

First Presbyterian Church

Everybody's  Church

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

December 2016/January 2017

First News

12:01 Start Kicks Off

Our new worship experience, 12:01 Start, kicked off on October 9 and has been building a loyal core of attenders. Worship gatherings have a casual atmosphere, flexible format, and diverse musical styles. Vocalist Trish Shandor has provided beautiful and moving music with the leadership of Andrew Herbruck. We have celebrated Communion and Remembrance of Baptism, experienced prayers stations using origami and play-dough, and explored scripture through interviews, sermons, discussion, and guided meditation.

Attender Tessa Lanzen says, "I Start at 1201 because I like having a service where I can marry my faith and my love of science together." Tessa grew up at FPC and is now a college student at Michigan State. She is attending 1201 when she is home on the weekends along with other college students and graduates, and folks from every other age and stage of life. The service is attracting new churchgoers and people seeking out a fresh, new community of faith. Each week, we see families and singles, groups of friends and neighbors.

Elizabeth Gumbis, a strong supporter of the 12:01 service since its inception, feels like the experience shows "a lot of creativity, a lot of innovation, and yet is also grounded in what's real." Several long-time FPC members have started forming the core group of 12:01 attenders along with the new faces, and other



members are trying it out each week. FPC member Samuel Randall said the service "gave me some fresh perspectives on things." Getting the word out about a new worship service is always difficult, so FPC members are encouraged to share this opportunity with friends, neighbors, and family members who might be looking for a new and different way to encounter the Christian faith. Postcards with information about the service are available in the Welcome Center. And we are making good use of social media to try to connect with folks outside the church. If you are on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, please "like" our Facebook page and connect with us at @1201start so that we can spread the word!

First Presbyterian Church
1669 W. Maple Road
Birmingham, MI 48009
248.644.2040
www.everybodyschurch.org
email:
contact@everybodyschurch.org

Weekly Worship

Sundays:

8:30am Communion
in the Chapel

10am Worship
in the Sanctuary
with Sunday School

12:01 Start
Non-Traditional Worship
in Knox Auditorium

5pm Worship
Rejoicing Spirits
(casual dress)

2nd and 4th Sundays September-
April. There is a simple meal
following every service

Program Staff

John Judson
Pastor

Amy Morgan
Associate Pastor

Joanne Blair
Associate Pastor/Inclusion
and Pastoral Care

Cindy Merten
Director of Christian Education
& All Abilities Inclusion Ministries

Andrew Herbruck
Director of Music Ministries

Bethany Peerbolte
Director of Youth Ministries

Julie Madden,
Ted Thode,
Kate Thoresen
Parish Associates

Pastor's Corner

by Dr. John Judson

As I sit in my office at 6am, cup of coffee in my hand, the morning after the election, the one word that comes to me again and again, is, uncertainty. While the future is always uncertain, at least within American politics, there tended to be a certain level of predictability. If those elected were Republicans, we basically knew the policies they would pursue. If those elected were Democrats, we likewise had a pretty good idea of the policies they would try to implement. President-elect Trump cannot be pigeonholed in either camp. Though he ran as a Republican, he expressed views which run counter to his party. Though he ran against a Democrat, Trump embraced many populist views. Pundits are already trying to figure out what is ahead. The reality is that we do not know. The reality is that the future is uncertain.

It is in these moments of uncertainty that we are invited to return to the one who is certain; to the God we know in Jesus the Christ. What we often forget is that Jesus was born into a world of great uncertainty. There was political uncertainty as Herod the Great, the long serving, puppet ruler of Judea, was growing old and would soon die. There was cultural uncertainty, as the Greco-Roman culture was slowly erasing the culture of the Jewish people in Palestine. There was religious uncertainty, as the Jewish people were divided into

factions, each claiming to know the true path God. Finally, there was economic uncertainty as small farms were absorbed by large land owners, causing homelessness and helplessness.

