

First Presbyterian Church

Everybody's  Church

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

October/November 2016

Kick-Off Sunday, September 11



Our annual fall kick-off celebrated the beginning of a new program year as we gathered outdoors following our 10:00am worship service. Stan Evans was the lucky winner of the Oakland Hills lunch and golf raffle while the church family enjoyed good food, games led by the youth for the children, face painting, moon bounces, a

maze and a visit from our favorite mascot dog, Cooper. Steve Capp captured a few brief interviews on videotape to kick off our study of "We Make the Road by Walking." To view these check out our website page at <http://www.fpcbirningham.org/we-make-the-road-by-walking-video-reflections.html>.



First News

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

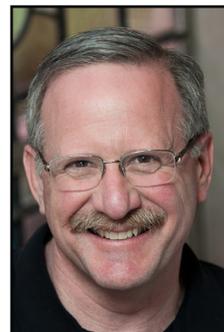
I can feel it all around me; in conversations, in the news and just in how people are interacting. I can feel the anxiety. And I believe that the anxiety is directly related to the upcoming presidential election. People are calling this the most important election in, and you take your pick, their lifetime, the history of our nation or perhaps the last hundred years. In some ways these might all be true. The candidates present us with a stark contrast in virtually every area of policy; from economics, to foreign relations to social welfare, to immigration. Each would choose vastly different candidates for the Supreme Court, who would set very different courses for our nation. In addition, these are the two most disliked candidates in recent history. Thus, many of us find ourselves constantly anxious regardless of our political affiliation.

It might behoove us then to listen again to the words of the Psalmist. "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish." (Psalm 146:3-4) The gift of the scriptures is that they take the

long view of life. They remind us that leaders come and go. Policies come and go. Political parties (remember the Pharisees and Sadducees, Whigs and Bull Moose?) come and go. What remains the same is God. The Psalmist continues, "Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;" (146:5-6) and "The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!" (146:10).

As we draw closer and closer to election day, and the anxiety machine goes into overdrive, I hope that we can listen again to the Psalmist, take the long view and trust that regardless of the outcome, that God will be with us, helping us to deal with whatever life (and politics) might bring.

Oh yes, and do not forget to vote. It is a gift many people in the world do not have.



Every Family Feed a Family



Share your Thanksgiving meal with a family in need by filling a basket of food. Please take a bag with the list of needed items and return your donations to the church by November 13. Our goal this year is 200 baskets to benefit families at Orchards Children's Services and Alcott Elementary School. If you would prefer to make a cash donation rather than shopping for the food, please make your check out to FPC and put "EFFF" in the memo line, and we'll do the shopping for you! One basket costs about \$60, a half one at \$30, or a quarter one at \$15. Monetary donations are due by November 6.

Mission

FPC Members' Trip to Kenya

This past August, eleven members of our church headed out from the Detroit airport to Nairobi, Kenya in order to partner with the Outreach Foundation and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) in order to complete a church and two classrooms at an existing school. The team consisted of David, Margaret, Chris and Alex Breeden, Mary Aho, Katie Blair, Jennifer Schlafhauser, Tracy Kaye, Carla Jordon, Bethany Peerbolte and John Judson.



The classroom project was located in the town of Olongai which was in Sultan Hamud, Maasai Land. The existing school consisted of two small, run down classrooms which were not large enough to house the student body. When we arrived, the foundation, superstructure and roof for two additional rooms were already completed. Our task was to put on the walls and paint the windows and superstructure. This took all of one day and a portion of the next. We



spent the night at the PCEA training center adjacent to the school property. The second day, we completed the classrooms and participated in their transfer to the local community.



The church project was in Tala, in Kamba Land. The Kamba are one of the many tribal groups within Kenya. Again, when we arrived, the foundation, superstructure and roof were already completed and our task was to finish the building. We were much more efficient this time and completed most of our work the first day we were there. We completed the work on the second day (Friday) and returned Saturday for the two-hour dedication service. The new church replaced an existing lean-to structure which was open to the elements. Tala is a high-growth area and the belief is that the church will grow rapidly as the population expands (a new major highway is being built through the community).

In addition to working on these projects we visited several Outreach Foundation projects. The Oloshoboro Primary School - Beloved Daughters Rescue Center in Maasai Land rescues girls from child marriage, female genital mutilation, poverty and abandonment. Our group paid to have them connected to the electric grid.

by Dr. John Judson

We also visited a boys rescue home where they take in children abandoned in Nairobi, and the Karai Orphanage and Vocational Center which takes in not only orphans but also offers the best vocational training in the country. These projects offered us a glimpse into the impact that the Outreach Foundation along with the PCEA are having in the lives of hundreds of children and teens in Kenya.

