



MATURE MINISTRIES

> **First
Presbyterian
Church**

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MOSAIC
♦♦ OF HOPE ♦♦

firstpresbyterian.org

Mature Ministries

Our mission is to address the spiritual and social needs of the mature members of First Pres and the community. Mature Ministries includes pastoral support and care, education and learning opportunities, fellowship and social activities, and facilitates service, mentoring, and mission outlets.

For up-to-date information, sign up to be on the Mature Ministries email list by contacting Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org

Lunch and Learn

Lunch and Learn is a monthly lecture usually held at noon on the second Thursday of the month. Cost of lunch is \$8 per person.

Travels with Taylor

First Pres member and Mature Ministries travel chair, Brad Taylor, will guide us on local excursions to discover the beauty and wonder of southeast Michigan.

Lunch & Learn

► Fall Kickoff - Two for One!

Date: 09/15/2022

The Stratford Adventure!

Linda Rexer

11:00 am | Social Hall

In 1952, the famous theatre director Tyrone Guthrie helped to start a Shakespeare theatre festival in rural Ontario. As the first Artistic Director of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, he cast Alec Guinness as Richard III and Irene Worth as Helena in "All's Well That Ends Well" in the opening productions performed under a tent. Seventy years later, the 2022 season of the Stratford Festival remounts those two plays, this time in the new award-winning magnificent facility, The Tom Patterson Theatre, named for the Stratford citizen who came up with this unlikely idea seven decades ago. Linda Rexer, Chair of the Stratford Festival of America, will offer highlights from Stratford's storied history as well as its stellar current season of 10 productions, performed in repertory, in four theatres. Join us because "The play's (still) the thing!"



Linda Rexer is a member of the Board of Governors of the Stratford Festival of Canada. She is also Chair of the Stratford Festival of America and previously served as Treasurer and Vice Chair of that Board of Trustees. She is also a member of the Michigan Members of the Stratford Festival Executive Committee. She has attended theatre in Stratford since 1966. Ms. Rexer is a lawyer who began her career managing a nonprofit legal aid program and providing representation for indigent families with civil legal problems. Then she became the first Executive Director of a statewide charitable foundation, the Michigan State Bar Foundation, which she led for 30 years in its mission to provide leadership and funding for access to justice.

Lunch at Noon (\$8): Menu TBD.
Hear about our upcoming speakers and
travel plans over lunch!



Date: 09/15/2022

Two Friends in Dialogue about the Church

1:00 pm | Social Hall

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, FPC

Rev. Gary Noonan



Rev. David Prentice-Hyers was called in May to be the Lead Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, and with his wife, Mary Elizabeth, and their boys, Finlay and Angus, are beginning to adjust to life in Ann Arbor and getting to know our church. Both have returned after being in Scotland for about 9 years (previously both served on our staff from 2011 - 2013). David will be formally installed on the Sunday following this presentation.



Rev. Gary Noonan, who is the minister of Houston and Killellan Kirk in Renfrewshire, Scotland, swapped being in the police department to being in the pulpit. Get to know Gary before he preaches at our church on Sunday morning, September 18, and at David's installation at 2 pm.



What Is Going on Today?: Supreme Court, Trump, DOJ, and More!

Date: 10/13/2022

Barbara McQuade

12:00 pm | Social Hall



Barbara Lynn McQuade is an American lawyer who served as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan from 2010 to 2017. She was appointed by President Barack Obama and was the first woman to serve in her position. McQuade also served as vice chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and co-chaired the Terrorism and National Security Subcommittee. Before becoming U.S. Attorney, McQuade was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Detroit for 12 years, serving as Deputy Chief of the National Security Unit. As part of President Donald Trump's 2017 dismissal of U.S. attorneys, she stepped down in March 2017. Now a law professor at the University of Michigan, she teaches criminal law, criminal procedure and national security law. She is also a legal analyst for NBC News and MSNBC. She will speak after our lunch together.



The Michigan Relics: Archaeological Fact or Fraud?

Date: 11/10/2022

Lisa C. Young

12:00 pm | Social Hall

In the early 1890s, artifacts with a mysterious ancient writing were found in central Michigan. Over the next two decades, many more were found and became known as the Michigan Relics. Archaeologists and experts on ancient languages, including Dr. Francis Kelsey of the University of Michigan, declared that they were frauds. Others saw them as evidence of a lost civilization. This talk explores the controversies about the Michigan Relics and their relevance in the 21st century.



Lisa C. Young is a lecturer in Anthropology at UM and a Research Affiliate, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. Lisa writes, "I am particularly interested in the ways in which contemporary people, including descendant communities, engage with archaeological remains and museum collections."



Becoming Santa Claus: The World of the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School

Date: 12/15/2022

Holly and Tom Valent

12:00 pm | Social Hall



Holly and Tom will introduce us to the Santa Claus School along with our own Brad Taylor, a recent graduate!

The Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School's mission is "to uphold the traditions and preserve the history of Santa Claus while providing students with the necessary resources to improve and further define their individual presentations of Santa and Mrs. Claus, allowing them to enter the hearts and spread the Christmas spirit to everyone they meet."

He errs who thinks Santa enters through the chimney. Santa enters through the heart.

(Charles W. Howard, 1937)

In 1937, Charles W. Howard a farmer in Albion, New York, established a Santa school in direct response to his displeasure with seeing other Santas in frayed suits and cheap beards, and a shockingly inadequate knowledge of reindeer. He decided that he could start a school to make a better Santa. The first class consisted of three men, including an elder from New Jersey, his friend, and a neighbor. Charles eventually had a Christmas-themed park, with several barns, a train and some reindeer. Children for miles around would visit. Today, the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School continues running under the direction of Tom and Holly Valent and is carried on in Midland, Michigan, with an eager student body of about 300 joyful and jolly new and returning students each year. Wear Christmas Colors as we celebrate the season and bring a Santa hat!

Enjoy January's Mature Ministries from home!



**Discovering the Rosenwald Schools:
A Historic Investment in African-American
Schoolhouses in the South**

Date: 1/12/2022

Dr. Kimberly Ransom

12:00 pm | **ZOOM**

Rosenwald Schools were established by Booker T. Washington, with funds from the Black community and seed funds from Julius Rosenwald (CEO of Sears and Roebuck). The project began with six schools in Macon, Alabama, and by 1938, there were 5,300 schools throughout the South—educating one in three Black children. Rural African American communities—sharecroppers, moonshiners, farmers, etc.—banded together and raised \$4.7 million for the establishment of these schools. Where Blacks didn't have funds, they gave land, materials, and labor. In these schools, across the South, African American teachers, administrators, and leaders—men and women—worked tirelessly to educate Black children. There are approximately 800 Rosenwald Schools still standing throughout the South. Dr. Ransom has written extensively about the Rosenwald Schools and is an Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Education.





In the Dead of Winter

Date: 2/9/2022

Stephen Mack Jones

12:00 pm | Social Hall or Zoom



Stephen Mack Jones is a published poet, award-winning playwright, and winner of the Kresge Arts in Detroit Literary Fellowship. He was born and raised in Lansing, Michigan. Upon graduation from Michigan State University, he moved to Detroit and worked in advertising and marketing communications before turning to fiction. In 2018, the International Association of Crime Writers presented Stephen with the prestigious Hammett Prize for literary excellence in the field of crime writing. Stephen's first adult fiction book, *August Snow*, was awarded the 2018 Nero Award by the Nero Wolfe Society and was named a '2018 Michigan Notable Book' by the Library of Michigan. He received that honor again in 2022 for *Dead of Winter*.

The February Lunch and Learn will meet in the Social Hall or Zoom, weather determined.



Mission in Ann Arbor and the Two Argus locations

Date: 3/9/2022

Bill Brinkerhoff and Kathy Sample

12:00 pm | Social Hall



Bill Brinkerhoff and Kathy Sample were students in the late 80's at the Business School (its name before it became the Ross School of Business). After marriage and traditional jobs on the east coast, they returned to Ann Arbor and pursued an impact career that suited their passion.

"Our mission is to grow our local agricultural economy. How? We want small, local farms to succeed. We provide a place where local farms can sell locally grown produce and other goods conveniently to consumers, year-round!"

They are the founders and owners of Argus Liberty Cafe & Market, Argus Packard Cafe, and Argus Packard Market.



History of Gardening in Detroit

Date: 4/13/2022

Joe Cialdella

12:00 pm | Social Hall



Detroit is a surprisingly green place. Over the past 15 to 20 years, longtime residents of Detroit have grown a vibrant urban gardening and agriculture movement. Yet the story of Detroit's gardens goes back even farther. In this talk, Joe Cialdella will draw on research from his award-winning book, *Motor City Green: A Century of Landscapes and Environmentalism in Detroit*, to share

three moments in the city's century long history of urban gardening environmental action. From Pingree's Potato Patches in the nineteenth century to African American yards during the twentieth century, Detroit's gardens and green spaces have helped residents meet subsistence needs, resist oppression, imagine a better city, and work toward justice.

Joseph Cialdella, husband of First Presbyterian member Kate Silbert, is the Senior Program Manager for Public Scholarship, University of Michigan. Joe is a former Enid A. Haupt Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution. As a program officer at the Michigan Humanities Council, he co-led the nationally award-winning Heritage Grants Program. His 2020 book, *Motor City Green*, explores the history of urban gardens and green spaces in Detroit.



In anticipation of Pride Month - June 2023

My Life In/Out of the Church

Date: 5/11/2022

Rev. Jim Lucas

12:00 pm | Social Hall



In 1998, Rev Jim Lucas was "released" from ordained ministry in the CRC, when no congregation was willing to call him to his LGBT pastoral ministry because of his affirmation of same-sex unions. He went on to help countless people deal with issues related to sexual orientation.

