



First  
Presbyterian  
Church *of Ann Arbor*

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY *after* PENTECOST  
September 21, 2025  
8:00 & 9:30 am Worship



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

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? Join us for our **Fast Track to Membership** gathering today at 11 am in the Pastor's Study or the **New Member Class** this afternoon at 4:00 pm. For more information, contact Rev. Rogers, [mrogers@fpca2.org](mailto:mrogers@fpca2.org).

## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children are always welcome in worship! In the Sanctuary, you will find children's Bibles in the pews and activity resources in the Narthex. We provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm on the first floor. If you need assistance, please alert an usher.

## LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS

Please speak with an usher if you would like to use a large-print bulletin to follow the service.

## PRAYER

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

## FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us after worship for fellowship time! Enjoy cookies, conversation, and a cup of coffee as we spend time together.

## TODAY AT FIRST

8:00 am –9:00 am	<b>Worship</b>   Monteith Hall
9:30 am –10:30 am	<b>Worship</b>   Sanctuary
10:25 am –11:00 am	<b>Lemon Chapel Singers</b> (K-8 grade)   Lemon Chapel
10:30 am –11:00 am	<b>Fellowship</b>   Social Hall
11:00 am –11:30 am	<b>Fast Track to Membership</b>   Pastor's Study
11:00 am –12:00 pm	<b>Pre-School Faith Formation</b>   Preschool Wing - Level 1
11:00 am –12:00 pm	<b>Elementary Faith Formation</b>   Lemon Chapel, Rms 302-305
11:00 am –12:00 pm	<b>Middle &amp; High School Faith Formation</b>   Youth Room
11:00 am –12:00 pm	<b>Exploring the Faith &amp; First Friends</b>   Lewis Room
11:00 am –12:00 pm	<b>Exploring the Bible</b>   French Room
2:30 pm –4:30 pm	<b>Compassionate Friends</b>   French Room
4:00 pm –5:30 pm	<b>New Member Class</b>   Offsite
6:00 pm –7:30 pm	<b>Youth Group</b>   Social Hall, Youth Room



## GATHERING

Kyrie

Lee Afdahl

2

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a '2' above the first measure, indicating a second ending. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Assurance of Grace

\*Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 79:1-9

Anthem

*How Firm a Foundation*  
Choral Ensemble

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.

Reflection

Hanna Richards

## RESPONDING & SEALING

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Moment Musicaux No. 2 in A-flat* Franz Schubert

\*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

### 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 Parent 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 of the People

*All are welcome at the Table. 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 707 *Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord* HALL

\*Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary *Intermezzo* Johannes Brahms

✠ ✠ ✠



9:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

## Fifteenth 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

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*  
FPC Orchestra

arr. Jeff Cantrell

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Mark Mares

Faith in Action

Kurt Boeve

**\*Call to Worship**

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began,  
**God was.**

Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the  
purposes of heaven,  
**God is.**

In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found  
its fulfillment,  
**God will be.**

Not denying the world but delighting in it, not understanding the world,  
but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
**God was, God is, God will be.**

**\*Hymn 697**

*Take My Life*

HENDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we are too concerned with our own  
peace. We seek the comfort of silence, and ignore the cries of the  
oppressed. We are inwardly focused, missing your call to serve the  
world in justice and love. Forgive us, O God. Equip us to fulfill your  
will for a world in which all know dignity and all are treated with  
equity, as your beloved children. ....**

Silent Prayer

Kyrie

Lee Afdahl

2

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

DETROIT

"For - give our sins as we — for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,

but you a - lone can grant us — grace to live the words we say.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Amos 8:4-7

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

A Conversation with Young Disciples

Melissa Anne Rogers

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 16:1-13

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

Sermon

David Prentice-Hyers



## RESPONDING & SEALING

\*Hymn

*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

NATIONAL HYMN

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*How Firm a Foundation*  
Chancel Choir and FPC Brass

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

*(The congregation is invited to sing on Stanzas 1 and 5 on cue from the director)*

