



# First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor  
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## Dear Friends,

February is a short month on the calendar but one that is chock-full of ministries at First Pres. A few notable events are our hosting a concert choir from the Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea (2/8), celebrating Youth Sunday and our Quad C luncheon (2/12), and welcoming prospective new members to learn more about First Pres (2/15 and 2/22). We also will be making decisions about which seminarians to invite to Ann Arbor as candidates for our next class of Resident Ministers. It is hard to believe that Angela, Daniel, and Emily will be leaving us soon!

Each class of Residents is exceptional. The group that will join us in August of this year will hold a unique distinction. They will be the first class of First Pres Resident ministers, the first group to be wholly supported by you, our members, without Lilly Endowment dollars. For sixteen years, First Pres has benefitted from the vision and generosity of the Lilly Endowment. We have learned from and taught bright, young ministers. We have done more than help them make the transition from seminary to the church. We have nurtured

their gifts for leadership, provided practical experience, and watched them grow in poise and confidence. Along the way, we have benefitted from their energy, creativity, insights, and devoted pastoral care. The impact that our Residents have and will have on First Pres is inestimable. They bless us and we bless them and the larger Church through their future ministries.

This is my sixth February as your pastor. I have learned that many of you go away to sunnier places in February. Whether you are here or somewhere warmer, know you are important to us. I hold you in my prayers and hope you will pray for your fellow members and staff, the larger church, our country, and our world. Trust that God is attentive and know that prayer holds us together in powerful ways.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



### Welcome to Presbyville: An Intergenerational Poverty Simulation

On Sunday, February 5, 11:00 a.m. - noon, adults, families, children, and youth (fourth grade and above) are invited to visit "Presbyville" on the third floor. Walk a mile in the shoes of the poor by participating in an intergenerational poverty simulation with work, a school, a shop (with snacks), and a clinic. Childcare with activities for children crib through third grade will be available. Learn about some of the challenges our neighbors face and get inspired in ways that you might serve.



### There's Still Time for Poets, Priests, and Prophets – May 18 - 27

The registration deadline has been extended to Wednesday, February 8 at noon!

Join Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair on a trip to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, United Kingdom. Friends and family are welcome to come! For more information, see the brochure at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org) or contact Mary Jones at 662-4466, ext. 349, or [mjones@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mjones@firstpresbyterian.org).



# Worship & Music



## Jahng Shin Concert Choir

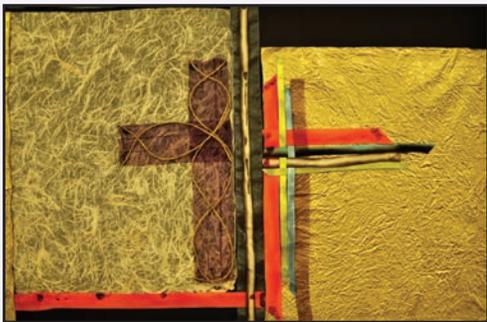
**Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

You are invited to a very special concert by the visiting Jahng Shin Concert Choir of the Presbyterian University & Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea, on Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please come enjoy the concert by one of the outstanding college choirs in Korea as they present a varied repertoire including Bach and spirituals under the direction of Dr. ChangHoon Park. (Note: this concert is at the same time as the Deacons meeting. Deacons, please plan for parking concerns.)

## The Way of the Cross: Lent 2017

### Special Lenten Project - Stations of the Cross

**Calling all artists, musicians, and dancers for the Stations of the Cross lenten creative project and exhibition!**



The Stations of the Cross is a traditional practice of remembering Christ's passion, crucifixion, death, and resurrection with roots in the early pilgrimages to Jerusalem. There are a total of fifteen stations depicting Jesus' journey to the cross, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. During Lent we would like to invite First Pres' artistic community to interpret each station through a variety of media and creative expression. We will employ the theme of "Jesus the Refugee," using migration and displacement as a lens to discuss what this journey looked like for Jesus as a refugee and to explore what similar journeys of struggle, violence, and hardship look like in the world today.

