

# First Press

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## Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2015, consider a plan to grow your faith and relationship with God this year. Consider starting – or ending – each day with prayer. Read through the Bible in its entirety – or read the Psalms over and over. Complete a careful study of a single book in the Bible. Visit our church library for resources, or ask me for specific recommendations. Join one of the Psalter Study groups that will be forming for Lent. Resolve to talk with one person at church each week that you do not know well. Find yourself a prayer partner at First Pres, a person who will pray for you while you pray for him or her. Take faith walks, giving thanks to God that you can walk, that our streets are safe, and that around us is the beauty of creation. Commit to a ministry at church you've never tried. Try participating in a mini mission or attend both a Sunday morning service

and our 7:07 pm for several weeks. Join Presbyterian Women – or a men's early morning breakfast group! Put in a garden and donate some of your fresh produce to Food Gatherers. Give thanks to God for the miracle of photosynthesis! God gives us the gift of life and blesses us with the capacity to know joy. May we find joy in 2015 – together with one another and together always with God!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



## JANUARY HIGHLIGHT



### Annual Meeting and All-Church Luncheon

On Sunday, January 25, come for one of the great fellowship events of the year – the all-church annual meeting and luncheon. The annual meeting takes place in the Sanctuary following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Dr. Fair will give a brief address about the state of the church, you'll hear about the budget, approve the terms of call for the installed pastors, and learn about some key areas of ministry at First Pres. At 11:30 a.m., we move downstairs to share a delicious lunch together whipped up by Chef Christine. The cost is \$5 per person. The 11:00 service is cancelled on January 25. Make your reservation at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/annual-meeting-allchurch-luncheon/> or sign up in the Church Office. Pay ahead of time and bypass the line at the cash box! You can also volunteer to help on the reservation form. We look forward to seeing you there!



# Worship & Music

## Hymn Honors Rev. Dr. Brewster H. Gere

When the Reverend Dr. Brewster “Budge” Gere retired in 2013, a hymn was commissioned to honor him and his years of ministry. The Reverend Dr. Brian Wren has written a text entitled *Give Thanks for Hope* as part of this commission. *Give Thanks for Hope* will be sung for the first time during our morning services on Sunday, January 11. The dedication to the hymn reads “In honor and appreciation of the ministry of the Reverend Dr. Brewster H. Gere by First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan.”



Born in the UK in 1936 and educated at Oxford University, Dr. Wren is one of the most important hymn writers in the English language in the last quarter of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. He immigrated to the United States and is Professor Emeritus of Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary, a PCUSA-affiliate seminary. The 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal* and the 2013 hymnal *Glory to God* each include 11 texts by Dr. Wren. In addition to the hymn (text) itself, the composer Dan Damon, an internationally recognized writer of hymns and composer of hymn tunes, wrote a new tune with harmonization for Dr. Wren’s text. He named the tune “Brewster,” in honor of Budge’s given name. Please join us for worship on Sunday morning, January 11, as this hymn is sung for the first time!

## Worship Schedule Change on January 25

On January 25, worship services will be held at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m., and at 7:07 p.m. – but not 11:00 a.m. The Annual Meeting will follow the 9:30 a.m. worship service! Lunch follows the meeting (see above.)

## Princeton Theological Seminary Comes to First Pres



Dr. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, will be our guest preacher on Sunday, February 1 at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. In addition, the Princeton Theological Seminary Choir, under the direction of Dr. Martin Tel, will provide much of the musical leadership for those services. First Pres will be providing housing for members of the choir. If you are willing to host two or more choir members overnight, please contact Tom Granum at 662-4466, ext. 347, or [tgranum@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:tgranum@firstpresbyterian.org).



## Ash Wednesday Dinner and Worship

February 18 at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Come for Ash Wednesday worship at 5:00 p.m. for the Intergenerational service or at 7:30 p.m. for the ecumenical Taizé worship service. Plan on coming for dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. after or before worship.



