

First Things

We're Everybody's Church.

What does that really mean?

As Everybody's Church, we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the participation of all people of any ability, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

Statement of Discipleship

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we live and grow in God's Word as peacemakers, faithful stewards, and compassionate neighbors.

Today's Events

Youth and CrossWalks

All Abilities Inclusion Ministry

Childcare available:

Infants-Walkers.....	Room 109/111
2-year-olds	Room 102
Worship Wonder (3 & 4-year-olds).....	Room 217-218
K-5th	Noah's Art
6th-8th Grade	Youth Room
AAIM Young Adult.....	Room 231

8:30am	Worship	Chapel
10:00	Worship	Sanctuary
6:00pm	High School Youth Group	Youth Room

Did You Know?

The fabric on the communion table was brought to us by our mission co-workers from the Philippines, Rev. Cathy Chang and Juan Lopez last week. Mothers use this fabric to carry their children and groceries. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their work in the Philippines.

Mission

Backpack Packing Party

Wednesday, August 8, 6pm, Calvin Hall

Come pack backpacks for Orchards' Children Services. Free dinner when you bring an empty backpack (or more) to fill. This event is great for any age and all abilities. Sign-up outside Calvin Hall.

Forgotten Harvest Service Days

Whether you love organizing, gardening, or meeting incredible people these Monday mornings will put a smile on your face. Opportunities for the whole family to serve and grow together. Each Monday we will meet at the church at 8am to organize a car pool.

Farm Days: August 13 (Ages allowed: 13+)

The farm is in Fenton, about an hour drive from the church. Each day they have something slightly different to do on their farm. Finished by 2pm, bring a sack lunch.

Agency Day: August 20 (Ages allowed: 5+. If younger than 11 talk to Bethany about chaperone needs).

We will go to an agency in the area where Forgotten Harvest sends food. We will help them unload, organize, and hand out food in the morning. Finished by 12:30pm.

Deacons Pantry Benefits Ruth Ellis Center in August

The mission of the Ruth Ellis Center is to provide short and long-term residential safe space and support services for

runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth. . They have asked for high protein and healthy snack items, juice boxes, fruit cups, applesauce cups, and personal hygiene items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, face and handwipes, feminine hygiene items, hand sanitizer, etc. If you are interested in helping with or learning more about The Ruth Ellis Center, please contact Carolyn Grobbel at 248.225.3402. Please check expiration dates and make sure original seals are in place before you donate. Thank you and God bless you.

Inclusion

Rejoicing Spirits

Our next service is August 26 at 5pm, Knox Auditorium. Come for lively worship, meet new friends, and experience community. There will be dinner following worship. Rejoicing Spirits will meet once a month May-August at 5pm.

Whom Do You Know?

God knows us by name but we all need help in knowing each other. You can help others by wearing a nametag. The nametag boards are in Calvin Hall and those using the Maple Road entrance to the church can store their tags in the basket near the chapel entrance. To request a new or replacement tags leave a note on the clipboard on the table in the main hallway or by contacting Barbara at 248.333.1985 or beruss@umich.edu.

Community

Together on Tuesdays

Tuesdays, August 7, 14 and 21 at 7pm

Connect with your FPC family for a fun evening at church or at the park

Movie Nights, Tuesdays, August 7 and 14, 7pm

On August 7, our feature film will be *Mamma Mia!* (PG-13) with a popcorn bar in Knox Auditorium;

On August 14 the feature film will be *Frozen* or *Moana* with an ice cream sundae bar in Knox Auditorium. We will vote on which Disney movie (*Frozen* or *Moana*) to show with the Deacons' Loose Change offering today.

Pie in the Park, Tuesday, August 21, 7pm, Springdale Park, Birmingham (off Kensington Rd, North of Big Beaver)

Come to Springdale Park for a fun evening with your FPC family while enjoying some delicious pie. Sitters will supervise the playground. If you'd like to bake or bring a pie, please contact Cindy Merten at 248.644.2040 x 145 or cindymerten@fpcbirmingham.org.

Senior Adventures Visits the Detroit Institute of Arts

Thursday, August 30, 10:30am-3pm, on FPC bus

Join the fun and see the highlights of the permanent collection with a free docent-led tour. Explore the galleries and learn something new. Lunch at the Traffic Jam & Snug before the DIA tour. Questions? Call Dana Layman at 248.877.0083. Sign up outside Calvin Hall.

First Things

Sing! Play! Summer!

Summer has arrived, and we have a fun resource for you and your family. "Sing! Play! Summer!" will help you and yours celebrate the summer season through the twin delights of faith and music, tapping your toes and singing along to the bluegrass-and-gospel sounds of SALT's internationally-acclaimed house band, Butterflyfish! This ten-page guide includes 50 summertime activity ideas, all organized around six songs that'll put pep in your step and faith in your heart. Each song brings a biblical story or theological idea to life, making it a springboard (summerboard!) for activities all ages can enjoy all summer long. Copies available on the table outside the lounge. Look for a link on the website to hear the songs.

