



Presbyterian *Tidings*

NOVEMBER 2015, VOLUME 63—ISSUE 11

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN

November Worship Schedule

During this interim period in the life of our church, we want to keep you informed of who will be preaching on Sunday mornings.

The worship schedule for November is:

- **November 1** The Rev. Jill VanderWal—*All Saints Day*
- **November 8** The Rev. Jill VanderWal
- **November 15** The Rev. Linda Rubingh (*see article on page 5*)
- **November 22** The Rev. Linda Male—*Christ the King Sunday and St. Andrews Sunday (wear your kilts and tartans!)*
- **November 29** The Rev. Linda Male—*Advent Begins*

Our sermon series on the Ten Commandments continues until the beginning of Advent, November 29.

New this year, we will be having a Wednesday evening Advent service in the chapel on December 2, 9 and 16 at 6:00 p.m. The service will be a quiet service of contemplation with scripture readings and music. It will be followed by a soup supper. On Sunday, December 20, we will be offering a special service of Light and Hope at 6:00 p.m.

Estate Planning Workshop

The Generosity Committee of First Presbyterian Church presents an Adult Education Opportunity:

ESTATE PLANNING 101: THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AN ESTATE PLAN

Sunday, November 22 & Sunday, December 6
10:00–11:00 a.m.

at First Presbyterian Church
presented by local attorney,
Todd Anthes from Scholten & Fant

*NO MATTER WHAT YOUR AGE,
BE PREPARED FOR LIFE'S CHANGES.*

no reservation needed

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 1** All-Saints Day
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov. 6** Feeding America Food Truck
- Nov. 7 & 8**
Hands to Serve Project Days
- Nov. 8** Neil Jacobs, 12-String Guitar
- Nov. 14** Fall Grounds Clean-Up
- Nov. 17** PW Candy Making Day
- Nov. 22** Angel Tree Sunday
Estate Planning 101 Part 1
Congregational Meeting
Youth Confirmation Meeting
- Nov. 27** Office Closed
- Nov. 29** Thank Offering
Deck the Halls and
Mac&Cheese/Chili Cook-off
- Dec. 1** #Giving Tuesday
- Dec. 2** Advent Service & Soup Supper
- Dec. 6** Estate Planning 101 Part 2
PW Bling, Baked Goods
& Craft Sale
- Dec. 9** Advent Service & Soup Supper
- Dec. 16** Advent Service & Soup Supper
- Dec. 17** Heritage Luncheon
- Dec. 20** Music Sunday
Service of Light and Hope

Prayer Concerns:

Chick Borta, Bob Eidson,
Irene Heinritz, Marilew Helmers,
Betty Joelson, Stewart and Margaret
Johnson, Helen LaVercombe,
Marie Pfeiffer and Cathleen Pranger

Our Sympathy:

to Florian Rohde and family on the
October 10th death of her husband,
Wesley Rohde.

Congratulations!

John and Cheryl Nametz on the birth
of their twin grandsons, Harrison
James and Merrick John, on October
5, 2015 in Cincinnati, OH. Proud
parents are Abby and Sabrina
Nametz.

to Ken and Bea Clark, who were
married 60 years ago on October 15
by Rev. Edward Tanis.

to Don and Shirley Swifney, who
celebrated their 60th wedding
anniversary on October 15.

Meet Rev. Linda Rubingh, Our Guest Pastor on November 15

The Worship Committee is pleased to host the Reverend Linda Rubingh as our guest pastor on Sunday, November 15.

Linda moved to Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1994 with her husband, Trevor, with a passion to work on behalf of underserved populations in a high-need urban area, particularly survivors of abuse. Originally from Bridgewater, NJ, Linda received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1991 and is ordained in the PC(USA). After seminary, she spent a number of years in NJ and Michigan as an associate pastor, as well as serving women seeking to leave a life of drug addiction and prostitution, and incarcerated women and their children.



As co-founder of New City Kids, she's spent the past twenty years working with children and teens, as well as raising her own two children, Michal and Zechariah. Linda received her MSW from Rutgers School of Social Work in 2011, with an addition certification in Violence Against Women and Children. In 2012, she founded the Brighter Day Program at New City, a trauma-focused play therapy and CBT program for children and teens who have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence and traumatic loss.

