



First Press

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANN ARBOR
AUGUST 2022 • VOLUME 70, NUMBER 7

Dear Friends,

Summer is when I feel most alive. The days are long, the weather is warm and inviting, and the glory of God's creation breaks through all around us in lush green trees, refreshing water for swimming or paddling, and awe-inspiring thunderstorms. Surrounded by nature, I feel grounded in the presence of God. This August, I'm taking the approach that every opportunity to get outside is a blessing.

Marveling at it all, I often reflect on how many stories in the Bible take place outside. Abram looks up at a vast, starry sky and receives the promise of many descendants. Moses leads his community through the frightening wilderness, guided by God's presence through pillars of cloud and fire. Jesus gathers crowds for lessons and simple meals on hillsides, plains, and lakefronts. The disciples bicker through various fishing excursions. Generations of faithful people encounter God amid rainy afternoons, windy mornings, sunny days, and freezing nights, each yearning to understand the mystery of it all.

Indoors, it is easy to pretend like we are fully in charge of our own reality. We illuminate our living rooms to let work stretch late into the night, toss leftovers in the freezer, and use air conditioning to cool our spaces to just the right degree. (As a side note, come to 8 a.m. worship for the blessing of AC during these hot August days!) Outdoors, we're a little more vulnerable. We face more of the unknown. Sometimes, it's just what we need to peel back the layers of our own self-confidence and notice the power of God's presence all around us.

This summer we have gathered around the theme "emerge," considering how God might be calling us to respond to the world and one another in new ways, to reach out to neighbors across boundaries of difference, to stretch past our comfort zones, and to expand our imaginations as we continue growing into this new season

of life at First Pres. In a metaphorical sense, we're moving outdoors, feeling the wind around us, and trusting that God goes with us even when things feel uncertain.

We're emerging through some big transitions. We welcomed Rev. Dave Prentice-Hyers as our new lead pastor and are getting to know the family that our refugee resettlement group is partnering with as they are resettled from Afghanistan. Some of us have lost loved ones, moved through big changes in our work or personal lives, and grappled with the realities of gun violence and justice disparities in our country and world. Soon, we'll welcome students back to the neighborhood, kick off a new slate of fall faith formation activities, and emerge into more change for the fall. If you need to catch your breath outside amid it all, I'll gladly join you.

There is still one more chance for outdoor worship at First Pres this month, with our third Jazz Vespers service on the front lawn on August 13. I hope you can join us then. Beyond that, I hope you'll find time this month to connect with God in the great outdoors even outside a formal worship setting. Meet a friend for a walk after church, come enjoy time at the picnic tables on the front lawn, or simply take a few extra breaths the next time you walk out the front door. God is here. Through highs, lows, and everything in between.

Peace,

Rev. Hannah Lundberg

Resident Minister



Rev. Hannah Lundberg

This is the final issue of First Press in the present format. Look for exciting changes ahead. Our Life Together, our Friday all-church email will expand to include updates on featured ministry areas, creating, in essence, a weekly newsletter. Our future plans also include a quarterly publication that will feature stories from all our ministry areas. The delivery of both Our Life Together and the new quarterly magazine is electronic but those who do not use email are invited to request print copies from the Church Office.



Core Leadership Team (CLT)

Our New Lead Pastor Has Landed!

We are thrilled to begin this next chapter of our life together at First Pres! We welcomed David Prentice-Hyers to the pulpit on Sunday, June 19. A special welcome to Dave's wife, Rev. Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers, and their



two sons, Finlay, and Angus—they are now here and getting adjusted to life on this side of the pond! They are currently renting a home on Ann Arbor's west side. Small groups of mem-

bers will meet each Sunday with Dave in Monteith Hall or on the Monteith Hall Terrace for conversation from June 18 through September 4. Sign up for an opportunity to get to know Dave and other church members as well! Look for upcoming announcements about other gatherings and ways to help Dave, Mary Elizabeth, Finlay, and Angus get connected, and as we look for special ways to welcome them! Dave will be formally installed as our next Lead Pastor on September 18, at 2 p.m., in the Sanctuary, with a grand reception following! Join us! And sign up for a *Meet Dave!* gathering here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-meet>

Congrats, Rev. Mares!

