



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
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Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 11

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night March 10.

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Dear Friends,

We will spend the month of March in the season of Lent, traveling with Jesus to Jerusalem, participating in his betrayal, and witnessing his crucifixion. The empty cross is the basis of our faith, but we cannot skip to the empty cross without first owning the great sacrifice made for us by God in the death of his Son. God loves us way beyond reason. The faith we practice demands a lot of us. It calls us to own our complicity in the death of Christ and to reckon with the searing cost of the victory won for us over death. In a book first published in 1937, American theologian H. Richard Niebuhr wrote, "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross." Niebuhr's point was obvious. This was not and could not be the case. We cannot skip Good Friday and go straight to Easter. Lent gives us time and space to reflect on all God gives us and how we can give our lives back to God. It is the path that leads to joy in this life and to the promise of life everlasting.

Throughout Lent we are exploring the theme of Cross-Words, words that point to the cross Jesus bore for our sakes. You will hear it in sermons all month. You may join a small group to discuss thoughtful essays by Sam Wells, formerly Dean of Duke Chapel and currently vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. Sign up to receive daily devotionals written by church members and staff. Whatever way you choose to observe Lent, my prayer is that it will be a faith-deepening, spiritually rich time. Draw close to God, aware that God always is ready to draw close to you.

Grace and peace,
Fairfax F. Fair

Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, March 25 - A Palm Parade will be held at the beginning of the 9:30 a.m. service. Palm Sunday remembers Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, March 29 - Worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Glacier Hills in the Hanson Room and at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Maundy Thursday recalls the Last Supper.

Good Friday, March 30- This reflective service held at 7:00 p.m., is conducted in a darkened Sanctuary and remembers the suffering and death of Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 1- Worship will be held at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Worship commemorates Jesus' resurrection.



Lenten Opportunities

Peeps and Pizza Fair for All Ages!

Saturday, March 3, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

Team up with family and friends, pick out a favorite Bible story and create a shoe box diorama using Peeps! Church will supply the Peeps, shoe boxes, construction paper, scissors, glue, some crafting supplies and refreshments. Feel free to bring any “special supplies” with you. Enjoy a pizza lunch at noon (\$5 per person). Make a reservation so we know how much pizza to order at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/peeps-and-pizza-fair/> 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.



CrossWords: A Lenten Adult Ed Series on Callings

Join together each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. during Lent to hear from fellow church members how their lives as people of faith intersect with their professional lives around topics central to our everyday lives as Christians. Each week, a different presenter will share about their vocation and experiences as together we engage Scripture, prayer, and the CrossWords of comfort, trust, service, forgiveness, selflessness, and humility. Please take a moment to visit www.firstpresbyterian.org to learn more about our Crosswords presenters, their vocation, and experience.

Sunday, March 4

CrossWord: Service • Galatians 6:1-13



Sean Hoskins - Balancing Creative Tensions

Sean will focus on the balance he seeks between two careers — his full-time job in educational support, and his choreographic and performance pursuits. He will illuminate how his positions at Wayne State and at the University of Michigan elicit from him an organizational mindset and systematic approach that are constraints he works to dismantle.

Sean Hoskins investigates the intersections of dance and technology as a choreographer, performer, teacher, and screen dance creator. He is currently the Dance Technology Coordinator and Production Assistant, as well as part-time faculty at the University of Michigan.

Sunday, March 11

CrossWord: Forgiveness • Romans 12:18-21

Bradley Taylor - Sites of Memory Magic: Building a Path to Social Healing through the Museum Gallery

Museums exist as marvelous sites that provide a retrospective view of what our forebears valued, which stories were most important, and who was writing our collective history. In 2018, the view looks different – we’re able to see omissions and oversight – whose stories were never told, whose history was never collected, and which voices have consistently been denied a hearing. Brad’s talk explores museums and the Christian value of forgiveness – how museums today can be leveraged to atone for important gaps in our cultural record as we seek to move forward healed, heard, and committed to a broader view of who “we” are.

First Pres Deacon Brad Taylor teaches museum studies at the University of Michigan and organizes outings for Mature Ministries and T2A2 members to places most people are happy to discover — both at a distance and right under their nose.