It was into that moment, that moment of uncertainty, that Jesus was born. He was born in order to show the world that God's love was still real and alive; to show the world that there is always hope in God; to show the world, that to God, all people mattered; and to show that God's plan was still to bless all the nations on the face of the earth. These realities, that Christ came to show the world, were not new. They were part of God's plan from the beginning. The certainty in the midst of all of that uncertainty was that God was unchanging and God was still at work transforming the world. Two thousand years later, this is still our certainty. As I said in my sermon the Sunday after the election, rulers and political parties come and go, yet God remains the same. God remains the one whose love for us never fails and who travels the road we make as we walk this uncertain journey of life.



Wednesday Night Intergenerational Family Dinners

Wednesdays, December 7 & 14 at 5:30pm



December 7: Cookie decorating and making Advent wreaths
December 14: Caroling and a fun surprise hands-on mission project

Each Intergenerational event will include a meal (suggested donation of \$5) and an activity.

Mission

Thanks and Giving Mission Dinners

For three Wednesday evenings in November, the FPC community gathered to enjoy dinner together, giving thanks for all God provides and giving to others out of our abundance. These “Thanks and Giving” dinners each featured a unique mission project. We packed Snack Pax for the Song and Spirit Institute for Peace in Berkley; created Transition to Independence gifts for students at Wayne State aging out of the foster care system; and filled baskets for “Every Family, Feed a Family” Thanksgiving food baskets. Dozens of participants of all ages enjoyed these activities and were blessed to be a blessing.



PW Rummage Sale



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Total Rummage Sale receipts for the Fall Rummage Sale were about \$16,000. Our net income after paying for labor, supplies, and cleaning costs is about \$5,000. The Fall Rummage Sale recycled lots of stuff, and after our sale days, we gave mountains of gently used items to a variety of charitable organizations including Disabled American Veterans, Second Mile Center in Detroit, Fort Street Open Door, and many others.

PW Thank Offering

The annual PW Thank Offering brunch was held on Wednesday, October 26th in Calvin Hall and featured Detroit’s grass root program, The Empowerment Plan. Erika George, Development Director, informed and educated all that attended the awesome program. They hire single parents from local shelters and provide them with training and full-time employment as seamstresses so that they can earn a stable income, find secure housing, and regain their independence. The individuals they hire manufacture a coat designed to meet the needs of those in the homeless community. The durable EMPWR Coat can transform

into a sleeping bag at night or an over-the-shoulder bag when not in use. It’s just fantastic!

To learn more about *The Empowerment Plan*, please visit their website at: www.empowermentplan.org.



by Kim McGlynn



Mission

First Foundation and You

First Foundation is the endowment fund of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. It was established in 1981 “to provide for the extension of the ministry and outreach of the First Presbyterian Church beyond its annual operating budget.” The Foundation is overseen by a board of nine members and is appointed by the Session for six-year terms. All grants made by First Foundation in excess of \$7,500 must be approved by Session.

Grants from First Foundation have supported local, national, and international mission endeavors, new ministry ventures, and continuing education for church members and staff. First Foundation allows First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham the opportunity to engage in dynamic and innovative ministry, effective and essential mission work, and significant outreach to the local and global community.

All grant requests must go through a “sponsoring ministry” before they are considered by the Board of First Foundation. Examples of such sponsoring ministries are Outreach Ministry, All Abilities Inclusion Ministry, Presbyterian Women and Foster/Adoptive Families Partnership.

To provide an example of how widespread these dollars are spent, in the last two years’ money has gone to Pontiac, Detroit, California, Kenya, Uganda, Mexico and Haiti. Grants have also been made to numerous individuals and programs to further the vision of FPC, “As Everybody’s Church, we serve Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion, and community.”

Outreach Ministry (OM) has developed a rather unique way to investigate the needs of our surrounding geographic area. In Fall 2015 we had our first “Mission Crawl.” We have subsequently gone on Mission

Crawls in Spring and Fall 2016. As a result of these Mission Crawls, Outreach Ministries has helped several organizations draft grant requests that resulted in almost immediate funding for incredibly impactful programs.