You are invited to participate individually, as groups, or family in this artistic Lenten journey to the cross. Everyone's work will culminate in an exhibition in the Social Hall from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. If you are interested in learning more about or participating in this enriching and creative journey to the cross, please contact Rev. Ryo or Rev. Ervin by Friday, February 17. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, February 19 at 12:15 in the Lewis Room.

### March 1 – Ash Wednesday Supper and Worship

- **Family Ash Wednesday Worship - 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

This intergenerational service includes the imposition of ashes, communion, and the musical leadership of the Children's Choir.

- **Ash Wednesday Supper - 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall**

Enjoy Ash Wednesday supper before or after worship. The cost of the dinner is \$7 per person if you sign up and pay by Monday, February 27. If you pay at the door the cost is \$9 per person. Register online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/ash-wednesday-dinner/> or by calling the Church Office at 662-4466.

- **Taizé Ash Wednesday Worship - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

This ecumenical service includes prayer, scripture, silent reflection, imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, and music from the Ecumenical Community of Taizé, France.



### Holy Week Worship

Plan now to join us on the Way of the Cross for Maundy Thursday services, at 10:30 a.m. at Glacier Hills, and 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary; Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, and Easter Sunday morning services - Sunrise at 6:30 a.m. on the Circle Terrace (weather permitting), 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and at 10:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall.

## Upcoming Lenten Activities

Watch for more information about these events.



- **Lenten Email Devotional** - Sign up to receive a daily devotion written by members of our church family. The devotions these forty days, in keeping with our theme, “The Way of the Cross”, will focus on traditional Lenten texts, the Stations of the Cross, and the Seven Last Words of Christ. Interested in writing one? Talk to Rev. Rogers soon, [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

- **Easter Lilies in Memory or Honor** - Watch your March First Press Edition and upcoming “Our Life Together” emails for information to purchase these beautiful flowers for our Easter morning worship service. The submission deadline is Friday, April 7 at noon.

- **Glacier Hills Lenten Bible Study** - Tuesdays from March 7 - April 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Interfaith Chapel at Glacier Hills. Questions? Contact Rev. Béghin, 662-4466, ext. 355 or [ebeghin@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:ebeghin@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

- **Walking the Stations of the Cross...a Lenten Walking Retreat for Women**  
**8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Date to Be Announced**

The Stations of the Cross is a well-known method for reflecting upon Christ’s last days. While commonly a Catholic ritual, it has been adopted and reshaped for others to use as a spiritual guide during Lent. For this daylong retreat, we will read and reflect on the different stations. This works best as a walking retreat, but for those more comfortable sitting (or not able to walk distances), we will also offer the same reflections in an indoor setting. We will all gather together for lunch, and again for the last station as closing worship. Sign up will be online beginning late February. Questions? Contact Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse at [stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org) or 662, 4466, ext. 350.

- **Peeps and Pizza Fair** – On Saturday, March 25, 11:00 - 12:30 p.m., come to the Social Hall, enjoy a pizza lunch together (\$5 per person) and create your own Bible story shoe box diorama using Peeps! Make a reservation for the pizza lunch by calling the Church Office at 662-4466 or emailing Debbie MacVey at [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).



## Congregational Life

### February New Member Classes

Become a member of the First Pres family! Our next new member classes will be held Wednesdays, February 15 and 22, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Those wishing to join First Pres will be welcomed in worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 26. Why wait? It’s time!

### Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

Everyone is invited to the February Stephen Ministry Continuing Education presentation, “What to Expect When Cancer is Diagnosed”, on Monday, February 13, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m in Monteith Hall. Dr. Jennifer Griggs will give a short presentation about what to expect after you or a loved one encounters this unexpected life event. There will be a question and answer time included.



