

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

K-5th Grade	Calvin Hall	
Worship Wonder for 3 and 4 year olds.....	Rooms 217-218	
Childcare available:		
Infant-Walkers	Room 109/111	
2 year olds.....	Room 102	
8:30am	Worship	Chapel
10:00	Worship	Sanctuary
10:00	Youth - Middle School	Youth Room
11:00	Baptism Class	Martha's Table
11:15	Bowen Family Systems	Fireside Room
4:00pm	Five Women, Five Journeys	Knox Auditorium
5:00	Lock-In Planning	Youth Room
6:00	High School Youth Group	Youth Room

Mission

Stewardship 2016...It's Not Over

Yes, Stewardship Sunday is past but stewardship isn't over. Stewardship is a year-long event. Your financial support, along with your participation in FPC's many activities involving mission, inclusion and community, is needed every day. For those of you that completed a pledge card, thank you. For those of you who continue to give weekly, thank you. If you would like to pledge online, please visit our website under "Giving." FPC needs your support to meet its mission to be "Everybody's Church."

Blessing Bags Available in the Main Office

Have you ever seen someone in need and wondered how to help? Do you give money? Food? Gift cards? If you'd like to give a Blessing Bag filled with items such as toiletries, non-perishable snacks, and warm socks, please pick one up in the main office. You can keep it in your car and give it to someone in need who crosses your path.

Angel Tree

Due Sunday, December 13

Be an angel and pick an angel off the Angel Tree located by the Chapel. Buy the gift indicated on the angel and place this UNWRAPPED gift under the same tree. Gifts will go to Orchards Children's Services. Questions? Please contact Maggie Garza.

Cross Necklaces Needed for Foster Youth

Have an extra cross necklace or two? We've received requests from our young men and women in foster care that they would like to have cross necklaces as Christmas gifts. These will be provided at our annual Christmas party for youth in foster care that FPC is hosting here December 18. Please drop off in the basket in the church office or to Parish Associate, Rev. Kate Thoresen's office, room 134 before December 10.

Outreach Ministries Supports SOS

Saturday, December 12

Transportation Support needed for SOS's 5th annual Hope For the Holidays - Breakfast with Santa - Party hosted on Saturday, December 12th at St. David's Episcopal Church (1600 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48076) from 9am-1pm. All transportation volunteers will be needed from 8:30am until 1:30pm Please contact Austin Kralisz at 586.201.9687 if you can assist.

Christmas Joy Offering

Collected on Sunday, December 20 and December 24

Promises Made—Promises Kept

The promise of salvation, kept with the birth of Jesus. May we be found as faithful. The 2015 Christmas Joy Offering will be . Through the Christmas Joy Offering we make and keep two promises of our own: to assist church workers and their families in their time of need and to support racial and ethnic schools/colleges education and leadership development.. Please give generously.

Christmas Tree Sales benefit Mexico Mission Trips

Please plan to buy your Christmas tree from the vendor on the church property. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Mexico mission trips. Enjoy a beautiful tree and know that you're helping our church fulfill our vision of serving Christ by doing mission work. Youth will be willing to assist you in transporting and setting up your tree for an additional donation. Please contact Amy Morgan at 248.644.2040 x140.

Kenya Mission Team Donation Opportunity

Join the Kenya Mission Team in its upcoming work. You can buy "shares" in the trip in order to help us purchase pews for the churches (\$1,500), benches for the schools (\$2,000), Bibles for churches and schools at \$10 a piece (\$2,000), Offertory (\$20), a communion set for 100 (\$100), and scholarships for participants who cannot afford the entire cost of the trip. The shares are \$10. You can purchase multiple shares and designate them for any of the listed needs.

FPC Deacons Pantry benefits SOCH in December

The Deacon's Food Pantry is collecting food items for SOCH in December. SOCH (South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless) or Welcome Inn is a "non-profit human service organization whose goal is to end homelessness in Southeastern Oakland County". It is a seasonal day center and a rotating overnight facility serving over 300 homeless a year. Welcome Inn provides meals, showers, phone service and job opportunities. Please help us provide food to the hungry. Bring your donations to the pantry shelves outside Room 141-142. Thanks!

Stephen Ministers are here for YOU!

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Joanne Blair 248.644.2040 or Barb Linnenbrink 719.331.1079 or see a minister after worship in the chapel.