Congratulations to Rev. Mark Mares who was unanimously called as our new Associate Pastor of Faith Formation,



Youth and Families at a Congregational Meeting on June 5. Pastor Mark came in 2019 as the unanimous choice of a diverse committee to be our Assistant Pastor of Youth and Families. In the more than two-and-a-half years since then, Mark has surpassed our expectations.

Our Session, with the full support of the Personnel Committee and Youth Ministry Work

Group, enthusiastically recommended Mark be called and installed as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation, Youth and

Families. A graduate of Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, he was ordained in 2017.

Since coming to us in 2018, Mark has contributed to our ministries fully and seamlessly. We are so blessed by his strong Christian faith, his skills as a pastor, his commitment to our church, and his spirit. Mark and his wife, Jenna Harms Mares, MSW, have become integral members of our church family. We are so excited that Mark will now serve as a fully installed Associate Pastor here at First Pres. Mark will be installed on Sunday, October 30, in a worship service at 2 p.m. A reception will follow. We hope all of you will join Mark and his family, and especially our youth, as we wrap our arms of welcome around them. Let us pray for Mark in his newly expanded and enhanced role here at First Pres!

Communications and Tech Important Updates

We are happy to announce the hiring of a new staff member. Esther Patrick will join us as Communications Manager in September. Esther has been working with us as a contracted employee for the last year. You have seen her work in our ads in *The Observer*, our banners hanging on the Front Lawn, and in the brochure that introduced Dave Prentice-Hyers to the congregation. Esther is currently working with the Annual Giving Work Group on our fall stewardship campaign.



Esther Patrick
working with the Annual Giving Work Group on our fall stewardship campaign.

Following a study led by members Brad Taylor, Hailey Brown, and Barbara Mueller, a decision was made to discontinue broadcast of our Sunday service on WAAM. Our final broadcast was on July 31. In its place, we now offer "Dial-A-Podcast." Everyone may access this service free of charge by simply dialing (734) 808-3099. If you have questions, please contact the Church Office at (734) 662-4466.

Under the leadership of Tech Coordinator Brent Ivey, numerous updates are being made to various communication tools, including:

- a revamped website (set to debut this fall)
- a move from Churchpost (our former all-church emailing platform) to Mailchimp
- a move away from Wufoo Forms to Cognito Forms for various registrations. Cognito is a more robust and flexible platform.



Worship & Music

Jazz Vesper Service

Saturday, August 13 – 5 p.m.

Paul Keller Jazz Quintet

Join us for terrific music, worship, good food and fellowship! We will gather on the front lawn of the Sanctuary (and inside the Sanctuary if it is raining). Bring your own picnic dinner and a chair and stay afterwards for food and fellowship. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the Congregational Life Committee (no charge!).

Come one and come all! ALL ARE WELCOME!

JAZZ Vesper Service

Featuring Paul Keller Jazz Quintet



THE CHANCEL CHOIR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ANN ARBOR

Chancel Choir Retreat

(High-school, College-age, and Adults)

Join the Chancel Choir this program year! We will kick off our choir season with a weekend of singing!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information, contact

Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts

dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org

Friday, August 26, 7 – 9 p.m. and

Saturday, August 27, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. *(Includes lunch)*

Retreat to take place in Monteith & Social Halls



Congregational Life

Upcoming Fast-Track Opportunities



First Pres is a place you already belong! All are welcome to come and be inspired in faith, and join in the ministries and missions of this great congregation. If you've been attending and not yet joined formally, we hope you will consider it! Fast-track to membership in August, September, and October on one of these Sundays: August 7, August 21, September 11, September 25, October 9, and October 23. Signing up ahead of time is not required. Each of these Sundays at 11 a.m., two Elders from Session (our governing body) and a Pastor will be present to welcome those who wish to join. It takes about 20 minutes. A membership class follows on October 2 for those who join in August or September. Want to know more? Speak to any pastor!

Save the Dates!

Sunday, August 28 — Blessing of the Backpacks during 9:30 service

Ice Cream Social on the Circle Terrace at 10:30

Sunday, September 11 — Kick-off Sunday



Faith Formation

NEWS FROM YOUR FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Rev. Mark Mares, Rev. Megan Berry, and Beca Torres-Davenport

(From Mark Mares) This month, a group of youth will travel to Speculator, New York, for a week at Camp Fowler, a Christian Camp associated with the PCUSA, RCA, and UCC denominations. I had fallen in love with Camp Fowler a few years back, when I volunteered to serve as a chaplain with a friend and colleague in ministry while I was serving in New York. Camp Fowler is “a Christian children’s camp that practices a compassionate Christianity that is grounded in openness and hospitality.” During the summer, there is a different theme each week for different ages and groups to attend.

