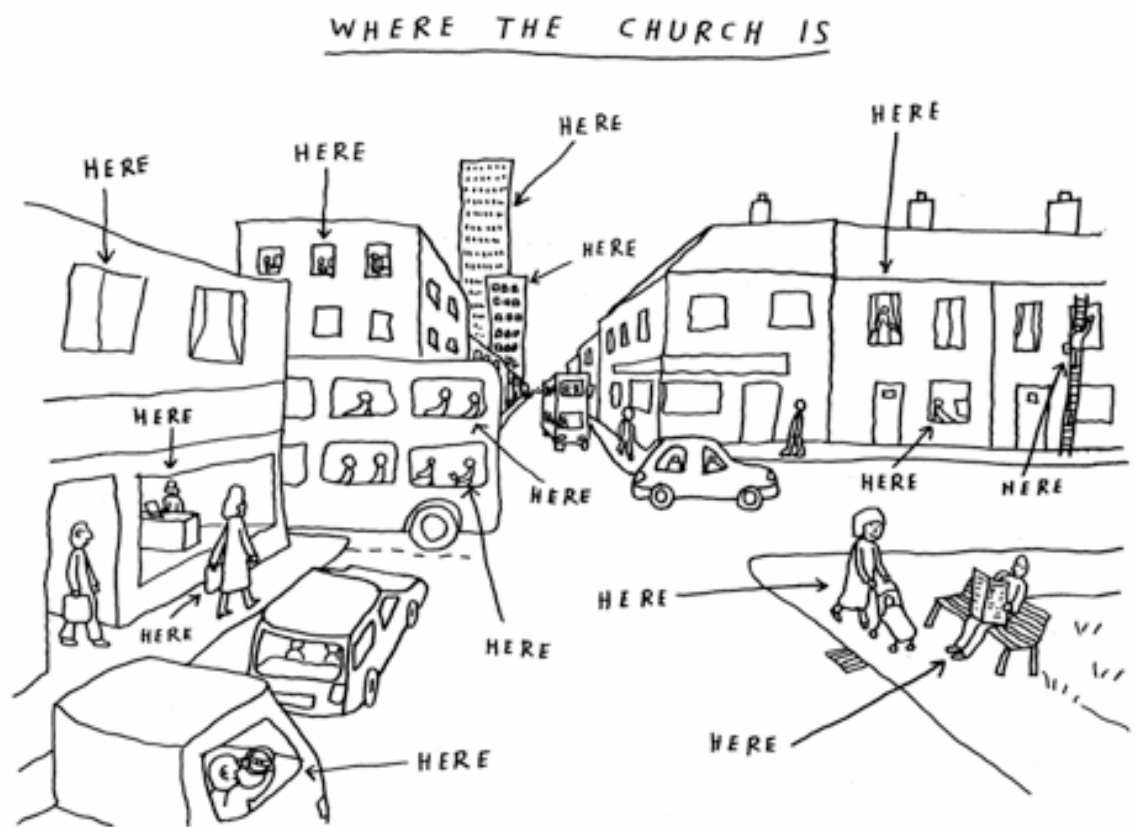


From the Pastor's Desk...

Church Bell



CartoonChurch.com
Used by permission

Dear friends,

This summer season has many of us go, go, going in lots of directions. We are thrilled to be able to go up north, on a cruise, or just take a break for a while and finally enjoy the warm Michigan weather. We are (maybe) thrilled to spend time with family on vacation. And some of us are just busy in our regular lives here at home.

Wherever you are this summer, I pray you remember that the church is everywhere. God's people and God's creation are all around us. Everywhere and anywhere is an appropriate place to pray, give thanks to God, or ask for God's help. Any moment might be an invitation to share with someone around you, how your faith affects your life. Our faith is strongest when it is lived out in the world, not just when we go to the building called church. (Though it can also be fun to try out a new church while you're visiting a new place!)

May you be reminded of God's presence among us wherever this summer takes you. May you also come to worship when you are in town, remembering that our spirits are renewed as we come together in community for prayer and praise of the God we love so much.

Blessings to you,

Emma



our vision statement mission statement

always growing as a community of believers,
reaching out in love to the world.

fpcro welcomes and accepts all, just as we all are
uniquely valued as children of God.

responding to God's call,

- we listen for and minister to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our congregation and community, using the resources **God** has given us.
- we nurture each person in their relationship with **Jesus** and provide opportunities to be connected in community through worship, music, education and prayer.
- we share the Word and demonstrate the love of the **Spirit**, working and praying for people to experience healing, reconciliation and transformation.



our staff

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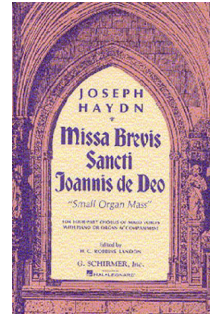
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baritone **Miroslav Pavle Manovski**
mezzo soprano **Julie Anne Smith**
soprano **Kim Sanders**
tenor **Curt Peters**

our soloists

SPECIAL MUSIC JUNE 2!

