



# First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor  
February 2018 ■ Volume 66, Number 2



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## Dear Friends,

The month ahead is full of wonderful opportunities for us to deepen and strengthen our faith. We begin the month by celebrating communion at all three services on February 4, a sacrament that reminds us of the union we have in Jesus Christ with believers across time. February 10 and 11 we welcome Rodger Nishioka, possibly the premier church educator in our denomination. Rodger's ministry has been for youth with the national church, for the denomination through theological education and the training of pastors, and in the local church. He has given his life to studying faith formation and particularly how factors in society influence our connections to and with God. Note the information in this newsletter about Rodger's sharing with us in ways other than in Sunday worship and take advantage of these additional times to learn from him. Guests are welcome and Rodger's presentations will be engaging for youth and adults.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and we will have our two usual services at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., each unique and both faithful ways to begin the sacred season with scripture, prayer, communion, and the imposition of ashes. As we move through Lent and approach the cross, our Sunday sermon series will focus on "Cross Words," words that challenge us to consider the cross Jesus took up for us and how we

can follow faithfully in the way he shows us. During February we also will be celebrating the sacrament of baptism, commissioning a group that includes a number of our graduate students to go to Nicaragua, celebrating people who have been members of First Pres for thirty continuous years or more, and providing an opportunity for newcomers to learn more about First Pres and explore uniting with us.

Friends, even though the days are getting longer and the sky is getting brighter, many among us are carrying heavy burdens. As a community of faith, one of our great privileges is to walk alongside one another, offering support, companionship, love and prayer. We have a powerful resource in scripture that reminds us, "Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength." Draw close to the Lord. Trust in the Lord. Know that God's love is for us all.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



## Communion Sunday Food Collection

February's Communion Sunday Food Collection on February 4 is sponsored by Youth Ministries 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."



# Lenten Opportunities - Begins February 14

## February 14 - Ash Wednesday Worship & Supper



- Family Ash Wednesday Worship - 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**  
 Begin your Lenten journey with a worship service exploring the meaning of this season of preparation before Easter. This 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 a delicious Ash Wednesday supper of chicken, polenta, salad, fresh fruit and dessert before or after worship. The cost of the dinner is \$8 per person if you sign up and pay by Monday, February 12. The pay at the door the cost is \$10 per person. Register at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/ash-wednesday-dinner/> or call the Church Office at 662-4466.
- Taizé Ash Wednesday Worship - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**  
 This service includes scripture, imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, and music from the Ecumenical Community of Taizé, France. Childcare will be available from 7:15-9:00 p.m. Joining us will be the congregations from Vineyard Church, Lord of Light Lutheran, Campus Chapel, Ann Arbor Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, Journey of Faith Christian Church, King of Kings Lutheran Church, and Bethlehem United Church of Christ.



### CrossWords ...

words said in anger, a weekend leisure activity, or conversation around the symbol of Christianity? During the season of Lent, First Pres will be considering biblical texts in worship that call us to examine the role of the cross in our lives, from bearing one another's burdens to finding hope for eternal life. The Adult Education Work Group will offer a series on how peoples' lives of faith intersect with their professional lives, and small groups will meet to discuss facing fear with faith. Gather with us to "play" with these myriad "crosswords" and deepen your faith!

### Lenten Email Devotion

Begin each day with a Lenten email devotion written by church members and staff. Many of this season's authors are newer members of our First Pres family who have joined in the last year. The devotions these forty days will be in keeping with the theme, "Faith into Action," and will focus on key ways we can put our faith into action as we reflect on God's love for us during Lent. To sign up, contact Lisa Haddrill at [lhaddrill@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:lhaddrill@firstpresbyterian.org). It will also be posted each day on First Pres' Facebook page.

### CrossWords: A Lenten Adult Ed Series on Callings

Beginning February 18, join us at 11:00 a.m. Sundays during Lent and hear from fellow church members about how their lives as people of faith intersect with their professional lives around topics central to our everyday lives as Christians. Presentations may take a range of formats, from storytelling to musical performance or visual art. Information about speakers is forthcoming, and an overview of weekly themes and scriptures is listed below. Don't miss this opportunity to get to know members of the First Pres community better while deepening your own Lenten journey!