Summer Youth Program

Our weekly meetings for middle schoolers are held on Sunday mornings. We reflect on a Biblical text and discuss how the message fits into our lives. Each lesson is designed to make the youth think independently, gain essential spiritual skills, and build character. We also have time to be social, play games, and relax.

Middle school (10am-11am) Students gather in the youth room when the younger church is called forward in worship for snacks and a Bible lesson.

Youth Group (6-8 pm) All youth, rising 6th graders thru recent graduates, are invited to bring their favorite lawn games to the church for nights of fun over the summer August 5, August 19, and September 2.

One Day Mission Trips (8am-1pm) This summer we are expanding our Forgotten Harvest Trips. We will get the chance to see the farm, a food pick-up, and a drop-off in addition to our work in the warehouse. We also have the chance to welcome other members of our church to join the fun we have been having the past two years. August 13, August 20. Sign-up early!

Other Events Things often pop up last minute over the summer. Be sure you are on our email list by emailing Bethany from the address you would like updates sent. Join our Remind 101 by texting @fpcbyouth to 81010.

Drivers Needed on Sunday Mornings

Would you be able to drive someone to and from Church on Sunday mornings? We have some individuals who have requested assistance with transportation needs. If you are interested, please contactCarolynn Grobbel, 248.225.3402. Thank you and God bless you!

What is the Prayer Chain?

The Prayer Chain is a group of members of the congregation at FPC who welcome requests and commit to lift in prayer, confidentially, any person who makes a request. White prayer request slips and a Prayer Chain request box are located in the hall outside the sanctuary. Prayer requests also can be brought to John Judson, Joanne Blair, or Jan Peters for referral to the Prayer Chain. Prayers will continue for four weeks and will be renewed if requested.

You Can Play an Important Role in our Stephen Ministry

You may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who would benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. If you know someone who is hurting, talk with one our Stephen Leaders to find out how you might connect the person you know with a Stephen Minister.

First Presbyterian Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

The First Presbyterian Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center offers age-defined developmental early learning programs for children age four months through young three-year-olds. In addition, we offer three and four-year-old preschool classes, three and four-year-old enrichment classes, a five-year-old pre-kindergarten program with a variety of extended day choices. Registration for the 2018-19 school year, which begins Monday, September 10, is now open. Please contact the Director, Heidi Wilkinson, for more information about classes, to arrange a tour or how to register at 248.644.2040 x-124 or by email at HandinHand@everybodyschurch.org.

Ongoing Community Groups

All are welcome to join these groups.

- **John's Class** (Sundays) A new class will begin in September.
- **Youth Choir** (Sundays) resumes in the fall. Contact Andrew at andrewherbruck@everybodyschurch.org.
- **Knitting Ministry** (Mondays), 10am, Fireside Room. Contact Judy Gillow, 248.758.9569. Come join others who knit and crochet shawls, baby blankets and other projects.
- **Adult Fitness Class with Pam Smith** (Monday & Friday) 9:30-10:30am, Room 212-213. Call Pam with questions at 248.632.2355.
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** Weekly 8:45am in Fireside Room, Studying the book "The Great Figures of the New Testament" by Amy-Jill Levine.
- **Tuesday Morning Book Club** (3rd Tuesday) 10am, Fireside Room. August 21: *The Great Alone*, by Kristin Hannah
- **Tuesday Evening Book Club** (2nd Tuesday) 7pm, Fireside Room. No meetings in July and August. Start your summer reading with our selection for September 11: *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover.
- **FPC Ringers Hand Bell Choir** (Tuesdays), 7:00-8:30pm, Choir Room. Contact Andrew Herbruck for more information. Resumes in the fall.
- **Senior Adventures** Monthly outings in the community and beyond. See description under Community for this month's event. Contact Dana Layman or Diana Sharer for more information, 248.877.0083.

- **Women's Bible Study** (Wednesdays) resumes in September.
- **Children's Choirs** (Wednesdays) resume in the fall.
- **Chancel Choir** (Wednesdays) 7-9pm. Chancel Choir resumes in the fall. Contact Andrew Herbruck with questions.
- **FPC Trombone Choir** resumes in the fall. Contact Ben Kohns for more info at FPCTbones@gmail.com or 810.348.8268.
- **Men's Bible & Brew** (Third Thursdays) August 16, 5:45pm, \$5 for dinner at Tom Kirchhofer's home. Please RSVP for dinner to Tom at 248.549.1448 or tkirch40@aol.com. Email Stan Evans for more information about the group.
- **Discovering Calvin** (Saturdays at 8am) Room 141-142 Join Dr. John Judson in examining the writings of John Calvin found in the four volume work, The Institutes of the Christian Religion.

