

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear friends,

Do you remember what word was on your Epiphany star? In January, we gave out gold stars in worship, each with a word on them, for us to follow throughout the year in the way the Wise Ones followed the star to Bethlehem. We trusted the Spirit to lead us in making sense of our word through prayer, the events that happened to us this year, and the ways we sense God in our lives. I hope you've been pondering your word, or will think back on it now and see where the year has taken you. Please send me an email (enickel@fpcro.org) to tell me about your star or let me know the next time

we see each other. I really want to hear your stories!

My word was—of all things—success! I've got my star taped to my desk lamp in the office and I think about it quite a bit during the week. I pondered it as we hired new staff, kicked off our new preschool programs at Wednesday Night Live, and planned for the workshop on dementia this month. I've thought about it as I planned and advertised our Service of Lament and Remembrance for those who've lost a child in some way. What does success look like in these instances? How can we measure it? Does success look the same for me personally as it does to our whole community?

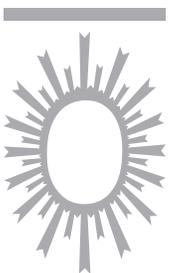
In October, we launched a new 5F group. The group includes married and single folks who are somewhere in the middle of their lives: 20's, 30s, 40s-ish in age. These folks are mostly newer to our congregation and are all seeking to put down some roots in Royal Oak, to grow friendships in the church, and to have a space for spiritual conversations. Pastor Pam and I gathered this group together for dinner, and gave space for them to begin planning how they would like to be together and grow together in the future.

I am so grateful to these folks for taking a risk in joining this new group. I am hopeful about a few others joining them as the group begins to take shape—let me know if you or someone you know is interested. I am also pondering what success looks like here. In my mind, we will be successful if the group draws people into deeper relationships so that many of them can, in five or 10 years, talk about the importance of their friendships in this church, just like those of you who've been here for 20 or 50 years can do. It would also be successful if the group meets for just a year or two, but in that time, delves into meaningful questions about life, career, family, and God. These are successes that will feel good, and that we can celebrate!

Later this month, the Session plans to elect a Sustainability Task Force to explore ways to make our church's ministries sustainable and successful going into the future. Their work will include taking an honest look at our budget and finances, and putting forth specific recommendations about how to make us viable over the long-term. All options will be on the table for their discernment. Because our budgeted deficit and actual deficits are so large right now, the recommendations they bring to Session next spring are likely to be very difficult to implement, and yet we need to take action on these issues. In this case, I am pondering what success will feel like. To succeed in aligning our ministries and our funding will certainly include some loss and grief on our part. When I think about this, I remember that success and faithfulness are not always the same thing. We are called to be faithful with our resources—both ours currently and what other saints have given in the past. We are called to trust God and to hope in God's promises, even when we must make hard decisions. It has been a gift to ponder success this year. But more than that, I am focused on our church's faithfulness to God in all things.

Rev. Emma Michel

Church
Bell



fpcro

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.



fpcro

our staff

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The **Church Bell** is published monthly,
September through June, and is advised by
Evangelism & Communication committee. Email
contributions to newsletter@fpcro.org.
Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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baritone **Miroslav Pavle Manovski**

mezzo soprano **Julie Anne Smith**

soprano **Kim Sanders**

tenor **Curt Peters**

our soloists

PRESBYS

The November Presbys program is the story of those wonderful companions we have—dogs. Come and learn how these creatures have served us well in wartime. The program called “**War Dogs**” tells the story dogs have played from World War I to the present. It is a wonderful and inspiring program. Join us for dinner starting at 6:30 pm on **Friday, November 15**, or if you want to just see the FREE program, come at 7:15 pm. Dinner is \$8. All ages are welcome to come for the dinner and/or the program.

