

## From the Pastor's Desk...



Rock bands and musicians have long lamented the grind of work. Dolly Parton bemoaned, “Barely getting’ by, What a way to make a livin’” in “9 to 5.” Bachman-Turner Overdrive told us how “You get up every morning, From your alarm clock’s warning, Take the 8:15 into the city, There’s a whistle up above, And people pushin,’ people shovin’” in “Takin’ Care of Business.” Those who work a “regular” work week are always pushing toward Friday and the promise of the weekend. Soul-crushing bosses, difficult coworkers, a too-cold office, or a hectic commute can all make going to work feel like a drag.

Yet work is where we spend most of our time. And even though we all get bogged down at times, many of us find meaning in the work that we do each day, whether paid work or unpaid care giving labor. As Christians, we believe that God places a special call on each of our lives to serve in God’s world. When we experience that call and seek to live it out, we are living into our vocation. For a lot of people, their vocation may align with the work they do each day.

Sometimes we think that only church workers, like pastors, or even monks and nuns, have a God-given vocation. But the Bible teaches us that all of us have a vocation: gifts and skills that are needed in the world. Even the most secular-seeming work can be done with intention that seeks to glorify God. We live out our vocation as we put our talents to use alongside other disciples.

In January and February, we will dive into a sermon series on work and vocation called Working for the Glory of God. In the gospel of Luke, we will explore the way Jesus lived into his vocation at the beginning of his ministry. In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, we will ponder our spiritual gifts and the ways God needs each of us to put them to work as part of the body of Christ. In the prophets, we will be reminded of God’s intimate claim on each of our lives and the ways God has called people into ministries in the past.

Each Sunday, a church member will share with us about their work and how they feel God has called them into it. We will hear how they understand the concept of vocation and how they are putting their gifts to work. I am personally excited to hear these stories. I think this kind of sharing opens all of us up to deeper relationships and new connections in the congregation. I hope, too, that hearing from fellow church members will invite us all to reflect on our vocations, whether that aligns with our paid work or some other aspect of our lives. How have we heard God’s call in the past and how are we hearing it in new ways today?

We begin our series on January 13, with Baptism of the Lord Sunday. On that day, we remember Jesus’ baptism, which signaled the official beginning of his ministry and God’s call to him. It’s a day for us to remember our baptisms, which call each of us into a life of ministry and discipleship. The series will conclude on February 10. After worship on that day, we will give thanks for the devoted staff of FPCRO at a Staff Appreciation reception. This is a fitting way to end our focus on vocation, as we give thanks for the people who commit their work-lives to this congregation and God’s work through it. I hope you’ll join us in worship as we explore these topics and then reflect on the themes as you go to your “9 to 5” work, consider the vocational opportunities of retirement, or explore the ways God is calling you as you pursue your education.

Grace and peace, *Emma*

# Church Bell



# 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

*pastor/head of staff*, enickel@fpcro.org **Rev. Emma Nickel**

*associate pastor*, pmeilands@fpcro.org **Rev. Pamela Meilands**

*director of music ministries and organist*,  
jjackson@fpcro.org **Joseph Jackson**

*church administrator*, kperuski@fpcro.org **Kari Peruski**

*administrative asst.*, pkaufmann@fpcro.org **Pamela Kaufmann**

*parish visitor*, kbrom@fpcro.org **Kathie Brom**

*evening reception/security*, tcrawford@fpcro.org **Todd Crawford**

*preschool director*, preschool@fpcro.org **Sarah Gibson**

*preschool teacher* **Beth Heitchue**

*child care provider* **Ivy Debrow**

*facility manager*, aglasel@fpcro.org **Alan Glasel**

*assistant custodians* **Gary Moultrup & Scot Thomas**

*media/content manager*, sgilreath@fpcro.org **Sally Gilreath**

*food consultant* **Randy Jarman**

*wedding coordinator*, weddings@fpcro.org **Ginny O'Brien**

*newsletter production*, newsletter@fpcro.org **Sally Gilreath**

*newsletter editor* **Sandra Olah**



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**First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak**  
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*mezzo soprano* **Julie Anne Smith**

*soprano* **Kim Sanders**

*tenor* **Curt Peters**

*baritone* **Miroslav Pavle Manovski**

## our soloists

## OF NOTE:

### Deaths:

Jean Murdoch, March 2018  
Gloria Blazo, October 29, 2018  
LaMar Kleckner, November 2, 2018  
George Teufel, November 5, 2018  
Bernhard Bastian, November 4, 2018  
Margaret "Peggy" Bashur, November 30, 2018  
Peter Beck, December 10, 2018  
Richard "Dick" Wade, December 16, 2018  
Judith Lou Andrews, December 22, 2018  
Dorothy Evans, December 23, 2018



Do you, or someone you know, need to be lifted in prayer? Please contact Kathie Brom at [kbrom@fpcro.org](mailto: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.