Be sure to attend worship on November 15 and give Rev. Rubingh a warm welcome!



to our new members!

Kathy and Mark McCloskey

Shirley Hipwell

Kim and Dave McDonough
children: Connor, MacKenzie,
and Reese

We're so glad you're here!



Every month, we publish upcoming birthdays of our members and friends who are no longer able to come to church regularly. We are sure that cards from their church family would be very welcome and appreciated!

Nov. 15 Joanne Nordin
Freedom Village
145 Columbia Ave., #132
Holland, MI 49423

Nov. 23 Jerry Lamb
Freedom Village
145 Columbia Ave., #254
Holland, MI 49423

Nov. 15 Evelyn Wood
1025 Taylor
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dec. 10 Evelyn Bailey
12596 Lakeshore Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Nov. 18 Dee Scholtz
1450 S. Ferry Street
Room J-4
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dec. 17 Les Ennenga
1410 S. Ferry Street
Room C-3
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Fall is always a busy time in the life of families—school begins, vacations end, and the rhythm of life changes. This is true of the church family also. We are in the full-speed-ahead mode of PW meetings, Growing in Faith classes, youth groups, choirs, Bible studies, and a relentless schedule of meetings. In all of this we celebrate the goodness of God in our lives, and we learn to live thankfully.

All of our standing committees have worked hard to plan for and accomplish their goals. Children's, Youth, and Adult Education have given us a full plate. Mission is busy

with Hands to Serve. Trustees are coordinating church grounds cleanup. Hospitality & Outreach and Worship Committees hardly get a breather. We all are working and praying together for the benefit of God's mission here.

Stewardship/Generosity Committee continues to encourage us to pledge our support for the 2016 budget planning process. I hope we have a high percentage of member pledges by the end of the year, so that session can plan for the future of our congregation. Pledge cards are available in the office. Let's continue to turn our gratitude into generosity!

With the Church Nominating Committee we are entering an exciting time during our pastoral transition. The presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) has given us a green light to form the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). What follows below is the plan the nominating committee has created for receiving nominations for the PNC. Thanks to Matt Olds, Elder chairperson; Brigette Kemink, Elder representative; Gale DeKleine, Deacon representative; Bryan Bosch, Mark Sanchez, Sally Kenrick, and Ruth Suchecki for their thoughtful work. Questions about this process may be directed to them.

Pastor Nominating Committee Nomination Procedure

First Presbyterian Church has received approval from the Committee on Ministry to form a Pastor Nominating Committee for the Pastor, Head of Staff. The FPC nominating committee will accept nominations through November 15th.

If you are interested in serving on the PNC, or know someone who is, please fill out the YELLOW nomination card, which can be found in the bulletin, the lounge, or the gathering area. Nominees must be active members in good standing. You can drop the card in the box in the church office.

If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please be sure to have his/her permission. We have a simple, one-page questionnaire for each nominee to complete to ensure we have a PNC that represents the breadth of our congregation. The church office will contact nominees and provide the questionnaire. Thank you, and we appreciate your prayers as we move through this process.

In Our Church

Report from Session

In last month's *Tidings*, Linda Male wrote about our next step in starting a search for a full time head of staff pastor. At its October meeting, session approved seeking the Committee on Ministry's (COM) approval to form a pastor nominating committee of nine members. This request is on COM's meeting agenda for consideration in late October. Once COM approves our request, the church nominating committee will work on developing a slate of members to present to the congregation to serve on this committee. I ask that you pray for the church nominating committee as they discern God's will in this important task.

Bill Bussell, Clerk of Session

2016 Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have already submitted their estimate of giving cards for the **Turning our Gratitude into Generosity** stewardship campaign for 2016! As of October 27, we have received 173 cards for a total of \$520,610.

The Stewardship Committee's goal is \$1 million in pledges and other contributions in 2016. All gifts make a difference, whether large or small— and will help First Presbyterian Church reach this goal and achieve a balanced budget next year. Please prayerfully consider making a financial commitment for 2016. Estimate of Giving cards are available in the church office, in pew racks, online at www.fpgh.org, or you may call in your estimate of giving to Kelli Jullie at 616-842-6760.

