



# First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor  
November 2018 ■ Volume 66, Number 10



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Youth Lock-In Fun!

## Dear Friends,

Neal De Roo, of King's University, wrote, "Church is not a meeting place for saints — it's a safe haven for sinners. We're in church because we need God. We need God because we aren't perfect. We can't make ourselves better. Grace is not for the "saved"—it is for those who need a Savior. God doesn't demand perfection. God promises help to those who will take it, grace for those who need it—and love and acceptance for all. Does the church offer the same? Is church for people whose lives are already put-together, looking good and on the right path? Or... is church a place for people with problems and struggles, constantly struggling to live up to an ideal that they can never seem to reach, and feeling crushed by their failure to be 'better' than they are? Is church for saints—or for sinners like me?"

We Christians ask the important questions — in all areas of living and believing. The answer to most of those? Grace! God accepts and forgives us as individuals, and as people, asks us to give acceptance and forgiveness to people in our lives. But also know this — God asks us to give grace to the church, to permit the church to be imperfect, too. For who makes up the congregation? People, of all shapes and sizes and kinds,

saints and sinners alike. Can we embrace an imperfect church of incomplete people who, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, are trying hard to get it right?

God asks us to give something more to the church — gifts of our time, talent, and treasure. First Pres is in transition. We need your pledges of financial support and participation. It is not a time to withhold your offerings, or to hold onto your anger or frustration. Neither is it a time to repress your concerns, and take a sabbatical from First Pres. It IS a time to pour out all of what you are wondering and feeling – to talk to those who are listening, to ask questions of those with answers, and, being heard, to reiterate your support and renew your care. The incredible missions and ministries of our 192 year-old church will continue, and our gifted congregation and staff will lead us forward into an unknown but compelling future. We will do that better and more wonderfully with your help and support, your pledge and promise to stand with us.

Whether you are reading this feeling more like a saint, or more like a sinner — know that you have a church home in Ann Arbor, a bright light in this broken world, and an eternal home with our God who will see us through every variance and change. May it be so.

*Rev. Rogers and Rev. Sanderford*

### Daylight Saving Time Ends ...

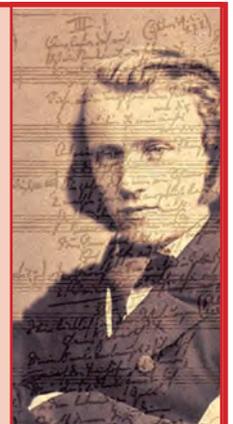
Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 a.m.  
Remember to set your clocks back Saturday night!



### All Saints' Day Sunday Is November 4

Worship with us at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. as we remember members of our congregation, family, and friends who have died in the past year.

**Brahms' Requiem at 3:00 p.m.** - The Chancel Choir, the Michigan Sinfonietta and conductor Richard Ingram present Johannes Brahms' *Requiem* featuring Robert Peavler, baritone and Lorna Hildebrandt, soprano. Join us for this special music and time of remembrance. This program is supported by our Sacred Music Fund. There is no admission charge.





# Business of the Church



## Administrative Commission Update

My name is Clint Cozier, and I am the chairperson of the Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery of Detroit to work with First Pres. We have sent out a congregational letter that gives a full introduction, so I won't repeat those details here. I will use this space in the newsletter monthly to let you know where we are with respect to the work of the Administrative Commission. We are in the organizing and initial meeting phase. In the next few months, we will meet with groups at church: the Session, Deacons, College of Elders, pastors and staff. We plan to have at least one church-wide listening event before Thanksgiving which will most likely be a Sunday evening gathering. We're also gathering the things that document your life together: Bylaws and manuals and policies and procedures.

You, on the other hand, are left with the really critical work right now. You are just a few days removed from learning that Dr. Fair is leaving. For many, that news was totally unexpected. I know from the emails I receive that many are hurt, grieving, confused and angry. The thing you need most right now is each other. Each of you has a unique perspective on these events. No single perspective is right or wrong, there are no sides or camps; there are simply people responding to what has happened. You need to do the thing the AC cannot do which is to care for each other, to listen, especially to those who have a different vantage point, to bind the wounds of those who are hurt, and to remember that you are together First Pres. So please, as the AC takes up its work, take up the work only you can do: care for each other, listen to each other, remember that what makes First Pres a special place is you, the community journeying together. Grace and Peace.

