



First
Presbyterian
Church *of Ann Arbor*

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY *after* PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

8:00 & 9:30 am Worship



The Prophet Jonah Before the Walls of Ninevah by Rembrandt

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

NEW TO FIRST PRES?

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad. Sign it then pass it down to others.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Join us for our New Member Class TODAY at 4 pm at the home of Beth Gerwig in downtown Ann Arbor. For those who have fast-tracked, this gathering is the next step in the joining process. Child care is available upon request. For more information or the address, contact Rev. Mel Rogers at mrogers@fpca2.org.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children are always welcome in worship! You will find children’s Bibles in the pews and activity resources in the Narthex. We provide childcare for children (infant to 5 years old) from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm on the first floor. If you need assistance, please alert an usher.

PRAYER

If you are carrying any personal burdens or joys this morning, the Prayer Team will be available following worship in the Prayer and Compassion Room—just outside the Sanctuary doors near the Lounge.

FELLOWSHIP

One of the easiest ways we live out our faith is through hospitality. A smile, a greeting, or a brief conversation can help guests and longtime members alike feel welcomed. Join us after worship for fellowship time on the Circle Terrace! Our fellowship hour assistant is **Cathy King**. Cookie bakers are **Barbara Brewster**, **Linda Lampman**, and **Nancy Oliver**.

TODAY AT FIRST

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Worship Monteith Hall
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Worship Sanctuary
10:25 am –11:00 am	Lemon Chapel Singers (2nd-8th grade) Lemon Chapel
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Fellowship Social Hall
11:00 am –12:00 pm	Faith Formation Classes for All Ages Classrooms
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	New Member Class Gerwig Home
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Youth Group Youth Room

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First Presbyterian worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online. If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, please speak with an usher.



8:00 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Opening Voluntary *Story* Sergei Prokofiev

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

*Call to Worship

O, give thanks to the Lord;
We give thanks for all God’s wonderful works.
Like manna in the wilderness,
God continually provides daily bread, even when there appears to be no way.
Like water gushing from a rock,
God quenches the thirst of all who find themselves in a desert.
From generation to generation,
We rejoice that you, O God, are our rock and our redeemer.

*Hymn 396 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* HOLY MANNA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that, like the Israelites in the wilderness of sin, we far too often fail to put our trust in you. We complain, doubt, and question your steadfast love and faithfulness. We let fear and anxiety consume us. In doing so, we adopt a scarcity mindset and put our faith in human principalities. Forgive us, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, so that we may look to the hills and stand firm in our belief that our help comes from you....

Silent Prayer

Kyrie SINGAPURA



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Assurance of Grace

*Passing of the Peace

*Congregational Response

IN BABILONE

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:2-15

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

John Curran

RESPONDING & SEALING

Congregational Response

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Elan

Sergei Prokofiev

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

LAND OF REST

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Communion of the People

When receiving each element, please respond as follows:
The bread of life. **Thanks be to God.**
The cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

*Hymn 81	<i>Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken</i>	AUSTRIAN HYMN
*Charge and Benediction		
Closing Voluntary	<i>Badinage</i>	Sergei Prokofiev





9:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Celebrate with Ringing
Sanctus Ringers

Michael Mazzatenta

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Faith in Action

*Call to Worship

Praise the God of all Creation.

**We worship the One who calls us,
who speaks with a different voice,
who offers an unexpected invitation.**

Celebrate the presence of our loving God.

**Rejoice, the realm of God is near;
let us worship the God who meets us here.**

*Hymn 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of peace, we don't want to let you all the way in, at least not this morning, that would be too much. There are parts of us we don't fully want to talk about, even with you. The angry parts are too much. The sad parts are too deep. The jaded parts are too sharp. How could we ever hold these parts in full honesty before you? How could we let a light like yours shine on us? We are afraid something inside of us will break when the light hits it. Come, meet us in the messiness of our lives, with your gentle grace. Renew and forgive us with your compassion....