Community-Wide Events

Crisis on the Border

Saturday, August 11, 10am, St. Andrew Room, Kirk in the Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd, Bloomfield Hills
 A discussion on how the crisis with children on the border reaches us here in SE Michigan. Representatives of Bethany Christian Services and the Mexican Consulate in Detroit will share what has happened, how they are responding and how we as faith communities can become involved. For more information, contact Pastor Fernando Rodriguez, revfrq@kirkinthehills.org, or phone 248.626.2512.

Additional Information

Ask an Usher (accessibility assistance):

See an usher for hearing aid devices, large-print bulletins, cushions and hymnals. There are rocking chairs in the lobby for restless infants, and child care is offered at each service. There is also a lounge in the hallway outside the sanctuary with a closed circuit TV so you can watch the service. There are rocking chairs, chairs and a sofa.

Hearing Aid Connectivity with Loop

Please sit in the middle of the pew if you have a hearing aid for the best sound experience in our sanctuary.

Staying Connected

We are happy to mail copies of bulletins to anyone who needs a copy. Give names and addresses to Jan Peters.

Photography/Video

From time to time we may be taking video or photography in the Sanctuary, Chapel and other parts of the church (interior and exterior). By your presence, you grant First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit or telecast images or a likeness that may be taken of you for use in communication related to the church. If you do not wish to have your image included in any of our communications, please contact Dr. Judson.

Missionaries We Support Through First Foundation

Rev. Cathy Chang and Juan Lopez are mission co-workers based in Manila, Philippines. They are area coordinators for the PCUSA Southeast Asia interdenominational effort to address issues of migration and human trafficking. You can follow them at www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/cathy-chang-and-juan-lopez/
Faith Kasoni is an evangelist and educational advocate of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), who works with the pastoralist Samburu people.

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm,
 Friday closed

Weekly Schedule

Monday, August 6

8:00am	One Day Mission Trip	Off Site - 3
9:30	Pam Smith Exercise	Youth Room
10:00	Knitting Ministry	Fireside Room
8:30pm	AA/Al-anon	216-220

Tuesday, August 7

7:00am	Precinct 4 - Primary Election Voting	Calvin Hall
8:45	Bible Study	Fireside Room

Wednesday, August 8

10:00am	12 Steps and Beyond	220
6:00pm	Backpack Packing & Dinner	Calvin Hall

Thursday, August 9

10:00am	AA Women's Group	141-144
7:00pm	Adoptive Partnership	141/142

Friday, August 10

9:30am	Pam Smith Exercise	Youth Room
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Saturday, August 11

8:00am	Discovering Calvin	141/142
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Sunday, August 12

8:30am	Worship	Chapel
10:00	Worship	Sanctuary
10:00	Soul Perch	Youth Room
11:00	Children/Family Ministry Meeting	Cindy's Office

As Presbyterians, we are indebted to John Calvin (1509-1564) as the theological founder of our Reformed tradition. His major work (he was a prolific writer who wrote Biblical commentaries, books and pamphlets) was *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, first published in 1536; a four-volume work that examines God, Jesus, the Spirit and the Church. While some of his beliefs are no longer held by most Presbyterians, wrestling with his writings can help us clarify what we do believe; and in so doing clarify how we are to live as followers of Jesus Christ. All of these articles can be found at www.johncalvinforeveryone.org. My hope is that these articles prove beneficial to your faith journey. Pastor John

John Calvin for Everyone

The Institutes of the Christian Religion: Book 3 – Chapter 1

“THE THINGS SPOKEN CONCERNING CHRIST PROFIT US BY THE SECRET WORKING OF THE SPIRIT”

This chapter begins Book 3. This Book is entitled “The Way in Which We Receive the Grace of Christ: What Benefits Come to Us From It, and What Effects Follow.” Book 1 was all about God the Creator. Book 2 was all about God the Redeemer (Jesus Christ). This Book will show us how the saving work of Jesus comes into our lives and how that work changes us.

Summary: Calvin begins with a question: “*How do we receive those benefits which the Father bestowed on his only-begotten Son—not for Christ’s private use, but that he might enrich poor and needy man*” (pg. 537)? His answer begins with the understanding “...that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us” (pg. 537). An analogy might be that we are sick, we go the doctor and get medicine. The medicine is useless until we ingest it. Christ has made salvation and new life possible but until it gets within us and changes us it is of no use.

Calvin’s answer to the question of how we receive the benefits of Christ’s death and resurrection is contained in a single word, faith. “*It is true that we obtain this through faith*” (pg. 537). This concept however, raises another question. Why do some people have faith and others do not? Calvin will leave this question unanswered for a bit...but he will return to it.