Let's turn our **Gratitude** for all we have into **Generosity** towards the church and all its ministries!

Sue VandenBosch, Stewardship Committee Chair

Feeding America Food Truck

With your gifts, the Mission Committee of FPC has sponsored a food truck for people in need in our community.

If you are able to come out for 1 1/2 hours on Friday morning, November 6, your help is needed distributing food and carrying it to vehicles. Meet us at the St. Pat's parking lot on the corner of US-31 & Fulton at 9:30 a.m.

It might be cold outside, but your heart will be warm!



Note: Grand Haven Public Schools do not have school on November 6 - make this a family volunteering event!

Thank You for Helping to End Hunger

The CROP Walk Committee extends a heartfelt thanks to the following people who donated and/or walked in this year's CROP Walk:

Becky Steinhauer	Jane Poort	Nita Pellegrom
Bill and Barb Fickes	June Swart	Phyllis Carpenter
Carole DeYoung	Karen Nienhouse	Ruth Daley
Christina Ramones	Kathy Disbrow	Scott and Julie Reenders
Dar Hollis	Katie Potter	Sue Bradford
Dorothy Miller	Kay McCrea	Sue Ochs
Jack Jansma	Keli Olson	Tom Hammond
Jackie Prause	Michelle Potter	

Team FPC raised \$616 to help put an end to hunger throughout the world. Of that amount, \$154 will stay local and go to Love INC, the People Center and the Salvation Army.

Angel Tree Sunday November 22

Be sure to stop by the tree in the lounge and pick up your "angel" requests! This year we have the names of 60 children from Prison Fellowship as well as 60 names from the local Salvation Army.

Gifts should be returned to the church anytime before December 15.

If you are going to be gone on Angel Tree Sunday you may call Anne at 842-9547 to have an "angel" saved for you.



...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
Matthew 25:40

PW Thank Offering November 29

Since 1988, Presbyterian women have joyfully expressed gratitude for God's blessings by sharing their blessings with those in need at home as well as around the world.

Our Thank Offering for these needy causes will be received on Sunday, November 29. As you make plans for Thanksgiving Day, the day when we stop to remember the many blessings we enjoy, please consider what your part should be in sharing those blessings with others, so that they can join us in being thankful.



Fall Clean-Up

Put on your work gloves, grab a rake and come out and help us clean up the church yard!

**Saturday Morning
November 14
9:00 a.m.**

coffee and bagels provided!

Journey to Bethlehem

On December 10, 11 & 12 area churches will offer a step back in time to the birth of Jesus! Visitors to Duncan's Woods will be brought on an outdoor, guided journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and will encounter shepherds, magi, townspeople, livestock and the most imposing Imperial Roman army. They will visit the inn, be turned away, and pointed in the direction of the stable, where the most precious gift of Christmas lay, the Christ child.

Note: Ticket sales are Friday, November 20 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church (527 Taylor, Grand Haven). *Tickets will not be sold at the door.* Questions?: Contact Terri Metzger at j2bterri@gmail.com. *Volunteers are still needed!*



Community Artist & Speaker Series

Sunday, November 8, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Neil Jacobs, 12-String Guitar



Neil Jacobs is truly a master of the acoustic 12-string guitar. Covering a full spectrum of styles and dynamics, touching on music as diverse and varied as Gypsy, World, Balkan Folk, Jazz, and Fingerstyle guitar, Jacobs maintains his own refreshing energetic style of playing. A self-taught musician, Neil draws inspiration from his world travels and experiences in extraordinarily colorful locales.

