



Real. Faith. Living Hope.

# The Bagpipe

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

**“Now we see in mirror, dimly,  
but then we will see face to face...”**

1 Corinthians 13:12

Like a binge-worthy cliffhanger where all you want to do is click that arrow for the next episode, our 2022 Advent celebration is upon us! Advent literally means, “somethin’s comin’” and tradition holds that we honor not only the coming celebration of our God’s incarnation in Jesus Christ, but also the coming day when Christ will return as he promised and all things will be made right with God.

But this year, at FPC-Holt, we find ourselves with an additional layer of advent. As you’ll see in more detail on the next page, given our current financial situation, the session has decided to pause the search process for our next full-time associate pastor. It raises many questions...How long will the wait be? Will we be able to thrive while we do? What does God have in store for us next?

It’s just the kind of thing for which the advent season prepares us.

Because advent is not just about the *act* of waiting, it’s about *how* we do it.

- We actively wait, preparing our hearts to receive our savior, committing our lives to making his way in the world.
- We wait leaning in, in full anticipation of his arrival because that’s what he said he would do – and we learned long ago and have experienced time and again without fail, that he is true to his Word.
- And we hope. Our waiting is grounded in the bedrock belief that the saving love of God for us cannot and will not be denied.

It’s a lesson in waiting that has application for us, not only with the pause on our associate pastor search but throughout the rest of our lives as well.

What’s the individual wait that you carry these days?

Whatever it is, as we step into this season together, may all our waiting be filled with purpose and confidence, knowing that the glorious episodes we have seen from the One for whom we ultimately wait are but a hint of that which is to come.

Yours in the waiting –

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick".

**DO YOU HAVE  
YOUR  
ADVENT BOX YET?**



**PICK ONE UP IN THE NARTHEX  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

This year's Advent box contains:

- an adult devotional
- sanctuary-at-home Advent wreath
- Family Advent devotional (if requested)
- a special gift for you!

# Session Decides to Pause Associate Pastor Search

After reviewing the budget for 2023, at a special November 15 called meeting, the Session discerned it was in the best interest of the congregation to put a pause on the search process for our next full time associate pastor.

While pledges and giving were faithful and consistent throughout the pandemic, they were not able to keep pace with rising costs. We were fortunate to receive PPP grants from the federal government in 2020 and 2021, which bridged that gap but we now find ourselves needing to increase our revenues in order to resume our two pastor leadership model.

Reflecting the session's commitment to this model, a line item for the associate pastor position will remain in the budget to keep our goal in front of us and allow us to track our progress (as soon as the deficit reaches zero, we're where we need to be!).

In the meantime, God has blessed us through the ministry that Rob Carlson brings in his 10 hour/week Parish Associate role and the Session is committed to seeking additional part-time assistance for pastoral coverage. These costs will be taken against the Associate Pastor salary line item in the budget.

The Session is confident that with the prayerful discernment, continued generosity and faithful efforts of the entire congregation, the way will be made clear in God's good time.

## FPC-Holt Congregational Meeting Summary

Here are some highlights of the Nov. 13 Congregational/ Corporation Meeting:

- Elder Paul Schmidt provided an update on the pledges received for 2023
- Members voted to approve the 2023 Terms of Call for Rev. Miller.
- The congregation approved the Nominating Committee's recommendation to elect:
  - Joe Hill to a one-year term as elder; and Jan Babcock, Susan Brown, Bob Darbor, Eileen Krawczynski, Gena Sizoo to three-year terms as elders; and
  - Breanna Carr to a one-year term as deacon; and Daniel Grady, Kirsten Grady, Gail Spitz, Cheryl Swager and Suzanne Trim to three-year terms as deacons
- HUGE thanks to our 2021 Nominating Committee

**ATTN: FOYOS!** (FAMILIES OF YOUNG ONES)

**3PM SAT, DEC 17<sup>TH</sup>**



WE WILL HAVE PLENTY OF POPCORN,  
SO JUST BRING PILLOWS,  
BLANKETS & SOMETHING TO  
DRINK!



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS MOVIE  
IN THE WATERWORKS AREA!



