



# First Press Magazine

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## From Pastor Laurie

*It is solved by walking.*      --St. Augustine

As we continue to walk, step by step, we find our way forward, with God's guiding hand leading us. And picking us up when we fall or falter. Our FPC pace is picking up and our hearts are being lifted as we make progress against the COVID pandemic. We can feel it in the air. And in this issue that is brimming with beginnings: new human beings, new sanctuary paraments, a new Habitat House under construction, new remote worshippers, a new Pizza Garden, and a new bicycle ride. We also were able to revive in person Vacation Bible School. Major refurbishment of our Steinway Piano and bringing our Labyrinth back up to its original beauty help to propel us forward. Feast your eyes and heart on the pictures and stories in this fall issue that give testimony to the Divine Love which brings new life and bright hope for tomorrow.



## LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday Oct. 23	Service of Healing and Wholeness
Sunday Nov. 20	Stewardship Dedication & Deacon Hosted Fellowship Meal
Sunday Nov. 27	First Sunday of Advent

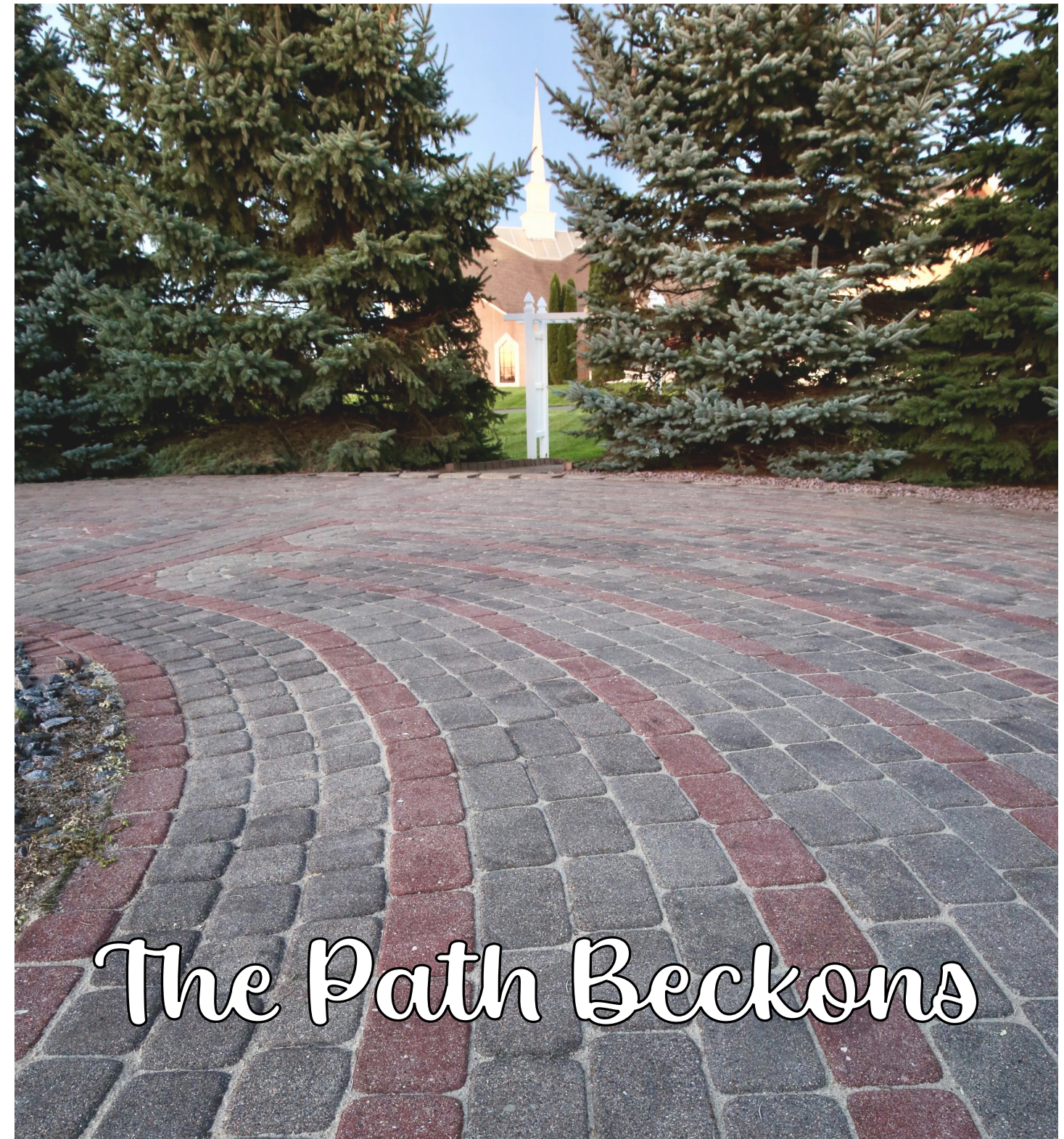
# First



# Press

The Magazine of First Presbyterian Church — Marshfield

Fall 2022



# Beginnings



Be sure to check out the beautiful new paraments created by **Beth Walsh** and **Kathy Philips**.

## Introducing!!!



**Josie Kathleen Phillips** (middle name in honor of great grandma) born on Sept 9 to Rebecca (Schulz) and Eric Phillips. She joins big brother Teddy.



**Lincoln Marie Neumann** born to Courtney (Schulz) and Christian Neumann on Aug 3 (great grandma Kitty's birthday). She joins big brother Walker.

# Outreach Retreat

**Outreach Committee** used its biennial retreat on August 17 to discern a vision that calls us to action at this time. The group reviewed current activities, considered new initiatives, and discussed realistic priorities for the coming years. A sample of ideas considered: finding ways to seek more congregational input, involving youth in Outreach activities, developing new teams, and improving communication.



Mark T Nelson, Mike Schulein, Linda Hitchman, Kristine Johaneck, Dan Burk, Pastor Laurie, and Lisa Carroll.



