

First Presbyterian Church

Everybody's  Church

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

First Quarter 2020

First News

Workshops: Staying Safe Online

Technology is changing the way we interact with others. Every year there is a new social media platform and advancement in communication options. As hackers get smarter, viruses get stronger, and scams become harder to spot, we are left feeling like we have drifted out to sea without the knowledge to navigate to safety. For younger generations, being able to spot online predators and knowing when to take a break from screens is tremendously important. We are right to be wary of the online world.

And yet, the good that the internet has done for us is undeniable. It keeps us connected across huge distances. It allows us to see family and friends with whom we otherwise would lose touch. Social media allows communities to rally behind groups, like the Detroit Youth Choir, to bless them in ways no grassroots effort has been able to do to date. Humanity is connected globally, advancing our understanding of others to new levels of compassion and justice.

Whether you love technology and want to jump feet first into the ocean of possibilities, or are cautious of accepting new advancements, these workshops will help you feel safer online. Erin Bailey of The Social Family will be teaching five workshops designed for parents, 4th-6th grade students, 7th-12th grade students, teachers, and adults. Read through the descriptions below and find the ones best suited for you, your family, and your friends. Registration is open now.

Sunday, March 15

**Parents Noon-2:30 pm (with a lunch)
\$20 per person (child care provided)**

Parents will learn to prevent and address challenges like screen addiction, inappropriate texting, predators and cyberbullies, while focusing on the positives of social media and games. Parents will learn how to have productive conversations with their children when they disagree on what social media accounts and technology are appropriate.

**4th-6th Grade 3:30-4:30 pm (with snack)
FREE**

This is the age predators target online. Students will learn how to use the positives of social media, while also being able to quickly identify predators and bullies to keep themselves safe and quickly get help.

**7th-12th Grade 5:30-7:00 pm (with dessert)
FREE**

These youth are already experts at using social media and the trending technology. Their knowledge can do a lot of good in the world if they learn how to channel their efforts. This workshop will highlight how to use social media to advance a social issue they care about. They will also discuss strategies for dealing with sexting, online bullying, and screen addiction.

Monday, March 16

**Teachers 4:30-5:30 pm (with snacks)
FREE (child care provided)**

Teachers will receive online safety lessons they can use in their classrooms. Public

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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

5pm Worship
Rejoicing Spirits
(casual dress)
2nd and 4th Sundays
September - March,
once a month April-August.
A simple meal
follows every service.

Program Staff

John Judson
Senior Pastor

Bethany Peerbolte
Associate Pastor for Youth
and Mission

Cindy Merten
Director of Christian
Education & All Abilities
Inclusion Ministries

Andrew Herbruck
Director of Music Ministries

Julie Madden
Ted Thode
Kate Thoresen
Parish Associates

Pastor's Corner

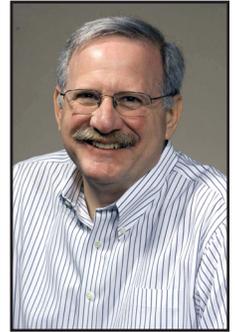
by Dr. John Judson

Normally in my newsletter articles I focus on something happening here at First Church. In this article I want to direct your attention to the Presbytery of Detroit. For those of you who are new to the Presbyterian world, a presbytery is all the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. congregations in a specific geographical area. The Presbytery of Detroit covers most of the Detroit metro area and much of southeast Michigan. The presbytery assists congregations with finding pastors, resolving pastoral issues, mission support (it is through the presbytery we put in wells in Kenya, as an example), youth activity connections, overseeing persons training for ministry, and helping congregations re-vision what it means to be a church in the 2020s. As with churches, the presbytery has both paid and volunteer leadership. This year will be a significant transition time in the life of the presbytery because the long-term paid leaders, the Rev. Dr. Al Timm, Executive Presbyter, and the Rev. Dr. Ed Koster, Stated Clerk, have both retired. The presbytery has already elected a new Stated Clerk along with a new Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer (both volunteer positions). The search for a Transitional Interim Presbyter is just getting underway, and I am one of the three people leading that process.

