



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
January 2017 ■ Volume 65, Number 1



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Dear Friends,

Our Christmas services were awesome in the truest sense of the word. The miracle of the birth of God was beautifully experienced in the presence of the Word – Jesus the Christ – and in the Word spoken and sung. We glimpsed the Holy, marveled at the mystical nearness of God, and received the good news: for us has been born a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Peace and good will extends to all.

As we move into the new year, let's carry forward with us the awe of Christmas, the awe inspired by God's coming among us in flesh and blood. This is not the time or the place for a lengthy treatise on the Doctrine of the Incarnation. Suffice it to say, Emmanuel -- God with us -- is our great comfort and joy and a mystery which is beyond human comprehension.

New research gives us yet another reason to hold on to the awe of Christmas. UC-Berkeley psychologist Dacher Keltner reports "that brief doses of awe move us from a model of self-interest to really being engaged in the interests of others. The preliminary data are showing that [awe] starts to break down us-versus-them thinking" (*The Atlantic*, 9-22-16).

May the miracle of Christ's birth help us see one another as fellow beloved children of God. All of us are precious to God and the welfare of humankind is woven through all the differences we sometimes allow to divide us. The mosaics of skin tone, facial features, cultures and languages are testimony to God's creative genius and blessings for which to be thankful. Indeed, an ideal prayer for the new year is for peace among all peoples.

We welcome the new year with worship and communion with a single service at 10:00 on New Year's Day. The following Sunday is a special one in the life of the church. We will ordain and install elders and deacons to serve the Lord through First Pres as ruling elders and deacons. Their names are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. As is our custom, the annual meeting of the congregation will be held on the last Sunday of January, the 29th. It will be followed by a wonderful luncheon. Make your reservations and plan to come enjoy a delicious meal and warm, multi-generational fellowship. Have an awesome New Year!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



Annual Meeting & All-Church Luncheon

On Sunday, January 29, come for one of the great fellowship events of the year! The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Luncheon takes place in the Sanctuary after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Dr. Fair will give a brief address about the state of the church, after which the congregation will hear about the budget, approve the terms of call for the installed pastors, and learn about some key areas of ministry. The 11:00 a.m. service is cancelled on January 29. At 11:30 a.m., everyone moves downstairs to share a delicious lunch together whipped up by Chef Christine. The cost is \$7 per person. Make your reservation in the Church Office or at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/annual-meeting-allchurch-luncheon/>



Worship & Music

Ordination and Installation of Officers - January 8

It is a joyful day when we ordain and install officers to serve Christ through serving this congregation.

At 9:30 a.m., we will ordain and install our new elders - Linda Dabrowski Tim Dickinson, Kay Fuller, Henry Johnson, Lynn Lande, Karla Olson-Bellfi, Rick Platte, and Pat Tamblyn.

At 11:00 a.m., we will ordain and install our new deacons Rob Bauman, Lisa Danielson, Jim Dickinson, Carol Downton, Mark Endicott, Lee Evans, Nancy Fox, Becky Gaffney, Gail Grady, Ellen Johnson, Michele Madden, Holly Majorprice, Chris Queen, Sue Rigterink, Nancy Rugani, Norm Samuelson, Judy Slade, Jean Song, and Gayle Stevens.

Come and worship with us that day and stay for cake and a celebration during Coffee Hour. Meet and greet our new church officers!



Special Thanks to our Outgoing Officers

Many thanks to those who answered God's call and gave their time, talents, and leadership to First Presbyterian Church.

Elders - Gwen Alexander, Jim Cameron, Sue Jeffers, David Kershaw, Steve McKenny, Bob Pierce, Helena Prince, and Kathy Sample. **Deacons** - Martine Blogin, Jean Buck, Sharon Dort, Karen Gardstrom, Diane Knibbs, Jim Lombard, Roy Mast, Dan Mitas, Jane Myers, Nancy Oliver, Bryon Thelen-Perry, Gale Redding, Dianne Santinga, Susan Sweet Scott, Judy Stuart, Martin Swindle, David Willmer, Ralph Winter, and John Yodhes.

sounding light

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



heart and spirit of this most meaningful American folk music. Remember the legacy of Martin Luther King as the powerful and expressive voices of *sounding light* breathe new life into a timeless message of hope and peace.