Sunday, March 18

CrossWord: Selflessness • Matthew 5:21-26



Greta Krapohl - Stories of Service and Sacrifice

For the study of selfless service, Greta will talk about the lessons of selflessness she learned from her patients who included survivors of the Bataan Death March, Battle of the Bulge, Vietnam, Korea, and the modern-day battlefield. These stories of service and sacrifice will be described within the context of Matthew 5:21-26.

Greta has been a member of First Pres since 2008 after she retired from the U.S. Army and her family relocated to Ann Arbor. She is currently the Associate Director for the Michigan Surgical Quality Collaborative at the University of Michigan where she works to improve patient outcomes, help shape the future of surgical care delivery, and enhance the lives of patients and their families.

Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

CrossWord: Humility • Philippians 2:5-11



Amanda Becker Carlisle - Uprooting Homelessness and Poverty

Amanda will discuss her work to prevent and end homelessness in Chicago, Detroit, and Washtenaw County. She'll speak about what she has learned most from those experiencing homelessness, including the trauma many have experienced and the resiliency in all. She'll focus on how diversity and inclusion can bring about more equity in our society to tackle difficult issues and the root causes of homelessness and poverty.

Amanda Carlisle is Executive Director of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, a unique coalition of more than 30 community-based organizations that serve those experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness in Washtenaw County. Amanda also volunteers as a member of the City of Ann Arbor's Housing & Human Services Advisory Board and as a Board member for the Religious Action for Affordable Housing.

Easter Lilies in Memory or Honor

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



Congregational Life

Introducing The Vision & Mission Task Force

During 2016/2017 the Session received a number of important reports on youth ministry, re-imagined mission ministry, campus ministry, the state of our physical plant and the potential scope of a capital campaign. It became clear to Session, that our church needed greater clarity on our mission and who we are called by God to be as we approach the third decade of the 21ST Century (vision). The Session devoted our Fall Retreat to begin the process, and a small group of current and recently sitting elders, has been assembled. We would like to introduce ourselves and encourage any member to speak with us to share their thoughts and hopes for our church. We will be providing regular updates, and will be requesting input from multiple sources including the congregation, session, and staff as we move forward.



Lucie Audette joined First Pres in 1993 and she, along with her husband Rob Bauman, have raised 2 girls in our church. Lucie has gone on a pilgrimage to Iona. Lucie has taught Sunday School and is involved with the Alpha House family shelter ministry, sings in the choir, and just rotated off Session where she chaired the Finance Committee.

Contact Info: laudette125@hotmail.com, 717-8062



Rick Boothman, member of First Pres since the early 1990s, is an ordained elder who has served on Session, chaired the Pastor Nominating Committee that called Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair, served on, and chaired the Personnel Committee from 2010 through 2015. He and his wife (and deacon) Karen Gardstrom raised their three children in this church.

Contact Info: 972-3828boothman@umich.edu, 996-4276



Tom Brandt joined First Pres in 1998. Tom has served on the Board of Deacons, the Session, participated in Bible study, and countless committees, and has gone on pilgrimages to Iona, Scotland and Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Tom currently chairs the Worship Committee.

Contact Info: twbrandt@gmail.com, 646-7181



Tim Dickinson has been a lifetime member of First Pres – active in youth groups both as a participant and volunteer and was always happy to go to Cow Creek, Kentucky on mission trips. While he managed to live outside of Ann Arbor for an extended period he always considered First Pres as his home church. Tim is serving his second year on Session. He is currently a member of the Personnel committee and last year served on the Finance committee. **Contact Info:** timothydickinson@me.com, 604-6264



Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, a life-long Presbyterian, became Pastor/Head of Staff of First Pres, Ann Arbor in May, 2011. She has previously served churches in Tennessee, Texas, and Kentucky and has a long history of service on national boards of the Church.