This moment in the life of the presbytery is one that is both anxiety creating and exciting at the same time. On the one hand, it is anxiety creating because while we know that the old models and structures that have been used for the past 20-30 years no longer meet the needs of the churches within the presbytery's bounds, we have no idea what our future should look like. Our way ahead is not clear. On the other hand, it is exciting for the same reason. It is exciting because it means we can be open to God's hand guiding us into a new and amazing future that we could not have previously imagined for ourselves. Our way ahead is open. Why am I telling you all of this? I am sharing this with you so that you can pray for the three of us who are leading this search process. We covet your prayers because the person we need to select should be a person of vision, compassion, openness and faithfulness. We need a person who is able to heal old wounds and generate new ideas; capable of leading the entire presbytery in discerning God's future for us;. In other words, we need an exceptional leader. I believe this person is out there and that your prayers will help us find them.

If you would like to know more about any of this - the presbytery, the search or my role - feel free to ask. I would love to tell you more.

John



Mission

Staying Safe Online Workshops, Continued

school teachers and Sunday school teachers will learn about best policies for posting, issues their students face, and more. Please invite all teachers you know.

Monday, March 16
Online Safety for Everybody
6:30-7:30 pm (with a dinner)
\$20 per person (child care provided)
 Seniors are most effected by identity

theft, scams, robo calls and online depression. While this workshop is designed for seniors, everybody can use the information to keep us safe today and in the future.

Please come and learn how to keep safe on the internet. Please contact Pastor Bethany with any questions at bethany@everybodyschurch.org.



So, What is First Foundation, Anyway?



As a member or friend of Everybody's Church, you have many opportunities to express your faith through the act of generous giving. All these opportunities present a clear purpose and often go toward an urgent need. First Foundation is unique. By leaving a bequest in your estate plan, you will leave a legacy in your name which will live in perpetuity, expressing the values you've strived for throughout your life.

First Foundation was established in the mid-1980s as a vehicle for planned giving for FPC members. Since then, many members have left bequests in their wills that provided for a portion of their estate to be invested in professionally managed funds which would eventually benefit causes consistent with the mission of FPC but beyond the stretch of the church's annual budget. Over the years, those funds have grown to a balance of more than \$5 million. Even more impressive, the church, through First Foundation, has been able to give \$3.7 million to

local charities, overseas missions, and special programs or projects within the church itself, including tuition for seminary students. All grants are submitted by a ministry of the church, often the Outreach Ministry. The Session gives First Foundation blanket authority for awards up to \$7,500 and individually approves grants over that amount.

Last year, First Foundation awarded 15 grants totaling \$125,000. The money went to causes ranging from bunk beds for foster children in Michigan to the repair of a Presbyterian Church in Puerto Rico.

First Foundation members are appointed to a six-year term and are approved by Session. They may serve a maximum of two terms. Bruce Nyberg is the chair; committee members are Keith Butler, Cathy Gearig, Leslie Helwig, Shaheen Imani, Cindy Lanzen, Terry Palleschi, Donna Snider and Patrick White. Any of these people would be happy to answer questions if you would like to know more about how you can leave a gift. There are also brochures in the information displays in the church. Please consider leaving a gift that will continue giving for generations to come.

Baskets of Love Distributes Record Number of Baskets

This was our most successful year of Baskets of Love yet. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our church family, we were able to pack and deliver more baskets than ever before. We distributed 272 baskets to families struggling with food insecurity at Alcott Elementary and Orchards Family Services. None of this would be possible without the help of the amazing volunteers who pick up the food, organize it, pack it and deliver it.

For the first time we will be distributing Spring Break baskets to Alcott Elementary students in March 2020. Set-up will be March 21st and basket packing will be March 22nd after the 10:00am Worship Service. Contact Amy Garza or Heather Hansel if you would like to help with set up.



Inclusion and Community

Inclusive Communities Network Grows

One year ago we received a \$20,000 Faith in Action grant from the Detroit Presbytery to help families of children with disabilities come together to create housing options for their adult children. Together we have learned that nothing is too big to try. The thought of creating housing options can be overwhelming to individuals, but together the possibilities really are limitless. And by pooling our gifts, skills, and resources combined with committed hard work, miracles really do happen. Partnering with Angels' Place and the Center for Independent Futures in Chicago, we were able to provide funding for ten families to receive training both in Chicago and here in Birmingham to better equip them in this process.