Known for its inspiring and illuminating performances, *sounding light* brings together a unique collection of singers gathered from seven states. Led by its founder, Tom Trenney, *sounding light* is committed to offering its members a spiritual and holistic approach to ensemble singing while offering its listeners a compelling and timeless experience with the choral art.

The chamber choir *sounding light* visits First Pres on Sunday, January 15 at 3:00 p.m. to ring in the New Year with a concert of beloved gospel and spiritual songs in honor and celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Through stirring arrangements by Moses Hogan, André Thomas, Stacey Gibbs, Craig Hella Johnson, and Tom Trenney, *sounding light* shares the authentic joy and soul,

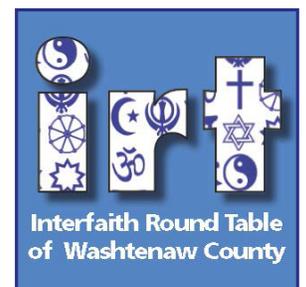


Faith In Action

Faces of Faith

Sunday, January 15, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will hold the sixth annual Faces of Faith program as part of national Religious Freedom Day observances at Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor. We will focus on stories of religious leaders from the following traditions: Baha'i, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Unitarian Universalism. Each presenter will talk about "the personal joys" and the "public frustrations" in being part of their faith tradition. Small group conversation will also be part of the afternoon. There is a suggested \$5 donation. For more information, go to www.irtwc.org or email gbrides@umich.edu.



Trip to Russia Planned

Next summer First Pres. hopes to send a group of college students and young adults to Davydovo, Russia. The team will work with special needs children and their families at a summer camp run by our mission partner Fr. Vladimir and his congregation. This work strengthens the partnership between our church and a Russian Orthodox Church. We were fortunate to connect with Fr. Vladimir through the help of our mission coworker Ellen Smith and have enjoyed good mutual visits. Our 2017 trip will include a week at the summer camp in Davydovo and the opportunity for a side trip to either Moscow or St. Petersburg. Trip leaders are Rev. Béghin, Rev. Sanderford, and Marti Wendler. Financial assistance is available. If interested please join us Tuesday, January 3, at 3:00 p.m. at Common Cup across from First Pres. Have a free cup of coffee and get more information. Questions? Contact Rev. Jay Sanderford or Rev. Emily Béghin.



Feeding Our Neighbors



Feeding Our Neighbors has just completed its fifth season, collecting over 10,000 lbs of food in 2016. This means that over 65,000 lbs of food have been delivered to hungry people over the past five years! The food rescued from the concession stands at UM Football and Basketball games is mostly pizzas, hot dogs, and brats. High quality foods including steak, ravioli, pasta, fajitas, chili, tacos, and vegetables are rescued from the student athletes' kitchen.

The majority of the food is delivered to Cass Community Kitchen in Detroit. The Second Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in downtown Detroit also receives food. The Riverside Meal Program run by First Presbyterian Church in Ypsilanti also receives and uses the rescued kitchen food as their main course for most of the evening meals. This valuable program helps feed hungry people all over Southeast Michigan. The good news is that we are

able to carry out this program with about twenty-five volunteers. The bad news is that we only have twenty-five volunteers, so a few people carry most of the load. Please help us keep it going. Consider giving a few hours of your time to this important mission once or twice a year. The next phase of food rescue starts with the Big Ten basketball season, so there is time to get involved right now. Questions? Contact Don Redding at dredding58@yahoo.com.

We Did Detroit!

First Presbyterian with five other area churches and numerous service organizations, celebrated our ongoing mission with Cass Community Social Services of Detroit on November 13. The nearly 250 guests dined on fine Detroit and Michigan themed food by Cass Catering and were entertained by the singing of the Cass Ambassadors, a talented group of homeless and formerly homeless men. The evening was highlighted by a talk by Rev. Faith Fowler about the Cass Tiny Homes Project whereby very low income persons can rent a beautiful tiny home and after seven years will have ownership of the property, a first of its kind program in the country.



