



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
June/July 2018 ■ Volume 66, Number 6



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Welcoming Confirmand Emmett Shaw, new member of First Pres.

Dear Friends,

The beauty of a Michigan spring is all around us and summer is on the way! Just as the pace changes in Ann Arbor, some of the activity around First Pres also lightens – but other ministries pick up. This “double issue” of *First Press* gives you lots of information for June and July. Make plans to participate in our annual all-church picnic and Vacation Bible School – as a participant or a volunteer. Sign up to join other church members in making a difference in the community. Read the two books selected to inspire and generate discussion, *Credo* and *The Book of Joy*. Meet our incoming “Ministry Fellow,” a rising senior at Davidson College, and celebrate the 27 year ministry of our beloved Children’s Education and Family Ministries Director, Debbie MacVey. Pray for our youth as they travel to Baltimore, and for those preparing to go off to college. Pray also for all those who are making preparations this summer to join us in Ann Arbor and that we will provide a warm welcome for them.

Under the leadership of our Christian Education Committee, chaired by Kate Silbert, a search is underway for a person (or two!) to fill Debbie’s enormous shoes on an interim basis so that we can continue to serve our young families faithfully while taking the time needed to find a long-term staff member. Watch *Our Life Together* for updates.

I hope that your plans allow for some time outside in a garden, at the lake, or just strolling around this beautiful place we call home. Take advantage of our lovely campus. Arrange to meet a friend and catch up with one another on our circle

terrace. Volunteer to join others in keeping our grounds neat and tidy. Michigan summers are the best! As is our custom, we will worship outside at 9:30 all five Sundays in July (and will need help setting up), and on July 1st we will celebrate another wonderful facet of God’s good creation and bless the animals that enrich our lives. Bring a picture or a winged or four-legged friend with you that day (as long as the weather is nice).

I began seminary the summer of 1985. Every day as I walked from my student apartment to the main classroom building for my biblical Greek class, I passed a series of banners that read, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” I cannot tell you how many thousands of times that verse from Psalm 24 has since come to mind. I think about it when I step outside on a magnificent spring day and on a day made brilliant by new fallen snow. I think about it when I see our children singing from the chancel steps and when I see pictures of children clinging to a parent in a refugee camp. I think about it when I see the bubbling, spewing lava from Mount Kilauea and the beginning of buds on plants in my yard. The earth *is* the Lord’s and all of us who dwell here. Hold to this truth. Live it out. Rejoice in it!

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair
Pastor/Head of Staff



All-Church Picnic - June 10

Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/allchurch-picnic-reservation-2018/> for the all-church picnic on Sunday, June 10, following the 9:30 worship service. This year, enjoy our Michigan beach theme, Slow’s BBQ from Detroit, the smooth jazz sounds of the Paul Keller Jazz Quintet on the Circle Terrace, the inflatables like “The Cliffhanger” slide, and lots of fun for children of all ages! Cost is \$8 per person if you pay by Friday, June 8 at noon. \$9 per person if you pay at the door (maximum \$40 per nuclear family). Children 5 and under are free.



Worship & Music

Summer Worship & Open Hours

Our summer schedule is upon us! Please take a moment to note the changes in worship times and business hours.



Sunday Worship

June 10 - 8:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall
9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
No 11:00 service – Church Picnic

June 17 & 24 - 8:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

July 1-29 - 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall
9:30 a.m. Outside Worship

August 5-26 - 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall
9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
* Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Building Open Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m.- 8:30 p.m.
* Friday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The Church Office may be open at times when the building is locked. To enter, call the Church Office at 662-4466.*

Get Ready to Evacuate

Our second annual church evacuation drill will take place on June 10, following the 9:30 a.m. service. Remember, there's no 11:00 a.m. worship service that day because of the church picnic, and we want to see how fast we can (safely) get you outside into the sunshine! Watch for details in the bulletin.



Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, July 1, join us for a special Blessing of the Animals at the 9:30 a.m. outdoor worship service. All well-behaved creatures that walk, swim, hop, slither, and fly are welcome. For the safety of all, please leash all pets which are not otherwise contained. Gifts of pet food will be gratefully accepted and donated to the Huron Valley Humane Society. "For every wild animal of the forest belongs to God, the cattle on a thousand hills. God knows all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is God's." *Psalm 50:10-11.*



Congregational Life

Celebrate Debbie MacVey's Retirement

Debbie MacVey, our beloved Children's Education and Family Ministries Director, is retiring after 27 wonderful years at First Pres. There are two opportunities to recognize Debbie and say goodbye:

Sunday, June 10 - Come to the Church Picnic, enjoy food and fun, and take a minute to write down your favorite Children's Ed memories or share a message for Debbie. Should you choose, you will also have an opportunity to record a video message to her.