## Looking Back At You! (and looking good!)

We rejoice in the fact that our members and friends at a distance can now join us in worship! Say hello to **Reverend Robert Underwood**, father of Jan Clouse, who joins us from West Virginia, and **Carolyn Crump**, mother of Dan Crump, who joins us from Indiana.



Refugee Resettlement Marshfield Team #3 (including members from FPC, Good Shepherd Lutheran, and Wesley Methodist) readied an apartment on Upham Street for the first family, set to arrive soon. A dedicated and energetic crew cleaned while another equally dedicated crew moved furniture and household supplies in. Now we wait for the refugee family to arrive! Thanks to everyone who donated time and energy and household items to this amazing project.



Tracy Olson, Chair of Housing and Welcome

# Faith Stories



Kristine grew up in Cedar Grove, WI, and attended church in nearby Oostboyan, a Dutch enclave south of Sheboygan. People lived with a mutual duty to each other. "You don't put yourself above others, you don't show off." At the age of twelve following VBS, Kristine made a personal decision to be a Christian. Following Jesus made sense then, and she has been faithful to that decision ever since.

Her dad passed away when she was a college freshman, compelling her to study at the local two year UW campus, but she eventually left town and graduated from Coe College in Iowa with a degree in music education. After two years of teaching in WI, she joined the Presbyterian Mission program and taught in Egypt for three years. She met husband, Bob, after returning to the states. They moved to Marshfield in 1988 to teach in the public schools, and joined FPC as a matter of course. Their kids, Paul, Steven, and Sarah were all born and raised here.

## Kristine Johaneck

Music and faith are closely related for Kristine. We are all loved unconditionally by God, but we must reflect that love in mutual duty to one another. In music, accolades are not deserved just for showing up, but earned through a commitment to discipline. The musical games she taught in elementary school helped students learn resilience through understanding that, win or lose, they are still an important part of the class. Performance taught them to see the value of discipline, and to accept the end product, as is. If it wasn't as good as expected, it doesn't mean you are a bad person, but maybe you can practice harder next time. The lesson is to balance basic goodness, deep commitment, high expectations, and grace when we fail to meet them.

