



First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
November 2017 ■ Volume 65, Number 10



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 5. Remember to set your clocks back!

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Dear Friends,

November is a month for giving thanks and I am thankful for each of you! I am grateful for the larger numbers of children in our church school. I am grateful for the new energy and excitement in our youth ministries. I am grateful for the expansion of our music ministries and the faithfulness of all our members in Letting Love Show.

At church we constantly give thanks to God for the amazing way God loves us and blesses us. During the month of November, thankfulness is heightened as a theme. We begin the month by giving thanks to God for the lives of those dear to us who are now part of the church triumphant, the great cloud of witnesses that goes before us. In all three services November 5th, we will lift up the names of those from among our church family and friends who have died in the past year. That afternoon the chancel choir will perform John Rutter's *Requiem* at 3:00. Both the morning services and the afternoon concert are lovely ways to remember those we have lost and to praise God for their lives.

The end of the month, of course, includes our nation's Thanksgiving celebration. We all have so much for which to be grateful! We will focus on Thanksgiving in our November 19 services.

Throughout the month we give thanks to God for all our many blessings, including the blessings of being part of a strong church family that cares for one another and unites in ministry and service to our community and the world around us. If you have not yet made your commitment of time and talent out of gratitude to God for 2018, I urge you to do so as soon as possible, online or through the church office. Each gift is important to the church's work. Each gift is a sign of our devotion to and trust in God. All of our work is done through committees and they have submitted their budget requests for next year to the Session. What the session will be able to allot them to accomplish their goals depends on all of us and our generosity.

Studies have shown that grateful people live happier lives and enjoy better physical and emotional health. Grateful people are more fun to be around! God's grace surrounds and enfolds us each one. Be thankful! The Apostle Paul puts it this way, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor



John Rutter's Requiem Sunday, November 5

Chancel Choir, Treble Choir, and chamber orchestra will present John Rutter's *Requiem* on All Saints' Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. as we remember those who have died in the past year. Come join us for this special music and time of remembrance. This program is supported by our Sacred Music Fund, and there is no admission charge. The presentation will be live-streamed. The livestream goes "live" about 5 to 10 minutes before the 3:00 p.m. presentation. Please share this link with out-of-town family and friends who might want to watch and hear. <https://livestream.com/accounts/13187677/events/7824468>



Worship & Music

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 5

All Saints' Sunday Worship Remembrance

Worship with us on All Saints' Sunday, November 5. The names of members, family, and friends of members who have died in the last year will be read during the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. (Note: The deadline to submit a name has passed.)



Dr. Ken McFayden Visits First Pres

Ken McFayden, Ph.D., joins us to facilitate visioning and strategic planning at the Officers' Retreat and will preach on Sunday, November 12.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, he serves as Academic Dean and Professor of Ministry and

Leadership Development at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and teaches courses in the areas of congregational leadership and administration. He is a frequent keynote speaker on the topic of leadership and change in a variety of settings. Dr. McFayden has conducted numerous workshops on effective leadership practices, and in team development, strategic planning, and conflict management. He is author of *Strategic Leadership for a Change: Facing Our Losses, Finding Our Future* (2009), and a contributor to the *Being Reformed Curriculum on Transformational Leaders*.



Congregational Life

Learn about In-care and Senior Residences

Join us on Thursday, November 16, from 11:00 a.m. - noon for a special presentation in the Lewis Room. "In-home Care & Senior Residences" will be offered by Justine Bykowski on behalf of Attorney General Bill Schuette's Consumer Programs team. At this event: learn the different levels of care, Learn about Michigan senior residence options and resources, and recognize elder abuse warning signs. To sign up, email Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org, or call the Church Office at 662-4466. This is for people of all ages who want to know more about transitioning themselves or a loved one.



Join First Pres!

A rare evening New Member Class is coming soon! If you are interested in becoming a member, join us for class on Wednesday, November 29 and Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., in the Lewis Room, and then join First Pres on Sunday, December 10. The classes are informative, fun, and a meaningful way to learn more about First Pres, the PC(USA), our church staff, and your fellow members! (The next class will be late winter 2018.) Email Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org, or call the Church Office, 662-4466 to sign up.