Sunday, June 24 - June 24 is Debbie's last day at First Pres. Help us honor her at Coffee Hour with cake and a celebration. If you would like to contribute to a purse for Debbie, please send or drop off checks made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Debbie MacVey" on the memo line.



Do you have photos of Debbie with your family through the years? Please submit them to Mary Jones by Monday, June 4, at mjones@firstpresbyterian.org. Don't have an electronic version? Drop them off in the Church Office and they will be scanned and originals returned to you. Questions? Want to help with the festivities? Contact Karen Mundus at 734-904-2415 or karen.mundus@gmail.com.

Welcome Maeve Hammond!



Through an innovative program begun by the Lilly Endowment, Presbyterian-related Davidson College (NC) provides opportunities for five of its students with records of strong academic achievement, campus leadership, and service to experience ministry through summer internships. First Pres was contacted by Maeve Hammond, a native of Battle Creek, Michigan, about serving as her ministry site. Maeve is a rising senior at Davidson with a double major in English and Hispanic Studies. Last fall, she studied Argentine film and political discourse in Buenos Aires. At Davidson, Maeve has been involved in interfaith and religious life, as well as the sustainability and theater departments. She is excited to join First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor this summer to engage in the diverse facets of ministry and further her vocational discernment process. Maeve will be with us from May 30- July 25.

News from the Mission-Vision Task Force

Listening Sessions

In April and May, the Task Force held dozens of listening sessions involving hundreds of people and have received thousands of responses to the four questions posed during each session:

- What are First Pres's strengths and assets?
- What makes First Pres unique and special to you?
- How do you see God calling First Pres into the future?
- What are the critical issues we need to address as we move forward in the discernment process?

The listening sessions covered all ages from fourth and fifth graders through college age, young adults, families, and older adults, and all interests – Bible study groups, mission groups, support groups, knitters, College of Elders, choirs, new members, the staff, and on and on.

Each session was different, but they all had this in common – everyone who came was engaged, full of ideas, and committed to First Pres being a vital, energetic community of faith. In addition to those already engaged with the church, the task force is reaching out to those who are disengaged, or have left the church, to get perspective on their reasons for not engaging with us or leaving us.



Next Steps

The task force will analyze all the responses from the listening sessions, as well the responses received from people who chose to communicate to the task force in other ways, to discern broad themes expressed by the participants. The task force will present its findings from these Listening Session to our church's Session at its June 13 meeting, and will use this congregational input in crafting a draft mission and bold vision statements for Session's review and to determine the next phase of our work. Comments? Questions? Email the task force at mission-vision@firstpresbyterian.org

Please check our webpage for updates! <https://firstpresbyterian.org/about/news-and-events/visioning-first-pres>

Kudos, Deacons



Congratulations are in order! First Pres' Deacon Ministry was the 2018 recipient of the June Bennett Teamwork Service Award at the Annual Glacier Hills Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. Many members and staff attended the event, including Dr. Fair, Rev. Rogers, the Deacon co-moderators Doug Gottlieb-son, Jane Myers, and Ellen Johnson, past and current Deacons at Glacier, and volunteers from First Pres who give their time there on Wednesdays, such as Prue Heikkinen and Marilyn Gibson.

The June Bennett Teamwork Service Award recognizes a group of volunteers who work together to serve the residents of Glacier Hills. June Bennett and her husband, Buck, became Glacier Hills residents 15 years ago when they moved into a Villa. They quickly became known for their vitality, willingness to serve, and team mindedness. June Bennett's life exemplified service to others. She took volunteerism to its highest level and she inspired others to join her. We remember June each year by honoring volunteers who work as a team.





Knitters United! — for the 2018 Confirmands

The First Pres Knit Night crafters have had busy hands over this past winter and spring, making handmade knitted shawls for our May 2018 confirmands. Each confirmand has been presented with a special and individual shawl to keep as a way to remember the warmth First Presbyterian’s congregation provides. And, to gild the lily, since this year’s Confirmation Sunday coincides with Pentecost, many of the shawls were knitted in red or red tones. See photos for samples of the handiwork in progress at a recent Knit Night gathering.

Join us! Knitters of all skill levels are welcome to participate in Knit Night for a single session or as a regular attendee, contact Prue Heikkinen for more information at prueannarbor@gmail.com or by phone at 665-0583. Thank you, Knit Nighters!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

• **Presbyterian Women Award Honorary Life Memberships**

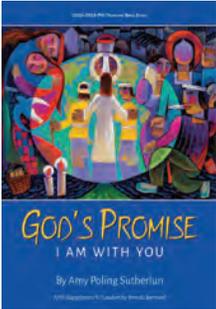
It was with great privilege that Presbyterian Women bestowed four Honorary Life Memberships to church members in recognition of faithful service in the life of the church at their annual meeting on May 16. These honors went to Barbara DeLancey, Rev. Fairfax F. Fair, Betsy McCallister, and Leonard Rezmierski. Each honoree well deserved this award and has contributed greatly to the church and in the community. A bio of each awardee is on the PW bulletin board near the welcome center. Please stop and read them. They are amazing people with amazing stories!



