



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
November 2015 ■ Volume 63, Number 10



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Worship & Music 2
- Advent 2
- Opportunities for Women 3
- Annual Giving 3
- Campus Connection..... 4
- Faith in Action 5
- Children & Families 6
- Congregational Life..... 6
- Adult Education 8
- Youth Connection 9

Dear Friends,

November at First Pres brings many reasons to be thankful. God blesses us in so many ways, and most especially with the gift of faith. We bolster one another's faith each time we gather to worship. We practice our faith when we bow in prayer, give of our time and resources, and seek to reflect the grace of God in our lives. We go deeper in our faith when we spend time studying the life of Jesus and the testimony of the scriptures. We strengthen one another's witness each time we stand alongside each other to serve. God gives us many ways through First Pres to make a difference in the community and wider world. Let's give thanks by giving of ourselves!

Rev. Judy R. Fletcher is a petite woman and a human dynamo. She has pastored churches, led youth conferences and committees for the national church, and been a Synod executive. She is a wife and mother and is the author of this year's excellent Presbyterian Women Bible study. When she was ordained to the ministry in 1976, she had very few women colleagues. (When I was ordained a dozen years later, I had very few women colleagues!) Judy was the first ordained Presbyterian woman I ever met. She is gracious, energetic, smart, and witty. You'll love Judy! She is this year's Christian Life Academy speaker. Judy will preach at the 9:30 and 11:00 services on November 15th and speak that evening at 7:00 and the next day, also at 7:00 pm. Her topic is "A Living Theology for Today: Love, Justice, and Sin." Invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to join you for our Christian Life Academy. Events like this are a great way to engage those not yet acquainted with First Pres.

This month in worship we also will be recognizing our World War II veterans on November 8, celebrating Thanksgiving on November 22, and beginning the Season of Advent on November 29. All along the way, we give thanks to God for creating us each one and blessing us with this community of faith.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



Leaf Raking Day

Saturday, November 21 at 8:00 a.m.

Calling all leaf-rakers! All generations come together for Washtenaw Dairy doughnuts, hot drinks, and to make our campus beautiful. If you have tarps and rakes – bring 'em! Otherwise, bring yourself, your warm clothing, your good humor, and willingness to work. Questions? Contact Adrian Prundeanu at 662-4466, ext. 343 or aprundeanu@firstpresbyterian.org.



Worship & Music

Children's Christmas Festival Choir

Children, grades K-5, are invited to sing with the children's Christmas Festival Choir. The Festival Choir will sing as part of the Christmas Eve Pageant worship service at 3:00 p.m. They will also sing for the lighting of the Advent-wreath candle each Sunday of Advent, November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20, at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Festival Choir will rehearse on Sunday mornings in Room 400 beginning November 22. Most Sundays they will rehearse 10:30-10:50 a.m., immediately following Sunday school. As we need permission for your child to go from Sunday school to Festival Choir rehearsal, please sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/childrens-christmas-festival-choir/> As there is no Sunday school on November 29, we'll have a different schedule that morning. Please contact Tom Granum for more information at tgranum@firstpresbyterian.org.



The Advent of Advent!

Thinking Ahead...

Advent begins November 29 (Thanksgiving Sunday), and lasts four weeks. Each of our Advent worship services will have special liturgy, lay participation, and seasonal music. Throughout the season of Advent, there will be an email devotional, opportunities to learn and grow in faith, and great events like the Christmas Dinner, poinsettias given in honor or memory of loved ones, and the Family to Family program. Watch for more information in the December edition of First Press.