One night during my stay, I had a conversation with the Camp Director. He mentioned that following our week, the camp would be hosting an Islamic faith community. The camp staff would run the week like any other, with all the normal programming, but the leaders of the Islamic community would lead their times of prayer and teaching. Following that week, they’d host another group from New York City, a non-profit organization that works with and empowers young women of color, but because it receives state-funding, they don’t have any prayer services.

One might ask, how can a Christian organization host two groups without “proclaiming” the gospel? The reality is that by opening their space to people who might be perceived as “the other,” they are living into their call to be a people of hospitality, a people shaped by the love of Jesus by sharing in the love of the Triune God. I can’t wait to introduce our youth to Camp Fowler, and the spirit of love, fellowship, community, and welcome that they inhabit.

I really believe good camps can be transformational—life changing, even! But there are other practices that ground us and do the inner work of transformation. As we enter the last weeks of summer, I wonder what practices are grounding us.

Here are some suggestions and opportunities to center yourself and faith practices:

Something to listen to: [The Invitation Podcast – 5 minute prayer with Josh Banner](#). Josh is a friend of Pastor Mark, and his spiritual director who runs the Invitation Center, a place that seeks to help train people to walk alongside others creating time and space for God. In this episode, Josh teaches us a unique way of entering into prayer. [Listen to this episode](#) and then check out Season 4 of Faith Beats this fall as we’ll be hosting Josh for a conversation.

Something to watch: Ms. Marvel on Disney+ — This is a new show from Marvel Studios that’s a coming-of-age story that follows a young Pakistani-American Muslim girl in New Jersey, as she becomes a superhero. It’s a heartwarming story that threads history, culture, faith, and superhero shenanigans in a unique way. Watch it and come find Pastor Mark to chat about it!

Something to read: Beca had the opportunity to attend a workshop with Prof. Karen-Marie Yust, during the Association of Partners in Christian Education conference this past February. She was so engaged with her lecture that she couldn’t wait to read more on her website, [Real Kids Real Faith](#). She frequently goes back to her website to peruse the articles—sometimes for herself, as a parent, and other times like today, as an offering to families. In mid-June, Beca’s family had the opportunity to attend the “Immersive Van Gogh” experience at the Lighthouse ArtSpace in Detroit. Completely worth going and experiencing both rooms if you haven’t yet gone! It was wonderful to watch her children’s engagement with art and music. Real Kids Real Faith offers this practice to encourage spiritual connections with self and the natural world. As many of you have been or will be traveling this summer, use this practice not only in artistic images, but in scenery you may come across in your travels. We look forward to having Prof. Yust visit as a guest speaker at First Pres later this year. Stay tuned for upcoming information.

First Sunday Backpack Packing!

Join the Local Mission Committee and Faith Formation team after 9:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, August 7, to help pack backpacks for Ozone House! These backpacks will go directly to students in Washtenaw County that need help collecting the required supplies to start off the year.

We are also supporting Peace Neighborhood Center with their school supplies collection. They are asking folks to buy directly from their Amazon wishlist. That link is here: [amzn.to/3PI0HRu](https://www.amazon.com/3PI0HRu). After you add the item(s) you would like to donate to your cart, you can ship them directly to Peace Neighborhood Center by changing the shipping address to “Bonnie Billups” which will appear under the heading “Other Addresses.” These supplies will also go directly to Washtenaw County students and teachers in need of some extra help with the start of the school year. They would love to have supplies by August 19.

If you have any questions about donating to Peace Neighborhood Center or helping with the backpack packing event on August 7, contact Megan Berry (mberry@firstpresbyterian.org), Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), or Beca Torres-Davenport (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

CHILDREN

Backyard BBQs

We had a wonderful time at the Meade family and Forger family homes in early June and July to meet new families and reconnect with old friends. We appreciate everyone joining us. We are looking forward to the last BBQ on Saturday, August 27, at the Torres-Davenport home. Let us know you're coming on August 27 by filling out this form (<https://forms.gle/MznXrajPaWsepZ2e6>), or reach out to Beca Torres-Davenport, btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org.