• **Seminary Scholarship Awarded for 2018**

At the May 16 Annual Meeting, Joan Bentz, Scholarship Chair, was pleased to announce that two seminary scholarships would be awarded. They will be awarded to Lex Allum (going into her second year at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas) and Andy Spaulding (going into his third year at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Virginia). Both wrote moving and refreshing essays as part of the application process. In response to the congregational “purchasing of scholarship shares” during the holiday Mission bazaar, PW was able to award to both Lex and Andy \$600 scholarships. This is an increase of \$100 to each recipient from past years. Thank you, congregation!

• **Announcing the 2018-19 PW Horizons Bible Study**

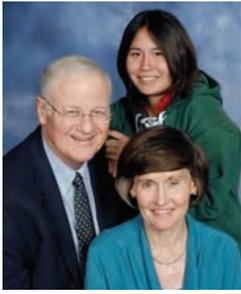


Orders are now being taken for the “hot off the press” 2018-19 PW Bible Study workbook, *God’s Promise – “I Am With You”* by Rev. Amy Poling Sutherland. This masterful study will give the reader a broad understanding of the Bible by using Biblical texts from Genesis to Matthew that proclaim the profound promises of God to the reader. The PW Coordinating Committee welcomes all church women to join together in this prayerful study and discussion of these inspiring Biblical lessons authored by Pastor Sutherland – a Texan, a graduate of Princeton Theology Seminar, and a wife and mother of four.

The first Bible study session will be at the September Presbyterian Women meeting. All pre-ordered studies will be distributed prior to that first meeting. Place your order with Meg Brown, PW Studies Moderator, at lmeighbrown@gmail.com, or 623-4323. The cost is \$10.00 per copy.

Hilltoppers Welcomes Dr. Jim Peggs

Hilltoppers will discuss gun violence as they host Dr. Jim Peggs on Thursday, June 14. Dr. Peggs will present “Gun Violence and Injury Prevention: The Physician’s Role.” Lunch is just \$5. Reserve your spot by RSVPing to the Church Office at 662-4466, or email Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



Anne with husband Rev. Budge Gere and daughter Denali

Anne Gere Named Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year

First Pres' own Anne Ruggles Gere, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and director of the Sweetland Center for Writing at UM, has been named a Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year by the Michigan Association of State Universities. She is being honored in recognition of "her innovative approaches to pedagogy and the numerous programs she has initiated to strengthen undergraduate education." This honor is given annually to faculty throughout the state of Michigan in recognition of a sustained commitment to undergraduate education – impact on and involvement with undergraduate students, individualized and experiential learning, scholarship and innovation in teaching and learning, and contributions to undergraduate education at the institution and beyond. Congratulations, Anne!
- Excerpted from Laurel Thomas's article in the University Record, UM's News for Faculty and Staff

Parking Passes for Worship During Art Fair

The Ann Arbor Art Fair is Thursday, July 19 -Sunday, July 22. For worshippers on Sunday, July 22, parking will be allowed as usual on Hill Street and Washtenaw Avenue. First Pres youth will sell our First Pres parking spaces to the public beginning at 11:10 a.m. to raise money for youth mission. If you are able to park at the Forest Avenue Parking Structure that day, thank you! Free parking passes will be available in the Church Office Sunday, July 1 through Friday, July 20. They will allow members of our congregation to park for free during Art Fair on Sunday, July 22 in the Republic Parking Structure, 650 South Forest Avenue, one block from the church. Use yours to park, attend the 8:00, 9:30, or 11:00 a.m. worship service, then go and enjoy the Art Fair at no additional cost. For more information, contact Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator at 662-4466, ext. 353, or essie@firstpresbyterian.org

The Pilgrim Sisters Return!

From May 1-11, seventeen members and friends of First Pres and the Kirk in the Hills congregations undertook a spiritual walking pilgrimage in Tuscany. Using the book and theme, "Soul of a Pilgrim," the group shared devotions each morning and discussion each night, explored sacred spaces, and deepened faith and sisterhood. The hallmarks of the trip were time to walk and talk together, opportunities to commune with God, with nature, and one another, amazing Italian food, and all the joys and surprises that pilgrimage brings.

Spiritual pilgrimage is an "inner pilgrimage" as well as an outer one, asking those who engage to be in tune with the Spirit of God at work in each present moment, open to the surprises and challenges that come along the way, and an awareness that for most of us, our real spiritual pilgrimage begins after we return from a sacred space. Rev. Rogers, a co-leader, reports that while this was a much harder pilgrimage than previous trips to Scotland or Spain, "We would not change a thing. Pilgrimage is about adjusting to discomfort, finding success and wonder, and growing aware of the present moment... and so much more!"