memorials & gifts

*Memorial gifts
were given
in memory of Carol Lengjel*

The Grounds Committee has scheduled this year's **Fall Clean Up** for **Saturday, November 9** from 9 am to 12 pm. (Rain date: November 16) Please bring your gloves and rakes and other gardening tools as we prepare the church grounds for next winter. Light refreshments provided. Please contact Derek Helenberger (derekhelenberger@hotmail.com) with questions.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

On **Sunday, November 24**, following the 10:30 am service, join in celebrating the “Hanging of the Greens.” Help us get ready for the first Sunday of Advent on December 1! All ages are invited to participate in decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. We will have pizza and pop afterwards and enjoy this festive time of fellowship and service. For more information contact Ginny O’Brien (hobgob@hotmail.com) or Janet Chatel (bigred728@gmail.com).



Before we know it, Advent will be here. The season of waiting and preparation begins on Sunday, December 1. Our theme will be *What Can't Wait?* As we look out on so much division and brokenness in the world, we don't want to wait any longer for the love of God to break in and transform the world. Together, we will think about what can wait—maybe the laundry, the emails, the shopping—and focus on what cannot wait—perhaps time with a loved one, prayer, and even rest. In our wider world, there are situations of pain, hurt, and discord that also cannot wait for the light of God to shine. Join us each Sunday for worship to see the growing light on the Advent wreath and to turn our hearts with expectation to the coming of Jesus into our lives. Later in the month, look for other *What Can't Wait?* materials to help you shape your Advent journey.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Remember to order your Christmas poinsettias which will be displayed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and the following Sunday. Order forms will be available **November 16**.



Look for further information coming soon.

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

PRESBYTERY MEETING AT FPCRO

On **Saturday, November 16**, we will host the meeting of the Presbytery of Detroit. Volunteers are needed in and around the building, such as **greeters** from 8:30 am until approximately 10 am, as well as **helpers** to assist the Hospitality Committee with refreshments from 8:30 am until 12 noon. **Clean-up helpers** will be needed from 1:30 pm until 3 pm. (Time may be updated after the agenda is released.) Please take a look at the sign-up sheet at the CE Lobby reception desk to sign up for a shift during the day. If you, or your church group would like to help, please contact Pastor Emma.



COMMUNITY MEAL PLANNING TEAM

If you have been looking to get involved with the church in a meaningful way and have great project planning skills, we have the job for you! Randy Jarman is ready to cook for the Community Meal Program he presented in May, but he needs a partner, plus one to two others to help with the logistics. If you have these skills, please prayerfully consider reaching out to Beth Thayer, Edie Watson or Randy Jarman for more information on what is needed.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Michigan Opera Theater Children's Chorus will return to our Sanctuary on **Sunday, December 8**, at 2 pm, to present a free concert. This was such a popular event last year, we invited the choir back again this season and are grateful to the Earla Smith Foundation for making this possible. Our December issue of *The Church Bell* will have more details about this holiday concert presented by these talented youngsters, but invite your friends and mark your calendars now. Child care will be provided.

ASSISTANT CUSTODIAN WANTED

FPCRO is seeking an Assistant Custodian to join our staff.

General Summary: Under the supervision of the Facility Manager, performs a variety of labor and semi-skilled tasks associated with the cleaning and upkeep of the church facilities. This is a part-time position—Saturday afternoon shift (2 pm to 11 pm) and other mutually agreed times—up to 10 hours a week.

Essential Job Functions: An employee in this position may be called upon to do any or all of the following essential functions. These examples do not include all of the duties the employee may be expected to perform. To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily.

1. Cleans and maintains offices and public areas of the church—sweeps and vacuums floors and walkways; scrubs floors and fixtures; washes walls and windows; dusts surfaces; cleans and disinfects lavatories; removes trash and refuse.
2. Sets up, arranges, and tears down furniture for classes, meetings and other events in the church.
3. Maintains building exterior—sidewalks and doorways as required.
4. Opens and closes the building as required.
5. Interacts diplomatically with church members and general public.
6. Performs related work as required.

