

A Minute in Ministry

With life flourishing through summer months on the horizon, I give thanks to God for how life is flourishing in our congregation!

Church activities are picking up again in person. We are singing in Sunday worship. Bible studies, fellowship groups, and committees are starting to meet at church. Community partners are exploring how to return. Many of the volunteer ways we serve in our community are opening up again. Our Pine Island property is beginning to bustle with youth group, worship, Scouts ... more on that in a moment. I give thanks for all the efforts of Session, staff, Health Ministry Committee, and so many others who helped navigate the past pandemic year with wisdom and grace. It hasn't been easy. We've made it through, so far. We'll continue to be sensitive to those who feel vulnerable. We'll try to be inclusive of all, as much as possible. And it is good to be together again!

And liveliness is beginning to sprout at our Pine Island property (address: 8882 West Q Avenue). Here's a glimpse of activities in which you may like to participate.

- Potatoes and tomatoes and corn (and other mysterious crops I can't recognize) are growing marvelously. Extra hands are always welcome to help water, weed, do other odd jobs, and one day soon, to harvest. Contact Bob Poel if you would like to join in farming fun!
- A labyrinth is beginning to take shape. We moved a memorial tree to grow in the center of concentric circles. Contact Laura Ford if you'd like to help lay bricks to complete the pattern and thereby cultivate an experience of prayer.
- Bees continue to buzz. Our hive is coming alive, again, restarted after no queen was established last year. Thanks to Bob Candido for nurturing this life!
- We will worship at Pine Island two Sunday evenings each month. On the second or third Sunday, we will gather at 5:30 for "campfire worship". Youth will have been meeting earlier, and all are invited to join them. Flames are optional in summer months! And on the last Sunday of each month we will share a Vespers service at 7:00. This service will be a bit more casual, shorter, more contemplative – kind of like Wednesday noon prayers services – and outside! Look inside for confirmation of dates. No need to register. Just bring a chair!
- And plans continue toward a chapel on the property, to facilitate activities year-round. We are raising funds during these summer months to see how much we have to make something happen. Session approved a general plan and builder to partner, but everything remains quite fluid with dramatically fluctuating (increasing) cost of material. At this point, we hope to begin construction in spring of 2022. You can find a bit more detail later in this newsletter. And stakes are in the property to outline rough dimensions.

Many other people share in general maintenance or support projects on the property. Summer is a good time to explore the beauties and possibilities! You are welcome to share any of these activities. Or just stop by any time to walk the property prayerfully or exercise in the fresh air.

*Grounded in living faith,
receiving diversity as a gift,
we seek to reflect Christ's light
in God's world.*

*Continually discerning God's
vision of grace and peace,
we share inspirational worship,
spiritual nurture, compassionate
service to others, and the pursuit
of justice—all to the glory of God.*

Maybe you have other ideas, dreams, or desires for how we might nurture life and faith in service. At heart, church is simply our collective contributions. If pandemic limitations have kindled fond appreciation and sparked imagination, please contact me or Chrissy or a committee member!

Grace and Peace,

Seth

Church Activities

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 a.m.

July 4

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Samuel 5:1-10 ; Mark 6:1-13

July 11

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
Isaiah 43:14-21; Mark 8:1-10

July 18

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Samuel 7:1-14; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21

August 1

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 51:1-12; John 6:1-15, 25-35

August 8

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Samuel 11:1-15; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 15

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 111; Ephesians 1:11-23; 3:20-21

August 22

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
James 1:17-27; Ephesians 6:10-20

August 29

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
James 1:17-27;
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Summer Worship in the Garden

Bring a chair and come for a time of outdoor worship and fellowship in the Pine Island Garden (8882 W. Q Avenue). These services will be **in addition** to the regular Sunday morning services downtown.

July 18 and August 15 at 5:30 p.m. “Campfire” Worship

A time of songs, stories, and prayer, like we used to do at summer camp!

July 25 and August 29 at 7:00 p.m. - Evening Vespers

A bit more casual, shorter, and more contemplative than Sunday morning... and outside.

Adult Faith Formation



FPC July Film Festival!

Each Sunday in July, there will be a faith-based study guide to accompany a suggested film sent out in the weekly announcement emails and available in print form in the Narthex. These movies should all be readily available on streaming services, or to check out from the library. You can watch the movies and work through the guide on your own, or gather a group of friends! If you would like to host a gathering and invite others from church to participate, let Pastor Chrissy know, and she will gladly help organize!