Co-leader Rev. Blair Buckley reflected: "The themes of our pilgrimage included embracing the uncomfortable and faith over fear. Part of being uncomfortable is about not being sure of the exact right path, and that has happened so much on this pilgrimage. My blisters have been uncomfortable and even painful but I've walked each day. The challenge of embracing faith over fear definitely came into fruition today. We had been warned of the poisonous viper snakes. The vipers have reportedly been coming out all over the place lately. And yet we press on again two days from now back out into the countryside. We choose to press on towards our final destination. We press on in faith instead of being paralyzed in fear. I found some kindred spirits in animals on my treks the last couple of days: pigs and sheep and a horse today. My pilgrim companions continue to teach me about faith: the women on this trip, the creatures along the way; and even the beautiful and plentiful plants around that do not toil and worry, but instead bask in splendor..."

If you are interested in future spiritual pilgrimages, or just want to know more, contact Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.





Children & Families

Lunches with Love

Fifth Graders Mission Milestone Update

While on their quest to end hunger in our community, the fifth graders have been counting and sorting all of the food so generously donated by the congregation in April to build the ready-to-grab lunches for the Food Gatherers pantry. Monetary donations exceeded everyone's expectations and are being used to purchase remaining items to complete the lunch bags. They hope to assemble an ambitious 500 lunches to be delivered to Food Gatherers Lunches with Love project, at the end of May. Thank you to everyone for your gracious and enthusiastic support of the fifth grade Mission Milestone project!



Still Spaces for Summer Vacation Bible School!

Called to be Disciples: Marketplace 27-28 AD

June 19, 20 & 21 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m

Your children will have a GREAT time! Each day, our VBS campers experience the life and family customs of Bible times in small groups – visiting the arts and crafts Marketplace shops, traveling to the Story Teller's tent, attending Synagogue School and playing games at the "Seaside" playground. They will enjoy exhibits from the Kelsey Museum and animals

from The Howell Nature Center, too. **Register** your Young Fives through fifth graders online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/vacation-bible-school-child-registration/>. Friends are very welcome!

Volunteer! There are many ways that adults, middle schoolers, and high schoolers can volunteer and be a part of this great activity. Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/vacation-bible-school-volunteer-registration/> Questions? Contact Deborah MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or Cindy King at cking@firstpresbyterian.org.



Youth Ministries

Kick Off Your Summer with Youth Week

Monday, June 25 - Thursday, June 28

Are you a rising sixth grader - graduating senior? Join our week of fun activities!



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Monday, June 25 | Pinball Pete's & Pizza | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., \$5 per student |
| Kick off summer with some arcade fun! We'll meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. and walk to Pinball Pete's. Everyone gets \$2 in quarters to spend (feel free to bring more) on arcade games then we'll enjoy a pizza dinner! We'll be back at church by 6:00 p.m. for students to be picked up. | | |
| Tuesday, June 26 | Youth & Family Night @ The Detroit Tigers | 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., \$15 per ticket |
| All Youth & their families are invited to see the Detroit Tigers take on the Oakland A's. The game starts at 7:00 p.m. Let Essie know if you are interested in carpooling from church. | | |
| Wednesday, June 27 | Volunteer @ Hope Clinic | Time TBD |
| Volunteer with us at Hope Clinic! More details to come... | | |
| Thursday, June 28 | Knocker Ball | Noon - 5:00 p.m., \$25 per player |
| Ever wanted to run around in a giant inflatable ball? Here's your chance! Gather in the church parking lot at noon to carpool over. We'll play knocker ball for a couple hours, enjoy a snack, and head back to First Pres. | | |

Registration fee for the week is \$40 per student. Additional baseball tickets for family and friends can also be purchased. Can you only come to a few events? Sign up and pay for only those ... see the prices listed above. Want to sign up? Do you have some questions? Contact Essie Koenig-Reinke at essie@firstpresbyterian.org, or 662-4466, ext. 353

Congratulations Confirmands!

First Presbyterian Church welcomed Schuyler Byrn, Mary Corey, James Dabrowski, Jake Day, Riley Day, Zachary Edwards, Cooper Fairman, Anna Gehrke, Hana Kaehr, Sophie Licata, Justin Rink, Josiah Schaafsma, Benjamin Schneider, Emmett Shaw, Veronica Sorter, and Jackson Willmer as its newest members on Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20.



Mark Your Calendars for Summer Youth Events

Saturday, June 16 -Saturday, June 23
Monday, June 25 -Thursday, June 28
Wednesday, July 11 @ 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 25

High School Mission Trip to Baltimore
Youth Week
Outdoor Movie Night & Canned Food Drive
Youth Day at Cedar Point

To sign up or for more information, contact Essie Koenig-Reinke at essie@firstpresbyterian.org, or 662-4466, ext. 353.