Leaf Raking Day

Saturday, November 18

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Calling all leaf-rakers! All generations come together for Washtenaw Dairy doughnuts, hot drinks, and to make our church grounds 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.

Mature Ministries "Hilltoppers" - November 2

Join us one week early for lunch (\$5) and conversation with Tom Granum, our beloved Director of Music Ministries, about the upcoming Rutter *Requiem* on Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. Hear about other news in sacred music, too! Sign up in the Church Office to reserve your spot.



All-church Trip to a UM Women's Basketball Game!

As November comes to a close, and we are recovered from Turkey Day, let's bring the Presbyterian Spirit to the Maize and Blue! The UM Women's Basketball Team is aspiring to reach the top levels of the Big Ten. Join us on Wednesday, November 29, for UM vs. Notre Dame, a 6:00 p.m. game. The tickets are just \$3 per person! What a wonderful way to spend time together as a church family, rooting for our hometown team, at an affordable rate! Information on easy parking will be available soon. Sign up by emailing Rev. Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org, or sign up in the Church Office. We will order the tickets and have them when you arrive. Let's go Blue!

"Fall" Into the Quad B Potluck

Members of Quad B, join us for a scrumptious potluck on Sunday, November 12, at noon in the Social Hall. Bring a side dish, dessert, or salad to share. Enjoy great Fellowship with other First Pres members who live in Quad B. The food and friendship are outstanding! Questions? Contact Chris Queen at 680-7346 or jorbrit87@yahoo.com.

Have you had your flu shot yet?

WWJD if he were here during flu season?

Probably get a flu shot! You should too! If you haven't – it's time! **First Pres will NOT have a flu shot clinic this year.** Which flu shot you should get depends on your age and health status. The flu shot is easily obtained though from your primary care doctor or most any pharmacy, and is covered by Medicare (and most other insurance plans).



Ending the Silence Suicide Awareness/Prevention Workshops

Last year our area experienced more teen suicides than it ever had before. Parents and youth are concerned and anxious to know more about how they might help someone before tragedy occurs. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will present two different programs here at First Presbyterian, one for youth and one for adults, designed to provide information and resources. Both programs are presented by trained volunteers with lived experience (both an adult and a youth). These programs are free and no registration is required. Friends and family are welcome to attend either session.

Parents and Teachers as Allies - Adults Only

November 5, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Monteith Hall

This program is designed to help adults recognize early warning signs of mental illness, find and work with resources, and provide a safe environment to get questions answered. They will also gain a better understanding of how to best communicate with the youth, school personnel, and others. Ideas about intervention and linking youth with services are covered. Presenters with lived experience discuss various aspects of mental illness as it relates to students and their families. Suicide prevention is emphasized.

Ending the Silence – Youth Only

December 3, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Monteith Hall

The second program is designed to give youth an opportunity to learn symptoms and indicators of mental illness and give ideas about how to help themselves, friends, or family members who may be in need of support. A young adult living with mental illness will give a personal testimony and discuss his/her journey to recovery. Youth leaders and program and pastoral staff members will also be present.

Questions? Contact Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse/ Wellness Coordinator, at 662-4466, ext. 350 or stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org.



We Welcome Our New Members!

Left to right:

Dave Christensen, Jennifer and Steve Cowen, and children George, Louisa, and Katie; Kirk Profit; Jeff and Carol Teucke; Pat Pudduck; Michelle Deatrack; Felicity Williams, Jay Kim, Heidi Van Weiren and John Byrn, and children Marcus, Elsie, and Schuyler; Not shown: Katie and Aaron Andren, Katrine Weismantle

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education Series

All are welcome!

Join us in Monteith Hall on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. for the next installment in the Stephen Ministry Continuing Education series. Resident Minister Dorothy Parks-Piatt, will present “Abundant Welcome: Care with God’s LGBTQIA+ Folks”. Learn what the letters mean and more, as we explore how to make space for all God’s children to be themselves in society and around Christ’s table.

PW Gathering on November 15

A Skyped Conversation about the PC(USA)’s Work in Syria

9:30-10:00 a.m. - Bible Study in the Lewis Room (Pat Price will lead Lesson 3)

10:15-10:30 a.m. - Business Meeting in Monteith Hall and collection of the Thank Offering . Support for the Mission Bazaar on December 3 will be discussed.