Vacation Bible School Recap

We are grateful for all the youth and adult volunteers and children who attended Vacation Bible School this year!



YOUTH

Our Summer Mission Trip — from Pastor Mark

The last week in June a group of youth traveled to Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico and Douglas, Arizona, for an intercultural immersion trip. There was a lot that we experienced in that week; at the heart of our time there were the people. When I did my first immersion trip to Israel/Palestine 6 years ago, I remember our guide saying that even though we were visiting all these “dead rocks” (he was referencing the historical sights, places, and architecture we were visiting), the real importance was in the “living rocks,” the people we encountered



and met — the stories that we heard and entered into. It was true in that place and it was true on the Frontera. *Beautiful gente*, as I like to say, filled with beautiful, hard, and joyful stories. When we were leaving one of the folks we met simply said, “share our story and what you saw here.” Keep an eye out for information about a gathering this fall where our youth will share about our experience — there will likely be fruit with Tajin and Lime to put on top. Want to know more? Contact Rev. Mark Mares, mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

CAMPUS



The 2022–2023 school year is approaching quickly, and with it, some exciting new opportunities for campus ministry! We’re planning more activities for UKirk @ UMich, the First Pres college group, for the upcoming year and want to know what interests you! All undergraduate students are welcome, regardless of which school you attend. Contact Hannah Lundberg at campus@firstpresbyterian.org to learn more and get connected.

ADULT

Journeys Bible Study

It was fun for the few of the group who could gather to have lunch out on a picnic table on the front lawn in June. Through laughs we managed to hatch a thoughtful plan for the Fall Season—we will reimagine the social justice theme from the Gospel of Luke. Facilitator Resident Minister Hannah Lundberg, plans to supplement our discussions with materials from contemporary works by favorite authors like Amy-Jill Levine or Rachel Held Evans. All the women of the church are welcome to join in. For information contact Beth Gerwig at bgerwig@comcast.net.



MATURE MINISTRIES

From Bloom to Zoom!: Mature Ministries Explore Local Treasures in August

Mature Ministries' travel resumes on Thursday, August 25, with an outing to two locations rarely open to visitors—the University of Michigan Herbarium and the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum.



UM's Herbarium—not the Arboretum—boasts a stellar collection of 1.7 million plant specimens gathered from around the world. Our tour will broaden your awareness of the natural world in ways that will fascinate.

Catch up with friends and their summer adventures over lunch at Thompson & Co. in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. Situated in a historic Civil War era barracks, Thompson & Co. is bound to become your new favorite place for a summer meal.

Ypsilanti's Automotive Heritage Museum, just steps from MAIZ, is housed inside the nation's last standing Hudson car dealership. Automobile historians will be on hand to share their enthusiasm for cars from a variety of makers. You'll be a confirmed car geek by the time we're through.

Depart from First Presbyterian Church at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, August 25. Return by 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$50 to cover bus, lunch, and museum admission. Contact the church office or Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers to reserve your spot on this unique outing.

This trip is limited to 40 people.

Preview of Fall Outings

**Details and Pricing Still Being Finalized
Reservations Not Yet Available**

September 22—Yankee Air Museum and Michigan Firehouse Museum. Lunch at Antonio's Cucina Italiana in Canton

October 18—“Van Gogh in America” Exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Lunch at the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills. Afternoon tour of Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church

November 15—Behind the Scenes Tour of Detroit's Historic Masonic Temple. Lunch at Bert's BBQ at Eastern Market



Pastoral Care

PARISH NURSING

One of the greatest things we can do for our personal health is to find joy on a regular basis. These days, that can be a challenging thing. So much of life has become harder to bear. But we can be confident that God loves us, watches over us, and wants us to care for ourselves. And finding joy is a big part of that.

The website, HelpGuide, has a wonderful article on finding joy during difficult times. Click on the link below to learn tangible ways you can find joy for yourself and how you can share joy with others.