- **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** - Session approved a slight change to the worship times on Christmas Eve. Services will be held as follows:
 Christmas Pageant Worship Service – 3:00 p.m.
 Candlelight Lessons and Carols Worship Services – 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
 Candlelight Communion Worship Service – 11:00 p.m.
- **POINSETTIAS** - for December 13 worship in honor or memory of a loved one, \$15, orders are **due December 4** and can be made in the Church Office or at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/poinsettias-2015/>. Please note this early deadline!
- **ADVENT HAPPENING** - an arts and crafts event for the whole family! Saturday, December 5, 10:00 until Noon, Social Hall. Ages 3 to 103, friends welcome!
- **THE CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT** - for kids ages 3 and older. On Sunday, December 6 at 11:00 in the Lewis Room there is an all-parent informational meeting. At this meeting parents will learn more details about costumes and the rehearsal schedule.
- **ADVENT EMAIL DEVOTIONALS** - written by members and staff, they begin coming to your inbox on November 29. Sign up at <http://firstpresbyterian.org/daily-devotionals-signup>.
- **ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER** - Come on December 6 for a gourmet meal, a great program, families, friends, and fun. Cost is \$7 per person and seats must be reserved. We are limited to 250 people. Save your place now at: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/all-church-christmas-dinner-2015/>
- **FAMILY TO FAMILY CHRISTMAS** - Consider having your family, group, class, or friends “adopt” a family in need identified by the Department of Human Services. Select a family and purchase gifts and/or food according to their needs, and then deliver the gifts personally or have a FTF volunteer deliver them for you. Alternatively, donations may be made to purchase gift cards for families not directly adopted, or for families in need who have loved ones at Mott Children's Hospital and U-M Hospital during the holidays. Sign-up to adopt families after morning services on November 29, December 6 and December 13 in the Social Hall. Contact Julie Morrison at jdornmorrison@gmail.com or 668-0420 for more information.



Opportunities for Women



November Gathering – The Journey to Iona

On Wednesday, November 18, Presbyterian Women gathers at 9:30 a.m. in Monteith Hall for lesson four, *Dangerous Waters – God’s Deliverance*, of the Horizon Bible Study *Come to the Waters*, written by Dr. Judy R. Fletcher. (Note: Dr. Fletcher will be the keynote speaker at this year’s Christian Life Academy, November 15-16.) At 10:45 a.m., there will be a brief business meeting followed by “Pilgrimage Near and Far,” a presentation by Dr. Virginia Bell about her pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland. All are welcome. Lunch will follow in the Social Hall at noon.

Presbyterian Women Reading Group

On November 18, the Reading Group will meet in the Vance Room at 1:00 p.m., following the PW lunch. Myra Larson will discuss Chapter 3, of *The Road to Character* by David Brooks.



Annual Giving

GOD’S MISSION MATTERS

Step in, Step up – Every Commitment Counts

“The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,” are words to a hymn that we sing. And while the author, Samuel John Stone, was referring to the holy Catholic Church and the Communion of Saints in the Apostles’ Creed, it can easily be applied to stewardship at First Pres. Without financial stewardship our building might not be heated or clean. Nor would we have our amazing pastors and our wonderful support staff. And without giving of our time and talents, we would not have Sunday School classes, nurseries, church activities, a fabulous music program, or greeters at the church entrances on Sunday mornings. We need a strong foundation.

Our church needs you. We need your time. If you look at the volunteer opportunities within our church community, you will be amazed. If you haven’t found even one thing to do to help, pray about it. There are so many ways – big and little – where you can help: bake cookies for coffee hour, help with Vacation Bible School or Sunday School, be a greeter on Sunday, knit or crochet, sing in the choir, help drive others to appointments, help with the new vegetable garden, bring canned or dry food on Communion Sunday, and on and on!

We’re all given talents, some great and some small – but whether your talent is great or small, we glorify God when we use it to further his kingdom. God isn’t rating his followers based on the number of converts they win over or the number of church pews they fill. He’s interested in the passion with which we use whatever gifts he has given us.

A Gentle Reminder: 2016 Stewardship Commitments

This year our stewardship theme is “God’s Mission Matters. Step in, step up. Every commitment counts!” Commitment Sunday just occurred on October 18. We have received 418 commitments to date. Thank you to all who have turned in their 2016 commitments!

If you haven’t already done so, please fill out your 2016 pledge card and turn it in. Our church needs your financial support. Our Session is working hard and praying about a reasonable budget so First Pres can continue to grow and reach out into our community and our world to spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please participate!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact either Lynnette Conner, Finance Manager at 662-4466 or lconner@firstpresbyterian.org, or Lucie Audette, Annual Giving Workgroup Chair, at 717-8062 or laudette125@hotmail.com.



Stewardship Sharing

Carol Downton joined First Presbyterian Church in December 2014. This past January, she became a member of the Stewardship Annual Giving Workgroup. We asked Carol to share her stewardship story:



What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. -Micah 5:8

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” - John 21: 17

I love these scriptures! For me, they sum up all the strands of theology that weave the cloth of my faith. Whenever I consider almost any topic of thought regarding my worship of God, I keep coming back to these passages.