# Congregational Life

## ELIJAH: Get your Tickets through First Pres

The UMS Choral Union will present Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* on Saturday evening, February 14. First Pres has 50 tickets, \$21 each. Reserve your ticket now by emailing Rev. Rogers, [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org), or signing up in the Church Office. Because this is an 8 p.m. performance, we will carpool from the church and arrange rides for those who do not drive at night. Reservations must be made by January 15. First Pres will present several adult education sessions in January and February on this great prophet and stunning musical piece in preparation for the event. In preparation for this event, January’s adult education class at 11:00 a.m. will feature Professor Wally Schmeichel teaching us about the prophet Elijah.



*Elijah Is Visited by an Angel*  
Dieric (Dirk) Bouts, 1466

## Something New – WINTER 2:42

### Our traditional Wednesday 2:42 followed by The Lenten Experience!

Our Wednesday night dinner and classes are taking on a new look this winter. We hope you'll join us for ten weeks of this program, or jump in for any part of it! The ten-week schedule is as follows:

#### January 21 - February 11 Traditional Wednesday 2:42

Come for four weeks of our traditional Wednesday 2:42, our terrific, multi-generational, mid-week program, that includes:

- A delicious all-church dinner every week at 6:00 p.m.
- Fabulous fellowship during dinner
- Children's Choir at 5:15 p.m. (led by Tom and Doris Granum)
- Three adult education classes after dinner

#### ***Glory to God: Let All the People Sing!***

Using the new Presbyterian hymnbook, *Glory to God*, the group will sing a variety of hymns each of the four weeks as a way to explore and experience a wide variety of hymn styles – from German chorales to gospel songs to praise choruses to global songs. Additionally, each week will include our singing several hymns or songs by a specific author so we can have a greater understanding of the author's writings. No singing ability is required or expected. In fact, you are welcome to come and listen without singing! Led by Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries



#### ***Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life***

Baffled by prayer? Confused about how to heal your soul? Need to feed your spirit? Together, come and read and follow Marjorie Thompson's invitation to the Christian spiritual life in *Soul Feast* during Wednesday 2:42. The book offers a way to understand the spiritual disciplines and provides instruction for developing and nurturing those practices in our lives. *Soul Feast* can be purchased through First Pres for \$13 each or you may purchase your copy through Amazon. Led by Rev. Jay Sanderford

#### **Coming through Grief**

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, M.Div., MAMFT, will lead a four-week support group for those who are grieving. No matter what kind of loss you have suffered, come and learn about normal grief, grief that is complicated, and ways to endure this trying experience. It is something that we all go through at various points of life, yet we each work through it uniquely. Walking and talking with others helps. Sign up to attend by contacting Rev. Rogers, [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).



#### **February 18 Ash Wednesday**

On Ash Wednesday, February 18, we will have an all-church dinner at 6:00 p.m. The dinner is \$6 per person. ***There is a separate registration for the Ash Wednesday Dinner.*** There are two worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday. The first service at 5:00 p.m. is designed to be family-friendly with the imposition of ashes and with communion. Worship at 7:30 p.m. is a community service with the imposition of ashes and with communion done in the Taizé style.

#### **February 25 - March 25 The Lenten Experience: Lenten Suppers and Lenten Study Groups**

##### **The Lenten Experience Schedule:**

As with traditional Wednesday 2:42, Children's Choir meets at 5:15 p.m. as will a Lenten Study group. A special Lenten Supper will follow at 6:00 p.m. and will include a hearty soup, bread, salad, and dessert. For kids, we'll have kid-friendly mac and cheese and chicken fingers. At 6:40 p.m., dessert with coffee and tea will be available to be picked up and taken by participants into small Lenten study group meetings. ***There is a separate registration for the Lenten Experience.***

##### **Lenten Study Groups**

There will be three small groups, led by pastors, which will meet for 45 minutes to discuss the scripture and lenten theme that will be preached on the following Sunday. When you sign up for "The Lenten Experience," you will be assigned to one of these three groups. We encourage you to come for all five weeks and enjoy the learning, discussion, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Groups will meet from 6:45 until 7:30 p.m. Themes will be announced in the February *First Press*. The email devotional and preaching topics will follow the weekly theme that we are discussing.

**What about kids?** At 6:40 p.m., for preschool and elementary-age school children whose parents are enrolled in one of the Lenten Studies, there will be kid's activities until 7:30 p.m. For those who would like to attend a class before dinner, there will also be a Lenten Study class offering from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m., led by two of the pastors.

