

# First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor  
May 2019 ■ Volume 67, Number 5



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## Dear Friends,

As a little kid, because my maiden name is “May,” I was sure this entire month was mine, a month named for my family. Nobody else in my class had a whole month named after them. There were no “Bobby Octobers” or “Susie Julys,” after all. My cousin had a harder time of it, for her name is — and I kid you not — April June May. My Uncle Harold should have known better, but April embraced her name with joy.

Do you embrace the month of May? Other than the curse of spring allergies we often bear, the trees are leafing out, peonies are soon in bloom, baby bunnies are springing from hidden places in our gardens, and the season of graduations, weddings, and deck parties begins. Edwin Way Teale wrote, “All things seem possible in May.” Especially, in church! Jesus said, “All things are possible with God!” So in May, with the Lord leading us forward, we feel great enthusiasm about where we are as a congregation. We are driven and defined by possibility!

First, the Mission and Vision “Next” group is nearing completion of the new Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Strategic Plan that will be presented to Session for discussion, editing, and finalizing this month. This group, with the help of consultant Sue Gott, has written a beautiful, practical, visionary set of statements that will guide us for the next decade, and will surely lend insight to our incoming staff who will be leading us into our next best years. You will hopefully see it at the Church Picnic on June 9.

Second, 80 of our members will soon travel to Mackinac Island, for “A Gathering of Presbyterians at the Grand Hotel.” Thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Musser family and others, we are fortunate to spend the weekend exploring this majestic, historic hotel, and a grand island where no cars are allowed, and we step back in time. Sharing marvelous friendship, food, and conversation together for three days, it will be capped by worship, led by Rev. Dr. Deborah Knott Forger, PhD.

Third, on May 19, our Session has invited back an old friend, who will surely encourage First Pres forward as a beacon of service

and light to our community. Dr. Doug Brouwer, our pastor from 2001 - 2006, will return to our pulpit, now retired. He recently completed several years of ministry in Switzerland, and is fresh off his many weeks of walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

Finally, this Sunday, expect a much-awaited announcement about our music program! More details will follow, but if you are in church here on Sunday, or on the Island, you will be the first to know some exciting news.

Bring on May!

*Faithfully yours,  
Mel Rogers*



**P.S.** - On the first weekend of June, First Pres will host our first-ever Resident Ministry Alumni Weekend! As one of our most distinctive and successful ministries, the Residency Program has planned a series of events to celebrate this unique ministry, to connect our congregation with several of our Resident Minister Alumni and to strengthen our ties to this transformative feature of our church's life. Sunday, June 2 will feature the Rev. Lindsay Conrad as our keynote preacher for both the 9:30 and 11:00 am worship services. A special reception at Coffee Hour will highlight the contributions of our Resident Ministers to First Pres and point to their influence in our Presbyterian Church (USA). On Saturday, June 1 the day will begin with an energetic Resident Ministry Brunch featuring dynamic presentations by two



former Residents, the Revs. Angela Ryo and Evans McGowan. Saturday evening will see a gathering of many former Residents, the many former and current members of the Resident Ministry Committee and generous supporters.

*Former Resident Minister Rev. Lindsay Conrad is our guest preacher on Sunday, June 2.*



## Worship & Music



### Introducing Kristin Clark Our Interim Music Director

Kristin Clark is thrilled to be returning to First Pres as our "Interim Interim" Music director. You may remember her when she was a member of the chancel choir, a section leader and soloist, and frequent guest conductor from 2000-2009.

Kristin comes back to us with an impressive resume. As a mezzo-soprano soloist, she has been lauded for her "technical prowess" and "approachability" (classical.net). She can be heard in the role of Electre on the 2015 GRAMMY nominated recording of Milhaud's *L'Orestie d'Eschyle*, for which Opera News described her voice as "slicing the air unassailably." In 2015, Kristin made her solo debut in Carnegie Hall, singing Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Blue Period Ensemble. Particularly at home on the concert stage, Kristin has appeared as a guest soloist with organizations such as the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, the Toledo Symphony, the Bozeman Symphony, the Oakland Choral Society, the University Musical Society, and the Adrian Symphony. Other notable concert appearances include the world premiere of Susan Botti's *Tagore Madrigals* at the American Academy in Rome and a Canadian Tour of Aaron Copland's *In the Beginning*.