I was raised in a family that attended church sporadically. My brother and I loved Sunday School, so even if my parents weren't attending church, our dad would drive us to church for Sunday School. As my brother and I grew older, we attended the Saturday morning Prep and Confirmation classes (two years of training!) and joined the church when we were 14 years old. After we joined the church, my parents began attending more regularly. But even if they missed a Sunday service, they still made sure the church received the offering that was designated for that Sunday. That gesture by my parents set my first understanding of stewardship commitment.

As I grew in my faith, I realized the importance of giving back time and abilities for God's work. The sheep needed to be fed! The monetary offering could only do so much—after all, someone needed to buy, distribute, serve, help, love, and care. I began to see stewardship as a continuing circle.

When I married David, an ordained Presbyterian minister at Mt. Tabor Church in New Albany, Indiana, I began to see stewardship from the “inside” of the church. I observed the times that mission opportunities could not be fulfilled because not enough money or workers were available. I began to understand stewardship in a different light – Stewardship is THE WORSHIP OF GOD! Stewardship is acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. Stewardship is feeding Jesus' sheep.

I'm a Senior Citizen now but God isn't finished with me yet. God is still revealing new understandings to me and bending me in the way God wants me to grow. God's Blessings!

Carol Downton



Campus Connection



Cook Pancakes for College Students!

The Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, December 15, as UM students wrap up the semester. As the semester winds down, students are working hard, and our hospitality goes a long way. We expect to serve over 300 hungry students from 10:00 p.m. to midnight and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to help with outreach, setup, tear down, cooking, serving, and more. To sign up for a job, please go to <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/pancake-supper/> or contact Andy Spaulding at aspaulding@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 353. Don't have time to help? Monetary donations are needed as well. To contribute, make your check out to First Presbyterian Church with Pancake Supper on the memo line.



Share your Campus Experiences and Suggestions

In the coming months, an independent committee will be studying our church's campus ministry program and evaluating how we can best serve college students and young professionals. If you want to share any experiences or suggestions with the committee, please email campusreview@firstpresbyterian.org.



Our Russia Mission Partnership

Russia Mission Team September 2015 Events

First Pres has created a unique partnership with a Russian Orthodox Church in the village of Davydovo, Russia, and on September 29 - 30, the Russia Mission Team hosted a special event with Fr. Vladimir Klimzo and Mission Co-Workers Al and Ellen Smith. An informal potluck was held, followed by presentations on Fr. Vladimir's summer camp at Davydovo, Russia. Fr. Vladimir's slides outlined the history of the church, its restoration, and the development of ministries, especially those for children with disabilities. The next night, Fr. Vladimir thanked our congregation for the 2012 Christmas Eve offering that made possible the restoration of a building that can now serve as a year-round dormitory for families of children with disabilities. Fr. Vladimir showed "before and after" slides of the church and the dormitory. The dorm will allow families to explore permanent housing at Davydovo for their children with disabilities, as they move into adulthood and beyond their parents' ability to care for them. The Russia Mission Team welcomes members of the congregation to consider participating in next July's trip to serve at the camp at Davydovo. Please contact Linda Speck at aa3013@wayne.edu, or Rev. Jay Sanderford at jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org.



Knit Night Knitters Needed

Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are welcome to attend Knit Night, Friday, November 13, 7:30-8:45 p.m., in the Curtis Room. This is the group that makes the lovely handmade shawls and baby blankets for members of the church. Don't know how to knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? Join us! Contact Prue Heikkinen at pheikkinen@att.net or 665-0583 with questions.

"You Feed Them" – Volunteer at Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen



And Jesus said, "You feed them." Each Wednesday volunteer teams from First Pres help to prepare and serve a hearty, healthy meal for hungry people at the Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen in the Delonis Center. Volunteer your time and energy and join a cooking team (3:00-5:00 p.m.) or a serving team (5:00-7:00 p.m.). Volunteer as much or as little as you can... very occasionally, once a month, every week, or anything in-between. Work in a fully equipped commercial kitchen with professional supervision. Share fellowship with a very special community of First Pres and community volunteers and Delonis Center clients. If Wednesdays aren't a good fit for you, we can help you connect to other volunteer opportunities at the Community Kitchen. For more information, contact Barb Ladewski at ladewski@umich.edu or 646-9385 or Jane Hayes at hayesdf@comcast.net.

