

# First Presbyterian Church

Everybody's  Church

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

February/March 2017

## First News

### Feeding Bodies and Souls



A white laundry basket symbolizes something more than the week's washing to families at Orchards Children's Services and Alcott Elementary School. For hundreds of families, these baskets mean food for a Thanksgiving meal and to stock their pantry. Thanks to the generosity of families at Everybody's Church, a grant from First Foundation, and memorial gifts for Evelyn Sharpe, we were able to provide Thanksgiving baskets to 200 families and Christmas

pantry baskets to 100 families. The Outreach Ministries team purchased food to supplement donations, and church members and friends packed all the baskets during Wednesday evening dinner events. Church members then delivered the baskets to Alcott where they received help unloading them from enthusiastic students and staff. These food baskets fed bodies and souls for those who made them and those who received them.



First Presbyterian Church  
1669 W. Maple Road  
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## 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

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## 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

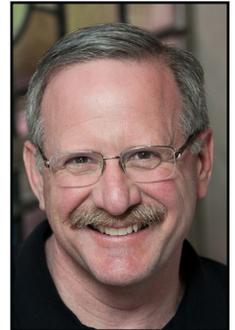
by Dr. John Judson

So what do we believe? I ask that because we seem to be in a moment in history when everything is in flux. How we communicate, what political parties stand for, our nation's relationship with the rest of the world, how we are to treat the earth...all is in flux. It is as if there is no solid ground upon which we can stand. Yet I believe that there is. It is the ground upon which we stand as a faith community and as followers of Jesus Christ.

So what do we believe? First, we believe that every human being is a child of God who is loved and cherished by God. Second, we believe that we are all imperfect; that none of us is capable of living a perfectly Godly life. Third, we believe that God is gracious, and in the gift of Jesus Christ, we have been given the opportunity to be forgiven, transformed and continually shaped more and more into the image of God that is inside of us. Fourth, we

believe that we are called to use our gifts to bless the world. Fifth, we believe that God is at work in us and in the world, slowly but surely bringing about the Kingdom for which we pray each Sunday in the Lord's Prayer.

Each of these beliefs is rooted and grounded in both scripture and tradition. And so here at First Church, these beliefs form the foundation of our life together. You will hear them in our preaching and teaching. You will see them in our worship and service. In a world in flux, I hope that here at Everybody's Church, you will find a consistent set of beliefs that can guide you in your daily life as you strive to love God and neighbor.





## February 19 - 26

Sign up sheets are posted in the hallway. Join in this ministry that will bless you as much as those we serve.

# Mission

## Good News at Alcott Elementary 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 attended our Wednesday night “Thanks & Giving” dinner and 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 soon install a Little Free Library outside the school so that children have 24/7 access to free books.

On December 12 Rosy Latimore and Ginny Mottershaw prepared and served 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 provided Angel Tree gifts for two families at Alcott this Christmas.



## Annual Holiday Party for Youth in Foster Care



Susan Beaumont (left) greets Lilliana, daughter of Lana, at the annual Holiday Party given for 26 youth from foster

care plus their five children. This was a collaborative effort of our church, Kirk in the Hills, University Presbyterian Church, Brightmoor Christian Church, Northminster Presbyterian Church, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative. The participants were delighted with the wide variety of cross necklaces which they chose for gifts for others and for themselves. Thanks to all for these donations and your on-going support of our children and youth in foster care.

## Christmas Mission Offerings



The Christmas season was filled with mission giving. The Angel Tree donated a total of 120 gifts through Orchards Children’s Services and to Alcott families. The mitten tree was loaded with hats and mittens and were distributed to Alcott. The Christmas Joy offering, which benefits retired church workers and scholarships to Presbyterian-related ethnic schools and colleges, totaled \$7,500 and Shop ‘N Drop received \$1,000.

## Easter Flowers

### Deadline: Sunday, April 9

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



# Mission

## **First Foundation Impacts Skyline Campers**

So, what can a hot water heater do beside heat water? It can lead to a transition from propane to natural gas, an efficiency that cuts Camp Skyline's utility expenses by \$10,000 - \$15,000 dollars a year, freeing up more money for camperships.

