



First  
Presbyterian  
Church *of Ann Arbor*

TWELFTH SUNDAY *after* PENTECOST

August 31, 2025

9:30 am Worship

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The Poor Invited to the Feast - JESUS MAFA



9:30 AM WORSHIP | AUGUST 31, 2025  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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*\* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,  
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

GATHERING

- Opening Voluntary
- Hymn Sing
- Pouring of the Water
- Welcome and Life in the Church
- Faith in Action
- Bicentennial Celebration

**\*Call to Worship**  
We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,  
**And the road unfolding even today.**  
We honor those who have gone before us,  
**For everything grown and given.**  
We celebrate who we are today,  
**And welcome the possibilities before us.**  
We gather to worship the God,  
**Of yesterday, today and tomorrow.**  
Lord, you have been with us for these 199 years!  
**Grant us praise, power, and prayer to serve for many more. Amen!**

\*Hymn 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

Call to Confession

**Prayer of Confession**  
Holy God,  
**We embrace your forgiveness on our long journey as a community of faith:**  
When we have not offered your radical inclusivity and extravagant love,  
**Or put comfort and tradition over challenging injustice.**  
When we have failed to speak truth to power and confront the world's inequities,  
**Or embrace the full spectrum of God's creation.**  
When we have doubted that you are here, questioned your guidance, and turned from your call.  
**When fear and anxiety have overshadowed our trust in your love.**  
When we have failed to be a beacon of your light to the world.

God of boundless grace and forgiveness, sustain us and our church—and call us to so much more. Renew our commitment to all that is good....

Silent Prayer

Kyrie

Lee Afdahl

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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

Assurance of Grace

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Congregational Response

NETTLETON

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11

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

A Conversation with Young Disciples

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!**  
**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

Sermon

## RESPONDING

### A Litany of Thanksgiving for our 199th Anniversary

O Lord our God, for the vision of those who planned for this congregation, and for the commitment and dedication of all who served together at the time of origin,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who have served so faithfully in leadership positions as Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and Staff Members,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who have willingly given of their efforts to teach, encourage, counsel and sponsor,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who have been such a part of our fellowship for so many years, and now serve you in the church triumphant in heaven,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For the ways in which we have been able to care for one another, support one another on the journey of life, and give strength to one another,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For baptisms we've celebrated, professions of faith we have heard, and answers to prayer that we have experienced,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For a congregation that has always desired to worship you faithfully and vibrantly, hearing your Word, singing your praise, and seeking your strength,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For a commitment to remain true to your Word in a world of confusing and conflicting voices,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For generosity that has enabled us to reach far beyond this community with the word and witness of the Gospel,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For hundreds of children and youth who have been here as they were trained in the ways of the Lord and now serve God around the world,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

And for a free and prospered land that has given us opportunity to thrive and worship and serve for the sake of your Kingdom,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord!**

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts

## Offertory

*Guide My Feet*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Tawn Thomas

Oh guide my feet, while I run this race,  
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

Stand by me, while I run this race,  
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

Oh Lordy, hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race,  
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

I'm your child, while I run this race,  
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

Guide my feet, till the race is over.  
Stand by me, till the race is done.  
Hold my hand, while I'm crossing' over.  
I'm your child, lead me as I run.

Oh Lordy, guide me feet.  
Oh Lordy stand by me.  
Lord hold my hand.  
Lord I'm your child.  
'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

## \*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

### 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

### \*Hymn 755

*Alleluia! Laud and Blessing*

WEISSE FLAGGEN

### \*Charge and Benediction

**Closing Voluntary** *Wet nur den lieben Got lässt walten, BWV 647*  
(If thou but trust in God to guide thee)

J.S. Bach

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

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First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive and diverse faith community, led by the Holy Spirit, who welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to explore, nurture, and deepen their faith. Through worship, shared discussion, participation, and service, we aim to make God's love visible in our congregation, community, and world.

## 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. Interested in membership? Contact Rev. Rogers, [mrogers@fpca2.org](mailto:mrogers@fpca2.org).