July 4 - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

July 11 - The Aviator

July 18 - Friday Night Lights

July 25 (Christmas in July!) - It’s a Wonderful Life

Health Ministry Class



LONG COVID

Health Ministry will be offering an in-person presentation regarding COVID infection. Bob Brush will discuss “long COVID” complications and breakthrough infections. Oliver Takuh will discuss vaccines and medications for COVID infections. This is planned for Sunday, July 11 immediately following Worship. It will also be recorded and available for access later. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

Hope Garden at Pine Island Update

The planting is nearly completed and includes potatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, okra, peppers, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, green beans, yellow snap beans, cabbage, and sunflowers. All looks good so far; however watering is a priority!

The entire garden is fenced as sensitive plants are up and deer and other critters enjoy the bounty. Cultivating and weeding is ongoing. Spreading 10 yards of mulch continues in an effort to preserve moisture and discourage weeds.

Bob Poel leads the garden volunteers from FPC and Westminster. Bob says, “ We have a great crew of volunteers. We accomplished more than expected; and we are looking forward to a fantastic garden and harvest this year”. Volunteers work Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am until 12:30pm. The garden is located on the north side of West Q Avenue about a half-mile west of Texas Corners,...just beyond 5th Street. Volunteers are always welcome.

Bob Candido, our resident beekeeper, reports that the bees are doing very well. We are experiencing a drought, and, consequently, a nectar dearth. We still had plenty of frames of honey from last winter, though Bob added another deep box of frames, some with honey, not only to feed the colony, but also to give them more room to expand.

Pine Island Building Plans

Earlier this year; the Session approved proceeding with the construction of a building on the property that Pine Island Presbyterian Church members brought with them when our congregations merged in 2019. We are currently seeking funds for the construction of this building. The Session has said there will be no loans taken out to cover the construction of the building.

Pine Island Chapel: Frequently asked questions

Why is First Presbyterian Church seeking to build a chapel on the former Pine Island Church property on Q Avenue?

The desire to build on the property arose naturally after services began to take place there during the summer of 2020, when the congregation could not meet indoors due to COVID-19 restrictions. Members of the congregation began to ask whether a chapel could be built on the property that would emphasize the natural setting and give the church another place to gather. A building on the property has long been a dream of those who had been members of the Pine Island Congregation.

What will the chapel be used for?

Gathering, worship, and community meetings are among the uses we have arrived at. The church will also be seeking input from the congregation with regard to uses they can envision for the property.

How much is it going to cost?

Current estimates are for the project to cost approximately \$303,000. Of that amount, \$114,000 has been contributed toward the project. Eight donors have contributed to date. To maintain the building, an endowment fund has been established, thanks to Laurie Tupper.

How can I contribute?

You can contribute as you would for any other donation as long as it is clearly marked for the Pine Island Chapel Project.

SESSION

Clerk of Session:
Allison Hammond

CLASS OF 2021

Chris Bol
Heather Cloetingh
Liz Hamilton
Elaine Johns
Sue Johnson
Brian Nederveld
Scott Wilson

CLASS OF 2022

Jill Barnum
Bob Brush
Richard Coryell
Ellen Dykhuis
Kathy Jennings
Don Meldrum

CLASS OF 2023

Susan Agostinelli
Kathy Cooney
Laura Ford
Craig Kortlandt
Oliver Takuh
Deb Taylor
Janet Todd

YOUTH & FAMILIES

FPC Family Event
 Sunday, July 18, 4-5:30pm
 with intergenerational worship at 5:30
 @ Pine Island Garden

FPC Family Event
 Sunday, August 15, 4-5:30pm
 with intergenerational worship at 5:30
 @ Pine Island Garden



We are in the process of getting the nursery up and running!
 Stay tuned for more information!

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH GROUP

KIDS IN BOXES & FOOD DRIVE!

Saturday, August 7

@ Richland Presbyterian Church

BE THE CHURCH
 Protect the environment.
 Care for the poor.
Forgive often.
Reject racism.
 Fight for the powerless.
 Share earth's and spiritual resources.
 Embrace diversity.
Love God.
Enjoy this life.



YOUTH MISSION

HAVE YOU HEARD???

The *YOUTH MISSION TRIP* is a **GO!**

As soon as our newly-vaccinated high school crew heard about the easing of COVID restrictions, their **FIRST** request was to **go and serve!**

So, with joyful hearts we will be heading back to West Virginia with our juniors and seniors the week of July 3.