Rather than directly answer this question, Calvin wants to make a couple of important points about the Spirit and Christ. First the Holy Spirit is not simply the Spirit of God but is also the Spirit of Christ. He quotes the Apostle Paul, “*You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his*” (Romans 8:9) (pg. 539). This means that Jesus sends, through the Spirit, the benefits he made possible in his death and resurrection. Calvin asserts that if this were not so, then Jesus, “...would have come in vain if he had not been furnished with this power. In this sense he is called the “*Second Adam*” given from heaven as a life giving spirit” (pg. 539).

Second, Calvin next turns to several of the titles which are given in scripture to the Holy that describe

the Spirit’s work. These include the “spirit of adoption,” meaning that God freely chooses us; “the guarantee and seal” of our inheritance, meaning that the Spirit insures that we do not lose the gifts we have been given; “life” and “water,” meaning that the Spirit nourishes us into becoming new people; “oil” and “anointing” meaning that we are restored by the “*stream of grace*” poured out upon us; “fire” meaning that the Spirit burns away those parts of our lives which are contrary to the will of God; and “spring” because it is the place from which all heavenly graces flow.

At this point Calvin returns to the question of why some people have faith and others do not. The answer for Calvin is that people have faith because the Spirit has given them faith. “*But faith is the principle work of the Holy Spirit*” (pg. 541). Faith is in fact “...a supernatural gift that those who would otherwise remain in unbelief receive Christ by faith” (pg. 541). He continues, “*Accordingly, that we may become partakers of it (salvation) ‘he baptizes us in the Holy Spirit and fire,’ bringing us into the light of his gospel and so regenerating us that we might become new creatures...*” (pg. 542). Thus, for Calvin, even faith itself is a gift of the Spirit. This belief is going to send us down the road of what is called the doctrine of Election, meaning that it is God who chooses us and not we who choose God.

Reflection: Coming to faith in Christ is not always a straightforward experience. There are people I know who always knew that they were loved by God and they believed in God. I know others who had a radical conversion experience that changed their lives. I was one of those. After not believing in God for more than a decade, I had an encounter with God, meaning I suppose the Holy Spirit, in which my life was completely redirected. That experience convinced me that Calvin was right when he affirmed that it is the Spirit that adopts us, rather than we adopt Jesus.

Questions:

1. How have you conceived of the Holy Spirit?
2. Which of the descriptions of the Spirit is your favorite and why?
3. What do you think of Calvin’s contention that faith is a work of the Spirit?

Staff

<i>Ministers.....</i>	<i>The Congregation</i>
<i>Pastor.....</i>	<i>Rev. John Judson, D.Min</i>
<i>Associate Pastor/Inclusion & Pastoral Care.....</i>	<i>Rev. Joanne Blair, M.Div</i>
<i>Director of Youth Ministries.....</i>	<i>Bethany Peerbolte, M.Div</i>
<i>Parish Associates**.....</i>	<i>Rev. Julie Madden, M.Div</i>
	<i>Rev. Ted Thode, M.Div</i>
	<i>Rev. Kathryn Thoresen, D.Min</i>
<i>Director of Christian Education and All Abilities Inclusion Ministries.....</i>	<i>Cindy Merten, M.Ed</i>
<i>Educational Administrative Assistant*.....</i>	<i>Nancy Quigley</i>
<i>Director of Music Ministries.....</i>	<i>Andrew Herbruck, M.Mus</i>
<i>Director of Children’s Choirs*.....</i>	<i>Margaret Rees-Baker</i>
<i>Trombone Choir Director*.....</i>	<i>Ben Kohns</i>
<i>Music Makers Choir Director*.....</i>	<i>Samantha Samuels</i>
<i>Inclusion Assistant*.....</i>	<i>Rebecca Stickley</i>
<i>Coordinator for Young Adults with Disabilities*.....</i>	<i>Mara Myers</i>
<i>Director of FP Hand-In-Hand Early Learning Center*.....</i>	<i>Heidi Wilkinson</i>
<i>Office Administrator.....</i>	<i>Jan Peters</i>
<i>Director of Communications*.....</i>	<i>Dawn Swarouth</i>
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<i>Financial Administrator*.....</i>	<i>Martha Smith</i>
<i>Building Supervisor.....</i>	<i>Larry Malover</i>

**Part time Staff **Non Stipend Staff*

Need to Contact Us?

First Presbyterian Church
1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI, 48009
248.644.2040

Email: contact@everybodyschurch.org
Website: www.everybodyschurch.org
Email reservations for church events:
reservations@everybodyschurch.org

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Use our QR codes to:

To check out
the website:



To sign-up for
church emails



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To contribute online visit the giving tab (using the QR code
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TEXT your contribution to 248.600.4919.

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