10:30 a.m. - Noon - Program in Monteith Hall. Rev. Lois Aroian, Middle East scholar who worked at the U.S. State Department for over two decades will lead a Skyped conversation with Rev. Elmarie Parker, PCUSA Regional Liaison to Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. All of our First Pres church family are invited to attend this stimulating and up close discussion about the Syrian situation and the PCUSA’s work there.

Noon – Lunch in the Social Hall (\$7). Make a reservation in the Church Office.

Join Us for Christian Meditation

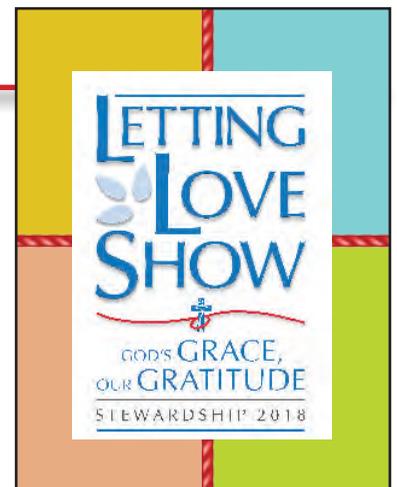
Saturdays, November 4 and November 18, 8:30 a.m.. Refresh yourself with a time of prayer and contemplation. Questions? Contact Jeanette Kibler at jeanette.kibler@gmail.com or 332-0237.



Financial Stewardship

Letting Love Show – Stewardship Update

As of October 22, Commitment Sunday, 264 pledges totaling \$942,166 have been received. This is a promising start and represents 55.4% of our \$1,700,000 goal. As we heard in the stewardship season Faith In Action comments, there are wonderful things happening at First Pres. Your financial gifts and your active engagement in the life of the church make all these things possible. If you haven’t turned in your pledge yet First Pres still needs your help. Session committees plan the 2018 budget in early November, and rely on financial pledges as the primary source of revenue to fund First Pres’ ministries in the year ahead. Your timely response greatly assists that process. Thank you for letting love show for the ministries of First Pres!





Faith in Action

Communion Sunday Food Offering - November 5

As we come to the Lord's Table to be fed and nurtured in our faith, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Campus Ministry is sponsoring the Communion Sunday Food Drive on November 5 and will send the financial contributions and food donations to Washtenaw Community College Food Bank.

MISSION WORK IN NICARAGUA

Justin Sundberg, PCUSA Coworker Visit

On November 5, 2017 at 11:00 in Monteith Hall Justin Sundberg, a PCUSA mission co-worker who along with his wife Renée and four children, served in Nicaragua the last three years, will teach a class "Doing Well, Together." He will explore if the US church can best be the hands and feet throughout the world or should we just send money and let the "professionals" handle it. Come and hear what the Bible has to say about this and perhaps leave with more questions that you had at the outset!



Nicaragua Mission Team Trip Planned for February 24-March 4

This team will be smaller than on past trips with a bigger project. We hope to wire an existing school, bringing light to Quebrada Honda. We also hope, as always, to make the trip multigenerational. Please contact Carol Smith psmith6641@aol.com with questions.



Alpha House Ministry

It's time to mark your calendar for the next opportunity to join the Alpha House Ministry. Volunteers from First Pres will be providing meals, childcare, kitchen clean-up, and overnight support the week of November 13-19. Alpha House, a shelter for families experiencing homelessness, is supported by a coalition of religious communities in the area, and our church is privileged to serve three weeks each year, one in September, one in November, and one in March. Volunteers like the ones in this photo report that they enjoy talking with the Alpha House guests, playing with the children, and getting to know other First Pres volunteers as they help serve and clean up after meals. And providing overnight support almost always means a night of

uninterrupted sleep with plenty of privacy. You can sign up here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaf2daa8-alpha5> or at Coffee Hour beginning Sunday, October 22. If you have questions, Nicole Joliett, Lucie Audette, Paula Doering, or Anne Gere will be happy to answer them.

It's Time to Pick Up Your Cinnamon Rolls!