**ATTN: FOYOS!** (FAMILIES OF YOUNG ONES)

**2PM SUNDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**@ BURCHFIELD PARK**

**COME TUBING WITH US!**

YOU CAN RENT TUBES OR BRING YOUR OWN!



IN CASE WEATHER CONDITIONS  
AREN'T RIGHT, THE BACK-UP  
DATE IS JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>

881 GROVENBURG RD, HOLT



*FPC-Holt  
Families of Young Ones  
Winter Retreat*

February 17-19, 2023

Camp Wakanda 10396 Old State Road, Joannesburg

Cost: \$200/family

Contact Kirk if cost is prohibitive



[Click here to see last year's video](#)

[Click here for more details](#)

[Click here to register](#)

- snow sculptures
- sledding and skating
- star gazing
- Scrumptious Family Friendly meals
- Board games/puzzles/hot chocolate by the fire
- family focused Bible time
- interactive/intergenerational worship
- building up the Body of Christ!





# The Big Reveal

Sunday, November 27

10:00am First Sunday of Advent  
(Advent Boxes available after worship)

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 Longest Night Service

Saturday, December 24

7:00pm Candlelight and Carols Family Service (children construct the nativity)

10:00pm Candlelight and Communion Service (Chancel Choir)

Sunday, December 25

10:00am Livestream only

A "Stay as You Are" Christmas morning worship with your entire church family from the comfort of your own home (<https://youtu.be/rpOmB4MAkV8>)

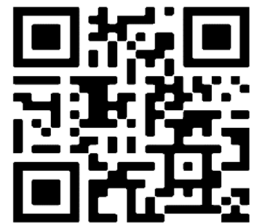
## 2022 POINSETTIAS DEADLINE TO ORDER IS DEC. 16!

Although the Hanging of the Greens is on Nov. 20, the final "greens" (aka white poinsettias) for the sanctuary will be in place for Dec. 18. This year's plants will be white with gold foil and you'll be able to take the plants home (or deliver to someone else) after the 10:00pm Christmas Eve service.



I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) at \$15 each, 2 for \$25.

You can [order your plants by clicking here](#), following the QR code or by using this form and put it in the offering plate with your payment, drop it off in the office or send it by mail. (Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Holt and write poinsettia on the memo line.)



In MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

In HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

A GIFT FOR \_\_\_\_\_

FROM \_\_\_\_\_

(print name as you want it printed in the tribute page on Dec. 18 & 24)



GRIEVING?

You are  
not alone.

IF YOU FEEL OVERWHELMED  
WITH GRIEF, THERE ARE  
PEOPLE TO WALK  
ALONGSIDE YOU.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US  
ON THE LONGEST NIGHT,  
DEC. 21 AT 7PM FOR A TIME  
OF REFLECTION,  
CONSOLATION AND  
COMFORT.

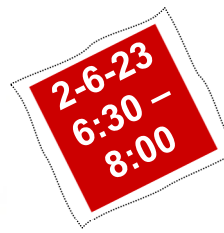


## VIPS Before Flying South!

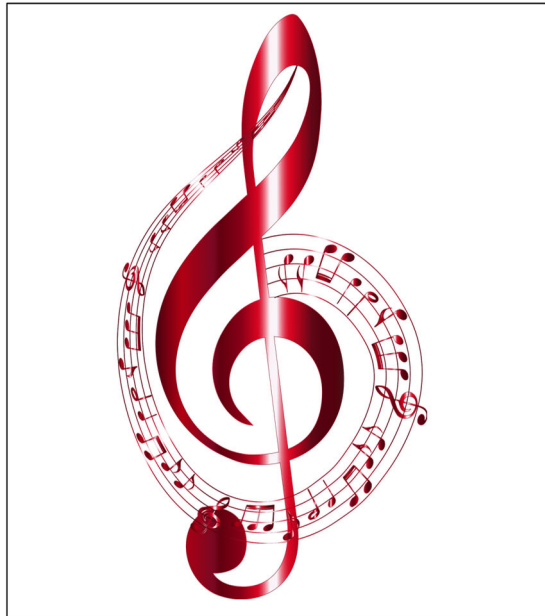
Regular VIPS activities will be on snow-battical in January and February (lunch bunch will continue), but there are still 2 more get-togethers in 2022:

- **Dec. 6:** ANNUAL FAVORITE with Mona Tropf! Join us in the sanctuary at noon to welcome the season with Christmas carols and cookies! Bring a dozen cookies for an exchange then sit back and enjoy the music!
- **Dec. 11:** We're headed to the Holiday Pops at the Wharton Center!

