

First Presbyterian Church

Everybody's  Church

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

June/July 2017

First News

Youth Sunday a Result of Months of Planning, Learning

Youth Ministries would like to thank everyone who worshiped with us on April 30 for our 2017 Youth Sunday. We are so proud of our youth and all the effort they put in to making this a meaningful experience for everyone. You may wonder how such a service comes together, and we are happy to share the experience with you.



In November, the youth started brainstorming themes. They looked at the needs of the congregation and talked about how worship helps a community address different social and spiritual issues. The students were thrilled to discover Foster Care Month was in May and thought this would be a great way to kick off the month of awareness. Since this church has been involved with helping youth who are experiencing the system it seemed like a good fit and a worthy theme.

The youth then began looking at the elements of worship piece by piece with Bethany. They talked about what each piece meant from the call to worship all the way through the

benediction. Bethany explained why we do these things from a Presbyterian viewpoint. The youth then did some research to experience different forms of worship. Some were more contemporary than ours and some were more traditional. The youth discussed what they liked and why and began formulating an order of worship for Youth Sunday.

Once they choose a form and a theme, they began writing the liturgy, picking songs, and selecting youth to give a reflection. They youth were very aware of word choice in prayers, songs, and all other parts of the service. They wanted to be sure they made everyone feel welcome and included in the service.

The 22 youth who helped on Youth Sunday did an amazing job of leading the congregation in worship. There were many more youth who were not able to make the actual Sunday service but who helped plan and discuss throughout the year. We hope everyone felt the Spirit's presence in worship and we look forward to doing it again next year.



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)
4th Sundays May-August.
A simple meal
follows 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

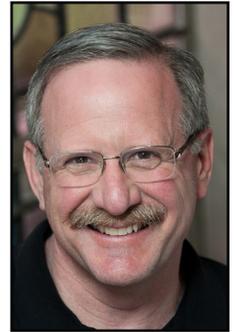
Pastor's Corner

by Dr. John Judson

It has been said that the only constant in life is change. We can see that clearly here at First Church. Over the past several years we have watched as the main office became a lounge (with a video feed from the sanctuary), a meeting room became the new Welcome Center, the library was moved in order for the old library to become a classroom for the ever-expanding Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center, the hand bells moved into a renovated choir room and their old room became a place for our new adult AAIM program, we ended our weekly Wednesday night dinners and worship, we worked our final rummage sale (after one hundred eleven years) and the Presbyterian Women chose to formally end their organization. These and other changes have been difficult on many of you who have given your life to the work and witness of this church. It is difficult to see things we love, change.

Yet these changes offer opportunities for new life; for new ways of being the church. Our facilities are more welcoming and inviting. Our worship space is brighter (new lights) and more accessible (better speakers and hearing devices). Our Early Learning Center can touch more children and their families. And we can begin re-visioning how we do mission and build community. So, as we watch the trees leaf out and the days lengthen from Spring into Summer, I invite you to join with me as we enter this new and exciting phase of our life together; as we continually discover what it means to be Everybody's Church.

Blessings,
John



Thank you

- Nursery Volunteers**
- Worship Wonder Teachers**
- Worship Wonder Shepherds**
- CrossWalks Teachers**
- CrossWalks Shepherds**
- AAIM Volunteers**
- Youth Leaders/Advisors**
- Soul Perch Teachers**
- Confirmation Teachers**
- Covenant Partners**
- Adult Faith Formation Teachers**

Teachers!

We thanked our teachers and education volunteers in worship Sunday, May 7, as the children took flowers to all in the congregation who help with our educational ministry.

Mission

Five FPC Youth Receive Birmingham Youth In Service Award

This award is given to youth who have shown exceptional service in the Birmingham community. Five high school seniors from our church, Logan Scott, Grace Sleder, Robert Jevahirian, Wendy Wilkinson, and Gabby Kurschat received the award this year! Each of these students has given countless hours to this church. They have helped at VBC, as buddies in the AAIM program, served on leadership committees, sat on Session, gone on Mexico mission trips, helped in CrossWalks, and so much more. Without their time and leadership our programs would not have been as successful as they were. We hope they will continue to use their talents to serve God and their community.