### How to Register

**Wednesday 2:42** – Register on-line at the church website or by filling out a paper registration at church. The meal cost for the 4-week semester is \$24 a person (\$96 for a family of 4 or more.) If you wish to sign up for dinner on a weekly basis call the church office by close of business on the Monday preceding the Wednesday you would like to attend, 662-4466. The individual meal cost is \$6 per person.

**Ash Wednesday Dinner and the Lenten Experience** – There are separate registrations for the Ash Wednesday dinner and the Lenten Study dinners. Watch for announcements in the bulletin, and online. Don't miss out!

## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

The Congregational Life Committee thanks all who helped set up, serve, and clean up at the All-Church Christmas Dinner, December 7. It was a marvelous time for all, capped of by the singing of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." We especially enjoyed having Tom Granum and members of the choir lead our musical program, the comedic efforts of emcees Jim Cameron and Dick Carlisle, the amazing cooking of Chef Christine, the kitchen leadership of Sandy Talbott, Mark Lindley, and Becky Gaffney, the great support of people like Jinx and Dick Cooke and Rev. Jay Sanderford, and the scrumptious desserts provided by the elders and deacons. We are already planning for next year!



## Hilltoppers: Ya Comin'?

Hilltoppers (for those 60 and up!) meets on Thursday, January 8 at Noon in the Social Hall, for "More Than Meets the Eye: Planning for UM Campuses." Our guest speaker will be Sue Gott, Head Planner for the University of Michigan, and long-time member of First Pres. Come hear what's going on at the UM campuses, Camp Michigania, and other maize and blue places near and dear to our heart. Sign up in the Church Office, please or email Rev. Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org). Lunch is \$5.

## Immature Ministries (40s & 50s) Post-Holiday Stress Relief

Share your undesirable Christmas gifts and newly discarded New Years' resolutions on Friday, January 9, at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Tom and Cindy Crawford. Bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift or two in a paper bag. Newcomers are always welcome – singles and couples! Sign up by January 5 by emailing Rev. Rogers.



## T2A2 - Twenties & Thirties in Ann Arbor

If you are in your 20s or 30s, grad student, urban professional, young married with or without children, single, and looking for connections with others, join our group, T2A2. Our next gathering for Faith on Tap is January 5 at 7:30 p.m., place to be determined. Email Rev. Lindsay Conrad, [lconrad@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:lconrad@firstpresbyterian.org), if you'd like to get on the email list to learn more about weekly lunches, meet-ups, study, prayer, etc.

## Another Great New Member Class!

The following new members were welcomed as members of First Pres on Sunday, December 14 at a joyful breakfast, where they were joined by Elders, Deacons, and their sponsors. The class included: Kathy Anderson, Carol Carter, Carol Downton, Gail Grady, Betsy Hammond, John Hammond, Andy Kong, Douglas Lewis, Robin Randall-Lewis, Genevieve Monsma, Zachary Monsma, Bob Gardstrom, Ruth Gardstrom, Sharon Sheldon, and Carson Smith. We also welcome the children of these new members. Robin and Doug Lewis come to the First Pres family with their children William, Tyler, Riley, Lexi and Lily. Genevieve and Zach Monsma bring their son Heath to our church. Kathy Anderson and her husband, long-time member Ross Anderson, are the parents of Gavin. We are excited about this fantastic class!



Ross, Gavin and  
Kathy Anderson



Carol Downton



Gail Grady



Andy Kong



Douglas Lewis and  
Robin Randall-Lewis



Zach, Heath and  
Genevieve Monsma



Sharon Sheldon



Carson Smith

## Register Your Child at Triangle Preschool

Triangle Cooperative Nursery School, located in Room 200 and 201 of First Pres, is now accepting applications for three and four-year-olds for the 2015-2016 school year. First Pres members receive priority enrollment status for applications submitted prior to February 1, 2015. There will be an Open House on Saturday February 7, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, for prospective families to tour the school, meet the teachers and Triangle families, and have questions answered. Light refreshments and children's activities will be offered. For an application or more information, please call 761-7688 or visit [www.trianglecoop.org](http://www.trianglecoop.org).

## Mature Singles

Mature Singles will be celebrating the New Year together on January 1 with a New Year's Open House at Marcy Toon's home at 1:00 p.m. Interested in attending? Call Marcy at 995-2519 to RSVP.