Kristin completed her doctorate in vocal performance at the University of Michigan, where she also received Master's degrees in vocal performance and choral conducting. She is currently an Assistant Professor and the Coordinator of Voice at Adrian College. In the summer, she teaches on the voice faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and the MPulse Vocal Arts Institute and Musical Theatre Workshops. Former students of hers have gone on to perform leading and supporting roles on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and in national tours, and to pursue graduate studies in opera. Kristin lives in Ypsilanti with her husband (and favorite pianist), Phillip, and their blended family of five children.



### We Got Our Purple On!

A sincere "thank you!" to all who worked hard to get our new *Glory to God* hymnals placed in the Sanctuary in time for Holy Week services. The purple cover looks great in the pews!



**Blue Hymnals** - The blue hymnals are being cataloged by staff and volunteers, and a list compiled of what nameplates are in them. After Pentecost, if you donated a new *Glory to God* hymnal, you may have a blue hymnal at that time. An attempt will be made to offer those who donated an old hymnal the book with their dedication in it. We cannot promise that we can locate the one you gave previously, but we will try. Two hundred hymnals will be kept for future use of First Pres in services, retreats, and other events. After that, those who would like to purchase a blue hymnal who did not give a *Glory to God* hymnal may purchase one for \$5, in support of the Sacred Music Fund.



## Congregational Life

### Corner Health Clinic Book Drive

#### 4th & 5th Grade Spring Mission Project

The 4th & 5th grade Sunday school classes invite the congregation to donate new and gently used children's books suitable for infant - teens and support the Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti. The Corner Health Center provides judgement-free physical and mental health services to youth ages 12 to 25.

Why provide books to young people? Corner Health Center firmly believes reading fosters creativity, imagination, and hope. They actively encourage parents to read to their children, to promote literacy and the love of learning. This includes having books in their waiting area AND offering young families a chance to take books home to read together. Join us in helping to share the joy of reading! Put your book donations in baskets located around the church starting April 28. The books will be delivered to Corner Health on May 13.



### Christian Meditation

Meditation will be held on Saturdays, May 4 and 18 in Monteith Hall at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome. For more information contact Jeanette Kibler, [jeanette.kibler@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.kibler@gmail.com).



## An Invitation to Belong... Officially!

Tuesdays, June 4 & 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



March 2019 New Members

To Our Sixty or More Regular Attenders:

Thank you for attending First Pres worship services, congregational gatherings and programs. As we have come to know more about you, we've prayed for you, hoping that when you've joined us, you've felt a sense of belonging and been warmly welcomed to take part. Many of you are already involved in various activities and are known to the staff. Others of you have been quietly engaging in worship and learning about us in your own way.

Why not take this last step to make First Pres your official church home? You can join as a full member, or an "affiliate" (someone whose primary membership is lodged elsewhere). Joining is a commitment to be a part of a particular church family, to be willing to be known, to give of yourself, to engage in the community, to belong. Membership classes are a brief time commitment but help you find connections, answer questions, and share surprising insights about who we are. They give you a foundation in Reformed faith, spirituality and a deeper sense of belonging. Attenders feel connected to those who were in their class, and develop meaningful friendships. Whether you are new to faith, or a long-time Presbyterian, you'll gain much from the class.

The next new members class will be held Tuesdays, June 4 and 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., in the Lewis Room. We'll provide some snacks and decaf coffee. The joining takes place on Sunday, June 16, at the 8:00 a.m. new member breakfast and the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Interested? Contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at 355-2351 or [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

## Grief & Loss Support Group

Join Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers Thursday evenings in May, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. for a safe space to grieve, to mourn, to learn about grief, and to work through issues that accompany the loss of a loved one. If you've come through grief, are in the midst of it, or are about to begin the journey, there is help for you. Come learn, share, and support one another. Community members and friends area welcome! Register with Rev. Rogers, [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org), or contact the Church Office at 662-4466.