## Our Door Security System Is Operational!



Our lives at First Pres have changed – for the safer! Our new door security system became operational on Monday, October 29. Applications for door security devices (fobs) may now be filled out online or in the Church Office. The cost is \$10.

### Things to remember:

- During the week, entry is limited to the Memorial Garden and Monteith Terrace doors.
- To enter the building **without a fob**, press the blue button. Someone will respond over the intercom.
- To enter a building **with a fob**, place it in front of the black number pad. The red indicator light at the top will turn green when the door is unlocked.
- Members with fobs may enter the building from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### The building will be UNLOCKED (no fob needed):

- On Sundays from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- For memorial services, weddings, and large events.
- On high traffic event days when many non-members are expected to be present.

## Notes from the October 17 Session Meeting

Rev. Sanderford and Rev. Rogers, as co-moderators of Session, invited Rev. Paul Thwaite, Pastor of Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian, to moderate the meeting. Acting on the report of the Clerk of Session, in the normal business of the Session, thirteen people were removed from the active membership rolls of the church due to a move, inactivity, or transfer to another congregation. The Session elected three elders to serve as commissioners to the November 17 meeting of the Presbytery of Detroit: Bob Wallin, Lynne Lande and Diane Hockett.

Rev. Thwaite led a debriefing on the events surrounding the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with Rev. Dr. Fair. Following the discussion the Session appointed a team of elders to create a statement to be shared with the congregation. Elders Brandt, Dahl, Servais and Hockett agreed to compose a document ready to share on or about October 19 or 20. Also, a letter of introduction from the Administrative Commission, including their charge, will be sent to the congregation before October 25.

In committee reports, Elder Dahl from Personnel reported on plans to guide the church from October 15 until an interim Head of Staff is hired. An Interim Leadership Plan was presented showing the areas of responsibility key elders and for Revs. Rogers and Sanderford. Elder Wood of Financial Stewardship informed Session that the Budget process is underway with plans to conclude the 2019 Budget draft by the end of November. He presented the finance report for August. Elder Tamblyn provided an update on the Annual Giving Campaign. Elder Brandt informed the Session that the Music Ministry Selection Committee has been conducting a nationwide search for a Director of Music Ministry, and have identified twelve potential candidates. It is hoped to have a final

candidate identified by January 31, 2019. Property, led by Elder Platte is looking at what capital improvements are needed for our facilities and will present a focus report at the December meeting. Elder Platte also noted that Adrian Prundeanu and Charlie Gott have been working on outdoor projects such as landscaping, drainage and a recently completed inventory of the 77 trees on our property. The next Session meeting will be Saturday, November 11 as part of the Officer Retreat.



## Worship & Music

### Rededication of the Memorial Garden

After the 9:30 a.m. service on November 4, All Saints' Sunday, Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers will lead a brief service of rededication and prayer in the memorial garden. We will read the names of those interred in the last year. Join us at 10:40 a.m. for this brief, meaningful time of prayer and gratitude.



### Preaching in November & December

**Sunday, November 4 - All Saints' Day**  
All services - Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

**Sunday, November 11 - Third Grade Bible Sunday**  
8:00 a.m. - Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Dr. Rodger Nishioka

**Wednesday, November 14 - Wholeness & Healing**  
7:00 p.m. - Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

**Sunday, November 18**  
8:00 a.m. - Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Rev. Jay Sanderford

**Sunday, November 25**  
All services - Rev. Blair Buckley

**Sunday, December 2 - First Sunday of Advent**  
All services, - Rev. Dorothy Parks- Piatt

**Sunday, December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent**  
8:00 a.m. - Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Rev. Jay Sanderford

**Monday, December 10 - Glacier Hills Advent Worship**  
10:30 a.m. - Rev. Don Postema

**Sunday, December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent**  
8:00 a.m. - Essie Koenig-Reinke  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

