



# First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor  
October 2018 ■ Volume 66, Number 9



*Dear Friends,*

Since May 2011 I have given my all to the service of God through The First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. We have welcomed almost five hundred new members (490!), commissioned hundreds of people to serve in mission, performed over one hundred baptisms, celebrated weddings, and given thanks to God for the lives of saints who now live eternally in the presence of God. Your generosity (\$4.4 million raised) has enabled us to secure the future of our Resident Ministry program and we have taken action to realign the sanctuary trusses so that our 1937 building will stand for many more years. We have celebrated the resurrection together on seven Easter mornings, and gathered eight years to welcome God among us as an infant born in Bethlehem. We have affirmed that First Pres is a welcoming place for all people and challenged ourselves to think theologically about issues such as gun violence, capital punishment, and care of the environment. At all times I have sought to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, to treat everyone with love and respect, and to lead this congregation and staff in ways that are faithful to the gospel and follow the lead of our Lord Jesus Christ.



This past year, a number of developments have occurred which make it clear that I cannot continue to lead First Pres into the future. I have accepted this reality and I will be leaving First Pres in mid-October. This decision has come after many hours of prayer and conversation with elected leaders of the congregation and with dear friends. My immediate future is uncertain, but before seeking another call, I will spend much time in prayer, study, and healing under a leave provided in the mutual agreement reached by Session. A congregational meeting for the purpose of dissolving our pastoral relationship will be held after the 9:30 a.m. worship service on October 14, followed by a reception in the Social Hall. There will be no 11:00 a.m. worship service that day.

You are a congregation that I love – and I will continue to love you. You have blessed me in many ways, and I will carry your stories with me wherever God calls me to go.

May God bless you in the coming period of transition. I will hold you in my prayers, and hope you will pray for me. Together we are the body of Christ. God walks with us through times of joy and sadness. Never doubt the goodness of God, and always seek to live in ways that bring honor and glory to God.

May God's grace and peace be with us all.

Fairfax F. Fair  
Pastor/Head of Staff

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## Dear Friends,

For the past seven years, Fairfax has served our congregation with energy, dedication, and love. We wish to pay tribute to the many good things that have been accomplished during her tenure – the weddings, baptisms, and all the ceremonies large and small that mark the seasons of the church year, enriching the spiritual life of the congregation. Under her leadership, we have raised the funds to secure the future of our resident ministry program and preserve the physical fabric of the church. At the same time we have addressed some of the difficult issues of our day – as a congregation, together, without tearing apart the spiritual fabric of the church. All of us are grateful for Fairfax's many efforts on behalf of First Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

As Fairfax leaves us, first for a period of reflection and study provided in the agreement and then, ultimately, to seek a new call, we wish to thank her, celebrate her ministry in our midst, and bid her Godspeed as she departs. We invite you to a special reception in her honor, to be held on Sunday, October 14, after the congregational meeting.

Grace and peace,

The Personnel Committee of Session:

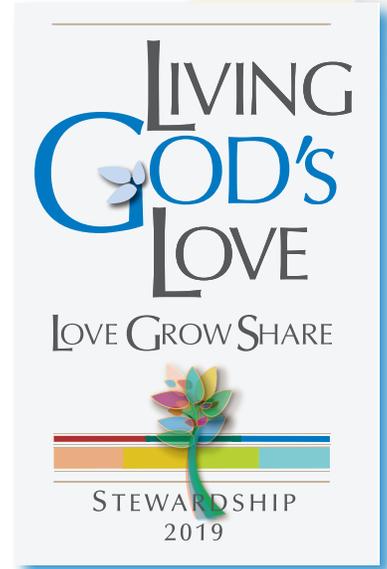
Chris Dahl, Chair	Tim Dickinson
Jim Cameron	Dallas Dort
Linda Dabrowski	Prue Heikkinen



# Financial Stewardship

## Living God's Love

The Stewardship 2019 work group (Patrick and Diane Tamblyn, Bill and Dusty Upton, John LeDuc, Maeve Hammond, Fairfax Fair, Anna Miller, and Eric Koenig-Reinke) met regularly through the summer. The materials to support the annual stewardship appeal are finalized and have been mailed to FPC members. Faith In Action stories will be shared from the lectern from September 23rd through October 21st. Follow up calls will be made and letters will be sent to encourage participation. First Pres, and each of us, are called to be there for one another and to live God's love in all we do. As we learn about Jesus and strive to be the disciples he calls us to be, we realize it takes intentional action to make a positive impact in this world. First Pres provides each of us with meaningful worship, Christian education, community, and enriching mission opportunities. We are called to intentionally engage in this work. By pledging your financial support, as well as your time and talent, you ensure that the vibrant ministries and outreach at First Pres will continue. Please intentionally act today and complete your pledge forms. We also hope you will share your stewardship thoughts and questions with members of the work group. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!