Mission Work Day - April 29



Ruth Ellis Center has two kitchens and a conference room which were refurbished



The church was a busy place on Saturday, April 30, with members and friends of FPC gathered for bible study classes and church clean-up. But two groups met at the church with plans to take the love of Jesus Christ beyond our church property and out into the world. Sue Bay, Kwanho Lee, Frank Hibbard, and Stephanie and Bryce Gutowski went to Ruth Ellis Center to paint the kitchens of Ruth's House, a foster care home for LGBTQ youth. Mark Grobbel, Al Woodworth, Chris Brady, Christophe Gaillard, and Jason, Amy and Dean Morgan planted Little Free Libraries.

One of the libraries was planted right out in front of our church while several of our neighbors expressed joy and excitement about this addition to our property. Libraries were also planted in Pontiac at Care House, First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac,

and outside the Sprouts Grocery Store, which is part of the Micah 6 neighborhood project. The group also spent time organizing the books and reinforcing the doors for the libraries.

The team at Ruth Ellis Center got a tour of their new medical facility, which was funded in part by a grant from our Vision Campaign in the amount of \$35,000. While the residents of Ruth's House went on an outing, the team tackled the job of painting both of the home's kitchens. The effect was transformative.

Many thanks to all who came out to serve our neighbors in mission. These efforts show our community that Everybody's Church doesn't just apply to those who come here to worship with us on Sundays. It means EVERYBODY!



Mission

First Foundation's Grant to HOPE Center



Here is a quick survey for all First News readers: Raise your hand if you like to process paperwork! Although we can't really see you, our guess is that you didn't raise your hand. Next, imagine you must transmit 300 pages of documentation each month to an agency that provides crucial funding for you. In addition, imagine you must maintain records for more than 600 people each year and retain them for seven years. Wouldn't you want some modern technology to help you scan, transmit and store all that paperwork in the quickest way possible?

HOPE Hospitality & Warming Center of Pontiac recently came to FPC's Mission Outreach Ministries (MOM) with a request to purchase a new, commercial quality printer to replace the second-hand home printer it had been using. That, along with a request for a replacement refrigerator and an additional freezer, amounted to over \$5,000, more than the nonprofit could squeeze out if its operating budget. MOM reviewed the request and recommended that First Foundation approve it. Now, HOPE Center can put its efforts into providing shelter to homeless adults and recuperative care to those being discharged from a hospital with nowhere to go.

The typical stay at HOPE's shelter for homeless adults is between 75-90 days. During that time, HOPE's staff and volunteers help clients navigate through a myriad of agencies in order

to learn the skills and get the assistance they need to secure their own housing and employment. At HOPE's recuperative care facility, nurses give people the medical care they need before transferring them to the shelter.

HOPE Executive Director Elizabeth Kelly said, "HOPE is really a very happy place. Our clients are optimistic about changing their lives and they're treated with kindness and respect. Very few end up on the streets again. We are very grateful to FPC. I can tell the people there really live their faith."

FPC member Chris Brady is a regular volunteer at HOPE's recuperative care center. A retired nurse, she said, "I love being able to continue nursing this way. HOPE provides such wonderful services! I would encourage anyone who has an interest in volunteering to consider HOPE Center."



FPC member Chris Brady with client, Kim, at HOPE's Recuperative Care Center

First Foundation has awarded three grants to HOPE Center in three years. They have been typical of the 50 grants awarded to local nonprofits over the last five years, totaling approximately \$315,000.

In addition to local nonprofits, First Foundation awards grants for international missionary work. Closer to home, it also awards grants for

carefully selected programs and capital needs of FPC itself. From 2012 through 2016, First Foundation spent close to \$700,000 on programs and projects that further the work of Christ.

First Foundation grants are funded by the investment income generated by bequests from church members. Between its inception in the 1980s and the end of 2016, its assets grew to \$3.5 million. 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.



John and Betty Chanik

In March, 2017, First Foundation received an exceptionally large bequest, more than \$528,000, from the estate of Betty and John Chanik. Additionally, the Chaniks left FPC's Music Department a gift of more than \$100,000. Members since 1962, the Chaniks attended church regularly. Betty had a life-long love of music and belonged to the American Guild of Organists. Their gifts will leave a legacy exemplifying Christ's love in many ways, to many people, for generations to come.

Mission

May is National Foster Care Month



May is National Foster Care Month, a month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers,

mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections.