House of Providence

OM visited House of Providence last fall. Our church bus dropped us off at a well-kept, non-descript house in a not very good part of Detroit. Once inside, we learned that a husband and wife team (Jason and Maggie Dunn – he, a minister, she, a therapist) were taking care of several of the most vulnerable female youth in the City of Detroit. They are either orphans or foster children who have aged out of the system. Many have deep scars due to pain and suffering, working in the sex trades, or just being abandoned. At House of Providence, they begin an intense, loving therapeutic path to independence. In order to do so the Dunns want their guests to have the best of everything. He told us the children have been thrown away once so we are not going to provide them with anything that is being thrown away by others. In a matter of a few weeks, Outreach Ministry approved a grant for badly needed new furniture that was subsequently approved by First Foundation.

Song and Spirit Institute for Peace

OM visited Song and Spirit in Berkley this past Spring. Song and Spirit was founded in 2010 by Franciscan friar, Al Mascia, Jewish Hazzan Steve Klaper, and artist and teacher Mary Gilhuly. These three were originally conceived as a performance group, furthering interfaith dialogue through concerts and community gatherings. However, they soon paired these endeavors with Al’s street ministry outreach in downtown Detroit and Mary’s community art installations and projects with youth



and adults. They received permission to begin operating out of the former Jesuit Novitiate House on the campus of Our Lady of La Salette in Berkley, MI. and at that point (April 2011), they formed the Song and Spirit Institute for Peace.

We learned about a new program they wished to implement, Sabbath2Sabbath, the purpose of which was to offer an accessible and straightforward resource, with alternate versions for both community and family use, for Christians to celebrate the Lord’s Day as a weekly celebration of sacred time. This would be a traveling program, done locally. The rituals are intimately connected with an over 2,000-year-old Jewish practice of keeping the Lord’s Sabbath -- both the worship service of welcoming on Friday evening, and the short service of praise and blessing which concludes the Sabbath at sunset on Saturday night. This celebrates the moment of mystery, when secular time becomes sacred, and they light a Sunday Candle to awaken Sabbath peace. They needed approximately \$20,000 to launch this program and fund it for at least one year. Outreach Ministries sponsored a request for \$7,500, which was approved by First Foundation.

Up Next Issue – Your Money Travels Around the World To Support FPC Missionaries

Mission

Hope and Healing Worship

On November 9, FPC hosted a post-election prayer service for healing and hope. Over 80 people attended the service, which included litanies, prayers and music to lead the community in expressions of confession, healing, and hope for our nation. Throughout the service, a prayer wall was constructed with cards on which individuals could write their own prayers. A reception afterward allowed the community to



fellowship for a time after this time of meditation and reflection. The prayer wall will be installed in the welcome center for several weeks so that those who could not attend the service may see it and add their own prayers.



Christmas Poinsettias

Deadline: Sunday, December 4



The purchase of poinsettias to grace our sanctuary during the Advent season is made possible by the generosity of those who donate to the Christmas Flower Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please fill out an order form that is available in the church office. Poinsettia donations can be made in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

Good News at Alcott Elementary School in Pontiac

This fall six new tutors began working in Alcott classrooms to promote literacy. We welcome Roger Blair, Bill Blair, Linda Fisher, Sarah Edwards, Nancy Klein and Tom Russell to this wonderful group of men and women who give so generously of their time.

Just before Thanksgiving volunteers attending our Wednesday night "Thanks & Giving" dinner packed up 100 Thanksgiving baskets for Alcott families. Stephanie Kummer then coordinated with a team of volunteers the delivery of 100 turkeys and the baskets to the school.

Each fall most schools host a Scholastic book fair, and Alcott is

no exception. This year we provided funds to insure that each child was able to take at least one book home. We will also soon be installing a Little Free Library outside the school so that children have 24/7 access to free books.



New this fall, Deborah Vanderlinde started a drumming group for 18 sixth graders during the school day.

On December 12 Rosy Latimore and Ginny Mottershaw prepare and serve a wonderful holiday lunch for the Alcott staff and tutors able to attend. We are grateful for their gift of hospitality offered each year.

We will also provide Angel Tree gifts for two families at Alcott this Christmas.