## Transitions

### We Celebrate the Birth of

Eloise Jane DeLand, born November 9, to Todd and Jessica DeLand

### We Grieve the Death of

Carolyn Van Boven, November 26, 2014

David R. Miller, November 27, 2014

Keith Horngren, December 14, 2014

### We Say Goodbye to

Jane Parker, to Bonita Springs, Florida (as primary home)

Laurie Kotchenruther, to Bethesda, Maryland

Sue Sabo, to California

Sarah Russell, to Bedford, New Hampshire

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

## Stephen Ministry Continuing Education: All Are Welcome

Monday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., French Room/Library

Forgiveness and Mental Health with Berit Ingersoll-Dayton, Professor and Director of Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science, University of Michigan. All are invited to attend.

### What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministers are highly trained lay caregivers at First Pres who meet one-on-one with people of the same gender each week to lend them support, to walk alongside them in a time of need or uncertainty, and hold them in prayer. Christ is the caregiver, as we say - but we are the caregivers. With great excitement, we will begin training a new class of First Pres Stephen Ministers this month, men and women who, after completing 50 hours of training, will be commissioned to serve in June. We ask you to pray for these people who have been called to serve, and hold our Leadership Team in your prayers as they prepare these folks to serve those who are hurting in our church and community. If you're not familiar with Stephen Ministry, please consider whether having a Stephen Minister would be a gift to you, or serving in the future might be your calling. For more information, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor, [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).



### Stephen Ministry By the Numbers

- 1:1** Stephen Ministers provide on-to-one care to people going through a crisis or difficult time.
- 8** Stephen Ministers spend at least 8 hours with this ministry each month. Four hours are spent in continuing education and supervision sessions, and one hour a week is spent with the care-receiver in need.
- 9** We have nine new Stephen Ministers who are currently going through training to join our team, including three men. Watch for them to be commissioned towards the end of May 2015.
- 40** Stephen Ministries celebrates 40 years of equipping the saints for ministry. It was founded in 1975.
- 200** Stephen Ministries (headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri) has conducted more than 200 Leader Training Courses since 1978 to prepare leaders in individuals congregations to train Stephen Ministers.
- 1,000** A team of 20 Stephen Ministers can provide more than 1,000 hours of one-to-one Christ-centered care each year. Most Stephen Ministry churches have 10 to 30 Stephen Ministers. Our church has 22 active Stephen Ministers, eight men and women currently training to serve, and an additional nine who have served faithfully and are inactive at this time.
- 12,000** More than 12,000 congregations worldwide are enrolled in the Stephen Ministry series.
- 65,000** More than 65,000 pastors, church staff, and lay leaders have attended a Leader's Training Course which equips Stephen Leaders with the knowledge and tools they need to lead Stephen Ministry back home.
- 600,000** Stephen Leaders have trained more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers in their local congregations since the ministry began in 1975. And that number grows every year!
- Millions** of hurting people – congregation members and people with no church home – have been blessed by the care of and support of a Stephen Minister.



## Residents' Corner

The Reverend Jenny McDevitt (Class of 2011) has been appointed as Vice President of the board of the publication Presbyterian Outlook.

The Reverends Krsitin Riegel and Lindsay Conrad have just returned from a trip to Guatemala to research a future international youth mission trip.



## Faith In Action

### Rotating Shelter: January 5 - 19



#### Sign Up to Help with the Rotating Shelter

Please join us in welcoming our guests January 5 - 19. If you haven't signed up yet, see the signup board in the Welcome Center, or at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/rotating-shelter-volunteer-signup-2015/>. We have many openings, and there is room for you to help by hosting, welcoming, cooking, driving, or purchasing items for the program. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers, [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org), or Jeanette Middleton, [msjett@aol.com](mailto:msjett@aol.com).

#### Rotating Shelter Reflections from Donna Nussdorfer

When I was asked to give some of my reflections about the times Gus and I have stayed with our guests during the Rotating Shelter, I realized it is hard to put this experience into words. The first time I signed up to be an overnight volunteer, I was concerned if I could stay awake all night. However, I learned I wouldn't have to. With three other First Pres folks there, my shift to be awake was only three hours. It was easy, and great to have fellowship with other members.