## "Backstage Tour" of First Pres - An Event for Everyone!

Saturday, May 18, 3:30-5:30 p.m.



Each Sunday we listen to God's word while gazing upon the ornate carvings and cross above the choir in the Chancel; dappled by the luminous colors of the stained-glass window stories. We are surrounded by beauty of First Presbyterian Church, inside and out. And yet, have you ever wondered what keeps the church going? How does such a large building stay warm during the long Michigan winter? How do our three (three!) organs continually produce beautiful music? Did you know there are secret tunnels and stairwells? What are they used for? The Property Committee and Families @ First have teamed up to present a unique opportunity to everyone to listen to experts and explore some hidden gems of First Pres. Light refreshments to be served.

## Congregational Life Happenings

### Join the Congregational Life Committee!

We need and welcome new members to help create and support engaging and meaningful all-church events, small groups, and welcoming practices. Consider joining the Congregational Life committee with meetings the first Monday of each month, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Karla Olson-Bellfi at [karlaolsonbellfi@gmail.com](mailto:karlaolsonbellfi@gmail.com) or Rev. Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org)

### Benedictine Spirituality Retreat May 17 -18

Enjoy 24 hours away from the stresses of life to be alone with God in silence. Rev. Annette Fraser leads this retreat at St. Augustine's House and will teach about the paradox of quiet contemplation and working toward social justice. Interested? Contact Annette at [nnttfraser@gmail.com](mailto:nnttfraser@gmail.com).

### All Church Picnic Sunday, June 9

Help us kick off the summer with Satchel's barbecue, the music of the Paul Keller Jazz Quintet, inflatables, fellowship and fun! More info to come!



## Celebrating Our Graduates

Submissions due **Monday, May 13**

**High School graduates** will be recognized in worship Sunday, June 2, at 9:30 a.m. Please visit <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/high-school-graduates-2019/> and submit the graduate and parents' name(s), high school, and future plans. You may also give the information to the Church Office.

**College graduates** will be recognized in the June edition of *First Press*. Submit the graduate's name, degree, and institution at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/celebrating-our-first-pres-college-graduates/> or to the Church Office.



## Mature Ministries Lunch & Learn - Open to All this Month!

**Celebrating a New Home for Dinosaurs – UM's New Museum of Natural History**



On May 9, Lynne Friman, Project Manager for UM's Museum of Natural History, brings us the fascinating story of the relocation of the 90 year-old museum—and all its varied collections—to a brand new home on the UM campus. Lynne provided oversight for the packing and relocation of 22,000 objects, supervised the construction of a brand new building, and provided leadership for the installation of new exhibits for the museum. The new museum just opened in April and Lynne is ready to tell the story behind the adventure. How does one pack up and move a gallery of dinosaurs anyway? Plan to attend Lynne's talk on May 9 and find out! Lunch is \$5. Sign up in the Church Office.

## On the Road: Hidden Treasures in Plain Sight

**A Mature Ministries Adventure Open to All Adults**

Join Mature Ministries "On the Road" on Thursday, May 16, 4:00-6:00 p.m., for a visit to hidden treasures right in plain sight. We're happy to announce a building tour and tea at the UM Martha Cook Residence Hall and a carillon concert at the top of Burton Tower on the UM central campus. Built in 1915 as a residence for female students, Martha Cook is largely closed to the general public and is almost always closed to male visitors. We'll enjoy a tour of the residence's grand public spaces and enjoyed a catered afternoon tea in their famous "Gold Room."

Later, University carillonneur, Tiffany Ng, will welcome us to the very top of Burton Tower to introduce us to the massive collection of bells, demonstrate how the carillon works, and entertain in a short performance. Enjoy some of the best views in Ann Arbor and bring your ear plugs! Check two boxes off your Ann Arbor bucket list with this outing. The cost is \$30 paid in advance to First Pres. This trip is limited to 60 people. Note later start time. Transportation on your own, one-stop parking. Depending on ability, on the street parking shouldn't be too bad in the spring late in the afternoon, in the public lot on S. Forest. Or, park at First Pres. For accessibility, you will be climbing two flights of stairs in Burton Tower even after the elevator has climbed to the top. There are steps and some uneven surfaces at Martha Cook. Make your reservation by contacting Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers or the Church Office.