Volunteer to Prepare Meals for the Ellis Center

FPC has agreed to provide dinner once a month to the Ruth Ellis Center, a youth social services agency in Detroit that serves the needs of runaway, homeless and at-risk LBGTQ youth. We will be preparing a meal to serve 50 at the Center on the 3rd Monday of every month. Please contact Tom Kirchhofer, papabernebear@aol.com or Emily Tobias, ejctobias@gmail.com.

First Things

Inclusion

Five Women, Five Faiths, Five Journeys

Today, 4pm, Knox Auditorium

Join us as the rich traditions of a variety of faith traditions, including Judaism, Islam, and Hinduism are explored. Five members of the WISDOM interfaith collaboration will talk about their experiences and answer questions. A meal from the Muslim Unity Center will follow. Event is free, but please RSVP so we know how much delicious food to get.

Volunteers Needed For Religious Diversity Journeys

Thursday, December 10, 8:45am-1:50pm

150 7th Grade students will be visiting FPC to learn about the Christian religion as part of a program on interfaith learning. We need lots of friendly people to host this group, helping students find their way around the building and making and serving lunch. Contact Amy Morgan if you can help, or sign up on the clipboard outside Calvin Hall.

Rejoicing Spirits

Our next service is December 13 at 5pm

Come for lively worship, meet new friends, and experience community. Rejoicing Spirits meets twice a month at 5pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. There is a meal after worship.

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 requests for new or replacement tags can be made by leaving a note in the Lucite holder near the Zs or by contacting Barbara Russell at 248.333.1985 or beruss@umich.edu.

Community

Christmas Poinsettias

Deadline is Today

The purchase of poinsettias to grace our sanctuary during the Advent season is made possible by the generosity of those who donate in honor or in memory of someone. Please fill out the order form that is available in the church office.

Advent Beyond Words

If you'd like to explore our Advent themes beyond the words we hear on Sunday, join us in a community photography project. Each week we will focus on a word or phrase. Everyone is invited to take photographs that reflect that focus. You can share your photos by texting them to 248.613.8881, or by sharing them on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter @fpcbirningham. We'll put all the photos together into a collage for display on Sunday morning and a video posted to our website.

Touch the Water Baptism Class

Today, 11am, Martha's Table

First Graders and parents are invited to attend our Milestones class, Touch the Water to learn through conversation and multi-sensory activities about the sacrament of baptism. For more information please contact Cindy Merten at 248-644-2040 ext 145 or email cindymerten@fpcbirningham.org.

Senior Singles

Wednesday, January 6, 9:30am-2pm, Bus to

We are going to tour the Sanders/Morley Candy Company and then have lunch at Aspen Restaurant. The bus leaves at 9:30am. Separate checks at the restaurant., no charge for the tour. Sign up by Sunday, January 3. Call Marge Hendrick with any questions at 248.293.0011.

Stuffed Animal Lock-In

Saturday, December 12, 3-6pm (for younger kids) Youth stay till 11am on Sunday, December 13

The youth invite all kids 5-11 years old and their stuffed animals to an afternoon of games, crafts, snacks, and more!

Pro-Tip: The stuffed animals will stay overnight for more fun. If your child needs to sleep with their stuffed friend bring a second favorite animal to the event. See Bethany to sign-up your elementary student.

Classical Bells Christmas Concert

Friday, December 11, 7:00 pm, Free-will offering

Michigan's premier handbell ensemble, Classical Bells, rings in the Christmas season with a holiday themed concert. Renowned for their unique interpretative style, "Ring in Color," this concert is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit. Led by artistic director, Darlene Ebersole, Classical Bells has performed in concerts nationwide and has appeared as the featured performers with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Michigan Opera Theatre.

Free Lifetouch 8x10 Photos

If you did not order additional photos from the Lifetouch photo directory sitting, your free 8x10 photo is available for pick-up outside of the sanctuary. Any questions, please call Kim McGlynn at 248.644.2040 x138.

Bowen Family Systems

Sundays at 11:15am, Fireside Room

12/6, 12/13, 12/20

Dr. John Judson will lead us through the eight concepts of Bowen Family Systems, a theory of human behavior that views the family as an emotional unit and uses systems thinking to describe the complex interactions in the unit. Knowledge of how the emotional system operates in one's family, work, and social systems reveals new and more effective options for solving problems in each of these areas.