Fellowship with our guests was the highlight of the experience. Whether it was over snacks, a wild game of Rummy, or just sharing our stories, it was great fun. When you are homeless, something as simple as homemade chocolate chip cookies becomes a treat to anticipate. If you can't stay over but want to do something, make homemade cookies. They are always appreciated.

I am always moved by the compassion and understanding that the guests show to each other. They seem to know each other in ways that we sometimes lose within our own families. They work hard to make the sleeping space in the social hall their own. One of the young men had placed his bed near the Christmas tree in the corner of fellowship hall because it reminded him of sleeping under the tree at home when he was a child. Another guest was working on his culinary degree at Schoolcraft College, something he as always wanted to do.

There are many more stories to be told. Staying with our guests in the Rotating Shelter always brings to mind Jesus's message that in caring for the others we are in turn caring for Him. I always come away from my time at the Rotating Shelter renewed and thankful for the opportunity to serve in this small way. Please consider how you can help and sign up on the board in the welcome center. You will be glad that you did.



### Sign up now for Mini-Missions @ First Pres



Mission begins at home under our very own roof. Consider sharing your time and talents in a hands-on project with Mini-Missions @ First Pres. In-house Mini-Missions are scheduled the third Thursday morning of each month. Projects include making/tying fleece blankets to distribute to children who have been abused and to patients at the VA hospital; making beautiful cards for the Deacons to send to members of our congregation; and "fixer-upper" projects such as prepare Sunday School rooms for the new school year, assemble candles with bobèches for Christmas Eve and other projects as designated by church staff. For more information, see the Mini-Missions flyer at the Welcome Center. To sign up for a Mini-Mission, go to the church website [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org); see contact persons in the flyer; or call Marcey Terrien (480) 833-7019.



## Christmas Gifts to the Delonis Homeless Shelter

As part of our Church Christmas tradition, the Wednesday night greeting card program dispersed 135 warm hats and packages of socks to the guests of the Delonis Center. These were purchased at Walmart which made a significant contribution to the cost. As always, the shelter guests were grateful for receiving these as wintertime arrived in our community. An integral part of the Church program is providing Christmas greeting cards plus stamps so the guests have a way to keep in contact with their families and friends during the holidays. Both the socks and caps plus the greeting cards are given out by a loyal group of First Pres Delonis Center volunteers.

## Celebrating 10 Years: Haiti School of Nursing

YES, 10 years and counting! Congratulations to the members of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor who developed the school, nurtured it and continue to support it! This long standing mission effort took root and blossomed here in our faith community in partnership with Haitian colleagues, the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation. The nursing school stands as an outstanding example of sustainable international mission, by Haitian people for Haitian people. The Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti in Léogâne (FSIL School of Nursing in Léogâne, Haiti) admitted its first class of nursing students in January, 2005. Under the able leadership of Dean Hilda Alcindor, the School of Nursing will graduate its seventh class and celebrate its milestone 10th anniversary on January 10. The ceremonies will take place in the newly-constructed auditorium on the campus of FSIL in Léogâne. Episcopal Bishop Duracin will preside at the commencement and celebration. Three missionaries from First Presbyterian Church, Ruth Barnard, Jennifer Griggs, and Rosemarie Rowney, will travel to Port Au Prince, Léogâne, and Cap Haitien, Haiti January 7-14, 2015 for the prime purpose of advocacy and witness of the FSIL School of Nursing and other health care facilities in Haiti. Rev. Jay Sanderford will commission them during worship on Sunday, January 4. The group represents this congregation and requests prayers for their trip, for the involvement of this church and for continued success of FSIL.



## Russia Mission Team 2015

After our team's trip to Davydovo, Russia, to serve in the church camp for children with disabilities, the Russia Mission Team has decided to make 2015 a year of education. Through a series of events planned to begin in February, we will continue efforts to get to know Russia and its people. We hope to hear once again from those who spoke at the Russian Mission Network Conference in August, to enjoy Russian food, and to engage our friends from St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. As yet we have enjoyed only a sample of what our two congregations can offer to one another through musical events, presentations, and shared meals (including the cooking itself!). Although our team will wait until 2016 to return to Davydovo, we hope to support our brothers and sisters at St. Vladimir as they prepare to send a team to Russia, including youth, in the summer of 2015.

## PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker Selected



The November 2014 Mission Committee meeting voted to accept a report from the Mission Co-Worker Selection Task Force to support Rev. Michael Ludwig and Rachel Ludwig and the people of Niger. The financial support for 2014 was \$2,000.

Michael and Rachel will work alongside the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN), helping them develop a literacy training and evangelism program. Niger is among the world's poorest countries, has a literacy rate of only 29 percent, and experiences frequent famines. "It's captured our hearts as a place of great need, where people with skills in language and teaching can make a huge impact in the lives of ordinary Nigerians through literacy training and exposure to the gospel,

they write. "We believe this program will help the church grow in reaching out to its non-Christian neighbors, helping them physically through teaching and spiritually as they read the good news of Jesus." Please keep Michael, Rachel and their young son and daughter in your prayers for the work they will be doing in Niger. The Co-Worker Ministries Team will continue to keep First Pres up to date with progress of Michael and Rachel and their ministries.

## Family to Family Christmas Update

One hundred and twenty-nine needy families in our community were cared for this Christmas by our First Pres family. Sixty-eight were adopted by our church members and friends, and 62 received Meijer gift cards through the generous contributions of the congregation. We had enough financial contributions remaining to purchase an additional 100 \$25 gift cards to distribute to families in need at Mott hospital; these will be given out as needed throughout the year. Gracious volunteers delivered gifts on behalf of church members who adopted families but were unable to deliver gifts themselves. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered, supported, gave, prayed, or offered other kinds of tangible help this season as we helped those in need in our community.



## Adult Education

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

#### THE BIBLE AT 9:30 A.M.

##### *Bible Exploration and Conversation*

During January The Bible at 9:30 continues a study of Ecclesiastes and wisdom literature from the Old Testament. The class, led by Rev. Ed Koster, meets in the Founders Room.



#### FIRST COUPLES

##### *Spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals*

Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith. DVD presentation and discussion connecting science, faith, and evolutionary Christian spirituality. First Couples meets in Monteith Hall and the presenters are class members.

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

#### EXPLORING THE FAITH

##### **Elijah: The Prophet's Story and the Story of Mendelssohn's Epic Oratorio**

The Biblical story of the prophet Elijah and Mendelssohn's rich oratorio will be the focus of the class in preparation for a February 14 performance of Elijah at Hill Auditorium. (see pg. 2) The class meets in Monteith Hall and the presenters are Dr. Waldemar Schmeichel and others.

#### FOOD & JUSTICE

##### **An Interfaith Exploration of How our Food Choices Impact our Environment, our Economy, and our Neighbors**

Kicking off in January 2015, the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) will sponsor a semester of Food & Justice events in partnership with many congregations and organizations, including First Pres. On January 22 at 7:00 p.m., ICPJ will host "Connecting Food & Faith," an interfaith panel discussion exploring the connection between faith and food, at the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch. Rev. Kristin Riegel will serve as a panelist. All are invited to attend this interfaith event.

#### PRAY MORE IN THE NEW YEAR!

*Get the Daily Prayer app on iTunes and use your smartphone to pray daily.*

Presbyterians have developed Daily Prayer – a smartphone app for daily prayer. The Daily Prayer app provides simple, yet rich, devotional resources for morning, midday, evening, and close of day. Each service includes psalms and readings from the confessions. Other elements include opening and closing words, biblical songs, a thanksgiving for light, and a prayer of confession. An advanced features menu allows users to customize which elements appear. I've been using Daily Prayer for a year now, and enjoy it. When I'm in line at the grocery store, or waiting mindlessly at the doctor's office, it's a great outlet for prayer. To see more, visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/daily-prayer/> Daily Prayer is \$2.99 on iTunes. Give it a try and let me know what you think. *Rev. Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor*





# Youth Connection

## An Extraordinary Sunday Line-Up

- Munch & Mingle - 9:20 a.m., 100 Level, Hallway
- Sunday School - 9:30 a.m., 100 Level, Varied Rooms
- Youth Choir - 4:30 p.m., 400 Level, Choir Room
- Youth Dinner - 5:00 p.m., 300 Level, Vance Room
- Mids Youth Group - (6th-8th Graders) 5:30 p.m., 300 Level, Curtis Room,
- Keystones Youth Group - (9th-12th Graders) 5:30 p.m., 100 Level, Youth Room