We were also able to worship in the Karen PCEA church twice, do some shopping and take a two-day safari.

You can read much more about the trip on our website under the heading SERVE – Kenya Mission Trip Story or you can come to our potluck presentation on October 16th.

We want to thank First Foundation, all of the members and friends of First Presbyterian who contributed to the Vision Campaign and those who contributed directly to the trip for making this mission possible. We are also grateful for the prayers that undergirded us while we were away.



Mission

Pontiac Back to School Rally

Hundreds of backpacks were given to students in the Pontiac school district on Saturday, August 6 at their annual Back to School Rally. With the help of FPC and Flagstar Bank, every student at Alcott Elementary received a new backpack and school supplies.

Volunteers from FPC help distribute backpacks at the Pontiac Back-to-School Rally



Thanks and Giving Mission Meals



**Wednesdays, November 2, 9,
16 at 6pm.**

We have so much to be thankful for. One way we can express our gratitude is through giving to others in need. This November, you can give and give thanks with your FPC friends and family.

Each Thanks and Giving event will include a meal (\$4 for kids/\$9 for adults) and a mission activity.

November 2 – Snack Pax for the Song and Spirit Institute

November 9 – Transitioning to Independence Kits for Aging-Out Fosters Youth

November 16 – Every Family Feed a Family Baskets

Backpack Packing for Pontiac

On July 20, FPC put together backpacks for Orchards Children's Services. FPC members brought 100 backpacks that were filled with supplies appropriate for elementary school children. The Meijer store in Madison Heights donated \$1,000 for the supplies for the backpacks. There was a delicious potluck dinner that accompanied the packing party.



Mission

First Foundation Funds Theological Education



*Bethany Peerbolte
Director of Youth Ministries*

“It’s an amazing blessing to have First Foundation. It supports the dreams of people and the calls that God puts on their hearts.”

So says Bethany Peerbolte, First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham’s Director of Youth Ministries since 2014. When she answered God’s call for her to go back to school in 2012 and earn her Master of Divinity degree, she worried about incurring more student debt and the need to get another part time job to help pay her bills. However, a grant from First Foundation is now taking care of her tuition, fees and books so she can devote herself to FPC’s youth ministry and graduate without the burden of excessive debt. She is on track to graduate from the Ecumenical Theological School (ETS) in Detroit in May, 2017, hopefully with the 4.0 grade average she now holds.

Bethany sees her role at Everybody’s Church in distinct ways. With middle school youth, she encourages faith by engaging them in Bible stories and helping them see the way those stories can shape their everyday life. She guides high school students to grow in character and become life-long church members.

A career in church ministry wasn’t on Bethany’s radar when she graduated from Michigan State University with a

degree in health studies. She was all set to begin a job in a prison setting, monitoring the health care prisoners received and making sure their medical needs were met. Just as she was about to begin, the position lost its funding and she could not be hired.

She had been working part time as a para-educator in the Huron Valley school system, supporting children with autism. Her mother saw a posting for Youth Director at the First Presbyterian Church in Milford and suggested this as a second part-time job for Bethany. Although she had no experience in that line of work she suddenly felt a strong need to do it. She applied, interviewed and was hired on the spot. While there, a female interim minister encouraged Bethany to go back to school and become an ordained minister, a path she had never before considered. She felt the calling to follow that path.

While at ETS, Bethany became acquainted with Terry Chaney, a fellow student and active member at FPC. He told her about an open position at the church for director of youth ministries and it turned out to be a wonderful fit for Everybody’s Church as well as for Bethany.

Bethany learned that one of First Foundation’s funding guidelines is to provide grants for theological school education. With the sponsorship of Staff Relations, she applied for such a grant and was awarded the money necessary to complete her degree.

“It’s such a relief to have enough money for my post-graduate expenses,” says Bethany. “I know God has something good in store for me and I’ll be active in the process of discovering what that may be.”

Golf Raffle



FPC received a golf outing package for four people with lunch from Oakland Hills in exchange for letting some of their employees park at the church during the U.S. Amateur Golf Tournament in August. We raffled the package and drew the winner during the Kick-Off celebration on September 11. Stan Evans won. The proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Shop ‘N Drop food program at Alcott Elementary School. This program sends home food for several families each weekend.