Our 10:30 am worship on June 2 will be enhanced by the addition of the music of Franz Josef Haydn incorporated throughout the service. The Choir will be singing the Missa Brevis (Brief Mass) No.7 in B flat major written around 1775. This charming and tuneful work is sometimes known as the “Little Organ Mass” due to an extended organ solo in the Benedictus movement. H.C. Robbins Landon, an editor of the composition, ascribed to the work a “quiet spirit of devotion, even of mysticism, that is extremely appealing.” The Choir will be accompanied by string quartet and organ, and the instrumentalists will also share two movements of a Haydn Organ Concerto as the Offertory and Postlude.



SUNDAY, JUNE 16 — ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER VISIT

Detroit Presbytery has a new Associate Executive Presbyter, Elder Charon Barconey. Charon served the presbytery for 10 years as the Youth Mission Coordinator, as a Commissioned Ruling Elder, and served as pastor to Hope Presbyterian Church in Detroit. She is a fourth generation Presbyterian, graduate of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary-Urban Ministry Program, and proud mother of two sons, Michael and Jordan.



In her work with the Presbytery, Charon resources Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, New Church Development, Committee on Nominations, Social Justice, and the Mission Interpretation Ministry Team. On Sunday, June 16, Charon will preach at both the 9 am and 10:30 am worship services and bring us greetings from the Presbytery. We look forward to welcoming her and having her preach God's Word among us.

SWITCH YOUR SEAT SUNDAYS — JULY 14 AND AUGUST 11

We all love “our” seats in the sanctuary and chapel. When we tend to sit in the same spot each week, we only see the same

folks who sit near us. On Sundays July 14 and August 11, we are all invited to switch our seats! When you come to worship those days sit somewhere new, meet the people who are sitting around you in that spot, look for faces you don't know and introduce yourself. We become an even more welcoming congregation when we know more faces and easily greet the visitors in our pews. If you need to sit in a certain spot, feel free to remain there and introduce yourself to the folks who have moved to sit near you on these days. Or use these Sundays as an opportunity to try a new seat and see if that perspective helps you see or hear better.



Do you, or someone you know, need to be lifted in prayer? Please contact Kathie Brom at kbrom@fpcro.org with your prayer requests.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

FPCRO is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay care-givers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT INFO?

Has your home address, phone number, or email address changed recently? Did you eliminate your “land line” and have just a cell phone number now? Please let Pam Kaufmann (pkaufmann@fpcro.org) know of changes in your contact information so we can maintain current and up-to-date records of your member information.

congregational news

GREETER HELP NEEDED!

Can you help offer a friendly welcome Sunday mornings? We are looking for **greeters** to say “hi” and shake hands as members, friends, and visitors enter the church each Sunday for the 10:30 am service.



We like to have a friendly face at the **reception desk** in the Christian Education lobby throughout both services on Sundays. If you can serve in either of these ways, please add your name to the sign-up sheets hanging on the wall just outside the reception area. If you have questions, please contact one of the pastors or Deacon Chair, Anne-Marie DeVantier.

Also needed are **coffee hour hosts** to make coffee and tea and put out cookies and treats between services and after the 10:30 am service. If you can help host occasionally, please contact Barb Hayes, or sign up on the sheet on the wall opposite the reception office. Thank you for your ministries of hospitality!



5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK

Here we are in June, and it is another month with five Sundays! We will be having our 5th Sunday Potluck on June 30. Come join us for a great meal and some wonderful fellowship. Just bring a dish to pass, bring it down to Kirkman Fellowship Hall, and our meal will be ready to eat right after the 10:30 morning service. The meat and drinks will be provided. We would love to have you join us!



5th Sunday
POTLUCK

memorials & gifts

*Memorial gifts
were given
in memory of...*

*Memorials for John Bonner,
Robert Cranbury, and Robert Wilson.*

OF NOTE:

Deaths:

George Ziegelmuehler, May 18, 2019



USHERS NEEDED NOW!

For those who wish to usher, there are still many July and August openings, and spots in the Fall and during holidays are wide open as well. Sign-up now for a great choice of dates! Never ushered before? Not to worry: it's an easy way to help and feel a part of the worship service. Just be willing to arrive a little early and stay a little late—adding only about 30 minutes total to your usual Sunday schedule.