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

**The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.**

\*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**

## Litany of Parting

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

**All: May God be with you there.**

**Children: May God be with you here.**

**\*Hymn 707**

*Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord*

HALL

## \*Charge and Benediction

## Closing Voluntary

*Bransles from Capriol Suite* Peter Warlock/Goodwin Music  
FPC Orchestra

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# Leading in Worship

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

**8:00 am**

Hanna Richards

Mark Mares

Nancy Fox, *Lay Reader*

**9:30 am**

Mark Mares

David Prentice-Hyers

Hanna Richards

Melissa Anne Rogers

Sarah Rutherford

Marya Peters, *Lay Reader*

## MUSICIANS

**8:00 am**

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

Choral Ensemble

**9:30 am**

Chancel Choir

Michael Haithcock, *FPC Orchestra Conductor*

David Hufford, *Organist*

David VanderMeer, *Minister of Music and Fine Arts*

FPC Brass

Horn: Carrie Banfield-Taplin, Katherine Widlar

Trumpet: Morgan Hare, Benjamin Hare, Oliver Barron

Trombone: Kenneth Kroesche, Elijah Emmons

Tuba: David Zerkel

## USHERS

RO Andrus

Keith Bilby

Sheila Bilby

Dick Carlisle

Carol Carter

Spaulding Clark

Joe Schmidt

Connie Swindle

Martin Swindle

## FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their daughter, Anne Christine Anderson, born Sept 21, 1961 by her parents Bill & Betty Anderson; in loving memory of his wife, Ginny Bell, by Brian Bell; and in loving memory of Dave and Pat Clyde on their anniversary by their family.

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

### AGES 5 AND YOUNGER

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

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

### LEMON CHAPEL SINGERS

10:25 AM | LEMON CHAPEL

Children in grades K–8 are invited to join the Lemon Chapel Singers! Each Sunday, we learn songs of faith and joyfully sing together.

### PRESCHOOL

11:00 AM | 4 & 5 YEAR OLDS - RM 102 |  
NURSERY - 3 YEAR OLDS - RM 101

Our preschoolers are invited to explore the wonder of sacred worship spaces through songs, stories, and crafts.

This joyful time of learning helps our youngest children begin to experience God’s love and the beauty of worship in age-appropriate ways.

### K - 5TH GRADE

11:00 AM | LEMON CHAPEL

Kids will gather on the third floor for music, movement, creative activities, and prayer, all centered on the same scripture used in worship. Children begin together in Lemon Chapel for a gathering time before moving to classrooms.

### MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

11:00 AM | LL4

Join us for a faith formation class that explores faith practices, through scripture, art, & conversation.

### CONFIRMATION

All 8th graders, along with any high school students who have not yet been confirmed, are invited to take part in our confirmation journey beginning in October. Together, we’ll explore faith, ask questions, and grow in community. To learn more, please contact [mmares@fpca2.org](mailto:mmares@fpca2.org).

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

### COMBINED ADULT CLASS (EXPLORING THE FAITH & FIRST FRIENDS)

11:00 AM | LEWIS ROOM

### Answering the Call

Host: Diane Hockett

Join us as Sarah Rutherford introduces herself to the congregation. She will share her journey of faith, how she discerned a call to pastoral ministry, and what led her to serve through the First Pres Residency Program.

### EXPLORING THE BIBLE

11:00 AM | FRENCH ROOM

### Reading Revelation

Host: Ed Koster

The book of Revelation can feel puzzling, dramatic, and even intimidating—yet it is also one of the most hope-filled and inspiring texts in Scripture. This class will explore Revelation in its historical context and examine how its vivid imagery speaks to both the early church and to us today. Together we will uncover the themes of faith, perseverance, and God’s ultimate renewal of creation, gaining tools to read Revelation not as a code to be cracked, but as a vision of encouragement for Christians in every age.

# Announcements

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## CARE

### **Knit Night – Prayer Shawls & Baby Blankets**

The Knit Night group creates prayer shawls and baby blankets to share God’s love and comfort with members of First Pres. Shawls are given to those in need of encouragement and care, while baby blankets are included in welcome baskets for newborns. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join! The group meets on the second Friday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Prue Heikkinen. For more information, contact Prue at [prueannarbor@gmail.com](mailto:prueannarbor@gmail.com).

### **Holding Hope Support Group**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30  
7:30 PM, ZOOM**

Holding Hope Support Group for those with adult children with addiction issues, mental health challenges, or other struggles, led by Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers. All are welcome. Zoom only, last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 - 8:30 pm.

