

August 2023



No. 08

First Press NEWSLETTER

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Pastor Corner. Read the latest news from Pastor Kip Murphy

2
Staff and Committees News. Find out the latest happenings in all our committees.

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What's Happening News, find out the latest events taking place at FPCHS.

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Connect with us! Learn how you connect and get involved at FPCHS.



As a Christ-centered, missional church, we seek to be disciples who are rooted in Scripture and bear fruit in the world. We affirm the historic Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and the emphases of our Reformed forebears as expressed in the five solas (Scripture alone, Christ alone, Faith alone, Grace alone, and to the Glory of God alone). We seek to be a church in which the love of God, known in Jesus Christ, shapes our entire lives in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Join us every Sunday morning
for worship and fellowship
hour.

Sundays
Worship 10:00 am
Kids Ministry 10:20am
Fellowship Hour 11:00 am

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Staff:

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For some time now I have been fussing with what to say in my last newsletter article as your pastor. I considered writing about the confidence I have in the future that God has planned for you. I thought about reminding you of the important role this congregation has played and will play in the Harbor Springs and Petoskey communities. I thought about encouraging you to endure in your walk with Jesus and to continue growing and encouraging others to grow. But in the end, I decided that what would be most appropriate is to share my gratitude for the privilege of serving this congregation over the last eight years. Over these years you have shared your lives with me, allowing me to pray for you, to counsel you, to rejoice with you, and to mourn with you. In many cases you have entrusted me to be present with you at the death of a loved one or to preside at their funerals. You have worked alongside me in the work of the church. You have listened to my preaching (and occasionally my trombone playing!). We have celebrated baptisms and weddings together. You have also given me room to serve our community through bible studies, as the spiritual leader of the Christ Child Society, by being involved with the CS Lewis Festival, and in serving on the Board for Perry Farms Village and Hillside Village. I'm grateful for times when I have been invited to sail, snowshoe, and hike with you, to share meals, or to go to the same concerts or movies. Being part of the community and seeing you outside of the church has been a joy and a comfort. Living in a place where you know and are known is a wonderful thing. I am grateful for the times you supported me when things were tough, whether because of decisions that I made or because of life circumstances. You have often been gracious and encouraging when I most needed it and as I hope I have for you. I am grateful that you have enabled Lee and me to make Northern Michigan our home for these years and that we have been able to make memories with you that we will take with us. There is nothing harder for a pastor than to say goodbye to a congregation and even though I am heading to a new call and will be close to family, departing is painful. Know that I will miss you and hold you in my prayers until we meet again.

Love and God bless,
Kip



MUSICAL Musings

it is time to share a few thoughts and reflections on our Italy trip our choir and other community singers took this summer. First of all I want to say that we had an incredible group of people that rose to the challenge when needed and were also very resourceful, respectful and supportive to each other in all situations. I was very grateful that overall, no one got sick and severely injured. We had a couple of falls as the cobblestone roads and stairs are never leveled on those European streets, but thankfully they were mild. Many suffered of swollen feet and hands, including myself, but that was right off the bat from the long flight. We just had to adjust our straps on the sandals, and some had to take a day or two off to relax at the hotel. There was a lot of walking and standing involved for the ones that were determined to see everything that was included in the itinerary.

In Rome we enjoyed luscious beauty of interiors and architecture of different churches, museums, and historical sites such as the Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, and The Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola. We also visited the Catacombs of Rome, an underground burial site for Christians and Jews that dates from first to fifth century. While in Rome, we had morning and evening rehearsals in the hotel's conference room with the other five choirs. The clinician was Dr. Z. Randall Stroope, an amazing musician with a charming personality that we all enjoyed. The first performance took place at St. Peter's Basilica. It was an interesting experience because the acoustics were much more live than anyone imagined. The choir sang during one of the many masses that take place daily in the front section of the basilica. For our big concert at The Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we had a chamber orchestra and a wonderful organist that performed with us. The concert was well attended and well delivered. It was an amazing experience to sing in such a beautiful space with wonderful musicians.

In Florence, the heat was not as intense and breezier. That really made our days more enjoyable as we strolled down the ancient streets. Our first destination in Florence was the Academia, the home of Michelangelo's David and his set of sculptures entitled 'Slaves.' It was truly magnificent. Our guides for Florence sites were excellent which made the experience even more memorable. I cannot say the same about our guide we had in Rome for the Colosseum. We were not impressed by her, and unfortunately that was our first stop coming from the airport. But after that all our other guides were amazing.