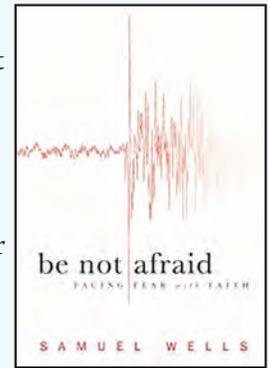
February 18	Comfort	Mark 1:9-13
February 25	Trust	Numbers 21:4-9
March 4	Service	Galatians 6:1-13
March 11	Forgiveness	Romans 12:18-21
March 18	Selflessness	Matthew 5:21-26
March 25	Humility	Philippians 2:5-11



## Lenten Small Groups – Do Not Be Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith

Be a part of a Lenten small group from your quadrant (quad) which will meet for five to six weeks at a home of a member. The small groups will read the book *Do Not Be Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith* by Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells, together with Bible texts. Books (\$15) are available for purchase in the Church Office. If this is a financial burden please talk to Rev. Blair Buckley at [bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org). Please check the schedule below and find the group that works best for you.

**Not sure what quad you are in?** Call the Church Office for information, or look in the back of your First Pres directory. To register, check the schedule below, find the group in your quad that works best for you, then sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/lenten-small-groups/>, or call the Church Office. Don't miss this powerful opportunity to find faith in the midst of a world of fear, a faith that help us to more deeply understand our Lenten theme "Crosswords."



### QUAD A – N.E. Ann Arbor, Dexter

**Wednesdays, February 28 - March 28, 7:00 p.m.**

Leader: Olivier Jolliet

Hosts: Sandy Talbott and Mark Lindley

**Sundays, February 18 - March 25, 4:00 p.m.**

Leaders: David and Carol Downton

Hosts: Dianne and Peter Santinga

**Sundays, February 18 - March 25, 7:00 p.m.**

Leaders: Susan Morville

Hosts: Nicole and Olivier Jolliet

### QUAD B – 48104

**Sundays February 18 - March 25, 4:00 p.m.**

Leader: Meg Brown

Hosts: Paul and Georgia Goodman

### QUAD C – 48103

**Wednesdays, February 28 - March 28, 7:00 p.m.**

Leader: Alice Holderby

Hosts: Nancy and Gary Oliver

### QUAD C – Continued

**Sundays, February 18 - March 25, 7:00 p.m.**

Leader: Kathy Wirstom

Hosts: Bill Brinkerhoff and Kathy Sample

### QUAD D – 48108, Ypsilanti, Saline, Chelsea

**Fridays, February 16 - March 23, 7:00 p.m.**

Leaders: Paul Larson

Hosts: Jeanette and Roland Kibler

### MEET AT FIRST PRES

**Sundays, February 18 - March 25, 8:30 a.m.**

Leaders: Kent Palmquist

Meets in Lewis Room

### T2A2 – Twenties and Thirties Group

**Sundays, February 18 - March 25, 7:00 p.m.**

Leaders: Various

Host: Chris Wahl



## Peeps and Pizza Fair – A Lenten Event for All Ages!

Team up with family and friends on Saturday, March 3, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall to create your own Bible story shoe box diorama using Peeps and enjoy a pizza lunch (\$5 per person) at noon. Make a reservation so we know how much pizza to order at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/peeps-and-pizza-fair/>

**How It Works** - Pick out a favorite Bible story and think about how to recreate it in a shoe box using Peeps and other materials. Church will supply the Peeps, shoe boxes, construction paper, scissors, glue, some crafting supplies and refreshments. Want to use a gummy worm, fabric or plant material? Want to use your own shoe box? Bring those "special supplies" with you along with your creative ideas for a fun imaginative morning here at church. The dioramas will be on display in the Social Hall on Sunday morning March 4 for all to see. Questions? Contact Debbie MacVey at [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).

## Glacier Hills Lenten Bible Study

Join us Tuesdays, February 20 - March 27, at 10:30 a.m. in the Interfaith Chapel at Glacier Hills for the study of *Be Not Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith* by Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells (\$15). Questions? Contact Rev. Buckley at [bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.