## Financial Update

The Session, First Presbyterian Church's governing body, and the Finance Committee are committed to providing regular financial updates to you, our members and friends. The following financial information is for the month of July and the 2018 fiscal year which ends December 31, 2018.

### For the month of July:

Total income received	\$ 131,022
Total expenses:	\$ 133,780
Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ ( 2,758)

### For the Year-to-Date through July 31, 2018:

Total income received:	\$1,037,098
Total expenses	\$1,058,559
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (21,461)

Questions? Please contact Bill Wood, Finance Committee Chair, at [wwood594@comcast.net](mailto:wwood594@comcast.net).

## Legacy Partners David & Martha Kershaw



David and I joined First Pres in 1991 before our first child was born, and it has been our church home through all of the phases and stages of family life. From crib room to confirmation, from Camp Westminster to West Virginia, our children grew both physically and spiritually. David and I have grown as well through worship and Christian education, reading and thinking in ways very different from those at work or home, finding support and strength to weather challenging times, and understanding how our lives connected with others. We also benefit from supporting others within the congregation as Sunday school teacher, Deacon, Stephen Minister, and Elder. And we have grown tremendously from Mission opportunities through which we have met and served people in our community with whom we would not otherwise interact such as Habitat House of Faith, Alpha House,

Family to Family Christmas, and Rotating Shelter. We know that our annual pledge and special giving support the wonderful programs which have helped everyone in our family grow, as well as many others within both our church and greater community. By including FPC in our estate, we make it possible for others to benefit long after we are no longer able to participate.



# Worship & Music

## All Saints' Sunday Worship Remembrance

Worship with us on All Saints' Sunday, November 4. Names of members and family and friends of members who have died in the last year may be submitted at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/all-saints-sunday-submit-a-name/> or in the Church Office by Monday, October 22. These names will be included in the bulletin.

## Brahms' Requiem

### Special All Saints' Day Music Presentation

The Chancel Choir, soloists, and the Michigan Sinfonietta will present Johannes Brahms' *Requiem* on All Saints' Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m. as we remember those who have died in the past year. Come join us for this special music and time of remembrance. This program is supported by our Sacred Music Fund, and there is no admission charge.



# Adult Education



*2018 Christian Life Academy*

## DR. RODGER NISHIOKA

**Creating a New Story of Faith:  
Faith Formation in the 21st Century**

**Saturday, November 10 & Sunday, November 11**

### **"What is God calling me to do and to be in this day and age, and how do I best do that?"**

Please join us as Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Director of Adult Educational Ministries at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS, leads us in "Forming a Faith for All," an event for church leaders, parents, families, young people and adults.

**Saturday, November 10** - Dr. Nishioka will be the keynote speaker at the Officers' Retreat.

### **Sunday, November 11**

- **9:30 & 11:00 a.m.** - Dr. Nishioka preaches on "New Ways of Knowing"
- **4:00 - 5:00 p.m.** - **Eight Trends Changing and Challenging the 21st Century Church**  
As Americans, what does it mean to be the church of Jesus Christ today? 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, a series of momentous events that changed Christendom. Some church historians are arguing that we are in a similar time. Together, we will explore eight trends that are changing and challenging what it means to be "the church" today.
- **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** - **Dinner and Table Conversations in the Social Hall (\$10 per person)**
- **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** - **Growing a Faith that Matters**  
Church leader Saint Augustine wrote that "Our hearts are restless, until they rest in you, O God." Restless hearts belong to us all at times but especially so for many of our children and young people. Together with our youth we will explore what it means to grow a deep and vibrant faith in Jesus Christ so that all ages come to rest in their primary identity as belonging to God.