# LOVE



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN



# NOTES

All **Women of the Church** and their **guest(s) of any age** are invited to join us, **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**, for a fun-filled evening of fellowship while writing Love Notes to those close to us and followed by a time of singing favorite love songs accompanied by Mona Tropf in the Fellowship Hall.

We'll gather for Love Notes to write on white decorated cards (such as the example on the left) provided along with red envelopes and white address stickers for you to address and stick onto the envelopes. *(Be sure to bring your address book.)*

"Love" Forever stamps will be available to purchase so your notes may be mailed easily. We will also have some craft items for you to embellish your notes if you choose and young ones will have the same opportunity to write notes as well.

February 6, 2023  
6:30 – 8:00 PM

Favorite Love Songs? – Questions? Forward to:  
Marcia Howe 517.646.8486 howemarc@gmail.com

# Thank You Notes



To the Youth of FPC-Holt,  
Thank you all for donating your time and service at our Fall Harvest Dance. It was a great time! Your kindness and generosity are appreciated.

With gratitude,

Kellie Hansen  
Executive Director  
Capital Area Down's  
Syndrome Association

FPC Holt

Asking God to bless you in return for the thoughtfulness you've shown.

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers for me and my family.

Thank You  
Kew

# Welcome to FPC-Holt's New Bell Director: Jonathan Korpi!



Jonathan Korpi was born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the small mining town of Ishpeming. He earned a Bachelor of Science in history with a double minor in music and religious studies from Northern Michigan University. Jonathan then received his Master of Arts in history from Central Michigan University where his research interests included Christianity in the Middle Ages where he narrowed on the formation of the Benedictines, the Cistercian Reforms, and the preaching of the Second Crusade. During his undergraduate and parts of his graduate studies Mr. Korpi focused on the historical development theology of mutual ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan, and music history, primarily the music of the Reformation.

In the field of sacred music Jonathan studied organ under Dr. Nancy Redfern at Northern Michigan University, Dr. Nathan Knutson and Patrick Burkhart at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, MI, and later under Sue Pohlman at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming. He took one master organ class at CMU under Dr. Steve Egler and then studied under Dr. Mary Lou Nowicki to learn more on Anglican liturgical music. He has served as Bell Choir/ Assistant Director of Music at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming; Pianist, Organist, and Orchestra Director at St. Joseph Catholic Church; and substitute Organist for area churches. Previously he had performed, and guest conducted in several musical groups in Marquette County.

After moving to Mount Pleasant/Lansing areas, he has served as the Director of Music and Liturgy for St. Mary University Parish in Mt. Pleasant, Director of music and pulpit supply for Rosebush Presbyterian in Rosebush where he was ordained and installed as an elder, and Director of music for Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing. Jonathan is the current director of music for First Presbyterian Church of Lapeer (PCUSA) in Lapeer, Mi where he directs both the chancel choir and bell choir. Jonathan also serves as a district representative for the Michigan American Choral Director Association. Outside of church music Jonathan is an educator in the public and private school systems. He was the middle school general education teacher for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School LCMS in Saginaw, middle/high school ELA and History teacher at Huda Upper School in Farmington Hills, sixth-eight grade social studies and music teacher for Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy in Lansing, and currently is a high school World and U.S. History teacher at J.W. Sexton High School in Lansing.







## Recognize any faces? Might God be picturing yours in the 2023 group photo?

Since 1989, a contingent of missionaries, youth and adults of all ages and abilities, have made the trek from the U.S. to different sites in the Yucatan Peninsula -- and over 100 FPC-Holt members have been a part of the life-changing experience every year (except the "Covid years"). In that time, we have helped to build churches, medical centers, housing for water filtration projects, playgrounds and more.