## Leading in Worship

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### LEADING IN WORSHIP

Mary Jones  
Mark Mares  
Hanna Richards  
Melissa Anne Rogers  
Sarah Rutherford  
Donna V. Smith  
Brad Taylor

### MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir  
David Hufford, *Organist*  
David VanderMeer, *Minister of Music and Fine Arts*

### USHERS

Joe Schmidt  
Angela Yang  
Hassan Barzani  
Bruce Thomson

### FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Dave Deromedi and Jennifer Day's wedding anniversary.

A rosebud is placed in the chancel today to celebrate the birth of Miller Jack Harrison, born to Caryn and Caleb Harrison on July 9, 2025. Grandparents are Dave VanderMeer and Brent Ivey. We give thanks to God for this precious new life and join in prayers of joy and blessing for the family.

The Litany of Thanksgiving is adapted from the words of Cynthia de Jong about the 75th anniversary of the Neland Ave. CRC in Grand Rapids, MI

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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.*



# Announcements

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## ALL CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

### All-Church Potluck

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**  
**12:00 PM, SOCIAL HALL**

Join us on Sunday, September 7, at 12:00 PM in the Social Hall as we celebrate the beginning of a new season of ministry and fellowship! Bring a favorite dish to share—main dishes, sides, salads, and desserts are all welcome. Drinks will be provided. Come enjoy good food, reconnect with friends, and welcome the season together!

### All-Church Tailgate

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**  
**5:30–7:00 PM**

Come celebrate with food, fun, and fellowship! We'll provide hot dogs, burgers, veggie patties, and drinks (lemonade and water). Please sign up to let us know what dish you'll bring to share. Feeling competitive? Join the Bucket Golf Scramble for a lighthearted round of fun! This gathering is sponsored by the Children & Family and Youth & Family Ministry Work Groups. Sign up: [fpca2.org](https://fpca2.org)

## FAITH FORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

### Children & Youth Faith Formation

We're excited to begin a new season of Faith Formation for children and youth beginning Sunday, September 7, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Families, please take a moment to complete the brief registration form ([fpca2.org/children](https://fpca2.org/children)) so we can prepare a safe and welcoming space for all.

### Journeys Bible Study

Journeys Bible Study is gender inclusive. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 1:00 - 2:30 in the Vance Room. Resident Minister facilitated. Study topics

incorporate poetry, art, music, creative writing, books, group engagement activities. For more information, contact Beth Gerwig, [bgerwig@comcast.net](mailto:bgerwig@comcast.net).

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

#### A Conversation with Rev. Michael Lindvall and Madeline Lindvall Radman

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**  
**11:00 AM**

Join mystery novelist duo M. M. Lindvall—the writing partnership of Rev. Michael Lindvall, former pastor of First Pres, and his daughter Madeline Lindvall Radman—for a fascinating conversation on the long and intriguing relationship between mystery fiction, Christian faith, and Scripture. Together they will share insights into their writing process, the goals that shape their work, and reflections on their three published novels in the series (*Ashes to Ashes*, *Earth to Earth*, *Dust to Dust*). They will also offer a glimpse into future writing plans and, if time allows, read an excerpt from one of their books.

For more information on adult faith formation classes this fall, visit [fpca2.org/adultformation](https://fpca2.org/adultformation).

## MATURE MINISTRIES \_\_\_\_\_

### Mature Ministries Fall Kick-off: A Double-Header Event

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**  
**11:00 AM, SOCIAL HALL**

Join us as we launch the 2025–26 Mature Ministries season with a special double-header program!

#### 11:00 AM | Scott Ellsworth

Author and historian Scott Ellsworth will share insights from his latest book, *Midnight on the Potomac: The Last Year of the Civil War, the Lincoln Assassination, and the Rebirth of America*. A book signing will follow.

Scott, a member of First Pres and a professor at the University of Michigan, has also authored *The Secret Game*, *The World Beneath Their Feet*, and *Death in a Promised Land*.

**12:00 PM | Lunch**

Enjoy a catered lunch (\$15 per person; scholarships available). Registration required, [fpca2.org/matureministries](http://fpca2.org/matureministries).

**12:45 PM | Jim Johnson**

Jim Johnson, Director of Greenfield Village and Curator of Historic Structures & Landscapes, will present on the Jackson Home in Selma, Alabama—a pivotal site in the Civil Rights Movement where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others strategized the Selma to Montgomery marches and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Come for an enriching day of history, fellowship, and inspiration as we begin a new season together!