Contact Info: ffair@firstpresbyterian.org, 662-4466 ext.361



Linda Koopmann has attended FPC since 1997 and became a member in 2009. Since then, she has served as a deacon and blood drive coordinator and is now serving as a Stephen Minister, an elder on Session, and a member of the Congregational Life Committee. She also co-facilitates Restore Hope, a support group for individuals in the FPC congregation who are coping with the mental illness of a loved one. **Contact Info:** 972-3828, writingresource@comcast.net



Bill McPherson began attending First Pres in the early 90's and joined in 1995. He was quickly enlisted to help in the fundraising and then the construction aspects of Forward in Faith and followed with leadership of a number of other facilities projects. Over the ensuing years, he served as an elder, as a member or chair of several Session committees, was member of a Pastor Nominating Committee. Bill works for DTE Energy in downtown Ann Arbor. He and his wife is Judy Stuart live in Ann Arbor.

Contact Info: wbmcperson@comcast.net, 769-9047



Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt joined our staff as a Resident Minister in August 2017 after a lengthy congregational internship and experiences in new church development, and her spouse, Jess, has become a First Pres member. Among other ministry responsibilities, Dorothy coordinates our 20s & 30s ministry (T2A2) and is involved with the Adult Education and Congregational Life committees.

Contact Info: dparks-piatt@firstpresbyterian.org, (423) 309-0614



Kate Silbert began attending First Pres in 2010, when she arrived in Ann Arbor to attend graduate school. Since then, she has been involved with T2A2, the Resident Ministry program, and Children & Family ministry. She currently chairs the Christian Education Committee.

Contact Info: kate.silbert@gmail.com, (412) 952-0200



Brian Schneidewind joined First Presbyterian Church in 2006 after years of being a vagabond participant in college then as a resident of Ann Arbor. He has served as a Deacon, Sunday school teacher, and most recently as an Elder on Session. As a father of three elementary daughters he's excited to interject relevance for our next generation into our Vision.

Contact Info: bschneid@comcast.net, 669-0891



Sara Vander Vort joined First Presbyterian Church in 2001, 50 years after first visiting it as a UM undergrad. She is serving her second term as Deacon, helped to bring the Stephen Ministry program to First Pres, and has served on the Congregational Life Committee throughout her church membership. She is a retired social worker and administrator, grateful to be involved in our congregation's future,

Contact Info: saravoort@gmail.com, 662-5350



Bill Wood was born into First Pres. After living elsewhere for 14 years, Bill and Pam returned to Ann Arbor in 1986, where they raised their three sons in our church. Bill is in his third year on Session. He currently chairs the Finance Committee.

Contact Info: wwood594@comcast.net, 649-1491

Women's Retreat

The First Pres women's retreat is March 9 - 10 at Maumee Bay Lodge in Ohio. Please hold the 40+ women from First Pres in your prayers as they travel, share, worship, learn, play, and grow together in Christ.

Divorce Support Group

Do you have a family member, neighbor, coworker, or acquaintance who is going through the terrible challenges of divorce? Invite them to attend the Divorce Support Group meetings on Tuesdays in March, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. The group will be led by Rev. Annette Fraser who has lived through divorce, and Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers. There will be much support and encouragement. Questions? Contact Rev. Fraser at nntfraser@gmail.com or Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



We saved you a seat!

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/> 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 - Open to All

Monday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. - Postpartum Depression

Dr. Maria Muzik, MD, Co-Director of the Women and Infants Mental Health Program at the University of Michigan, will discuss Postpartum Depression. It's common for women to experience the "baby blues," following their baby's birth. But up to one in seven women experience something much more serious— postpartum depression (PPD). PPD doesn't go away on its own, makes it hard to get through the day, and can affect one's ability to take care of the baby or oneself. Everyone is invited to attend. Please bring anyone you know who would be interested.

Monday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. - Advance Care Planning, Part 2

Dr. Sheryl Kurze will present Advance Care Planning, Part 2. She will focus on answering questions from the audience and will try to answer as many as possible. If you have a specific question you would like Dr. Kurze to answer, please submit your inquiry to Deanne Woodruff at DEWoodruff@att.net. Everyone is invited, You do not have to have attended the first session to get pertinent information.

Presbyterian Women Tour Hope Clinic

Wednesday, March 21 – All Are Welcome!