During National Foster Care Month, we renew our commitment to ensure a bright future for the more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care, and we celebrate all those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Won't you join us in connecting with others to support our 12,000 Michigan children and youth in the foster care system? Contact Parish Associate, Kate Thoresen at katethoresen@fpcbirmingham.org or 248.835.8151 to be part of our team that will provide on an as-needed basis some meals, hold a baby, offer childcare or supply a college student with essentials to succeed.

The History of Presbyterian Women and Rummage Sales

The history of Presbyterian Women is a very interesting one. There are no early written records available, so a past First Presbyterian historian joyfully resorted to hearsay.

Women were helpful to the church from the earliest times, when in 1834, seven men and two women organized "The Presbyterian Society of Bloomfield." The women organized into the "Women's Union." All that they raised was divided between missions and the needy near home, but rummage sales were not among those projects.

We have information that in 1906 the Birmingham Ladies held their first Rummage Sale on Saint Antoine Street in Detroit, but we also have a date for the first Rummage Sale as occurring in 1926. In 1926, the story goes that the Women's Union gathered rummage in Mrs. Guy Jensen's garage, priced merchandise and carried it down to Highland Park to an empty store behind Herb Wood's bank – but no one knows for sure.

In 1928 the rummage was again stored in Mrs. Jensen's garage. Women gathered and priced the rummage and then took the rummage to the

customers. This rummage sale netted \$125 and the women were very proud!

In 1949, the Women's Union changed its name to The Women's Association. In the beginning, Knox Auditorium was used for the whole Rummage Sale. Workers went home for lunch but years later, Dr. Harris' wife stood at the range in Knox Kitchen for long hours cooking hamburgers.

1988 was the year that the Presbyterian Women organization we know today came into being.

Rummage Sales have changed and grown throughout the years but the original mission has always remained the same. Friendships have been made throughout the years because of Presbyterian Women and their Rummage Sale. Over the years, we estimate that PW has raised \$2.2 million for mission! We look forward to the next exciting opportunities First Presbyterian has to offer for mission.

From PW to all of you at First Presbyterian, thank you for your time volunteering, attending mission gatherings, supplying and reading our Lenten Devotional, attending awesome Bible Studies and so much more.

**Thank You for Supporting
Our Last Rummage Sale!
Your generosity resulted in**

**Gross sales: \$22,176
Labor & Costs: \$11,686
Net: \$10,490**



Inclusion

AAIM Bingo Night Fun for All

I-75 was more than a major highway at our annual AAIM Bingo night! More than 50 people came to play Bingo—several cards at a time—assisted by our AAIM committee and starring our entertaining Bingo callers, Mark Grobbel and Christophe Gaillard. Children, youth and adults played. It was an evening of laughter, snacks, prizes and a good time at Everybody’s Church.



Rejoicing Spirits Celebrated Its First Baptism

Our Rejoicing Spirits Community celebrated its first ever baptism while Pastor Joanne Blair and Parish Associate, Ted Thode, who is Casey O’Connor’s Confirmation covenant partner, both participated in the



baptism. In March we added a choir to the service, and those who arrive early and want to participate practice a song they lead during the service. A regular part of each service is the singing of the Lord’s Prayer, and Claudine Gaillard



and Matt often assist in leading it. We are blessed to have a community of people who share in the leadership of our services, enjoy worshipping together and sharing a meal following



Diversity Champion



Mark Grobbel was chosen this year as FPC’s Diversity Champion for The Community House of Birmingham’s Race Relations and Diversity Task Force Diversity Champion Honor Roll. Mark was honored, along with other Diversity Champions, at a breakfast at The Community House on May 4. While Mark was quick to give credit to FPC’s motto of being “Everybody’s Church” and our deep commitment to inclusion, Mark’s contributions in chairing Mission and Outreach Ministries and spearheading our South Oakland Shelter week each year show his personal commitment to diversity and inclusion of all people. Our community is blessed by his hard work, good humor, and wide embrace. We congratulate him on this honor.

the service. We continue once a month through the summer with worship on June 25, July 23 and August 27.



Community

Where Do Contributions Go?

FPC is going paperless with its quarterly contribution statements! **If we have your email on file, you should have received your 3/31/2017 Contribution record via email.** If you didn't receive it, or if you received a paper statement and would like to receive email instead, please contact Martha Smith at 248-644-2040 x148 or marthasmith@fpcbirmingham.org. FPC will continue to mail paper statements at year-end.

