



First  
Presbyterian  
Church *of Ann Arbor*

SEVENTH SUNDAY *after* EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025

8:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship

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Prayers for Reconciliation (after WWII Bombings)  
Reconciliation Church, Dresden, Germany  
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN



8:30 AM WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 23, 2025

## Seventh Sunday *after* Epiphany

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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

#### Welcome and Centering

#### \*Call to Worship

The Lord has a shelter for you!

**Abide in the shadow of the Most High.**

The Lord has refuge for you!

**Abide in the fortress of your God.**

The Lord has a safe place for you!

**Abide in the presence of the Lord.**

The presence of the Lord is here.

**Let us bring the first fruits of praise and worship.**

by Rev. Kelvin Sauls

#### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, we have failed to bring you the first of all our blessings.**

**We have been slow to come to the place you have chosen as a dwelling for your name. We have been intoxicated by a hunger for power, possessions, and protection. We have been dehydrated by injustice. We are misguided and deluded. As former aliens in this land of milk and honey, we have continued the cycle of discrimination and the exploitation of new aliens and strangers. Forgive us, we pray. Refresh us for justice and compassion. Make us sober for sacrificial service. Guide us again through your Word, your Will, and your Way.**

by Rev. Kelvin Sauls

#### Silence

#### Assurance of Pardon

## PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Meditation

## RESPONDING & SEALING

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.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

Charge and Benediction

Passing of the Peace

✠ ✠ ✠



9:30 AM WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 23, 2025

## Seventh Sunday *after* Epiphany

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### GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

*Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*  
FPC Orchestra

J.R. Johnson, arr. Paul Murtha

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Faith In Action

\*Call to Worship

based on Psalm 37

Take delight in God,  
who satisfies the desires of your heart.

**Commit your path to the Lord  
and trust in God's actions.**

Be still before the Lord  
and wait patiently for God.

**The Lord is our salvation  
and our refuge in times of trouble.**

\*Hymn 352

*My Lord! What a Morning*

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you know us better than we know ourselves. So, forgive our lack of faith. Forgive the harm we do to others and to your earth. Forgive our turning away from your path, our ignoring the cries of our neighbors, our selfish ambitions and priorities, our preference for what is least nourishing, even for ourselves. Remove our faults from us, that we may be nourished for a different way of showing up in the world, that we follow your path of love, justice, and mercy....**

Silent Prayer

Kyrie

SINGAPURA



Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Congregational Response

DETROIT

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease.  
Then, by your mercy reconciled,  
our lives will spread your peace.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40



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

A Conversation with Young Disciples

Tommy Langejans



Guide my feet while I run this race; Guide my feet while I run this race;



Guide my feet while I run this race; for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 6:27-38

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

Sermon

Mark Mares

**RESPONDING**

\*Hymn 373

*O Day of Peace*

JERUSALEM

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Nathaniel Fryer

Offertory

*O Love*

Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir and Judith Vander Weg, cello

O Love, that will not let me go,  
O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,  
O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

\*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 792

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

BALM IN GILEAD

\*Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

*Three Spirituals*

arr. Delwyn Elliott

*(Steal Away, Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen, Joshua Fit De Battle of Jericho)*

FPC Orchestra

✠ ✠ ✠



11:30 AM WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 23, 2025

## Seventh Sunday *after* Epiphany

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### GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Pouring the Water

Welcome & Centering

\*Call to Worship

Side A: The Lord has a shelter for you!

**Side B: Abide in the shadow of the Most High.**

Side A: The Lord has refuge for you!

**Side B: Abide in the fortress of your God.**

Side A: The Lord has a safe place for you!

**Side B: Abide in the presence of the Lord.**

Side A: The presence of the Lord is here.