## PW Gathering

**Wednesday, May 15 - A "Very Honorary" Day**

Women of the church are invited to attend any or all activities. Men of the church are invited to attend the program and lunch.

- **Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. in the Lewis Room** – Meg Brown will lead lesson 9, "God With Us," and conclude the study *God's Promise: I Am With You* by Amy Poling.
- **Presentation at 10:45 a.m. in Monteith Hall** – Resident Ministers' Reflections: Revs. Blair Buckley and Eric Koenig-Reinke will reflect on their two years at First Pres.
- **Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. in Monteith Hall**
  - Installation of Officers
  - Presentation of the 2019 Lifetime Honorary Membership Awards to Bill McPherson and Linda Robinson for their exceptional caring and faithful service to First Pres.
  - The Seminary Scholarship will be awarded to Lex Allum to assist her in her studies at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



**Lunch at Noon in the Social Hall** – Lunch is \$7.00. RSVP to the Church Office at 662-4466.

Celebrate honorees Bill McPherson, Linda Robinson and their families, Lex Allum, and our wonderful Resident Ministers.



## Yoga at First Pres

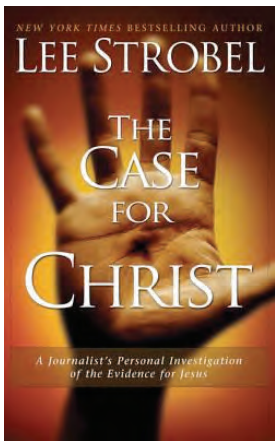
First Pres free yoga classes will be held from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays, May 9 and May 30, in the Choir Room on the third floor. All skill levels are welcome! This yoga class is for ages 12 and above. Please bring any props you have (mat, fitness strap, blanket, 2 blocks, bolster/pillow). Some will be available to borrow.



## Never A Bystander

All are invited to attend the WCC Foundation Women's Council (who supports students at WCC), Wednesday, May 15, 11:00 a.m., at the WCC Morris Lawrence Building. A keynote address will be given by Irene Hasenberg Butter, a well-known peace activist, Holocaust survivor, and Professor Emerita of Public Health at UM. An inspirational speaker, she stresses the message "never a bystander" and the idea that one person can make a difference. Our own Rev. Rogers will be honored at this event, with two other female leaders in our community. The cost is \$75 per ticket with \$35 tax deductible. If you need assistance purchasing a ticket, call the WCC Foundation at (734) 973-3663 or email Tina Kashat Casoli, Director of Major Gifts and Development, [tcasoli@wccnet.edu](mailto:tcasoli@wccnet.edu).

## Stephen Ministry: A Look At Books!



The Stephen Ministry Library is open for all people. It is full of books to help you deal with transition, trauma, stress, and grief. It has books with great ideas for how to help others in need! Come in anytime the Sanctuary is open and get a book! Each month, our Stephen Ministry Library Leaders - Chris Queen and Cyndy Colton, will highlight one of our books to share with you.

The book titled *The Case for Christ-A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus* is written by Lee Strobel, an experienced investigative reporter and graduate of Yale Law School. Strobel is an atheist-turned-Christian who collects the vast evidence of the claims of Christ. This book covers the historical basis for Christianity and addresses challenges to its veracity.

The author's spiritual journey starts when his wife tells him that she has become a Christian. He fears he will lose the fun-loving companion and friend he has known for years. Over time Strobel witnesses positive changes in his wife's character, integrity, and her personal self-confidence. Eventually he wants to better understand the basis for the changes in his wife's beliefs and faith. Over two years Strobel reads books, interviews scholars, asks questions, analyzes history, explores archaeology, studies ancient literature, and for the first time in his life studies the Bible verse by verse.