The Israel/Palestine Mission Team is holding its annual cinnamon roll fund raiser again this year, with orders to be picked up in the Social Hall on Sunday, November 5. These are produced and baked by members and friends of the mission team with loving care. The funds we raise are used to provide scholarships and infrastructure support for the Mar Elias Educational Institutions, schools for children in the Palestinian village of Ibillin, Israel, and for other initiatives of our mission team.



Keeping Up with the Ludwigs

As we look back on September, it felt like a year's worth of time in only a month because of being separated! And a lot of good things have happened too, from good time with parents and visitors to lots of insights about Community Health Evangelism (CHE) from different villages in Kenya. When Michael had the chance to preach he got to emphasize the great impact on our work that we can see from your prayers, so please keep them up!

Visit by Mission Co-Worker Ellen Smith

At a special Mission Forum in October, we shared a meal and conversation about Russia. Here is Mission Co-Worker Ellen Smith using bridges as a model for talking about connections between people, and for talking about the importance of making peace with those with whom we might disagree. She described aspects of ministry with our partners in Davydovo and encouraged us to visit. Anyone interested in an intergenerational trip in 2018 may contact Rev. Jay Sanderford.



Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, December 3, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Find out how First Presbyterian makes a difference locally and around the world AND purchase thoughtful gifts at our Second Annual Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar. Not only will there be lovely items for sale but you can support our mission teams by purchasing “shares” of projects or programs in which we are currently involved. For example, you can help the Nicaragua Mission Team bring electricity to a school, or assist the Israel/Palestine or the Philippines Mission Teams to provide scholarships for students. Perhaps helping to provide a bed or job coaching for a local person in need is more meaningful to you. That’s just the beginning! You can’t go wrong with home-baked goods and Fair Trade coffee!

The kids will be involved, too. We will provide ‘passports’ for them to have stamped as they learn more about our mission activities. If you can’t make it to the bazaar, you can still support the Mission Teams by purchasing meaningful gifts online.

Can’t make the bazaar? **Support First Pres mission by purchasing from the online catalog starting November 14 at www.firstpresbyterian.org.**



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 Bibles were given during the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 8. Following the worship service there was a gathering of all the children and their families in Room 303 to celebrate the Milestone; “Exploring the Word of God,” and the cake at Coffee Hour was in their honor. Children receiving Bibles included Marcus Byrn, Grace Johnson, Kaitlyn Cheng, Alexis Lewis, Sebastian Dickinson, Lily Lewis, Lauren DiMarzo, Andrew McInchak, Hadley Feyen, Marguerite Montas, Harper Feyen, Bennett Mullinix, Jacob Gernant, Brendan Stone, Anastasia Gibbs, Danika Stone, Lucy Grabowski, Sean Stone, Lucinda Gubbini, Emma Tayter, and Natalie Hummel.



Exploring the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper A Communion Workshop

Young children and their families are invited to attend the Communion workshop “Exploring the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper,” on Sunday, November 12 at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall. The workshop, part of the Milestone Ministry program, will help parents and children understand the Sacrament of Communion and how this meal is celebrated in worship. They will learn about the different parts of the communion service and talk about the symbols used at the communion meal. It is recommended

that all children attend a Communion workshop with their families, to learn about the Lord’s Supper. This is the Milestone for Kindergarteners but all children who attend will receive it. The workshop will be led by Deborah MacVey, Director of Children Education and Family Ministries and Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt. To attend contact Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466 ext. 342.



Youth Connection

Fall into Youth Ministries

Youth ministries have kicked off the new school year with lots good food, laughter, and faithful conversations. We've been building relationships and having fun together. Check out some of our highlights from October and upcoming events in November! All you awesome youth out there, we hope to see you soon!



Great American Mattress Relay



High school at Alber's Orchard



Bowling at the Mids' Lockin

November Events:

Are you interested in joining us or helping out? Contact Essie for more information at essie@firstpresbyterian.org.

High School Mission Weekend in Chicago – November 17-19

Keep our high school students in your prayers this month as we journey to the Windy City for a weekend filled with deep dish pizza, service opportunities, and public transit.