Required knowledge, skills, abilities, and minimum qualifications: The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skills, abilities, and minimum qualifications necessary to perform the essential functions of the position.

- Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma.
- Familiarity of the practices and safety issues involved in cleaning public buildings.
- Skilled in the performance of manual tasks and cleaning activities.
- Ability to lift and carry at least 50 pounds.

Interested applicants may send a cover letter and resume to the Personnel Committee. First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the principals of diversity and inclusion.

PRAY GROUND

In recent months the Christian Education Committee has been in conversation about children and families and how we as a church show all of God's children they are welcome in God's house. Through prayer and discernment, the committee is looking at the possibility of having a "Pray Ground" space in the sanctuary. A Pray Ground is a space for young children to feel welcome in worship. Often it is a small table with quiet activities that help children engage their senses in worship. Sometimes, children and even adults can be overwhelmed by an unfamiliar worship setting. The presence of a child friendly space can help ease the hearts and minds of those who are not used to church. As well as being a beloved place by our own children, it is a symbol to those visiting and thinking about joining the church that they are wanted here.

The vision for this space is to add to the programs we currently have at FPCRO. It will not replace any of our existing programs, only enhance our family ministries.

In the coming weeks there will be more information about what a Pray Ground might look like in our Sanctuary. You are invited to view the display in the CE Lobby and watch for a sample Pray Ground in Kirkman Fellowship Hall in December. We encourage you to take a look at the displays and please ask any questions you might have. Those with information are members of the Christian Education Committee, Joelle Jarrait, Pastor Pam, and Pastor Emma.



An example of children at play in the Pray-Ground at Grace Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, MN, during worship on Mother's Day 2015. Photo courtesy of Grace Lutheran Church.

WELCOME ACOLYTES

Over the past few weeks, we've had a meaningful addition to our 10:30 am worship. Children in 3rd grade, and older, have been bringing in the light of Christ as acolytes. At the end of worship they carry out the light as a symbol of how we take the light of Christ into our world. If your child is interested in being an acolyte, please see Joelle Jarrait to sign up and learn how to carry the light.



wednesday night live

We are having a wonderful time at Wednesday Night Live. We invite you to join us for activities for all ages. At 5 pm, there is Preschool Music and KIC Club for grades K-5. At 5:30 pm, there is KIC Club for Preschool and Music Time for grades K-5. From 5 pm-6 pm our youth meet for mission related activities, and Pastor Emma leads an adult study in the Fireside Room. Everyone will gather for dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm.

Dinner Menu: Nov 6 – Beef & Cheese Ravioli, garlic toast, and salad; Nov 13 – Leftover Night; Nov 20 – Thanksgiving Dinner! (No WNL on Nov 27).



Come explore your spiritual gifts on Wednesday nights! For the remainder of 2019, adults will gather at 5 pm at Wednesday Night Live to engage in a study of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives to each of us, and how they interact together in our community. We'll spend time studying what these gifts are all about, and then do a discovery for ourselves to hear the still, small voice of God within us. When we better understand how God is empowering us to serve, we can invest deeply of our time, energy, and resources in the ministries that contribute to building God's kingdom. Know that spiritual gifts are powerful tools inside the church, but also outside it in our families, work-lives, volunteering, and relationships. Contact Pastor Emma with questions.



choral scholars program

With a generous grant from the Earla B. Smith Foundation, we have instituted a Choral Scholar Program in the Chancel Choir this fall. The program is intended to introduce young and talented high school vocalists to quality choral music in a church setting. Through their participation, young singers will gain insight into the requirements of being a professional musician in the church, develop strong sight-reading skills, work closely with our paid section leaders, and learn from our talented music staff. In return for their participation in weekly rehearsals and worship services with the choir, they receive a stipend. We are excited to begin this program to train future church musicians. We have received enough funds to hire two high school interns for the coming church season.