## Easter Lilies in Memory or Honor

Order Easter lilies in memory or honor of a loved one to beautify our Easter morning worship. Flowers are \$17 and can be ordered at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/easter-lilies/> or in the Church Office. The donated lilies will be delivered by our deacons to those who are sick or home bound after Easter worship services. The submission deadline is **Thursday, March 22, at noon.**



## Adult Education

2018  
Christian Life  
Academy



**Dr. Rodger Nishioka**

**Creating a New Story of Faith:  
Faith Formation in the 21st Century**

**Saturday, February 10 & Sunday, February 11**

### **“What is God calling me to do and to be in this day and age, and how do I best do that?”**

Please join us as Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Director of Adult Educational Ministries at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS, leads us in forming a Faith for All, an event for church leaders, parents, families, young people and adults.

#### **Saturday, February 10**

- **4:30 p.m. - From “Education” to “Faith Formation” – The Why and How**

Leaders in educational ministry are talking less about “education” and more about “faith formation.” We will engage in a brief conversation about why this shift is occurring and how it is shaping our ministry with children, youth, young adults and adults.

- **5:30 p.m. - Dinner and conversation with Christian educators and church leaders. \$10 per person.**

#### **Sunday, February 11**

- **9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Dr. Nishioka preaches on “New Ways of Knowing”**

- **4:00 p.m. - Eight Trends Changing and Challenging the 21st Century Church**

As Americans, what does it mean to be the Church of Jesus Christ today? 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, a series of momentous events that changed Christendom. Some church historians are arguing that we are in a similar time. Together, we will explore eight trends that are changing and challenging what it means to be “the church” today.

- **5:00 p.m. - Potluck Dinner and Table Conversations in the Social Hall**

Entrées will be provided. Participants will contribute salad, dessert or bread. \$5 per person.

- **6:00 p.m. - Growing a Faith that Matters**

Church leader Saint Augustine wrote that “Our hearts are restless, until they rest in you, O God.” Restless hearts belong to us all at times but especially so for many of our children and young people. Together with our youth we will explore what it means to grow a deep and vibrant faith in Jesus Christ so that all ages come to rest in their primary identity as belonging to God.

**Learn more about Dr. Nishioka at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)  
or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresA2>**

## Adult Education on Sundays @ 9:30 A.M.

The Bible at 9:30 a.m.

February 4 - 25

French Room/Library

This class continues a study of the book of Acts. Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter. Come for a solid biblical study and robust discussion. All are welcome!

First Friends

February 2 - 25

Monteith Hall

*First Friends, formerly First Couples, is a self-directed adult group that offers a safe, supportive gathering to discuss religious and spiritual topics.*

February 4 First Friends will view Chapter 6 of the Adam Hamilton DVD on Moses

February 11-25 The group will study *What's the Least I Can Believe to Still Be a Christian* by Martin Thielen.

## Adult Education on Sundays @ 11:00 A.M.

Exploring the Faith

February 4 & 11

Monteith Hall

### Conclusion of Creation Groans: A Series on Environmental Justice

How are we, as Christians, meant to respond to threatening environmental changes? Join us as we conclude our exploration of why Christians should view climate and environmental issues as a matter of justice.



### February 4 Our Children's Inheritance: Climate Change from a Faith Perspective

Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull will lead us in a final session of our environmental justice series. Rev. Dr. Tull is A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Seminary in Kentucky and author of *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis* (Westminster John Knox, 2013). She lectures, preaches, and leads workshops nationally on faith dimensions of creation care, blogs at [www.inhabitingeden.org](http://www.inhabitingeden.org), and works through Interfaith Power & Light with Indiana congregations seeking responsible, effective ways to address climate change.

### February 11 Let's Think BIG Picture!

Facilitator: Michael Bodner is a member of First Pres, a scientist, thinker, and author of several books.

### CrossWords: A Lenten Adult Ed Series on Callings

Join us during Lent to hear from fellow church members about how their lives as people of faith intersect with their professional lives around topics central to our everyday lives as Christians. Presentations may take a range of formats, from storytelling to musical performance or visual art. Don't miss this opportunity to get to know members of the First Pres community better while deepening your own Lenten journey!