There is a reason that most of the Tres M compadres have decided to return year-after-year and a group of our veterans has already signed up for the next trip. The trip will be from January 26 to February 4, 2023 and, although the details aren't finalized yet, the cost will not exceed \$1500 per person.

If you would like to know more about the trip or reserve your spot, please contact Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink at [jeff\\_weenink@live.com](mailto:jeff_weenink@live.com) or text 989.327.8860. Jeffrey has coordinated these trips for about 40 years and he's eager to go again after a 2-year break!

# FPC-HOLT YOUTH SIGN UP NOW FOR 2023 WINTER RETREATS

Cost: \$120 (M<sup>3</sup> can be used)

Jan. 13-15 (YIA - [click here](#))

Feb. 10-12 (MHYC - [click here](#))



## Well Done Mitchell Eithun!

We're proud to share Mitchell Eithun's recent good news that he will be honored by an article in *Reformed Worship* to be published in March.

Mitchell's submission was "Dedicating a Sacred Space" which is the liturgy we used three years ago when we dedicated the space in the new Fellowship Hall and kitchen make-over. [Click here to see a copy](#) of the full liturgy that knocked the socks off the *Reformed Worship* editors!



## Thank You for Your Service Rebecca Howe!

Before her unit's Turkey Bowl last week, Rebecca Howe reenlisted for 6 more years — and proud mom Marcia sent us the picture with the additional news that Rebecca passed the Army test and is now a Warrant Officer. Congrats Becca!!



**Blood Drive Here**

Dec. 21 from 1-6:45pm

Jan. 4 from 1-6:45pm

save lives.  
donate blood.

# Uniquely Uganda

handcrafts by ACT's artisans



## Christmas Shopping in Uganda Is Back in Holt This Sunday!

The annual sale of Uniquely Uganda Handcrafts will be on display on Sunday, Dec. 4, before and after worship and you'll find baskets, jewelry, dolls and other sewn items that make perfect gifts for Christmas, birthdays, weddings or "just because."

Your purchase will make your loved one smile, and help improve the lives of our brothers and sisters in Muko (100% of the sales go back to ACT Uganda.) Questions? Please email Diana Stubig ([dmstubig@gmail.com](mailto:dmstubig@gmail.com))



## The Giving Tree Has Room for More!

As you all know, our hearts are more open to giving of ourselves at Christmas time. Our congregation has been partnering with Advent House longer than I can remember, and our support has helped to feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless and educate the less fortunate in our area.

In the last few years, our support has included a sock tree which provides for warm, dry toes for folks who face the cold, winter conditions each day. For some of our Advent House friends, it is quite a luxury to be able to wear a pair of socks while one pair is in the washer.

This year, we would also like to expand the number and types of gifts we give and would welcome hats, headbands, scarves, gloves or mittens. Advent House doesn't serve as many families with children these days, so adult sizes for males and females are needed most.

The Giving Tree is in the Narthex and we're asking you to bring in your contributions by December 11 so that Advent House will have time to package the gift bags that each client receives on Christmas morning

Thank you for your amazing generosity and blessings to you!

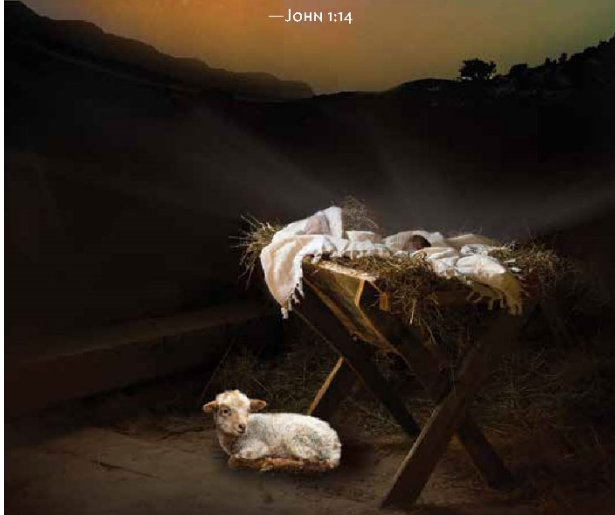
Susan Brown  
Witness Committee



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

And the Word became flesh  
and lived among us...