With his investigative reporter background, Strobel searches for truth based on historical evidence. In fact, "evidence" is an overall theme that runs the course of the book and supports the other general themes: a "case for Christ" and "reliability of the Bible." Strobel handles the information as if addressing a jury and asks direct questions of his expert witnesses such as: how reliable is the New Testament? Evidence admitted addresses both sides of every issue and is presented in a way that allows readers to draw their own conclusions as if they are the jury determining the verdict. Anyone who is interested in the historical basis for Christianity should read this book.

## News from T2A2

Happy Spring from T2A2 (Twenties & Thirties of Ann Arbor)! Our Sunday night small group and Wednesday evening hangout group were busy in March and April. Wednesday evenings took us to a number of spots downtown, and for good measure, the crowd favorite – HOMES brewery, for fellowship over some brews. (Even if beer is not your thing, do yourself a favor and try the Kimchi fries at HOMES.) Sunday nights have taken us on a Lenten journey with the rest of the church through Adam Hamilton's *Final Words from the Cross*, although we are extending Lent to the beginning of May in order to finish the book. Then it's on to the book of Esther to start our summers!



T2A2 took part in some additional social activities including a bowling night with young adults from Knox Presbyterian, an outing to Slows BBQ and the Detroit 67 exhibit at the Detroit Historical Society with Brad Taylor, and a gathering to watch the NCAA basketball finals. If you would like to join us for fellowship, volunteering, and spiritual growth, you can receive updates about T2A2 happenings by joining the Google group: [t2a2@googlegroups.com](mailto:t2a2@googlegroups.com). You can also get the inside scoop from Rev. Dorothy Piatt ([piatt@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:piatt@firstpresbyterian.org)) or our Sunday night small group guru, Chris Wahl ([cgwahl@gmail.com](mailto:cgwahl@gmail.com)).



## News from Property

Have you been in the Vance, Curtis, or Lewis Rooms lately? If you have, you may have noticed how much brighter these rooms have become. This is thanks to our own facilities team (Adrian and Almer) replacing the old fluorescent bulbs with new bulbs that provide about twice as much light while using about half the amount of electricity (see the photo showing the old and new)! Watch for other areas of the church (including the Main Kitchen) to receive similar lighting upgrades in the near future.

In late March you may have noticed something different in the Sanctuary. It may have seemed a bit brighter when your attention was directed toward the Chancel. This is likely due to the new reredos fabric behind the cross. The old fabric was replaced with new in late March and these photos show the magnitude of the difference.



## Transitions

### We Celebrate the Birth of:

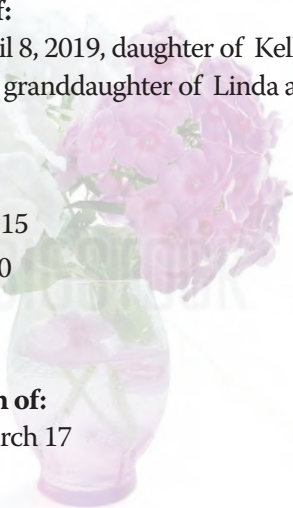
Isla Joyce Cameron, April 8, 2019, daughter of Kelly and Matt Cameron, and granddaughter of Linda and Jim Cameron.

### We Grieve the Death of:

Betty Doezeema - March 15  
John Debbink - March 20  
Herb Upton - April 3

### We Celebrate the Baptism of:

Shuyu Long (adult) - March 17



## Faith in Action

### Summer Hours Begin May 31

#### Summer Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Summer Building Access For Those WITHOUT Key Fobs:

Volunteers can buzz you into the building:

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday Building is unlocked 7:15 - 5:00 p.m..

#### Summer Building Access For Those WITH Key Fobs:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Building is unlocked 7:15 - 5:00 p.m.

#### Exceptions:

- On holidays such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July, etc., the building is closed and there is no key fob access.
- On Sundays there is no key fob access because the building is unlocked. When no events are scheduled after worship, the building may be locked early.