All of the Community Artist events are free and open to the public. For the full schedule of our 2015/16 artists and speakers, visit the Music Ministries page at www.fpgh.org

Dedicate a New Hymnal

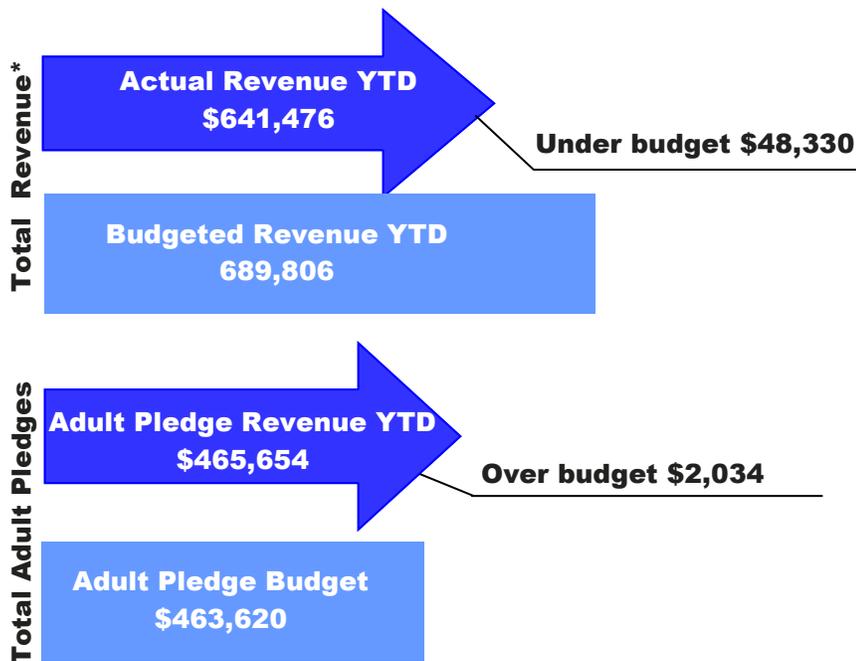
The Worship Committee is happy to announce that new Presbyterian hymnals, “Glory to God!” are being purchased for our sanctuary.

You, the congregation, have an opportunity to make a donation and dedicate a hymnal in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Donations may be made in any amount, and will help to cover the cost of the new hymnals.

On November 8, 15 and 22, a member of the Worship Committee will be available in the lounge after services to receive your hymnal dedications.

From Your Stewardship Committee

Financial Update as of September 30, 2015



*Total Revenue includes pledged, non-pledged, youth receipts, loose offering, per-capita, all miscellaneous revenue and transfers from designated funds

First Sunday Food Collection, November 1

Every month, the Mission Committee collects non-perishable food and household goods like shampoo, toilet paper and laundry detergent for local food pantries.

This month’s donations will go to the Holy Trinity Food Pantry.

Please bring items to church on or before Sunday, November 1.



Have You Tried “Fit Club” Yet?

Fit Club is a free, fun fitness class that happens every Wednesday evening from 7:00—8:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

All fitness levels are welcome at this class led by Tim Olson. All you need is water, a towel and a mat if you have one.

Come and check it out!

Thank you to all who support First Presbyterian Church.

Revenue is currently running behind budget. Please consider making a financial donation to support the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian.

Hands to Serve Weekend November 7 & 8

On the first full weekend in November, we will be joining together to use our “hands to serve”



members of our church family who need our help.

Projects will include yard work, window washing and putting away patio furniture. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Michelle Potter at potterm@shapecorp.com or 846-1023.

Deck the Halls Celebration! November 29

Join us on Sunday, November 29 for an all-church celebration to prepare First Presbyterian Church for Advent!

Members and friends of all ages are welcome to our “Deck the Halls” celebration, which will begin in the lounge at 4:00 p.m. We will decorate trees, hang Christmas greens, and make advent wreaths and crafts to take home. Following the decorating, we will gather for a chili, hot dog and macaroni and cheese supper.



Bring your families and friends to share in this event which will fill your soul with laughter and the spirit of the season!

B-I-N-G-O Prizes Needed

Do you have any old jewelry or stuffed animals you'd like to donate for bingo prizes?

Twice a month the deacons go to Sanctuary at the Shore for an evening of bingo with the residents. Especially popular prizes are candy bars, easy-to-put-on jewelry, and stuffed animals.

So take a look in your closets and drawers and if there is anything in there you would like to donate, please bring it into the church office. Thank you!



Deck the Halls Chili/Mac & Cheese Cook-Off!

Think you make the best chili or macaroni & cheese? We'll be the judge of that!

