

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN *First Things* BIRMINGHAM

Sunday, September 5, 2010 • Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Blood Pressure

Today!

First Sunday of the Month, Calvin Hall

Blood pressures will be taken between services.

CrossWalks and Youth Today

**Children & Youth remain with their families
in worship today.**

Infant-Walkers: Crib Room

2 year olds: Room 102

Worship Wonder

3 year olds: Room 218

4 year olds: Room 217

Loose Change Offering

Today!

The first Sunday of every month you are invited to contribute your loose change to the offering plate. This loose change goes to the Deacons to help support their efforts to meet the immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter in our greater community. If you miss this offering you can collect your change at home and bring it to church when you can. Those quarters (and dollars) really add up to help those in need!

Events at FPC Today

8:30am	Worship	Chapel
9:00	Blood Pressure Screening	Calvin
10:00	Worship: Family	Sanctuary

Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care

Tuesday, September 14, 7pm, Knox

Hear Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan, a Presbyterian and passionate advocate for foster children, describe this current crisis and ways our churches can make positive impacts to relieve the suffering of some 4000 children in southeast Michigan. Sponsored by the Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care, a rapidly expanding volunteer organization that brings social service agencies and congregations together for foster family partnerships. For more information contact Kate Thoresen, coordinator, at 248.643.8373.

Back to Church Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, Sept. 12, following 10am worship, Knox & Calvin Hall

Youth Ministries will host a pancake breakfast to help welcome everyone back to church and raise funds for youth mission work. Bring your friends and grab a table. Breakfast will be served in Knox for those who are easily able to get there. If you'd prefer to eat in Calvin Hall, we'll serve you there as well. Please plan to donate \$5 per person / \$25 max per family. If you'd like to help serve the breakfast, please contact Cathy Mueller. Sign up on the church website under "Events" heading.

Reaching...

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The Apostle Paul had a problem. There were people who had come to the churches in Galatia (modern day Turkey) and were telling them that they had to become Jewish in order to be integrated into the community of God's people. To the people of Galatia and to the Jewish Christians from Jerusalem who were proclaiming such a message it made sense. After all the Jews had been God's chosen people for more than a thousand years. This distinction as the chosen people came with a lot of cultural and theological luggage. Included in this luggage was the Torah (the Law of God given to Moses in the first five books of the Bible) and the additional laws drawn from the Torah. It was these laws that gave shape and form to Judaism and thus, as logic would have it, to all people who wanted to follow God's Jewish messiah.

So what was the problem? The problem was that Paul believed that Jesus Christ was creating a new community not based on rules (The Law) but based on faith. In other words Jesus had come to create an inclusive community based on a relationship with the risen Lord and not a closed community based on observing a set of regulations given to God's people generations before. Even though Jesus had said that he had not come to do away with the Law, but to fulfill the Law, Paul understood that fulfillment to be the creation of this new kind of multi-cultural, multi-lingual, world-wide community. While the Torah had functioned well for God's people... giving them life guidance and direction...it was no longer needed because of what Christ had accomplished in his death and resurrection (see Galatians 3:19-25).

The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, along with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost opened a new chapter (in Paul's view) of God's relationship with humanity. As

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Paul put it in his letter to the Galatian churches, "In Christ we are all children of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-29). In other words Jesus had created a new community in which all of the barriers that had always divided people (nationality/ethnicity, social standing, sexuality) were now broken down. They did not matter because all were one in Jesus Christ.

The gift of this new community was that it allowed the church (the bearer of the Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ) to spread far and wide. People who were outsiders as well as insiders could find a place within the church community. Women found a place not only of refuge but empowerment. Slaves came to understand that they were as loved by God as were their masters. The message of inclusion was a breath of fresh air in the rigid social world of the Roman Empire. Unfortunately the church quickly lost this sense of radical inclusion and slowly rebuilt a social structure as rigid as one in the Empire in which it was born.

Our calling as First Presbyterian Church is to reclaim this calling to be a radically inclusive community. We are called to open our doors, arms and hearts to all who enter. We are to be the community in which faith in and a desire to follow Jesus of Nazareth are all that matter. The color of our skin, our sexual orientation, our marital status, our social standing or any other worldly condition are to be of no concern in our community...for we are all one in Christ Jesus. To live as an inclusive community is to honor all that Christ has done and all that Paul desires of us.