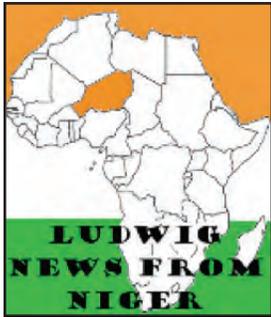
Another Opportunity to Minister at Alpha House

If you missed First Pres' September week at Alpha House, you have another chance! If you did take part in our September ministry, you can play with children, share a meal, help with clean-up, or do a sleep-over once again. During the week of November 16-22 our church will muster over 45 volunteers to help children and families who are experiencing homelessness, and you can be one of them. Volunteer by signing up online or at Coffee Hour beginning October 25. Questions? Contact Nicole Jolliet at nicole.jolliet@gmail.com, Lucie Audette at laudette125@hotmail.com, or Anne Gere at argere@umich.edu.

Interfaith Round Table Thanksgiving Celebration

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will hold its twenty-first Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday evening, November 22, at 7:00 p.m., at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Road, Ann Arbor. Join us in a spirit of gratitude with readings, music, meditations, and other unique presentations from a wide variety of faith traditions. Light refreshments will be served following the celebration. Donations of non-perishable food or turkey money will be accepted to help those in need in our community. 2016 Interfaith Calendars also available. For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides at 424-1535 or Susan King at 678-5616.

From the Ludwigs: News from Niger



It has been a very exciting month as we've seen several plans come to fruition. We're very pleased to share that the national consultation the EERN (Evangelical Church of Niger) held last week was a success! A major part of our work this year has been helping to organize and prepare a week-long national consultation on theological education and mission. Michael's presentation also changed the atmosphere of the rest of the consultation as it helped to focus the group on what issues they have the most control over and how they can identify solutions that are within their reach.

The other plan we're excited to see move forward is the opportunity for the EERN to start a rickshaw taxi business. Currently this is a lucrative business with no Christian workers. But these funds will provide jobs for five unemployed youth from the church and create income for buying land where evangelists can live in major unreached cities. It will also provide funds for evangelists to borrow to start their own businesses that can support their families.

Please pray with the Ludwigs for ...

Follow through with plans on training, success with the rickshaw project, and enough rain and good weather for the harvest.



Children & Families

Bibles for Third Graders



Each year our church gives a Bible to all third graders, and to fourth and fifth graders who have never received a Bible. Bibles are given to our children in recognition of their growth in religious education and in hope that, with guidance of parents, our children will continue to read and study Scripture. This year a new translation of the Bible – the Common English Bible – was

presented to each child during the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 18. Children who received Bibles were Graham Corey, Kate Groves, Keira Hale, Caleb Klein, Grace Klein, Samuel Klein, Luke Koob, Sebastian Kubitz, Tyler Lewis, Riley Lewis, Leah Mueller, Chloé Majorprice, Brianna McLaughlin, Madeline Montgomery, Brandon Michael Rink, Anna Schneider, Molly Schneidewind, Hannah Sisson, and Nicholas Song. Following the worship service, we celebrated with cake! There was also a gathering of all the children and their families in Lewis Room to celebrate their Milestone: Exploring the Word of God.



Congregational Life

MATURE MINISTRIES

Identity Theft - The Michigan Attorney General's Office is presenting a special one-hour program at First Pres on Thursday, November 5 at 12:45 p.m. on Identity Theft. Come join us in the Lewis Room to learn about the signs of identity theft, how to protect your personal information online and off, and what to do if you become an identity theft victim. The presenter is Justine Bykowski. All are invited! Make your reservation in the Church Office, or by emailing Rev. Rogers.



"Sexuality in the Later Years" - Hilltoppers welcomes our members and friends age 60 and up to hear the lecture, "Sexuality in the Later Years." Join us on Thursday, November 12 for lunch at 12:00 p.m. (\$5) and a talk by psychotherapist, certified sex educator and therapist, Ruth Koelling, MFT, CST. Sign up in the Church Office or with Rev. Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

Who Is Visiting Me in the Hospital?