Bible Study at 9:30 a.m in the Lewis Room - Jill Binkley will continue our study of Hebrews in *Cloud of Witnesses* by Melissa Bane Servier by leading lesson 7, "In Community with Hope for the Future."

Business Meeting at 10:30 a.m, in the Lewis Room - PW will hold a brief business meeting which will including sign-up for our yearly Ingathering (committing to purchase and donate needed goods for 35 service agencies in the Detroit Presbytery).

Carpool for Tour of Hope Clinic Departs at 11:00 a.m - Executive Director M. Douglas Campbell of Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti will lead our tour. Since 1982, Hope Clinic and its Food Bank have brought hope to many in the Ypsilanti area. In turn, PW and First Pres have provided financial support and many volunteers over the years.

Lunch at 1:00 p.m. at Bona Sera, 200 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti. RSVP to the Church Office at 662-4466.



Want Some Instant Gratification? Give Blood – Save Lives!

The Deacons' Blood Drive is Thursday, March 22 from 1:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Monteith Hall. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org or during Coffee Hour on March 11 or March 18. Questions? Contact Lisa Shultz at 973-464-1847 or whybenormal@verizon.net; or Paula Doering at 904-8068 or pauladoering@gmail.com.

All Church Outing

Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.



Mark your calendars to join the First Pres church family at the Men's Gymnastics Big 10 Championships at Crisler Arena. Tickets are \$4 each and parking is easy! To attend, sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/mens-gymnastics-championships/> or in the Church Office by Tuesday, April 3 and submit a check (with "gymnastics in the memo line) for the number of tickets you are ordering. Tickets will be purchased in bulk. This event is sponsored by Congregational Life Committee. Questions? Contact Kay Erdman at kmerdman1@hotmail.com or Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

MATURE MINISTRIES

Hilltoppers

Thursday, March 15 - Jim Walsh (UM) **Note date change!**

"And as romantic as it may sound, I think we are all called to try to leave the world a better place. The desire to better understand relationships, done with a clear eye on enhancing our well-being, animates nearly everything I do."

Jim Walsh is an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor; Gerald and Esther Carey Professor of Business Administration; Professor of Management and Organizations; Professor of Strategy. Lunch \$5



April 5, Noon - Henry Ford's Fair Lane Estate

Come for a special preview of one of this summer's outings—to Henry Ford's Fair Lane Estate in Dearborn. On Thursday, June 28, we will visit Fair Lane, the final residence of Henry and Clara Ford. It is currently closed to the public for a five-year \$62 million dollar renovation, but First Pres' Mature Ministries have been invited to visit and talk to the team responsible for its unparalleled transformation. Mark Heppner, Vice President for Historic Resources at the Historic Ford Estates, will share the story of the estate's construction, residency by the Fords, post-Ford ownership by the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and recent transfer back to the Ford family, who have undertaken the current ambitious restoration. Join us for a sneak peak into one of next year's most exclusive—and exciting—opportunities. Lunch: \$5. Sign up in the Church Office or email Rev. Rogers.

St. Sabba Russian Orthodox Monastery & Royal Eagle Restaurant

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

The Royal Eagle restaurant in suburban Harper Woods, set on the grounds of the St. Sabba Russian Orthodox Monastery, is known for its five-course Russian tea service. Enjoy English-style cucumber tea sandwiches, roast beef canapés with horseradish dipping sauce, brie-cranberry chutney canapés, smoked salmon lox with dill and capers, Ukrainian borscht, paprika-infused chicken skewers with herb-garlic sauce, and a luscious dessert sampler! A tour of the monastery will round out the day's adventure. Pay \$30 to First Pres in advance. RSVP to Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers or the Church Office. 15 spots remain.