Where do your contributions go?

- **Deacon's Fund** is used to supply basics (like food, gas, temporary housing/housing costs) to needy individuals in our local community.
- **General Fund** is used to support the church's staff, programs, worship & music, building and operational costs.
- **Vision Fund** is used for specific improvements to our building, like finishing the roof repairs and remodeling Calvin Hall.
- **Concert Series Fund** is used to enhance the cultural arts in our church by bringing local, national and international performers to FPC.
- **First Foundation** is invested, and the income from that investment is granted as benevolences to local and international charities and to theological, interfaith and diversity oriented causes.
- **Legacy Building Fund** is invested, and the income from that investment provides ongoing support for maintenance/improvements to our building and property.

You can also contribute specifically to any of FPC's ministries/programs, like the Alcott Friday Food, Foster Family Partnership, Mexico Mission Trips. Contributions can be made online—visit the Giving tab on our website.

12:01 Start Takes a Break for the Summer



Something really special is happening at 12:01! Our community is diverse and welcoming and committed. We try new things and aren't afraid to fail. We're an adventurous kind of crowd. Since our first 12:01 Start gathering on October 9, we have been blessed to build community, ask tough questions, pray for our world and each other, worship and work together. But we also know that there is more to explore and all things have their seasons. And the season of summer brings out of town adventures and other commitments for a lot of us. Our schedules change and we have to adjust to a different pace.

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We want to make room for everyone to fully embrace this season without the guilt of "missing church" or the awkwardness of being 1 of 3 people to show up to worship. As much as our community has grown in its reach, we haven't reach that "critical mass" of attendance numbers to make a comfortable transition into the summer months.

So we hope you'll understand our decision to go on a summer hiatus.

We hope those who have been attending 12:01 exclusively will consider attending one of the other wonderful worship experiences at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham while we're on this break. Once we have details settled for our re-launch in the fall, you'll be the first to know.

Everybody's Church Launching Affinity Groups

What's your passion? Are you a birdwatcher or mahjongg player? Looking for someone who likes stamp collecting or kayaking? The person in the pew behind you may just share your same interests. What could be better than doing something you love -- and getting to spend quality time with other members of our congregation?

Session has approved the Innovation Team's action plan to develop new affinity groups within the church to help us grow more connected in community. These are groups that church members lead and organize with the support and resources of the Adult Faith Formation ministry. Funding and mentors are



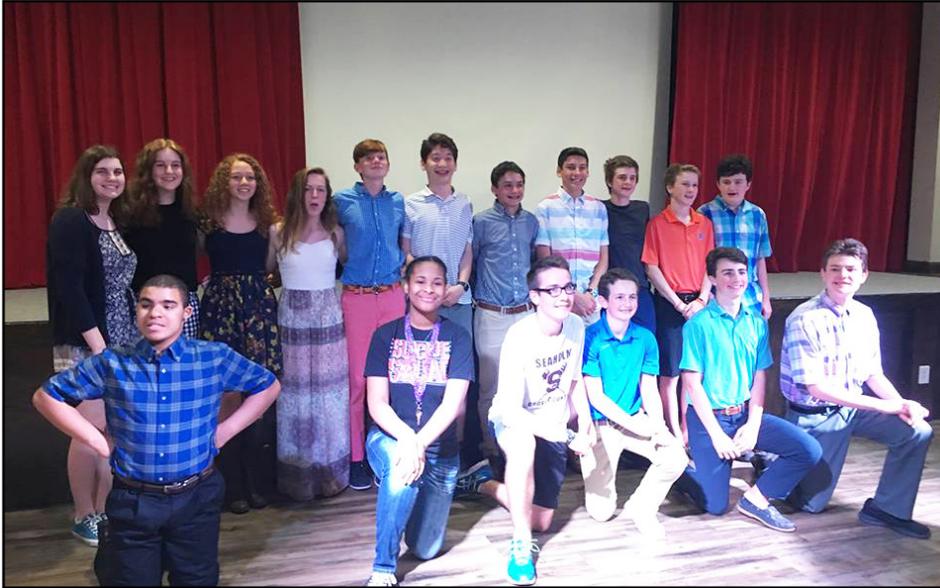
available to assist in getting your group up and going.