As soon as we got to Venice, a group of us that got tickets in advance went to a chamber music concert at the Church of Santa Maria Della Pietà, the church where Antonio Vivaldi worked as a priest and teacher for the girls' orphanage. The concert was with Vivaldi violin concertos. Before we got to visit Venice with a guide, we went to Verona for a full day where we enjoyed free time to explore the city. In the evening we all went to see the opera 'Aida' at the arena. This Roman amphitheater was built in 30 AD. It is now used for opera performances all summer long. It was an incredible performance, not just musically, but visually it was very creative and affective for entertaining the audience from so far away. There were lights shooting in the sky, floating things, shining things, dancers, and a multitude of cast members that had the role of stage sets with their colorful costumes and the different shapes and movements they were forming. Our last day in Italy was in Venice. We took our coach bus and a private taxi boat to the island. That was on its own a very pleasant time. In Venice we visited St. Mark's Basilica, a very significant church for the history of church music, and the spectacular Doge Palace.

Every day of our trip we had free time when everyone chose to either go back to the hotel, or relax at a terrace, or visit more museums and historical sites. Some spent significant time shopping, and I don't blame them! The street of Italy is full of boutique shops, many with leather goods, shoes and clothes. The food was also amazing. Everyone chose their place to eat lunch and most dinners. The wine tasting and other specialty drinks were also popular with our group. Most evenings, quite a few spent some time chatting at the hotel bar over a drink or two.

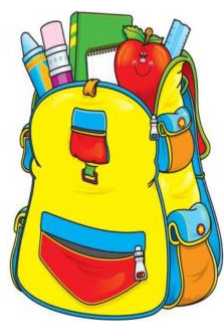
Even though at the beginning of the trip I was discouraged because the itinerary was all changed on us from what I've worked on all year to do, we made good memories and enjoyed Italy and all its glory. Our guide for the whole trip, Daniela, was patient with us and helpful to accommodate our group as needed. We were very blessed to have her.

Attached are a few pictures from our trip. I hope you'll enjoy!

Looking forward for the rest of the summer, I want to express how much I'll miss pastor Kip and Lee. I understand their decision and that it's a good change for them, but I have a hard time letting go.

I will also be away for my 'unpaid month off' starting from August 22. This year the 'vacation' is so late in the summer because of a significant event in Romania. My home church in Bucharest is celebrating 100th anniversary, and it's preparing a huge program with lots of music and festivities. I was invited to direct the choir for this event, since my father was the most influential conductor at this church while we were in Romania. I was there for a week right after Italy to rehearse with the choir in preparation for this event. My family is coming, including my sister and mother, and many other family members from all around the world. Many of my father's close friends that we haven't seen for 20-30 years will also be there. While I'm gone, the music at FPCHS will keep going with wonderful musicians for whom I'm very grateful.

Monica Pavel Kissinger
Director of Arts and Music Ministry



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Back-to- School Supplies Drive!! Summer is almost at an end and that means many kids will be returning to school. This means many kids will be returning to school without the supplies needed to help them reach their learning potentials. FPCHS has started a school supplies drive from July 10-Aug 17th. We are strongly encouraging the congregation and staff to please bring in school supplies for students in the Emmett Country area and the Nehemiah House. Every child deserves to start the school year off prepared, please help us make sure they get that opportunity.

CYF Ministry

I can't believe it's already been a year as FPCHS Cyf Director already. I have come to love the family I have made at this church. With that being said, I'm going to miss Lee and Kip tremendously. The way they have embraced me and my family into this congregation is just beyond our expectations as a new family here and we have been so blessed to have had them as our Pastor and family in Christ this last year. The Morris family wishes you success in your new adventures and will always hold you up in prayer for wherever life and Christ takes you.

Playgroup

FPC Kids playgroup will continue every Monday 10am at the Church. We will not be doing away playgroups anymore. To help grow the playgroup it is important that we keep the location just at the church. We are also looking to have local children authors , to come in and read to our playgroup once a month and local musicians who would be interested in coming in once a month and playing some nursery rhyme songs with our playgroup families. If you know anyone with these gifts, please have the contact CYF Director Renee' Morris. Email: renee@fpchs.org