First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

## Columbarium and Memorial Garden

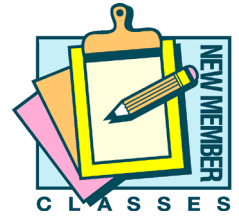
Information packets available

Questions:

Ken Bissey 248.709.4849

## NEW MEMBERS & INQUIRERS CLASS

Are you feeling called to learn more about our church or are you considering becoming a member? We would love to have you participate in our New Members and Inquirers class this month. We will explore what it means to be Presbyterian, how we understand God and theology, and what it means to be a member of First Presbyterian Church. Our next series of classes will be held at **9:00 am** on **Sundays January 13, 20 and 27** in the Fireside Room. Member Suzanne Lewand teaches the classes, and staff members Kathie Brom, Pastor Pam Meilands and Pastor Emma Nickel participate, as well. The final class will include brunch with church elders and members and a blessing during the 10:30 worship service on January 27. Child care is provided. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad in your pew or by contacting Kathie Brom, Parish Visitor, at 248.541.0108, Ext. 205.



## YOUTH SUB SALE

Subs can be pre ordered on January 20 and 27 following either worship service or by sending an email to Pastor Pam ([pmeilands@fpcro.org](mailto:pmeilands@fpcro.org)). Subs will be available for pickup on Sunday, February 3. Funds raised will go towards the youth trip to Triennium this summer (grades 8-12).



This year, our CROP Hunger Walk will take place Sunday, May 5, 2019. Mark your calendars and get yourselves walking. We plan to recruit a large team from FPCRO. The Walk will be moving back to Royal Oak this year. Watch for more information soon!



## IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

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](mailto:pkaufmann@fpcro.org)) know of changes in your contact information so we can maintain current and up-to-date records of your member information.



## mission & benevolence

### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUND

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. FPCRO has provided special offerings in the past, and a portion of collections from “One Great Hour of Sharing” go to this fund. Over many years, FPCRO has accumulated funds from Designated Mission Gifts, which can be distributed at the discretion of the Mission & Benevolence Committee. The committee has been waiting for the right time and right recipient to discern God’s guidance for this money. With prayer and discussion, the committee decided to release \$25,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund. The administrators at the Presbyterian Mission Agency will have full control over the spending of this money toward the relief of people living through the shocking disasters that have plagued our country, and the globe, in recent months. Please visit <http://pda.pcusa.org/> to learn more.



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### ADOPT-A-FAMILY

The Salvation Army's Adopt A Family was very successful. The gifts were plentiful, beautiful and generous! The families were very grateful and happy. Thank you to everyone who participated.



*Pictured from left to right are Helen Dusenbury, Karen Barger, Beth Thayer, Jason Thayer, Dean Thayer, Nancy Lambert, Edie Watson, and Roger Watson. This picture was captured Sunday, December 16, as the Mission & Benevolence Committee helped sort gifts given by the congregation for delivery to the Salvation Army.*



# cozy mountain women's retreat

**W**ish you could sneak away to the mountains? Need to slow down, savor a warm beverage while chatting with friends, and enjoy time with God? Then join us at Cozy Mountain Lodge! It's a mountain lodge themed retreat you won't want to miss!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 23, 2019, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.** We're planning a day to take time with God and friends at our FPCRO "Cozy Mountain Lodge." We'll experience worship, meaningful Bible studies, quiet reflection and laughter!

**Early bird registration is just \$30.00 when you sign up by February 24, 2019.** After that date, the cost is \$35.00, so please register early! **All registrations must be received by March 13, 2019.** A registration form is below. More registration forms are available at the reception desk in the Christian Education Lobby. Invite a friend!

Fill out the registration form, attach your check (made out to "FPCRO"), and leave it in the special Cozy Mountain Lodge box at the reception desk. If you need childcare for the day, please indicate that as well. A limited number of scholarships are available. Please see Chris Klein if you have questions.



## Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Permission to photocopy this resource from Group's Cozy Mountain Lodge Women's Ministry Retreat granted for local church use. Copyright © 2012, 2018 Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, CO. group.com

God is our refuge and strength, always ready  
to help in times of trouble. —Psalm 46:1

# stewardship

**I**n our sanctuary, there are only two books in the pews, and that should say something about the importance of these volumes. The bible tells what we believe, the hymnal tells the story of how we express these beliefs. The Stewardship Committee, inspired by the hymn “I Love to Tell the Story,” is looking at the stories of this congregation: how the mission of our church has shaped lives, and what is done in response. As you read the stories shared by church members, think of your own story. How has FPCRO impacted your story?

## Why I Give to FPCRO:

Two and a half years ago, I started college at Georgetown University, and despite it being a Catholic university, I pretty much stopped going to church. Studies, clubs, and social commitments began to take precedence over Sunday morning services. When I was no longer at home with my family to encourage me to go, it fell to the wayside.

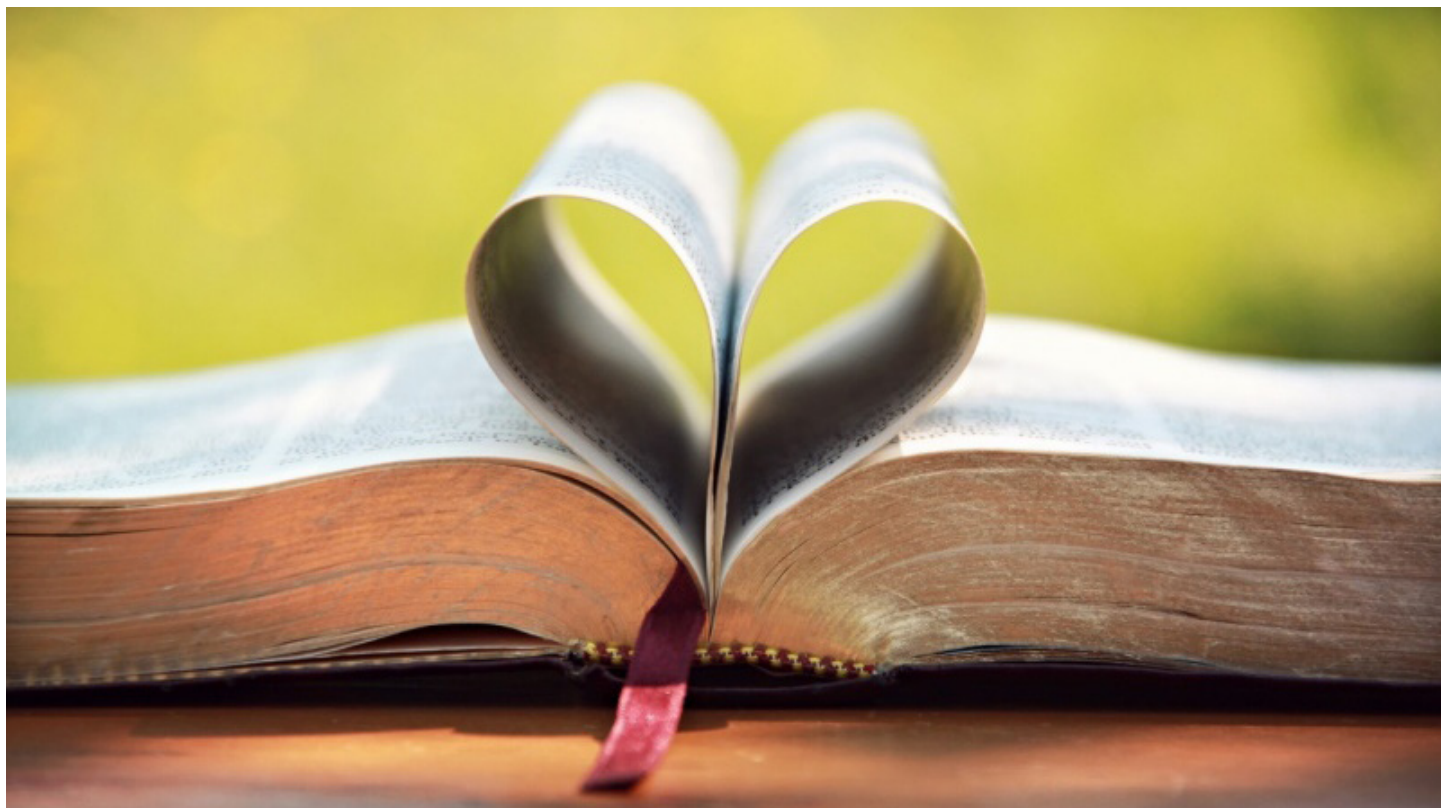
About a year ago, I had a personal crisis that caused me to question the relationships that I had formed in the first year of university. I felt betrayed by the people who I trusted and, in that moment, I felt incredibly lost. I had mostly cut ties with a large number of

my friends and though those who remained close were very supportive, I sought comfort. This led to me start looking for church again and I once again found a place where I could relax. It was augmented when I was home and I went to FPCRO with my family. It became a home away from home and an escape from everyday life. I leave feeling refreshed and loved which is something I look forward to anytime I am back in Royal Oak.

