

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN *First Things* BIRMINGHAM

Sunday, March 7, 2010 • Third Sunday in Lent

.....

Lenten Learning for the Whole Family

Join us... 5-6pm

Today!

Movies and popcorn in the Red Sea Cinema for the kids. Classes are for youth and adults.

Make a dinner reservation, to join us for a light supper of soup and salad, in the Main Office or send an email to reservations@fpcbirmingham.org. *Please make your reservations by Thursday at noon.* Cost is \$7/ adult; \$4/child under 12; \$24 /family.

Please contact Cindy Merten, ext. 145, to arrange child care.

Classes offered:

Genetic Engineering & Faith

What restrictions might Christian faith place on genetic engineering? How might we expect God to respond to human manipulation of the human genome? Led by Dr. Ernest Krug.

What's a Presbyterian?

Come find out where we came from, what we believe and where we're going. Led by Dr. John Judson.

Lenten Prayer Wall

As we journey through Lent, you are invited to add your prayers to the prayer wall located in the narthex. Those written on green paper will be added to the Prayers of the People on Sundays during Lent. If you wish that your prayer remain private, please use the ivory paper.

CrossWalks and Youth today

Grade K-Grade 5 Knox Auditorium
 Grade 6-8 Youth Rm
 Grades 9-12 The Cave
 Celebration Station for children with special needs 101

CrossWalk Children will return to their families for communion today.

Infant-Walkers: Crib Room
2 year olds: Room 102
Worship Wonder
3 year olds: Room 218
4 year olds: Room 217

Jonah

The children in CrossWalks will visit with Jonah in the belly of the big fish down in Knox before returning for communion.

Events at FPC Today

8:30am WorshipChapel
 9:00 Confirmation Class Youth Rm
 10:00 WorshipSanctuary
 11:15 Acts Class: Dr. Judson Fireside
 5:00pm Genetics Engineering 141/142
 5:00 What's a Presbyterian? Fireside
 6:00 Dinner/ Adult Ed Classes Calvin
 6:00 FOCUS..... Youth Rm

Reaching...

The Kingdom of Israel sat on the edge of a knife. Solomon “the Wise” had built his wealth and fame on the backs of the people. His oppression was not only in violation of the Law of God; it was not a long term practical political strategy. The people of the north had spent too many generations as tribal units to allow any king to dominate them for an extended period of time. They were restless even before Solomon’s death and a variety of opponents had arisen (I Kings 11). With Solomon’s death, however, the opportunity arose to solidify Israel as a nation and not merely as a loose tribal confederation held together by intimidation and power. Whether or not this would happen was up to Solomon’s son and heir Rehoboam.

Rehoboam began his reign with promise. He went to Shechem in order to be crowned king. Gathered at Shechem were the leaders of the Northern tribes. They were ready for change...for a king who would treat all people fairly and disband the hated forced labor which Solomon had created. They told the king-to-be that if he would release them from this service they would serve him willingly. Rehoboam was not sure what to do. Therefore, he consulted his advisors. First he began by seeking the advice of

the older more mature members of Solomon’s household. Their counsel was to agree to the dismantling of the forced labor system. Rehoboam did not like their advice so he consulted his younger friends.

What we have to understand about Rehoboam’s younger friends is that they all grew up in the palace in positions of wealth and power. They were the privileged elite of the land. Their advice was different from that of the older men. They advised Rehoboam to threaten the Northern tribes with harsher work than Solomon had ever laid on them. After all, he was going to be king. Who would dare to confront the king? Rehoboam took their advice and said to the Northern tribes, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, I will chastise you with scorpions.” (I Kings 12:11)

Chances are the response Rehoboam thought he would get, was not what he received. The Northern tribes left prior to his being made king and publically stated that they were no longer under his authority. Ignoring such talk Rehoboam sent his forced labor czar to conscript more people. The Northern tribes killed the labor czar and came after the newly crowned king. Rehoboam barely escaped with

his life. (I Kings 12:18-20) The Northern tribes then crowned their own king, a man named Jeroboam, who had led an earlier revolt against Solomon. Thus, the nation was divided...forever. The Promise would be imperiled then by almost continual war between these two nations (Judah in the South and Israel in the North), as well as the fact that a divided nation was easier prey to outside kingdoms than a united one.

Jesus understood quite clearly that a house divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12:25...later quoted by Abraham Lincoln). Any organization, church or otherwise, needs to be united if it is to accomplish the tasks for which it was created. While unity should never be the primary value that trumps all others, it is a necessary ingredient to success. This does not mean we all have to agree on everything. The issue is being able to create an environment in which there is diversity within our unity. In other words, while we may not agree on everything, we are united in the essentials which define our life together (our Core Values). As we move forward in seeking our vision let’s be sure to leave room for a variety of voices and views so that we insure that the one voice we may really need to hear is not silenced but is given room to speak. □

On-going Events

All are welcome to join these groups.