**Learn more about Dr. Nishioka at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)**

## SUNDAY MORNING OFFERINGS

### @ 9:30 a.m.

**The Bible @ 9:30    October 7 - 28    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!

**October 7 - A Pastor Talks about Faith**

**October 14 - What Is God Like?**

**October 21 - What Is a Covenant**

**October 28 - What Is Predestination? What Does Predestination Really Say about God?**



**First Friends    October 7 - 28    Monteith Hall**

First Friends will continue the discussion about Adam Hamilton’s book *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* on October 7. October 14, 21 and 28 they will dig into the groundbreaking work of Eboo Patel, *Embracing Interfaith Cooperation*.

### @ 11:00 a.m.

**Exploring the Faith    October 7 - 28    Monteith Hall**



**October 7 - “What do Jesus and my personal experiences have to say about gun violence in contemporary society?”**

Dwight L. Wilson will speak as an African-American religious leader who grew up in a family where both sides actively participated in the gun culture. Mr. Wilson, pastor and current member of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, serves on the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission and chairs the Subcommittee on Police Oversight.



**October 14 - Reclaiming Jesus: Revisiting the Church-State Relationship**

In historical studies of the church-state relationship, three main proposals have emerged: (1) the state upholds the church and promotes its worldview; (2) the state and the church are separate but acknowledge and support one another; and (3) the church is completely separate from the state, at best merely tolerating the state. Rev. Dr. Todd Cioffi, Associate Professor at Calvin College, will discuss the Reclaiming Jesus statement within the history of church-state relations. Dr. Cioffi will also present at a First Forum at 12:15.



**October 21 - Getting in Line: Immigration Enforcement on the Mexican Border**

Amanda Craft discusses lessons she has learned about the plight of immigrants on the U.S.-Mexican border, highlighting obstacles to supportive policies. Ms. Craft works with the Presbyterians for Just Immigration to mobilize Presbyterian-related congregations and organizations to promote civil and human rights of immigrants and helps coordinate network training opportunities for leaders. Ms. Craft will also present at a First Forum at 12:15.



**October 28 - We Are One Body: Race & the Gospel in Detroit**

Rev. Kevin Johnson examines how issues of identity (gender, race, and more) divide us. Using concepts from the Reclaiming Jesus study guide, he will focus on realities that divide people, and efforts made to bridge those divides in the city and Presbytery of Detroit. Rev. Johnson is a retired Presbyterian pastor, has served as a chaplain in both prison and hospital settings, is a former member of the Sojourners Community in Washington, D.C., and recently retired as pastor/head of staff at Calvary PC(USA) in Detroit. He serves on the Social Witness Policy Advisory Committee and the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.

## October First Forums

Join us at 12:15 p.m. in the Curtis/Founders Rooms. A light lunch will be served (\$5).



### October 14 - Reclaiming Jesus, the Church, the State & the Public Square

Rev. Dr. Todd Cioffi will draw on his academic specialties of The Church in Society and Religion and Politics, as well as his experience in applied ministry with the Calvin Prison Initiative to explore 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. Examples will include a Christian call to the state in regard to the poor and most vulnerable in society, criminal justice and mass incarceration, matters of race and racism, and care of the environment. We'll reflect on recent developments among Evangelicals and the Reclaiming Jesus initiative in the American political environment today.

### October 21 – Where Can I Call Home? Refugees in the Middle East

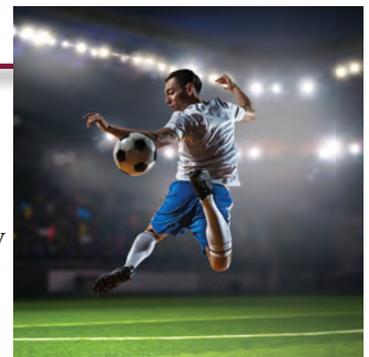
Amanda Craft supports the growth and activity of Presbyterians for Just Immigration, a campaign to mobilize congregations, councils, and Presbyterian-related organizations to affirm and promote the civil and human rights of immigrants. She also helps coordinate network training opportunities for leaders in immigration advocacy work in their regions. In this session, Ms. Craft will address opportunities presented through these activities that address of the plight of refugees in the Middle East.



## Congregational Life

### Got Futbol? Soccer is October 7!

Join us Sunday, October 7, for an all-church trip to the University of Michigan Men's home soccer game versus Indiana. Reserve your tickets for this 1 p.m. game. Whether you are a truly Go Blue fan, or rooting for the Hoosiers, or just enjoy soccer, bring your kids and root on your team with the Presbyterians! **Tickets are \$3 and must be reserved by October 1.** Contact Rev. Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for more info.