Friendsgiving Potluck & Dinner Church with Jazz – November 12, 5:30 p.m., Social Hall: All youth are invited to an evening of good food and fun! Bring your families, friends, and a side dish or dessert to pass. We will break bread together, sing together, and enjoy being together. Hope to see you there!



Campus Connection

Exciting Changes in our Campus Ministry ... We Are UKirk@UMich!

Campus Ministry at First Pres continues to evolve and grow, with many positive changes to report since the Fall semester began. Rev. Evans McGowan, a returning Resident Minister, has taken on a new, part-time position as Campus Ministries Coordinator. He coordinates the undergraduate ministry with Essie Koenig-Reinke, Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke and Rev. Blair Buckley. Together they work with a newly-formed leadership team of seven college students to host Sunday Lunches after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, a Wednesday night small group on campus, and individual meetings with students. The team has met with over 25 students and reached out individually to at least 50 prospective students. The group has changed names from First Pres College to UKirk@UMich to better align with the national PC(USA) college ministry. It has also revamped its constitution with the university, and started to re-form a Campus Ministry Work Group.



T2A2, our ministry for graduate students and working professionals in their 20s and 30s, continues to go strong. Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt works with a team of leaders who host a Sunday small group, Wednesday social outings, and various local mission opportunities.

Campus Ministry continues to be a welcoming, inclusive group that pursues intentional relationships with students. This church is in a unique position to articulate an intelligent faith that not only informs students' minds but also forms their hearts to act for a more just and loving world.

Cook Pancakes for College Students!

The Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, December 12, 10:00 p.m. - midnight, 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 sign up online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/pancake-supper/>, contact Rev. Blair Buckley at bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 354. 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.



Adult Education

First Forums - A Fresh Conversation

We live in a world that is increasingly divided. All around us, the media, family, friends, and co-workers want to know “Whose side are you on?” and “Are you with us or against us?” How, as Christians and Presbyterians, are we called to respond to these forces? How can we invite people with whom we differ into dialogue, in the hope of getting a better understanding of positions and beliefs with which we may differ? We believe the church is called to be present and engaged with, not isolated from, the world. First Forums seek to explore challenging issues in the world and news, and discern faithful responses. Knowing that we hold a variety of beliefs, values, and opinions, each First Forum is an opportunity for open dialogue, respect, and faithful disagreement. Forums will take place approximately one Sunday a month at 12:15 p.m., with lunch provided. Come seek opportunities for respectful conversation and for finding avenues for advancing faithful values of peace, justice and community.

Adult Ed Team - Chuck Monsma, Diane Hockett, Rev. Jay Sanderford, and Resident Ministers Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke and Dorothy Parks-Piatt



Race Still Matters - November 5: 12:15 –1:30 p.m., Curtis/Founders Rooms

A light lunch will be served followed by presentation and conversation.

Dr. Jim Perkinson is a Professor of Ethics and Systematic Theology at Ecumenical Theological Seminary and a long-time activist and educator from inner city Detroit. On Sunday, Nov. 5th Dr. Perkinson will speak and facilitate on the topic of racism and white supremacy. This class will discuss contemporary events in light of the seeds of racism throughout the ages. Jim will consider: “white society and white identity and white business-as-usual organized as suburban dwelling and corporate profiteering and high-tech-war-mongering that peers back when we look in the mirror of contemporary events, whether Charlottesville or Harvey and Maria, the acquittal of police after killing young blacks or the controversy about ‘taking a knee.’”



Overcoming Racism - November 19: 12:15 –1:30 p.m., Curtis/Founders Rooms

A light lunch will be served followed by presentation and conversation.

William Hampton is a long-time Arbor community leader and activist for social justice issues. Mr. Hampton currently serves as President of the Ann Arbor NAACP and president elect of Ann Arbor Kiwanis. He is a former Past President, City of Ann Arbor Black Employees Association and Past Chairperson, City of Ann Arbor's Diversity Action Committee. On November 19 he will facilitate a discussion on “Overcoming Racism.” To maximize positive outcomes, we anticipate an interactive dialogue with participation of all present.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration



The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will hold its 23rd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday evening, November 19 at 7:00 p.m., at Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. This year we will begin with an open house at 6:00 p.m. where we are invited to learn more about Beth Israel's worship space and the Torah scrolls (doors open at 5:45p.m.). At 7:00 p.m., join us as we give thanks with readings, music, meditations from a wide variety of faith traditions around the theme of "In Gratitude For Our Sacred Diversity." Donations accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need. 2018 Interfaith Calendars also available. Questions? Contact Rev. George Lambrides at gbrides@umich.edu.