Kristine wishes the younger generation would join us at FPC, but the ultimate hope is "that we see where we need to go, and they see where they need to go, and somehow we all meet in the middle."

# Green Team—Faith in Action

After a long summer of tilling, planting, mowing, and weeding, we have a lot to celebrate!

A bounding harvest of books on tending to plants, animals, water, and soil await you on the bottom shelf of the cabinets on the West side of the library. Please avail yourself of an opportunity to know more about praising planet Earth.

The prairie's nascent colors include Queen Anne's Lace, Black Eyed Susans, monarchs and other varieties of butterflies. A trio of cranes dropped in to enjoy the view. Along with weeding and care for new growth, the prairie needs loving gazes, lots of prayers, and wheelbarrows of patience.

Our Pizza Garden, planted by some of the youngest in our congregation, gave us an opportunity to share in a communal "pizza fest" while also demonstrating the interdependence we humans share with healthy and clean organic soil. Several of these young gardeners tried more greens on their pizzas than ever before.



Become a Greenie and join our team ~ all are welcome.



## Close-up

### Chris and Sharon Schneider

Chris grew up in Stratford, a faithful member of the Catholic Church, just like his parents. Sharon grew up in Marshfield, a faithful member of the Lutheran Church, just like her parents. At 16, they met each other working at the Ponderosa restaurant in Marshfield. Dating commenced and the chase ended in marriage. Each continued in the faiths in which they were raised, with sons, Zachary and Jacob, growing up Catholic.

The boys, "Grown men, now," Sharon adds, learned welding and truck maintenance, respectively, and flew the coop to establish lives and loves of their own, leaving Chris and Sharon with an empty nest. Setting out for the next chapter, they joined the square-dancing club that meets at the Lincoln town hall. They are now club vice-presidents and have organized camping events for the club. The dancing

allows emotions to be expressed without words. Touching in the dance provides the physical connection that everybody needs. And missed steps bring no judgment at all, only friendly laughter.

Not long after joining the dance club, Chris and Sharon decided to shop for a church they could attend together. After visiting several churches that were not all that friendly, they experienced the FPC welcome and knew they had found something special. Pastor Laurie's sermons seemed to touch them in ways that could only be meant for them. It was not long before Chris and Sharon agreed to serve as deacons to offer the welcome to others that they had received. For Chris, it's the golden rule, "Do unto others..." Treat folks the way you want to be treated. The warm smiles, as they hold the door or offer coffee, say it all.

# The Labyrinth



Guest Contributor  
Brian Ewert

Going back to the dawn of recorded history, humans have sought ways to quiet their minds and focus their attention. As religions developed, spiritual practices were incorporated into stories and structures. Focused walking is one of the spirituality techniques. A structure that facilitates mindful walking is a labyrinth.

In our current definitions, a distinction is made between labyrinths and mazes. A labyrinth has one defined path from the beginning to the center. There are no dead ends; you cannot get lost or stuck.

The labyrinth was installed in 2004 on the west side of the FPC property. It was constructed with many helping hands, wheelbarrows, and shovels in memory of **Sharon Groff**. Sharon completed her life of 48 years in 2003 due to breast cancer. As she figuratively walked towards the end of her life, she also physically walked the labyrinth installed at her home west of Marshfield.



Sharon walking the labyrinth at home

### A threefold spiritual path:

#### Cleansing [Purgation]

Walk in. With each step, let go of what blocks us in life from God. Repeat a phrase of scripture or a prayer, asking for healing for oneself or another.