### Sacred Time/Sacred Space

Christian Meditation is a time of quiet and introspection. This group spends time in silence and with a simple scripture reading. Bring a journal or notebook. Our next gatherings will be October 6 and 20 at 8:30 a.m. in Monteith Hall. All are welcome.

### Are you called to be a Stephen Minister? Now is the time!



Stephen Ministers have a heart for those who could use a Christian friend to accompany them through a difficult time in their lives. They are active and compassionate listeners, non-judgmental and are not “fix-it” people. They committed to a schedule for initial training and later, regular meetings each month, in addition to meeting with the “care-receiver” assigned to them. Stephen Ministers pray for their “care-receivers” and those in need. There is 50 hours of training required to be a Stephen Minister. First Pres is recruiting a new class of trainees, who will begin their learning in January of 2019. Our training program is held on Monday evenings, and a few Saturdays, through May 2019. An application is available in the Church Office and is due by Sunday, November 4. Interviews will be conducted and the selection process completed by Thanksgiving. Please pray about whether this is the ministry for you, and see Rev. Rogers, one of the Resident Ministers, or a

member of the Stephen Ministry Leader Team (Kathy Wirstrom, Mary McKeever, Charlie Koopman, Karen Al-Saadi, Deanne Woodruff, Rev. Bill Findlay, Rev. Rogers) if you have further questions. The SM Program will host the Coffee Hour on October 7 at 10:30 a.m., and there will be many Stephen Ministers on hand to answer your questions.

## MATURE MINISTRIES EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

New members, guests, friends, and people not yet 60 and up are always welcome!

### Mature Ministries Travels

#### Ford Piquette Outing Is October 4

It's another trip with Brad Taylor, Rev. Rogers, and Sandy Talbott! The price is \$40 and includes bus transportation, entry to the Ford Piquette Plant, and lunch at Ford's Garage. To see if there is still space, call Rev. Rogers, 734-355-2351. Departure and return times TBD.



### Join the Mature Ministries Writing Group

#### October 11, 10:30 a.m. - Noon

The Mature Ministries "Spiritual Prompt" writing group is led by Meg Brown and Rev. Rogers and meets the first Thursday of each month in the Vance Room. This month, because of the MM trip to the Piquette Plant, we will meet on the second Thursday. Join us to write, and then hear a great writer speak, Dunya Mikhail (see below.)

### Hilltoppers Is Now "Lunch & Learn"

Gather at 12:00 in the Social Hall for a hot lunch by Chef Christine, and a lecture. Sign up in the Church Office in person or by calling 662-4466. The name is new but we still feature the same fabulous speakers & spiritual growth. The term "Lunch and Learn" replaces the title "Hilltoppers." Wherever you are "on the hill" come lunch and learn with us!



#### **Date Change! Thursday, October 18 at Noon - Dunya Mikhail, Author of *The Beekeeper***

Author of the new book *The Beekeeper*, Dunya Mikhail, will speak about her work with Iraqi women. Dr. Mikhail, a professor at Oakland University, worked as a translator and journalist for the Baghdad Observer before being placed on Saddam Hussein's enemies list. She immigrated to the United States in the mid-1990s and earned an MA at Wayne State University. Mikhail is the author of several collections of poetry published in Arabic. Her books published in English include, *The War Works Hard* (2005, PEN Translation award winner) and *The Iraqi Nights* (2014). With irony and subversive simplicity, Mikhail addresses themes of war, exile, and loss, using forms such as reportage, fable, and lyric. Though her poetry records the traumas of war and exile, she has also spoken about the effects of censorship on her work.

### Pray for Our Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago

Twenty-two members and friends of First Pres will take a sacred walking pilgrimage this month. The group travels to Madrid, Spain in October to begin a 65-mile walk from Sarria to Santiago along the ancient Camino de Santiago. Led by Rev. Rogers and Rev. Parks-Piatt, the theme for their trip is "Vagando en el amor de Dios," or "Wandering in the Love of God." We look forward to their reports when they return. Please hold these pilgrims in prayer: Ginny Bell, Michele Madden, Maya Savarino, Sid Smith, Jane Dutton, Jennifer Day, Karla Olson-Belfi, Jim and Kyle Hall, Sharon Sheldon and Jim Dickinson, Carol and Graeme Fairweather, Nancy Janz Clark, Leslie Christiansen, Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Mel Rogers, and friends Jean Long, Ann Schriber, Barbara Francek, Lynda Byer, and Nancy Bushnell. Pray also for their families and friends who remain at home. If you are interested to know more about pilgrimage, or the Camino, recommended reading is *The Way is Made By Walking* (Boers).



