



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
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From Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

The last year of continuous transition has ended. And “to make an end is to make a beginning” T.S. Eliot wrote, and he was right.

2019 has flown by – a time of staff transition and healing, months of congregational reflection and growth, days of hopeful interaction with Presbytery, the Administrative Commission, the nominating committee and search committees, and prayers for guidance and words of welcome for incoming and outgoing staff. As we enter September, we have just finished four days of staff retreats to welcome six new staff members – pastors and program staff bringing new ideas, passionate hearts, and deep faith. I find myself full of glee and delight, and empty of the fatigue that too often defined the years past. We are energized and enthusiastic and ever eager to know what God is doing now and what is yet in store.

As the longest-serving pastor now, I was already an ‘old soul,’ but turning 50 this month, I am struck by how un-old I feel. I feel remarkably young in my knowledge of how cool the Lord is. You all, members and friends, keep me mindful of God’s amazing love for me and God’s clear call upon my life. Thank you for all of that, and so much more. Thanks to Rick Spalding, who has heard that call and fallen in love with you, too, and who will be blessing us in ways that are already known and still shall be revealed. Thank you to Jay, my part-ner in crime and colleague, for the sustaining power of his personal-ity, the inspiration of his faith and knowledge, and the wonder of his being. Thank you to all my colleagues who leave me scratching my head and heart at how I could ever be so lucky and blessed to know and work alongside them. And thank you – for you.

Our fall theme is ‘Cultivate!’ Just what God is cultivating here, at all levels, may be a mystery to you. It is the kind of delicious mystery we love unraveling, the kind that propels us to new places of joy. I leave grateful to have been one of your bridge interims. In this end is my own new beginning - a return to traditional Associate Pastor ministry but a new sense that God is in control - was, now, and ever will be. Thanks be to God!

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers



From Rev. Jay Sanderford

Every time we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, a whole loaf of bread is held up as a reminder of the whole, perfect presence of God among the community of God’s people. But then that loaf is shattered, broken, torn, and the crumbs fall onto the table. It is a visible reminder that our perfect wholeness, that peace for which we yearn and ache, is not behind us but up ahead yet. Wholeness is coming, not through what we’ll do but through what Jesus already did. His brokenness is what will one day put our lives back together whole and complete, relationships and all.

As Melissa Anne and I come to the end of this Bridge Interim period, we continue to be amazed, and encouraged, by the strength of our First Pres community, the tenacity and resilience of our Deacons and Elders and the continuous presence of the Holy Spirit. Our work has been about listening, learning difficult lessons from members, moving members toward healing and wholeness and pointing people toward a new future. It’s also been about coordinating the supportive work of the Session, Deacons, Personnel Committee, the Presbytery of Detroit, the Administrative Commission and our wonderful staff and colleagues. We’ve pointed all our energies toward moving the our community toward being whole, healthy, vibrant and confident, and it’s thrilling to see the results as we look forward to our next phase of life together.

Since last October, Melissa Anne and I have met each Monday morning over coffee, prayer and conversation at the Common Cup, a coffeehouse in the University Lutheran Chapel just across Washtenaw from First Pres. I’ve long ago lost track of how many Americano’s I’ve ordered for my partner and wonderful colleague, but each one has been worth the warmth, joy, inventiveness, tenacity and deep devotion that I’ve experienced in her. In the midst of a turbulent time, it’s been marvelous to forge a leadership team together that’s been agile, healthy, hopeful and forward-looking. In all that we’ve done, we’ve tried to model a strong, healthy, open and respectful relationship, and I’m so grateful to Mel for the grace and space to do this work in partnership!

As we anticipate the arrival of our Interim Pastor Rick Spalding in October, I’ll move “back into my lanes” as much as possible, all the while supporting and encouraging our fresh, young and energetic staff, our re-energized Session, all for the love and health of First Pres.

Peace, Rev. Jay Sanderford





First Pres Welcomes New Staff!

The Rev. Dr. Rick Spalding - Interim Pastor

The Interim Pastor Search Committee is excited to announce Rev. Richard Evans Spalding as First Presbyterian Church's Interim Pastor. He will begin his call on October 1.

Rick's personality, preaching and pastoral gifts, experience and leadership style are an excellent fit for our church at this time in our history. The candidate has met and interacted with the church's program staff, administrative and facilities staff, Personnel Committee and Associate Pastors, and all enthusiastically concur with the search committee's choice.

Rick Spalding is a 1976 graduate of Yale College (1976) and Yale Divinity School (1981), and has degrees from Union Theological Seminary NYC - S.T.M. 1985 (Christian Ethics) and Hartford Seminary – D.Min 2012. After graduation from Yale Divinity, Rick served in parish ministry with congregations in Albany, NY, Buckhorn, KY, New York City and Boston; in campus ministry at Harvard University; and as a teacher at Trinity School (NYC), Harvard Divinity School and Andover-Newton Theological School. For much of this period in his career, he taught and served in parish ministry concurrently.

Rick Spalding retired in 2018 after 18 years as Chaplain and Coordinator of Community Service at Williams College, a distinguished secular liberal arts college in Massachusetts. In that position, in addition to pastoral care, counseling and liturgical ministry, he served as head of a multi-faith department that grew to include 4 chaplains (Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant) and supervised the College's network of student community service volunteers. He was much involved with student civic engagement and social justice, and led a popular January course to Nicaragua.

Since retiring from Williams, Rick has been involved in various short-term ministry projects, including the co-design and co-leadership of two spiritual retreats, sabbatical coverage for nine weeks at a Massachusetts church, teaching a chaplaincy course at Yale Divinity, and guest preaching around the northeast.

Rick has strong and varied skills and experiences to bring to the interim pastor position at First Presbyterian. He has strong preaching, teaching and writing skills, excels in pastoral care and has administrative head of staff experience and a background in dealing with church conflict. A pastoral colleague described how Rick provided leadership after the difficult departure of a congregational pastor. He said, "Rick is very good at opening up people's hearts and unifying, while at the same time holding people accountable." Also, as chaplain at Williams, "he was able to bring together a wide range of individuals in diversity. People trust him, respect him, and lean on him for advice." Another said, "His personality was welcoming and he was good as a mediator, so he was a beloved figure on campus."