February 18 Comfort Mark 1:9-13

February 25 Trust Numbers 21:4-9

## First Forums

We live in a world that is increasingly divided. How, as Christians and Presbyterians, can we invite people with whom we differ into dialogue, in the hope of getting a better understanding of different positions and beliefs? Join us as First Forums explores challenging issues in the world and news, and discerns faithful responses, encourages open dialogue, respect, and faithful disagreement. Lunch is available (\$5).

**Adult Ed Team** - Chuck Monsma, Diane Hockett, Rev. Jay Sanderford, and Resident Ministers Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke and Dorothy Parks-Piatt



Following the Word in Today's World

### February 4, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Environmental Issues and the Church

Curtis/Founders Rooms.

Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull, A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Seminary in Kentucky and author of *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis* (Westminster John Knox, 2013), will facilitate the discussion "Environmental Issues and the Church."

Dr. Tull lectures, preaches, and leads workshops nationally on faith dimensions of creation care, blogs at [www.inhabitingeden.org](http://www.inhabitingeden.org), and works through Interfaith Power & Light with Indiana congregations seeking responsible, effective ways to address climate change.

**February 18, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. #MeToo, #ChurchToo, Part 2 Curtis/Founders Rooms**  
Hashtag #MeToo has become a national sensation following the revelation of the repeated sexual misconduct of Harvey Weinstein and many others. Across the nation many conversations around sexual misconduct have come to the surface, and the Church is not immune to these conversations. What does our faith say in the light of the #MeToo conversation? How do we respond to sexual abuse and harassment in our lives and in our congregation? First Forums will seek to examine how we, as Christians, engage the #MeToo moment in our culture.



## Congregational Life

### 2018 Women's Retreat

#### Finding Yourself at Home in God's Grace

March 9-10 • Maumee Bay State Park

Go on a personal, spiritual journey to learn more about yourself and how God is working within you during the 2018 Women's Retreat. Two speakers, Rev. Nancy Talbott and Callie Feyen, will lead us in this time of reflection, discussion, and worship. The retreat begins Friday evening, March 9, and will close Saturday afternoon with worship. In between we'll share resources, fun, and fellowship. There will even be a little yoga on Saturday morning for those who are interested! Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers will be on hand to brighten our time with her humor and caring nature and to lead us in worship with Resident Ministers Dorothy Parks-Piatt and Blair Buckley. Sandy Talbott, Gail Einhaus, and Margie Perrett will help us have fun in the "off hours" and keep the whole gang organized.

**Women's Retreat Committee** - Rev. Blair Buckley, Gail Einhaus, Callie Feyen, Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Margie Perrett, Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Rev. Nancy Talbott, and Sandy Talbott.

**Register Before February 15** - Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/womens-retreat-2018/> or contact Sandy Talbott or Rev. Melissa Ann Rogers BEFORE February 15. Cost is \$125 per person for a double room, \$95 per person for a triple, or \$175 for a single (limited number). This covers lodging, two meals, some snacks, and program costs for our speakers. (Some scholarship money is available, please apply with Rev. Rogers.) If you have a roommate request, let us know that as well. We hope you can make it, and bring a friend!

#### About Our Speakers

**Callie Feyen** is a writer and At-Risk Literacy Specialist in the Ypsilanti Public Schools. She and her husband have two daughters, Hadley (11), and Harper (9), and are members of First Presbyterian. In April, Zondervan published three of her essays in a collaboratively written book by Coffee+Crumbs called *The Magic of Motherhood*, and her first book, *The Teacher Diaries: Romeo and Juliet* is forthcoming in 2018 published by T.S. Poetry Press. Her writing has been featured in Good Letters, Off the Page, Relief Journal, Art House America, and she is a regular contributor for Coffee+Crumbs, Hello There, Friend, and Tweetspeak Poetry. Read more about her at <http://www.calliefeyen.com>.



**Rev. Nancy Talbott** received her M.Div from Andover Newton Divinity School. She is the ordained pastor of Barnstead UCC Church in New Hampshire. She recently completed two years as a student of Richard Rohr's Living School (The Living School - Center for Action and Contemplation), and has an open and engaging style of presentation. She is also Sandy Talbott's sister!