**Sunday, December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
8:00 a.m. - Rev. Blair Buckley  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Rev. Evans McGowan

**Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve**  
3:00 p.m. - Family Worship & Christmas Pageant  
5:00 & 7:00 p.m. - Service of Lessons & Carols  
11:00 p.m. - Service of Communion,  
Revs. Melissa Anne Rogers & Jay Sanderford

**Sunday, December 30**  
10:00 a.m. - To be determined  
**NEW! 5:00 p.m. - Service of Light**

### Choir Reaches New Heights!

This stalwart group of volunteers are celebrating the completion of the installation of a new set of seated risers for the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary. The new risers will improve sight lines, safety, and sound. Thanks to all those who came out to help!



## Congregational Life



### Yoga at First Pres

Are you feeling stressed? Do you need an outlet to decompress and tune into God's still voice speaking? Please join us in November and December for our beginner-friendly yoga church, led by Rev. Blair Buckley, a RYT 200 Certified Yoga Instructor. The class will be held in the Choir Room on Thursdays, November 8, November 29, December 6 and December 20 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. If you'd like to get on the email list for regular updates about this group, please email Blair at [bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org).

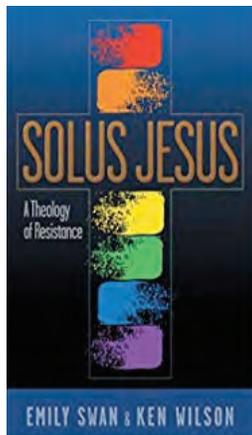
## Sixty Eight Years and Counting ...

On October 14, 1950 Art and Helen Parker were married at First Pres in a candlelight ceremony. These are two of the pictures from their wedding album. We are so fortunate to have them as part of our church family. Congratulations and best wishes Art and Helen!



## MATURE MINISTRIES

### Book Discussions



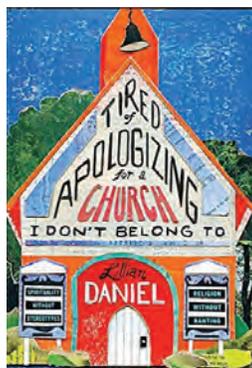
#### *Solus Jesus*

**Fridays, November 2, 9, 16 & 30**

**12:30 – 2:00 p.m. in the Vance Room**

Martin Luther wrote about Five Solas in 1517. *Solus Jesus*, a new book by Emily Swan and Ken Wilson looks at scripture alone as the source of final authority in matters of faith and morals. It poses the idea that Jesus could be the final authority in matters of faith and morals. This book looks closely at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Queer [LGBTQ+] population and women in the church, and their inclusion in a Sola Scriptura theology. This study is not for the faint of heart, but for those who really want to dig deeply into a challenging concept as you look at Biblical scripture.

Leaders of the book review are Mary Engelhardt and Maria Santa Maria. Books are available (\$20) in the Main Office. Contact Mary Engelhardt if you plan to attend at engelhardt.mary@yahoo.com or 663-0604.



#### *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To...*

**November 18, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Home of Mary Smith**

Join Mel Rogers and a bunch of thoughtful friends for a light supper of soup and salad and discussion of a great book: *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Ranting*, by pastor and writer Lillian Daniel. Rev. Daniel is a pastor in Dubuque, Iowa. Her new book explores the changing religious landscape, including the rising number of "Nones," people who self-identify as having no religious preference. The book is available on Amazon.com, or at your local bookstore. Get it, read it, and join us!

If you plan to come, let Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) or Mary Smith (marykerrick.smith@gmail.com) know. All are welcome!

## Lunch & Learn Thursday, November 8

### Architect Alden B. Dow and His Ann Arbor Legacy: Mid-Century Treasures in Our Own Backyard

Craig McDonald, Director of The Alden B. Dow Home and Studio, will discuss architect Alden Dow's buildings in Ann Arbor including City Hall, the Public Library, some UM buildings, local homes, and more. This presentation will prepare us for the Alden B. Dow field trip on November 13.

## Field Trip! Alden B. Dow Home & Studio

**Tuesday, November 13, Cost \$40**

Travel by chartered bus for an outing to the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio in Midland with lunch to follow at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. Limit of 50. Sign up in the Church Office, 662-4466.