MISSION 

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**Volunteer for Food Rescue this Football Season!**

Since 2011, our Food Rescue/Feeding Our Neighbors Program has delivered thousands of pounds of ready-to-serve food from Big Ten games to local organizations fighting food insecurity.

We need volunteers for the 2025 football season:

**Game Day Pickup:** Sort and collect food after the game (2 hrs, 6 people)

**Monday Load:** Help load the truck at 9:00 a.m. (30 min, 2 people)

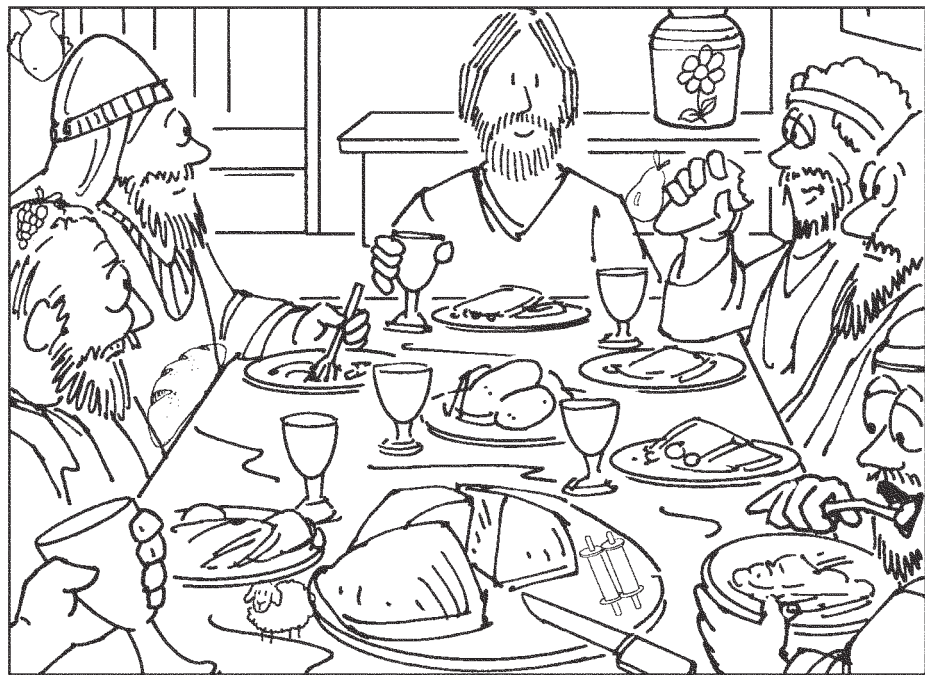
**Monday Drive:** Drive the truck to Detroit (4 hrs, 1 person)

Sign up: [fpca2.org/local](http://fpca2.org/local)

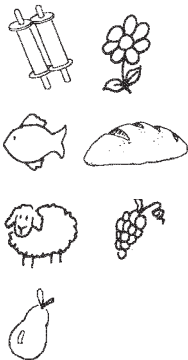


JESUS AT THE PHARISEE'S HOUSE

Jesus went to eat at the home of a Pharisee. He told them a parable.



Find and circle the hidden objects in the picture.



Find the word in each set that doesn't fit. Then write those words on the lines below.

1 Chair  
Table  
Invite

2 poor  
book  
newspaper

3 tree  
crippled  
leaf

4 potato  
carrot  
lame

5 sun  
blind  
moon

6 duck  
you  
goose

7 will  
cat  
kitten

8 purple  
green  
blessed

“ \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_,  
1 2 3  
the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
4 5 6  
\_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_.”  
7 8





SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 7

# *Fall* KICKOFF

## WORSHIP

8:00 am, Monteith Hall

## WORSHIP

9:30 am, Sanctuary

## LEMON CHAPEL SINGERS

10:25 am, Lemon Chapel

## FELLOWSHIP

10:30 am, Social Hall

## FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

11:00 am, Classrooms

## ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK

12:00 pm, Social Hall

## YOUTH GROUP

6:00 pm, Youth Room