### Spring Work Day at Cass Community Social Services

Saturday, May 11

Spring is coming! That means our annual "Plant the Vegetable Gardens at Cass" workday is just around the corner. Come be a part of our group – we're looking especially for families and youth. Come and show Cass and its residents that we care! The vegetable gardens directly impact the quality of the over 1,000,000 meals served by Cass each year. Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/cass-work-day/>

### Voices of Children: "Bee" the Change

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m. – Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will present this year's unique interfaith music event, Voices of Children: Bee the Change, held two weeks after Earth Day at Genesis, 2309 Packard Street (Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare's Episcopal). Given the current climate in our country and in celebration of the sacredness of the planet, here is a beautiful way to show our support for diversity, gratitude and inclusion. This year's four children's / youth choirs are from the Hindu Chinmaya Mission, New Hope Baptist Church, St. Clare's Episcopal Church and The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation. There will be an opportunity to donate to the work of the IRT. Questions? Contact George Lambrides at 649-0107 or [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu).





## A Take on the Current Situation in Nicaragua

*Carol Smith*

Paul and I recently traveled to Nicaragua on a Rotary Service trip. We were cautioned to 'keep a low profile' but that became laughable since it is impossible for North Americans not to stand out! We were also advised not to talk politics with the locals but we quickly discovered that many Nicaraguans were eager to talk. We also learned that displaying the Nicaraguan flag is considered an act of terrorism. Imagine living a country where flying your own flag is illegal. Despite warnings we felt very safe and were warmly welcomed by the people we met in the communities.

We were delighted to spend time with Emily Hewes, Development Director, CEPAD USA. CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua) continues to support many rural communities: teaching sustainable farming practices, empowering women, training community leaders and much more. CEPAD has resumed hosting mission teams. Emily shared that while the staff of CEPAD's political views range from pro-government to pro-opposition and every sentiment in between, they manage to work together with the common goal of helping those with the greatest need.

The crisis that began in April of 2018 led to a devastating decline in volunteerism and tourism in Nicaragua just as the country was beginning to reap so many benefits from the increase of tourism over the past decade. It is during times like these when many Nicaraguans and their friends must return to basics, reallocate, rebuild, and regenerate. In this spirit, it is our plan to maintain First Presbyterian's partnership with CEPAD and plan another multi-generational trip in 2020. If you'd like to hear more about our mission in Nicaragua, contact Carol Smith at [cesmith6641@gmail.com](mailto:cesmith6641@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Russian Mission Network Conference

The PC(USA)'s Russian Mission Network will meet this year in Smolensk, Russia, September 20-22. It will be held at "Rodnik," the summer camp lodge for two nearby Russian Baptist churches, whose US partners are Church of the Cross (PCUSA) in Omaha and White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. First Pres' partner church in Davydovo has invited participants to spend a few days there after the conference. In addition, participants may plan side trips in Russia before or after the conference.

Hoping to go? The first deadline is May 15, for the electronic submission of one's passport photo page to our Mission Co-Worker, Ellen Smith. That will start the process for obtaining visas. I plan to go. Anyone else? Questions? Please contact me, Linda Speck, at 730-4525 or [aa3013@wayne.edu](mailto:aa3013@wayne.edu).



## Children & Families

### Summer Vacation Bible School

Marketplace 29 A.D. – Life in Jesus' Time

June 18, 19, & 20, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Travel back in time and experience what life was like when Jesus lived. Relive Biblical events, occupations, the synagogue, family life, and being a member of a Bible time family. Visit the arts and craft shops of the Marketplace, travel to the Story Tellers tent, witness events in Jesus' life re-enacted by our street players and play games at the Jerusalem playground. Registration forms will be mailed by Easter or register now at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/vacation-bible-school-child-registration/>

**Volunteers Are Needed!** There are many wonderful ways that adults, middle schoolers, and high schoolers can volunteer. Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/vacation-bible-school-volunteer-registration/> Questions? Contact Beca Torres-Davenport at [btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org) or Cindy King at [cking@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:cking@firstpresbyterian.org).