## Leaf Raking Day

Saturday, November 17, 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Calling all leaf-rakers! All generations come together for Washtenaw Dairy doughnuts, hot drinks, and to make our church grounds beautiful. If you have tarps and rakes – bring ‘em! Otherwise, bring yourself, your warm clothing, your good humor, and willingness to work. Questions? Contact Adrian Prundeanu at 662-4466, ext. 343 or [aprundeanu@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:aprundeanu@firstpresbyterian.org).



## Join Us for Christian Meditation

Saturdays, November 3 and November 17, 8:30 a.m.. Refresh yourself with a time of prayer and contemplation. Questions? Contact Jeanette Kibler at [jeanette.kibler@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.kibler@gmail.com) or 646-9795.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



### PW Gathering on November 14

A Look at First Pres' Stained Glass Windows with Ann Andrews

**9:30-10:30 a.m. Bible Study - Lewis Room**

Angie Miller leads us in Lesson 3, "God is with Us in Our Discouragement" from the *Horizon Study*, *God's Promise: I Will Be with You Always*.

**10:45-11:00 a.m. - Welcome/Business - Monteith Hall**

The Thank Offering will be collected, discussion held about sponsoring PWPD on December 8, and hosting Coffee Hour on December 9. There will also be a 30th Anniversary of PW(PCUSA) activity.

**11:00 a.m. - Noon - Program in Monteith Hall.**

Long-time member Ann Andrews will present "A Stained Glass History." Ann will guide us through the history and art behind our beautiful sanctuary windows.

**Noon** – Lunch in the Social Hall (\$7). Make a reservation in the Church Office (662-4466).

### Looking to Rehome a Creche?

Do you have a creche you would like to rehome? Consider donating it to Presbyterian Women! Interested? Contact Elsa Stuber at (239) 785-0586 or the Church Office at 662-4466. Come and see the lovely Creche Collection, gifted to us by Jane Warner, during Coffee Hour on December 9.

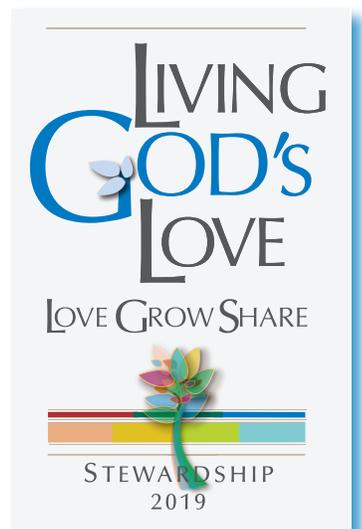


## Financial Stewardship

### Living God's Love – 2019 Stewardship Update

Through October 21, Commitment Sunday, 180 pledges totaling \$616,396 have been received. THANK YOU! This represents 36.3% of our \$1,700,000 goal, but is noticeably behind our progress as of this time last year (264 pledges totaling \$941,566). Given all that's transpired in 2018, I suppose that's not entirely unexpected. Moving forward, however, we all have to decide how we will respond to God's invitation to "Live His Love" in all we do. God is the reason for and the lifeblood of First Pres, and we provide the fuel to carry out its ministries through our financial support and commitment of time and talent. Church staff and the congregation do this together, with God's guidance, because how else will we move forward?

If you haven't turned in your 2019 pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help. Session committees plan the 2019 budget in early November, and rely on financial pledges as the primary source of revenue to fund First Pres' ministries in the year ahead. Your timely response greatly assists that process. Thank you for Living God's Love through the ministries of First Pres!





## Be a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV)



Applications for the 2019-20 Young Adult Volunteer program are now being accepted! The YAV program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30. Volunteers accompany local agencies faithfully working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation and serve August 2019 to July 2020.

First Pres has quite a YAV connection. Currently our own Carson Smith is serving as a Young Adult Volunteer in New York City at the UN General Assembly. Also, of our current staff Revs. Evans McGowan, Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Blair Buckley and Eric Koenig-Reinke previously served as YAVs. Questions? Contact Blake A. Collins, Associate for Recruitment and Relationships, Young Adult Volunteer, at (502) 528-5936 or [blake.collins@pcusa.org](mailto:blake.collins@pcusa.org).