First Presbyterian Church Members Birthdays—July and August

1 (none)	20 Bev Bloomquist	1 Liam Beals	17 Jill Aspergren
2 Bob Padgett	Marilyn Lindbeck	Jacob Schut	Crystal Richman
3 Nancy Chandler	21 Paul Parks	2 (none)	18 David Campbell
Virginia Jacobowitz	21 Brian Nederveld	3 Michael Bova	19 Joan Colgren
Natalie Nettleton	William Nettleton	Diane Marsom	Brittany (Fisk) Robbins
4 Lyssa Becho	22 Nolani Akondi	4 Nick Hunter	John Willson
Lillian Daniels	Careen Bumpus	Wendy Miedema	20 Mary Brooks
Cynthia Hunter	Dennis Mattingly	5 Bev Murray	21 Sydney Wilson
Angela Van Heest	Diane White	Jakob Schnur	22 Carol Barratt-Schmiege
5 Ron Johns	23 Howard Hoffman	6 Kim Cummings	Ashley Carter
6 Bob Bauserman	24 Grace Agostinelli	Beth Dyer	Samantha King
7 Hal Horneffer	Andrew Diamond	Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox	Tim Liggett
8 Amy Anderson	Lauren Fitzmaurice	Grace Kande	Benji Yohe
James Nettleton	Thomas Gilmer	Louise Taylor	23 Rosie Yohe
Pam Tritsch	David Scarrow	7 Annaliese Bol	24 Lynn Arwady
9 Ruth DeVries	25 Nik DeHaan	Logan Brown	George Hammond
Katie Long	Janet Todd	Marcie Compton	25 Samantha Fuehr
10 Duane Fisk	Ryan Westbury	Carol Steinman	Jeffrey Shaw
Cheryl Fritz	26 Karen Jacobs	8 (none)	Norma Smith
Cindy Leder	Sharon Longman	9 Scott Carter	26 Daniel Corse
11 Bill Hubbard	27 Abigail Candido	Bob Cowell	Geoffrey Wardwell
Maxwell Longman	Beverly Crabb	Colin Feucht	27 Alex Coryell
12 Avery Diane Fuehr	Joyce Lander	Andrew Lenderink	Michael Warlick
13 (none)	Gloria Lee	Mary Palmatier	28 Dorothy Castor
14 Josh Droppers	28 Jeanne Fenton	Leo Thielman	Semashere Pegheleh
Jessica Hay	Sally Hume Bristol	10 Abigail Nkwewoh	Janet Scarrow
15 Eunice Green	Mary Panse	John Sage	Abigail Sherrill
Barbara Liggett	Grace Tiffany	11 Erin Leder	29 Alissa Britigan
Gary Zandt	29 Amelia Case	12 Cozette Ruff	David Dell
16 Andy Young	John Diamond	13 Juanita Erdos	Henry Lewis
17 Carolyn Stults	Catherine Wall Emerson	14 Mason Coleman	30 Mackenzie Jonas
18 Nancy Colburn	Dave Hunt	Betty Van Der Slik	31 Patricia Corse
Sierra Loughrin	Judy Marvin	15 Jill Barnum	Sharon Hartwigsen
19 Phyllis Buskirk	30 Dick Baker	Christopher Honeysett	Chuck Madden
Maeven Hirt	31 Jan Carpenter	Curtis Leibbrand	Paul Perks
Madelyn Marciniak	Dayton Maynard	Ronald Tanis	Carter Tuin
Anna Miller	David Stults	16 (none)	
Phyllis Youse			

Save the date and more...



SAVE THE DATE!!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 12 for a FUN FAMILY EVENT at the Hope Garden property. Join your Church family for food, games, and fun. Keep an eye out for more details!

This event is co-hosted by the Congregational Life, Faith Formation, and Stewardship Committees.
(Rain date: September 19)



A Return to Adult Choir and Handbell Choir

As we continue to find ways to return to "normal" in our worship services, you might consider how you can be involved in the return of the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir! If you are interested in participating in either group and have not been involved in the past, please contact Cindy Hunter at 269-377-2478 or cindyhunter704@gmail.com for more information! All are welcome!



CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

Class of 2021

Mike Boersma
Aedín Clements
Gary and Donita DeBruin
Martha Flynn
Joyce Lander
Karen Nellums
Jo Russell

Class of 2022

Evelyn Garner
Wendy King
Louise McCallum
Carol Parfitt
Deb Weurding
JoAnn Yochim

Class of 2023

Jan Carpenter
Hillary Cloetingh
Paul Minert
Suzanne Weeldreyer
Diane White
Jim Young

Climbing the Second Mountain ... Again

The first attempt to reflect on David Brooks' book — the *Second Mountain* — was preempted by pandemic lockdown. Pastor Seth is offering another opportunity, in four parts: **Tuesdays at noon on July 13 and 27, August 3 and 10, in Room 301.**

From the many chapters, we will focus our discussion together on the following selected excerpts, listed below by chapter.

- 7/13 Intro, 1, 4, 5, 7, 8
- 7/27 9, 10, 13, 18, 19
- 8/3 20, 21, 22
- 8/10 23, 24, 25

Please contact Pastor Seth if you have any questions!

How Can I Join the Email List?

Sign up for announcements and links to online Worship: it's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Go to the FPC website (www.sanctuaryinthecity.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page.
2. There is a short form to complete (email address, first name, and last name).
3. When it is completed, just hit "subscribe" and your name will be added to our email list.

Emails containing announcements are generally sent on Thursday afternoons. If you haven't received it by Friday afternoon, please look in your "junk" and/or "spam" folder to see if it went there.

New Contact Information?

If you have moved or changed contact information, please inform Ann Johnson at 344-0119, or email her (her email is found on page 8) so she can keep your information up to date.

Food for thought from Just Sanctuary....

A Look at the Past and Challenge for the Future

As early as 1680, the first white people journeyed through southern Michigan and were welcomed by the Potawatomi Tribe, the native people who occupied the land. For over 100, years the non-native and native people lived in relative harmony, trading and benefitting from one another despite the increase in white settlers to the area.

In 1821, the first of several dramatic changes occurred when Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish and the Three Fires war chiefs signed the Treaty of Chicago, ceding the territory south of the Grand River (4 million acres) to the United States federal government. The tribes were left with a three-square-mile reservation in what is now Kalamazoo. This small area was ceded to the US Government 6 years later, in 1827, when the Potawatomi tribes signed another treaty, the Treaty of St. Joseph. For this the tribes never received any compensation.

Signs marking the boundaries of this historical Native American reservation in Kalamazoo were installed in April of 2019.

The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish tribe then began a period of constant northern migration so that in 1840, when a treaty required the relocation of Kalamazoo's Native Americans across the Mississippi River, many avoided being moved west. Today the State of Michigan is home to 10 federally recognized Indian bands, three of which are Pottawatomi, and whose descendants remain in the region.

In the 1800's, as the native Americans were being displaced, settlers came from New England, New York, Virginia, and Ohio to Kalamazoo County, forming Congregational and Presbyterian Churches. In 1801, a Plan of Union between these two churches was formed. The first house of worship was a white frame structure on the south side of South Street between Burdick and Rose.

In 1849, fifty-one people asked to be organized as the First Presbyterian Society of Kalamazoo. From that day, on March 19, 1849 to this, the life of the First Presbyterian Church has been uninterrupted.

1849: A white, wood-framed church was built on the corner of South and Rose. As the congregation grew, the building was enlarged. On December 5, 1883, the church building was destroyed by fire.

1864: Sabbath School was set up outdoors on the North Side by four fourteen-year old girls from First Presbyterian Church.

1866: Mission Woods Chapel became North Presbyterian Church.

1869: Annual contributions were made to the Presbyterian Freedman Fund for the welfare of former slaves.

1885: On July 1, 1885, the Brick Church, located on Rose and South Street, was dedicated. As the congregation grew, plans to build a larger church were made. On July 6, 1926, a fire destroyed the building, leaving only a shell. Until the new building was built, the congregation worshipped in the auditorium of Central High School.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 1930, the congregation worshipped for the first time in the Gothic Church, our current building.

1958: The Rev. Margaret E. Towner, the first ordained woman in our denomination at that time, was called as our Minister of Christian Education.

1963: Church members participated in "A March for Equal Opportunity".

1964: Homer McCall, a student assistant to The Rev. Martin Luther King, was a summer intern here. As a young man, Homer lived near Dr. King, mowing his lawn and delivering his newspapers.

1990-present: First mission trip to Ghana and the birth of a church partnership.

1993-2006: First Presbyterian Health Clinic served thousands of uninsured and underinsured patients.