Rick has been described by several people who have worked with him as a man of humility, concerned about the welfare of others, a good listener, a collaborative leader and team player. One reference said that our church would benefit from seeing Rick as a model for what a strong pastor looks like, one with good character. She says he is a great pastor but thinks he would even be a better interim pastor. "He's good at fitting pieces back together."

Interim Pastor Search Committee - Helena Prince, Chair; Tim Wendler, Vice-Chair; Martha Krehbiel; Diane Knibbs; Collyer Smith; and Florian Trouvain



The Rev. Mark Mares – Minister of Youth & Families

Rev. Mark Mares (pronounced MAH-rez) comes from rural upstate New York, where he has been serving four churches for the past year and a half as a Pastoral Fellow for Youth and Young Adults through the Regional Synod of Albany in the Reformed Church of America.

Mark enjoys the energy that working with youth brings. At his previous position, he led local pilgrimages with youth, where they looked at local history and challenges for the people at that time. They then explored the spiritual practices that sustained them. When you meet Mark, you will find one of his greatest skills is listening thoughtfully. He is not intimidated by tough conversations: One of his more meaningful moments as a high schooler was participating in gatherings that would bring rival gangs together. A lifelong learner, Mark was influenced at a young age by multi-generational and multi-cultural approaches to liturgy and worship. Mark will be leading an intergenerational team to develop and nurture our ministry with youth and their families.

Originally from Holland, Michigan, he is a graduate of Hope College and Western Theological Seminary. Mark joined the traditional Tulip Time March in Dutch shoes while playing in the high school band. You may recognize Mark as he was once a barista at a Starbucks in Ann Arbor, and occasionally attended First Pres in Ann Arbor when his wife Jenna was a graduate student at UM. Mark enjoys soccer, so much so that he named his dog Lio (short for the greatest footballer of all time, Lionel Messi!). He is also a Detroit Tigers fan and visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown twice while in New York. Welcome to Mark, Jenna and their dog, Lio!



Fall Start Up Special Events



Christian Education Strolling Coffee Hour Open House September 8, 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy a strolling Coffee Hour that highlights the different Christian Education opportunities available for everyone on Sunday mornings throughout the fall and rest of the year. Wander each floor of the building and visit different educational spaces. Learn about programs for you, for your children, and your family!

Lower Level - Youth Room: Visit the sixth grade, seventh grade, and high school classrooms, enjoy a donut and meet Rev. Mark Mares, our new Minister of Youth & Families.

First Floor - Monteith Hall: Peruse Adult Education, Mission, and fellowship opportunities and offerings while noshing on finger foods and coffee.

Second Floor – Curtis Room: Come and see what’s up for this year’s crop of Confirmands!

Third Floor – Room 301: Check out the new lounge space set up for children and families. Interested in volunteering or teaching a Sunday school class? Sign up there!

MATURE MINISTRIES KICKOFF - Wednesday, September 11

Two featured presentations at 11:00 a.m. & 12:45 p.m. in the Social Hall

Sign up at www.firstpresbyterian.org. (Link)

11:00 a.m. - Zingerman’s Bakehouse: Staying vibrant & relevant for another 25 years!



Amy Emberling, Co-Owner of Zingerman’s Bakehouse speaks about using the practice of visioning to stay fresh and engaged and to set future goals. She will discuss milling local grain as well as how travel to foreign countries like Hungary and Israel inspires work at the Bakehouse.

Amy has been an avid food lover and baker since her childhood in Nova Scotia, Canada. After high school Amy moved to Cambridge, MA, received her bachelor’s degree from Harvard University, then followed her passion for food and learned to cook and bake at L’ecole de Gastronomie Francaise at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, France. In 1999 she received her MBA from Columbia University.

Amy came to Zingerman’s Bakehouse in 1992 as one of the original bakers on the staff of eight. She soon became the first manager of the bread bakery, then the manager of the pastry kitchen and in 2000 she became a partner. Amy is passionate about hands on baking, teaching about baking and business, developing businesses and people. As well as teaching at BAKE!, Amy presents for ZingTrain on their business practices. A few of the Bakehouse items she is personally responsible for developing are the Old School Apple Pie, Buenos Aires Brownies, and Gingerbread Coffeecake. Amy is also a promoter of classic bakery favorites from many cultures and has brought traditional standards to the Bakehouse such as Paris Brest, Hummingbird Cake, and Maple Cream Cookies.

Noon - Lunch (\$5)



12:45 p.m. - Archaeology and community in Sudan

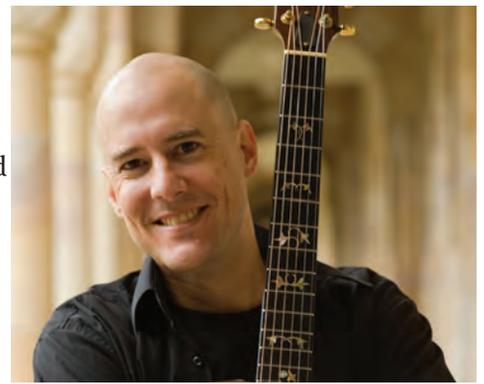
Geoff Emberling, Associate Research Scientist at the Kelsey Museum, is completing excavation at the royal pyramid burial site of El-Kurru in northern Sudan and beginning research on a “lost city” at nearby Jebel Barkal. He will present his archaeological research in the heartland of ancient Kush and discuss how the project is finding new ways to collaborate with local communities in Sudan.

Geoff’s research interests include comparative perspectives on ancient cities, states, empires, and ethnicity with a particular focus on ancient cultures across the Middle East and North Africa. He has also written on the politics of archaeological practice and museum display. His archaeological field experience spans much of the Middle East and North Africa.

David LaMotte Visits First Pres

Saturday & Sunday, September 14-15

David LaMotte, award-winning songwriter, speaker, author, and activist, will provide a weekend of special programming for First Pres. He has performed over 3000 concerts and released twelve full-length CDs of primarily original music, and toured in all of the fifty states, as well as five of the seven continents. The Boston Globe writes that his music “pushes the envelope with challenging lyrics and unusual tunings, but he also pays homage to folk tradition,” while BBC Radio Belfast lauds his “charm, stories, humour, insightful songs, sweet voice and dazzling guitar ability.”



Saturday, September 14 Concert on the Green - Enjoy a fun and free evening with lawn games beginning at 4:30 p.m. and music starting at 5:30 p.m. Bring a blanket, a picnic (we’ve got the drinks covered!), and some friends. The Christian Ed committee invites all families, friends and neighbors to join us for a great musical event!