Elijah Bruening is a senior at Berkley High School and is currently looking at a few colleges in Michigan where he plans to major in Musical Theater or Music Education. He began choir in the fifth grade and has been active in several of his school choirs ever since. Elijah is very involved through Drama club in all the plays and musicals at Berkley

as well. He has studied private voice for three years and has been working on his piano and ukulele skills for a few years. He recently began to pick up and learn the guitar. Fun fact: Elijah can solve a Rubik's cube!



Jill Gerhart is a senior at Berkley High School where she participates in two of the school's choral ensembles, A Capella, and their show choir, Encore. She has always had a passion for singing and has participated in choir since the fifth grade. In addition to choir, Jill is a member of the Drama club and enjoys helping out and performing

with that organization. She plans to attend college next year and to major in Music Education. Jill has a strong desire to teach and to help others love singing as much as she does.



Emily Robinson is a senior at Royal Oak High School taking a mixture of International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement classes. She is a varsity swimmer and tennis player, and is a choir officer for her school's choral program. Emily began her musical journey with the piano in second grade, began studying voice in grade four, and hasn't stopped

since. She attended Western Michigan University's Seminar program for choral music this past summer and has most recently competed in the Schmidt Vocal Competition. Emily plans on keeping music an important part of her life as she pursues her college degree next fall.



Tyler Vigliotti, a senior at Berkley High School, has been in the A Capella choir since his freshman year and is currently its' bass section leader. A serious student, he takes many advanced classes and maintains a GPA well over 4.0. Outside of academics, Tyler is on the varsity tennis and track & field teams and is the co-founder of

Berkley's Ultimate Frisbee club. In addition, he is a member of Berkley's National Math and Music Honors Societies. Tyler plays guitar and piano, as well as occasional drums, bass, and organ. He loves all types of music from Mozart to Jimi Hendrix, and is often heard at the piano singing some Billy Joel. Looking to the future, Tyler plans to be involved in music anyway he can.



PRESBYTERIANS, PLASTICS, AND GOD'S CREATION

Did you know?

- Plastic in the oceans kills over a million sea birds, 100,000 marine mammals, and countless fish every year, according to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Plastic chemicals can be absorbed in our bodies—93 per cent of Americans age six or older test positive for BPA, which can cause cancer and birth defects, according to the National Institute of Environment Health Sciences.
- Our tap and bottled water are both loaded with micro-plastics.



Presbyterians have been making statements about being careful of our use of natural resources since the 1950s. Particularly in the last few decades, churches, youth groups and families are becoming ever more mindful about our consumption, and its effect on God's creation. We encourage bringing cloth bags to the grocery store, toting around refillable water bottles and coffee mugs, and requesting no lids or straws for restaurant drinks, when appropriate.

In 2008, the General Assembly passed a policy to encourage:

- Presbyterian congregations and individual members to highly encourage the use of non-disposable food service items, and to refrain from the use of disposable food service products, particularly Styrofoam and other non-biodegradables; to use non-disposable bags for packing items purchased in the commercial market, and to refrain from using plastic bags; to choose tap or home or church-filtered water instead of bottled water or soda, and to refrain from purchasing those liquids in plastic bottles. Even though this represents only a part of what we can do to live in a more environmentally just manner, it is extremely important in beginning to live sustainable, healthy lives.

Prior to this policy, Presbyterians for Earth Care launched a no-bottled water campaign with many Presbyterian Women groups encouraging this idea as well. Meanwhile, in the last decade, Presbyterian Earth Care Congregations have been tackling these issues in their own congregations, as well as bringing such ideas to presbytery meetings and conferences.

How might you reduce, refuse and recycle plastic more in your own life, home, school, work place, or church?