Financial Stewardship

Legacy Partners

For us, the question was not "Are we going to become Legacy Partners?" Rather, it was "When are we going to become legacy partners?" What took us so long? The answer was (as it might be for many of us) – inertia. Changing our wills was one of those "get around to it" tasks; we were going to get around to it, someday. Eventually it dawned on us that "someday" kept fading beyond the horizon. We decided to overcome inertia by spending a little bit of energy to change our wills. It turned out to be a simple task, but that little bit of energy resulted in great satisfaction as we have now made a provision to support the work of the church into the future. This accomplishes what we had long planned to do. *Pam and Bill Wood*





Adult Education

Sunday Morning Offerings @ 9:30 a.m.

The Bible at 9:30 a.m.

March 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

March 4 - 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.

- March 4 Study of chapters 11-15 of *What's the Least I Can Believe to Still Be a Christian?* by Martin Thielen.
- March 11 Discussion of "Me Too," Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers' sermon on November 26, 2017
- March 18 Study of chapters 16- 21 of *What's the Least I Can Believe to Still Be a Christian?* by Martin Thielen.
- March 25 Study of chapter 2: 9-12 of *The Life of Meaning* by Abernethy and Bole

Sunday Morning Offerings @11:00 a.m.

Exploring the Faith

March 4 - 25

Monteith Hall

See the course description in Lenten Opportunities on page 2.

#MeToo, #ChurchToo, Part II

March 18, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Curtis/Founders Rooms



Following the Word in Today's World

In October 2017, the hashtag #MeToo became a national sensation following the revelation of Harvey Weinstein's repeated sexual misconduct. The phrase identifies the unfortunate reality that sexual harassment and abuse are all too common in the United States. In the second part of our series, First Forums examines how we, as Christians, engage the #MeToo cultural phenomenon. By looking at case studies from current publications, including *The Christian Century*, we will address the Church's complicity in the problem and explore what resources our faith offers to encourage our prophetic role in reshaping constructive social relationships.

#MeToo



Children & Families

Camp Westminster, Summer 2018

First Pres children and youth will enjoy swimming, boating, archery, soccer, crafts, nature activities, singing, campfires, Bible Quest and more at Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake.

July 29 - August 4 First Pres Camp Week

Choose "Adventure Camp" for campers 2nd through 5th grade

Choose "Adventure Camp Plus" for campers 6th grade through entering 9th grade

Interested in more camp options?

July 2 - 6 Family Camp

July 8 - 20 (Two week camp options)

Extreme S.T.E.A.M., Just Camp or Drama Camp - 2nd grade complete through 5th grade

Sailing Plus, Radical Faith, Au Sable Paddle and Saddle Challenge or Just Camp Plus - 6th grade complete through entering 9th grade



For complete details and to register go to www.campwestminster.com. There is a \$35 Adventure First legacy discount for the three camp sessions listed. Enter the code "1432". When you register indicate that you are from First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor to help with cabin placement. If there are families that feel an additional camp scholarship would be helpful, contact Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org.

Summer Vacation Bible School

Marketplace 27-28 A.D. – Called to Be Disciples!

June 19, 20,& 21, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Strap on your sandals and step into the Bible! Children who have completed a Young 5's program through fifth grade complete are invited to experience what life was like when Jesus called his disciples – travel around the Sea of Galilee, enjoy the sights, sounds and tasty smells of a village marketplace, hear stories in the storytellers tent, and watch as the calling of disciples is re-enacted by our drama team. Registration forms will be mailed by Easter or register now online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/vacation-bible-school-child-registration/>

Volunteers Are Needed! There are many ways that adults, middle schoolers, and high schoolers can volunteer and be a part of this great activity. Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/vacation-bible-school-volunteer-registration/> Questions? Contact Deborah MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or Cindy King at cking@firstpresbyterian.org.



Is Your Child Fearful?

Looking for a book for children living with fear? Try *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)*, written and illustrated by Dan Santat. Humpty Dumpty loves to be in high places and watch birds, however after he falls off a wall he's terrified of heights. *After the Fall* is a wonderful picture book that helps readers of all ages (even though the recommended age is 4-8) by looking at the effect the fall had on Humpty Dumpty; how the fall changed his life, what he missed because he was afraid; and finally, how Humpty Dumpty overcame his fear.