### Saturday Suppers

On March 18 front doors, ovens, and friendly dining rooms will open again for our winter Saturday Suppers. For over 25 years small groups of 8-10 people have met in the homes of First Pres members for potluck suppers featuring good food, even better conversation, and fellowship. Everyone cooks a little and enjoys a lot in a setting where old friends meet and new ones are made. Register online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/saturday-suppers/> starting Monday, February 13 through Monday, February 27. You may sign up in person at Coffee Hour on February 26. If you’d like more information, contact Sara VanderVoort at [saravoort@gmail.com](mailto:saravoort@gmail.com) or 662-5350.

## The Annual 40s/50s Chili Cook Off Is Back!

February 3, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for the 2017 Immature Ministries (40s and 50s) "Come in from the Chill" Chili Cook Off! It will be held at the Kershaw home, at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3. Bring your favorite pot of chili or make a dessert to be voted upon, or bring something else to share. Great fellowship, games, and spirits! We have a wide ranging age group - if you are just older, or just younger, but think you'd like to come, we want you to come! Sign up so we know you can join us, by calling the Church Office at 662-4466 or emailing Rev. Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org). Information with the address will be emailed out in due time.



## 20s & 30s Get Together at T2A2

Are you in your 20s or 30s? You're invited to T2A2 Small Group every Sunday night (except February 5) at 7:00 p.m. at Chris Wahl's house. Enjoy a lively discussion of how to put your faith into practice through the reflection of the Sermon on the Mount, wonderful fellowship, and time of prayer. Come and build community with us! Questions? Contact Rev. Ryo at [aryo@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:aryo@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Ervin at [dervin@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dervin@firstpresbyterian.org).

## Those 60 and Up — Let's Talk about Sex!

Hilltoppers meets February 9. Join us on that Thursday at noon in the Social Hall. Jim Toy, co-founder of the UM Spectrum Center, will be our guest and speaker for "Sexuality in our Modern World" - gender identity, gender expression, transgender and other new terms. What does it all mean? Are we truly inclusive? How do we navigate this new terrain? Not 60 yet but interested in our topic? C'mon in!



## We the Quad C Potluck Brunch

Please join other members of Quad C and their families and friends for the Valentine-themed annual Quad C potluck brunch on Sunday, February 12, at noon in the Social Hall. Quad C deacons will be contacting their chapel members to invite you to attend and to ask you to bring either a salad or a vegetable dish, fruit, or dessert. Please join us to meet your fellow chapel members, get to know your deacon and to share fun, fellowship, and a delicious meal! For more information contact Polly Pan at [ppan3650@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ppan3650@sbcglobal.net).

## A 'GRAND' EVENT: ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

May 5 - 7 at The Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

This two-night retreat will be a unique opportunity to get away, spend time together, explore an amazing part of Michigan, and stay at a historic hotel at phenomenal rates. Join staff and members for two nights and days of extraordinary fellowship and worship! Enjoy activities for all ages, and lots of time to explore the island. First Pres has 60 rooms at the Grand Hotel reserved.

Cost is \$129/day per person, double and \$193/day per person, single. This includes a 5-course dinner and breakfast. Children 11 and under stay and eat for free. Children 12-18 years old are \$59 each per day, and that includes breakfast and dinner. If you are a single person and would prefer a roommate, please contact Rev. Rogers to arrange. A commitment to the retreat is a commitment for two nights. You will cover your own cost to get to the Island. We may hire a bus and travel to Mackinac City together if there is interest.

A financial deposit of one full night's rate is due by March 1 to The Grand Hotel along with a completed registration form available at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org), or from the Church Office. When you sign up with the Grand Hotel, please confirm with the Church Office that you will be joining us! More information will be coming with a recommended time to arrive to and depart from the Hotel, along with Friday evening's schedule. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers at 662-4466, ext. 390 or [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).



## T2A2 Brunch on February 12

Brad Taylor is hosting a brunch for our 20s and 30s young adults' group on Sunday, February 12 at 12:30 p.m. Join us for a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and food! Questions? Contact Rev. Ryo at [aryo@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:aryo@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Ervin at [dervin@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dervin@firstpresbyterian.org).