Growing...

Prayers for...

- Andrew and Margarita Berg who have accepted the position of Intercultural Encounter Facilitator for CEDEPCA in Guatemala. The position will begin in January 2011.
- Nancy and William (Bill) A. Roberts, sister and brother in law of David Overly. They are Officers (Cols.) in the Salvation Army, currently assigned to Western Kenya. They have been informed that as of Nov. 1, 2010, Bill will become the National Commander for the Salvation Army in the United States and Nancy will become the National Secretary of Women's Ministries in the U.S. Please pray for them during this time of transition.
- GOOD NEWS! Thomas Appledorn, grandson of Lois Appledorn, returned to his base in the United States on August 1 after having served three deployments in Iraq. Lois thanks all of you for your continued support and prayers for his welfare.
- Beth Carter, doing mission work in Venezuela.

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

Shawls for All

Shawl Ministry would like everyone to know that Prayer Shawls are available. If you know someone who would be warmed in love by one of these shawls, please see Jan Peters or Cindy Merten.

Ongoing Events

All are welcome to join these groups.

- **Stay & Play** Parent and young child play group. Contact: Kim McGlynn, ext. 138. Starting soon.
- **Shawl Ministry.** Call Sarah Krug for meeting dates/ time. 248.435.6588
- **Tuesday Early Morning Bible Study** 7am in Rm 141/142. Current study: *Luke*. Newcomers are always welcome.
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** 8:30am in the Library. Current study: *Luke*.
- **Evening Book Club (second Tuesday)** 7pm in Fireside.
- **Morning Readers' Circle (third Tuesday)** 10am in Fireside. 9/21: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson
- **Fun, Fitness & Fellowship (Tuesday & Thursday)** 10am in Youth Rm (229)

Help Us Care for Each Other

If you know of someone who's ill, in the hospital, or in need of prayer and pastoral care, please let the church office know. We value being able to visit with and pray for members of our congregation, but we don't know unless someone informs us. Contact Jan Peters with pastoral care concerns, and call Barbara Buchanan or Pat Lindroth with prayer requests for the prayer chain.

Connecting...

Choir Opportunities...Join in the Fun!

Chancel Choir- (College-Adult) Wednesdays 7:30-9:30pm. Sing every Sunday at 10am. Starts September 8.

Gospel Choir- Saturdays at 4:15pm. Sing Saturday service once a month.

FPC Ringers- (College-Adult)Tuesdays 7-9pm. Handbells play once a month. Started Aug. 24.

Youth Choir- (6-12 grades) Sundays 3-3:45pm. Starts September 26.

Music Electives- (6-12 grades) Sundays 3:45-4:30pm. Choose from World Percussion (drumming), Praise Band or Handbells. Youth can choose to rotate through all the electives each semester or stick with one elective. Starts September 26.

Chapel & Carol Choir- (K-5 grades) Wednesdays Carol Choir/ 4:30-5pm & Chapel Choir/ 5-6pm. Starts September 8.

Music Makers- (3 & 4 year-olds) Wednesdays 4:30-5pm. Starts September 8.

Brass Choir- TBA

Questions? Please contact Kevin Calloway, ext. 136, kevincalloway@fpcbirmingham.org or Ellen, ext. 137, ellenshuster@fpcbirmingham.org.

Project Day

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 9:30am, Calvin

This is the time of year when we finish gathering our quota for PW Ingathering. We still have projects available for sewers and knitters. There is a lot of packing to do of the items we have made and bought this past year. Come and be a part of this mission. We also will be planning special projects for the coming year. For information contact Louise Kutscher loujkuts@hotmail.com or 248.601.3190.

Lunch & Learn Returns

Thurs., Sept. 9, 11:30am, Calvin

September 9 is the opening Lunch and Learn event for 2010--2011 featuring a program of gospel music, show tunes and Italian operatic arias by our own Kevin Calloway. Mark your calendars for the second Thursday of each month for Lunch and Learn. Bring your own lunch. Dessert will be provided. Call or sign up in the church office for reservations.