I give to FPCRO because church is a solace and I want us to be able to continue providing religious support for everyone who comes through our doors.

~Cayleigh Lewand

***I love to tell the story  
Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory,  
Of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story,  
Because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings  
As nothing else can do.  
I love to tell the story,  
'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story  
Of Jesus and His love.***





## youth service project

After our mission trip in Detroit this summer, the FPCRO youth wanted to keep giving back to “our city” so we have formed a partnership with Cass Community Social Services. Once a month a group of youth and advisors head into Detroit and prepare a meal for a portion of the city’s homeless population alongside of Miss Kay and Miss Nicole, the lovely women who run the kitchen on Sunday afternoons at CCSS. It has been a joy working with the folks at Cass and the youth have begun to forge deeper relationships with one another as well as with the folks with whom we are working.





# FPCRO book club

The FPCRO Book Club meets at 1:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Religious Studies Library. Below is a list of the books we will be reading for the coming year. If you are interested in joining, or would like more information, please contact Nancy Lambert at 248.225.3621, [nancy.lambert13@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.lambert13@gmail.com).

## January 23, 2019



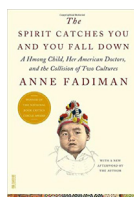
### ***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

Starr and her friend Khalil, both black, leave a party together. They are pulled over by a white police officer, who kills Khalil. Starr, as the only witness, must testify before a grand jury. (from Amazon.com)

## February 27, 2019

### ***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* by Anne Fadiman**

The story of a clash between a refugee family from Laos over the care of a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy. (from Amazon.com)



## March 27, 2019



### ***One Summer America, 1927* by Bill Bryson**

A signature event of the 20th Century, Lindbergh crosses the Atlantic nonstop, occurs in May 1927 but other exciting events transpired. Babe Ruth and 60 home runs, Al Capone terrorizes Chicago, the movie industry is changed with the first "talking picture" and Bryson details the personalities, events and humor of the day. (from Amazon.com)

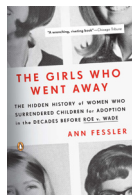
## April 24, 2019

### ***A Dangerous Fortune* by Ken Follett**

Tragedy strikes when a student drowns and three decades of political and amorous intrigues, cold-blooded murder and a financial crises ensue. (from Amazon.com)



## May 22, 2019



### ***The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe v. Wade* by Ann Fessler**

A million and a half women were forced to surrender children for adoption due to family and social pressure before Roe v. Wade. (from Amazon.com)

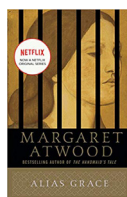
## June 26, 2019

### ***The Bend in the River* by Susan Gibbs**

A story of when Shea, a Cheyenne Warrior, finds Emma Jordon almost dead after her parents death. It details their love story but also their ability to survive unspeakable acts of violence against them. (from Amazon.com)



## July 24, 2019



### ***Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood**

In 1843 Grace Marks has been convicted for her involvement in the vicious murders of her employer and his housekeeper and mistress. The new field of mental illness holds the promise of unlocking that which she cannot remember: the murder. (from Amazon.com)

## August 28, 2019

### ***Educated: a Memoir* by Tara Westover**

A memoir about a girl who was kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. (from Amazon.com)



## September 25, 2019



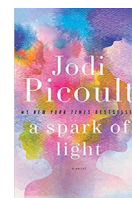
### ***Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee**

The story follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in the early 1900s with an unplanned pregnancy which threatens to shame them all. Through desperate struggles and some triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions about faith, family and identity. (from bookbrowse.com)

## October 23, 2019

### ***Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult**

Working backwards in time from a shooting in an abortion clinic, the story peels back the layers of events, circumstances, and emotions that led up to the tragic incident that began the book. (from Amazon.com)



### WHAT IS A LITURGIST ANYWAY?

A Liturgist is a church member who participates in the worship service, typically reading scripture and leading other parts of the service. The word “liturgy,” when applied to Christian worship, means “the work of the people.” It’s a place in the service where you can be a part of the worship. The liturgist speaks from the Lectern (right side facing the chancel). Typically, the liturgist may be asked to lead the Call to Worship, the Passing of Christ’s Peace, the Prayer for Illumination, and the First Scripture Reading.