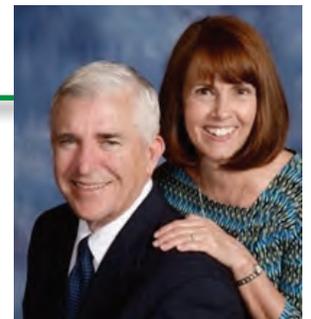
Financial Stewardship

Legacy Partners – Carol and Paul Smith

In 2001 our daughter Ashley had been invited by her friend Katie Wendler Baker to go on a youth mission trip to Mexico. The team was being commissioned on Palm Sunday. We had no idea that parking would be almost impossible, and the sanctuary would be packed with seating a premium. Paul dropped Ashley and me off to park and finally sat down well into the service. He leaned over and said, “We are never coming back here again.” Then, Michael Lindvall preached a sermon called Two Parades after which we looked at each other and said, “well, maybe we’ll come back.” The rest, as they say, is history.

Seventeen years later we now consider many at FPC as our dearest and closest friends: people with whom we travel, share important family events and most significantly, share a deep and abiding faith as we worship together. The rich mission program is also important to us, having participated in countless international, local, and regional projects. To us, it is the legacy of which we most desire to be a part.

When we began our estate planning, it occurred to us that since we consider First Pres our church and our family, it should be included in our will and trusts just as we include our children and grandchildren. And just as we pray for a long and healthy life for our family members, we wish the same for First Pres.





Graduates



Congratulations 2018 Graduates!

Listed below are the names that were received as of May 10. Please consult the worship bulletin on June 10 for a more complete list.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Community High School

Denali Gere

Daughter of Anne & Brewster Gere
Attending the University of Michigan
Stamps School of Art and Design

Early College Alliance

Elaina Stevenson

Daughter of Anne Stevenson & Greg Less
Attending Eastern Michigan University

Dexter High School

Heather Brouwer

Daughter of Steve & Margaret Brouwer
Attending the University of Michigan

Grant Sprague

Son of Lisa and Aaron Sprague
Attending the College of Wooster

Huron High School

Anna Ruth Barber

Daughter of Jennifer & Jeff Barber
Attending Michigan State University

David Endicott

Son of Mark Endicott and Sarah
Glinka-Endicott
Attending Western Michigan University

Austin Shepherd

Son of Andrew & Amy Shepherd
attending Kalamazoo College

Ida High School

Stephanie Sorter

Daughter of Nicki & Greg Sorter
Attending the University of Michigan

Saline High School

Jackson Fairman

Son of Stacey & Chris Fairman
Attending Michigan State University

Abby Wilson

Daughter of Paul & Jennifer Wilson
Attending the University of Michigan

Southview High School (Sylvania, OH)

Sarah Sewell-Conley

Daughter of Rhonda Sewell &
Stacey Conley
Attending Ohio Wesleyan University

Savannah Sewell-Conley

Daughter of Rhonda Sewell &
Stacey Conley
attending The Ohio State University

UNDERGRADUATE & ADVANCED DEGREES

Claire Butz

B.A. Cognitive Science
University of Michigan

Dallas Colligan

B.A. Cognitive Science, Emphasis in
linguistics
University of Michigan

Nathan

Gulick

Masters, Fine Arts
Otis College of Art & Design

Joshua King

B.S., Engineering - Computer Science
University of Michigan

Bailey Lambrides Robin

B.S., engineering
University of Michigan

Lex Lambrides

B.S., Computer Engineering
Virginia Tech

Patton Loop

B.A., Psychology & Business
University of Colorado, Boulder

Megan Moss

Masters, Education
Harvard Graduate School

George Perrett

Masters, Public Health
University of Michigan

Kate Silbert

Ph.D., History and Women's Studies
University of Michigan

Rachelle Snyder

Masters, Occupational Therapy
Eastern Michigan University



Faith In Action

Nicaragua Mission Team - What happens when...

Please join the Nicaragua Mission Team on Sunday, June 3, at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall when we share our experiences and stories from our recent trip to Quebrada Honda. Learn what happens when graduate students and retirees travel together to provide lights and electrical outlets in three classrooms. Learn how partnership and relationships are the foundation of successful mission work in a developing country. Learn how lives can be transformed during and after a trip.



Good News in Niger

Stories of Transformation and the Global Church



Rev. Michael Ludwig, our Presbyterian Mission CoWorker from Niger, will visit First Pres on Sunday, June 17, with several of his children. They will be introduced in our 9:30 a.m. worship service then Michael will speak about his work in Niger at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall. A casual luncheon (\$5.00 each) will follow at 12:15 PM in the Founders and Curtis Rooms. There will be further time for sharing stories, faith and a place for questions and answers.