Circles: Lifting Families Out of Poverty

Have you ever wondered what you could do to help a struggling neighbor or felt that you needed to do more to put your faith in action? This spring, Friends In Deed is launching Circles, a program designed to break the cycle of generational poverty for families in Washtenaw County who are committed to real change—in their own lives and in our community. Knowing that relationships matter, Circles matches a person in poverty with two or three middle income partners to form a support system. It also brings in all sectors of our community to offer resources, networks, and opportunities. Launch time is coming up quickly, and we need to have volunteers to help us get this program rolling!



Who? People wanting to put their faith in action, who have an interest in ending poverty and in being a part of a community that affects real and lasting change.

What? A Hands-on Intro to the Circles Program & Ways You Can Volunteer. There are so many different ways to volunteer, from meal prep to tutoring, from partnering as an “Ally” to being a guest speaker.

When & Where? Wednesday, January 4, at 3:00 p.m. in the Vance Room.

Why? Because current efforts to lift and keep people out of poverty have failed. We need YOU to be part of a successful new effort to better the lives of our neighbors here in Washtenaw County.

Raise your poverty I.Q., take a leap of faith, be an Ally! Contact Suzanne Van Dam for more information at suzanne@friendsindeedmi.org or 340-9042.

News From Niger

The Ludwigs have had a lot going on after their home visit. November had many new developments with the CHE training program and the need for more rickshaw taxis. November ended with a lovely Thanksgiving celebration with U.S. friends, which they had been planning for months. Please pray for the Ludwigs in these ways: preparation for CHE timetable; for Rachel and the children when Michael is away at training; for healing for their guard and day help.



Christmas Gifts to the Homeless



As part of First Pres’ Christmas tradition, the Wednesday evening greeting card program gifted about 125 warm hats and packages of heavy, warm socks to the evening meal guests at the Delonis Center. The shelter guests were very grateful to receive them in this bitter cold weather! An integral part of our ministry at the Food Gatherers Community Kitchen at the Delonis Center is providing Christmas greeting cards plus stamps to guests. This gives them a way to keep in contact with families and friends during the holidays. The socks and hats and the greeting cards are given out by volunteers from First Pres. To volunteer or for more information, contact Bob and Jeannine Buchanan at 971-6589 or buchananra@msn.com.

Making Our Community More Welcoming to Refugees

During 2016 First Pres has participated in the One Human Family Campaign (www.1humanfamily.org). We displayed the banner in front of the church during the fall, and encouraged families to display the signs at their homes. We support Jewish Family Services and Washtenaw Refugee Welcome (WRW), both of the founding organizations, with Local Mission grants. We have held adult education classes about Islam and assisting refugees. Members of our congregation helped to establish the Washtenaw Refugee Welcome, ecumenical volunteer group of citizens, community, and faith organizations dedicated to helping refugees resettle in Washtenaw County. Rita Toderan is our liason and gives us this news:

“We just furnished four homes for an extended family from Afghanistan. The last item was a new bed for four year-old Kausar, who has never had a bed of her own. Most of her little life was spent in a refugee camp in Sri Lanka. It was through

the generosity of First Pres that we were able to make this final purchase. Now the whole family has a real home, not just empty apartments with nothing but the floor to sleep on.

The families we are helping now are on their own. Their 90 days of agency assistance is past and they are working hard to find better, more permanent jobs. Most of the refugees have part-time low wage jobs and many others are working far below the professional jobs they had in their former countries. Now they are beginning the long struggle to find work that will support their families and slowly help them become more firmly established. It's an understatement to say that this is not easy.

There are numerous opportunities to contribute to this effort. New postings will soon go up for job skills mentors, ESL tutoring, and drivers for appointments and job interviews."

To find out more about WRW, contact Rita Toderan at ritatoderan@comcast.net or 429-0858.

One Human Family

We Support refugees and our Muslim Neighbors

A Project of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County

Breakfast at Talay

A Mission Story from the Philippines by Gary Oliver

She is poor. Most mornings a year, her call from God is to cook a healthy breakfast for the patients of Talay Mental Rehab Center, a government facility for treating and housing the mentally ill in Dumaguete, Philippines.