#### Tell Me More About This Church!

All prospective members and interested non-members are invited to join us Sunday, February 18 at 12:15 p.m. in the Founders Room to learn more about First Pres. Dr. Fairfax Fair hosts a one-hour conversation with her, lunch included. What would you like to know? Ask anything you wish about our theology, worship, polity, history, mission program — or about how Dr. Fair came from warm Texas to cold Michigan! Sign up by calling the Church Office at 734-662-4466 or email Rev. Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

## First Pres Support Groups

### Divorce Recovery

When First Pres member, Rev. Annette Fraser (retired) was suddenly faced with divorce, she searched and longed for such a group at any church and found none. She has been inspired to pair with Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers to offer these three meetings on Thursday nights during Lent. Be assured you WILL be wonderfully supported and never embarrassed.. Please feel free to tell your friends and neighbors that they are most welcome. If you have a question, please contact Annette nnttfraser@gmail.com or Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org



### STOP: Weight Loss Support

Join us for "STOP: Sensibly Take Off Pounds," a four-week support group for those who are working on getting healthy and losing weight. Led by First Pres member Gail Grady, who has a rich background in weight loss programs and a personal story to share, as well — we will meet from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room on Thursdays, February 1 and February 8. Bring friends and neighbors! All are welcome as we support one another in our quest for good health.



### Grief & Loss Support Group

First Pres is offering a four-part grief and loss support group on Sundays in February, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the Lewis Room, facilitated by Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers. Sign up in the Church Office, or at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org. If you are grieving, may God give you the strength and courage to take this step towards your own grief recovery. Open to our church members, friends, and community.

## Saturday Suppers

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with your First Pres friends on March 17. You'll be invited to an in-home potluck supper where a small group of church members and visitors meet for food, fellowship, and fun. This a wonderful way to participate in our congregation's life and to meet new people. Register on line at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/saturday-suppers/> beginning February 12, or sign up in person at Coffee Hour on March 4. For more information contact Sara VanderVoort at saravoort@gmail.com.



## Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

Everyone is invited to the Stephen Ministry Continuing Education presentation, Advance Care Planning, on Monday, February 12, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. End of life medical issues require more than just signing a piece of paper in your lawyer's office. Actual situations are more complicated and nuanced when it comes to real life. Dr. Sheryl Kurz spent 20 years as a practicing internist and now advocates for conversation-based advance care planning. Come learn about how to plan for these difficult situations that every family faces.

## Hilltoppers



Hilltoppers meets on Thursday, February 8, at noon, in the Social Hall for a hot lunch (\$5) and presentation. We welcome Dr. Sheryl Kurz for "Advance Care Planning: Beyond Advance Directives". The content of the talk will explain what advance care planning is and how it differs from advance directives. Conversation-based Advance Care Planning has been shown to bring serious illness and end-of-life care more in line with patient preference than has document-based advanced directives. It is a "patient-centered" approach, which is considered the best approach to current and future care. Dr. Sheryl Kurz spent 20 years as a practicing internist, and now advocates for conversation-based advance care planning. Come learn about how to plan for these difficult situations that every family faces.

## **T2A2 Field Trip - Twenties & Thirties in Ann Arbor**

**Field Trip to Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**

**Saturday, February 3, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Travel with us to Detroit where we'll tour the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History with First Pres' own Brad Taylor and enjoy lunch. RSVP to Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt and let her know if you would like to carpool.



*photo provided by the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History*

## **Mature Ministries Field Trip**

**April 19 - St. Saba Russian Orthodox Seminary and Royal Eagle Restaurant**

**Thursday, April 19, 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Cost is \$30 (includes tea and transportation), paid in advance.**

The nicest surprises are often found in our own backyard. One of those – the Royal Eagle restaurant in suburban Harper Woods – will be the destination of a Mature Ministries adventure planned for April 19. Set on the grounds of the St. Saba Russian Orthodox seminary, the Royal Eagle restaurant is known for their five-course Russian tea services. We will enjoy English-style cucumber star tea sandwiches, roast beef canape with horseradish dipping sauce, brie-cranberry chutney canape, smoked salmon lox with dill and capers, Ukrainian borscht, paprika-infused chicken skewers with herb-garlic sauce ... and a luscious dessert sampler! This relaxed meal will be served in a setting straight out of Dr. Zhivago. A guided tour of the seminary will round out the day's adventure. Price: \$30 (includes tea and transportation), payable in advance. Reserve your spot with Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers or with the Church Office. 50 spots are available.