In July the ten families along with Joanne Blair, Cindy Merten, and Cheryl Loveday (Angels' Place) traveled to Chicago for 2 ½ days of training, and in November leaders from the Center for Independent Futures traveled to Birmingham to provide two more days of training. This group has met every month since last spring working through a process to create their own Solutions for Adult Interdependent Living (SAIL).



Family News

In Sympathy:

- † Florence Jevahirian, mother of Mark Jevahirian (Mary), October 2, 2019
- † Peter Buley, father of Tom Buley, October 17, 2019
- † Arthur David Bert, husband of Diane Bert, October 18, 2019
- † William Borglin, brother-in-law of Kathy Nyberg (Bruce), November 24, 2019
- † Richard Mueller, husband of Lenore Mueller, November 27, 2019
- † Dr. Calvin Brown, Jr., brother of Carolyn Averill (Greg), December 1, 2019
- † Edward Szczerba, husband of Dru Szczerba, December 7, 2019
- † Thomas Zimmer, brother of David Zimmer (Donna), January 8, 2020
- † Annette Kiltie, mother of Susan Kiltie (Ken McFadden), January 11, 2020
- † Thomas Gorman, brother-in-law of Kathleen Sleder (Steve), January 18, 2020

FPC Welcomes New Members

FPC welcomed the following new members (left to right):
 Carol Dickinson - Letter of Transfer
 John Klehm - Letter of Transfer
 Pam Klehm - Letter of Transfer
 Adam Klehm - Letter of Transfer
 John Klehm Jr. - Letter of Transfer
 Jeanette Zwak - Reaffirmation of Faith

Welcome to Everybody's Church!



Family News

Births:

- ☞ Claire Tobias Colman, daughter of Christine and David Colman, granddaughter of Emily and Paul Tobias, October 7, 2019
- ☞ Nolan Russell Brinda, son of Laura and Nick Brinda, granddaughter of Barbara and Tom Russell, November 9, 2019

Baptisms:

- ❖ Ian Jamieson Hansel, son of Heather Hansel, November 24, 2019
- ❖ Marco Christopher Pasquali, son of Ryan and Chelsea Arble Pasquali, January 19, 2020

Community

Hand-in-Hand



Happy Birthday moment!



3 & 4 year old Christmas rehearsal

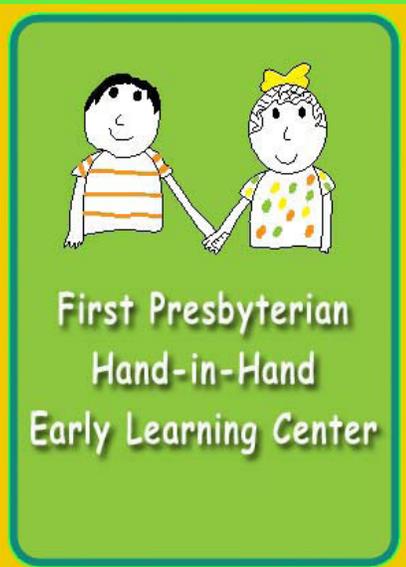
December was a busy month with our 3, 4 and 5-year-old Christmas concerts. We learned the story about the birth of Christ and our social skill of the month centered around giving. In keeping with that theme, the HIH families generously donated mittens and hats for the children who attend The Alcott Elementary school in Pontiac. Cindy Merten graciously visited the center and taught the story of Jesus Christ's birth.

We rang in the new decade in January 2020 with our parent/teacher conferences and free speech screenings

for our students who are three to six years of age. Our student's language, academic and social skills are showing such growth in the new year.

Monday, February 3 is the start of the 2020-21 registration for only currently enrolled families. Registration will open to the public on Monday, February 24.

Please contact Heidi Wilkinson, the director, if you are interested and/or would like a tour of the center. Contact Heidi by phone at 248.654.8544 or email, handinhand@everybodyschurch.org.



First Presbyterian
Hand-in-Hand
Early Learning Center

Register now for
Fall 2020

Contact Heidi Wilkinson,
Director, at handinhand@fpcbirmingham.org or
248.644.2040 x-124.