In Grand Rapids, Jim Lucas provides pastoral care and counseling, leads support programs, and organizes life enrichment events for LGBT+ people and allies. He speaks frequently in college classes and promotes the full inclusion of LGBT+ people. He is a graduate of both Calvin College (BA) and Calvin Seminary (MDiv). He is a Board-Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains, serving as a chaplain for Spectrum Health. Jim says, "I'm a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Come hear my story!"



Upward and Onward: The Story of Ann Arbor's Our Own Thing Chorale

Date: 6/8/2022



Dr. Willis Patterson

12:00 pm | Social Hall

The Willis C. Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale is a community-based singing group with long roots in the city of Ann Arbor. It was the creation of Dr. Willis Patterson, famed opera star, recitalist, and University of Michigan Music School faculty member, as a means of developing the musical talents of Ann Arbor's underserved African American youth. From its foundations in the Ann Arbor Community Center, Our Own Thing Chorale emerged as an independent musical group that championed the works of African American composers not represented in the standard repertory while providing a musical home for anyone interested in singing. The story of "Our Own Thing" is one of Ann Arbor's great success stories.

For more than 70 years, UM School of Music Professor Emeritus Willis Patterson has provided the vision for and leadership to the Our Own Thing Chorale. Throughout an international career of acclaim, Dr. Patterson remained at the helm of Our Own Thing Chorale and joins us today to share its story.

Writing Group



Spiritual Prompt Writing Group

Date: First Thursday

10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4



Meg Brown

10:30 am | Vance Room

Have you been yearning to find time and inspiration for creative writing? Yearn no more! Please join us the first Thursday of every month at 10:30 am. A prompt, a word, or a phrase will be sent out prior to the meeting, and we will write in advance and then meet in the Vance Room to share and discuss our creations. Interested? Please contact Meg Brown at lmegbrown@gmail.com to join the group.

Travels with Taylor

Take to the Skies! Yankee Air Museum and Michigan Firehouse Museum

Thursday,
September 22

Time: Depart, 9:15 a.m.; return, 4:00 p.m.

Lunch: Antonio's Cucina Italiana in Canton

Limit: 55

Cost: \$50 (includes admission, lunch, and transportation)



The Yankee Air Museum boasts a collection of heritage airplanes on the very site of the famous Willow Run bomber plant that played a decisive role in the WWII war effort. Most of us know of Willow Run; few have actually seen it. Come learn the story, shared with us by Museum Director, Kevin Walsh. A pizza and pasta feast awaits at Antonio's for your lunch. Greek salad, soft drinks, and great conversation are included. Family owned, Antonio's restaurants have been a Michigan favorite for generations. Wrap up your day with a brief visit to a gleaming collection of fire engines and try your luck on the firemen's pole, if you're game!

DIA's "Van Gogh in America" and Kirk in the Hills tour

Tuesday,
October 18

Time: Depart 10:00 a.m. return, 5:00 p.m. (approx.)

Lunch: Village Club in Bloomfield Hills

Limit: 55

FULL - Join the waitlist



This Van Gogh exhibit assembles the largest collection of Van Gogh paintings in the world and is the result of decades of planning by DIA curators. Van Gogh has always held a special spot in the hearts of Detroiters as the DIA was the first American museum to acquire a Van Gogh painting.

Lunch at the exclusive Village Club in Bloomfield Hills will proceed a tour of historic Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church. A day for the spirit and the soul!

Travels with Taylor

➤ **Behind the Scenes: Detroit's Historic Masonic Temple**

**Tuesday,
November 15**

Time: Depart 9 a.m., return 3 p.m. (approx..)

Lunch: Cantoro's Italian Market Plymouth

Limit: 55

FULL - Join the waitlist

This has been a trip in the making for years! We're delighted to announce a very rare behind the scenes tour to Detroit's famous Masonic Temple, a marvel of Art Deco design that stood proud in the Motor City in its heyday. The building encompasses much more than the auditorium space many of us know and will include stops in a variety of spaces once restricted exclusively to Masons. This one is a find! We'll have lunch at your new favorite local eatery—an Italian restaurant situated inside an Italian grocery store. Our second-floor perch will include an overview of the open-air market below, and we'll leave time for you to wander and explore after lunch.



➤ **Puttin' on the Ritz! Holiday Tour at Meadow Brook Hall**

**Friday,
December 9**

Time: 9:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Lunch: Meadow Brook Hall

Limit: 55

FULL - Join the waitlist

Mature Ministries doesn't usually travel in December but this year we're offering a holiday classic—a self-guided tour through the rooms of Meadow Brook Hall (home to the Dodge family), all decked out for Christmas! Better yet, we've arranged for holiday lunch served in one of the rooms of the mansion.



These tickets always sell out months in advance—this year FPC has them! If nothing else launches you into the holiday frame of mind, this will. Get out those elbow length gloves, folks—we're going out on the town! These spots will go fast!

Contact Us



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