Chili Cook-Off Kick Off

Sunday, Sept. 19, 5pm, Knox

Bring your friends, your family, your chili, and your appetite to the 2nd Annual Youth Ministries Chili Cook-Off Kick-Off! Chili recipes will go head-to-head under the distinguished palates of our discerning judges as competitors vie for the coveted Golden Spoon. We'll have games and good times. We'll worship and welcome new friends. We'll get the year off to a great start!

MVOS: One Cool, "Cool" Night

Fri., Sept. 24, 7:30pm, Sanctuary

The 2010-11 *Many Voices...One Song* Ovarations! concert series is pleased to open its season with the "**Jazz without Borders**" program featuring the absolutely phenomenal Oakland University jazz quartet. It's free, and the program promises to be extraordinary. You don't want to miss this event!!

Connecting...

The Open Door Fundraiser

Sat., Sept. 25, 6-9pm, Park West Gallery

The Open Door is hosting their third annual fund-raiser at the Park West Gallery, 29469 Northwestern Highway in Southfield. There will be food, beverages and live music in a lovely setting. There will also be a silent auction and raffle. All proceeds will benefit The Open Door.

Ticket prices are \$60 per person or \$100 per couple. Tickets are available by check, cash or credit card by calling Fort Street Church at 313.961.4533 prior to the event or by check or cash at the door.

FPC Sanctuary Post Cards on Sale

In the Main Office

Postcards will be on sale in the main office during the week. Send them to your friends, to former members who haven't visited us recently, committee members, volunteers and to your young people who grew up in this church but now live far away. There are endless uses! Priced 3 for \$1.00. Proceeds go to the Rejoice and Renew fund.

Styrofoam Recycling: Volunteers Needed

Styrofoam recycling at FPC is such a success that weekly visits to the recycling center have become necessary. Julie Wagner, Jane VanDragt and Kirk Nagley have volunteered to make a trip a week. We need one or two more people to cover weeks when no one is available. I will take you on your first trip, show you how easy it is to do it, and cut you loose on a planned schedule. Contact Hank at 248.738.1607 or jborcht@sbcglobal.net.

PW Opportunity Giving

Sun., Oct. 10, Grant applications due

Presbyterian Women of our church are now preparing for distribution of our annual Opportunity Giving grants. Anyone may submit a request for funds for a project or program of particular interest. 2010 Guidelines and Request Forms are available in the main church office and may be found linked to: <http://pw.fpcbirthingam.org/opportunity-giving>. The PW Finance Committee must receive the properly completed form in the main office by Sunday, October 10, 2010. Questions? Contact Lois at 248.646-9574.

Greetings from Kermit

We just bought a new water heater and learned some things we are passing on to you. The gas or electric company which services your house may offer a rebate. Check with them to see if they have certain installers who must do the installation work before they will give you the rebate. The list of eligible measures includes propane or oil furnaces, natural gas furnaces, propane water heaters, natural gas water heaters and solar water heaters. Rebate amounts vary from \$300 for water heaters, to \$650 for qualifying furnaces, and to 25% of the system cost up to \$2,500 for solar water heaters. All equipment must meet certain minimum energy-efficiency requirements which are specified on the program web site. In general, equipment must be Energy Star rated in order to qualify for a rebate. Visit www.michiganenergyoptions.org/programs/mi-appliance-rebate or call 1-888-MICHNRG (1-888-642-4674).

-Kermit

Serving...

CROP Hunger Walk

Sun., Oct. 3, 1:30pm

A COMMUNITY WALK TO COMBAT HUNGER
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

What is a Crop Hunger Walk? It is neighbors working together to take a stand against hunger in the world. It is also a way to build community working together on this common goal with ten other local churches. Sign up to walk and if you won't be available to walk, please consider sponsoring a church member or one of our staff. A sign up table will be located outside of Calvin Hall throughout September.

Walk 1.5 miles, 3 miles, or five miles. Everyone is invited. We will even have rocking chairs for people who can't walk but want to participate. The walks all begin at 1:30pm and will start at the First United Methodist Church, next door, and end here at FPC.