At Talay, patients sleep on mats set on concrete floors inside starkly minimal concrete block buildings. Each morning and evening, to calm them, patients receive the same medication and amount--no individual variations. Young and old, male and female, they all live together on one open campus. In the middle of the bare earth courtyard, an open shelter provides welcome shade in a tropical climate. Some patients come from long distances. This is the only care facility available to them. A nurse covers the morning and evening shift. The night shift is left unfilled because it's too expensive. For breakfast, the government provides a plate of rice – nothing more.



Twelve years ago, the Philippines Mission Team of First Presbyterian funded a program to supplement the rice breakfasts at Talay with protein. Since then, eggs, beans, and sausage are ladled over each plate of rice.

The morning we stepped inside the kitchen building at Talay, about 80 or so breakfast plates were being set out on a long table to be taken to the patients. Our guide, who is a board member of iHome, a Christian non-profit that continues to build many homes and communities for poor families, introduced us to the cook that morning, an iHome community resident. She greeted us with a broad proud smile. Our guide told us that she finds immense happiness, and purpose in cooking breakfast for those less fortunate than herself. Like the others who cook and serve these breakfasts, she receives no wage. She takes home the breakfast leftovers.

The sadness and inspiration of Talay that morning will long live in me.

Rev. Gary Oliver travelled to Dumaguete, Philippines with an intrepid group from First Pres including Bob and Liina Wallin, Hank McQueen, Elsie Weil, and Romy Aquino. First Pres maintains an active mission partnership with iHome Dumaguete doing the work of community development, education, health care, and prison ministry.



Congregational Life

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

The holidays are over but still the nights are long and the days are short. Join us for an evening of fun and laughter to lighten your mood. Carolyn J. Christopher, Certified Laughter Yoga Professional, will present "Life is Better with Laughter" at the Stephen Ministry Continuing Education meeting on Monday, January 9, 7:00-8:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. All welcome ... come and have fun! Friends are welcome, too.



Poets, Priests, and Prophets

May 18-27, 2017

Join Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair on “Poets, Priests, and Prophets,” an educational trip to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, United Kingdom. Explore the literary, historical, religious, and cultural dimensions of Dublin, Belfast, Derry, and Sligo.

Discover a rich literary tradition through a writer’s tour of Dublin including Dublin Writers Museum, Chester Beatty Library, Trinity College and Book of Kells. Learn the history of “The Troubles” and its conflict, conflict resolution, and

reconciliation through sites, museums, a tea discussion at the Corrymeela Peace

and Reconciliation Centre (one of our former Resident Ministers served as a Young Adult Volunteer here!), a discussion and tour at the Apprentice Boys Hall and talk with a witness of Bloody Sunday. Hear a presentation by a witty and charming C. S. Lewis scholar, and much, much more. The trip is limited to 26 participants. Friends and family who are not members of First Pres are welcome to join us. Registration is only open until January 19. For more information, see the brochure on our website or contact Mary Jones at 662-4466, ext. 349, or mjones@firstpresbyterian.org.



Register Your Child at Triangle Preschool

Triangle Cooperative Preschool (located in Rooms 100 and 101 of our church building) is now accepting applications for 3 and 4-year-olds for the 2017-2018 school year. First Pres members receive priority enrollment status for applications submitted prior to February 1, 2017. There will be an Open House on Saturday February 4, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. - 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 call 221-0905 or visit www.trianglecoop.org.

Welcome Almer Harris



Please welcome Almer Harris, our new Maintenance Specialist. Almer will be assisting our Facilities Manager, Adrian Prundeanu, in keeping the boilers running, the water pipes flowing, rooms ready for meetings, and the building and grounds in good, safe condition. Almer joined us in early December. He has a wealth of good experience having worked for the Ann Arbor Public School System and other similar organizations for over 30 years. Almer is familiar with “vintage” building systems and will be able to help us keep our classic building and property in good condition. He will work Sunday mornings, and then Monday - Thursday each week. Please welcome Almer Harris to our First Pres staff.

January PW Gathering

“Who Is Jesus According to Paul?” will be the subject of the Wednesday, January 18 Horizons Bible Study Program for Presbyterian Women in the Lewis Room at 9:30 a.m.. Presenter will be Jane Myers. The Program at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall, arranged by Angie Miller and Alice Gaujanian, will be “Mission Reimagined,” with Carol Smith, chair of the Mission committee.