April 5, 2019 - Presbyterian Church (USA) Presbyterian Mission

Let's join other PC(USA) congregations with a challenge to reduce, refuse and recycle plastic. FPCRO has decided to rid our church of the use of Styrofoam cups. We are now using compostable coffee cups and paper plates. That's a good start. How can you take this challenge into your personal life?

school supply drive



Over two Sundays in September, the congregation donated school supplies for a collection drive on behalf of Oakland Elementary School in Royal Oak. The supplies were dropped off at the school the first week in October. Thanks to all for your generous donations!

hands-on mission work

On Saturday, October 12, sixteen FPCRO members and friends were at World Medical Relief in Southfield, MI, to help pack or sort donated medical supplies. Thanks to Edie Watson, Joyce King, and Peter Tanaka for a great morning of service!



World Medical Relief



2019 world communion sunday



BREADS AND SPREADS

Following worship on October 6, World Communion Sunday, the congregation enjoyed a special coffee hour with tasty international breads and many delicious spreads. Thanks to the Worship and Music committee for organizing the event, and thanks to all who donated breads and spreads!

sunflowers christian preschool



November brings a month of happily giving thanks! Our preschoolers have settled into routines, are developing new friendships, and working hard. For all these things, and all of our dear students and their families, we are truly thankful!

Brown is the color of the month. You may see some colorful feathered brown birds hanging around our room and hallways. All classes will also decorate a large turkey with feathers telling about the things we are thankful for. From the Bible, our study of Moses and the Ten Commandments will help us to know how God wants us to live.

All classes will celebrate Thanksgiving later this month, followed by no school on November 28 - 29 as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families. A very blessed Thanksgiving to our church family, as well!

Our new Monthly Mission project is going well! In September our families were very generous with giving school supplies. Our students enjoyed sorting and counting all of our supplies before packing them up. They will help kids in Detroit classrooms. October brought donations for our own Little Food Pantry. It is fun to learn about, and help those in need. We will help with a food drive in the month of November.

We still have openings in all of our classes. Interested families should call the preschool at 248-541-0108 ext. 220. We would love for you to visit and see 'our little ones' in action!

Mrs. Heitchue and Mrs. Gibson

quilters group

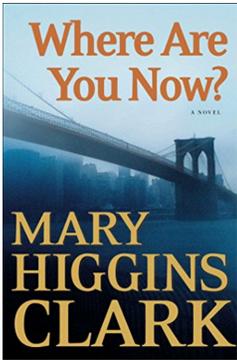


FALL 2019 SPECIAL DONATION

This time the Church Quilting Group has picked a very unique program for our latest donation. We are sending \$270 to the **Forgotten Man Ministries** to purchase 24 copies of the *New Life Application Study Bible*. Through donations, this non-profit program works with chaplains and volunteers in 34 county jails in Michigan. Inmates that are part of this program will work with, and receive one of these Bibles to help them 'follow in Christ's footsteps' in their future actions. We have requested our donated Bibles be given to the Clare County Jail Program directed by Chaplain William Dyke. You can learn more about this program at www.forgottenman.org.

Come visit and see how we do our quilting! We are set up at the church on Thursdays 9 am-12 noon. For more information call Bonnie Teufel at 248.548.7344.

Quilters pictured from left to right: Jackie Davis, Eileen White, Bonnie Teufel and Donna Boysher. (Barbara Cochrane was unavailable when the picture was taken.)



Where Are You Now?: A Novel

C Mary Higgins Clark

It has been ten years since twenty-one-year-old Charles Mac Kenzie, Jr. (“Mack”) went missing. A Columbia University senior, about to graduate and already accepted at Duke University Law School, walked out of his apartment on Manhattan’s Upper West Side without a word to his college roommates and has never

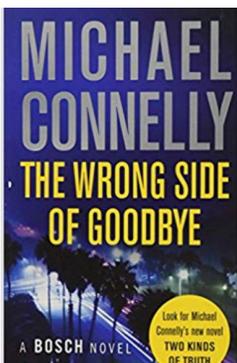
been seen again. He did, however, make one phone call to his mother on Mother’s Day.