And, what can a golf cart do beside take golfers from one hole to the next? It can take campers with mobility limitations to the far reaches of Camp Skyline so they can participate in the same activities other campers enjoy.

Finally, what do the hot water heater and the golf cart have in common? They were both purchased with grants from FPC's First Foundation.

Matt Henry, Executive Director of the Skyline Camp and Retreat Center since 2011, said those two grants, along with the 33 others that First Foundation has awarded Skyline over the past 22 years, have enabled the camp and retreat center to more closely align with FPC's inclusive spirit.

"We want Skyline to be unconditionally welcoming. We want it to be a place of Christian hospitality. When we can increase our spending on program needs and enhancements that make Skyline more accessible, we

further those goals," he said. "The golf cart offers a good example of First Foundation's role in Skyline's mission. Now, campers with physical limitations can get to the lake and go out onto the dock to fish, just like the other campers do.

The Camp and Retreat Center has thrived in recent years. The number of campers has more than doubled since 2011. Its mission of inclusion continues to be strong. Campers with physical and cognitive disabilities as well as boys and girls attending because of camperships are an important part of the summer programs. Skyline awarded an average of almost \$54,000 on camperships in each of the past four years, a sum far more generous than many larger camps.

First Foundation has supported Skyline consistently since 1993, both before and after Skyline's separate incorporation in 2005. First Foundation has awarded more than \$240,000 in grants to Skyline, one grant as small as \$450 and another as large as \$26,170. Each of the 35 grants has been brought to First Foundation by a committee or ministry of FPC. Many have been for repairs or improvements to the buildings and grounds and some of been directed toward staff development and training as well as specific camping programs.

Skyline is just one of almost 100 nonprofit agencies to have received one or more First Foundation grants. Some organizations are in our own back yard and some are on the other side of the globe. In addition, First Foundation has granted nearly 200 requests from FPC itself, requests ranging from tuition for professional development for staff



to the church building's infrastructure needs.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a bequest to First Foundation in your will, please contact church member Shaheen Imami, an attorney who specializes in estate planning and serves on the First Foundation board. Call him at his office, 248.419.1968, or email him at [sii@probateprince.com](mailto:sii@probateprince.com).



# Inclusion

## Religious Diversity Journeys

What do 150 seventh grade students from four different school districts have in common? They all love hot chocolate and pizza! The students who gathered at FPC on December 6 also all love learning about different faith traditions. They were part of the Religious Diversity Journeys program offered by the Interfaith Leadership Council of Metro Detroit, and they came to Everybody's Church to learn about the Christian faith. In addition to enjoying hot chocolate and pizza,

they learned about Christian service by creating Snack Pax for the Song and Spirit Institute for Peace. They also learned about Christian beliefs and practices, holidays and symbols, and the Christian scriptures. During a panel discussion, they had the opportunity to hear from clergy of different Christian traditions (Reformed, Catholic, and Evangelical) and ask their own questions. Many thanks to all of the staff and volunteers who made this incredible day of learning possible!



### Join the Fun!



Mark your calendars for this intergenerational church and community social event sponsored by AAIM (All Abilities Inclusion Ministry).

**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.

The event is 7:00-8:30pm and of course includes 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: everybodyschurch1

# Community

## Fundraisers Help Youth Go to Spring Hill, Alma and Mexico

### Cookie Walk

The youth have been working hard to raise money for their retreat to Spring Hill, the Alma youth mix, and the Mexico mission trip. They have raised \$1,870 so far with the Super Bowl sub fundraiser still to come. It is such a blessing to have a church family who is generous and supportive of these students. It is an amazing gift to have confidence that so many teens can easily raise \$100 each. This allows more youth the opportunity to attend despite their family budget. The teens have commented on how moving and inspiring it is to see their community give of their own resources so that the youth can grow closer to God. Thank

you to everyone who supported the youth ministry this year, you have made a difference in the spiritual lives of our middle school and high school students.