Elizabeth Gumbis draws the winning ticket



Stan and Sharon Evans

Mission and Inclusion

Faith Communities Coalition Update on Young Men and Women in Foster Care

There are so many ways we can make a positive impact in the life of a child or youth in foster care. John Crawford, award winning race car driver gave Justin Black some crucial driving lessons this summer. John used our back parking lot to teach Justin some of the same skills of maneuvering a vehicle as those he has taught race care drivers. This helped Justin achieve his goal of getting his driver's license before he left for Western Michigan University where he is now a John

Seita Scholar. Justin has been active with our Oakland County Youth in Foster Care organization and in our Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care. He is the recent recipient of Northminster's Judy Borchardt grant for outstanding students in foster care who are graduating from high school.



Rejoicing Spirits Is Back to Two Sundays a Month This Fall

Deborah Vanderlinde has been at the heart of our Rejoicing Spirits Community since we began in 2010 as she has led us in musical expression with shakers, tambourines, chimes and our voices. She will be leading her last service on Sunday, September 26 as she moves on to other things. We are grateful for her leadership and all she has taught us about making a joyful noise together!

Following each service we gather for a meal in Calvin Hall, and once a month Pam Smith has prepared that meal. Please join us in wishing Pam well as she now shifts her focus. Our meals will now be prepared by Souri Gaillard who is assisted by Amy Garza. Thank you to Pam and "welcome" to Souri and Amy!

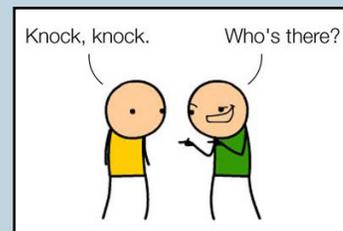
FPC Receives Outstanding Church Award

First Presbyterian Church received the Outstanding Church award from South Oakland Shelter (SOS) in September. Pictured is the team director of SOS and several members of our church who have generously donated their time to the week that this church hosts SOS every year.



Left to right: Kitty Stephenson, Pat Wirth, Diane Bert, Mark Grobbel, Director of SOS, Nancy Balog

Inclusion Event: Knock Knocks In Knox



"Laughter is Good for the Soul" October 14 from 6:30-8:00pm

Like a good joke? Love to laugh? Join us for dinner and laughs at our annual joyful event for persons of all ages and abilities as we share jokes, laughter and fellowship. Bring your own jokes or share those supplied at each table. No matter how happy you were when you came in, you will leave even happier! Plus, you don't have to cook that night! Cost \$5 per person. RSVP online or sign up in the hallway.

Community

FPC Youth Experience the Youth Triennium

Triennium is a five day Presbyterian conference for high school aged youth held at Purdue University every three years. Triennium is a five day celebration of God and God's work in the world. Youth are challenged to further their relationship with God through daily worship, mission related activities, and small group discussions

Throughout Triennium, youth are challenged to further their relationship with God in ways that may not be possible otherwise. The event facilitates a daily "small-group" meeting consisting of 10-15 Presbyterian youth from all across the world. The goal of these small groups is to create a safe space where youth are able to openly discuss their relationship with God and the church without fear of ridicule. These small groups are guided by an adult leader who aides in guiding the discussion and helps add in theology

relevant to what was discussed in worship that day. Youth also participate in a daily worship featuring a more contemporary style. Each worship was punctuated by a sermon delivered by a well known member of the Presbyterian Church.

One of the most inspiring aspects of Triennium is its ability to create long-lasting relationships between youth from many walks of life, as well as those within their church communities. Triennium offers ample opportunities for youth to become closer to those in their own church communities by providing a camp-like atmosphere. Youth from the same delegations spend a significant portion of their time at Triennium together, whether it be at mealtimes, or travelling across the university campus. Additionally, youth are given opportunities to form relationships with people that

live all across the country and world. Triennium provides small group scenarios where youth are able to bond.

Each worship service featured a different speaker that had a different take on the theme of "GO." We, as children of Christ, are called to combat injustice in the world and to GO fight for all those oppressed. At Triennium we were able to GO meet inspiring people and be inspired by their messages. One speaker in particular felt called to bring church to people experiencing homelessness in her area. She showed us pictures of her congregation and their chapel (a local laundrymat). Listening to her story brought up the question of what each of our individual calls are and that if we feel called by God to influence the world we should GO.