Fall Grounds Clean Up a Success



On Saturday, November 19, many members of First Pres along with the Scouts Troop 7, came out to help finish the fall clean-up! There were two big tractors, three dumpsters, and some pretty big mountains of leaves and other fall debris. Many hands made light work, and everything was finished by 11:00 a.m. This is due to extraordinary planning by Adrian Prundeanu, and to Paul Smith and Rev. Jay Sanderford who brought their tractors. True to form, it began to snow at one point, but everyone pushed on with great energy and togetherness. Thank you to all who participated, you are very much appreciated!

- The Property Committee

Welcome New Members!

Alexis Allum, David Deromedi, Mary Engelhardt, Dee Lamphear, Mary Ellen Mays, Kevin Pipe, Clara Politis, Barbara Richardson, and Kathleen Sienko were welcomed as members of First Pres on Sunday, December 4 at a joyful breakfast, where they were joined by Elders, Deacons, and their sponsors.

Join the First Pres Family!

Our next new member class is a two part series on Wednesdays, February 15 and 22, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., with joining on Sunday, February 26 at 8:00 a.m. This is a unique opportunity to learn about life at First Pres and what it is to be Presbyterian. Questions? Want to sign up? Contact Rev. Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org, 662-4466, ext. 390, or Elder Marita Servais at maritaservais@gmail.com or 662-3515.



Lex Allum



Dave Deromedi



Mary Engelhardt



Dee Lamphear



Mary Ellen
Mays



Henry Pipe, Kathleen Sienko
& Kevin Pipe



Clara Politis



Barbara
Richardson

January Hilltoppers

Herb Deromedi presents "From U High to the Big House: A Life in Football"

Join us Thursday, January 19 at Noon in the Social Hall as Herb Deromedi, the winningest football coach in Mid-American Conference and Central Michigan University history, one of four new members on the NCAA College Football Playoff Selection Committee, will speak about his experiences on the playoff committee, and his calling as a Football Coach at CMU.

Note: This presentation is a week later than our normal schedule.



Resident Ministry

Our Resident Ministry Program Is a Learning Community

I think it was Aristotle who said "Those who know, do. Those that understand, teach." Over the past two months, our Resident Ministers, Rev. Emily Béghin, Rev. Daniel Ervin, and Rev. Angela Ryo have been immersed in an intensive course to broaden their abilities as teachers in the Christian church. In this time, our Residents have read widely in the theory and practice of teaching and learning styles of children, young people, and adults. Residents have visited a number of classroom settings here at First Pres, the University of Michigan, and a local elementary school to observe professors like John Whittier-Ferguson, Bradley Taylor, and Andrew Martin at work as well as to spend a morning at a local elementary school to witness Jinx Cooke guiding a room full of 4th graders through a series of lessons. These same instructors will now observe and coach our Residents in one of the varied teaching ministries at First Pres. Our goal has been to broaden our grasp of the craft of teaching so that Residents will be prepared to offer excellent instruction in a variety of settings inside and outside the church.

Residents teach in an amazing array of settings: Mids/Middle School students, Bible Study at Glacier Hills, the Officer Retreat, T2A2 Young Adult Bible Study, Mom's Study Group, classes for parents, Family Worship events, adult classes on Handel's *Messiah*, and more. This concentration equips them to excel as teachers and leaders in all areas of ministry both now and in their future ministries.

Emily, Daniel, and Angela comprise the eighth cohort of Resident Ministers who have called First Pres home, and who received their start in ministry in Ann Arbor. They will complete their residency in August 2017 after two years of ministry, leadership, and faithfulness. The first cohort of Residents, 2001-2003, included Nancy J. Benson-Nicol, now with the Presbyterian Foundation in Indiana, Sung Soo (Sam) Jun serving Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston, and Robert Woodruff, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, in Albuquerque, NM.