**Side B: Let us bring the first fruits of praise and worship.**

by Rev. Kelvin Sauls

\*Opening Hymn 699

*Fill My Cup*

FILL MY CUP

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, we have failed to bring you the first of all our blessings. We have been slow to come to the place you have chosen as a dwelling for your name. We have been intoxicated by a hunger for power, possessions, and protection. We have been dehydrated by injustice. We are misguided and deluded. As former aliens in this land of milk and honey, we have continued the cycle of discrimination and the exploitation of new aliens and strangers. Forgive us, we pray. Refresh us for justice and compassion. Make us sober for sacrificial service. Guide us again through your Word, your Will, and your Way....**

*Silence is kept.*

Assurance of Grace

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## Passing of the Peace

As you pass the peace, share an answer to this prompt: What's one time a stranger surprised you in a positive way?

Hymn 582

*Glory to God*

GLORY TO GOD

## PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Sermon

## RESPONDING

See insert

## SENDING

\*Hymn 301

*Let Us Build A House (All Are Welcome)*

TWO OAKS

\*Benediction

...we go out in peace,  
**to love, to serve, to imagine.**

Closing Voluntary

✦ ✦ ✦

## CARRYING WORSHIP WITH US

Consider how you might approach the stranger or foreigner around you this week. In what ways might you show God's love to someone you don't know? Consider writing a small list of ideas to be ready to act on if the opportunity arises.



# 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).

## **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

Interested in becoming a member? Join us for our New Member Class this afternoon at 4:00 pm at the home of Bill and Kathy King. Meet others, hear from our pastors, and discover how you can be part of our faith journey together. For more information and directions, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, [mrogers@fpca2.org](mailto:mrogers@fpca2.org).

## **PRAYER**

If you would like someone to pray with you, stop by the Prayer and Compassion Room after the 9:30 am service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer.

## **CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & CHILDCARE**

We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary or Monteith Hall. We also offer childcare from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm for children ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Ask an usher for directions.

# Leading in Worship

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

8:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Tommy Langejans

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Mares

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer

Rev. Tommy Langejans

Michael Haithcock, Lay Reader

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Tommy Langejans

## MUSICIANS

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

FPC Orchestra

Michael Haithcock, *FPC Orchestra Conductor*

David Hufford, *Organist*

David VanderMeer, *Minister of Music & Fine Arts*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

## USHERS

Leif Anderson

Karla Olson-Bellfi

Len Rezmierski

Joe Schmidt

Marita Servais

Pat Tamblyn

Bruce Thomson

Angela Yang

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The chancel flowers are given by Tom Layher to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Layher.

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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.*

# Today in Faith Formation

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## ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_

10:45 AM

### EXPLORING THE FAITH

#### **Resident Ministry Q & A**

Lewis Room

Host: Tom Brandt

Speakers: Tommy Langejans and  
Nathaniel Fryer

### EXPLORING THE BIBLE

#### **The Parables of Jesus**

French Room

Host: Ed Koster

### FIRST FRIENDS

#### **Celebrating Black History Month: The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance**

Curtis Room

Host: Carole Pawloski

### FOLLOW ME

#### **Living in Community: Support Those Who Depart** Room 102

### AMAZING STUFF

**Parents' Class**  
Lemon Chapel

## CHILDCARE & NURSERY \_\_\_\_\_

### AGES 5 AND YOUNGER

9:15 AM to 12:15 PM | Room 101

## CHILDREN & YOUTH \_\_\_\_\_

10:45 AM

### KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE

**Jesus and the Children**  
Room 302

### 2ND - 5TH GRADE

**Living in Community:  
Traditions and Transitions**  
Room 303

### 4TH - 6TH GRADE

**Amazing Stuff:  
God's Plan for Growing Up**  
Room 304

### CONFIRMATION

Youth Room

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Living in Community:  
Support Those Who Depart**  
Lower Level 4

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Living in Community:  
Support Those Who Depart**  
Lower Level 1