Spring Hill Winter Retreat March 4-6

Cost: \$150, first payment of \$50 due Today

Fundraising and scholarships available. Youth should be able to raise the rest of the cost by participating in the fundraising events. This year's Winter Teen Retreat is all about being AMAZED by God and His Creation. In today's fast-paced, "wow me" society, it's easy for us to be unexcitable about simple blessings in life. Join us for a weekend filled with fast-paced fun, incredible speakers and bands, and intentional time to reconnect with each other and prepare for a new year of being AMAZED by God.

Triennium July 19-23rd High School Students Only

Cost: \$600 (fundraising and scholarships available)

Once every three years the high school aged Presbyterians descend on Purdue University for a week of praise, service, fellowship, and chaotic fun! This year the theme is "GO." Contact Bethany to sign-up and to get started fundraising.

New Covenant Share and Care Group Is Forming

New group for friends who have dealt with or are currently experiencing cancer or other serious diseases. Come, share your story, then pray together. Contact Maggie Garza at 248.906.6548 for more information.

Youth Programs

Middle school students join us in the youth room when the younger church is called forward for snacks and a Bible lesson (10am-11am). High school youth group meets every Sunday 6-7pm with a different format every week of the month! To receive update emails about events, send @Midschool and/or @HighSchool to bethany@everybodyschurch.org.

First Things

First Presbyterian Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

The Center is a licensed learning center for children four months through five years. Please come by for a tour and see what we have to offer. Check out our Young Five Program, Preschool and early learning classes. Contact Heidi Wilkinson, Director, at 248.644.2040 x124.

Ongoing Community Groups

All are welcome to join these groups.

- **Stay & Play** (Mondays) 9:15-11:45am, Room 101. This is a parent and young child play group. Contact Kim McGlynn, ext. 138 for more information.
- **Shawl Ministry** (Mondays) 10am, Fireside Room. Contact Judy Gillow, 248.758.9569
- **Tuesday Early Morning Bible Study** Weekly 7am in Library, Studying Acts
- **Tuesday Mid-Morning Bible Study** Weekly 8:45am Library, Studying Acts
- **Tuesday Morning Book Club** (3rd Tuesday) 10-11:30am, Fireside Room, December 15, *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- **Tuesday Evening Book Club** (2nd Tuesday) 7pm, Fireside Room January 12: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- **Fun, Fitness & Fellowship** (Tuesday & Thursday) 10am in Youth Room, A Sam Freeman video stretching and strengthening exercise class.
- **FPC Ringers Hand Bell Choir** (Tuesdays) rehearsals 7-8:30pm, Choir Room
- **Trombone Choir** (Tuesdays) 7:30 - 9pm. Low brass players with medium-advanced high school playing proficiency. Contact Ben Kohns for more info at FPCTbones@gmail.com or 810.348.8268.
- **Chancel Choir**, (Wednesdays) rehearsals 7-9pm, in sanctuary, college students through adults. This SATB choir provides weekly music ministry during worship on Sundays.
- **Children's Choirs** (Wednesdays)
Music Makers (Preschoolers), 4:30-5pm, Youth Room,
Carol Choir (grades K-2), 4:30-5pm, New Song Studio
Chapel Choir (grades 3-5), 5-5:45pm, New Song
- **Dinner with Friends** (*Wednesdays*) 5:30-7pm will resume January 6
- **Lunch and Learn** (2nd Thursdays) January 14, 11:30am, Calvin Hall. Beverly Thomas, retired teacher from Detroit Country Day School, will give her "Melody Makers" presentation on American composer, George Gershwin. She will show DVD's of some favorite tunes. Sign up on the website or outside Calvin Hall.
- **Men's Bible & Brew** (Third Thursdays) December 17, 5:45pm, John Perryman's home. RSVP to John at perryman-john@att.net or 248.645.0473. Dinner is \$5. Call Stan Evans at 248.433.0852 for more information about the group.
- **Read Through the Bible in Two Years** (Saturdays) *8am in 141-142*. Dr. Judson's weekly articles in First Things will lead us through a two year reading of the entire Bible, as well as a discussion group on Saturdays.
- **Presbyterian Women Bible Study** (Third Wednesday), Wednesday Bible Study. Call Kathleen Sleder for more information at 248.851.1302 or email sledermom@aol.com.