#### Rest [Illumination]

When you get to the center, find a place to rest in God, a time for insights, clear-seeing, openness, receptivity to whatever God may bring to you—a word, sensation, feeling, image or sense of rest and calm. Experience of forgiveness and of forgiving. Sit, lay down, or walk in the center's circle, staying in the center as long as desired or needed.

#### Taking on [Union]

Walk out. Experience a sending forth, committing to a specific act in one's life ahead, taking on peacemaking and justice seeking as a frame for the days ahead.

Friends and members of FPC accompanied her on this journey.

The FPC labyrinth has thirteen circuits. The pattern matches the one in the cathedral in Chartres, France, which was built 800 years ago. It is registered on the Worldwide Labyrinth Locator at <https://labyrinthlocator.com> where it has been found and used by patients and their families traveling to Marshfield Clinic for treatment.



Ken Zittleman pauses to check the math



Mary Miech brings more brick

There are many ways to walk the labyrinth. Children often enjoy running through the arcs and turns. More meditative approaches can also be taken. The walk can be focused on the present moment with a releasing of past and future thoughts.



Many hands make light work! Thanks to all who helped create this legacy for us to enjoy!



# STEINWAY Rededication Recital



**Dan Kayhart**  
Debussy's "Claire De Lune"



**Morgan Strzelecki, Greg Reierson, Gigi Plautz (piano)**  
"The Prayer," Sager/Foster



**Kathy Biederwolf**  
"Elegy," Felix Mendelssohn



**Josh and Saydi Olson, "My Life"**  
"Here, There, and Everywhere,"

From Pastor Laurie's introduction:  
"Worship is the heartbeat of our FPC faith community, and our Steinway piano is at the center of our worship life. We have God and many, many people to thank for the success of this project and campaign. Everyone who donated funds to cover the financial cost, we thank you. We especially thank **Don Zais** for his matching gift in honor of his wife, **Lyn**. We also thank **Beth Walsh** who chaired the Worship Committee and championed this project from its beginning to its successful ending."



**Gigi Plautz**  
"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"



**Cyndi Penker**  
"Pachelbel's Canon"



**Kristine Johaneck**  
"Etudes," Friedrich Burgmüller



**Antonio Koehn, Dan Kayhart (piano)**  
"Czardas," Vittorio Monti



**Elliot Johnson**  
"Minuet in G," Bach



**Dave and Lisa Carroll**  
"Jupiter," Gustav Holst



**Henry Johnson**  
"Maple Leaf Rag," Scott Joplin



**Laurie Brubaker Davis, Kathy Biederwolf (piano)**  
"Vocalise," Rachmaninoff



## Marshfield Area Habitat for Humanity — 2022 Build

Marshfield Area Habitat is building it's 17th new home for **Ryan and Mellisa Kuzay** and their 3 young children (we call them a Partner Family) this summer and fall. Ryan is a disabled veteran, who was seriously injured in Afghanistan. The home is being built at 301 E. Blodgett, is currently being constructed and will be completely handicapped accessible for Ryan. Current plans are to have the family in the home by early December. Ryan and Mellisa have been involved with



the entire build and continue to assist every work day to contribute what is called "sweat equity". We have had numerous volunteers assisting with the building of the home, as well as members of FPC: **Bruce Lautenschlager, Dale Kramer, Bob Davis, Toney Bookhart, Greg Reierson and Don Zais**. We sincerely thank them for their contribution to this worthy build.

As this particular build is more costly than any other build we have done, we would welcome any financial contributions to help defray costs for the family. Contributions can be sent to Marshfield Area Habitat, PO Box 784, Marshfield or given to Don Zais.



## Sailing the High C's



**VBS** returned to our August schedule this year! FPC partnered with Faith Lutheran, and Good Shepherd Lutheran once again. Sophia and Kendyl from Luther Park Bible Camp, provided fun, high energy leadership.

The **Bike Ride and Picnic** happened on Sunday, September 4th. The route went from FPC to Yellowstone Park in Hewitt where hot ham sandwiches with all the fixin's were waiting. What a great way to kick off the fall season!