Bring your award-winning chili or mac & cheese to the Deck the Halls Celebration on November 29 for the chance to win great prizes!



Note: we are also looking for people willing to help set up for the dinner.

If you can help, please contact John Heritage at: johnfheritage@gmail.com

Baked Goods, Bling and Crafts! December 6

Calling all Presbyterian women! Are you willing to offer your gifts and talents? We need volunteers to help out with the following:

- baking and crafting
- setting up displays
- selling goods between services
- cleaning up after the sale

Start going through your old jewelry for items you would like to donate for a special sale on gently used “bling.”

For baked goods, please package items like cookies, cupcakes and muffins in groups of six.

You will be able to drop off your goodies and gently used jewelry at the church on Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact:

For Baked Goods:

Mary Hendon
616-846-1734 or
maryhendon1@charter.net

For Crafts and “Bling”:

Sue Ochs
231-780-3717 (home) or
231-750-3946 (cell) or
s2123@aol.com

Get ready to shop in the lounge after worship services on December 6!



Tidings article deadline for December 2015 issue: November 16, 2015

Submittals, suggestions or comments: sbryant@fpg.org or firstpres@fpg.org

FPC editorial staff reserves the right to accept or decline, edit for length and content all submitted material.

Hand2Hand Ministries Special Request for November

Thank you to all of you for making our Hand2Hand Ministries mission such a success!

Due to conferences and Thanksgiving, there are two long weekends off from school in November. That means students are not receiving the breakfasts and lunches normally provided by the school district. Hand2Hand likes to provide extra food to the students on these weekends.



If you are able to donate any of the following items, we would greatly appreciate it:

- **plastic** jars of peanut butter and jelly
- boxes of pancake mix (just add water type)
- **plastic** containers of maple syrup

Donations may be dropped off in the blue bin at the Children's Ministries desk.

Our Hand2Hand program currently serves 80 students in the local schools, from elementary to high school. We thank you for your support of this important program!

Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation is open to anyone who is in eighth grade or above and is interested in joining First Presbyterian Church.

There will be an inquirer's class on Sunday, November 22, during the Growing in Faith Hour, to go over what we will be covering in class and to answer any question you may have. Please have a parent or guardian attend the class with you.

Please contact Caleb Zokoe, Youth Director, at czokoe@fpgh.org or 842-6760, x19 to let him know you are attending.

Youth Groups



Vine is our high school youth group, and meets on Sundays during the school year from 5:15-7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Led by Caleb Zokoe

Roots is our middle school youth group and meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. during the school year in Fellowship Hall. Led by Caleb Zokoe



Shine56 is our brand-new youth group designed for all 5th and 6th graders! Every Sunday evening, all 5th and 6th graders are invited for dinner from 6:30-7:00, followed by age-appropriate lessons. Shine56 meets in Fellowship Hall and is led by Becky Yonan.

For the most up-to-date information on youth events, visit the youth facebook page.

Contact Info:

Visit our facebook page: FPGH Youth, Follow us on Twitter: @Roots_FPGH; @Vine_FPGH

Or contact Caleb Zokoe via email: czokoe@fpgh.org



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

508 Franklin Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-842-6760

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*If you are unable to attend Sunday morning worship:
Tune your radio dial to WGHN-FM 92.1
Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to hear the previous week's sermon!
Or, visit our website: www.fpgh.org*

November 2015

deliver to: (or current resident)



Christmas Flower Dedications

Your flower dedication contributions make it possible to decorate the Sanctuary, Gathering Area and Lounge with the beautiful flowers and greenery of Christmas.

Anyone wishing to make a dedication to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin may do so by completing the form below and returning it by Sunday, December 13, to the church office or by dropping it in the Sunday offering plate.

Please print the name of each person you wish to honor, along with your name and telephone number. Feel free to use additional forms as necessary. Suggested donation: **\$12/per dedication.**

DEDICATION 1. Please check one: in celebration in honor in memory of:

NAME: _____

DEDICATION 2. Please check one: in celebration in honor in memory of:

NAME: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

PHONE: _____

Make check payable to: First Presbyterian Church, with memo notation: "Christmas dedication"