## Presbyterian Women and Meditation

Join other Presbyterian Women for their inspiring Bible Study Wednesday, February 15, 9:30 a.m., in the Lewis Room. Judy Slade will lead lesson #6, "Who is Jesus According to Hebrews."

At 11:00 a.m. Jeanette Kibler will lead "Finding Peace in Christian Meditation" in Monteith Hall. Thank you, Alice Gaujanian, for arranging a great topic for such unsettled times.

We invite you for all or any part of the morning as well as for a light lunch in the Social Hall. Call the Church Office, 662-4466, to make a reservation.



## Children & Families

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### Valentine Story Song and Play Time

Attention, parents of children ages 0-6 years old! You and your children are invited to a Family Valentine Story Song and Play Time on Saturday, February 11 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Come and enjoy stories and songs from in Room 301 followed by play time and snacks in Room 101. Questions? Contact either Debbie MacVey ([dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org)) or Angela Ryo ([aryo@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:aryo@firstpresbyterian.org)).



### Families Matter

If you are parents of children ages 7-12, you are invited to Families Matter, an event sponsored by Children, Youth, and Adult Ed on February 26 at 11:00 a.m. in the Founders Room! Come and meet other parents as we discuss ways to support one another as faithful parents. If you have any questions, please contact either Debbie MacVey ([dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org)) or Angela Ryo ([aryo@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:aryo@firstpresbyterian.org)).



## Transitions

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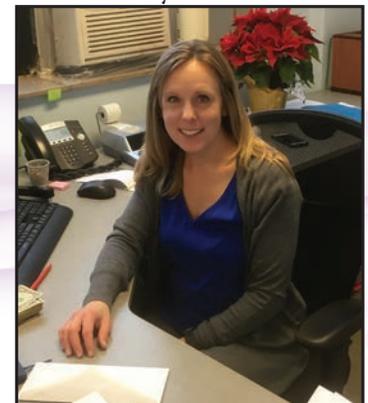
**We welcome** Stephanie Anderson to the First Pres staff as Finance Assistant. Stephanie assumed her part-time position with us in early January. She will be providing help and support to Anna Miller, Finance Manager, with the many detailed financial matters moving through the Finance Office. Stephanie has good experience in staff accounting and business management. She and her husband have two children and live in South Lyon. If you happen to be at church, take a moment to stop by to introduce yourself so she can get to know the members of our congregation.

### We Grieve the Death of:

Michael Neighbors, January 11

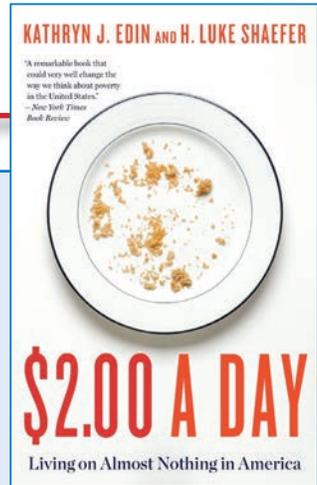
### We Celebrate the Marriage of:

Robert Andrew Crozier and Kelly Jean McDermott, December 16





# Adult Education



## 2017 First Pres Winter Book Selection:

### **\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America**

“Affluent Americans often cherish the belief that poverty in America is far more comfortable than poverty in the rest of the world. Edin and Shaefer’s devastating account of life at \$2 or less a day blows that myth out of the water. This is world-class poverty at a level that should mobilize not only national alarm, but international attention.”

— Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed*

*\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* is a revealing account of poverty in America so deep that we, as a country, don’t think it exists. Jessica Compton’s family of four would have no income if she didn’t donate plasma twice a week at her local donation center in Tennessee. Modonna Harris and her teenage daughter Brianna, in Chicago, have gone for days with nothing to eat other than spoiled milk.