Silent Prayer

Kyrie

SINGAPURA



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Assurance of Grace

*Passing of the Peace

*Congregational Response

IN BABILONE

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 145:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A Conversation with Young Disciples

Please join in singing as the children come forward.
**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Second Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

The grass withers, the flower fades;
The word of the Lord endures forever.

Sermon

Mark Mares

RESPONDING

Anthem

A Prayer for Compassion
Chancel Choir

Gwyneth Walker

Lead me, Lord, lead me in the paths of peace.
Make your way plain before my eyes.
For it is you, Lord, You, and You, alone, who can make me to dwell in safety.
Lead me always to listen, teach me to live with compassion,
That when I come to a place of rest only by your grace,
Not by my merit, no praise be mine, but let me keep a heart that still can feel,
And eyes that still can weep.
Oh, my brother, oh, my sister, all who live in peril for you,
Let me keep a heart that still can feel for you, and eyes that still can weep.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
Sanctus Ringers

arr. Cathy Moglebust

*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

Commissioning of Iona Pilgrimage

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

Litany of Parting

Students (2nd through 8th grade) are invited to exit the Sanctuary for
Lemon Chapel Singers (children and youth choir).



Congregation: Children:

May God be with you there. May God be with you here.

*Hymn 81

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Variations on AUSTRIA

John Knowles Paine



A congregational meeting will be held following 9:30 am worship for the purpose of electing church officers.

Leading in Worship

8:00 AM WORSHIP

LEADING IN WORSHIP

John Curran
Sarah Rutherford
Cheryl Gulbranson, *Lay Reader*

MUSICIANS

Josh Marzan, *Pianist*

9:30 AM WORSHIP

LEADING IN WORSHIP

John Curran
Mark Mares
Sandra McDonald
Sarah Rutherford
Jack Santinga, *Lay Reader*

MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir
Sanctus Ringers
David Hufford, *Organist*
David VanderMeer, *Minister of Music & Fine Arts*

USHERS DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

RO Andrus	Dick Carlisle	Martin Swindle
Keith Bilby	Carol Carter	Bill Wood
Sheila Bilby	Joe Schmidt	
Jim Cameron	Connie Swindle	

FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their daughter, Anne Christine Anderson, born September 21, 1961, by her parents Bill and Betty Anderson.

The rosebud placed in the chancel today celebrates the birth of Cornelius James Joseph Lelli born on August 19, 2026. Parents are Catie and Chris Lelli, and grandparents are Susan and Jim Holmes. We give thanks to God for this precious new life and join in prayers of joy and blessing for the family.

Today in Faith Formation

CHILDCARE & NURSERY _____

AGES 5 AND YOUNGER
9:15 AM TO 12:15 PM, ROOM 101

CHILDREN & YOUTH _____

LEMON CHAPEL SINGERS
(2ND-8TH GRADE)
10:25 AM, LEMON CHAPEL

NURSERY - 3 YEAR OLDS
11:00 AM, RM 101

4 & 5 YEAR OLDS
11:00 AM, RM 102

K - 5TH GRADE
11:00 AM, LEMON CHAPEL

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
11:00 AM, LOWER LEVEL 4

ADULTS _____

EXPLORING THE FAITH
Called to Serve and Called to Speak
11:00 AM, LEWIS ROOM & LIVESTREAM

Learn about two recent developments in the life of our congregation. Resident Minister John Curran will introduce himself and share about his call to ministry and our Residency program, facilitated by Diane Hockett. Sidonie Smith will lead a discussion of the Session statement “Called to Speak” and the PC(USA)’s proposed new confession and a new statement on white Christian nationalism.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE
One True God: Israel, Monotheism, and the Roots of Global Faith
11:00 AM, FRENCH ROOM
ZOOM: [US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86528108491](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86528108491)
Host: Ed Koster

Explore the history of ancient Israel through the Old Testament, tracing the emergence and enduring story of belief in one God, creator and sustainer of all things. We’ll consider how this faith took shape in the ancient world and how Christianity fits within this long history shared by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

FIRST FRIENDS
Three Ideas for Communicating Across the Political Divide
11:00 AM, CURTIS ROOM
ZOOM: [US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89503587438](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503587438)

Join us for an engaging session designed to help you navigate tough political conversations. We’ll watch journalist Isaac Saul’s talk, *3 Ideas for Communicating Across the Political Divide*, followed by a facilitated group discussion on media framing, political language, and practical strategies for listening across differences.