Head Ushers Greg or Mark will provide orientation for new ushers, so those who have not ushered in a while (or never), need not feel reluctant. The only requirement is one must be ambulatory, otherwise it's as simple as having the desire to be a part of the worship service. Many, many thanks and appreciation to those who volunteer regularly to usher. To those still hesitant—give it a try! Ushering now is much less formal than decades ago, but is still a very necessary part of the worship service.

Various options are available for scheduling; each Sunday in a month; same Sunday in different months, or scattered Sundays that suit your schedule. A sign-up sheet in the hall opposite the reception office shows where the needs are. Contact Dave Nelson by phone at 248.589.3825, by text message at 248.390.7217, or by email davnel@comcast.net, for more information.

WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF

On April 27 volunteers from FPCRO were at World Medical Relief helping to sort supplies and equipment. (See pictures from the day at right.)

Did you know? In 2018, seventy 40-foot sea-land containers were shipped from World Medical Relief's headquarters in Southfield, MI.*

- With a combined value of more than \$30,000,000 and,
- Keeping almost one million tons of supplies and equipment out of landfills!

*World Medical Relief's Spring 2019 newsletter
The Good Samaritan.

CEREAL FOR SUMMER CAMPAIGN

FPCRO is participating in the Detroit Presbytery's Hunger Ministries Program fourth annual **Cereal for Summer Campaign**. (<http://pbydetroit.org/mHunger.htm>) Many children, who rely on subsidized school meals, may go hungry in the summer months. With one-in-seven families in the metro Detroit area considered food insecure, food is needed. Please bring boxes of cereal to the stage in Kirkman Fellowship Hall June 2 through June 16.

COMMON GROUND

Once again, you are invited by the Mission & Benevolence committee to help provide supplies for our neighbor, Common Ground. Located about a block from FPCRO, Common Ground provides help for young people in need.

Common Ground is primarily a sanctuary for youth ages 10 to 18. In addition, they sponsor a subsidized apartment program for young adults ages 18 to 24, offering life skills development, counseling, educational and employment support. Each young adult who begins independent living in an apartment receives a "kit" of household supplies. Our mission is to provide items for the kit. Tags for your choice of an item will be in the Christian Education lobby in June. For large items, you may want to share the cost with another family. Donations will be collected in the auxiliary dining room from June 2 to June 16.



christian education

ONLINE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Is your response to the question “how are you?” always “I’m just so busy!” Then this gathering is for you!

This summer, Pastor Emma will lead an online study for women using Shauna Niequist’s book, *Present Over Perfect: Leaving Behind Frantic for a Simpler, More Soulful, Way of Living*. For anyone who is tired of being so frantic and is longing for connection and meaning, Shauna invites us into a way of life marked by grace, love, rest, and play.

We will “meet” on Facebook from **June 30-August 3**. Participants will chat in a closed Facebook group to answer questions from the study, share experiences, and swap hopes together. An in-person gathering for dessert on **Tuesday, August 6** at 7:30 pm will close our time together. Whether you’re traveling the world, staycationing at home, or doing normal life this summer, you can take this study and this gathering with you wherever you are!

Let Pastor Emma know you are interested at enickel@fpcro.org, or if you have trouble joining the Facebook group. To join the closed Facebook group, go to the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Facebook page, click on “groups,” and then look for the “FPCRO Present Over Perfect Online Study Group” link and request to join. If you have a friend who might like to join us, feel free to invite them!



DESERT ISLAND SERMON SERIES

If you were being sent off to a desert island, what is the one story or passage from the Bible you would want to take with you? What scripture is most meaningful to you? During July, the pastors will offer a sermon series on some of your favorite scriptures, selected from the ideas submitted in the month of May. And remember, if you are vacationing to a tropical island (or a mountain paradise) this summer, you can always download a copy of the sermons you missed in print or audio format from our website, www.fpcro.org.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

From the Tuesday after Memorial Day to Labor Day:

Monday: no church activities / no office hours

Tuesday: 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday: no church activities / no office hours

JOIN THE FLOCK FOR VBS 2019 — “YOU ARE MY SHEEP”

Ezekiel 34:31 says, “You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God.”

Join us in God's pasture during our VBS, and experience life as the Shepherds did in the fields. Learn how God loves us and is our Mighty Shepherd. The dates this year are **Monday, June 24 through Thursday, June 27. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm with the program to follow from 6:15 pm to 8 pm.** Children in Preschool through 5th grade are invited to attend. Registration forms are available on the church website and on the VBS table in the lobby.