And remember, the parish nurses are here if you need us. It is our joy to serve you! You can reach us at: parishnurse@firstpresbyterian.org

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/finding-joy-during-difficult-times>



Stacey Pakela & Barbara DeLancey

STEPHEN MINISTRY

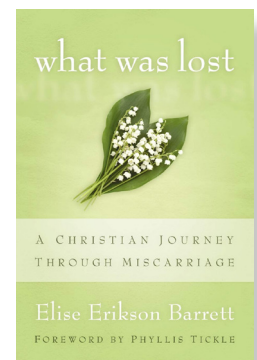
After Mike retired 6 months ago, he and his wife, Tia, sold the home they had lived in for 37 years and moved to a warmer part of the country. Mike was ecstatic because he was playing golf 5 days a week. Tia missed her old home, her daily routine, her close group of friends. She was also feeling angry with Mike because he had pushed for this move despite her objections. Now he was perfectly happy, and she was perfectly miserable. Tia spoke with her new pastor about her struggle, and after listening to her, the pastor suggested that Tia might benefit from a Stephen Minister. The next day a Stephen Ministry Leader named Jane met with her. Jane explained to Tia how Stephen Ministry works and arranged for Tia to begin meeting with a Stephen Minister, Ann. The first time they met, it was as if an emotional fire hydrant had been opened. Tia talked freely about her painful feelings. After the visit, Tia was shocked that she had been so open and honest with a stranger and wondered who else now knew about her struggle to adjust. The next day she saw Jane at the grocery store and tried to avoid her, but Jane walked over to her and asked if her Stephen Minister had been in touch with her. Tia replied that they had met yesterday and said, "I thought that she would have reported all the details to you by now." Jane looked confused and then reminded her that everything she shared with her Stephen Minister is confidential, that Stephen Ministers are carefully trained and even the little they share in supervision is done without names or personal references, so no one else will know that she has a Stephen Minister. Jane's words calmed Tia's worst fears.

If you are having a problem—big or small—contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers or Kathy Wirstrom to learn about Stephen Ministry and how it can help you, or email mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



Stephen Ministry Library: Here for YOU!

Did you know the Stephen Ministry Library is full of resources on things like grief, addiction, parenting adult children, and daily devotions? Stop in Hillegonds Chapel (it's the room to the right of the Lectern) anytime and check out a book! This month we are highlighting *What Was Lost: A Christian Journey through Miscarriage*, by Elise Erikson Barrett. Reverend Elise Erikson Barrett finished this thoughtful, well-written book dealing with the aftermath of miscarriages. She tells her personal story to assist other women with their grief journey. Also, she shares stories of other women who share this loss. "Where is God in our suffering?" A thoughtful, theological guide to help others discover a path forward to remain in a relationship with God. Reverend Barrett has practical advice as well: how to tell others, dealing with insensitive comments, and grieving this private loss. Included at the end of each chapter are reflection questions as well as an outlined exercise. The last chapter contains many resources including other books, traditional and contemporary hymns, worship and memorial services. The book title, "What Was Lost," comes from a hymn written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, while he was a prisoner in Nazi Germany, knowing that sharing a loss with community can be a valuable part of healing. Hopefully, reading this book could ease your mind as well as your heart.



Learn with Stephen Ministers: September on FORGIVENESS

Stephen Ministry welcomes you to their monthly continuing education seminar! On Monday, September 12, from 7–8 p.m. in Montieth Hall, our speaker will be Dr. Jennifer Griggs, MD, who will present: "Letting Go of Past Hurts: Forgiveness as a Path to Peace." Jennifer says: *It is hard to go through life without being hurt. Our stories of the ways in which our dignity has been violated range from the quotidian frustrations we face or massive trauma. We may also wish to forgive ourselves to untether from regret. Many of us want to let go of the pain of the past and to forgive others, but we don't know how or where to start. This presentation will describe an evidence-based, trauma-informed approach to forgiveness, including self-forgiveness, using a framework of dignity, empathy for self and others, and help us become more forgiving people.* Jennifer Griggs, MD, MPH, is a physician and Professor of Medicine and Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan. She is an oncologist with a clinical and research focus on patient-clinician communication and quality of care. She is also a personal and leadership coach, helping people live and lead with joy and purpose. Jennifer and her husband Steve live in Petersburg, Michigan, and have two daughters, Phoebe and Libby, who both live in Ann Arbor. All are welcome!