## **All Church Outing - Saturday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars and watch for more info on the Men's Gymnastics Big 10 Championships at Crisler Arena. Tickets are \$7. This event is sponsored by Congregational Life Committee.



### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Look for the 2018 Mission Support Letter in your mailbox!**

Your 2017 gifts provided scholarships for Haiti FSIL nursing students and for First Pres ministerial students, and supported the work of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Detroit Missions, and Mission Co-Workers, Christi and Jeff Boyd's "Healing Hearts" ministry to children (Central Africa). PW is grateful for your generosity and welcomes your continued support.

### **February Gathering**

**9:30 a.m Bible Study in the Lewis Room** - Marolin Bellefleur will lead Lesson #6.

**11:00 a.m Program in Monteith Hall** - Our Wellness Coordinator and Parish Nurse, Sandy Talbott, will present "What You Need to Know When Scheduling a Hospital Stay." Learn how patient check-lists can be invaluable, especially as we get older.

**Noon - Lunch catered by Panera (\$7.00)** -Make your reservation in the Church Office, 662-4466.



## **Faith in Action**

### **Feeding Our Neighbors – Can You Help?**

Last year, First Pres collected 16,000 lbs of food from UM sporting events which went to Cass Community Social Services and the Riverside Meal Program in Ypsilanti. Help us keep feeding hungry people in 2018! Several more people, with either a van or SUV, are needed to pick up the food at Crisler and/or Athlete's Kitchen and take it to Cass after home basketball games on February 6, 15, and 20. The food should be picked up about 9:00 a.m. Questions? Want to help? Contact Don Redding at [dredding58@yahoo.com](mailto:dredding58@yahoo.com).

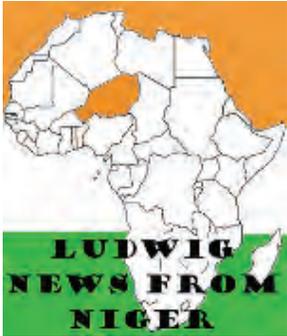


### **Suds 'n Sheets Campaign for Cass**

Our highly successful Suds 'n Sheets Campaign for Cass Community Social Services will be held in March. As in past years, we will collect paper towels and detergent, items always in demand at Cass, as part of our year-round support of Cass. In March, please drop off donations in baskets provided in the Welcome Center. This is a great opportunity for all members of a family to participate. Questions? Contact Sue Jeffers, [sjeffers1@me.com](mailto:sjeffers1@me.com).

## News from Niger

### Ludwigs' New Year Greetings



**Joyful Christmas** – We had a great Christmas celebration with Michael's parents and our friends here in Maradi. We once again cooked special meat and went around to share it with our neighbors and share our Christmas joy with them. Our church also had a joyous celebration.

**New Hosting Center Update** – The center is addressing the needs of the middle school girls who will be living here. The plan is to build a slightly larger latrine for them.

**Adoption Update** – We are planning to adopt a three-month old boy! Hopefully, now that we know the process, the adoption can be finished early in the year!

**Rickshaw Update** - The church has determined the rickshaw market has become over-saturated, but taxis are still one of the best consistent incomes in the service sector, so they are going to operate motorcycles as village bush-taxis, three-wheeled motorcycles for hauling, and a few city-car taxis.



## Children & Families

### Families@First – Story Song and Play Time

Saturday February 17, 11:00 a.m. – Noon

Parents of kids 0 - 6 years old, join us in Room 301 for an hour of fun and play! We will read stories, sing songs, and end with play time and a healthy snack in Room 101. Come, have fun, and meet other families. RSVP to Rev. Blair Buckley ([bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org)) or Debbie MacVey ([dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org)).