Faith in Action

The Power of Circles

Have you heard about the new Circles program? It's Friends In Deed's relationship-based program aimed at breaking the generational cycle and lifting families out of poverty—permanently. Volunteers are needed who want to do meaningful work in our community. Learn more by contacting Sandy Talbott at stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org.

Orientation sessions provide a chance to meet program participants and volunteers. The next will be held Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor. Sign up by contacting Suzanne Van Dam at suzanne@friend-sindeedmi.org or 340-9042. Can't make it? Orientation will also be offered Tuesday, April 3, and Tuesday, June 5.

There are lots of ways to participate. Volunteer twice a month in the children's program, lend your skills as a guest speaker, help out with a meal, or become an Ally and walk alongside one of our families as they transition out of poverty. This is a program that truly transforms people's lives – our own included! Hear why some volunteers have lined up to be part of this program:

"As a social worker, I am familiar with the concept of wrap-around support and believe that all of us had help along the way and am happy to do that for another." *Virginia Koster*

"Why do I participate in Circles? A proven program to lift people out of poverty is a no brainer for me. I am impressed and admire the "circle leaders"(the adults breaking out of poverty) many of whom are single moms. The amount of time and devotion this program requires is no easy thing, so I am in awe of these women who are sticking with it, both for themselves and their kids." *Sandy Talbott*

"I believe Christians are to be lights in the darkness for others. Becoming an Ally in the program allows me to use my knowledge and draw upon my skills and other resources to help another person begin to flourish in this world. In the past weeks, I have seen people learn how to think about money as a tool, learn techniques to overcome personal financial challenges, and take their first steps to financial security." *Pam Ehrhart*



One Great Hour of Sharing

Accepted Palm Sunday, March 25 - Easter, April 1

Make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing and enable the church to share God's love with our neighbors around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing by visiting <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs>.



Suds 'n Sheets for Cass!

Our Suds 'n Sheets Campaign for Cass Community Social Services is underway! Please collect paper towels and laundry detergent – items always needed at Cass – and drop them off in baskets provided in the Welcome Center. This is a great mission opportunity for family members of all ages! Questions? Contact Sue Jeffers, sjeffers1@me.com.

Russian Baked Goods for Easter!



The Russia Mission Team will be offering Russian Tea Cakes, \$6.00/dozen, and Russian Apple Cakes (Sharlotka), \$10/cake for sale at www.firstpresbyterian.org and on March 11 during Coffee Hour. Your

purchases help to support the summer camp for children with disabilities at our partner church in Davydovo. Pick up your order on Palm Sunday, March 25, in the Social Hall. Questions? Contact Linda Speck at 730-4525 or aa3013@wayne.edu.

2018 House of Faith



The final construction phase for the 2018 Habitat House of Faith, located at 1215 Hull Street in Ypsilanti, will take place March 23 - May 12. First Pres has committed to fill work slots on Friday and Saturdays, March 23-24 and April 6-7. Please give a few hours of your time to help a local family achieve housing stability. This phase involves hanging a lot of drywall and volunteers with some experience are especially needed. Sign up

to help at <http://bit.ly/HouseofFaith>. Questions? Contact Don Redding at Coffee Hour or at dredding58@yahoo.com.

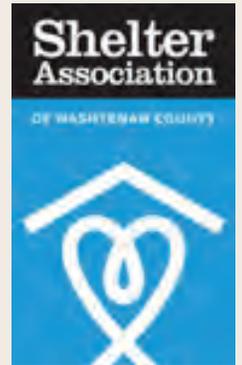
Impact of 2017 Local Mission Grants

The First Pres Local Mission Grant Program aims to make an impact in our community in three areas, shelter and housing, food and basic nutrition and community mental health services. Read on to see the difference these grants have made to two of our mission partners.

Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's House More Serve More Program (HMSMP)

Clients without a safe place to live come to the Shelter Association burdened with financial obstacles (eviction fees, late utility bills and past housing debts) to overcome before they can find sustainable housing. HMSMP enables people to resolve these debts and empowers clients to move into a good place to live.

Clients who benefit from this initiative are typically hardworking men and women who fell behind and lost their housing. The Shelter Association reports that the HMSMP was able to house 136 people over the last two years – 91% of which have remained housed.