- **Stay & Play (Monday)** 10am in Rm 102. Parent and young child play group. Contact: Kim McGlynn, ext. 138.
- **Shawl Ministry (Monday)** 10am in Fireside. Contact Judy Gillow, jagweque@comcast.net
- **Tuesday Early Morning Bible Study** 7am in Rm 141/142. *Current study: Luke*
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** 8:45am in Library. *Current study: Luke*
- **Evening Book Club (second Tuesday)** 7pm in Fireside. March 9: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.
- **Morning Readers' Circle (third Tuesday)** 10am in Fireside. March 16: *The Household Guide to Dying* by Debra Adelaide.
- **Esther Circle (third Tuesday)** 7pm in Fireside. *Refreshments, Bible study, fellowship.*
Leaders: Marcie Chaney, (248)435-2357, chaneyma@ameritech.net and
Laura Smith (248)646-2690, laurals@voyager.net
- **Fun, Fitness & Fellowship (Tuesday & Thursday)** 10am in Youth Rm (229).
- **Third Wednesday Circles meet after the Pastor-led Bible Study** 9:15am in Calvin Hall
 - Julia Circle** in Rm 141. Leaders: Colleen Fisher (248)435-4310, daveandcolfisher@hotmail.com and Lois Poston (248)646-9574, ieposton@juno.com
 - Mary Circle** in Calvin Alcove. Leaders: Barbara Buchanan (248)626-1468, Petbar@aol.com and Helen Williamson (248)644-5619, helenwilliamson40@yahoo.com
 - Ruth Circle** in East Library. Leader: Pat Lindroth (248)647-7147, patlindroth@gmail.com
- **Yoga (Wednesdays)** 4:45pm in Fireside. Suggested donation is \$10 per session.
- **Martha Circle (third Thursday)** Noon in Fireside. Bring a lunch, enjoy dessert, fellowship and Bible Study. **Leader:** Nancy Hawkins (248)646-7019

Prayers for...

- Nancy and William A. Roberts, sister and brother-in-law of David Overly. They are Officers (Cols.) in the Salvation Army, currently assigned to Western Kenya, doing missionary and administrative duties.
- Thomas Appledorn, grandson of Lois Appledorn, stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. This is his third deployment in Iraq. His address is: SSG Thomas Appledorn, C CO 2-14 IN JSS 799, CO S Hammer, APO AE 09308.
- Beth Carter, doing mission work in Venezuela.
- Joanne Blair, Kate Davidson and Heidi Geib, seminary students.

Please send prayer requests to: firstthings@fpcbirmingham.org.

Connecting...

Wednesday Connect Dinner

The menu for this week is:

Escalloped chicken & noodles,
fresh fruit and dessert. Cost is \$9/adult; \$4/
child under 12;
\$24 /family

Reservations required. Please sign up on the pew pads, in the Main Office or send an email to reservations@fpcbirmingham.org. *Please make your reservations by Tuesday at noon.*

Wednesday Connect

Weekly Wednesday Fellowship

Want to get connected? If so, then come join us for Wednesday Connect. You will be able to:

- Connect with our Christ in body through yoga classes from 4:45-5:30pm.
- Connect with our Christ in story through a video based study with Dr. Judson from 5-5:50pm.
- Connect with others over a catered dinner from 5:55-6:45pm.
- Connect with God through worship led by Dr. Krug from 7-7:30pm.

Adults, teens and children are all welcome for all or any of the evening. Dinners are catered by Quarton Catering.

Cookbook Alert!

Liz Wind tells us that the "Chocolate Eclair Dessert" recipe on page 156 of the 175th Anniversary Cookbook is not quite correct. It should read "3-3/4 cups milk". Please write this in your book for future information. Thank you.

Recycling made easy

Today!

The first Sunday of every month, styrofoam and other recyclables will be picked up following the 10am worship service. Hank will be by his car outside the Eagle entrance to collect your recycling (styrofoam, old phones, batteries, light weight electronics, etc.) Contact Hank Borchardt for details at (248)738-1607.

Worship Planning for Eastertide

Sun., March 14, following 10:00am worship, Rm 141/142

All are invited to attend this meeting to collaboratively plan with staff for the season following Easter Sunday. The process includes an overview of the scripture texts by John Judson, and then we move to specific areas of interest such as the selection of hymns, prayers and litanies, and the use of liturgical arts such as drama, movement, or visual arts. We begin immediately following worship and finish by 1:15. A simple lunch is provided.