2008-present: Celebrate the Vision began as outreach.

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Outreach

Continued from page 7

2016: Relocation sponsorship of the Zamel family from Syria in December.

2018 – 2019: Man-Up: A men's devotional group led by Ray Wicks. The group studied books by T.D. Jakes and was attended by 6-8 black men after CTV.

2018-present: Kalamazoo Head Start classes held in FPC.

2019-present: formation of Just Sanctuary, a group addressing systemic racism and social justice issues in our church and community.

2000-present: Edison School Project

July 2020: Just Sanctuary presents and Session approves a statement addressing systemic racism.

As a church family, we are called to reflect on our past history and are challenged to live into our statement addressing systemic racism. How does our work internally and externally reveal our faith in action as related to racism in our community?

How to Teach Kids about Race:

-from "How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice" by Jemar Tisby

How do you talk with your kids about race? The first step in teaching kids about race is teaching yourself. Remember, race is not a one-time lecture but an ongoing dialogue. The Bible tells us that we are all loved by God and made in God's image.

Try saying: Have you ever noticed that people look different? These differences make life fun and never boring. But sometimes people treat each other differently just because of how we look, or where we come from, or how we talk. There are things we can all do to help people feel safe, valued, and loved.

Awareness: We can learn about our differences and how God celebrates each unique person as made in God's image!

Relationships: We can be excited about being friends with and learning from people who are different from us. People with diverse friends do the best job of getting along with others.

Commitment: Have you ever seen people be mean to each other, or thought a rule was unfair? What will you do about this? If you see something wrong, you can speak up – to a parent, a teacher, a coach. Together you can find solutions to make the situation fairer.

If you can remember to learn about people, make different kinds of friends and work together for fair rules, then you'll be someone who helps make the world a better place.

"How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice"

by Jemar Tisby

Racism is pervasive today, but many people want to see that changed. How do we effectively confront racial injustice? Jeremy Tisby provides specific, actionable steps that enable us to be part of the solution, rejecting passivity and becoming active participants in the struggle for human dignity.

This 10-session video series and discussion is offered at two different times (through August)

1. On Sunday mornings we meet at 11:15 in Room 314 on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.
2. Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study. We meet in Room 314 at 9:30.

Assistance for Worshipers

Hearing Assistance devices for in-person worship services can be requested from any usher, or you may call the church office in advance.

Copies of **Large-print Bulletins and Announcements** are available every Sunday morning for in-person worship. Ask one of the ushers for a copy.

If you would like to receive **weekly e-mail updates** about events in the life of FPC, please contact Ann Johnson at 344-0119 and ask that your e-mail address be added to the list.

DVD's can be created for those with limited access to our services. You may email Ann Ross, or call 344-0119, to place an order.

Gluten-free bread is served at all communion services.

Presbyter Our congregation publishes the *Presbyter* six times per year in bi-monthly editions. While this may change with the complications of planning in our country's situation, here is the *tentative* schedule for the balance of the 2020-2021 program year:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Content</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
September/October	August 16	August 25

Many members receive the *Presbyter* newsletter via e-mail only, to help conserve paper and other resources. If you would like to have your name removed from the USPS mailing list, please contact Ann Johnson at ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org or call 344-0119.

The *Presbyter* is also available for viewing on the FPC website: <http://kzoofirstpres.org/publications>

Parish Associates

Parish Associates:

The Reverend Liz Candido, ecandido@kzoo.edu

United Campus Ministry Pastor and FPC Parish Associate:

The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, ucmkrking@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

Sandy Sebo was born on August 2, 1928 and joined FPC on January 29, 1972. Sandy died on March 16, 2021.

Norm Goodling was born on October 30, 1940 and joined FPC on February 5, 1978. Norm died on May 24, 2021.

Elisa Oliver was born on January 15, 1958 and joined FPC on February 18, 2007. Elisa died on June 17, 2021



FPC STAFF

(269) 344-0119

(telephone extensions are listed below)

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 Ext 203

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Director of Youth and Families

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Director of Outreach

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Custodian (Ext. 213)

Randy Randt

South Lobby Receptionists (Ext. 221)

Bruce Birkel
Nik DeHaan
Deb Weurding



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Telephone: (269) 344-0119 · Fax: (269) 344-4645 · Website: www.sanctuaryinthecity.org
—PRESBYTER HIGHLIGHTS—
◇ HOLY WEEK UPDATE
◇ LENT FAITH FORMATION ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES



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