Sunday, September 15- Music Ministry Sunday - At 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. David LaMotte will participate in worship using his unique style of music. At 4:30 p.m. he’ll present “Worldchanging 101” in Monteith Hall. In his presentation, LaMotte questions prevailing narratives about how the world changes and how it does not. Encouraging people to engage with the world around them and address the problems they see, he methodically builds a case for both our capacity and responsibility to make a difference by examining the often misunderstood and misrepresented dynamics of large-scale change. He supports his encouraging worldview with compelling stories from the U.S. civil rights movement and from his own experiences. The presentation will be followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a special conversation with youth at 6:00 p.m.



Rev. Dr. Jason Santos - University Sunday, September 22 Preaching, Lunch, & An Intergenerational Game Night!

Preaching at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - The Rev. Dr. Jason Santos, Mission Coordinator for Christian Formation and Small Church Support at the PC(USA) Mission Agency preaches on “Killing Church Softly: Reviving it Loudly” September 22 at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. According to Santos, for the last half-century, we’ve increasingly formed our children and youth through developmentally centered, peer-oriented ministry programs that removed them from the corporate life of the church. Recent research suggests that we might have taken the ages and stages model of ministry a little too far. In the spirit of transforming and strengthening our congregations, Rev. Dr. Santos explores the changing history of the church’s identity and offers practical strategies to create a more communal and intergenerational understanding of spiritual formation.

Lunch at Noon - College students are invited to attend a luncheon with Dr. Santos at Noon. For more information, Contact Rev. Evans McGowan, emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org.

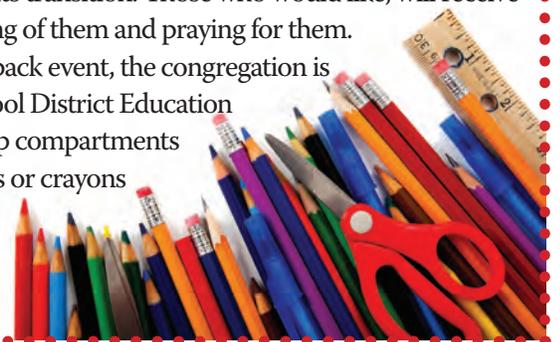
Intergenerational Game Night & Dinner at 4:30 p.m. - In his spare time, Dr. Santos plays and designs board games! Come for an evening of fun, food and laughter. Games begin at 4:30 p.m., pizza at 5:30 p.m., and we wrap up at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Santos is the Mission Coordinator for Christian Formation and Small Church Support at the Presbyterian Mission Agency. He is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), holds a Ph.D. in practical theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, and is the author of *A Community Called Taizé* (IVP, 2008) and *After Paradise* (IVP Academic, forthcoming). Dr. Santos lives in Louisville, Kentucky, with wife Shannon and his two sons, Judah and Silas (aka Tutu).

Blessing of Our Labors - Sunday, September 1

Everyone, members and visitors, children and adults, is invited to bring their bags, backpacks, briefcases, purses, etc., and join in praying and blessing the tools that help us in our labors. Fall is a time that represents transition. Those who would like, will receive a special token and bag tag/card to remind them that their church family is thinking of them and praying for them.

Bring a School Supply to Donate - As part of this year’s church school backpack event, the congregation is invited to bring a new school supply to support the Washtenaw Intermediate School District Education Project for Homeless Youth. Needed supplies include backpacks for all ages (laptop compartments preferred for older students), colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, washable markers or crayons (box of 24), yellow highlighters, scissors (blunt and pointed), pink erasers, rulers, tab dividers, pencil boxes and bags, 1” binders, calculators, and scientific calculators (gently used ok.)





Worship & Music

Thank You for Your Warm Welcome!

Brent and I would like to thank the First Pres Congregation for the generous and sincere welcome you have extended to us. Your notes, emails, and introductions have been a true and humbling gift. Thank you as well for the marvelous potluck dinner on August 4. It was an evening of great food, warm fellowship, and many laughs. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation for the myriad ways that you have opened your arms and hearts to us. We could not be more excited to be part of the FPC Family!

-Dave VanderMeer & Brent Ivey



There's Music in the Air

It's true, there is music in the air! It is that time of the year when our church program year will kick-off on Sept. 8. There is something for everyone: Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir (college-age and adults), Sanctus Ringers, Church Orchestra, Liturgical Dance, and Liturgical/Visual Arts! I hope that you will participate in one or more of the opportunities in the Ministry of Music and Fine Arts of FPC this fall! I would like to share a quote from a sermon by the Rev. Canon Dr. Nicholas Thistlethwaite on music:

“Music is not an adjunct of worship. It is an integral part of it. It has the power to express praise and adoration, lamentation and repentance. Music is able to illuminate narrative. It allows us to convey earthly sorrow or anticipate heavenly joy. Music is the medium through which we mourn at the foot of the cross or celebrate our redemption. Music comes to our aid when words fail.

And whether we participate actively ourselves, joining in hymns and musical acclamations, or more reflectively through the music of others, we are stirred to worship, and thus brought closer to the reality of divine love. What is given so generously, we offer back to God, to God's praise and glory: 'Of the best that thou hast given, earth and heaven render thee.' As the hymn puts it”

Fall Music Rehearsal Schedule:



- **Children's Choirs:** Sundays beginning September 15, 10:30 -11:00 a.m., Room 300, Kellie McInchak, Director
- **Youth Choir:** Sundays, Time TBA, Dave VanderMeer, Director
- **Orchestra:** Sundays beginning September 15, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Choir Room, Gerry Leckrone, Director
- **Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir:** Mondays beginning September 9, 7:00 - 8:30 a.m., Handbell Room, Dave VanderMeer, Director
- **Chancel Choir:** Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Monteith Hall, Dave VanderMeer, Director
- **Liturgical/Visual Arts:** Seasonally beginning October 12, Dave VanderMeer, Director

Concert & A Cause: KayCee Galano Returns to Ann Arbor!

Saturday, September 21 – 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

On her way to her October 12 debut at the Weill Recital Auditorium of Carnegie Hall in New York City, Kristine Claire (Kay Cee) Galano, 18 year old Filipina violin prodigy, will stop in Ann Arbor to play at First Pres. She is playing the Bach Six Sonatas, complete, solo in NYC and will preview that performance with us by playing Sonata No.1 in G minor, Partita No. 1 in B minor, and Sonata No. 2 in A minor in our Sanctuary.