Inclusion

Knock Knocks in Knox



If “laughter is food for the soul,” then our souls and our bodies were well fed on October 14 when over 30 people gathered for our annual pasta dinner and joke telling event. This AAIM sponsored event has great appeal as we let ourselves enjoy the simple pleasure of just having fun, and the diversity of those attending added so much to the richness of the evening. From empty nesters, to young families, to group homes- all shared in the telling of jokes, whether using those from their

personal supply or those scattered on the tables.

Sara Scott served as emcee and Chris Gannon offered special sound effects which had us laughing as much as the jokes! Maddie Buley and Casey O’Connor came loaded with their own personal stock and get the award for the most jokes told. Thanks to all for making this such a fun evening and reminding us how good it feels to laugh!



New Staff Position



Mara Myers

Please welcome Mara Myers to FPC as part of the AAIM team!

Mara has been hired by the church as Program Coordinator for Young Adults with Disabilities to lead a Sunday morning class for those under AAIM support who have aged out of Soul Perch, and for whom worship in the Sanctuary is not a viable option.

Mara is a Certified Nurse Assistant who has experience as a job coach for young adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. Mara’s training, past work experience and compassionate heart will be a gift to this growing ministry. Welcome Mara!

Join the Fun!

Mark your calendars for two very different social events coming up in 2017. Sponsored by AAIM (All Abilities Inclusion Ministry), these intergenerational church and community events will appeal to those who like to kick up their heels, and those who like a more sedentary activity...and to those who like both!



On January 20 our annual Snowball Dance with great DJ will have you twirling and swirling, or at least tapping your feet, as you enjoy Calvin Hall transformed into a winter wonderland. This event is recommended for those age 13-113.

On April 28 we will host our Bingo Night with our hilarious emcee Mark Grobbel, who had everyone laughing so hard last year they could hardly play the game! This event is for all ages.



Further details to follow but mark your calendars now. Events run from 7:00-8:30pm and of course include wonderful munchies!

- First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham Michigan
- All Abilities Inclusion Ministry
- Everybody’s Church Music Ministry
- Everybody’s Church Youth Groups



Twitter: @fpcbirmingham



YouTube: everybodychurch1

Community

FPC Lock-In at Lazer Warp

The youth leadership team decided to try something new for our fall overnight event. We went to Lazer Warp in Madison Heights and spent all night playing endless laser tag. We teamed up with Westminster Presbyterian to make the night extra special. From 10pm till 5am the group played every possible laser tag game,

from teams, to chaos, to vampire, to free for all! The group was made up of 29 youth and three fearless adults. We also took a few breaks to talk about stewardship and how God wants us to use our gifts, talents, and resources. It was an incredible night and worth the lack of sleep.



Youth at Cedar Point's PointFest



The youth group's favorite way to begin the school year is a trip to Cedar Point. This year we shared our trip with the youth group at Farmington Presbyterian. Our two groups had a great time riding old favorites and discovering new ones. The Christian bands at Point Fest this year were: *For King and Country*, *Chris Tomlin*, and *TobyMac*. The concert was great! We all look forward to another year of great Christian music and roller-coaster fun.



Everybody's  Church
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

www.everybodyschurch.org

Community

Little Free Libraries Are Planted

Our teams of builders, painters, and book collectors have been hard at work finishing up 17 Little Free Libraries to be installed in Pontiac and beyond. In late October, a team delivered and installed our first Little Free Library in the Pontiac School District at ITA/WHRC. The children in a first grade class personalized their library by placing their painted handprints on it. Our plan is to complete the installation of seven more Little Free Libraries before the end of the year.

help of two of youth, Casey O'Connor and Aidan Adams, in painting and decorating them. We have plans to install the other Little Free Libraries at other Angel's Place homes in the near future.