The Worship and Music committee would like to extend an invitation to any and all who are interested in being a liturgist. Our hope is to gather a list of people and set up a schedule three to four months in advance. You will have the choice to be the liturgist at either service or both...but first we need to know the names of all who would be interested. If you are curious to learn more about serving as a liturgist, please contact Pam Moultrup at 248.584.0755 or [buggage@gmail.com](mailto:buggage@gmail.com).



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### STAFF APPRECIATION

The Personnel Committee is grateful for each staff member who serves at FPCRO. Their gifts and skills, wisdom and faith, help us all to serve God and our community. Our committee is inviting the whole congregation to share appreciation and love with our staff members at a reception in Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, February 10. You’re invited to bring cards and notes to share with staff members, expressing your thanks for their ministry, and in many cases, their many years of service at our church. Please consider showing your appreciation to those staff members you work closely with, as well as those you don’t know well, but whose faithfulness allows our church to fulfill its mission. Below is a list of our staff and their approximate years of service at FPCRO:



**Curt Peters**, Soloist – 30 years

**Randy Jarman**, Chef – 21 years

**Kari Peruski**, Church Administrator – 20 years

**Gary Moultrup**, Assistant Custodian – 13 years

**Pam Kaufmann**, Administrative Assistant – 13 years

**Alan Glasel**, Facility Manager – 12 years

**Joseph Jackson**, Director of Music Ministries and Organist – 12 years

**Ivy Debrow**, Childcare Provider – 12 years

**Beth Heitchue**, Preschool Teacher – 10 years

**Kathie Brom**, Parish Visitor – 6 years

**Scot Thomas**, Assistant Custodian – 6 years

**Julie Smith**, Soloist – 5 years

**Pam Meilands**, Associate Pastor – 4 years

**Sarah Gibson**, Preschool Director/Teacher – 4 years

**Todd Crawford**, Security and Reception - 1 year

**Sally Gilreath**, Media/Content Manager – 1 year

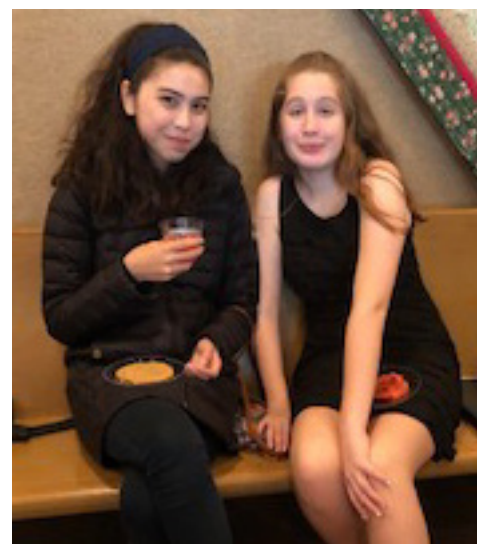
**Miroslav Manovski**, Soloist – Eight months

**Emma Nickel**, Pastor – Six months

**Kim Sanders**, Soloist – Six months



# Don Daniels retirement reception





december 16, 2018



**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



**H**appy New Year! If you were able to attend our Christmas Concert, you already know how the big voices of such little children can truly prepare your hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. We are grateful to all of our parents for helping the children practice their songs and for contributing all of the wonderful treats for our afterglow.

The Christmas break ends on January 7, when we arrive back at school ready to learn. Winter, snow, and the color white will be our themes for the month, and we're hoping the weather will help us celebrate it all. Hopefully, we'll be able to play inside in the "white stuff" for at least a week or so.

Our three-year-olds will work on independence skills this month and working hard to write their own name, while our four-year-olds will start rotating through "learning centers" to help them prepare for the routine of Kindergarten. If you see our children in their bathrobes and fuzzy slippers at the end of the month, you'll know it's pajama day at Sunflowers!

Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year will begin in February for those families who currently have children enrolled in our three's class. Open enrollment for other families will begin later that month. If you would like more information, or would like to visit our classroom, please call us at 248.541.0108, ext. 220. We do still have limited spaces in our classes for the remainder of this school year, if you know someone who might be interested.

*Mrs. Gibson & Mrs. Heitchue*