### Deacons' Blood Drive Thursday October 18

Want some instant gratification? The Deacons' Blood Drive is Thursday, October 18, from Noon - 6:00 p.m. in Monteith Hall. Please join us as we save lives. Sign up is easy at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). You may also sign up at Coffee Hour on October 6 and 13, or email Lisa Shultz at [whybenormal@verizon.net](mailto:whybenormal@verizon.net) or Paula Doering at [paulahdoering@gmail.com](mailto:paulahdoering@gmail.com).



## Make First Pres your Church Home!

### Note: Class Date Change

The new member class for September 23 has been postponed to October 30 and November 6, at 7:00 p.m. Please let Rev. Rogers know if you can attend. We would love to welcome you to formal membership. Contact Rev. Rogers to learn more (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org; 355-2351).

### College of Elders

The College of Elders meets Saturday, October 21, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. If you are an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), or Minister of the Word and Sacrament, you are invited to attend. If you have not received an invitation in the past, please contact the Church Office so we can put you on the list (734-662-4466).

## Presbyterian Women Discuss Food Systems & Food Access

Wednesday, October 17

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

Ginny Bell leads Lesson 2, "God Is With Us in Our Uncertainty" taken from the *Horizons Bible Study God's Promise: I Am With You*, by Amy Poling Sutherlun.

### 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. Welcome & Business Meeting in Monteith Hall

Promotion of the Thank Offering  
Plans for hosting Coffee Hour on December 9  
Plans for PC(USA) 30th Anniversary

### 11:00 a.m- Noon Program in Monteith Hall - Food Systems & Food Access

Church member Kathy Sample and Angela Hojnacki from "Fair Food Network" will discuss changes in food systems and food access. Psalm 146:7 reminds us "He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry."

### Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch in the Social Hall

RSVP to the Church Office, 662-4466.



## T2A2 (Twenties & Thirties in Ann Arbor)

### October 2 - Circles Dinner

Save the date for this service opportunity, and more information will follow from Miriam in coming weeks. We'll prepare and serve dinner for Circles of Washtenaw County. It's a great way to spend an evening supporting a program that makes a positive difference in the community.

### Small Group Study

Small Group meets at Chris Wahl's house at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book of Revelation. Bring your questions and insights, wherever you are on your faith journey! For more information about social, spiritual, and service opportunities for people in their 20s and 30s, contact Rev. Parks-Piatt (dparks-piatt@firstpresbyterian.org).



## Faith in Action

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Response to Hurricane Florence

You are invited to be part of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) response to Hurricane Florence. PDA assessment teams are on the ground, assessing damage and planning for the recovery efforts. Volunteer rebuilding teams will be needed in the near future; contact Rev. Sanderford if you are interested. To support recovery efforts, send checks directly to the church, made out to First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor with "PDA: Florence" in the memo line. You may also donate directly to PDA online, through our First Pres web site. Please be in prayer for those communities ravaged by Hurricane Florence.





# Youth Connection

## Youth Group Kick-Off



## Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Youth Events:

- **High School Weekend of Service in Detroit:** Friday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. to Sunday, October 7 at noon, high schoolers will explore and serve in Detroit, enjoy a river cruise, and visit delicious local restaurants. We will stay at Hostel Detroit. Cost is \$80 per person. Family rate with two or more students attending is \$110. Drop-off and pick up at First Pres. Questions? Contact Essie at [essie@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:essie@firstpresbyterian.org).
- **Middle School Lock-In:** HEY MIDS! Saturday, October 20 to Sunday October 21, join us for corn mazes, bonfires, s'mores and MORE! Stay overnight at church for amazing things including a midnight donut run, late night games and the wrap-up of our magical, seven week theme "Harry Potter, The Gospel and You!" Bring your friends! Cost is \$25 per student. Drop off is Saturday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. and pick up is Sunday, October 21 at 10:30 a.m.
- **All Youth Evening @ ZAP ZONE :** On Sunday, October 28, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., wear your halloween costume and meet up at Zap Zone Ann Arbor ( 4177 Carpenter Rd). There will be pizza, soda, and three epic games of laser tag! Friends Welcome! Want to carpool? Meet at First Pres @ 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per student.