In addition to our pleasure at having Kay Cee visit, this will be a “Concert & A Cause.” A good-will offering will be taken at the completion of the concert with all proceeds going to the Circles Program of Friends in Deed, the program helping families break the cycle of generational poverty. Come greet Kay Cee, enjoy a late afternoon magnificent concert of classical music, and help strengthen and grow a successful local mission!





You want me to do what? Create Liturgical/Visual Art? Liturgical/Visual Art Workshop - Saturday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

So, what is Liturgical/Visual Art? Liturgical Art expresses in various medium (fabric, quilting, weaving, paper-lace, paint, etc.) what words don't capture. Liturgical art supports the scripture texts or theme of the day in worship. Visual artists invite us to notice the depth of creation, and the ways in which created things disclose the glory of God. "Liturgical art is an offering to God. It is not an intermission or a decoration, but a full and genuine part of worship." – Ruth Duck

Liturgical/Visual Art Workshop with Guest Artist, Ellen Phillips – Black Mountain, NC

Please join me as we learn more about Liturgical/Visual Art in the Church led by my dear friend, Ellen Phillips from Black Mountain, NC. All are welcome! \$15.00 per person will cover snacks, light lunch and art materials. We will create art that will be used in the Sanctuary during the season of Advent. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts: dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org, 734-662-4466, ext. 347.

Fabrics Wanted for World Communion Sunday, Oct. 6

If you have fabrics from your travels around the globe, please bring them to Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts by Monday, September 30. The fabrics will be used on the communion table for World Communion Sunday. Contact Dave for more details at dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org.



Financial Stewardship

Stewardship 2020 Kicks Off September 29

The Stewardship 2020 work group (Bill and Dusty Upton, Bruce and Carol Clyde, John LeDuc, Anna Miller, Mary Jones, and Lisa Haddrill) has been meeting regularly throughout the spring and summer. The annual stewardship materials they've prepared will be mailed out (or available for pickup) in mid-September. Faith In Action stories will be shared from the lectern September 29 through October 27.

This is an exciting time at First Pres. We're in the process of welcoming six new members to our Pastoral and Program Staff, all of whom bring their own vibrant energy to our church. What's more, with our Mission & Vision Next project, we're moving out of the stage of formulating our mission and into the stage of executing it – we're rolling up our sleeves to do the work needed to Make God's Love Visible. One of the printed pieces included in this year's pledge packets is a newspaper which is full of stories providing examples of that type of work being done today by the people of First Pres. The stories are truly inspiring.

The Stewardship Campaign is an opportunity for all of us to pledge our support, both financially and in terms of time and talent, to the many things First Pres is doing to Make God's Love Visible. Our financial goal this year is \$1,800,000. This is the level of pledged support we need to enable us to fund all of the activities that are now underway. If 80% of our members pledge their financial support, we'll hit our goal, and we won't have to slow down in our work.

Please keep an eye open for your pledge packet. When you receive it, please complete the form and return it to the Finance Office. Whatever time, talent, and financial support you're able to contribute to First Pres will help further our church's efforts to Make God's Love Visible.

NEW! Young Families Pledge Challenge

Over the past several years, First Pres has worked hard to clearly define our current Mission & Vision. One of the principle initiatives to emerge from this effort is to increase the number of young families included in our membership. If First Pres is to remain relevant in serving our community in the future, we must serve the needs of young families today. It is today's young families who will need to assume the leadership of a church whose legacy we all feel is worth perpetuating. For example, First Presbyterian of Ann Arbor hosted the first meeting of the Michigan Antislavery Society in 1836, the year before Michigan became a state – that's a legacy worth perpetuating!

A part of this year's Stewardship Campaign is a challenge to grow the number of young families who make pledges to our annual drive. Young families are defined as those with children participating in the church's youth programs, from the crib room through high school. Last year, 56 of our 86 young families made pledges to the annual drive. This proportion is very

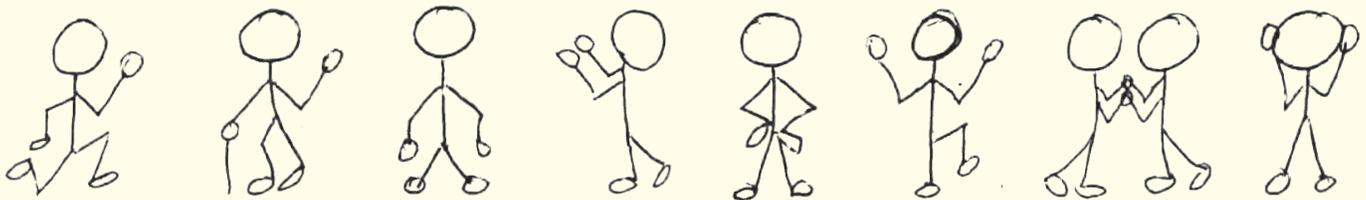


much in line with the pledging percentage of our overall membership. The goal for 2020 is to raise the number of pledging young families to 70. One way to look at this goal is that we are seeking to make tomorrow's leaders today's leaders. Along with this increase in pledges from current young families, we're seeking "former young families" who will match the increase in pledged dollars by current young families up to a maximum of \$17,500. In other words, we're looking for a group of families whose children grew up at First Pres who, as a group, would increase their pledges to meet this match. For instance, 70 "former young families" each increasing their annual pledges by \$250 would meet this match.

The match from "former young families", by itself, would be significant. For example, it would fund the church's cost of providing child care during all three weekly services for a full year. Or, it would fund the church's cost of sending another intergenerational mission trip to Nicaragua. And, after funding either of these things, there would be money left over to pay for Vacation Bible School, the Advent Happening, the Confirmation Retreat and the basic curriculum for K - 5 for one semester!

So, if you have one or more children participating in the First Pres youth programs, or if you are excited about the new leadership and initiatives going on in First Pres's Children, Youth & Families Ministries, we are looking for your help in getting the number of families like yours who pledge to our church to 70. And, if you have children who benefited from First Pres's Children and Youth Ministries in the past, please join in providing the match. Meeting this challenge will establish success, not just for this year, but for years to come.

What do stick figures have to do with stewardship? Find out on September 29!



Financial Update

The Session and the Finance Committee are committed to providing regular financial updates to our members and friends. The following financial information is for the month of June and year to date for the 2019 fiscal year.