Being hospitalized can be a frightening, confusing experience. It can mean a great deal to have a pastor stop in for a brief visit and prayer from your church family. First Pres pastors and retired clergy visit the hospitals every day of the week. The schedule is: Mondays, Rev. Emily Béghin; Tuesdays, Daniel Ervin; Wednesdays, Rev. Angela Ryo; Thursdays, Rev. Bill Findlay; and Fridays, Rev. Kent Palmquist. From May to September, Rev. Gary Oliver covers Friday visits while Kent and his wife retreat to the U.P. Along with Gary, we welcome Rev. David Downton, a retired pastor who also substitutes for us and covers some summer visits. He and his wife Carol are relatively new to Ann Arbor and First Pres. Our former Executive Pastor, Rev. Eldon Beery, also helps out from time to time. Bill, Kent, Gary, and David are retired clergy who have relocated to Ann Arbor and are volunteering with us. Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers and Parish Nurse Sandy Talbott make visits in addition, and follow up with members after their hospital stay. On Sundays, a person in a hospital or rehabilitation center is also likely to see Dale Briggs, a former Deacon, who brings the bulletin and short sermon to those who cannot be with us in worship. Please keep a look out for them and say thanks to them for serving in this way.



Rev. Bill Findlay



Daniel Ervin



Rev. David Downton



Rev. Angela Ryo



Rev. Eldon Beery



Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers



Rev. Gary Oliver



Sandy Talbott



Rev. Kent Palmquist

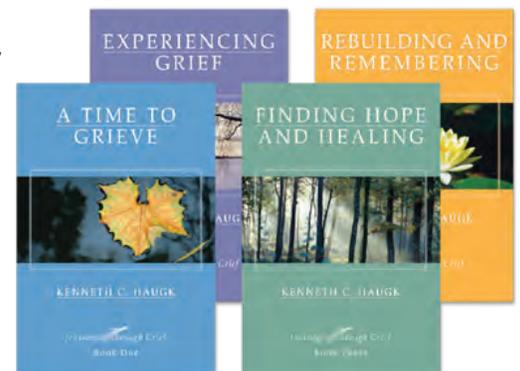


Rev. Emily Béghin

Stephen Ministry

“Holidays can be some of the most difficult firsts after your loved one has died. Holidays are typically steeped with tradition, when families gather and everyone around you seems to be celebrating. All of this can make holidays especially painful when you are grieving.” - *Journeying through Grief, Book 2*

Someone you know may be approaching the holiday season without a loved one for the first time. It's hard for those of us who care about them to know how to help or what words of comfort might be most appropriate. *Journeying through Grief* by Kenneth Haugk is a series of four small books which addresses the particular issue of holiday observation while grieving, as well as many other concerns of those who are recently bereaved. Our Stephen Ministry program here at First Presbyterian has used this book series for several years, and sends them to all in our church family who have experienced a loss. Many of you may know someone in your extended family or circle of friends who could use the comforting and practical wisdom offered in these books. Sent at four different times during the first year after the death of a loved one, each book focuses on what a person might be experiencing at that point in their grief – offering understanding, empathy, compassion, and hope. If you would like to purchase a set of these books (\$12.00), Stephen Ministry can order them for you. Orders received by December 5 will be available for pick up by December 13. Please email Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org to place an order.





2015 CHRISTIAN LIFE ACADEMY

Rev. Judy R. Fletcher "Living Theology for Today: Love, Justice and Sin" November 15-16



Join us as Rev. Judy R. Fletcher, author of the Presbyterian Women 2015 Horizon Bible Study *Come to the Water*, guides us through an interactive learning experience "A Living Theology for Today: Love, Justice, and Sin." Attend all three learning sessions, or just one, as your schedule permits. You are certain to be inspired and challenged.

Sunday, November 15

9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Rev. Fletcher preaches on "This High Calling to Love"

6:00 p.m. - All-Church Dinner (\$9) in the Social Hall.

7:00 p.m. - "Justice, Righteousness and Water" - Rev. Fletcher leads interactive learning and small group discussions on the intertwined topics of justice and righteousness. Meets in the Social Hall.

Monday, November 16

12:00 p.m. - Lunch (\$7) and conversation with Rev. Fletcher. Meets in the Social Hall.