Community-Wide Events

Senior Recital

Friday, December 11, 8pm, Oakland University Varner Hall
Alexander Walker, our bass section leader, will present his senior recital on Friday, December 11 at 8pm. The recital will be held at Varner Hall on the campus of Oakland University. Alexander will sing music by G.F. Händel, "Vier Ernste Gesänge" by Johannes Brahms, as well as songs by Charles Ives and French cabaret composers.

Ordination and Installation of Heidi Geib Church

Sunday, December 13, at 2pm

We will be hosting the ordination and installation of Heidi Geib Church as Pastor of Belleville Presbyterian Church in Belleville, MI. Heidi is a child of this church and a portion of her education was supported by First Foundation. The service will take place in our sanctuary and will be followed by a reception in Knox Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and support Heidi as she begins this new portion of her ministry journey.

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.

Staying Connected

We are happy to mail copies of First Things to anyone who needs a copy. Names and addresses should be given 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.

Christmas Eve Services

2pm	Interactive Family Worship
5pm	Family Worship with Pageant
8pm	Worship with Communion
11pm	Lessons and Carols

Missionaries We Support

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/

Rev. Stephen and Angelina Cowan, are mission co-workers from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI). They work with the people of Tuum, Kenya, to improve education, agriculture, training and skills development. They have also opened a boarding school for young women fleeing violence. You can follow them at www.presbyterianireland.org/Mission/People/Stephen-Angelina-Cowan

Faith Kasoni, is an evangelist and educational advocate of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), who works with the nomadic Samburu people. We share support for her with the Presbyterian Women of the PCEA and the PCI.

Two Year Bible Trek, www.twoyearbibletrek.com

By Pastor John

Week 101—Hebrews

Key Concepts: The key concept in Hebrews is that Christianity is preferable to Judaism.

Background: The reason for this sermon is that the church to which it is written is composed of Jews who were being tempted to leave Christianity and return to Judaism.

Brief Summary: Statement of Argument (1:1-1:4) The author states the central premise of the argument which is that God spoke to the world more clearly through the Son (Jesus) than God had spoken through the various Judaic patriarchs and prophets.

Jesus is superior to angels (1:5-2:18) Even though angels serve God, Jesus is superior because he has been given dominion over all of creation, including the angels. Even though Jesus was once lower than the angels (when he was on earth), his being on earth was so that he would “taste” death for everyone in order to pioneer the way through death and to salvation and eternal life.

Jesus is superior to Moses (3:1-3:6) While Moses was faithful to God, in God’s house (tabernacle) Jesus was faithful over the house as a Son who is both an apostle and a high priest.

Warning #1 (3:7-4:13) Having just declared that Jesus is superior to Moses, the writer makes it clear that any of those who fall away will be punished as surely as were those who refused to obey Moses, meaning the lost generation who died in the wilderness and never saw the Promised Land.

Jesus is the new High Priest (4:14-5:14) Jesus is the high priest who has been divinely appointed and who can sympathize with our weaknesses. He was without sin and so did not have to offer sacrifice for his sin, as did the human high priest. Though he was a son he learned obedience through suffering.

Warning #2 (6:1-6:20) The church is warned that it will be impossible to restore to God’s favor those who had

experienced the gifts of the Holy Spirit and then ceased following Jesus.

Jesus’ Priesthood and New Covenant is Superior to that of the Levites and the old Covenant (7:1-10:25) The Melchizedek Priesthood (of which Jesus is a priest) is shown to be superior to that of the Levitical Priesthood because the Melchizedek Priesthood is eternal while the Levitical is temporary. In addition, Jesus, through his onetime sacrifice, can save people once and for all. Thus the new covenant with Jesus is better than the old one because it is based not on the sacrifice of animals offered on a recurring basis, but is based on the blood of Jesus, shed, again, once and for all. His sacrifice also changes us from the inside out so that we can be obedient to God, be forgiven and gain eternal life. Because of Jesus’ work we can draw near to God with full confidence because our hearts have been made clean. We are therefore to hold fast to our hope, stir up one another in love and meet together regularly.

Warning #3 (10:26-10:39) Once again the people are warned that by sinning deliberately after coming to know Jesus there can be no sacrifice which will cover them.