You may have noticed that First Presbyterian already has some groups established, such as Lunch and Learn, a knitting group and Senior Adventures. Now's your chance to add your Affinity Group.

Forms are waiting in the church Welcome Center. For information, contact Rev. Amy Morgan.

Community

2017 Confirmation



Left to right, top row: Jana Dinkeloo, Kate Gendrushke, Grace Schlafhauser, Emily McGlynn, Sam Griffiths, Eric Howell, Ross Sauter, Ethan Alexander, Samuel Leslie Tommy Kunz, Aidan Adams; front row: Nicholas Thompkins, Neveah Hogans, Colton DeVos, Drew Gutowsky, Bryce Gutowsky, Casey O'Connor

Our 17 Confirmation students and their Covenant Partners participated in a weekend retreat at Camp Skyline in early May. The class enjoyed games and outdoor fun together and also delved deep into what they've learned about their faith throughout this year. Each Confirmand spent time on the retreat writing a personal statement of faith. These statements were shared with the Session and will serve as a kind of time capsule for these Confirmands as they continue to grow in faith.

On May 21, Aidan Adams, Ethan

Alexander, Colton DeVos, Jana Dinkeloo, Kate Gendrushke, Sam Griffiths, Drew Gutowsky, Bryce Gutowsky, Neveah Hogans, Eric Howell, Tommy Kunz, Samuel Leslie, Emily McGlynn, Casey O'Connor, Ross Sauter, Grace Schlafhauser, and Nicholas Thompkins confirmed their baptismal covenant and were welcomed into adult membership in the church. Many thanks to all the parents and Covenant Partners who supported these young people on their Confirmation journey this year.



Community

Holy Week in Review



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!



June 15

Ken Thompkins is the principal trombonist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He will talk about his evolution as a musician, life in the DSO as part of a world class symphony for 20 years and the role of the trombone. He will play a few short selections.

Community

Gardening Angels

The Gardening Angels recently got their hands dirty on their annual spring clean up day! The gardens were weeded, mulched, trees were trimmed and fallen branches along with tree trunks were cut up and made ready for the city of Birmingham to pick up. Various areas were also swept and the Serenity Garden was cleaned and tidied up. Keith Kleckner worked on trimming the hedges to perfection!

The Oakland County WWAM (Weekend & Weekday Alternative

for Misdemeanants) group also participated in our spring clean up day. They were VERY helpful, courteous and friendly and stated that they loved working with FPC!

The church provided a yummy pizza lunch which all the workers enjoyed!

The next task for the Gardening Angels to tackle will be planting the annuals which will continue to bring us lots of color!

Thank you Gardening Angels, our church looks amazing!

Storytelling is a Powerful Community-Builder at Everybody's Church



One of the most powerful and effective ways to build community is through telling our stories. Jesus recognized this and he told many truths about the Kingdom of God through stories. In March, Everybody's Church brought one of Jesus' stories together with several of our own in an all-church event called "Under the Story Tree." Participants enjoyed a catered dinner, and then spent time sharing stories with a new acquaintance. We learned a lot about each other and we saw how our stories connected to Jesus' story about a mustard seed and the Kingdom of God.

To keep the story-telling going, Session voted in April to encourage all groups in the church to set aside a brief time (no more than 5 minutes) at each gathering to invite one person to



share a story. Rev. Susan Beaumont has created a wonderful guide to story-telling with engaging prompts and great tips for telling and hearing our stories. You can pick one up from the Welcome Center to use in any church gathering or in other groups you participate with.

Through telling our stories, we hope to connect more deeply in community as Everybody's Church, fulfilling our mission to "cultivate Mission, Inclusion, and Community."



Family News

In Sympathy:

- ✠ Ernie Bergan, husband of Doris, November 11, 2014
- ✠ Mary Lou Cooper, mother of Bonnie Douglas, April 7, 2017
- ✠ Margaret (Peg) Balow Robinson, mother of Brian Balow, April 11, 2017
- ✠ Christopher John Pendy, nephew of Joel and Charlene Grandelius, April 16, 2017
- ✠ George W. Moore, III, father of George W. Moore IV, April 18, 2017
- ✠ Dewan Dean Forester, father of Dave Forester, May 2, 2017

Marriages:

- ✠ Jacquie Manatrey and Brett Hilgendorf, April 1, 2017
- ✠ Jennifer Zimmer and Kyle Quigley, April 22, 2017