## International Youth Mission Trip to Guatemala

The high school mission team is now forming for the summer international mission trip to Jalapa, Guatemala. The team will work on a construction project at the community center and lead Vacation Bible School for area children. The trip is open to present 9th-12th graders who want to make a difference, see a new country, meet new people, and work hard together. After a week of working, the team will travel to the rainforest to experience the wonders of the rivers of Semuc Cham-pay. The trip will be led by Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett, Rev. Kristin Riegel, Rev. Lindsay Conrad, Kelsey King, Alyssa Scheske, Cassie Webster, Ryan Lindstrom, and Marc Buchanan. The cost of the trip is \$1,000 plus another \$200 fundraised by April 1. Registration for the trip will close January 30. Summer mission trips are an important part of the spiritual development of our teenagers. To find out more, contact Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett at 662-4466, ext. 346, or [jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org).

## Pittsburgh Project

The Keystones high school mission team went to Pittsburgh recently to work on three homes for the Pittsburgh Project. Twenty-five high schoolers spent the weekend painting, mudding plaster, and hanging siding for low income homeowners. The trip was led by Rev. Jim Monnett, Chris King, Carol Detmer, Cassie Webster, and Rachel Bellovich.



# Opportunities for Women

## PW Discusses an End to Gun Violence



The Presbyterian Women's Gathering will be on Wednesday, January 21. Bible Study will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Lewis Room. The program beginning at 11:00 a.m. will be "Work to End Gun Violence" with the speaker Susan Morrell-Samuels from the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center. Lunch will follow in the Social Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this relevant and timely presentation.

Susan Morrell-Samuels, M.A., MPH, University of Michigan School of Public Health, is the Managing Director of the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center and will speak about gun violence and violence prevention. She has directed a number of violence prevention projects, including the Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence and the Neighborhood Violence Prevention Collaborative. Recognized nationally as an expert on youth and violence, she has appeared on national television and in public forums on the topic.

### Other PW Activities:

The Women's Reading Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, at the home of Joann Freethy, for a discussion of chapters 9 and 10 of *Who Is This Man?*

Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS) will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 19, in the Curtis Room.



# Children & Families

## Save the Date for **CAMP WESTMINSTER** July 26- August 1, 2015

Attention parents and kids – First Pres is going to Camp Westminster again this summer! Children currently in second through eighth grade are eligible to go. Camp Westminster, a Presbyterian camp on Higgins Lake, offers a traditional camp experience, with swimming, boating, archery, soccer, arts and crafts, singing, campfires, and more. Older campers who have completed grade six through grade eight will also have a canoe trip on the AuSable River.

Here’s what campers say about camp! “Camp Westminster means many things to me. It means one whole week of fun and new friends. It means a lot of new responsibility. But, most of all, camp means a chance to connect with God ... I love camp!” And from another camper: “Camp was fun!” Check out the camp photos from previous years on the bulletin board on the 400 Level at church.

Brochures and pre-registration forms will be mailed to each home. Register before February 1 to get a discount on your camp fees.

Questions? Contact Debbie MacVey, [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Jim Monnett, [jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org)



# Campus Connection



## **Pancake Supper: Thank You!**

Campus Ministry wants to thank all the volunteers who made our Annual Pancake Supper such a fun and meaningful event last month. The Pancake Supper means so much to our student neighbors, and they raved about the hospitality they received. Several of them asked about opportunities to worship at First Pres and form friendships with our student community too. Thank you to every person who participated and made the evening so special. We couldn’t do it without you!

## **Calling All Cooks for Campus Ministry!**

What if you could cook an abundant, delicious meal for our college students with some of your friends at the church, and you could be reimbursed for 100% of the cost? Guess what? You can! Thanks to a grant from the Synod of the Covenant, First Pres has new financial support for our weekly Campus Dinner on Sunday evenings in 2015. We are looking for people who will cook a meal with other friends and serve it to our students. You will be entirely reimbursed. Would you be interested to participate in this growing ministry? If so, please email Renee Roederer at [rroederer@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:rroederer@firstpresbyterian.org).