Christ & Kermit: The Intersection of Faith & Environment

Sun., March 14, 21 & 28, 5pm, Rm 141/142

We are but one piece in this puzzle called "Creation". We know what this means ecologically, but what does it mean spiritually, and theologically? Led by Rev. Hank Borchardt and Seminary Student Joanne Blair.

Easter Lily Donations

Deadline: Wed., March 24

The purchase of lilies to grace our sanctuary for Easter Sunday is made possible by the generosity of those who donate to the Easter Flower Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please fill in an order form that is available in the church office. Please place the form, along with your check, in the box in the church office marked **Easter Flower Fund**. Donations should be received no later than Wed., March 24.

Journey to Jerusalem

Wed., March 17, 6pm, Knox

Join your church family for this intergenerational and interactive evening of dinner, drama, and worship. Make your reservations early in the main office.

FPC Annual Easter Egg Hunt

*Sun., April 4, following 10:00am
worship, Knox Auditorium Lobby*

Please plan to attend this cherished children's event immediately following the 10:00am service on Easter Sunday. Bring your own Easter Basket and gather in the lobby of Knox Auditorium.

An Evening with Kay Huberty

Thur., March 18, 7-8:30pm, Baldwin Library in Birmingham

Join the Junior League of Birmingham (JLB) for an evening of education and encouragement, as well-known speaker, author and certified nutritional consultant Kay Huberty will be speaking on childhood nutritional topics ranging from obesity to natural options for special needs and overall nutritional health and well-being for your family. Post-lecture, the floor will be open for questions from the audience. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amy Zimmer, JLB Education and Training chair, at amyzim@aol.com.

FPC Church Directory Update

Corrections due by March 29

The FPC church directory that is published for use by the congregation each year provides essential information on names and addresses of those who worship here. Cathedral Directories provides the handy books for our use, but we must provide the information in the directory to them. This is a huge challenge with so many individuals changing their contact information. Telephone and cell phone numbers and email addresses are constantly in flux.

You can help with this project, and it is a very simple process. A master list is in the church office. Please review the information about you and your family and make any corrections so that what is provided to Cathedral is accurate. You may also email your changes to Jan Peters at janpeters@fpcbirningham.org. Questions? Please contact Jan, ext. 121 or Ellen, ext 137.

Open Auditions for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

*Sun., March 14, 2-5pm &
Mon., March 15, 7-9pm*

For more information email Kathleen Sleder, sledermom@aol.com or Mary Fry, maryafry@aol.com

Serving...

Hear About A Place of Refuge

Tues., March 16, 7pm, Rm 141/142

Sponsored by The Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care. Rhonda Barley, Director of our presbytery sponsored Place of Refuge will share some of her experiences about what it is like to start with a passion and a dream to do something for youth aging out of the foster care system. For more information please contact the Rev. Kate Thoresen, thoresen@aol.com.

Vitamins for Mexico

Deadline: Sun., March 21

Our medical mission team is traveling to the Yucatan Peninsula March 22 and we are hoping to take as many bottles of vitamins as possible with us. Good nutrition is a huge problem, so please consider donating "daily multiple vitamins" for either adults or children (not the gummy variety). You may drop them off in the Main Office by March 21 in the marked basket or in Cindy Merten's office.

SOS Thanks Local Restaurants

FPC would like to thank the restaurants and other places who are donating food for SOS this week. They are: **Papa Romanos, Max and Ermas, Salvatore Scallopini, Peabodys, 220 Merrill, Village Coney** (Adams Square), and **Quarton Catering**.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sat. & Sun., March 27, 28, & April 3 & 4

"Do you love me?" ... "Feed my sheep."

FPC Birmingham will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday weekend and Easter weekend. About one third of the offering goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to help with disasters such as hurricanes (Katrina) and earthquakes (Haiti and now Chile) among others. Please give generously.

Knitting & Praying: Rainbow Scarves for PCUSA

A basket is located in the Main Office to collect rainbow scarves knitted for the General Assembly to take place in June. Questions? Please contact Judy Gillow, jagweque@comcast.net.

Fort Street PC Open Door: Clothing Donations Needed

The Fort Street PC Open Door, Detroit, a clothing and social services provider, is in constant need of men's work clothing. Please place donations in the bin outside Room 141/142 (near the FPC South entrance).

Greeters are Needed

Please consider signing up to be a greeter for one of our Sunday services. You can be the friendly face that welcomes everyone as they enter the church. It is a small time commitment and an opportunity to meet others in the church. Please contact Terry Chaney at chaneyt@wowway.com.