Births:

- ✠ Robert Colman, April 22, 2017, son of Christine and David Colman, grandparents Emily and Paul Tobias
- ✠ Flynn Hawthorne Rossborough, May 3, 2017, son of Allyson and Aaron Rossborough, grandparents Martha and Jim Blenman

Baptisms:

- ❖ Karen Janice Dotson, March 26, 2017
- ❖ Mariella Claire Pasquali, daughter of Ryan and Chelsea Pasquali, April 23, 2017
- ❖ Casey Noding O'Connor, son of Jodi Noding and Brian O'Connor, April 23, 2017

Community

Spring at the Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

So much fun was had at Skyline on our annual Hand-in-Hand spring field trip on May 9 and 10! The pictures tell the whole story of how our three and four-year-old preschoolers with their special adult enjoyed the decent weather, hay ride, farm animals, planting, camouflage programs and each other. Shana and Matt Henry did a great job with curriculum planning and instructions while making sure that it was all packaged in fun activities.



Another annual tradition happened recently when the ducks returned to our church courtyard to have their ducklings. Once the ducklings are old enough the mother duck quacks and knocks on the door to be let out of the building. Usually this happens during our Hand-in-Hand hours so the children can experience the ducklings

walking through the Hand-in-Hand main hallway but this year our mother duck decided it was time to leave on the weekend.



The Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center's 2016-17 school year will be ending on Friday, June 2. We will miss four very special teachers who will be leaving us at the end of this school year. Leslie Butler will be retiring after 31 years, Marcia Mayer will be retiring after 24 years, Kelley Milkey has been with us for five years and this year her family moved too far north



to commute. We so appreciated her continuing to teach through the end of the school year and Katie DuRoss who will be pursuing a teaching career in the public school system after five years with us. We will miss each one of these teachers and have so appreciated the gifts they have brought to Hand-in-Hand and the young lives they have touched. They will never be forgotten and we wish them all the best. We look forward to the 2017-18 school year and are almost full. Thank you all for your support of the program.



Concerts at First Presents Birmingham Bach Festival

Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, 2017

Purchase tickets on the website for each performance or a Festival Ticket for all three performances!



There will be two full days celebrating the life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach! On Saturday, June 3 at 3:00pm, Joseph Gascho, professor of harpsichord and early music at the University of Michigan will feature a harpsichord. At 7:30pm, Noah Horn conducts Audivi and the Michigan Bach Collective in a period performance

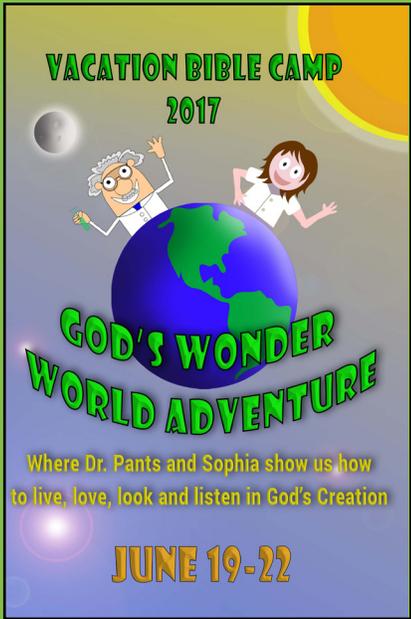
of Bach's B Minor Mass. Sunday, June 4 at 10:00am enjoy the music of Bach throughout the Sunday morning worship service of First Presbyterian. At 3:00pm, James Kibbie, professor of organ at the University of Michigan will present an all Bach concert on the magnificent Nichols and Simpson organ of First Presbyterian.

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First News
June/July 2017

Join the Fun at Vacation Bible Camp and Volunteer!



**VACATION BIBLE CAMP
2017**

**GOD'S WONDER
WORLD ADVENTURE**

Where Dr. Pants and Sophia show us how
to live, love, look and listen in God's Creation

JUNE 19-22

You're Never Too Old for Vacation Bible Camp!
We need 70 adults and youth who want to share the gifts of
time and energy with our children
to make VBC successful.

Youth can earn service hours and help in all areas.
Contact Cindy Merten with questions
and to sign up.

All Volunteers Will Meet on Sunday, June 4 at 11am
VBC is Monday – Thursday, June 19 – 22, 9am–Noon