For the month of June:



Total income received: \$ 157,419 (vs. budget of \$132,731)
 Total expenses: \$ 156,356 (vs. budget of \$163,401)
 Surplus/(Shortage): \$ 1,063 (vs. budget of -\$30,670)

Year-to-Date through June:

Total income received: \$ 1,007,248 (vs. budget of \$953,715)
 Total expenses: \$ 978,865 (vs. budget of \$1,138,497)
 Surplus/(shortage): \$28,383 (vs. budget of -\$184,782)

The favorable variances year to date are due to: pledge and contribution income better than budgeted (thank you, and keep it up please!), personnel expenses less than budgeted due to staff vacancies (soon to be filled!), and no surprises/emergencies in property (fingers crossed!).

The Stewardship Work Group is wrapping up its creative planning efforts under the capable leadership of Bill and Dusty Upton, and is ready to execute the annual giving appeal that happens in September/October. The pledges committed during this period will fund FPC's expenses in 2020, and allow our church to provide meaningful worship, fund mission efforts, maintain facilities, provide Christian education, support meaningful ministries and rich congregational life, and pay our staff to breathe life into all these activities.

Session committees are working on the 2020 budget so it can be approved in December and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January. Pledges received in Fall 2019 make the budgeting process easier, as we are more certain of the incoming revenue to cover projected expenses. Did you know that about 65% of active First Pres members pledge their financial support each year? New and returning pledgers are needed so we can increase that participation rate and ensure the financial stability of First Pres. Thank you for your support!

Legacy Partners Spotlight: Ken & Ali Westfall

Our first experience with First Presbyterian Church was about 13 years ago when we attended the funeral service for the 16 year-old grandchild of one of Ali's dental school professors. Melissa Anne's way of handling this tragic event was something we remembered years later when we were looking for a church that offered a good youth program for our daughter, Ava, and services that felt welcoming and comfortable for our family. We joined First Presbyterian about four years ago and we have found everything we were looking for, and more, in a church "home".

When Ava was born, one of our first steps was to make sure we had our estate plan established, primarily to make sure our wishes regarding Ava's care were clearly established. As time has gone on, we have realized the importance of First Presbyterian's role in Ava's "care" and the care of many other children and families. As a result, as we have continued to update and revise our estate plans, we made the decision to include First Presbyterian Church to help ensure the church will be there for the "care" of other children and families into the future.

We encourage everyone, especially those with younger children, to have their estate plans in place in order to make your wishes clear. And in the process of developing or updating those plans, to consider the role First Presbyterian has played in the "care" of your family.



Children & Families



Reactivated Acolyte Program Starts September 1

With the guidance of the Acolyte Coordinators (Paul Smith, Cindy and Tom Crawford, Elisabeth Van-Vliet, Holly Majorprice, and Jan Leckrone), the Worship, Children, and Youth Ministries are working together to reactivate an acolyte program. Its purpose is to encourage children and youth to take on leadership roles in our vibrant and faithful worship. Beginning September 1, children and youth, Kindergarten through twelfth grade, are invited to sign up. They will participate in the processional at the beginning of the 9:30 a.m. worship service, carrying in the Christ Light, Cross, and Bible. A coordinator will be available each Sunday to assist in training and supervision of the acolytes. Children and youth will attend their Sunday school class or stay for worship. Sign up at www.firstpresbyterian.org, on the Sunday School Registration form, or by contacting Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org), Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) or Beca Torres Davenport (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

Sunday School Registration

Registration letters have been sent to all families who have children, ages infant through fifth grade. Included in the mailing is a 2019-2020 Welcome Letter, Church School calendar and a paper copy of the 2019-2020 Sunday School Registration Form. Some families will also receive specific 2019-2020 Milestone Ministry information for upcoming Milestones. If you prefer to fill out the paper registration form, please return it to the Church Office as soon as possible. Easy, online Sunday school registration is available at www.firstpresbyterian.org (search Sunday School Registration Form.) The information enables us to provide your family all the support needed throughout the year, and ensure you receive any important mailings and information for your child's classroom. Note: All children are always welcome whether a registration form is filled out ahead of time or not. We look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday, September 8th, as we start our new Church School year!

Children's Christian Formation Open House

Sunday, September 8, 10:30 a.m.

To kick-off Fall Start Up there will be a Christian Formation Open House on all levels of the church. Families with infants - fifth graders are invited to check out Room 301 on the third floor. The Children's Ed work group has worked hard to create a warm, welcoming, comfortable space for families to gather regularly and they invite you to explore the space during the open house. Information will be shared about upcoming children and family activities including Sunday School, children's choirs, Milestone Ministry, Vacation Bible School, and other family events. Take a moment to enter your child(rens) learning spaces and pray for the year to come and their time learning about Christ.





Youth Connection

Meet Rev. Mark Mares - Our New Minister of Youth & Families

Hey y'all, I'm excited to be here and I can't wait to meet you! We will jump right in with a bunch of fall events. Interested in contributing or participating in some way with youth ministry? Contact me at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org or 616-405-0717 (call/text).



Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

- Kick-Off Sunday, September 8 - Sunday School Begins!**
 - 9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. Acolyte Worship Leadership - Narthex
 - 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Munch & Mingle - Youth Room
 - 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School - 6th & 7th Grade - Room L4, 8th Grade Confirmation - Curtis Room
High School - Youth Room
- Youth Group Begins Sunday, September 8!**
 We'll gather around a table for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and then we will have our ALL YOUTH Kick-Off program at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there and bring a friend!
- Music Ministry Sunday with David LaMotte - Sunday, September 15**
 All youth are invited to gather for dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a conversation and optional "talent-sharing" with musician David LaMotte at 6:00 p.m.!
- Game Night with Rev. Dr. Jason Santos - Sunday, September 22**
 Join us for an ALL-CHURCH, intergenerational evening of games, laughter, food, and fun with Jason Santos! We'll begin at 4:30 p.m. with games, pizza at 5:30 p.m., and continue playing games until 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite game to play and perhaps learn a new one!