– Rev. Jay Sanderford, Resident Ministry Coordinator





Children & Families

Family Story Song & Play Time

Attention, parents of children ages 0 - 6 years old! You and your children are invited to a Family Story Song and Play Time on Saturday, January 7 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Come and enjoy stories and songs from 10:30 -11:00 a.m. in Room 301 followed by play time and snacks in Room 101. If you have any questions, contact Debbie MacVey (dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Angela Ryo (aryo@firstpresbyterian.org).



Camp Westminster, Options for our Families

First Pres' Regular Week at Camp is July 30 - August 5

First Pres children and youth have been going together to Camp Westminster for 18 summers. Camp Westminster is a Presbyterian camp on Higgins Lake, 200 miles north, near Roscommon. Westminster is a traditional camp experience, and our kids (elementary school and middle school age) have participated in swimming, boating, archery, soccer, arts and crafts, nature activities, outdoor living skills, singing, campfires, Bible Quest, and more.

Over the years some families have asked for more options than just the one week we go to Camp at the end of July. So this year, after discussion with Camp staff, we have several suggested options for our families. All of these options will be led by the staff from Camp Westminster.

July 2-6 Family Camp: For those that would like to attend camp as a family.

July 9 - 21 Two Week Camp Option: Extreme S.T.E.A.M. for second grade complete through fifth grade; and sailing, radical faith or The Au Sable Paddle and Saddle Challenge for sixth grade complete through ninth grade.

July 30 - August 5 First Pres Week at Camp Westminster: Aqua Mania II for the younger campers and Wet 'n Wild II for the older campers. Register and to get complete details at 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. The code is "1432". This is in addition to the early registration discounts on the website. 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.



Financial Stewardship



2017 Stewardship Update

Your gratitude in response to God's grace has been encouraging. As of December 12, 2016, we have received 511 gifts from members and friends and have reached \$1,567,351 – 92% of our overall annual giving goal of \$1,700,000 for 2017. As the New Year begins we are grateful and truly blessed by your generous gift of your time, talent, and financial resources that support and grow our church ministries.

If you have not made a financial gift to First Pres before, or have not done so yet for 2017, please make time to do so now. Every commitment, no matter the size, counts. Your support is crucial if we are to meet our 2017 giving goal and will truly help to sustain God's mission at First Presbyterian Church here in Ann Arbor and beyond. You may go online to make your gifts to our church at <http://firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate>

Please Note: 2017 pledge envelopes are ready for pick up on a table outside the Finance Office.

Year End Finance Information

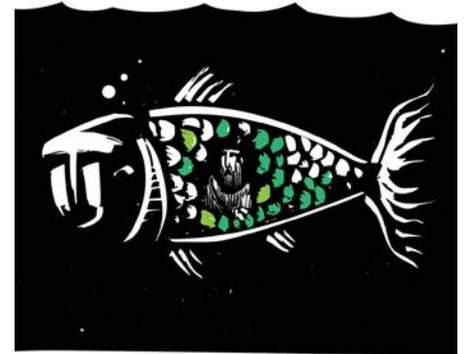
The IRS requires that we close our books for 2016 on December 31. Make sure you allow sufficient time for your donation to reach the office for your contribution to be applied to your 2016 statement. Checks must be dated and mail postmarked on or before December 31, 2016 to be included in your 2016 contributions. When dropping off your contribution, please slip it through the mail slot in the door if the Finance Office is locked. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year only, and must be renewed each year. A new authorization form is available at www.firstpresbyterian.org or in the Finance Office.



Adult Education

Women's Bible Study

All are welcome to join the Women's Bible study group, which meets Tuesdays beginning January 10, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Curtis Room. The group will meet for seven weeks and study the book of Jonah using the workbook and DVD series by Priscilla Schirer. In the study, Schirer talks about listening to God and navigating a life interrupted as we follow the Lord's leading. The workbook includes daily studies which will be discussed each week before viewing a DVD. Workbooks will be available for purchase (\$15) on January 10. For more information contact Lois Nissly at 761-2925, Anne Kloack at 973-282, Lorna Prescott at 255,5296, or Mary Kay Gray at 971-7079.