### A Heartfelt "Thank-You" to our Nursery child-care workers!

A handful of our childcare workers will be leaving us this May as they continue their journey of school, internships and graduation. Please take a moment to say "Thank-you" and "Best wishes" to Maddie Mervis, Christina Fosheim-Hoag, and Chad Wilson! Cova Perez-Pelaez will also be leaving for the summer to be with her family out East, but we will likely see her again in the fall. Please take a moment and show your gratitude for all of their hard work and commitment on Sunday mornings, helping the children to know Jesus loves them!



## Youth Ministry

### Confirmation Sunday Is April 28!

On April 28, we celebrated the confirmation of nine students, who explored the depth and meaning of their faith and what it means to join the church. Our newest members to the First Pres family include eighth graders Ethan Hamden, Alex Hummel, Lance Maugh, Sarah Meyers, Lucy Schneidewind, Lana Smith, Chloe Sprague, Thomas Swindle, and Joey Wisniewski. Rev. Evans McGowan, who led our 2019 Confirmation Class, said, "It's been a joy and an honor to walk with these young men and women as they explore what it means to follow Jesus and be a part of a beloved community."



### MIDS: Crossover Edition!

**Sunday, May 19 10:30 a.m. - Noon, Drop off & Pick Up in the Youth Room**

All current 5th - 7th graders are invited to attend a special MIDS Youth Group! On May 19 students who will be in middle school NEXT school year (2019-2020) are invited to come to the youth room for a special MIDS event! There will be excitement, pizza, and lots of fun along the way. Whether you are a returning student or a first-time attendee, come and find out what MIDS is all about! To get a sneak peek at all the awesome things we are up to in Youth Ministry check out our video (Click Here), then join us on May 19. Contact Essie Koenig-Reinke ([essie@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:essie@firstpresbyterian.org)) with questions about this event, and to RSVP! We look forward to seeing you there.



### MIDS in Mission 2019!

**SAVE THE DATE - Monday, August 12 - Thursday, August 15**

All Middle School Students are invited to come and serve with us this summer during our Middle School Day Camp! We will get to know our community through mission and exploration. Then stay late on Thursday for a fun Summer Adventure to close out our time together. Cost is \$40 per person. The event is for rising 6th - 8th graders. Parents, drop off is at 8:45 a.m. in the Social Hall and pick up at 4:00 p.m. at church.

*Senior Farewell Brunch at the home of Meg & Paul Brown.*



## UKirk @ UMich

### Campus Ministry Update

This month we celebrate the graduation of 11 students from the University of Michigan who are connected to First Pres through our Campus Ministry program: Andrew Abdallah, Connor Baechler, Peter Beck, Emma Cozier, Christina Fosheim-Hoag, Sarah Fuhrman, Jenni Jasperse, Michael Keller, Maddie Mervis, Margaret Poppe and Chad Wilson.

**Where they go from here:** Maddie grew up in this church and is from Saline. She will apply to medical schools this summer and will be an AmeriCorps volunteer for a year in Denver, Colorado, starting in July. Christina, also a member of First Pres and from Saline, will be returning to UM for her Masters in Computer Science in the Fall after working in San Francisco this summer. Chad, also from Saline and a First Pres member, will be headed to MIT in the fall for a Masters in Mechanical Engineering. Andrew is from Saline and will volunteer for a year as he applies to medical school. Emma is also taking a year to work and volunteer as she applies to dental schools. Michael is looking at potential law schools and Sarah hopes to find a job in engineering, possibly in her home state of California. Peter will be headed to medical school in the fall after spending some time at home in western Michigan this summer. Connor is going to be an Assurance Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Philadelphia. Jenni and Margaret have both accepted jobs in Michigan working with General Motors in engineering and data science, respectively. Please keep our UKirk@UMich graduates in your prayers.





# Adult Education



## Sundays @ 9:30 A.M.

### The Bible @ 9:30 May 5 - June 2 in the French Room/Library

Bible exploration and conversation. Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter. All are welcome for robust discussion.