Filling the library with books in the rain

In addition to the libraries built and painted by our team at the church, Logan Scott has built three of them and installed one in his neighborhood near an Angel's Place home as a part of his Eagle Scout project. He enlisted the



Painting the decorations for the LFL



Digging the post hole at Angel's Place



Planting the Library at ITA/WHRC

Family News

Marriages:

- ✿ Adam Hunt and Carelyn Hernandez-Cruz, son of Bazil and Judy Hunt, who were married on October 28.
- ✿ Maureen McKay and Heather Cochran who were married on November 12.

Baptisms:

- ❖ Benjamin Randall Murray, October 2, son of Michael and Kathryn Murray
- ❖ Mackenzie Grace Meador, October 9, daughter of Jeffrey and Molly Meador
- ❖ Joni Slatin Rothermel, October 16, daughter of Jess and Alyssa Rothermel
- ❖ Everest Jia-Fong Aho, October 23, son of Brian and Yun-Wen (Claire) Aho
- ❖ Emily Grace Pilon, October 30, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Pilon

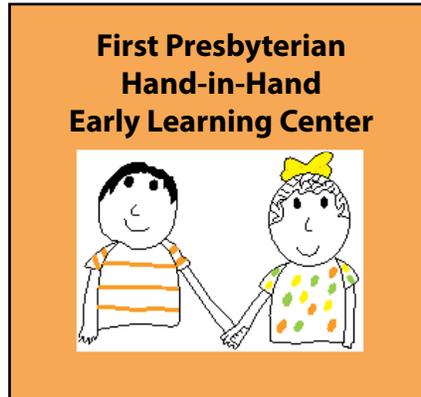
In Sympathy:

- ✝ Evelyn Terry Sharpe, October 24, mother of Lynn Terry
- ✝ John Horner, October 24, son of Jane Horner

Community

Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

The children are settling into their Hand-in-Hand classrooms as we enter into November. We have already seen so much growth.



Mission Statement

We are committed to providing a quality program within a safe, nurturing environment. Our curriculum encourages and promotes the intellectual, social, cognitive, emotional and physical development of young children.

The teachers have been very busy in the classroom as well as participating in numerous continuing education seminars including a 5 1/2 hour seminar covering various topics including epi-pen training and speech and language developmental stages with time for discussion. The annual CPR and first aid training was also completed.

The preschool classes and the young five students have already been on field trips. We had a MSU vs U- M challenge and MSU won at Hand-in-Hand even though they were not victorious on the football field.

The 150 children range in age from 6 months through five years. For more

information and/or to register please contact the Hand-in-Hand office at 248.644.2040 ext. 124 or by email at handinhand@everybodyschurch.org



Walk Through the Bible



Our third graders and their parents “walked through the Bible” before receiving their Bibles as a part of our Milestones program in October. Costumed and moving from place to place throughout our Sunday School

rooms, the children experienced the movement of God’s people from Genesis through Revelation. Their parents then presented them with a Good News Bible in worship as a gift from our church.

Community

Lunch and Learn 2017

Bring your lunch and eat from 11:30am – 12:00pm, and then enjoy a fabulous program from 12:00 – 1:00pm.

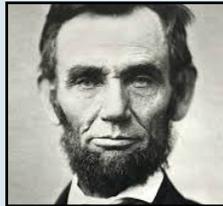
Dessert and beverages will be provided. Everyone is Welcome!

January 19, 2017

John Marshall has long had a fascination with the history of the Bloomfield area. He will share interesting facets of this history and feature the story of the Walter Briggs country estate called Walbri. Many country estates of wealthy Detroiters dotted the landscape of the area.



February 16, 2017



People have long held an interest in Abraham Lincoln. Drawing upon her mentoring by a Civil War scholar as a child, Diane

Bert will tell about the experiences, events and people who shaped the life of Lincoln and helped him develop into the leader he became as President during the Civil War.



Third Thursdays @ 7pm,
Dick O'Dows, 160 W. Maple
Birmingham

Beginning in November, we have relocated our gathering to Dick O Dow's restaurant on Maple Road in Downtown Birmingham. Join us on the third Thursday of each month (December 15 and January 19) for discussions on real-world issues and theological intersections.

Heaven and Earth Rejoice



Thursday, December 15, 7:30 pm. Free-will offering.