Two researchers, Kathryn Edin of Johns Hopkins University, and Luke Shaefer of the University of Michigan, in the course of their work noticed something they hadn’t seen before — households surviving on virtually no cash income. The two discovered that the number of American families living on \$2.00 per person, per day, has skyrocketed to one and a half million American households, including about three million children. The Adult Education Team selected their book *\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* for the First Pres’ Winter 2017 Book Read. Read the book, join the discussion about the devastating poverty that wracks so many families in Michigan and across the nation. *\$2 A Day* will be the focus of the February adult education series “Flourishing Together” in the Exploring the Faith class on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Order your copy now! \$12.00 if ordered online or through the First Pres Church Office. Read the book, join the conversation.

**Washtenaw Reads Special Presentation** - *\$2 A Day* is also the Washtenaw Reads book selection for 2017 of the Ann Arbor District Library and will be the focus of public discussions and conversations all over Washtenaw County. Join us on Tuesday February 7, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington., Ann Arbor. Attendance at the Washtenaw Reads Event will enhance your discussion of human flourishing. For more information visit [www.aareads.org](http://www.aareads.org).

## Sunday Morning Offerings @ 9:30 a.m.

### **The Bible at 9:30 a.m. - French Room/Library**

*Bible Exploration and Conversation*

The Bible at 9:30 continues a study of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter. All are welcome!

### **First Couples - Monteith Hall**

*Spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals. Presenters are class members. New members are always welcome!*



*'Festival of Esther,' Edward Armitage, 1865*

### **February 5 - The Wired Word**

The class will read and discuss “Pastor Moves in With Refugees.”

### **February 12-26 - Uppity Women of the Bible**

A DVD series featuring Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe. Combining scholarship with humor and fresh insights, Dr. Wolfe presents a lively, accessible discussion of Ruth, The Song of Songs, Esther and Judith.

## Sunday Morning Offerings @11:00 a.m.

### Exploring the Faith - Monteith Hall

*The Exploring the Faith class is always interesting and full of warm welcome to all adults.*



#### February 5 - Life in Presbyville

Adults, Families, Children, and youth (fourth grade and above) are invited to “visit Presbyville” at 11:00 a.m., on February 5 on the third floor. Walk a mile in the shoes of the poor by participating in an intergenerational poverty simulation with work, a school, a shop (with snacks), and a clinic. Childcare with activities for children crib through third grade will be available. (Note: Meets on Third Floor ONLY this Sunday.)

#### February 12 - Flourishing Together: I Am Because We Are — Part I

We flourish in this world and in this life when all people flourish. Come for a full exploration and discussion of the ground-breaking book, *\$2 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Kathryn Edin and Luke Shaefer, which examines the new landscape of poverty in America. Join the discussion led by Rev. Angela Ryo and Diane Hockett.

#### February 19 - Flourishing Together: I Am Because We Are — Part II

Join a Washtenaw Community Conversation about race, poverty and our neighborhood with Director Derrick Jackson of the Washtenaw Sheriff’s Department. Director Jackson is a skilled social worker and community organizer as well as the Director of Community Engagement of the Sheriff’s Department. Hear his perspectives on what it means to flourish in Washtenaw County.

#### February 26 - Flourishing Together: I Am Because We Are — Part III

We flourish in this world and in this life when all people flourish. Continue a full exploration of *\$2 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Kathryn Edin and Luke Shaefer. Join the discussion led by Rev. Angela Ryo and Diane Hockett as we frame a faith-rooted response.



## Financial Stewardship

### Endowment and Special Gifts

Lisa Pasbjerg and Bryan Magnuson



I think my brother says it best. A certified financial planner for most of his adult life, my older brother, Joe, often has long-time clients ask him for guidance about estate planning. He says, I put it this way: When I talk to long-time clients whom I know really well about what they want to do with their estate, I ask them to think about what matters to them and where they have been putting their money up until now. It often becomes very clear as we look at the numbers that they have been pledging and giving to their church for many years. I’ll then say to them something like, ‘Well you’ve been giving a portion of your income every week for most of your life to the work of the church, why would you not do that now?’