## FAITH FORMATION

### **Men’s Book Study**

**1ST & 3RD FRIDAY  
8:30 AM, LEWIS ROOM**

The Men’s Book Study Group meets on the first and third Friday of each month at 8:45 a.m. in the Lewis Room. Together, the group selects a book and gathers to discuss it in an open, thoughtful, and friendly environment. The current book is *The Sabbath Way* by Travis West, and is available for purchase in the church office for \$17.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### **William Barclay Commentary Bible Study**

**WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING SEPT. 17  
10:30–11:30 AM | VANCE ROOM & ZOOM**

Join Presbyterian Women for a study of Mark’s Gospel using William Barclay’s beloved commentaries. The series runs Sept. 17–Nov. 20 and resumes Jan. 7. Study guides (including large print) are available—contact Meg Brown, [lmegbrown@gmail.com](mailto:lmegbrown@gmail.com). Zoom link: [us02web.zoom.us/j/82929008064](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82929008064)

### **Spiritual Writing**

**FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH  
10:30 AM - NOON, VANCE ROOM**

Join us once a month in the Vance Room for a time of creativity and community. Each session begins with a one-word prompt from our leader, followed by 45 minutes of quiet writing—on paper or computer, whichever you prefer. We then spend 45 minutes sharing our work, offering encouragement, and enjoying discussion together. The group meets monthly, September through May.

### **Horizons Bible Study: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ**

**2ND THURSDAY  
10:00 AM, CURTIS ROOM**

Join us on the second Thursday of each month from 10:00–11:30 am in the Curtis Room or online via Zoom. Jane Bartman will lead the study on "Martha and Mary" on October 9. Study books are available for \$14. All women are warmly invited to come, learn, and grow together in faith!

**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 and the Sept. 27 concert:

**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](https://fpca2.org/local)

**Avalon Housing Painting Crew**

First Pres is partnering with Avalon Housing, which provides safe, stable housing and support for those overcoming homelessness. Our “Gifts of the Spirit” painting crew helps prepare two apartments each month—saving Avalon about \$20,000 a year. Want to join the fun? Contact Don Redding to learn more, [dredding58@yahoo.com](mailto:dredding58@yahoo.com).

**This Week**

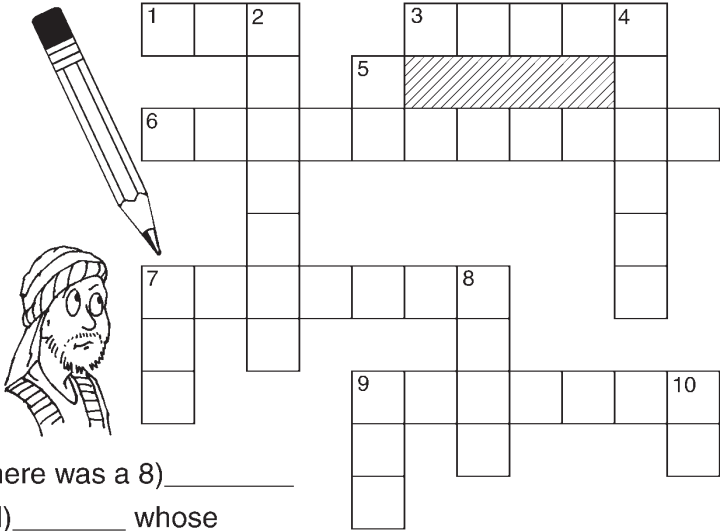
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- Mon Sept 22 **Prayer Team** | 9:00 am | Zoom
- Mon Sept 22 **Sanctus Ringers** | 7:00 pm | Handbell Room
- Tues Sept 23 **Pastoral & Program Staff Retreat**
- Tues Sept 23 **Gentle Yoga** | 5:30 pm | Curtis Room
- Wed Sept 24 **Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Worship** | 9:30 am | Zoom
- Wed Sept 24 **Barclay Bible Study** | 10:30 am | Vance Room
- Wed Sept 24 **Local Mission Committee** | 6:30 pm | Zoom
- Thur Sept 25 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** | 7:00 pm | Monteith Hall
- Fri Sept 26 **Men's Study Group** | 8:30 am | Vance Room
- Sat Sept 27 **Stephen Ministry Retreat** | 9:00 am | Monteith Hall

THE PARABLE OF THE SHREWD MANAGER

Fit the words into the puzzle, and then put them on the numbered lines.

- BE
- DO
- ANY
- MAN
- NOW
- RICH
- SHALL
- LONGER
- ACCUSED
- MANAGER
- WASTING
- POSSESSIONS



There was a 8) \_\_\_\_\_  
7d) \_\_\_\_\_ whose  
7a) \_\_\_\_\_ was 9a) \_\_\_\_\_ of 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
his 6) \_\_\_\_\_. The 8) \_\_\_\_\_ 7d) \_\_\_\_\_  
said, "You cannot 5) \_\_\_\_\_ 7a) \_\_\_\_\_ 9d) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_." The 7a) \_\_\_\_\_ said to himself,  
"What 3) \_\_\_\_\_ I 10) \_\_\_\_\_ 1) \_\_\_\_\_ ?"



Jesus told a story about a manager who wasted his master's money.

Find the objects in the picture.









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