Michael, who calls Holland, Michigan home, will share incredible stories of his work with leaders of the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger (EERN). He works alongside his Nigerian peers to transform communities and small villages, by improving literacy, education, health, small businesses and community life. His work creates healthy relationships between Christians and Muslims and shares the good news of Christ in a land has a vibrant Christian presence that is officially secular and predominately Muslim. Michael and his EERN partners help leaders and communities identify and respond to their greatest needs with their own resources. Empowering pastors, teachers and evangelists is at the heart of Michael's ministry.

The other half of this ministry team, Rachel Ludwig, focuses on homeschooling the couple's children and developing relationships in their neighborhood and church community. "Mission service is the place where our interests and gifts coincide," Michael said. "We've always had an interest in other cultures and other countries and felt a desire to help others in the areas of their deepest need." "We have gifts for teaching and learning and for living simply," Rachel adds. Recognizing the gifts of Rebecca, a community leader who was a teacher and director of a Bible school for the Église Évangélique de la République du Niger (EERN), one of the Muslim religious leaders remarked that "When I saw her in the market, she walked like a giant with the heart of a man!" Rachel will visit First Presbyterian Church Flint on June 17.

PHILIPPINES MISSION TEAM NEWS

Upcoming Philippines Mission Team Trip

The next Philippines Mission Team (PMT) trip is scheduled for January, 2019. If you are interested in traveling and working with the mission team, contact Hank McQueen at mcqueen1143@comcast.net or 730-1546. This team will visit and evaluate the sanitation and bakery projects at the prison and mental health center, distribute books and athletic supplies in local schools, distribute supplies to the mental health and dental clinics, meet with the scholarship recipients, visit some of the homes built by PMT over the years, and worship at the Silliman University Church. We will also meet with our many partners as we continue to strengthen and grow our relationships and learn of how we can provide a greater impact on the Philippine people.



Rescue and Recycle Book Project for Children in the Philippines

Please join the Philippine Mission Team (PMT) for the annual book-packing project June 22, 25 & 26. It's fun and rewarding! Each year the PMT packs and ships over 20,000 books and school supplies to schools, community centers, libraries, and a prison in the Philippines. This year the team will also ship over 350 pairs of eyeglasses to the prison. If you would like to join us and/or would like to ship books to a specific village in the Philippines, contact Ginny Rezmierski at 971-6221 or ver@umich.edu.



Where do the books and supplies come from? Each year, we work with designated schools in Washtenaw County and collect, sort and pack preschool, elementary, middle and high school storybooks and text books that are in good condition but are no longer needed. We also collect books that are donated by individuals or families. Hard cover books are shipped to Silliman University in Dumaguete, Philippines where they are covered in plastic by undergraduate students and distributed to Dumaguete and Sibulan schools. Soft cover books are also packed and shipped to sites in Leyte, Tagudin, Manila, Davao City and others. Discarded school supplies such as crayons, pencils, and binders are also shipped upon request.



Local Mission Grants Awarded

The First Pres Local Community Mission Grant Program supports nonprofit organizations and ministries that care for and protect the vulnerable in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, and Metro Detroit. Our top priorities for 2016-2018 have been shelter, food, and mental health. Other areas of concern include school-age children, emergency assistance, empowerment, advocacy, and social justice. We seek to partner with organizations that 1) meet basic human needs, 2) build communities, 3) tackle structural social inequities, and 4) create long term solutions. This year we will award \$1,000 to \$10,000 for a total of \$76,500 to the organizations listed below. Visit <https://firstpresbyterian.org/mission/local-missions/local-mission-grant-program> for more information, or contact Martha Kershaw, Marty Reineman, or Rev. Jay Sanderford.

- Habitat for Humanity - House of Faith
- Corner Health Center - Mental Health Program for at-risk Youth
- Cass Community Social Services - Supportive Housing Program
- Friends in Deed – Circles Program, Furniture, Utility, and other assistance.
- Hope Clinic - Mental Health Program for Uninsured
- IHN at Alpha House – Rapid Rehousing for Homeless Families
- Food Gatherers – Summer Food Program for Children and their Families
- Shelter Association – “House More Serve More” Eviction Prevention Program
- Community Action Network – Bryant Community Center Food Program
- Peace Neighborhood Center – College and Career Prep Program
- Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice – Education, Advocacy, and Social Justice
- Breakfast at St. Andrew’s – daily meal year-round (Ann Arbor)
- Riverside Gathering at FPC Ypsilanti - Weekly dinner and fellowship
- Fort Street Presbyterian Church Detroit - “Open Door” Weekly Meal and Social Services
- Hope Clinic – Food Pantry and Meal Program
- Religious Action for Affordable Housing – Outreach & Support for Landlords willing to rent to high risk tenants.
- Interfaith Round Table – Education, Dialog, and Building Community

Interfaith Round Table - Tastes of Faith II

Come support the work of the IRT that focuses exclusively on creating a culture of understanding and inclusion. On Sunday, June 17, join us at the Hindu Chinmaya Mission, 4760 Packard, Ann Arbor, for a fundraising dinner celebrating Father’s Day. Enjoy a delectable meal featuring Indian cuisine, prepared and provided by the Chinmaya Mission. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and a program beginning at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 (meal only) per person with children 5 and under free or \$60 for a family ticket. Other support levels are \$50 - Friends, \$75 - Sponsors, and \$100 - Patrons. For more information, call 649-0107 or 678-5616 or email gbrides@umich.edu.