Fun Youth Activities Over the Summer

Olympic Lock-In

Each Summer our youth intern plans a youth event. This year Wendy Wilkinson chose to plan a lock-in for the students. Planning a lock-in is no small task and while it requires a ton of work, it also is sure to be a crowd pleaser. The lock-in was Olympic themed which was perfect because the event happened the week before the Olympics started. Each student was assigned a country when they arrived and given the task of creating a flag and costume to represent that country. They did a great job and some shining artists were revealed in the group. The night was spent running relays, playing games, and earning points to see which country (student) would win gold. In the end we were all winners!



Youth Beach Party

As the summer came to a close, youth ministries gave the beach one more chance to awe us. The families met for an evening of swimming, chatting, eating, and reminiscing about the summer. Thank you to the Jevahirian Family who hosted the event! It was the perfect way to celebrate God's blessings.

Tenney R. Brinkman Archives



Tenney Brinkman started organizing the archives when Rev. Morgan Roberts asked her to do it over 40 years ago. She did an outstanding job and FPC wanted to honor her for her service by re-naming the Archives, the Tenney R. Brinkman Archives. We wish Tenney well in her new life in Arizona.

Community

We Make the Road by Walking - FAQs



Why would our church study a book for a whole year?

At certain times in the life of any church, it is meaningful to unite our community around a common theme so that we can grow in faith together. In discussing the same set of material for a whole year, we hope to draw deeper into relationship with God and one another. We hope to have discussions (including disagreements) about theology and faith, conversations that go beyond the surface-level small talk of weekend plans, sports, and family activities. Like any behavior, this type of interaction takes practice. We get a whole year to learn to be open and vulnerable, to speak the truth in love, and to challenge our patterns of thinking and believing within the richness of loving relationships.

Why this book?

Author Brian McLaren has been one of the leading voices in 21st century American Christianity. He has written numerous books that challenge status quo beliefs about what the Christian faith stands for and what its attitude should be toward public life. We believe members of Everybody's Church will find this book to be both enlightening and challenging, and we hope it will generate fruitful conversations whether you agree or disagree with the ideas presented throughout the book.

Why are we organizing small groups around this study?

Face-to-face conversation in the context of covenantal relationships is the best way to encourage the kinds of discussion that will be transformative through the course of this study. Meeting regularly with the same group of people, learning to listen well, and challenging one another's ideas will foster meaningful spiritual growth for those involved in small groups. Groups can meet with whatever schedule and regularity is manageable for the participants. While it would be ideal to have groups meet for the entirety of the study, groups can start and end at any time throughout the year. Contact Amy Morgan if you are interested in joining or leading a small group.

Is there a discussion group I can drop-in on?

Every Sunday at 11:15am, Dr. John Judson is leading a discussion in the Fireside Room.

Where can I get a book?

Copies of the book can be purchased in Calvin Hall for \$10. E-books are also available for purchase through Amazon.com.

Family News

Births:

- ✿ Amelia, Aly and John Rodemoyer, August 13, triplets born to Amy and Mark Rodemoyer, grandparents Jody and Dennis Harrington
- ✿ Josephine Freya Thoresen, August 22, daughter of Amy and Tom Thoresen, Jr., grandparents Rev. Kate and Tom Thoresen
- ✿ Delany Stewart Brewe, August 25, daughter of Molly and Ian Brewe, grandparents Frank and Margaret Sheckell
- ✿ Jason James Merten, September 1, son of Kristen and Mark Merten, grandparents Cindy and Forrest Merten, great-grandfather Jim Greene
- ✿ Dylan Michael Wind, September 3, son of Anne and Michael Wind, grandparents David and Nancy Wind, great-grandmother Liz Wind
- ✿ Madelyn Grace Conrad, September 20, daughter of Kristen and Rev. Jonathon Conrad, grandparents Jim and Nan King

Family News

Baptisms:

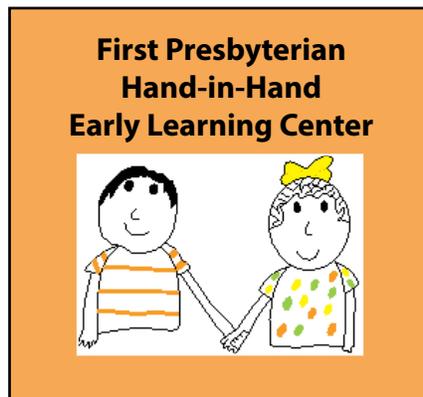
- ❖ Niccolo David Urciuoli, August 7, son of Erin Fisher and Patrizio Urciuoli
- ❖ Jacob Roger Bozell, April 19, son of Adrienne Young and Jeffrey Bozell
- ❖ Edison Archer Reghi, September 25, son of Kuressa and Edward Reghi