Announcements

ADULTS

Grief Conversations

4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH
1-2 PM, ZOOM

Join us for one hour of conversation about grief. The monthly online support group meets on the fourth Monday, 1- 2 pm on zoom (<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87021629930>), facilitated by Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers.

CARE

Resources for Families Navigating a Loved One's Addiction

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
7-8 PM, ZOOM
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84084573779](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84084573779)

First Pres member and addiction expert Lisa Ruggeberg will offer practical, compassionate resources for families supporting a loved one struggling with addiction. This one-hour virtual session will provide tools, clarity, and guidance for those who may feel overwhelmed or alone. Stephen Ministers and anyone interested in this topic are welcome.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Labyrinth Walk

SATURDAY, SEPTMEBER 26
10 AM - 3 PM, 7654 W ELLSWORTH RD

The Hilligs invite you to walk their labyrinth. No sign-up is needed. For more information, contact Kathy Hillig at hilligk@umich.edu.

Holy Chow Dinner Groups

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Looking to make new friends and deepen connections at First Pres? Join a small dinner group this fall! Hosts provide the main dish, while guests are assigned a side, salad, appetizer, dessert, or other contribution. Alcohol may be served. Sign up online at fpca2.org.

SERVE

Join the Local Mission Workgroup

Are you interested in finding ways to make God's love visible in our community? The Local Mission Work Group is looking for people who are passionate about serving our neighbors and finding meaningful ways to respond to local needs. The group meets via Zoom once a month for one hour. For more info, contact Diane Knibbs, dbreckle@umich.edu or Mel Kesterson, melkesters@gmail.com.

Volunteer for Food Rescue this Football Season!

Our Food Rescue/Feeding Our Neighbors Program need volunteers for the 2026 football season. Sign up: fpca2.org/local

Winter Coat Drive

Help share the warmth this winter! From October 3–31, we are collecting new and gently used winter coats for children and adults. Please make sure coats are clean and have all buttons and zippers in working order. Donations may be dropped off at the Welcome Center.

Disaster Relief in Nepal

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding to severe flash floods and landslides in Nepal caused by a glacier collapse. PDA has sent an emergency grant for food, medicine, and shelter, and will support long-term recovery. To support relief efforts, give online or mark checks "Nepal" and place them in the offering plate.

This Week at First

- Mon Sept 21 **Prayer Group** | 9:00 am | Zoom
- Mon Sept 21 **Presbyterian Women Coordination Team** | 9:30 am | Curtis Room
- Mon Sept 21 **Sanctus Ringers** | 7:00 pm | Handbell Room
- Mon Sept 21 **Stephen Ministry Continuing Education** | 7:00 pm | Monteith Hall
- Tues Sept 22 **Joyful Ringers** | 2:00 pm | Handbell Room
- Tues Sept 22 **UKirk Campus Ministry** | 6:00 pm | Vance Room, Social Hall
- Wed Sept 23 **Barclay Bible Study** | 10:30 am | Vance Room
- Wed Sept 23 **Local Mission Workgroup** | 6:30 pm | Zoom
- Thur Sept 24 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** | 7:00 pm | Monteith Hall
- Sat Sept 26 **Food Rescue** | TBD | Michigan Stadium
- Sat Sept 26 **Labyrinth Walk** | 10 am - 3 pm | Hillig Home

All meeting Zoom links can be found online at fpca2.org/calendar

Before You Book the Room...

Planning a ministry, group, or congregational event? Start with the Facility Request Form (fpca2.org/quicklinks)! It helps us keep the calendar tidy, avoid room conflicts, and make sure your space is ready to go with enough time for setup and cleanup. Please submit your request before making plans or advertising your event. All requests are subject to availability and approval. Thanks for helping us keep our church spaces and our calendars running smoothly!