Kirk in the Hills

- Middle School Youth Rally & Confirmation Retreat - Saturday, September 28**
All Middle School students join us as we head to the Howell Nature Center for a Youth Rally called, "God-Fi," sponsored by the Presbyterian Youth Connection of the Detroit Presbytery. This event will run from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and will include archery, obstacle course, and zipline options, among others!
Our Confirmation Retreat will take place following the Youth Rally. 8th Graders in Confirmation will stay the night at Howell Nature Center and return to church Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- Montreat in Michigan (High School Students & Parents) - Saturday, October 5**
 Kirk in the Hills is bringing Montreat to Michigan when they host a very special day for high schoolers and their parents from across the Presbytery. There will be games, activities, lunch, workshops, and worship. \$10 per person.

SAVE THE DATE!

- Middle School Lock-In: October 19-20
- High School Weekend Mission Trip, The Pittsburgh Project : November 15-17

Youth & families spend lake time with new Youth Minister Rev. Mark Mares.





UKirk@UMich - Campus Ministry Update

Fall is here and that means the students are back! Several are returning from studying abroad in Europe and South Africa, with others having completed summer internships from California to New Jersey. After graduating 13 students in our group, we have retooled our Student Leadership Team and Campus Ministry Work Group to best represent our changing population. Please welcome Grace, Roger, Noelle, Sarah and Will to our team, who join seniors Katherine and Sheridan. We have lots of exciting events, including the PC(USA) Mission Coordinator for Faith Formation, Rev. Jason Santos, preaching on University Sunday, a Fall Retreat at Camp Westminster with fellow UKirk students at Michigan State, and a return to Puerto Rico over spring break with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance after Hurricane Maria.



Fall highlights:

- September 1 College Lunch returns after worship at 11:00 a.m.
- September 2 Northfest followed by tubing at the Argo Cascades at 2:00 p.m.
- September 6 Festifall! Look for us in the Spiritual / Religious section!
- September 9 Coffee Crew on Campus returns this week!
- September 11 Progressive Dinner with other Mainline Campus Ministries
- September 22 University Sunday with Rev. Dr. Jason Santos: Wear your alma mater!
- October 6 World Communion on the Diag with other Campus Ministries
- October 18-20 Fall Retreat with UKirk@MSU at Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake
- December 11 Annual Pancake Supper, 10:00 p.m. - Midnight

Please contact Rev. Evans McGowan (emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org) with questions or if you would like to assist with our work group or specific events.



Adult Education

A Men’s Study Group at First Pres

The first and third Friday morning of the month, a group of men meets from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. to read Scripture, pore over a good book, and discuss practical, down-to-earth matters of faith. The Men’s Study Group will meet beginning Friday, September 21 and continue through May in the Lewis Room for coffee, study, and conversation. Leadership alternates among several very capable leaders and the discussion is always hearty.

For fall, we will be reading *Written* by the renowned Bible scholar, Anglican bishop, and bestselling author N. T. Wright, this book breaks down the barriers that prevent us from fully engaging with the story of Jesus in the Bible. Wright presents a picture of who Jesus was and is. “Jesus—the Jesus we might discover if we really looked,” explains Wright, “is larger, more disturbing, more urgent than we had ever imagined. . . . It is we, the churches, who have been the real reductionists. We have reduced the kingdom of God to private piety; the victory of the cross to comfort for the conscience; Easter itself to a happy, escapist ending after a sad, dark tale. Piety, conscience, and ultimate happiness are important, but not nearly as important as Jesus himself.”

All are welcome! Books are available in the Church Office for \$15.00. Questions? Contact Rev. Jay Sanderford, jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 340.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.

The Bible @ 9:30 September 8-29 French Room/Library

The Bible at 9:30 will study three things this year: How the Bible came to be; Galatians; and Ezra-Nehemiah. The first class will be September 8, addressing the question “How the Bible came to be.” Who wrote it, when, why, and most of all, how did it all become the Bible? Class meets in the French Room/Library, and all are welcome. Bibles and name tags are provided.



First Friends

September 8-29

Monteith Hall

This group focuses on spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for individuals and couples seeking to connect faith and life. All are welcome!

- September 8** View #13 “Judges” on the the DVD *The Old Testament*
- September 15** View Rev. Dr. Douglas Brouwer’s video *A Great Multitude No One Could Count*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=112&v=PFnDUrO1Abo
- September 22** Discuss *Pray and Wash: A New Movement Brings Church to the People* by Jeffrey MacDonald
- September 29** Discuss the April 29, 2019 MLive article *Why Are Christians Leaving the Church*

Sundays @ 11:00 a.m.

Exploring the Faith

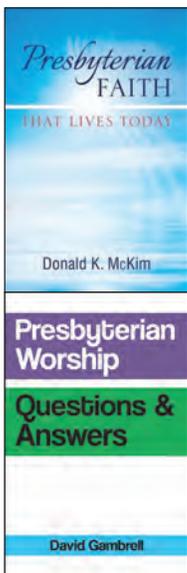
Fall Series - September 8- October 27

Monteith Hall

“Faith Seeking Understanding: Being Presbyterian Today”

What does it mean to be Presbyterian today? How does being Presbyterian influence the way we live?

“In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth praying, ‘Come, Lord Jesus.’” - *A Brief Statement of Faith*



At the core of our Presbyterian identity is a secure hope in the grace of God in Jesus Christ, a hope that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, empowers us to lives lives of gratitude: “In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope, and that the Church, as Christ’s body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God.” (Book of Order F-1.0204) This strong emphasis on the grace of God in Jesus Christ is our heritage from the founder of the Reformed tradition, John Calvin. This series is designed for:

- Seekers and new Presbyterians who wonder what it means to participate in the life of a Presbyterian Church
- Longtime Presbyterians who find continuing comfort in the Presbyterian tradition as well as for people who have questions about our beliefs and practices
- Those who think that Presbyterians we are too tied to past practices as well for those who think we are too quick to follow cultural and societal changes.
- Officers of the church, Deacons and Ruling Elders, who have questions about why we do things the way we do

The framework books for the series, available in the Church Office, are *Presbyterian Faith That Lives Today* by Donald K. McKim. Reading them is not required for class participation.

September Sessions:

September 8 “How to Speak Presbyterian: Key Words in our History and Practice”

Led by Pastoral Staff and Adult Education Leaders

September 15 “How Presbyterian Worship Evolves: Isaac Watts, Psalms and Reformed Worship”

Guest leader Dr. J. Andrew Dearman, Professor, Fuller Seminary (Texas). An illustrated presentation on Isaac Watts, the dissenting English pastor and hymn writer that explores how worship styles and church music change over time. See the parallels between how Watts rendered the Psalms for worship then and how that process anticipates the current conversation about worship forms today.