**May 5** Holiness

**May 19** Exclusivity of Christianity

**May 12** The Beatitudes

**May 26** Memorial Day. No Class

**June 2** The Spiritual Life

### First Friends May 5 - June 2 in Monteith Hall

*Spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals. Presenters are class members. New members are always welcome!*

**May 5 - June 2 Acts of the Apostles** - The group will watch and discuss the DVD *An Odd Couple, Jonah and Ruth: Lessons for Our Fractured World*.

## Sundays @ 11:00 A.M.

### NEW SERIES Exploring the Faith

#### "Getting to Know You – Who is the YOU in this multi-religious society?"

Christians all over the country are getting to know people from other religious and spiritual perspectives different from our own. Dialogue, engagement and collaboration are resulting in stronger communities who trust, understand and respect each other. Presbyterian Christians who are taking this journey do so because Jesus said to "love your neighbor", and one way to show love is to ask questions, be hospitable and let go of whatever prejudices we might have.



Because the religious landscape of our county is much like that of the whole country, the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County has arranged for us to spend an hour of class time with representatives of four different religions and with a person who is "spiritual but not religious." More than just a lecture on a world religion, these sessions will be more personal and more engaging, leaving significant time for questions and answers.



This series assumes that all religious and spiritual perspectives differ in beliefs and practices, and that several major principles are very similar from outlook to outlook, one of those being the principle of compassion. Each presenter will discuss not only the basics of their faith perspective, but also what compassion means to them and what it looks like on a daily basis.



#### April 28 – Series Introduction and Overview

George Lambrides, Co-Director of the Interfaith Round Table

#### May 5 – the Bahá'í Faith

Kern Kuipers, a member of the Bahá'í Faith for 36 years

Kaye Foyle, a member of the Bahá'í Faith for over 25 years

#### May 12 – Judaism

Jeff Bernstein, active member of Beth Israel Congregation and EMU Professor

Lisa Bernstein, a Judaic Studies teacher at the Hebrew Day School and Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor

#### May 19 – Islam

Abdullah Al-Mahmudi, Imam of the Islamic Center of Ann Arbor. *Note: No photo is included of the Imam out of respect for Islamic religious tradition.*

#### May 26 – Hinduism

Sharada Kumar, the Acharya and President of the Chinmaya Mission

Sangita Shivakumar, Teacher and Secretary of Chinmaya Mission, involved since 1994

#### June 2 – Spiritual But Not Religious

Sharon Kardia, UM Professor, School of Public Health, Director, UM SPH Online program





# Financial Stewardship

## Financial Update

The Session and the Finance Committee are committed to providing regular financial updates to our members and friends. The following financial information is for the month of March and year to date for the 2019 fiscal year.

### For the month of March:

Total income received:	\$153,076
Total expenses:	\$ 161,702
(Shortage):	\$ (8,626)

### Year-to-Date through March:

Total income received:	\$ 522,528 (22.98 % of our annual budget)
Total expenses:	\$ 457,937 (20.14% of our annual budget)
Surplus:	\$ 64,591



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## Legacy Giving

We celebrated our Legacy Partners (those who have included First Pres in their estate plans) on April 7. We enjoyed hearing from guest pastor, Christine Chakoian, who is VP for Seminary Advancement at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as she preached on the legacy we leave. We recognized 125 Legacy Partners with carnations at services that morning. We provided education opportunities with Elder Carter Hodgson leading a conversation on estate planning and documentation, and Christine Chakoian shared her experiences with philanthropy at her prior churches, and in her current position. She highlighted the three pillars of giving: Stewardship, Endowment and Capital Campaigns. Stewardship is further divided into money, time and talent. Sometimes we forget to thank the members of First Presbyterian for giving in all of these very different but very vital ways. Thank you!

First Pres has a newly revised endowment brochure available through the Church Office. Over the next five months look for biographies submitted by Legacy Partners of all ages. All members are encouraged to include First Pres in your estate plan, and Anna Miller in the Finance Office can answer any questions you may have. Gifts of all sizes are important, and help ensure that First Pres will continue to Live God's Love as a strong community of faith.



## Lent 2019