SUNDAY MORNING OFFERINGS

@ 9:30 a.m.

The Bible @ 9:30 French Room/Library November 5 – 19, No Class on November 26

The Bible at 9:30 continues a study of the book of Acts. Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter. All are welcome for a solid biblical study and robust discussion.

First Friends (Formerly First Couples) Monteith Hall November 5 – 19, No Class on November 26

Spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals. Presenters are class members

November 5 - Exploring Our Stories of Faith

Exploring Our Stories of Faith. Recall your own story of faith as you hear the faith-story of Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke, one of our cohort of Resident Ministers 2017-2019.

November 12 - Discover Circles

Circles is a Washtenaw community ministry led by Friends in Deed and a powerful tool to break families out of the hopeless cycles of poverty. Ginny Rezmierski and other Circles leaders will be our guides.

November 19 - A Wired Word Presentation

"Columbians on Opposing Sides of Conflict Exchange Letters to Build Trust and Work for Peace." Gain an intimate look to how peace has come to end a long-running and violent feud.

November 26 – No Class

@11:00 a.m. – Two Special Adult Education Offerings

November 5 - Doing Well, Together Monteith Hall

How can the U.S. church best help throughout the world? How can you or your family make a difference to those in need? Are you or I needed at all? Professional philanthropy abounds (Gates Foundation), development organizations abound (Gates Foundation, US AID, WHO). Global development organization proliferate (World Vision, Oxfam, CARE). Wealth is lining up to benefit the economically poor (The Giving Pledge). Wouldn't it be best to just send our money and let the "professionals" handle it? What does the Bible and practical experience say about all of this? What does First Pres leadership think? Come and leave with more questions than you had at the outset! Join Justin Sundberg, our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Mission Co-Worker in Nicaragua, as he presents a probing conversation.

November 12 & 19 - Frederick Buechner Series

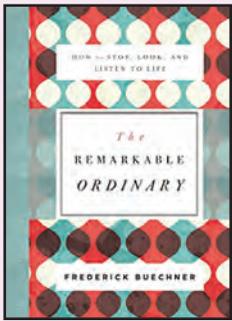
Books are available in the Church Office for \$11

November 12 - A Crazy, Holy Grace: The Healing Power of Pain & Memory Lewis Room

When pain is real, why is God silent? Frederick Buechner has grappled with the nature of pain, grief, and grace ever since his father committed suicide when Buechner was a young boy. He continued that search as a father when his daughter struggled with anorexia. Here Frederick Buechner finds that the God who might seem so silent is ever near. Presenters are Revs. Melissa Anne Rogers, Blair Buckley, and Eric Koenig-Reinke.



November 19 - The Remarkable Ordinary: How to Stop, Look, and Listen to Life Monteith Hall



Your remarkable life is happening right here, right now. You may not be able to see it – your life may seem predictable and your work insignificant until you look at your life as Frederick Buechner does. Frederick Buechner reveals how to stop, look, and listen to your life. He reflects on how both art and faith teach us how to pay attention to the remarkableness right in front of us, to watch for the greatness in the ordinary, and to use our imaginations to see the greatness in others and love them well. Presenters are Revs. Melissa Anne Rogers, Blair Buckley, and Eric Koenig-Reinke.

November 26 – No class



Residents' Corner

2017-19 Cohort

The 2017-19 residents are off to a fast start! Starting in mid-August, they received an intensive orientation to church policies and procedures—a detailed look at how things work at First Pres. One of them likened this early experience to “drinking from a fire hose.” Now into Autumn, they are enthusiastically engaged in a full range of parish duties. All contribute to worship leadership, and each of them preaches regularly at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays. Under the guidance of our pastors, the residents explore all aspects of worship, sharpening their skills as preachers and liturgists, and to enhance their pastoral skill, are assigned to serve members of the congregation in Glacier Hills and other senior communities. Already, they are having a noticeable impact on the life and work of First Pres.