VOLUNTEERS: THE FLOCK NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for people to help with this year's program. We will need flock leaders and station leaders as well as Shepherd storytellers. You can sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/FPCROVBS> or on the sign-up sheet on the VBS table in the lobby. You do not need to be available every day to volunteer. You may sign up for one day or all four days. Any help you give is greatly appreciated.

VBS WISH LIST

We have some fun activities planned for VBS, and we could use your help by donating things you have around the house. Two of the things we currently need are toilet paper rolls and empty 8 oz. plastic water bottles with the twist-on lid. We need the lid on the bottle. There is a collection box at the VBS table in the lobby. You will also find a wish list for other supplies we need for the week. Please take a sheep and return it with your donation by June 16.



remembering...

JAMES STEWART MAINDS, JR.

Five years ago, the Centennial Committee asked Kevin to examine the church records to determine the identity of church members killed in action while in the military service of the United States. One church member died under those circumstances, Private James Stewart Mainds, Jr. of the 143rd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army's 36th Infantry Division. Private Mainds (known in the church as Stewart) was the son of Charles and Susan Mainds, who lived on West 9th Street in Royal Oak. He had landed in Marseilles with his regiment in August 1944 and was killed in action on October 20, 1944 as his regiment advanced toward Germany. His remains were laid to rest at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in Epinal, France, approximately 240 miles east of Paris.

We were in Epinal on April 27, 2019, to watch our daughter compete in the Nations Cup Ballet on Ice championship and visited the American Cemetery on behalf of the church to pay our respects to Pvt. Mainds. The cemetery, which is maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission, is a beautiful, serene, and fitting resting place for the 5,251 men and four women buried there. They all lost their lives fighting in northeast France in World War II. We were met at the cemetery's office by Hamid Faqir, the superintendent, who led us to Pvt. Mainds grave. He planted both American and French flags at the grave site and rubbed sand from Omaha Beach in Normandy into the lettering on the grave to make them more visible in photographs. Mr. Faqir then left to give us time alone at the grave. During this time, he broadcast both the bugle hymn *Taps* and *America the Beautiful* (played on bagpipes) over the cemetery loudspeakers.

It was a moving moment, both beautiful and sobering, as we reflected on the great sacrifice made by Stewart Mainds and his family. It was an honor to pay our respects to him on behalf of a grateful church and a grateful nation. Please feel free to ask us to share more about our experience.

~Krispen Carroll and Kevin Ball



Earla B. Smith Foundation

The Earla B. Smith Foundation was established with a generous monetary gift to First Presbyterian Church and to the Troy School District by long-time church member, Earla Smith, upon her death. The funds are managed by Somerset Financial and each year the interest accrued is distributed to FPCRO and the Troy School District, where Earla Smith was a teacher. Seventy five percent of the funds are distributed to FPCRO and twenty five percent to Troy Schools. The funds are designated, by the Trust, to be used for scholarships by the Troy Schools and for Music Ministry and/or Christian Education by FPCRO.

Included, but not limited to this list of possible requests are:

- vocal or instrumental soloists, or groups
- the purchase of books, or other materials, relating to a project or program
- outside speakers
- projects that support the missionary ministry of the church
- initial funding for pilot programs, which if successful, would eventually be funded through the church



Requests for funding for programs/activities can be submitted to the Senior Pastor or Kari Peruski. All requests are reviewed by the Earla B. Smith Committee, which includes the senior pastor, the church administrator and the two FPCRO board members. After review, requests then go to the Session and, when approved, are presented to the full Board of Directors of the Foundation for approval. The Board is made up of two session members from FPCRO and the superintendent of the Troy Schools. Currently, Marilyn Sutton and Edie Watson are FPCRO board members. The president of the Board is Daniel Doyle, CPA. Many of the special music programs that we enjoy at FPCRO are funded by the Foundation. Requests for funding of either music or education programs are currently being sought for this year's designated funds. Requests are due by June 15. These requests can be given to Pastor Emma or Kari Peruski.

~Marilyn Sutton

stewardship update

Thank you to all those who have submitted a financial pledge for the 2019-2020 year. The new fiscal year begins August 1, 2019. To date, we have received 164 pledge cards, totaling \$447,014. It is not too late to pledge! Your gifts will make a big impact in helping us tell the story of God's love and faithfulness at FPCRO. If you have questions about your contributions or need a new pledge card, please contact Kari Peruski, Church Administrator at kperuski@fpcro.org or 248.541.0108, ext. 203.