If you have any questions please contact Tom Kirchhofer at 248.549.1448 or Tom Thoresen 248.643.8373.

Blood Drive

Mon., Sept. 13, 2-8pm, Calvin Hall

Hey everyone! There's another Blood Drive at FPC Birmingham. You must be at least 17 years of age to donate.

By registering you will be given a free Cedar Point ticket! Free childcare is provided so bring your kids. Please contact Katherine Nagley or Clara Jones if you are interested.

Don't forget to spread the word to other people who are eligible!

Mexico Mission Trip Information Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 16, 7pm, Youth Rm

Join Yucatan Peninsula Missions in transforming community through building a school, teaching local children about Jesus, and sharing God's love with our Mexican neighbors. Registration brochures are located around the church. **Registration due October 4!**

Inclusion Ministries Volunteers Needed

*Meeting/ Training: Sunday, Sept. 19,
following 10am worship, Celebration
Station*

As we gear up for the 2010-2011 school year in September, we will have a Celebration Station meeting/training on Sunday, Sept. 19, following the 10am worship service. All who are interested, even if it is just to see what we're all about, please join us for coffee and treats as we review the program, children and strategies that we use.

Questions? Please contact Bridget Donohoe at 248.842.9145 or Kathleen Downing at 248.816.0996.

Orchards Donations for College Student

Looking for donations for a college student that has been through the Orchards system. He is taking responsibility for himself and is making his way, but could still use a little help. Please contact Pam Smith at 248.632.2355 or kwsunseeker@aol.com for details on what he needs.

FPC Weekly Calendar

Save the Date: Advent by Candlelight

Thurs., December 2, 2010

If you would like to help with this event; if you would like to be a table hostesses or would like to attend this event, please contact Kathleen Sleder at 248.851.1302 or sledermom@aol.com. Hostess sign up/ guest sign up will be on October 3, 10, and 17th.

Monday, September 6

8:30pm AA Monday Nite Group 215/217/218
8:30 Al-anon.....216

Tuesday, September 7

7:00am Bible Study Group..... 141/142
8:30 Bible Study Group.....Library
9:30 Rummage Sale Meeting.....Library
10:00 Fun Fitness & Fellowship .. Youth Rm
6:00pm Health & Inclusion Mailing.. 141/142
7:00 Adult Ed220
7:00 Worship Committee..... Calvin
7:00 Youth Ministries Comm.... Youth Rm
7:30 Emotions Anon.....Library

Wednesday, September 8

9:15am Nursery School 104/105/108
9:30 Project Day Calvin
7:30pm Chancel Choir..... Choir Rm

Thursday, September 9

9:15am Nursery School 104/105/108
9:30 Covenant.....Library
10:00 Fun Fitness & Fellowship .. Youth Rm
12:00pm Lunch & Learn Calvin

Saturday, September 11

5:00pm Saturday ServiceSanctuary

Sunday, September 12

8:30am WorshipChapel
10:00 Worship:Teacher Appreciation.....
.....Sanctuary
11:00 Pancake Breakfast.....Knox
11:15 Revelations Class: Dr. Judson Fireside
5:00pm Including People with DisabilitiesClass
.....Fireside

Welcome Back to the Library!

We have new carpeting and a fresh coat of paint (the walls are no longer pink!). Come visit and browse our collection, which includes sermon CDs and books on a broad array of topics. Don't forget to check out our selection of periodicals. We subscribe to several, including *The Christian Century*, *Presbyterians Today*, and *Weavings*. While we continue to catalog the collection, please refer to our shelf signage to guide your search. We hope to see you back in the library soon!

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.)

Stay in the Loop

We are happy to mail copies of First Things to anyone who needs a copy. Names and addresses should be given to Jan Peters.

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.

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
Kevin Calloway, BA.....	Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Ernest F. Krug III, MDiv, MD**	Parish Associate
Rev. Hank Borchardt, DMin**	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

Saturday & Wednesday Worship Services start September 11 and 15:

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: www.fpcbirmingham.org

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

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday..... 8:30am-4:30pm

Fridays..... 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.