September 22 “Presbyterian Perspectives on Scripture”

Rev. Ed Koster, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Detroit and noted Bible teacher. Join a critical conversation on the central place of Scripture in our worship, formation, service and governance.

September 29 “Reimagine Church: Church as the New Humanity of Jesus Christ”

Guest Leader: Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Earlham School of Religion, Earlham, IN. We live in conflicted times with news-feeds filled with stories of inequality, division, racism and fear. We want to make a difference and see justice restored because Jesus calls us to be a peacemaking and reconciling people. But how do we do this? Grace Ji-Sun Kim, one of the leading Asian-American feminist thinkers and theologians, will help us discover how the church can be the new humanity in Jesus Christ, and so experience reconciliation, justice, unity, peace, and love.



September 29 - First Forum

12:15 - 1:30 p.m., Curtis/Founders Rooms. A light lunch will be served (\$5).

Constructive Theology: Healing Our Broken Humanity

”Embracing the Other: Love’s Transformative Spirit”

Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Earlham School of Religion, Earlham, IN. An innovative, faithful, Asian feminist perspective on God’s Spirit in the world today. We live in a time of great racial strife and global conflict. How do we work toward healing, reconciliation, and justice among all people, regardless of race or gender? In this First Pres Forum, Embracing the Other, Grace Ji-Sun Kim demonstrates that such change is possible only through God’s Spirit. Working from a feminist Asian perspective, Kim develops a constructive theology that works toward gender and racial-ethnic justice. Through the power of Spirit God, Kim says, our brokenness is healed and we can truly love and embrace the other.



Congregational Life

This Fall We CULTIVATE...

To cultivate means to actively prepare for planting. It also means to acquire or develop new qualities, sentiments and skills. As we welcome new ministers in residency, music, and youth, as well as an interim head-of-staff in October, all of us are cultivating new ways of being together as we integrate our various gifts into the service of Christ and the community.

Each week starting Labor Day weekend and ending in November, we will focus on a different aspect of our culture in Christ. We will cultivate our labors, our community, our creations, our campus and our talents in Christ. As you experience all that First Pres offers, how might you join us in our Christ-led cultivation?



In September, We Cultivate...in Christ

- September 1 - Our Labors Blessing of Our Labors at all worship services
- September 8 - Our Community Fall schedule resumes Christian Education Kickoff
- September 15 - Our Creations A Visit with David LaMotte (see article on page 4)
- September 22 - Our Campus University Sunday, International Game Night with Rev. Dr. Jason Santos
- September 29 - Our Talents Stewardship Kick-Off Sunday

MATURE MINISTRIES

Mature Ministries Writing groups

Spiritual Prompts - Our Spiritual-prompt writing group continues, led by Meg Brown. The group begins with a word or phrase, provided by Meg. Each participant then writes on paper, or on their laptop, for 45 minutes, in silence. They then share their written pieces with one another. A prompt could be a word, such as “Remembering” or “Communion.” This group meets the first Thursday of each month, September to May, in the Vance Room, 10:30 a.m. until noon.

“When I Was Little”- “When I Was Little” is a small writing group for people who want to record some of their childhood stories for members of their family but never take the time to sit down and write. The group begins with a “story starter” line provided by the facilitator, Ginny Rezmierski. Each participant then writes on paper or on their laptop for one hour, in silence. If they wish, participants then take turns sharing their writing with the others. Meeting once per month at First Pres, October through May, the first Monday of each month, 10:00-11:30 a.m., members accomplish their writing, enjoy the fellowship, laugh or cry at old memories, and get to know each other in new and inspiring ways.

On the Road ... Mature Ministries Field Trips

Our members 65 and older kick off the Fall with these great field trips. Register for any or all by contacting Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers or the Church Office.



“Finding Our Voices: Sister Survivors Speak” Exhibition, Michigan State University Thursday, September 19, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00, payable in advance. Includes bus, tour, and lunch.

“Finding Our Voices” tells the story of the still evolving sexual assault scandal involving female athletes on the Michigan State University campus in the words of the “sister survivors.” The exhibition examines the multiple institutional failings and cover-ups that allowed the abuse to continue as well as measures the women have taken to regain control of the story and to bring about healing. It has drawn extensive media attention and considerable critical acclaim. This is a once in a lifetime museum experience—a true act of speaking truth to power. Lunch to follow at the Beggars Banquet in East Lansing.



The Applewood Estate, Flint, & the White Horse Inn, Metamora

Thursday, October 17, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00, payable in advance. Includes bus, tour, and lunch.

Visit to the home and gardens of the C.S. Mott (General Motors CEO) family, Flint. Over 100 years old, Applewood has only very recently opened its doors to the public. Enjoy a tour of the home, time in the gardens, and a visit to the “gentleman’s farm,” where animals enjoyed cork floors and heated barns. Lunch to follow at the White Horse Inn in Metamora, Michigan’s oldest operating inn. A short tour of the inn will be included.



Detroit Parade Company

Tuesday, November 12, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00, payable in advance. Includes bus, tour & lunch.

Michiganders share special memories of our annual Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition. This outing takes us to the place where everything comes together—the Detroit Parade Company—as final arrangements are being made for this year’s extravaganza. A one-hour tour will make you the expert on the parade at this year’s Thanksgiving dinner table. This is guaranteed to be a great bit of fun before the holidays are upon us! Lunch to follow at the original Buddy’s Pizza in Detroit. Pizza, salad, soft drinks, and gratuity included. Who doesn’t like Buddy’s?

Payments, Cancellations, & Refunds

A \$10 deposit is required to guarantee your spot. Deposits are non-refundable. All final owed monies for these Mature Ministry trips – for travel, meals and programs– are due 30 days before the trips take place. Refunds are only possible if it is 72 hours or more before the event AND if another member can be found to take your place. Otherwise, your deposits and payments are forfeited.

New Pastoral Care Groups

Grief & Loss Support Group - Tuesdays, October 1 - November 5, Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Room LL1

Facilitators: Al Barber and Deanne Woodruff (with Rev. Rogers’ support!). Cost is \$10 for materials, payable before the first class. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

Cancer and Conversation - Fourth Tuesday of each month starting September 24, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Room LL1

New! A cancer “conversation” group meets once a month for those undergoing treatment, those supporting family members who are, those facing the uncertainty of diagnoses and treatment, and for those who have been touched by cancer in any other way and wish to participate in this group. This is a safe gathering of diverse people to share the experience and pray together. Contact Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org for more information, or just show up.