— JOHN 1:14



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

**50%**

of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



Rev. Sunjae Jung was living in Korea with his family when he was called to serve the Athens Korean Presbyterian Church near Atlanta. Shortly after the family arrived, COVID struck, leading to a severe financial impact on both his congregation and his family. The family found itself struggling to make ends meet. They applied for and received an Emergency Grant split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

*"I truly believe these programs have met Rev. Jung at a time of real need, and I'm hopeful good momentum is on his horizon so he can continue to lend his gifts towards ministry."*

— Lucas McCool, Assistance Program Operations Manager,  
PC(USA) Board of Pensions



**50%**

of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Samual Polanco credits his experience at the Menaul School as being instrumental in breaking down life's many barriers. That Jesus broke down dividing walls and welcomed everyone is very much a reality on the Menaul campus, especially during mission week. Samual and his classmates spent five days on the U.S.-Mexico border with the goal of building understanding and relationships.

*"We teach that faith is to be lived out in the world. Because so many young people today see the church as building walls to isolate and separate, we at Menaul are all about opening doors to the richness of God's creation."*

— John Sittler, Teacher, Menaul School

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...  
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



# WINTER BIRTHDAYS

2-Dec Jean Seward  
 3-Dec Tina Croley, Kara Fisher  
 4-Dec Steve Weinberger  
 7-Dec Bob Darbor  
 8-Dec Katie Youatt  
 9-Dec Derek Fratzke, Madaleine Malone  
 10-Dec Aaron Rustem  
 11-Dec Jesus Mendez  
 12-Dec Betty Holmer  
 13-Dec Audra Carr  
 15-Dec Zachary Rathbun  
 16-Dec Jim Stewart  
 19-Dec Mark Polzin  
 22-Dec Jim Tropf  
 25-Dec Lee Parks, Lazara Aragon Stanfel,  
 Susan Land  
 26-Dec Lyndsay Bowling  
 27-Dec Nancy Brock, Nicholas Bet, Ophelia  
 Plotnick  
 28-Dec Brianna Rupert  
 29-Dec Dorothy Westerhof  
 30-Dec Ben Brand

1-Jan Paw Hser, Tha Mee Nger, Steve Akright  
 2-Jan Andy Ingraham, Matthew Hetrick  
 5-Jan Bob Brown  
 6-Jan Leo Htae  
 7-Jan John Rudd  
 8-Jan Madeline LaFond  
 9-Jan Sara Bet  
 10-Jan Matt & Ben Lyth, Sophie Miller, Susan Celsor  
 11-Jan Breanna Carr, Phil Knapman, Thomas Heilman,  
 Theran Lloyd  
 12-Jan Pamela Brown  
 15-Jan Paul Schmidt  
 18-Jan Annika Hultin, McKenna Sutterlin  
 21-Jan Clementine Horgen, Joan Bauer  
 22-Jan Jackie Land  
 25-Jan Allison Bodell  
 28-Jan Kathleen Goodrich, Kristin Lindeen  
 29-Jan Roger Stubig  
 30-Jan Lois Furry  
 31-Jan January Paw, Ethan Antieau

## ANNIVERSARIES

12/3 Tim & Christine Heilman  
 12/6 Steven & Kim Lyth  
 12/7 Denis & Betsy Zietlow  
 12/13 Leo & Judy Holmes  
 12/16 Andy Ingraham & Beth Gleason  
 12/18 Paul & Lois Schmidt  
 12/20 Derek & Flor Fratzke  
 12/28 Tom & Beth Byerley  
 1/6 Matt & Allison Turner  
 1/15 David & Gena Sizoo  
 1/28 Stuart & Kathleen Goodrich



# Christmas Eve at FPC-Holt

7:00PM

At 7pm on Christmas Eve, families of all types (but especially those with children), will carol our way by candlelight through the Christmas story as our children assemble an on-the-spot nativity scene (each child who wants to help will be given a piece of the nativity to bring forward).

10:00pm

With candlelight and communion, the Chancel Choir, Ringers of the Kirk and FPC-Holt Brass will lead us in bringing "Glory to the Newborn King!"



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of HOLT  
2021 N. Aurelius Rd.  
Holt, MI 48824

Address Service Requested