At this stage in our life, it’s hard to know what size our estate might be but it’s easy to know that we want to continue support the work of the church with some percentage of what remains after we are gone. We feel blessed to be a part of this congregation and this community of wonderful souls trying to be the best Christians they can be, and, we believe that the work of the church is invaluable and want to do everything we can to continue it long after we are gone.



## Faith in Action

### Suds ‘n Sheets Campaign for Cass

We’re repeating our highly successful Suds ‘n Sheets Campaign for Cass Community Social Services again this March. Last year we nearly reached our goal of collecting 50 containers of laundry detergent and 250 rolls of paper towels. These items are always in demand at Cass. Please drop off paper towels and detergent during the month of March in the baskets provided in the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Sue Jeffers at [sjeffers1@me.com](mailto:sjeffers1@me.com).



## 2017 Habitat House of Faith

The Habitat project kicks off February 3-4, with the deconstruction of our home at 1156 Parkwood Avenue in Ypsilanti. The construction phase will start April 21 as we convert this three bedroom, two bath house into a home by the end of June. The Habitat Project is a life transforming event for our families. Listen to God speaking through our homeowners:

“Gracious God, We would definitely like to give thanks and appreciation to the House of Faith where the volunteers have opened their eyes to see our future as unique and special. They put their love and learning into action as they created our home.”

“Our house is filled with the love that your hands and hearts left with us”

“We are so grateful for the Habitat home ownership program. Bless you all for blessing us.”

Practice your faith. Put your compassion to work. Volunteer. Join a team of energetic volunteers and provide a family with a safe, warm and dry place to call home. Sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaf2daa8-habitatlink> or on our website. Questions? Contact Don Redding ([dredding58@yahoo.com](mailto:dredding58@yahoo.com)) or Rev. Jay Sanderford ([jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org)).



## Communion Sunday Food Collection

February's Communion Sunday Food Collection on February 5 is sponsored by Youth Ministry and will benefit the Washtenaw Community College Emergency Food Bank. According to the WCC website, “College is hard enough without having to worry about where your next meal is coming from. That’s why the Student Resource Center (SRC) at Washtenaw Community College operates an emergency food pantry for students in need. The emergency food pantry provides some much-needed relief for students facing academic and financial barriers, including basic needs such as food and hygiene products.”

## Refugees in the New Year

In the last few months Washtenaw Refugee Welcome furnished refugee homes and provided clothing, especially winter wardrobes, to the refugee families we have met in Washtenaw County. All items were donated by our WRW members and friends. Other gifts and necessities were given and when emergency situations came up, WRW members responded. Refugees were amazed and deeply grateful, and the WRW leadership team is humbled by the kindness in our community.

Many of our refugee families are now experiencing financial crises, as the entry-level jobs they were able to get are now being cut back or eliminated after the holiday rush. We are working with all individuals impacted by this shift. WRW has skilled members assisting with this effort—job skills coaches, resume writers, life coaches, career consultants, education consultants, business and HR experts, but can always use more. Perhaps you can help WRW create a list of employers in Washtenaw County who are willing to hire refugees? We’ve been given some leads and two refugees are back to work. Please forward ideas or contacts for employers to Rita Toderan at [wrwcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wrwcommunications@gmail.com)

As always, please direct people to [www.washtenawrefugeewelcome.org](http://www.washtenawrefugeewelcome.org) to learn more about our Washtenaw Refugee Welcome organization. The refugees we are trying to help speak English, have professional experience, are computer literate—some are highly skilled, all have at least some college education (including one MBA), and are willing and eager to work. Transportation is the greatest obstacle. Meanwhile, any individuals or companies you can recommend to WRW are very much appreciated. Full- and part-time positions are welcome. Questions? Contact Rita Toderan, at [ritatoderan@comcast.net](mailto:ritatoderan@comcast.net) or 429-0858.

