach kiosk. Book copies will be available. (The book is also available on Kindle and Audible).

Habitat for Humanity // Mark your calendar for upcoming Habitat workdays, March 13, April 17, May 15. Questions can be directed to wehaines@icloud.com

New book launch party - and invitation from Rev. Dr. Doug Brouwer // As you may already be aware, my most recent book – The Traveler's Path – is about to launch, and I've scheduled a book launch party for **Saturday, March 29**, here at the First Presbyterian Church. The event is scheduled from 4 -5:30pm. Light refreshments will be served. Books will be available for purchase (well below Amazon price!) Hope you can attend.



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