We want to thank you for your continued support to FPCRO. About 37% of our pledging congregation and 44% of all our pledge dollars, about \$200,500, came in through electronic giving during 2018-19. Thank you!

A few points to remember:

- At the start of this new fiscal year, your gift will continue to be deducted in the same manner as requested on your ACH request form.
- If you turned in a pledge card, the new amount will be reflected starting the withdrawal after August 1.
- If you didn't turn in a new pledge card, the amount will remain the same as the ACH Request form or

the last pledge card received, including your per capita payment preference.

- Per Capita payments, if you so authorized, will be taken in your first withdrawal in February during our Focus on Per Capita campaign.
- If your chosen withdrawal date lands on a weekend or banking holiday, your gift will be withdrawn on the next business day.
- You can change, suspend, or terminate your electronic giving option by giving seven-day advance written notice to the church administrator.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email our Church Administrator, Kari Peruski at kperuski@fpcro.org.

2019 confirmands



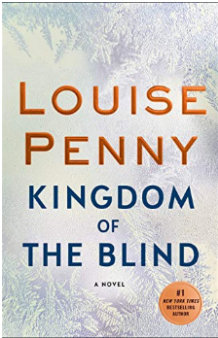
On Youth Sunday, May 5, we welcomed our 2019 Confirmands during the 10:30 am service: Megan Hanks, Grace Watson, Kavanaugh Helenberger, Sarah Sellers, and Julia Harris.



“You are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.”

Ephesians 2:19-20

library book reviews



Kingdom of the Blind: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel

P Louise Penny

When a peculiar letter arrives, inviting Armand Gamache to an abandoned farmhouse, the former head of the Surete du Quebec discovers that a complete stranger has named him one of the executors of her will. Still with

suspension, and frankly curious, Gamache accepts and soon learns that the other two executors are Myrna Landers, the bookseller from Three Pines, and a young builder.

None of them had ever met the elderly woman.

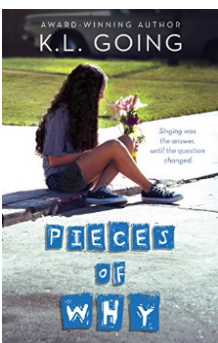
The will is so odd and includes bequests that are so wildly unlikely that Gamache and the others suspect the woman must have been delusional. What if she was perfectly sane?

When a body is found, the terms of the bizarre will suddenly seem less peculiar and far more menacing.

The investigation that happened six months ago—the events that led to his suspension—has dragged on.

While most of the opioids he allowed to slip through his hands have been retrieved, there is one devastating exception.

With the deadly drug about to hit the streets, Gamache races for answers.



Pieces of Why

J G K.L. Goring

Twelve year old Tia lives with her mom in New Orleans and loves singing in the Rainbow Choir with her best friend, Keisha. Tia's dream is to change the world with her voice, and by all accounts, she just might be talented enough. But that's before a fatal car-jacking

rock the community, and reignites gossip about her incarcerated father.

The shock of finding out what really sent her father to prison years ago prompts Tia to start asking questions everyone was always afraid to ask, even her mother. And its Tia's questions that end up pulling folks together and bringing hope and redemption in the most unlikely places.

From award-winning author K. L. Going comes a tender story about the small kindnesses offered in the midst of tragedy that can make a world of difference.



The House on Stone's Throw Island: A Ghost Story

J P Dan Poblacki

There is an island, far off the coast of Maine, where the ghosts of the past are restless. Few people even remember the family who built the house on Stone's Throw Island, let alone the terrifying truth about what happened to

them. But the dead have long memories.

Josie Sandoval and Eli Barker are strangers when they board the ferry to Stone's Throw, traveling to the isolated island for a wedding. Then an immense storm blows in, and the wedding party is left stranded. They have no idea that they have been targeted for revenge from beyond the grave. The only clues to the danger they're in are a scrap of an old Nazi uniform and an unfamiliar voice crying for help in German.

Josie and Eli soon realize it's up to them to uncover the chilling history of Stone's Throw Island.

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Columbarium
and

Memorial Garden

Information packets available

Questions:

Ken Bissey 248.709.4849

fpcro first presbyterian
church of royal oak



Sunday Worship Services at 9 & 10:30 am

www.fpcro.org • facebook.com/fpcro

248.541.0108 • fax 248.541.1859

529 Hendrie Blvd.

Royal Oak, Michigan 48067



opportunities for all ages!
serving • learning • growing

find us on:



sunflowers christian preschool

Hope everyone enjoys their summer! We still have some openings for the fall in both the 3's and 4's classes. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool let them know about our Christian based program! Have them call us for more information at 248.541.0108 ext. 220.

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Heitchue