Sunday School

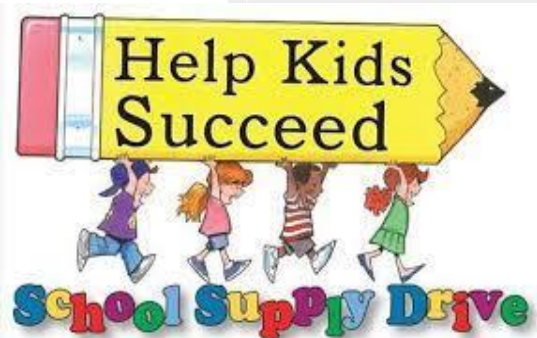
FPC Kids Church is every Sunday at 10:00am. We will be bringing back kids' message. Thank you, Kathy Boeckman, for helping out in the month of August in delivering the kids message Sunday Mornings before kids are dismissed to Children's Church. If you would like to provide Children's Message in September, please reach out to Renee. We started a new series this pass Sunday (July 29) called "Make it or Break it". This series has us taking the kids to Genesis Bible stories. Join us in learning about God's Word in the creation through games, crafts, music, and stories. Make sure your little one's don't miss this fun series. Sunday School is ages Prek-5th grade.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT- MOVIE NIGHT

August 25, 6:30-9:00pm

Join us August 25 for our Back-to-School Movie Night! Parents enjoy a night out on us, bring your kids to FPCHS for a movie night, while you enjoy a date night. Movie showing will be "Inside Out"- rated PG. Popcorn and beverages will be provided. Drop is 6:30pm and pick up is 9:00pm. Ages 5yrs-12yr welcomed, must register. To register please visit

our website at <https://fpchs.org/event-registration/>. Don't miss out on this fun Back to School Movie Night!



H a p p e n i n g s @ F P C H i n A U G U S T 2 0 2 3

Family Praise Night

Join us the first Friday of every month for a night of PRAISE! Music performed by Craig Cottrell and company. This is a great opportunity to join your congregation, neighbors, and family in a night of praise in a contemporary Christian music setting. This month's Family Praise Night will be at 7:00pm on Friday August 4 in the sanctuary.

Family Field Day

Join us Saturday August 12 from 1:00pm-3:00pm for our FPCHS Family Field Day. We will be hosting games such as croquet, volleyball, and cornhole. Bubble station, water balloons and water soakers for the kids. Please feel free to bring an outside game you love to share with the church family as well. We will be serving grab and go snacks along with water and lemonade. Please join us in this fun filled afternoon.

Walk for the Poor

The "Friends of the Poor Walk", sponsored by Saint Vincent de Paul Society, will take place Saturday, 9:00 am, August 19th, at the fountain at Harbor Beach. Your mission committee works closely with St. Vincent supporting community members in need. All proceeds for the walk towards the "wrap around care" that we provide for folks in need of care and support. Please join us for a walk/run through Weque, a beautiful area to reflect on how we can "care for the least of our brothers and sisters".

Send off Luncheon for Kip & Lee Murphy

Sunday, August 20th, will be our final worship service with Pastor Kip and Lee. In gratitude, we invite you to a salad and chicken luncheon in the gathering space. Please plan to join us to celebrate both Kip and Lee's exceptional service to our church community and bless them as they move on to Mason City, Iowa. There will be a box as you enter the gathering space for personal cards to them. Or If you are unable attend, you may take your message to the church office or place it in Sue Stackhouse's mailbox in the work room. We hope you can join us!!!

Parent's Night Out-Movie Night

Hey Parents!! Need a night out before the sending the kids back to school? Join us for a parent's night out-movie night on Friday Aug 25. Just register to have your kids dropped off with FPCHS staff from 6:30-9pm at <https://fpchs.org/event-registration/>. Kids grade age Kindergarten to 5th are welcomed. Popcorn and beverages will be served as kids enjoy the PG rated movie "Inside Out".



Stated Meeting of Session
First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs
July 25, 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs held its stated meeting in the Gathering Place at 6:30 pm, July 25, 2023. Moderator Kip Murphy called the meeting to order, declared a quorum and opened with prayer.

Attendance: Ruling Elders: Sue Blevins, David Crouse, Barbara Jaquith, Jim Kochensparger, Jerry Root Guest: Lois Aroian
Absent/Excused: Kathy Bodzick, Chuck Huebner, Judy Patberg

The agenda and the minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Clerk's Report: A Special Called Congregational Meeting was held at 11:05 am, Sunday, July 23 to elect Nancy Rondel to the Nominating Committee and to approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with Pastor Kip Murphy. On Sunday, July 2, Communion was served with Pastor Kip Murphy officiating.