### Stuffed Animal Lock-In

One of our fundraisers for Spring Hill was the annual Stuffed Animal Lock-In. The youth planned a mini VBC event in the church for kids ages 4-11. We had 29 kids come for the Zootopia themed evening. 14 youth helped take care of the kids and 7 adults helped supervise and run the individual events. We had a great time!! After the little kids went home, the youth took fun pictures of the stuffed animals all over the church. After that fun we went to Target and bought presents for teenagers for Orchards Children's Services.



## Youth Internship

by Wendy Wilkinson



The summer youth intern position is a great opportunity for youth to gain experience in the work field. As an intern, you are exposed to the many different positions that employees have in the church and are given the opportunity to work with each of them individually. It's not like other jobs due to the fact that you're never tied down to doing just one thing for the summer. Instead, you're able to explore all of the different types of employment that a teen might want later in life. For instance, one week I worked on the computer for most of the time to input data and complete other tasks along those lines. The previous week I had been helping to prepare for the annual Vacation Bible Camp and had been doing a lot of hands-on jobs. This internship truly allows the youth to get to know themselves better and learn about what they enjoy doing. My favorite part of the internship was getting to plan my own event. I chose to plan a lock-in and had to create the whole thing from scratch. A lot of preparation went into it along with having to lead everyone the night of the event. After it was over I was really proud of how much I was able to get done and enjoyed leading the rest of my friends through a fun-filled evening. I would like to encourage all youth who have any interest in this position to apply because I truly believe that they will be able to gain a significant amount of knowledge from it.

# Community

## Senior Adventurers Visit the Royal Park Hotel



On Thursday, December 15, the venturesome Senior Adventurers enjoyed an elegant tea at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Michigan, offering a variety of scrumptious tea sandwiches, fruit, scones, pastries and of course, tea! After enjoying tea and goodies, they toured the beautiful hotel and the giant-sized gingerbread train, located in the lobby, called the Gingerbread Express. The train is made up of all edible pieces that are constructed to look like a functional train! This year's new toy train design has been a vision in the making for

the past four years, and the Chef was thrilled to finally put this gingerbread toy train in "motion!"

It took the following ingredients to make the Gingerbread Express:

- 200 pounds of gingerbread mix
- 40 pounds of shortening
- 50 pounds of sugar
- 200 pounds of fondant
- 144 eggs
- 200 ounces of food coloring
- 50 pounds of candy

If you would like to help or be a part of Senior Adventurers, please contact Marge Hendrick at 248.293.0011.

## Intergenerational Dinners in Advent

During Advent, Children's and Family Ministries sponsored three intergenerational dinners with activities focused on mission and community. We made Advent wreaths to use in our homes, layered jars of candy for Deacons to distribute, packed 100 food baskets for Alcott, decorated cookies, sang Christmas carols, and colored a large Christmas mural. Children and adults who wanted to dress up in costumes played and posed for pictures in our nativity. Many enjoyed the options for varied participation and sharing a relaxed, family-friendly meal together in the holiday season.



## Thank you, Class of 2016

Many thanks to the Elders and Deacons that served in the class of 2016:

*Ruling Elders:* Alan Amendt, Amy Clark, Joan Palleschi, John Perryman, Grace Sleder and Thom Snider

*Deacons:* Nancy Balog, Karen Christensen, Colleen Fisher, Jim Goss (moderator), Sam McGlynn, Walter Oehrlein, Dan Piesko, Edie Schmitz, David Simonelli, and Alinda Wasner

Many thanks to Sandra Karam for being the Clerk of Session.

## Our Incoming Class of 2019

*Ruling Elders:* Cathy Gearig, John Haggerty, Heather Hansel, Diane Lea, Marian Rey McIntyre, Keith Termaat

*Deacons:* Ed Aho, Tom Buley, Leslie Butler, Carolyn Kennedy-Grobbel, Jane Haggerty, Anne Hughes, Bobby Kunz, Maureen Paul, John Rogers, Bjorn Simon, Thom Thoresen

*Clerk of Session:* Barbara Hoover

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# Community

## Christmas Concert - Heaven and Earth Rejoice



On December 15th, the Chancel Choir and the FPC Ringers presented "Heaven and Earth Rejoice." Based loosely on the traditional Lessons and Carols format, the concert included several numbers from each ensemble along with congregational carol singing, solos, and small ensemble pieces. Also participating

in the concert were strings, brass and a harpist. Interspersed between the musical numbers were seasonal readings from various theologians read by Rev. Joanne Blair, Cindy Merten, and Rev. Amy Morgan. This concert was presented as part of our church's concert series, *Concerts at First*.