As of November 5, all three residents will be fully ordained. Each one brings valuable prior experiences to our congregation. Blair Buckley worked for four years as Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries at a Presbyterian Church in Boulder, CO, and has a full year of CPE training. Eric Koenig-Reinke holds an additional master’s degree in theology, from Union Seminary in Richmond and has worked for many years with young people at Presbyterian camps and retreat centers. Dorothy Parks-Piatt has extensive experience as a writer and managing editor for a health-care media firm and several years of chaplaincy work. These experiences have helped them get off to a good start at First Pres.

Changes in Resident Minister Responsibilities

The resident ministry program is different this year because it includes responsibility for an innovative collaborative ministry for college students and young adults. Each resident spends about one-third of his/her time on campus ministry. Blair and Eric are focused primarily on our undergraduate program (UKirk@UMich) and Dorothy works more directly with young adults and the T2A2 group. One of our former residents, the Rev. Evans McGowan, serves as coordinator for these ministries. In 2017-19, First Pres will devote more of its resources to campus ministry than we have in many years. At the same time, we have ensured that the excellent peer education coupled with deep immersion in the life of the congregation that has always characterized the Resident Ministry program will continue. Blessings abound, to our church, to our residents, and to the church at large.



Advent Is Coming!

Christmas Eve Is a Sunday This Year

Note the changes to our traditional worship times!

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship and Communion**
- 9:30 a.m. **Christmas Pageant**
- 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols**
- 11:00 p.m. **Candlelight Service of Communion**



Advent Happening Is Saturday, December 2

Bring the family and join in the creating and crafting in the Social Hall from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Drop in for any or all of our morning fun. There are activities for the littlest children to the biggest fun-loving adults! Begin your holiday preparations by making gifts and ornaments, decorating cookies and creating Christmas cards. The Advent Happening is a multi-generational event with projects for all – about age 2 to 102. Friends are always welcomed and encouraged. Children can make all of their Grandma/Grandpa, Aunt and Uncle gifts in one craft-filled morning! For any who wish, childcare is provided for infants through age two if older siblings and parents are busy at the Advent Happening. Make a reservation for childcare by contacting Debbie MacVey, Director of Childrens and Family Ministries at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466 ext 342.



Christmas Hymn Festival & Reception - "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.

Come join the choirs, orchestra and organ as they lead us in a festival of Christmas hymns and carols. Following the festival, you're invited to a strolling reception - refreshments served in different parts of the building and an opportunity to view a variety of crèches from around the world. Note: There is no Christmas Dinner this December, so come to our hymn fest and reception with the whole family, neighbors, and other guests!



Family to Family Christmas

Consider having your family, group, class, or friends "adopt" a local family in need identified by the Michigan 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 worship services on November 26, December 3, and December 10 in the Social Hall. Volunteers are needed to assist with sign-ups during Coffee Hour, as well as to deliver gifts on December 17. Need info? Contact Julie Morrison at jdornmorrison@gmail.com or 668-0420.

Boy Scout Troop 7 Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 7, chartered by First Pres in 1927, will host their annual Christmas wreath sale during Coffee Hour on Sundays, November 26 and December 3. There are two sizes of wreaths handmade from fresh greens for sale. A 22" wreath is \$30.00 and a 28" wreath is \$40.00. Deck the halls and support Boy Scout Troop 7!



Transitions

We celebrate the birth of:

Sebastian Joseph Torres-Davenport, born August 2, 2017,
son of Beca & Dan Torres-Davenport

Sophia Lynn Blackburn, born September 28, 2017, daughter
of Amanda and Scott Blackburn

We Celebrate the Marriage of:

Hannah Patricia Clyde and Jareth William Glanda,
September 2, 2017

We Grieve the death of:

Leon Ostrander, August 7, 2017
Ardelle Roeske, August 8, 2017
Rick Hammond, August 25, 2017
Jack E. Austin, September 20, 2017
Virginia Owings, October 7, 2017
George DeMuth, October 15, 2017
John Gannon, October 23, 2017
Jean Smith, October 29, 2017