# Calendar

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## TODAY

- 8:30 am **Worship with Communion** | Monteith Hall
- 9:30 am **Social Hour** | Welcome Center
- 9:30 am **Worship** | Sanctuary
- 10:30 am **Social Hour** | Social Hall
- 10:45 am **Faith Formation for all ages** | Classrooms
- 10:45 am **Fast Track to Membership** | Lead Pastor's Study
- 10:45 am **Amazing Stuff Parents' Class** | Lemon Chapel
- 11:30 am **Worship** | Monteith Hall
- 4:00 pm **New Member Class** | King home
- 6:00 pm **Young Adult Game Night** | Vance Room
- 7:00 pm **Small Group Bible Study** | Wahl home

## THIS WEEK

- Tue Feb 25 **Gentle Yoga** | 5:30 pm | Lewis Room
- Wed Feb 26 **Barclay Bible Study** | 10:30 am | Vance Room
- Thur Feb 27 **Journeys Bible Study** | 1:00 pm | Founders Room

# Announcements

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## CARE \_\_\_\_\_

CARE & COMPASSION SERIES

### **UM's Alcohol Management Program**

MONDAY, MARCH 10

7:00 PM, MONTEITH HALL

**SPEAKERS: BETHANY LEMM, MPH, MSW  
AND JOHN SHOVELS, UM'S ALCOHOL  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

UM Health's Alcohol Management Program (AMP) offers brief, confidential health education and one-on-one counseling to anyone with mild to moderate alcohol problems. What is best? Abstinence or moderation? The program serves anyone who wants to make changes to their alcohol use.

### **Caring Hands**

Are you interested in helping a family or individual who could use a meal while recovering or going through a difficult time? If you're willing to help, you can join our email list for meal requests and sign up as needs arise. Please email Mel Rogers at [mrogers@fpca2.org](mailto:mrogers@fpca2.org) to be added to the list.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH \_\_\_\_\_

### **Summer Music & Fine Arts Camp**

JULY 28–AUGUST 1

Calling all rising 2nd–8th graders! Join us for an exciting week of music, fun, and fellowship at our Summer Music & Fine Arts Camp, featuring the musical *Elijah*. Camp runs daily from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, culminating in a special Musical Proclamation during worship on Sunday, August 3. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, create, and share the joy of music with friends! Register online at [fpca2.org](http://fpca2.org)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN \_\_\_\_\_

### **Presbyterian Women's Spring Retreat: Consider the Lillies**

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

9 AM - 2 PM, SOCIAL HALL

Come relax and rejuvenate at our spring retreat, Consider the Lilies, on Saturday, April 5. An optional "Gentle Yoga" session will begin at 8 am, followed by a continental breakfast, an inspiring speaker, fun breakout sessions, and a boxed lunch. Childcare will be available. The registration fee is \$20 per person to cover the cost of food. All women are invited. Bring a friend! Please register by March 21, at [fpca2.org](http://fpca2.org).

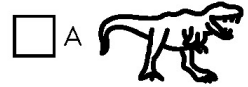
## WORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

### **Participate in the Creation of New Paraments**

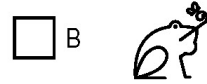
Beth Taylor is creating new Ordinary Time paraments for First Pres and invites you to contribute! You're encouraged to share a small piece of fabric or a token—such as a button, tie, broken earring, or other meaningful item—that represents your life, faith, or connection to the church. These contributions will be quilted together to create unique paraments filled with our collective stories and memories. If you wish, include a brief note or story about your item. Look closely when the paraments are displayed in the sanctuary and know they embody the spirit, gifts, and memories you bring to worship. Please drop off items in the Welcome Center.

Find the picture to match the goodbye. Try saying one or two the next time you say goodbye.