Jennifer Griggs



Faith in Action (Mission)

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

The First Pres refugee resettlement group has been preparing for many months to welcome a refugee family through the co-sponsorship program run through Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. In mid-June, we were finally paired with a family: a mother and two children arriving from Afghanistan to reunite with their husband/ father who was resettled in Washtenaw County several years ago. Since June, we have slowly gotten to know this family, sharing time, laughter, and community while helping them to get established with an apartment, enrollment in ESL classes, connection to health-care, and more. First Pres will be partners with this family until June 2023, assisting them with many of the needs and challenges that arise in the first year after being resettled as a refugee. If you would like to support these efforts financially, donations can be made to the church, marked for “refugee resettlement.” Any other questions, contact Rev. Lundberg (hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org)

Social Justice Action Group

In May, devastated by the shootings in Uvalde, Texas, Buffalo, New York, and so many other places throughout our country, the Social Justice Action Group supported an effort to adorn the First Pres grounds with orange ribbons in honor of those who were killed, and to call attention to the ongoing tragedy of gun violence in our nation. You may have seen the 21 chairs placed along Washtenaw Avenue in memory of the 21 individuals who were killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. What you may not have known is that each of the 68 ribbons placed around the church grounds also bore the name of an individual killed in a mass shooting during the month of May. As each of these ribbons were put up and later removed, we said a prayer for each community impacted by these unjust and horrific deaths. Trusting in a God who comforts us in our fear, but also calls us to fight for justice, the Social Justice Action Group hopes to do more in the year to come to stand against gun violence and promote safer policies and practices.



Local Mission Grant Program Distributes \$75,000 to Local Organizations

Through the Local Mission Grant program, the congregation Makes God’s Love Visible to our vulnerable neighbors. The organizations we support provide both basic needs for the short term as well as resources which potentially allow people to improve their circumstances for the long term. Our team this year included: Bill Black, Nikki Black, Beth Gerwig, Ruth Jensen, Tom McKarns, Gale Redding, Gary Stahl, John Voorhorst, Felicity Williams, and Martha Kershaw (coordinator).

After consulting updated local community needs resources, we decided to solicit applications for the same priority areas as in 2021: Access to Shelter/Stable Housing; Access to Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Treatment; and Moving People Out of Poverty.

We received 18 applications and approved funding for 14 of them, for a total of \$75,000. Those receiving grants are:

- Avalon Housing: Supportive Affordable Housing
- Cass Community Social Services: Utility Arrears Payment Program
- Corner Health Center: Young Men’s support group
- Dawn Farm: Scholarship Fund for Addiction Treatment
- Friends In Deed: Assistance for bills, furniture and transportation
- Friends In Deed: Circles Program
- Habitat for Humanity: House of Faith
- Hope Clinic: Psychiatry services for un-insured patients
- IHN at Alpha House: Shelter and Support for homeless families
- Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice: Warrant Resolution Project
- Ozone House: Mental Health Program
- SafeHouse: Fresh Start Fund
- Shelter Assn. Washtenaw County: Mental Health Case Worker
- SOS Community Service: Rapid Rehousing for homeless families

For more information, visit the Local Mission Grant Program website:

<https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/mission/local-missions/local-mission-grant-program>

Or contact Martha Kershaw: mdkershaw@sbcglobal.net

RESIDENT MINISTER FLASHBACK

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

“Where do you see yourselves in ten years?” I asked Jenny McDevitt and Sarah Wiles over lunch just before they finished their residency at FPC in 2011. Sarah was boldly confident in her answer: “I’ll be a head of staff.” Jenny was not so sure at that moment but agreed she also would be a leader. Her path in ministry has traversed the country from Virginia, to Kansas, to New York City, to her current call as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina. Shandon is an inclusive and affirming congregation with a strong sense of commitment to actively loving the community that includes the Shandon Weekday School, Live Oak Counseling Center and UKirk Campus Ministry at the University of South Carolina. Jenny is active in Trinity Presbytery and is on the Board of Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is an inspired writer and is a regular contributor to *Presbyterian Outlook*. Jenny shares her writing on Instagram (@writing.lightly).

Jenny and Sarah are still good friends and members of a preaching cohort. Jenny is grateful to have served at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor as her first call in ordained ministry.

Jenny served as a Resident Minister at First Pres from 2009–2011, alongside Rev. Matthew Nickel, currently Pastor at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, Detroit, and Rev. Sarah Wiles, Pastor/Head of Staff at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg, Virginia.



Sarah Wiles & Jenny McDevitt

by Carol Smith

Northumberland Pilgrimage

From May 17–28, 17 members and staff from First Pres made a pilgrimage to Alnmouth, England, exploring the Northumberland Coast and walking with the Holy Spirit and one another. Here are a few memories from that journey.