A Men's Study Group at First Pres

Every other Friday morning, a group of men meets to read Scripture, pore over one of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic books, and discuss practical, down-to-earth matters of faith. In January the Men's Study Group will meet on Fridays, January 6 and 20 at 8:00 a.m. The Men's Study Group generally meets the first and third Friday mornings in the Lewis Room on Fridays for coffee, study, and conversation. Several guys have volunteered to be our leaders for the next month including John LeDuc, Rol Kibler and Chris Queen. More Bonhoeffer books are available. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Rev. Jay Sanderford, jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 340.

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!

There will be no class on January 1.

First Couples - Monteith Hall

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

January 1 - There will be no class.

January 8 - Uppity Women of the Bible

A DVD presentation and discussion about such Old Testament figures as Ruth, Esther, and Judith.

January 15 – Conversations with Our Resident Ministers

Hear the stories of calling and faith from several of our Resident Ministers. Learn about the transforming power of our Residency Program to train and place strong, resilient pastors in important leadership positions in our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

January 22 - Uppity Women of the Bible

A DVD presentation and discussion about such Old Testament figures as Ruth, Esther, and Judith.

January 29 - The Humor of Christ (Parables)

A discussion of Dr. Elton Trueblood's book *The Humor of Christ*. Dr. Trueblood challenges the stereotype of a somber, Christ – one who never laughed or even smiled, and presents a startlingly unfamiliar Christ who laughed and often turned his sharp wit toward the over-righteous.



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.

Life Worth Living – Finding Meaning in Relationships (January 8 - 22)

When was the last time you sat down, or took a walk, to think about what makes life worth living? When did you last take a break from solving problems, completing tasks, and pursuing your goals to ask whether those goals were the right ones to pursue? When did you consider deeply the importance of Jesus the Christ as a central organizing presence in the life of our community and church today? The basis of these offerings are (1) the flourishing of our individual lives depends on our ability to ask the question of what makes life worth living, (2) finding meaning in our relationships with others, and (3) in the globalizing, pluralistic world we live in today, people of the Christian faith need to be equipped to articulate and live into a vision of a good, faithful, and engaged life focused on the person of Jesus the Christ.

The essential thing 'in heaven and earth' is ... that there should be long obedience in the same direction; there thereby, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living. - F. Nietzsche

January 8 - Introduction to Human Flourishing

In a globalized world, asking questions of our meaning and purpose are vital to creating a life worth living. What is a life worth living? How can we flourish in the world today?

Rev. Jay Sanderford, Rev. Daniel Ervin, Rev. Angela Ryo, and Chuck Monsma, facilitators.

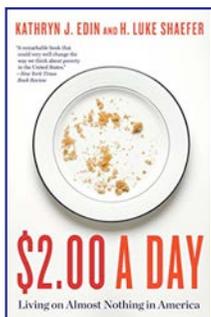
January 15 - Christ as the Key to Human and Christian Flourishing

Through a look at the Gospel of Luke, learn what it means for Christ to be the key to life and our ability to flourish. Rev. Jay Sanderford, Rev. Daniel Ervin, Rev. Angela Ryo, and Chuck Monsma, facilitators.



January 22 - Human Flourishing : Personal Experience and Relationships

Human flourishing includes both personal experience and relationships with other people, including those in the community around us. January is the kickoff period for the Washtenaw Reads initiative. Join us on January 22 for an introduction to this year's 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. Researchers Edin and Shaefer noticed something they hadn't seen before — one and a half million households in America surviving on \$2.00 per person, per day, three million children. Join the discussion led by Rev. Angela Ryo and Diane Hockett of *\$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*.



There will be no class on January 29 so that all may attend the Annual Meeting.

Common Ground - Lewis Room

Common Ground is class where new and longtime members alike find a place to grow in faith and develop friendships. It is conversational in style and is led by First Pres members, pastors, and knowledgeable presenters.

Amazing Stuff Classes for Parents & Children

A class for fourth graders and their parents is a special milestone event. Presenters are Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries and friends.

There will be no class on January 1.



Transitions

We Grieve the Death of

Frances Bull, November 1
Robert Cooney, November 26
Jackie Voss, November 28
Sylvia Baker, December 2

Sarah Mohrlock, December 12
Jack Tobias, December 21
Dana Underwood, December 26