Treasurer's Report through June 30, 2023: Income for June 2023 was \$23,868. YTD income is down about \$10,000 from last year at this time. We are close to what was pledged and could have a shortfall of \$125,000 if no additional giving over that pledged comes in. Our current deficit of \$50,000 is close to what it was this time last year. There is \$75,000 set aside in an operating fund and spendable funds available at the Community Foundation should we need them. The Finance Team has been working on implementing cost savings.

Pastor's Report: Moved by Jerry, seconded by Barbara to approve the Baptism of Cosette Lydia Kwong, Daughter of Ashley-Brooke Sandall and David Kwong on August 6. Motion carried.

TEAM REPORTS:

Children, Youth and Family: Barb proposed the CDM App. be used across the board.

Finance: The Committee has been working to reduce costs:

- * Friday cleaning has been eliminated saving \$217 a week.
- * Disinfecting has been eliminated.
- * Elimination of the cable TV cost is being pursued.
- * The dedicated phone number will be eliminated.
- * The nursery will no longer be staffed saving \$60 a week.
- * \$172,00 in a money market fund, paying as little as 1%, will be moved to a CD paying \$8,800 a year.

Moved by Barbara, seconded by Jim to add a line item to the CYF budget to track the CDM+ add on App. Motion carried.

Missions: To fill the vacancy of Chairperson on the Mission Committee, decision was made to designate an Acting Chairperson from the Mission Committee to serve until a new Session Member is appointed and to ask Kathy Bodzick to serve as designated liaison to Session.

Personnel: Moved by Jim, seconded by Jerry to offer Brenda Hasse the 20 hour a week Office Manager position at \$20 per hour. Motion carried. Appreciation was expressed for all the work done by the Committee to fill the position.

Stewardship: David Crouse reported the 2022 reinstatement of pledge cards resulted in a 10% increase in giving and a return rate of 45%. Pledge cards will be used again in the 2023 campaign titled "Connectedness and Belonging".

Transitional Ministry: Jerry reported the Committee continues to wait to hear from a candidate who initially expressed some interest in the Transitional Ministry position.

Pulpit Supply: Sue Blevins will work with Judy Patberg of the Worship Committee to fill the pulpit beginning Sunday, August 27 and until a Transitional Pastor is found.

Motion to adjourn passed. Pastor Kip closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting: 6:30 pm, August 15, 2023.

Sue Blevins, Clerk of Session



Your transition team has been busy searching and interviewing for an interim minister. This message was sent by some of your deacons. We feel it is an excellent message and want to share it with everyone.

“As your deacon, I am aware that as we enter into this time of transition, we are all experiencing different feeling... worry about the uncertainty...sadness for the loss...concern for the change...but also excitement for new possibilities coming our way. This will be a time of adjustment and patience for us all as we anticipate the sometime lengthy and difficult process of finding new leadership.”

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the transition team. We are all serving together.

Your Transition Team
Sue Blevins, Jerry Root, Kathy Bodzick



Prayer List

Please honor the confidentiality of this list. If you have additional prayer requests, or feel it is time to remove your name or request, please contact the church office.

At Home/Long Term Care:

Shirley Clarke (Dave Clarke)
Michael Baity (Pineview)
Diane Burns (Pineview)

Sympathy to the Family and Friends of:

David Heinz (Kaye Frang)
Tom Spooner
Ciara Raymond (Judy Wilson)
Ed Stolt
Sharon Thorton
Kabel Sheehan (Karen Bezilla)
Doug Brautigam
Andy Lasley (Debra Root)
Marion Lamy (Laurie Ford)
Andrew Busch
Jerry Kaiser (Sharon Van Buren)
Jim Harp (Melanie Manary)
Bob Brown
Kathy Bultman
Dave Williams
Dave Borchers

General Support

Karen (David and Gail Clarke)
Midge Miller (David and Gail Clarke)
Linda Loepke
Dorothy Litzer
Lizann Donley
Nate Rice
Irene Wehner (David & Sharon Knoodle)
Angie Snyder
Malcolm Snyder (Ima Williams)
Travis & Debra Carpenter (Roy Tipton)
Carolyn & Jim Cloutier
Jacob Malley (Kathy McCreight)
Carrigan & Christian Warner (Kathy Bodzick)
Bette Shelton
Truda Kruger
Amy Richardson (Linda Rosenow)
Jamie & Deb Sears (Lizann Donley)
Jessica, Joseph, Jasper, V'en Venohr (Kathy Bodzick)

stay CONNECTED



First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs
7940 Cemetery Rd, Harbor Springs, Mi