Dress rehearsal for 4 & 5 year old Christmas concert



Singing along with Frosty the Snowman

Community

Concerts at FPC Presents Thomas Ospital, Organist

**Thursday, March 26, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Free-will offering**



Titulaire of the grand organ at St. Eustache Church in Paris, and newly-appointed Organist in Residence at Maison de la Radio (Radio France Concert Hall), Thomas Ospital is a young artist who has quickly earned a place among the world's finest concert organists. He has won prizes at several international competitions including the Chartres Competition, the Xavier Darasse Competition, and the Saragossa and Angers competitions. Dedicated to the art of improvisation in all of its forms, he typically includes improvisations in his concerts.



In the Presence of the Holy Sunday, March 8, 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary

Based on an ancient service called compline, *In the Presence of the Holy* is a meditative 30-minute prayer service held in the candlelit sanctuary. No sermon, hymns, or announcements, just calming chant-like music sung by a choral ensemble. The only thing a person attending "does" is light a candle, and it is utterly captivating.

Senior Adventures Visit Meadowbrook Hall



Senior Adventures visited Meadowbrook Hall for the Holiday Walk when it was decorated for Christmas. They had an elegant three-course lunch in a private room and learned about the Christmas traditions of the Dodge Wilson family from a knowledgeable docent.



**JOIN THE
MILLIONS
WHO NEVER
Worry ABOUT
MONEY**

**Starting March 12, 2020
6:30 - 8:00PM
9 Week Course**

Cost is \$99 for an individual or a couple. Church can provide scholarships.

We'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future . . . together! Interested? Sign up at sign-up table or on our website.

**FINANCIAL
PEACE**
University

Community

Celebrating with Pastor Joanne Blair and Roger Blair



Joanne and Roger greeting parishioners.

Late in December we gathered in Knox Auditorium to celebrate the ministry of our own Rev. Joanne Blair as she retired from her position as Associate Pastor for Inclusion and Pastoral Care. We gave her our gifts of love and blessings for a wonderful retirement, presented her with a “Rejoicing Spirit” sculpture, and watched a video celebrating her gifts of ministry among us. We are grateful that while she is retiring, she and Roger will still be worshipping with us in the days to come.



“Rejoicing Spirits” sculpture

Milestones Class: Third Grade Bible Presentation



In October our third graders walked through the Bible by learning our Five-Part Story, a framework we use to teach the story of God and God’s people. They were then presented with their very own Bible in worship followed by a cake and punch reception in Calvin Hall.

Milestones Class: Touch the Water

In December, as a part of our Milestones program, our K-1st graders experienced Touch the Water, a hands-on exploration of baptism and its meaning. They learned about the everyday uses of water, discussed Bible stories about water, and the special use of water as we remembered our baptisms at the font.



Lunch and Learn 2020

Bring your lunch and eat from 11:30am – 12:00pm in Calvin Hall and then enjoy a fabulous program from 12:00 – 1:00pm. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Everyone is Welcome!

March 19, 2020

Greg Kowalski, Author

Greg Kowalski, author of books about Hamtramck and director of the Historical Museum, will tell about the history of the community especially featuring the time of Prohibition.

April 16, 2020

Jim and Py Wolfe

Join world travelers Jim and Py Wolfe on their adventure to the Chilean fjords and Cape Horn and their crossing of the dangerous Drake Passage to Antarctica. Visit research stations and view magnificent scenery. Their tales will enable us to travel to Antarctica vicariously.

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First News
First Quarter 2020



Lent 2020 Calendar of Events



February 26 - Ash
Wednesday Worship at
Noon and 7:00PM, Soup
Luncheon at Noon

February 27 - Mission
Dinner at 6:00PM

March 1 - *One Great Hour
of Sharing* Fish Banks are
distributed.

March 8 - In the Presence of the Holy, 7:15PM

March 15/16 - Workshops: Staying Safe Online

March 22 - Youth Sunday
Packing Baskets of Love for Alcott
Families for Spring Break

March 26 - Concerts at First: Thomas Ospital,
Organist, at 7:00PM

March 29 - Taste the Bread Class for 2nd Graders
eLOFT

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 5, 8:30AM & 10:00AM Worship
Palm Parade and collect *One Great Hour of Sharing*

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6:00 & 7:30PM Worship
with Communion at tables

Good Friday, April 10, 7:00PM Concerts at First:
Requiem by John Rutter presented by Chancel Choir

24-Hour Prayer Vigil, April 10-11, Noon to Noon

Easter Worship, April 12, 7:00AM, 8:30AM & 10:00AM