List of those who kept the Faith (11:1-12:24) The writer describes the “Cloud of Witnesses” who remained faithful even in tough times. These people should give us courage to run the race as we look to Jesus for support. We should also be encouraged to put up with discipline from God.

Warning #4 (12:25-29) This is a final warning not to refuse Jesus who as spoken to them.

Conclusion (13:1-13:25) The people are to show brotherly love, offer hospitality, remember those in prison, hold marriage in honor, do not love money, be content with what one has, remember their leaders, share what one has and pray for those who wrote the letter.

1. How do Paul’s comments about the Jews and their covenant differ from those in Hebrews?
2. What do you make of the warnings?
3. How does this letter encourage or discourage you?

Weekly Schedule

Monday, December 7

9:15am	Hand-in-Hand	104-118
10:00	Shawl Ministry	Fireside Room
7:00pm	AAIM	141/142
8:30	AA/Al-anon	215-220

Tuesday, December 8

7:00am	Bible Study	Library
8:45	Bible Study	Library
9:15	Hand-in-Hand	101-118
10:00	Fun& Fitness	Youth Rm
7:00	Hand Bell Choir	Choir Rm

Wednesday, December 9

9:15am	Hand-in-Hand	101-118
9:30	PWCT Meeting	141/142
10:00	Women's 12 Steps	220

Wednesday, December 9

4:30pm	Carol Choir	New Song
4:30	Music Makers	Youth Rm
5:00	Chapel Choir	New Song
7:00	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 10

8:45am	Religious Diversity	Calvin, Knox
9:00	Covenant	Fireside Room
9:15	Hand-in-Hand	101-118
10:00	Fun & Fitness	Youth Room
10:00	AA Women's Group	141-144

Friday, December 11

9:15am	Hand-in-Hand	101-118
10:30	HIH Teacher Mtg	141/142
7:00pm	Classical Bells	Sanctuary

Saturday, December 12

8:00am	Read Through the Bible	141/142
9:00	Elder/Deacon Training	141/142
3:00pm	Youth Lock-In	Youth Rm

Sunday, December 13

8:30am	Worship	Chapel
10:00	Worship	Sanctuary
10:00	Middle School Yth	Youth Rm
11:15	Family Systems	Fireside Rm
2:00pm	Ordination Service	Sanctuary
3:00	Ordination Reception	Knox Aud
5:00	Rejoicing Spirits	Sanctuary
6:00	Dinner Following	Calvin Hall

Staff

<i>Ministers.....</i>	<i>The Congregation</i>
<i>Pastor.....</i>	<i>Rev. John Judson, D.Min</i>
<i>Associate Pastor.....</i>	<i>Rev. Amy Morgan, M.Div</i>
<i>Associate Pastor/Inclusion & Pastoral Care*.....</i>	<i>Rev. Joanne Blair, M.Div</i>
<i>Parish Associates**.....</i>	<i>Rev. Kathryn Thoresen, D.Min; Rev. Julie Madden, M.Div</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>Children’s Music Director*.....</i>	<i>Sue Kohns</i>
<i>Trombone Choir Director*.....</i>	<i>Ben Kohns</i>
<i>Music Makers Choir Director*.....</i>	<i>Samantha Lyttle</i>
<i>Youth Ministries Director*.....</i>	<i>Bethany Peerbolte</i>
<i>Inclusion Assistants*.....</i>	<i>Jeffrey Painter, Rebecca Stickley</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>Communications Coordinator*.....</i>	<i>Dawn Swarouth</i>
<i>Membership Coordinator*.....</i>	<i>Kim McGlynn</i>
<i>Business Managers**.....</i>	<i>Carl Fischer, Jim Goss</i>
<i>Financial Assistant*.....</i>	<i>Jay Kafarski/Martha Smith</i>
<i>Building Supervisor.....</i>	<i>Larry Malover</i>
<i>Custodian*.....</i>	<i>Nick Watson</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 9am—5pm; Fridays, 9am-1pm

Christmas Eve Services	
2pm	Interactive Family Worship
5pm	Family Worship with Pageant
8pm	Worship with Communion
11pm	Lessons and Carols

Use our QR codes to:

To check out the website:



To sign-up for church emails



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 All Abilities Inclusion Ministry
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