The music department of First Presbyterian will enrich your Christmas season with a fun, family-friendly concert celebrating the birth of Christ. Handbells, brass, soloists, and the Chancel Choir will present familiar carols and anthems along with a congregational sing along!



Concerts at First Presents



Saturday, January 14, 2017, 7:30 pm, Free-will offering
sounding light Sings Gospel and Spiritual Songs

In honor and celebration of the timeless message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., sounding light rings in the new-year with a concert of beloved gospel and spiritual songs. The program will bring a message of hope and peace, honoring the authentic joy and soul, the heart and spirit of this most powerful, expressive, and meaningful American folk music. We keep MLK's message alive by sharing the message of his faith in our song!

Community

Welcome Our Fall 2016 New Members



Rick and Connie Palmer, Angela Sabatasse, Tom Scholl, Kevin and Melissa VanderLaan, Leah Dalley, Jesse and Alyssa Rothermel, Doug and Leah Smith

Leah Dalley is joining FPC by Letter of Transfer. She has jumped right in to the life of FPC by singing in our Chancel Choir! Leah is an Accounting Manager at AGC Automotive Americas. In her spare time, she enjoys reading mystery books, walking/hiking, traveling, music, coffee and conversation.

Rick Parker is joining FPC by Letter of Transfer. Rick is a Vice President at Creative Techniques, Inc. He enjoys skiing, both Alpine and Nordic, climbing, karate, music and bagpiping! Rick is married to Renee, who is an Interior Designer and received a BA from Michigan State University. She likes to play tennis,

skiing, music (listening – she states that she can't play or sing a note!), painting and cooking.

Alyssa & Jesse Rothermel are joining FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Alyssa and Jesse work at Accenture, Alyssa in Corporate Philanthropy and Jesse is an Executive. Alyssa enjoys reading, travel and music. Jesse's interests include sports, music and travel. Together they have two daughters, Avery is five years old and Joni is 11 months old.

Tom Scholl is joining FPC by Letter of Transfer. Tom has led an exciting career in advertising and is now self-employed. He and his wife Marlyss

enjoy golfing together and are frequent travelers to Hilton Head Island. Unfortunately, their recent trip to Hilton Head has been postponed due to the hurricane, but they hope to go back as soon as possible. You can see Tom on Monday mornings participating in the weekly Bible Study led by Pastor John.

Doug & Leah Smith are joining FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Doug has a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Wayne State University and currently works at Beaumont. His interests include reading and gardening. Leah is a stay at home mom to three year old daughter, Lucy, and almost two year old son, Jacob. Leah enjoys baking, cooking, gardening and family time!

Kevin & Melissa VanderLaan are joining FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Kevin is a graduate from the University of Michigan and is an Engineer at Ford Motor Company. Melissa attended Butler University and is a Communications Consultant. Together they have two sons, Eli is seven years old and Owen just turned five years old.

Welcome to Everybody's Church!

The Journey Continues with "We Make the Road by Walking"

Over 75 participants are taking part in nine small group opportunities to study the readings from "We Make the Road by Walking." Some groups are currently at capacity, but anyone is invited to drop in on Dr. Judson's weekly gatherings on Saturday mornings at 8am and Sundays at 11am at the church. If you are interested in joining a small group or would like help starting one of your own, contact Rev. Amy Morgan (amymorgan@fpcbirmingham.org).

Mission Fundraiser

Christmas Tree Sale Begins November 20

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 the youth of 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.



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



First News
December 2016/
January 2017

Upcoming Events and Christmas Worship

Events

Thursday, December 1, 6pm
Advent By Candlelight

Intergenerational Advent
Dinner & Activities:

Wednesday, December 7, 5:30pm
Cookies and Crafts

Wednesday, December 14, 5:30pm
Caroling and Caring

Thursday, December 15, 7:30pm
Christmas Concert



Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24

2pm: *"No Shush" Interactive
Worship*

5pm: *Family Worship*

8pm: *Communion and Carols*

11pm: *Lessons and Carols*

Sunday, December 25
One worship service at 12:01pm