## PHILIPPINES MISSION TEAM

### Save the Date for the Philippines Pig Roast!

Saturday, November 10, 5:30 p.m., in the Social Hall

The Philippines Mission Team invites you to their authentic pig roast dinner! Enjoy Roast Pork, Chicken Adobo, Pork Adobo, Eggplant Casserole, Pancit with Chicken and Shrimp, Coleslaw, Rice and Rolls, Vegetarian Pancit, Mango Cake, and Macaroon Cookies. Tickets must be purchased **IN ADVANCE**. Cost is \$15.00 per adult and \$7.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased during Coffee Hour on October 28 or November 4, in the Church Office, or contact Hank McQueen at 730-1596. Proceeds support projects of the Philippines Mission Team that develop relationships, promote self-sufficiency, and meet the needs of the Dumaguete area community through education, health and welfare, and projects that promote livelihood.



### Supplies Arrive in the Philippines

Remember that article in September about the boxes and boxes of school and hygiene supplies sent to the Philippines? They have arrived! Photos were sent from Cagayan de Oro Elementary School and the Youth in Conflict Center, Talay Dumaguete City along with their sincerest thanks.

## Help Someone Break the Cycle of Poverty

Circles is a relationship-based program designed to break the cycle of poverty permanently. It matches low-income people with two middle-income partners. These new friends (Allies) help broaden their social network, giving access to people and resources they might never have if they only relate to their neighbors in poverty. At present, Ginny Rezmierski and Pam Ehrhart are serving as allies in Circles.

Learn more at [www.friendsindeedmi.org/circles/](http://www.friendsindeedmi.org/circles/) or attend the next Circles Volunteer Orientation Saturday, November 3, 10:00-11:00 a.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Suzanne at [suzanne@friendsindeedmi.org](mailto:suzanne@friendsindeedmi.org) or 340-9042.

## Wednesday Greeting Card Program at the Delonis Homeless Shelter

The greeting card program started over 20 years ago when meals were served to homeless guests here at First Pres, and has continued when that work moved to the Delonis Shelter. Greeting cards donated by our congregation are organized by category each week by a volunteer. On Wednesdays, a volunteer takes the cards to the Delonis Center where they are made available to the evening guests. Each may select up to three cards to send to family and friends. Essential to this program is the time the volunteer spends talking and listening to guests. Amazing stories have emerged from these conversations, offering an opportunity to support people struggling with a host of problems. As part of the program, First Pres also has a tradition of providing winter hats and warm socks to the guests just before Christmas.



We need you! Volunteers are needed to talk to guests and assist them with their card selection. If this outreach appeals to you, contact Jeannine Buchanan at 971-6589, [BuchananRA@msn.com](mailto:BuchananRA@msn.com).



## Alpha House Ministry the Week of November 12

In recent weeks graphic images of families displaced by hurricane Florence have reminded us of the devastations of homelessness. Closer to home, many families are experiencing homelessness in our own community. We have an opportunity to minister to these families the week of November 12, when First Pres provides meals, childcare, and overnight support at Alpha House. Please volunteer to join this ministry by signing up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha5> or at Coffee Hour.

## Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will hold its 24th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday evening, November 18, at 7:00 p.m., at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth, Ann Arbor. For those who wish to come early, we will begin with an open house at 6:00 p.m. where we are invited to learn more about Bethlehem's building and place of worship (doors open at 5:45). Then at 7:00 p.m., join us as we give thanks with readings, music, meditations from a wide variety of faith traditions around the theme of "Compassion and Beauty." Light refreshments will follow the celebration. Donations will be accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. 2019 Interfaith Calendars will also be available. For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides at 734-649-0107 or email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu).



## Keeping Up with the Ludwigs



October is a huge month for the EERN (our partner church in Niger - Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger). They are planning their first ever leadership conference, where they hope to gather all 163 of the pastors and evangelists across the country to focus on Christian leadership. Following the conference leaders will attend the EERN General Assembly and discuss budgets and planning.