## NEW! FRI-YAY! After School Snacks & Stuff

Every Friday join the youth staff at Bearclaw Coffee Company on Washtenaw Ave., 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Bring money for a delicious drink. We'll provide the snacks for you, including an oreo flavor of the week! Stop by, bring friends, say "Hey!," and celebrate the start of the weekend with us.

## Adults, Want to Support Youth Ministry?

There are lots of ways to get involved! Contact Essie at [essie@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:essie@firstpresbyterian.org) and learn more!



# UKirk@UMich

## Campus Ministry Update

UKirk@UMich kicked off the Fall Semester with several new events, including tubing the Huron River, getting ice cream at Blank Slate Creamery, and setting up a Welcome Tent outside the church full of free drinks and snacks the first week of classes. There is a lot of energy in the group with many returning students and new faces. Incoming students are recognizing the UKirk name, including one who said, "I found out about UKirk through my friends at MSU actually! I was so excited when I found out UM had one too."

Regarding ongoing programs, Sunday college lunches continue to be popular and mid-week small group discussions have started in the Michigan League. Many students are helping out in the nursery and Sunday School. We had a successful University Sunday where dozens gathered to discuss the intersection of church and campus followed by a special University Luncheon.

Looking ahead, we are teaming up with other campus ministries to host communion on the Diag on October 7, World Communion Sunday! This is part of our ongoing efforts led by Rev. Buckley to have at least one monthly ecumenical event. In November, we will be participating at an Interfaith Conference on campus. In other exciting news, plans are in the works for a trip to Puerto Rico over Spring Break to help with the ongoing hurricane relief efforts with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.





# Transitions

A Memorial Service for Patricia Fuerstenau will be held November 9 at 2:00 p.m.

A Memorial Service for Ben Van Tuyl will be held November 10 at 3:00 p.m.

We Celebrate the Wedding of Alex Pierson & Jennifer "J.J." Chronis, August 18, 2018



## Welcome to New First Pres Staff Members:

**GJ Frye, Peer Minister** - GJ Frye grew up in Flushing, Michigan with his sister and parents. He bounced around to a few different churches until he found meaningful communities in two different youth groups that helped shape his faith the way it is today. While working on his Communications degree, GJ is eager to be a part of this church because he's excited to join in on what God is already doing here.



**David Lett, Finance Assistance** - We welcome Dave Lett who has joined the First Pres staff as Finance Assistant on a part-time basis. Dave is a student at Eastern Michigan University and will graduate in April 2019 with a Master of Science in Accounting and a BBA in Accounting. Dave grew up in Farmington Hills, MI. He played baseball at EMU for two years and has a passion for sports. Stop by the Finance Office to introduce yourself to Dave when you have a chance so that he becomes acquainted with members of the congregation.

Dave replaces Megan Roemer, who's one-year position has come to an end. Megan begins a full-time position at Baker-Tilly, a Southfield based accounting firm, later this month.



# Residents' Corner

**We celebrate with Rev. Mark Brainerd**, who was installed Sunday, September 16 as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. Our prayers are with Mark, Michele, and their son as they have moved from North Carolina to Texas. Mark will be coming to First Pres and preaching our 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on October 21. Look forward to welcoming Mark among us!



**We wish former Resident Minister Rev. Angela Ryo well**, and send our prayers to her, as she is installed as an Associate Pastor at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 21, at 10:00 a.m. with a reception following.



## Resident Ministers Attend Stephen Ministry Leadership Training

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring program in which members of a congregation are trained to provide confidential, caring support to people who are hurting. It includes leaders who recruit, arrange training for Stephen Ministers and match them with care receivers. Why is the program called Stephen Ministry? In the book of Acts, Stephen, a normal imperfect man, was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need.

This summer, our three Resident Ministers, Revs. Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke and Dorothy Parks-Piatt, attended a week-long Stephen Ministry leader training in Pittsburgh. They have seen First Pres Stephen Ministers in action and know the value of having a highly trained team able to extend pastoral care to congregants going through tough times. The course was designed to provide church leaders and pastors with the training needed to establish and lead a Stephen Ministry Program in their own congregations. The Resident Ministers gained a lot from the course. Rev. Buckley appreciated the introduction to the organization structure, process, and the step-by-step approach to launching a Stephen Ministry program. Rev. Parks-Piatt found the recruitment process to be useful, including practical information on how to do assessments, make referrals, and be attuned to the needs of the congregation.