In Sympathy:

- ✝ Richard Lee Schneider, August 3, father of Kari Schneider
- ✝ Roger T. Struck, August 9, husband of Sally Struck
- ✝ Wendell Smith, Jr., August 22, father of Wendell Smith, III (Martha)
- ✝ Nina M. Stewart, September 15, mother of Lyn Martens (Doug)
- ✝ Betty Irene Currin, September 22, mother of Glenn Currin (Gail)
- ✝ Katherine Hunting Dillingham, September 23, mother of Nancy Quigley (Peter)
- ✝ James E. Munson, September 27, husband of Janet Munson

Community

Hand-in-Hand



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.

We are thrilled to have started our 2016-17 Hand-in-Hand school year. Our staff consists of 22 part time teachers and one full time director. Our licensed program offers developmentally appropriate programs for children from 4 months through 5 years of age. We also offer extended day classes, exercise, yoga and art classes. Our year started September 12 and will run through June 2. We also offer a mini summer camp the two weeks following our school year.

This year we are proud to welcome three new teachers. At this time there are a total of 155 children blessing our church and the Hand-in-Hand classrooms.

Most of the classrooms are full but there are a few openings in select age groups. Please contact the director, Heidi Wilkinson, to inquire about availability or to set up a tour by emailing her at handinhand@everybodyschurch.org or calling 248.644.2040 ext. 124.



Community

University of Michigan Men's Glee Club Comes to FPC



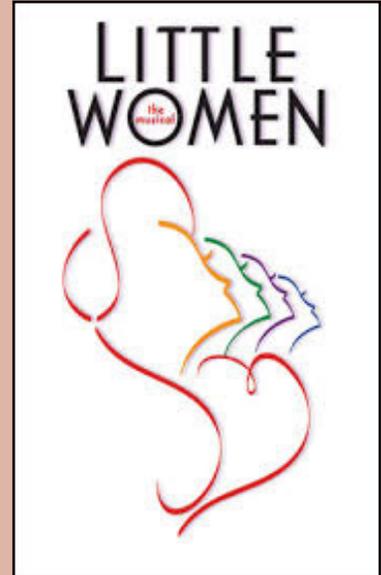
On Friday, October 21, at 7:30 pm the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club will present a concert in our sanctuary. This will be the first concert as part of our "Concerts at First" concert series. It will also be the only off-campus concert performed by the Glee Club this semester. Founded in 1859, The University of Michigan Men's Glee Club is one of the oldest collegiate choruses in the United States and the oldest continually-run

student organization on the Michigan campus. Long acclaimed as one of the finest male choruses in the world, the Glee Club has achieved this stature by sustaining and respecting the traditions which have been established during its 155 year history. Tickets can be purchased in Calvin Hall following worship, online through the church website or by contacting Andrew Herbruck.

Advent By Candlelight on Thursday, December 1

Ladies, please join us for a wonderful evening of preparation for the coming holiday season. Advent By Candlelight will be held on Thursday, December 1, starting with refreshments at 6:00pm, the service will begin at 6:30pm followed by time to view the beautiful tables and then ladies will sit down for a delicious dessert provided by the hostesses. Please sign up to either host a table or come as a guest on October 23 or 30 before and after services in Calvin

Hall. Contact Kathleen Sleder for more information at 248.851.1302.



Kick off this year's holiday season with FTG's musical production of Little Women. Based on Louisa May Alcott's American classic, this Civil War story of love and family stands the test of time. Under the direction of Dan Chichester & Sue Kohns and featuring talent from the FPC choir, youth, and the greater community, the March family comes to life on the Knox Auditorium stage and promises laughter, tears, and lifting of the spirit!

General seating tickets are available on the website or at the door on the night of each performance.

\$9 from October 2-23

\$10 beginning October 24

Show dates:

November 11, 12, 18, 19 at 7pm

November 13, 20 at 3pm

Running time is 2 hours and 30 minutes, including a 15 minute intermission.



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First News
October/November
2016

Introducing 12:01 Start
Where Worship aligns with your worldview.
Engage. Evolve. Elevate.



STARTING OCTOBER 9TH IN THE KNOX AUDITORIUM



**12:01
START**