**Please pray with us!** For our children's health and school needs; for the Church as they are transitioning in leadership; for peace; for crops in Niger (with unreliable weather and famine in part of the country); for the evangelists (who have an extremely difficult job in the least developed country in the world and a majority Muslim context). All our love and prayers, Michael and Rachel Ludwig.

## Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, December 2, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Find out how First Presbyterian makes a difference locally and around the world AND purchase thoughtful gifts at our annual Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar. Not only will there be distinctive items for sale but you can support our mission teams by purchasing "shares" of projects or programs in which we are currently involved. For example, you can help the Nicaragua Mission Team bring electricity to a school, and assist the Israel/Palestine or the Philippines Mission Teams to provide scholarships for students. Perhaps helping to provide shelter or job coaching for a local person in need is more meaningful to you. That's just the beginning! You can't go wrong with handmade jewelry and ornaments, or some Fair Trade coffee and chocolate!

Many of our mission activities benefit children in our community and around the globe. We encourage First Pres children to participate by getting a "passport" stamped as they visit the stations and learn more about our mission activities.

Can't make the bazaar? Support First Pres' mission by purchasing from the online catalog. Watch the bulletin and weekly emails for the start date.





# Adult Education

## Creating a New Story of Faith: Faith Formation in the 21st Century Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Sunday, November 11



9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Dr. Nishioka preaches on “New Ways of Knowing.”

4:00 - 8:00 p.m. - What does it mean to be the church of Jesus Christ today? Join us as Dr. Nishioka discusses trends that are changing and challenging what it means to be “the church, explores what it means to grow a deep and vibrant faith in Jesus Christ, and more. Cost is \$10 for dinner.

[Learn more and register at www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)

### SUNDAY MORNING OFFERINGS

#### @ 9:30 a.m.

**The Bible @ 9:30 November 4 - 18 French Room/Library**

**“The Bible Speaks: What Does the Bible Say About...?”**

So what do Christians believe? Join the discussion to explore the big ideas of the Christian faith. The group turns to the Bible as the source book of our Christian faith. Bring your questions!

**First Friends November 4 - 18 Monteith Hall**

First Friends will continue their discussion of the groundbreaking work of Eboo Patel, *Embracing Interfaith Cooperation*.

#### @ 11:00 a.m.

**Exploring the Faith November 4 - 18 Monteith Hall**

**Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis**

Our country polarized by political and cultural differences that raise fundamental moral questions, threaten Christian unity and challenge the basic beliefs of our faith. The Reclaiming Jesus movement provides practical, theological, and biblical support for a response. To read more see: [www.reclaimingjesus.org](http://www.reclaimingjesus.org).



**November 4 - Truth as a Moral Center**

Dr. Charles Monsma, Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, EMU; and member of First Presbyterian Church will address the vital need to recognize and accept truthful concepts in both religious and democratic practice. The discussion will link the concepts of truth, trust and freedom, using examples to compare current practice to the ideals of personal and political beliefs and behavior.

**November 11 - How Faith Grows in a Secular Culture**

Rev. Blair Buckley, First Pres Resident Minister and Diane Hockett, member of First Pres and multiple local school boards, will discuss the intersection between faith and secular culture. Using interactive and creative activities they will engage with the concept of faith formation for all ages and stages, drawing upon Roger Nishioka’s insights, and reflect on what it means to confess our faith in our world today.



**November 18 - Double Session!**

Rev. Dr. Todd Cioffi, presenter, is an Associate Professor, Congregational and Ministry Studies, Co-Director, Calvin Prison Initiative, Calvin College; and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

**Reclaiming Jesus: Revisiting the Church-State Relationship** - 11:00 a.m., Monteith Hall

This session will locate the Reclaiming Jesus statement within the history of church-state relations, identifying its rationale and core features.



**Reclaiming Jesus, the Church, the State, and the Public Square** - 12:15 p.m., Curtis/Founders Room

A light lunch will be served for \$5. Dr. Cioffi will identify a key feature of the church’s life – being reconciled with God and one another, and examine how this ought to influence the state and the public square in political and civil life.