The Corner Clinic in Ypsilanti

The Corner Clinic provides judgment-free, high-quality, affordable health services to young people aged 12 - 25 and their children. They offer a full range of health care, including mental health and supportive services regardless of ability to pay. Of the high-risk youth served by CHC, 38% report symptoms of depression, 22% have considered suicide and at least 27% have experienced physical, sexual or psychological abuse. The social workers and medical practitioners are trained to address many of these behavioral health concerns, but many of them benefit from the expertise of a psychiatric evaluation/consultation. Local Mission grant funding helped the Corner Health Clinic provide

- workforce training for primary care providers managing patients with behavioral health problem
- add an evening of psychiatric clinic services to the existing half-day of clinic per week, increasing access to services for high-risk youth
- Implement a therapeutic support program, "Mom Power," aimed at increasing parenting and self-care skills for families.

Alpha House March 26-30

Sign up today to provide food, childcare, conversation, and overnight support for children and families at Alpha House who are experiencing homelessness. Because of our previous success, we are supporting a third week at Alpha House and need volunteers for March 26-30, Holy Week. We who volunteer at Alpha House provide some material support for guests there, but benefit even more because we have opportunities to broaden our perspectives. Please join other volunteers from First Pres by signing up at www.firstpresbyterian.org or at Coffee Hour beginning on March 4.



News from the Ludwigs in Niger

We have been so blessed by your support and prayers because we can see the difference that they are making in God's work here in Niger.

Michael had encouraging conversations with the four Community Health Evangelists and did further training on basic health and agriculture techniques that they can share with their villages. Our family had a lot of quick changes, welcoming two new family members within one week! Hassan Mati, 23, joined our family and he is a delight! He has this wonderful sense about when to be around and hang out and when to take some time to himself and study! Five month old Isaac Salim has joined our home at 23 inches and 9.5 lbs. He sleeps well and laughs a lot, but as a malnourished baby he is very serious about his milk. The older children love feeding him, making him laugh and holding him.



UKirk@UMich

Campus Ministry Update

We continue to explore new avenues for UKirk @ UMich. Our recent Wednesdays@8 gatherings have featured a service opportunity through the Rotating Shelter, discussions about tough faith questions, and an early Valentine's Day celebration with trivia and spaghetti. The new Student Study Space, held Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. - noon, has been gaining interest and continues to grow. We continue to meet new people and offer hospitality through our student Sunday lunches – an invaluable ministry in and of itself. Many people don't realize that college students struggle to find affordable (nutritious) food and housing. There are higher-than-expected levels of food insecurity at community colleges and four-year universities. The Pancake Supper and other campus food ministries are very important missions at First Pres. If you're interested in helping provide food or funds for food, please contact Rev. Evans McGowan at emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org



Residents' Corner

First Pres is very proud to be a teaching community. We recognize the importance of pastoral residency and have created an endowment to ensure that future seminary graduates have the tools they need to make a successful transition into a lifetime of ministry. Our resident ministers enrich First Pres – broadening the reach of our committees and staff by sharing their energy, creativity, talent and experience. They participate in all aspects of congregational life, from teaching adult education classes, officer training, and Advent and Lenten studies, leading mission trips, and providing pastoral care, to coordinating UKirk @ UMich campus ministry events such as meeting one-on-one with university students and facilitating Wednesday undergraduate conversations.

Did you know that this is all part of an expansive curriculum under the guidance of Rev. Jay Sanderford and the Resident Ministry Work Group? The Resident Ministry curriculum includes a variety of modules which involve members of the staff, congregation and community. It is broad yet tailored to meet the needs of individual residents. Residents study preaching and



leading worship with senior clergy and work individually with voice coach Doris Granum. Some modules focus on worship like "Story Telling for Preachers" and "Designing Worship and Music Workshop" while others target administrative skills such as "Understanding my Conflict Management Style" and "Self-Care as a Pastoral Leader." As Residents work through this rich program, they develop healthy work patterns and leadership tools and styles which will serve them well throughout their careers as strong pastoral leaders.