## News from Niger

Our December was full of planning and preparation as we continue to have Community Health Evangelism (CHE), rickshaws, and teaching in our sights. But we also had a great visit with Michael’s parents and we also tried to do things a little the Nigerian way and slaughter a ram at our house so that we could give out meat to our neighbors. Rachel is pictured holding the legs of “lamb.” The celebration at our church was exuberant as you might expect. We also handed out some treats for the neighborhood kids (candy canes and glow sticks) and had a chance to share a little about the meaning of Christmas with many people.

We’ve also moved into a nicer period of a little cooler weather now too, but that means big head-colds going around and at the beginning of the month Michael had another bout with malaria.



Michael got the joy of participating in the graduation ceremony for his students at the Dogon Gao Bible school. There were six graduates and their wives who completed the four-year training.

**Please pray with us for:**

- The many seeds that have been planted in Niger during Christmas time (the biggest outreach time of the year), and that these seeds will take root so many people will understand the love of God in the life of Jesus.
- Continued endurance and patience for our family as we wait on many things from CHE plans to adoption possibilities.



## Resident Minister Corner

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### Resident Ministers and Pastoral Care at First Pres

Pastoral care is an important area of ministry to master, and Residents at First Pres are immersed from the beginning of their ministry in Ann Arbor in the practices of hospital visitation, pastoral calling and spiritual care of members and families. Residents spend at least a part of one day each week in local hospitals and care centers, visiting members and friends before and after surgery, checking on patients undergoing treatment and supporting families at important passages, such as the birth of a child, hospitalization of parent or the death of a spouse.

The Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, along with Rev. Jay Sanderford, mentor our Residents in learning the art of attentive, compassionate pastoral care. Residents gather for pastoral seminars and learning modules, share the wisdom of our corps of retired pastors, are involved in baptisms, weddings, memorial services and interments and reflect together with our senior leaders on the joys and challenges of bearing the compassion of Christ to people in all of life's complexities. They learn to collaborate with our Parish Nurse, Deacons, volunteer care givers and Stephen Ministers to enhance the comprehensive web of care that surrounds our congregation.

At First Pres, each Resident oversees the pastoral care of a group of twenty to thirty people for two years, with a special focus on our older adults. They are the primary pastoral face of the congregation at places like Glacier Hills, Chelsea Retirement Communities, Brecon Village and other older adult facilities in and around Ann Arbor. Residents, then, extend the loving care of the church to many more people than might otherwise be possible.

Over the years, the Pastoral Residency Program has extended the culture of compassionate pastoral care deep into our life together, making First Pres Church a stronger community of faith—a place where people can thrive in all stages of life, be accompanied by a pastor in times of illness, crisis or death, and be surrounded with the grace of God in all circumstances.

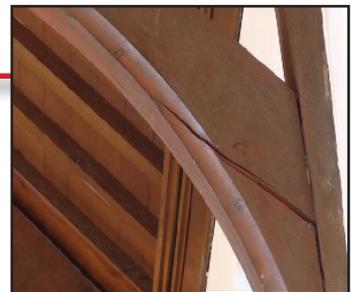


## Business of the Church

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### Appeal for Critical Repairs to Sanctuary

At their January meeting, the Session voted unanimously to seek immediate funding of \$150,000 for necessary work on our Sanctuary trusses. It is imperative that repairs be made to stabilize the walls and reduce stress on the trusses. This is not a crisis – we are safe being in the Sanctuary – but it is critically important. During the month of February the Session asks everyone in the congregation to make a one-time, above and beyond gift to fund this immediate and critical repair for which we have no other funds. Make checks to First Presbyterian Church noting “Building Fund” on the memo line or donate online. Donations may be mailed, dropped off in the Finance Office, or placed in the offering plate. Questions? Contact Bob Pierce, Bill McPherson, Rick Platte, Adrian Prundenau, or Rev. Dr. Fair.



### Nominations for Class of 2020 Church Officers

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for Class of 2020 ruling elders and deacons. Go to [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org) for detailed job descriptions and eligibility requirements for each office. Questions or suggestions? Contact Tom Brandt at [twbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:twbrandt@gmail.com) or 646-7181.