## FTG's Little Women the Musical



This past November, First Theater Guild entertained over 420 audience members with a musical production of Lousia May Alcott's *Little Women*. The intergenerational cast was under the direction of Dan Chichester and

show to life. Join FTG again in March for the trial of the Big Bad Wolf, and the Wicked Witch in the stage production of *The Fairytale Courtroom*.

# Family News

## Marriages:

✿ Samantha Lyttle and Steven Samuels on December 3, 2016

## Births:

✿ Clara Russell, daughter of Brian and Carly Russell, November 14, 2016, grandparents Tom and Barbara Russell

✿ Layla Ann Palmer, daughter of Rick and Megan Palmer, December 20, 2016

## Baptisms:

❖ Emily Elizabeth Kohns and Benjamin Edward Kohns III, children of Ben and Sue Kohns, December 11, 2016

❖ Jason James Merten, son of Mark and Kristen Merten, December 11, 2016

❖ Grace Ingram Newman, daughter of Meredith Newman and Matthew Biglin, December 11, 2016

## Go tell it on the mountain!

Is your group or ministry doing something the congregation should hear about? Let **First News** know by sending your article (photos with captions are welcome) to: [firstnews@everybodyschurch.org](mailto:firstnews@everybodyschurch.org).

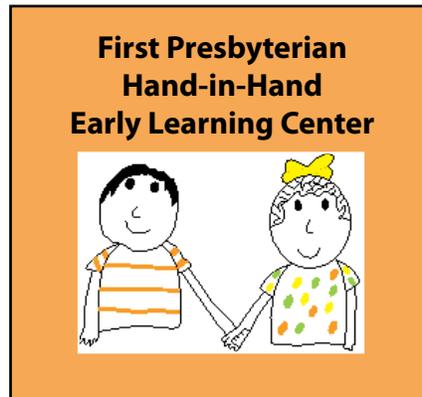
# Family News

# Community

## In Sympathy:

- ✠ Margery Connally, mother of Lori Eaton (Bob), November 19, 2016
- ✠ George Faber, brother-in-law of Swid Kirchhofer (Tom), December 4, 2016
- ✠ Rev. Dr. Henry Borchardt, father of Sue Borchardt, December 13, 2016
- ✠ David Lindroth, son of Pat Lindroth, December 15, 2016
- ✠ Lois Cotton, mother of Leslie Helwig (Richard) , Mary Anne Cotton, January 3, 2017
- ✠ Janet Munson, mother of Chris Turner, January 12, 2017
- ✠ Doreen Spearin, mother of Rod Spearin (Sally), January 17, 2017
- ✠ Jonathon Barget, son of Gail and Russ Barget, January 18, 2017
- ✠ Chea Sou, husband of Ieng Ly Sou, January 21, 2017
- ✠ Lois Poston, wife of Irv Poston, January 23, 2017

## Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center



### 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 Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center had a very busy December. We had four special Christmas events for the Hand-in-Hand families this year.



Our four year old preschool held a concert in the sanctuary, the young five year old class presented a Christmas play, the young twos sang Christmas and holiday songs and used jingle bells, and we had one of our student's Grandfathers read "Twas the night before Christmas" to several of our classrooms. Our singing Frosty the Snowman and a Christmas tree created a festive atmosphere for all.

We had new children start in several of our rooms at the beginning of the

new year so January has shown more growth for our center. All of the children are acclimated and settling in. We are looking forward to the 2017-18 registration beginning February 1st for currently enrolled families and February 20th for all others who are interested in registering. Please contact the director, Heidi Wilkinson for more information at 248.644.2040 ext 124 or email [handinhand@everybodyschurch.org](mailto:handinhand@everybodyschurch.org).