7:00 p.m. - "Dealing with Sin and Evil, and the Neighborhood" - Rev. Fletcher leads interactive learning and small group discussions on sin, evil, pain, and suffering. Meets in the Social Hall.

Register online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/christian-life-academy-2015/> or call the Church Office at 662-4466. The deadline for meal registration is Monday, November 9. Questions? Contact Karin Monnett at monnetts@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Morning Class Schedule

@ 9:30 a.m.

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. **The Bible @ 9:30** French Room/Library

Join us for Bible exploration, presentation, and conversation.

The Bible @ 9:30 continues a new study of the Gospel of John, the fourth and to many the most beautiful and perplexing of the Gospels. The class is led by Rev. Ed Koster. All are welcome! **There will be no class on Sunday, November 29.**



9:30 a.m. **First Couples** November 1-22 Monteith Hall

Come for spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals.

November 1 – Social Justice: Realizing God’s Vision

Using a DVD and discussion questions, the group will explore "Social Justice: Realizing God’s Vision" in the Living the Questions materials.

November 8 – Honoring Creation

Using a DVD and discussion questions, the group will explore "Honoring Creation" in the Living the Questions materials

November 15 & 22 – Exploring the Gnostic Gospels

Explore the Gnostic Gospels using a DVD and open discussion, and a question and answer format. Presenters are class members

There will be no class on Sunday, November 29.

@ 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Morning Classes Continued

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Common Ground November 1-22 Lewis Room**

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

November 1 – The Many Faces of Marriage Session 2

Hear a presentation on “Presbyterians and Marriage” with Rev. Jay Sanderford and other presenters.

November 8 – *Let Your Life Speak*

So, what are you going to do with your one precious life? Meet with Resident Minister Rev. Angela Ryo to explore Parker Palmer’s *Let Your Life Speak* – an invaluable book for anyone asking serious questions about faith, work, and calling ...vocation. This class will also help all newly elected deacons and elders create their own faith stories and statements. Purchase books at Amazon.com or online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/let-your-life-speak-book-purchase/> for \$15.00. Books may be picked up in the Church Office after November 3.



November 15 - *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, Session 1*

Note: Class will meet in the Founders Room on November 15.

The message of Franciscan priest Richard Rohr’s wise book *Falling Upward* is straightforward and bracing –the spiritual life is not static. You will come to a crisis in your life, and after the crisis, if you are open to it, you will enter a space of spiritual refreshment, peace and compassion that you could not have imagined before. Purchase books at Amazon.com or online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/falling-upward-book-purchase/> for \$18.00. Books may be picked up in the Church Office after November 10. Rev. Jay Sanderford, Presenter.



November 22 - *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, Session 2*

Rev. Jay Sanderford continues the exploration of Franciscan priest Richard Rohr’s *Falling Upward*.

There will be no class on Sunday, November 29.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Exploring the Faith November 1-22 Monteith Hall**

Exploring the Faith is the new name for the 11:00 a.m. adult education class. The class is always interesting and full of warm welcome to all adults. Below is a description of the first three classes in the series.

November 1-22 **Universal Slavery: The Human and Moral Issues**

Note: Class will meet in the Lewis Room on November 15.

Slavery – the act in which one human being can own another as a piece of property – is an ancient and widespread practice and institution and has endured in the human story. Dr. Waldemar Schmeichel leads us through an examination of this phenomenon with a special focus on our own country and the role of Christianity and the church as troubled participants, then forceful opponents of the practice.

There will be no class on Sunday, November 29.

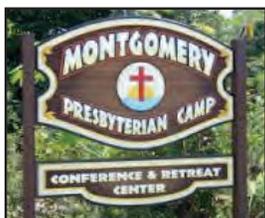


Youth Connection

November Youth Group Schedule

Mids and Keystones will meet November 1, 15, and 29. There will be no class on November 22.

December Youth Mission Trip Set for Gainesville, Florida



High schoolers – travel to Montgomery Presbyterian Center, near Gainesville, Florida for a work project December 27-January 2 over Christmas break. Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett and Peer Minister Lex Allum are leading. Sign up with a check to the church for \$725. We will stay at the center and rebuild their outdoor pavilion and a volleyball court; remove overgrowth from the lake, and do other needed projects. See RJ to pick up an information sheet about the trip. Friends are welcome.