Divorce Support Group

Be a part of this ongoing support group which is meeting off and on at One Bowl, Asian Cuisine on South Forest Street. No commitment is needed. Drop in as your schedule allows to the semi-private room there. Meeting dates are agreed upon by the group, which is led by Rev. Annette Fraser (nnttfraser@gmail.com; 358-9163). Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

Presbyterian Women - Nurturing Our Faith

Our inclusive and caring community of PW welcomes all Presbyterian women to 2019's new offerings to nurture their faith. Various studies/activities held at varied times for you to enjoy:

- **Knit Night** - Second Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the Curtis Room
- **Horizon's Bible Study** - Third Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m in the Lewis Room
- **Journey's Book/ Bible Study** - Second & Fourth Thursdays, Noon in the Founders Room
- **Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study** – Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. in the Curtis & Founders Rooms
- **Women's Reading Group** - Fourth Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m
- **Evening Horizon's Bible Study**- Third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m
- **William Barclay's Commentary Bible Study** – Fridays, 10:30 – Noon, at the home of Meg Brown



September Gathering, Wednesday, September 18

PW Meets Our New Resident Ministers!



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

Meg Brown leads the Introduction and Lesson 1 from the *Horizons Bible Study: Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at The Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble.

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

Ingathering donations will be collected and the October 6 Food Collection for Detroit Hunger Mission will be discussed.

11:00 p.m. -Noon Meet Our New Resident Ministers in Monteith Hall

Get to know Andrew Frazier, Rev. Khayla Johnson, and Rev. Amy Ruhf!

Noon Lunch (\$7) in the Social Hall

Can YOU Solve the PW Mystery?

Presbyterian Women have found a beautiful silver antique serving set deep in a closet. Can anyone in the congregation shed light on the donor? Please contact Virginia Bell at 810-231-9667 or virginiabell2013@gmail.com if you have information.



Twenties & Thirties (T2A2)

Questions about T2A2? Contact Haley Brown at habrown989@gmail.com.

Interested in T2A2? Check Out These Fall Events!

T2A2 Welcome Picnic - Sunday, September 1, 12:30 p.m.

Whether we can help welcome you for the first time, or welcome you back for the semester, come gather for food and fellowship! Returning T2A2 folk, please sign up to bring a dessert or side dish here: shorturl.at/hqNZ1. Newcomers, please come as you are! We will provide things to grill as well. We'll gather at Chris Wahl's home at 2388 Nixon Rd. Need a ride? A group will head over from church after the 11:00 a.m. service.



Mini-Golf Outing at Putterz - Saturday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.

"Swing" by Putterz (2675 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti) for a night of putt putt golf. No skills required, just come ready to have fun! Need a ride? Contact Haley Brown at

Celebrate Fall at Wiard's Orchards - Saturday, October 12, 2:30 p.m.

No, it's not too early to start thinking about apple cider and a corn maze! Maybe it is... either way - join us at Wiard's (5565 Merritt Rd. Ypsilanti) for some fall fun!



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS - NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Feeding Our Neighbors is in serious need of volunteers throughout the year. Many have said they are interested in working a game, but we need your commitment! Remember: “Christianity Isn’t A Spectator Sport!” Join us and have a great time while serving others.

Feeding Our Neighbors volunteers pick up cooked but unsold, food at football games, all Big Ten Basketball games and food from the athlete’s kitchen and deliver it to hungry people in our area. Football games generate about 1,000 lbs of hot dogs, brats, pizzas and pretzels per game, and the eighteen home basketball games contribute about 250 lbs of food per game. Leftover food from the athlete’s kitchen is extremely high quality and ready to be reheated and served by the social organizations we support. Over the past eight years Feeding Our Neighbors has rescued about 120,000 lbs. of food. In 2019 alone, 20,000 lbs. of food went to feed hungry people at Cass Community Services, Second Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Circles and guests at the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti’s Riverside Meal Program.

An Opportunity for Ministry at Alpha House



As school starts, many of us think back to or look forward to new shoes, a bulging backpack, and the excitement of beginning of a new year. For children at Alpha House (at the moment there are 14 children living there, ranging in age from 18 to 8 months, with the majority being of school age) the beginning of school looks a little different. There may not be any new shoes or a backpack filled with school supplies, and excitement may be dimmed by the prospect of arriving at school in a taxi or having to apply for the free lunch program. Alpha House, however, holds promise for these children—the promise of stable housing and other resources. Our ministry to Alpha House supports forward movement for children and families who are experiencing homelessness. We provide evening meals, childcare, overnight support, and, most importantly, human connection as parents find their way to new skills, employment, and the ability to provide new shoes and full backpacks.

The next opportunity for ministry at Alpha House will be the week of September 9, and if you would like to join in, sign up at www.firstpresbyterian.org or at Coffee Hour on Sunday. If you have any questions, Gail Einhaus, Paula Doering, or Anne Gere can answer them.

School Supply Rescue and Recycling Project 2019

Well, you have done it again! A total of 41 shipping boxes of school supplies and books have been rescued, sorted, packed, and shipped to many different villages in the Philippines, from the southern area of Mindanao, through the Visayas, and to the northern areas of Luzon. Volunteers helped pack preschool items at the Andersons’ home in Canton, elementary items at the Rezmierskis’ home in Ann Arbor, and middle and high school items at the Brouwers’ home in Dexter.

All the boxes were shipped by the first week of August and should arrive to the eager teachers and children in the Philippines by the middle to the end of September. Thank you everyone for showing up and for your hard work.

Don’t forget, you don’t have to be able to travel to the Philippines to be a part of this wonderful, 20-year mission of First Presbyterian Church. If leaving for 10 days of travel so far away is difficult or too expensive for you, there are many ways you can still be involved. We raise funds for educational scholarships, spiritual development summer programs for teen-agers, food programs for mentally ill and delinquent children, and livelihood development programs mothers and for prisoners. If you can help cook or serve at the annual Philippine pig roast, sort crayons and pencils, pack fabric, or count books...you can help children, parents and teachers in the Philippines.

Come join us! Enjoy the warm and loving fellowship with local Filipinos, learn about the culture, and be part of this partnership with the people of the Philippines.

For more information about the Philippine Task Force, contact Hank McQueen at mcqueen1143@comcast.net.