# Children & Families



## Announcing Rebeca Torres-Davenport

Dear First Pres Family,

We are pleased to announce that after an extensive search process, we have hired Rebeca Torres-Davenport for the position of Transitional Coordinator of Children’s Education and Family Ministry. We are excited about this development in the life of First Pres!

Ms. Torres-Davenport, who goes by Beca, impressed us with her love of children, her ability to connect with parents and staff, her ideas around faith formation, and her thoughtfulness about the unique strengths and challenges of family and intergenerational ministry in our Ann Arbor congregation. She is a lifelong Presbyterian with deep understanding of and appreciation for our denominational context. Her leadership experience in the broader church includes youth ministry, liturgical dance, camp ministry with adults with disabilities, and Stephen Ministry. Most recently, Beca worked as a teacher at UM’s Towsley Children’s Center.

She and her husband Daniel have been members of First Pres for about five years and have a son, Sebastian, who just turned one. Beca will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, October 28 and will be our guest at Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 4. Please welcome her warmly and connect. Beca’s first day of work will be Monday, November 5.

On Sunday, November 18, there will be a special time for Beca to meet and celebrate this new ministry with our children and families. Please join us in welcoming her into this new role!

Blessings, The Christian Education Committee

*Kate Silbert (Chair), Karen Mundus, Diane Hockett, Sharon Watling*

## Winter is coming... Donate a Coat!

Please join the 4th and 5th grade Sunday school classes in collecting warm gently-used winter clothing (coats for children and adults, sweaters, hats, gloves) so that they can respond to God’s grace by helping others with the gift of warmth and love this winter. A collection box can be found in the Welcome Center this month so that items collected can be donated to the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church before Thanksgiving. Please join us in sharing God’s many gifts to us, especially the dreams and hopes that come from being warm and loved during the cold winter months in Michigan.



# Youth Connection

## Friendsgiving Potluck & Dinner Church

**Saturday, November 17, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., Social Hall**

Join us for an all-youth & families potluck and dinner church. Dinner Church is a service where we celebrate coming to the table together to break bread and share the stories of our lives. It will be a fantastic event, filled with family fun activities, arts and crafts and even live music! The event will be held at our normal youth group time. RSVP to Essie ([essie@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:essie@firstpresbyterian.org)), by Friday, November 14. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share! We hope to see each of you there!





## The Intersection of Faith & Race High School Youth Trip to Montgomery, AL

Wednesday, January 2 - Sunday, January 6, 2019

Be a part of a new mission opportunity this winter! In January of 2019, join a group of our high school students as they travel to Montgomery, Alabama. While there, they will engage in mission projects and tour historic sites in the community including the new Legacy Museum & National Monument for Peace and Justice. Conversations will focus on the intersection

of faith and race. Students will engage with local faith leaders, and listen to the stories of those who walked over the bridge in Selma. We'll also eat good soul food, explore Montgomery, and end our five day trip with a trip to Six Flags over Atlanta. This trip is also for parents and adults. If you or your youth are interested, contact Essie ([essie@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:essie@firstpresbyterian.org)) to sign up or for more information. Space is limited. Scholarships and family rates are available.



## UKirk@UMich

### Campus Ministry Update

UKirk@UMich continues to go strong this semester. On campus, our mid-week small discussion group, Wed@8, is a welcome respite from the busyness of the day, a place where meaningful relationships develop, and a time for thoughtful and faithful reflection. Several students have expressed their gratitude for the open and supportive group environment. Sunday Lunches are popular as ever, and attract a different group than those who are able to come mid-week. Several students continue to provide much-needed assistance in the nursery and Sunday School. We couldn't do it without them!

Building off our ecumenical partnerships with other mainline denominational campus ministries, we offered several new initiatives in October, including a special World Communion Service on campus and our very own Rev. Blair Buckley began offering free Yoga classes to students and congregants. Next month, our students will be involved in an inaugural interfaith student summit hosted here by the University of Michigan and attracting students from several other universities.