See you later, alligator. 1



After while, crocodile. 2



Better shake, rattlesnake. 3



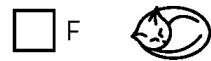
Chop chop, bunny hop. 4



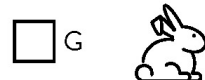
Shoo, scat, little cat. 5



See you soon, baboon. 6



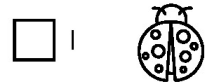
Give a hug, ladybug. 7



Leaving now, brown cow. 8



Gotta go, buffalo. 9



Bye bye, butterfly. 10



Leaving you, kangaroo. 11



Out the door, dinosaur. 12



Take care, polar bear. 13



Hit the road, hungry toad. 14



1-L, 2-C, 3-N, 4-G, 5-F, 6-H, 7-I, 8-M, 9-E, 10-K, 11-J, 12-A, 13-D, 14-B

EVERYTHING

LENT

# IN BETWEEN

2025

*meeting God in the midst of extremes*

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Deepen your spiritual walk through Lent and begin each day with a Lenten devotion written by church members and staff. This year's theme, "Everything In Between: Meeting God in the midst of Extremes," invites us to explore how scripture connects to both the highs and lows of life—and to Jesus' own journey. If you are currently on our mailing list, you will receive the daily devotional by email. To sign up, visit [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org)

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PARTY

TUESDAY, MARCH 4  
6:00 PM | SOCIAL HALL

Come celebrate with pancakes and bacon before we begin a more reflective time during Lent. Fun and food for all ages! Sign up online to bring toppings, loan griddles, and help volunteer! [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org)

## ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5

Begin the season of Lent by joining us for worship and the imposition of ashes.

8:00 - 9:00 AM & 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Drive-through Imposition of Ashes

5:30 PM Family Service

7:00 PM Ecumenical Taizé

## HEALING FROM HURT: FORGIVENESS AND ITS ALTERNATIVES

SUNDAYS, MARCH 9 - APRIL 13  
3:00 - 5:00 PM, LEWIS ROOM

This six-week Lenten program is designed to guide participants on a journey toward healing after harm. Led by Dr. Jennifer Griggs, a professional coach with expertise in forgiveness, this program offers a trauma-informed approach to understanding forgiveness, exploring alternatives, and reclaiming dignity. Limited to 10 participants.

Register: [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org)

## LENTEN WEEKLY WALKS

As part of our communal Lenten journey we will take weekly walks along the scenic trails in our community. All ages and stages of life welcome. A pastoral liaison will guide the group. Day, location, and time are posted on our website.

Register: [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org).

## LENTEN HOME WORSHIP

TUESDAYS,  
MARCH 11 - APRIL 8  
6:00 PM

Please join us for a time of fellowship, a simple meal and brief worship service in members' homes. Limited to 25 people per gathering. Register: [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org)

# MARCH MISSION MADNESS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

March Mission Madness is a month-long initiative that invites you to deepen your understanding of our mission partnerships, discover new ways to get involved, and be inspired by the transformative power of faith in action. Join us as we learn, serve, and grow together, strengthening our collective commitment to Christ's call to love and serve our neighbors.

3/17-23

## ALPHA HOUSE

Volunteer to provide meals and childcare for families. Alpha House offers temporary housing, meals, and support services to help families regain stability. For questions, contact Diane Knibbs at 734-645-0912.

Sign up: [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org)



3/17-24

## ROTATING SHELTER

We're extending our commitment to sheltering those in need by hosting an extra week of the Rotating Shelter program from March 17-24, 2025. For questions, contact Marcey Terrien ([m2terrien@hotmail.com](mailto:m2terrien@hotmail.com)), Al Beery ([awbeery@gmail.com](mailto:awbeery@gmail.com)), or Jim Peggs ([jpeggs@med.umich.edu](mailto:jpeggs@med.umich.edu)). Sign up: [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org)

SPRING

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The House of Faith Build is back, and First Pres is looking for volunteers! Join us at 423 Ainsworth Circle, Ypsilanti. Build days (9 AM – 4 PM): March 28, April 4, April 5, August 9  
Lunch Providers (for 12 people, delivered by 11:45 AM): March 28, April 12, May 10  
Sign up: [fzca2.org](https://fzca2.org)