# Community

## Christmas Eve 2016



### **Concerts at First Presents**

**Saturday, March 18, 7:30 pm**

Olivier Latry is Titular Organist of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, and professor at the Paris Conservatory. One of the most celebrated organists of our time, Latry will present a concert of French repertoire and improvisations utilizing our fabulous Nichols and Simpson pipe organ. Tickets will be sold after Sunday morning services and through the church website for \$20.

# Community

## Welcome Our December 2016 New Members



*Left to right: Margo and Bob Juk; Chris, Angela, Finn and Graham Halverson; and Kristen, Mark and Jason Merten*

**Bob and Margo Juk** joined FPC by Letter of Transfer. Bob is retired from an Auto Tier I Supplier Company and Margo is a retired teacher from the Van Dyke/Warren School District. Bob's interest is being outside – playing golf and gardening. Margo enjoys scrapbooking and crafts. They have three grown sons.

**Chris and Angela Halverson** joined FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Chris is a graduate from Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and is a Design Director. Angela is a graduate from Loyola University of Chicago and is employed as a professional

fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Together they have two boys, Graham, soon to be 6 years old in January and Finn is 3 ½ years old. Chris enjoys guitar playing, Angela enjoys reading, yoga and barre and together they enjoy music and being with family and friends.

**Kristen Merten** joined FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Kristen's last name may be familiar here at FPC; she is married to Mark Merten and they have a three-month-old son, Jason James. Kristen enjoys cooking, reading and spending time with friends and family.

### Lunch and Learn 2017

On the Third Thursday, 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!

#### 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.

#### March 16, 2017

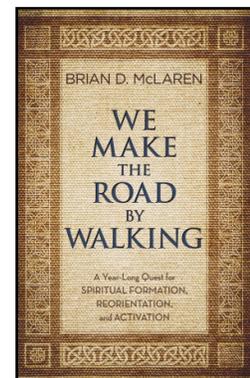
Dr. George Getschman has studied the service in the Civil War of Birmingham area citizens. He will tell about the role of Michigan soldiers in the war and feature the stories of soldiers who are interred in Greenwood Cemetery. He leads tours of Greenwood Cemetery telling about the valiant soldiers.



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

In our continuing evolutionary journey, we've moved our gatherings to Dick O'Dow's Irish Pub on Maple Road in Downtown Birmingham. We still meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month to discuss a topic of current relevance to society and the church.

## We Make the Road By Walking



We are STILL walking through this year-long journey! Over 300 books were sold in our congregation, and many people are interacting with our changing hallway display outside the sanctuary. Small groups continue to meet and welcome new members. If you'd like to deepen your experience of this journey, sign up for a small group on the clipboard outside Calvin Hall, or contact Amy Morgan. If you need to catch up to where we're at in the book, the reading schedule is available on our website and on the board outside the sanctuary.

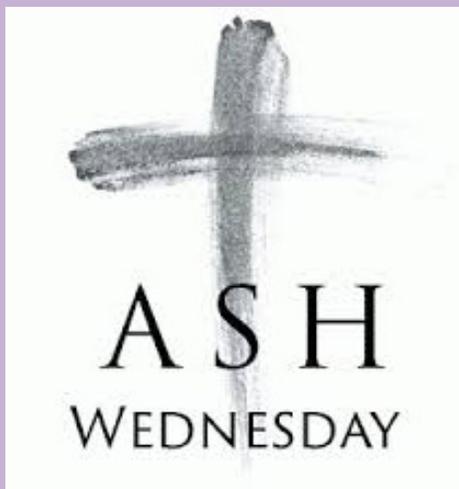
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## Ash Wednesday, March 1

Everyone is invited to our Ash Wednesday services at Noon and 7pm.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Join us at Noon or 7pm for a short service where you may receive the imposition of ashes if you choose.

After the noon service, Presbyterian Women provides a simple lunch of homemade soups and

bread for all who attend the service.

Lenten devotionals are still being requested for the PW Lenten Devotional Book. A guide to writing devotionals is at church or online. Please email devotionals to Charlotte Fischer.