Adult Education

Gun Violence-Gospel Value Session

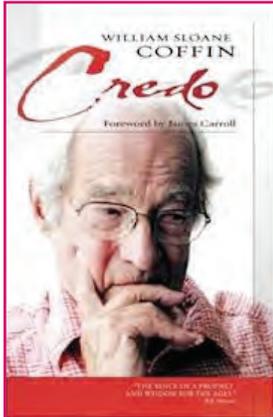
On Sunday, June 3 at 12:15 p.m. in the Curtis/Founders Room come for a continued exploration of practical and theological issues related to gun violence and human safety. A light lunch will be served. Through a discussion facilitated by Susan King, Co-director of Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County, participants will examine the question “what does the Lord require of us” regarding gun violence in the US. Based on the theological perspective as framed by PCUSA and Biblical references, participants will be asked to examine and identify actions that can be taken as individuals and potentially as a congregation to reduce gun violence in our communities. This is an opportunity to share your perspective on the topic. Suggested actions will be shared with the steering committee on Gun Violence as a basis for future actions to be taken by First Pres.

Hilltoppers will also join the discussion on gun violence as they host Dr. Jim Peggs on Thursday, June 14. Dr. Peggs will present “Gun Violence and Injury Prevention: The Physician’s Role.” Watch for engaging follow up discussions in the summer and fall to determine actions First Pres will take in the future.

Summer Book Series - Unbounded Love: Plentiful Joy

Finding joy, meaning, and purpose in a world that is often filled with suffering, doubt and loneliness is the heart of our Summer Book Series. The books, *Credo* by William Sloan Coffin and *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, will be our guides for worship, conversation and mindful exploration of the contours of a world filled with suffering and the resources of our Christian faith. You may purchase them at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/summer-book-series-2018/> or in the Church Office. *Credo* sells for \$11 and *The Book of Joy* for \$17. Buy the pair for \$28.

Our summer worship on Sundays will be shaped by the themes of these two books. There will be two or more Summer Conversations each week to discuss the books, the themes of worship and preaching and this moment we find ourselves in. Beginning Sunday, June 24 and continuing all summer, there will be a ConnectEd open conversation at 10:45 a.m. in the French Room/Library to explore the sermon, worship experience and the focus chapter of the books.



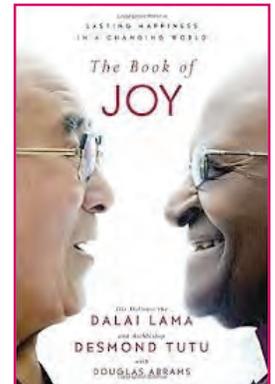
June and early July - *Credo* by William Sloan Coffin

"I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap and then you grow wings," says William Sloane Coffin. This short book overflows with passion, incisive thinking, political insights, and prophetic calls for action. It explores faith, hope and love; social justice and civil liberties; social justice and economic rights; patriotism; war and peace; nature; life in general; the church; and the end of life. In *Credo* Coffin challenges us and affirms a durable faith at the same time. "There is nothing anti-intellectual in the leap of faith, for faith is not believing without proof but trusting without reservation." In a meditation on the line "Give us this day our daily bread" in the Lord's Prayer, Coffin says of Jesus: "How angry he must be with the way our government is now filling the rich with good things, and sending the poor empty away." Coffin, a Presbyterian, served as chaplain of Yale University and Williams College, was senior minister at Riverside Church in New York City, and was President of SANE/ FREEZE: Campaign for Global Security.

July, August and early September – *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu

"There's a Tibetan saying: 'Wherever you have friends, that's your country, and wherever you receive love, that's your home.'" *Dalai Lama*

How do we find joy in a world filled with suffering? That timeless question drives *The Book of Joy*, a conversation between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu woven into a narrative. As the two men reflect on their personal experiences, they impart advice for finding inner joy. The secret? Not thinking too much about yourself. The book is a three-layer cake: their own stories and teachings about joy, the most recent findings in the science of deep happiness, and the daily practices that anchor their own (and our) emotional and spiritual lives.