*Families@First having fun!*

### Camp Westminster, Summer 2018

First Pres children and youth have been going together to Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake for 19 summers, enjoying swimming, boating, archery, soccer, arts and crafts, nature activities, singing, campfires, Bible Quest and more. First Pres' week at camp is scheduled for July 29 – August 4. Choose "Adventure Camp" for campers second through fifth grade or "Adventure Camp Plus" for campers sixth grade through entering ninth grade.

There have been requests for more opportunities to go to Camp Westminster and the camp staff have several suggested options, all of which will be led by the staff from Camp Westminster.

- Want to camp with the whole family? Check out Family Camp held July 2-6.
- Two week camp options are available July 8 - 20. They include Extreme S.T.E.A.M., Just Camp or Drama Camp for second grade complete - fifth grade; or Sailing Plus, Radical Faith, The Au Sable Paddle and Saddle Challenge or Just Camp Plus for sixth grade complete - entering ninth grade

**To register and for complete details go to [www.campwestminster.com](http://www.campwestminster.com).** Camp Westminster has established an Adventure First legacy discount for \$35 for these three camp sessions for families and children from First Pres. Enter the code "1432". This is in addition to the early registration discounts on the website. There are early registration discounts for completing your registration by February 15. When you register indicate that you are from First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor. This will help with cabin placement. If there are families that feel an additional camp scholarship would be helpful, contact Debbie MacVey at [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).





## Campus Ministries at First Pres

This semester is off to a great start with UKirk @ UMich, First Pres' Campus Ministries program. We kicked off the year with a special New Year's Eve brunch at Zingerman's that attracted several current students from out of state colleges as well as local universities, lending an opportunity for new relationships to form and old ones to be rekindled. Our Wednesdays @ 8 gatherings featured fun outings to start the semester, including attending a UM Women's Basketball Game in conjunction with graduate students with T2A2. A new opportunity to serve students this semester is a Student Study Space, offered during the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the French Room — a place to get some work done between attending the 9:30 a.m. service and the noon College Lunch. One focus this year is strengthening the cohesion and input of our leadership teams. Seven students met with our campus staff to brainstorm ideas and chart out a plan to better serve the student community in 2018. Students are also participating in our newly formed Campus Ministry Work Group, generating several new opportunities to reach students and the broader campus community. More exciting updates to come!



## Resident Minister Corner



This summer the Revs. Emily Béghin, Daniel Ervin, and Angela Ryo – our eighth cohort of residents – left Ann Arbor to take up their new calls. First Pres' investment in the Residency is bearing fruit in diverse ministries carried out in multiple settings across the nation. In recent communications, each testifies to the impact of the Resident Ministry experience on their work and development as pastors, and tells us how they have integrated programs, services, and exemplary modes of ministry from First Pres in their current parishes. They cite the many ways pastors and members of our congregation have shaped their pastoral identities, habits and practices in ministry, and professional values – and thereby fostered an unceasing striving toward excellence in leadership and ministry across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**Emily Béghin**, Associate Pastor, First Pres, Virginia Beach: “My time as Associate Pastor here has been delightful. First Pres Ann Arbor truly prepared me for this position by giving me experience in every category of ministry.”

**Angela Ryo**, Assistant Pastor for Christian Formation, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills: “Not a single day passes by without [my] wistfully thinking back to my formative years at First Pres or applying the skills I've learned there. If I had a penny every time I talked about how they do things at First Pres, I'd be able to retire in less than a year.”

**Daniel Ervin**, Pastor, LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church, Wood River, IL: “Even though First Pres is considerably larger than LoveJoy United, I feel my residency experience helped me live into a much more well-rounded pastoral identity. I'm also so appreciating the colleagues I have now in Angela, Emily, and all of the First Pres staff.”

To see Emily, Daniel, and Angela's complete remarks, [click here](#), or go to [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org).

### This Just In:

**Brennan Blue** (née Brennan Pearson), RM Class of 2011, is leaving Westminster Presbyterian Church (Minneapolis), where he served as the Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children for four and a half years. He has accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor at St. Luke Presbyterian Church (Minnetonka, MN).

**Mark Brainerd**, RM Class of 2003, has accepted a call at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, to serve as the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. He leaves Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC, where he served as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Connection for twelve years.

**Jenny McDevitt**, RM Class of 2009, has accepted a call to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City to serve as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. She has served as Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, for the past five and a half years.