Mack’s sister, Carolyn, is now twenty-six, a law school graduate, and has just finished her clerkship for a civil court judge in Manhattan. She resolves to discover what happened to Mack and why he has found it necessary to hide from them.

The next morning after Mass, her uncle, Monsignor Devon Mac Kenzie, receives a note left in the collection basket: “Uncle Devon, tell Carolyn she must not look for me.”

Carolyn’s pursuit of the truth about Mack’s disappearance swiftly plunges her into a world of unexpected danger and unanswered questions. Can the police possibly believe that Mack is not only alive, but a serial killer?

Carolyn’s passionate search for the truth about her brother—and for her brother himself—leads her into a deadly confrontation with someone close to her whose secret he cannot allow her to reveal.



The Wrong Side of Goodbye
(A Harry Bosch Novel)

C Michael Connelly

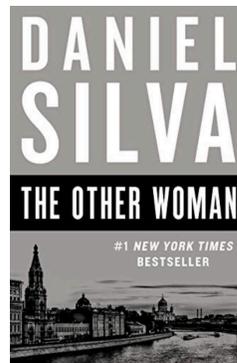
Harry Bosch is California’s newest private investigator. He doesn’t advertise. He doesn’t have an office, and he’s picky about who he works for, but it doesn’t matter. His chops from thirty years with the LAPD speak for themselves.

Soon one of Southern California’s biggest moguls comes calling. The reclusive billionaire is nearing the end of his life and is haunted by one regret. When he was young, he had a love affair with a Mexican girl. But not long after becoming pregnant, she disappeared.

Desperate to know whether he has an heir, the dying magnate hires Bosch. Harry realizes that his mission could be risky not only for himself but for the one he’s seeking. But as he begins to uncover the haunting story—and finds uncanny links to his own past—he knows he cannot rest until he learns the truth.

At the same time, unable to leave cop work behind completely, he volunteers as an investigator for a tiny cash-strapped police department and finds himself tracking a serial rapist who is one of the most baffling and dangerous foes he has ever faced.

Swift, unpredictable, and thrilling, *The Wrong Side Of Goodbye* shows that Michael Connelly “continues to amaze with his consistent skill and sizzle”.



The Other Woman: A Novel

S Daniel Silva

In an isolated village in the mountains of Andalusia, a mysterious French woman begins work on a dangerous memoir. It is the story of a man she once loved in the Beirut of old, and a child taken from her in treason’s name. The woman is the keeper of the Kremlin’s most closely guarded

secret. Long ago the KGB inserted a mole, who stands on the doorstep of ultimate power.

Only one man can unravel the conspiracy: Gabriel Allon, the legendary art restorer and assassin who serves as the chief of Israel’s secret intelligence service. Gabriel has battled the dark forces of the new Russia before, at great personal cost. Now he and the Russians will engage in a final epic showdown, with the fate of the postwar global order hanging in the balance.

Gabriel is lured into the hunt for the traitor after his most important asset inside Russian intelligence is brutally assassinated while trying to defect to Vienna. His quest for the truth will lead him backward in time, to the twentieth century’s greatest act of treason and, finally, to a spellbinding climax along the banks of the Potomac River that will leave readers breathless. *The Other Woman* is a tour de force that proves once again that Daniel Silva is the best spy novel writer.

Worship Services: Sunday, 9 am & 10:30 am

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opportunities for all ages!
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healing service • wednesday, november 6



ALL SAINTS' DAY
SERVICE OF HEALING

STEPHEN MINISTERS

The FPCRO Stephen Ministry Program, along with the Music Program, will again offer a special service of healing and wholeness in conjunction with All Saints Day. This service will take place **Wednesday, November 6, at 7 pm** following the Wednesday Night Live dinner. All are welcome to attend. The service will focus on those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain or are grieving the loss of a loved one. Please reserve this time to hear God's promises and remember the Saints who have gone before us.