Summer Preaching - Summer Books

The Worship Committee and Dr. Fair are pleased to announce our summer preaching schedule, in coordination with our summer books and themes:

June

- 3 Rev. Blair Buckley (8 a.m.)/Dr. Fair
- 10 Dr. Fair (no 11:00 service) - The Nature of True Joy
- 17 Rev. Blair Buckley - Credo: The Church
- 24 Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt - Pillar of Joy: Perspective

July

- 1 Dr. Fair - Pillar of Joy: Humor
- 8 Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers: Pillar of Joy: Acceptance
- 15 Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke - Pillar of Joy: Humility
- 22 Rev. Jay Sanderford - Pillar of Joy: Community
- 29 Rev. Blair Buckley - Pillar of Joy: Forgiveness, Freeing Ourselves from the Past

August

- 5 Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke - Pillar of Joy: Gratitude
I Am Fortunate to be Alive
- 12 Dr. Fair - Pillar of Joy: Compassion:
Something We Want to Become
- 19 Rev. Parks-Piatt - Pillar of Joy: Generosity:
We Are Filled with Joy
- 26 Andy Spaulding (8 a.m.)/Essie Koenig-Reinke

September

- 2 Rev. Evans McGowan



Campus Ministry: UKirk Summer Update



Campus Ministry celebrates another year of connecting with new students and sending off another graduating class! Congratulations to our University of Michigan graduates, including Lauren Ayers (Business Administration), Claire Butz (Cognitive Science), Dallas Colligan (Cognitive Science), Natalie Drobny (Political Science), Margaret Gray (Nursing), Amanda Kessel (Nursing), and last but not least, Josh King (Computer Science Engineering), our outgoing student president. May God bless you and keep you as you begin a new journey.

This summer, some of our students are as far away as Poland, Taiwan, Italy, and Morocco, while others are taking some well-deserved time off on a road trip out West or vacation in Cancun. There are weddings to attend, internships to begin in Jackson and Detroit, classes to go to in the spring and summer semesters, moves to New York, Austin, or Chicago to start a new job, resting at home while studying for the MCAT, DAT or LSAT, and more. Wherever they are, please keep our undergraduates in your thoughts and prayers as they return to campus this fall or open up new chapters in their lives.

The Campus Ministry leadership learned a lot this year, the first year when the resident ministers played an integral role in leading the program. We tried new things, such as hosting our first successful ice cream social "Michigan Meltdown" in April, serving nearly 40 students with the help of several volunteers, as well as joined together in an ecumenical dinner with the Lutheran, Reformed and Episcopal student groups. Taking into account these new events and ongoing connections with students, the leadership team is hard at work developing a Campus Ministry Plan that will refocus our abilities to reach more students while also building on existing small group strategies. We look forward to reaching more students next year, connecting them with the life of the church, and deepening our relationship with them and with God.

Feel free to contact Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) if you have any questions or know of any incoming UM student you would like us to contact.



Residents' Corner

From Brennan (Pearson) and Laura Blue

Brennan and Laura welcomed Avery Eileen Blue on Sunday, May 13 (her due date!). Avery was born at 3:39 a.m. at 7 pounds 4 ounces, and 19.5 inches long. Both Avery and Laura are well.



One Year In

Since their arrival in August, our residents have completed the first three modules of a carefully conceived peer-education and professional development sequence. After a month-long orientation process designed to bring them "on board" at First Pres., the residents launched into an intensive preaching and worship development module, crafting liturgy for communion, preaching brief "trial" sermons to each other and the program director, and developing voice and motion in worship. The second module involved pastoral identity formation, predicated on a strengths-based approach to personal development. In the third module, the residents reflect upon leadership in the ministry, with readings of important texts, coupled with visits and seminars with leaders from various ministries and exemplary leaders from all fields from our own congregation.

The Residency Program is based on peer learning: residents learn from each other and have abundant opportunities to reflect on their learning. All the while, of course, they learn from doing, by intense immersion in all aspects of the work of our church—pastoral care, worship, Christian education, witness, and committee involvement. This is the purpose of the residency.

Recently we asked the residents to identify key insights from the past nine months. Here are some of their answers. For Blair Buckley perhaps the most valuable lesson learned is that "in ministry you often have to step into a situation that you didn't engineer or may not quite understand," and, even if that situation "has played out in a way that you don't totally agree with, you still work with that starting point and try to build from there." Prior to joining us, the largest church Dorothy Parks-Piatt had served had about 500 members. "This year," she says, "I have learned much from colleagues and church members at First Pres about pastoral care for a multigenerational congregation and about cultivating smaller spaces for personal engagement, faith formation, and community building within a large church atmosphere." Eric Koenig-Reinke, too, has been challenged by "navigating the complexities of this particular large church, and, not unlike Blair and Dorothy, he finds "that a lot of what I am 'learning' is not so much a set of skills as a growing level of comfort—or in some cases working through discomfort—and greater self-understanding in the various roles of ministry that I'm engaged in."

We are blessed to have these young pastors serving our congregation. First Pres' Residency challenges them in various ways by exposing them to the real joys and demands of parish ministry. But that is part of the point of an effective residency and another indicator of the powerful effect of our program.