FPC Weekly Calendar

Monday, March 8

10:00am	Stay & Play	102
10:00	Shawl Ministry	Fireside
7:00pm	Health & Inclusion Comm	141/142
7:00	Staff Relations	144
7:00	Property Care Meeting	Fireside
8:30	AA Monday Nite Group	215/217/218
8:30	Al-anon	216

Tuesday, March 9

7:00am	Bible Study	141/142
9:00	Bible Study	Library
10:00	Fun Fitness & Fellowship	Youth Rm
7:00pm	Evangelism Committee	Calvin
7:00	Evening Reader's Circle	Fireside
7:00	FPC Ringers	New Song Studio
7:30	Emotions Anon	Library

Wednesday, March 10

4:30pm	Carol Choir	New Song Studio
4:45	Yoga Class	Fireside
5:00	Characters of the N.T.	Red Sea Cinema
5:00	Chapel Choir	New Song Studio
5:45	Wednesday Connect	Knox
7:00	Worship	Chapel
7:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Rm

Thursday, March 11

9:30am	Covenant	Fireside
10:00	Fun Fitness & Fellowship	Youth Rm
10:00	Women's AA Group	141/142
11:30	CMO Staff Meeting	Calvin

Saturday, March 13

8:00am	MI Federation of Music - All	Calvin
5:00pm	Worship	Sanctuary

Sunday, March 14

8:30am	Worship	Chapel
10:00	Worship	Sanctuary
11:15	Worship Planning	141/142
11:15	Acts Class: Dr. Judson	Fireside
11:15	New Connection Class	Library
11:15	Music Committee	137
11:15	Mexico Trip Meeting	Youth Rm
2:00pm	Narnia Rehearsal	Knox
5:00	Faith & Environment Class	141/142
5:00	What's a Presbyterian?	Fireside
6:00	Dinner	Calvin
6:00	FOCUS	Youth Rm

Sessions Highlights Available

If you'd like to know what actions Session took at its last meeting, look for Session Highlights, a monthly summary available in the Main Office and on our website.

Notary Public Service Available

FPC members are welcome to bring their documents to Jan Peters, certified Notary Public, Monday through Thursday.

Green is for Guests

On Sundays, there are parking spaces marked in green paint for guests who are visiting our church. (It is open parking during the week.)

Can we help?

See an usher for large-print bulletins, and hymnals. There are rocking chairs in the lobby for restless infants, and child care is offered at each service.

Can't Hear?

Do you have trouble hearing what is said in our worship services? If so, Rejoice and Renew has purchased four hearing assistance devices that may be helpful in eliminating that problem. They are available from one of the ushers who will ask that you sign one out and assist you in its use.

Thank you...

Thank you so very much for all of your cards, meals, and help at home following my fall and surgery. I honestly do not know how I would have coped without all of your loving care. I have learned a great deal about how much help is needed after surgery, and have been so touched by the kindness of all at FPC.

- Diana Sharer

Welcoming...

Directory

All Church Members.....	Ministers
Rev. John Judson, DMin.....	Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Amy Morgan, MDiv.....	Associate Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries
Cindy Merten, CACE.....	Director of Christian Education
Dr. Bradley Bloom, DMA.....	Interim Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Ernest F. Krug III, MDiv, MD**.....	Parish Associate
Christine Gannon, MDiv**.....	Pastoral Associate

*** Non-stipendiary position*

Weekly Worship

Sundays at 8:30am (with Communion) Sundays at 10am (with church school)

Child care is available

Saturdays at 5pm Worship Service (casual attire)

Wednesdays at 7pm Evening Worship

Contact us

First Presbyterian Church
1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, Michigan, 48009
(248)644-2040

Email: contact@fpcbirmingham.org

Website: <http://www.fpcbirmingham.org>

Email address for reservations for church events: reservations@fpcbirmingham.org

Office hours

Monday-Thursday..... 9am-5pm

Friday..... 9am-1pm

Church doors are locked at 1pm on Fridays

Publications

To receive our **Weekly Email Update**, send an email to firstthings@fpcbirmingham.org.

First Things articles should be emailed to firstthings@fpcbirmingham.org by Monday at noon.

First News newsletter notices should be sent to firstnews@fpcbirmingham.org the first Monday of the preceding month.

Web updates should be turned in to the Main Office or emailed to Polly Schlafhauser at schlaf@comcast.net.

Mission statement

As we respond to God in Christ, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to be a community of faith that celebrates its heritage, lives the will of God, and reaches out in Christ's love through ministries of worship, education, service, and nurture.

Inclusion policy statement

We of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, Michigan, strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive congregation. We welcome the participation of all people regardless of race, ethnic origin, worldly condition, or any other circumstance not related to the profession of faith.