Plans continue to move forward for a mission service trip to Puerto Rico over Spring Break to help with the ongoing hurricane relief efforts with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Rev. Evans McGowan will be joining a Young Adult Volunteer Alumni group in December in Puerto Rico to scout out the potential work sites and other logistics.



### Cook Pancakes for College Students!



The Pancake Supper is Tuesday, December 11, 10:00 p.m. – midnight. As the Fall semester winds down, UM students are working hard and our pancakes and hospitality go a long way! We expect to serve over 300 hungry students from 10:00 p.m. to midnight and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to help with outreach, setup, tear down/clean up, cooking, serving, and more. Sign up to help online at <https://first-presbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/pancake-supper/>, or contact Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke at [ekoenig-reinke@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:ekoenig-reinke@firstpresbyterian.org). Don't have time to help? Monetary donations are needed as well. To contribute, make your check out to First Presbyterian Church with Pancake Supper on the memo line.



## T2A2 - Twenties & Thirties in Ann Arbor

### Cell Block 7

T2A2 is going on a field trip to Cell Block 7 in Jackson on Saturday, December 8, with our very own Brad Taylor! We'll leave from First Pres at 10:00 a.m., tour the museum with the benefit of insights from T2A2 participant and graduate student Nora Krinsky (who studies incarceration and related issues), and continue our conversation over lunch at the Common Grill in Chelsea. RSVP to Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt, [dparks-piatt@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dparks-piatt@firstpresbyterian.org) if you can come. Don't miss this formative learning opportunity or the chance to have a good time and get to know each other better.



# Advent Is Coming!

## Advent Happening Is Saturday, December 1



Bring the family and join in the creating and crafting in the Social Hall anytime from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Begin your holiday preparations by making gifts and ornaments, decorating cookies and creating Christmas cards. Advent Happening is a multi-generational event with projects for all – about age 2 to 102. Friends and neighbors are always welcome and encouraged!

It's as much fun to volunteer as it is to attend! To help with a craft please contact Rebeca Torres-Davenport or Cindy King for more information.

Also, childcare is provided for infants through age two if older siblings and parents are busy at the Advent Happening. Make a reservation for childcare by contacting Rebeca Torres-Davenport, Transitional Coordinator of Children's Education and Family Ministry at rtorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466 ext 342.

## Christmas Pageant Parents' Meeting

Are you interested in having your child participate in the Christmas Pageant? Find out more at the Pageant parents' meeting Sunday, December 2, 11:00 a.m. in Lewis Room.

## Story Slam & Strolling Reception

Sunday, December 9, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Listen to stories of faith and truth at First Pres' first story slam. Afterwards, enjoy a strolling reception with refreshments and a variety of activities located in different parts of the building. More details to come!

## Family to Family Christmas

Please consider "adopting" a family in need this year yourself or with your family, group, class, or friends. Families range from disabled or elderly individuals to families of six or more. You may select a family and purchase items according to their needs, and then deliver the gifts personally or have an FTF volunteer deliver them for you. Alternatively, financial contributions may be made to help purchase gift cards for families not directly adopted, as well as families in need who have loved ones at Mott Children's and U-M Hospitals during the holidays.

Sign-up tables to adopt families will be available after morning services on November 25, December 2, and December 9 in the Social Hall. Donations may be made at the sign-up table or by using the special pew envelopes beginning November 25. You can also adopt a family by clicking on the sign-up link for Family-to-Family Christmas 2018 on the First Pres website, or by contacting Julie Morrison at jdownmorrison@gmail.com or 646-5351. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver gifts on the afternoon of December 16.



## Boy Scout Troop 7 Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 7 will host their annual Christmas wreath sale during Coffee Hour on Sundays, November 26 and December 3. There are two sizes of wreaths handmade from fresh greens for sale. A 22" wreath is \$30.00 and a 28" wreath is \$40.00.



# Transitions



### We Grieve the death of:

Judy Slade, October 3, 2018

Leon Reinke, October 15, 2018  
(Essie Koenig-Reinke's grandfather)

### Memorial Services:

Pat Fuerstenau - November 9, 2:00 p.m.,  
in Monteith Hall

Ben Van Tuyl - November 10, 3:30 p.m.,  
in the Sanctuary