

*The First Presbyterian Church*  
1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104  
(734) 662-4466 [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)

# the 5:45



**December 6, 2009**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**

**PREACHING** today is the Reverend Sarah Wiles.  
**PARTICIPATING** today is the Reverend Matthew Nickel.  
**THE PIANIST, ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR** is Carol Muehlig.  
**THE VOCALISTS** are David Bucholtz and Sally Carpenter.  
**THE INSTRUMENTALIST** is Linda Speck, viola.

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

*The candles will be lit by Cheryl Moy and Caroline Weber.*

One: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

*As the candle is lit, please sing hymn 309, Of the Father's Love Begotten, verse two.*

One: Take your encouragement from Christ, that your joy may be complete.

**All: We will share in the Spirit; we will find consolation in love.**

One: Practice a ministry of humility and compassion for God is at work in you, empowering you.

**All: We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will live lives worthy of the Gospel. We will go forth in hope and in peace.**

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its  
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Bless the Lord

*Bless the Lord*

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

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

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system is for the phrase 'Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.' The second system is for the phrase 'Bless the Lord my soul who leads me in - to life.' The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one flat (B-flat).

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-56 (N.T., p. 57)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## SERMON

### HYMN     **Magnificat**

*Sing to the tune of Amazing Grace*

**My soul gives glory to my God, my heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.**

**My God has done great things for me: Yes, holy is this Name.  
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.**

**From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,  
Dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.**

**Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,  
leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.**

**Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,  
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S PROMISE**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Leader:**     The Lord be with you.

**People:**     **And also with you.**

**Leader:**     Lift up your hearts.

**People:**     **We lift them up to the LORD.**

**Leader:**     Let us give thanks to the LORD.

**People:**     **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### 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. 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

Breaking of the Bread, Pouring of the Cup

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All communion chalices contain only nonalcoholic grape juice. We will partake of the Lord's Supper by intinction. The bread will be passed from one person to the next. We are all invited to take a piece. When the cup is passed we are invited to dip the bread in the cup and partake of both the bread and the juice together. Please use the words, "The body of Christ" and "The cup of salvation" when serving your brother or sister in Christ.*

### COMMUNION MUSIC

### PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

# WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

## SENDING MUSIC How Can I Keep From Singing



1. My life flows on in end-less song— A-bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion.— I  
2. While though the tem - pest loud - ly roars, I hear the truth, it liv - eth.— And  
3. While ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear,— And hear their death knell ring - ing,— When



hear the real, though far off hymn— That hails the new cre - a - tion. A -  
though the dark - ness round me close— Songs in the night it giv - eth.— No  
friends re - joice both far and near,— How can I keep from sing - ing.— In



bove the tu - mult and the strife I hear the mu - sic ring - ing;— It  
storm can shake my in - most calm While to that rock I'm cling - ing.— Since  
pris - on cell and dun - geon vile— Our thoughts to them are wing - ing.— When



sounds an ech - o— in— my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?—  
Love is Lord of— heav'n and earth How can I keep from sing - ing?—  
friends by shame are— un - de - filed How can I keep from sing - ing?—

## BENEDICTION

---

**CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL:** Students, join us in the Curtis Room after the 5:45 p.m. worship service, and enjoy a (free!) Sunday evening meal.

# Announcements

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 30:** Thank you to all who sent in pledges to provide for the continued operation and ministries of First Presbyterian Church. As of November 30, \$1,102,623 has been pledged by 395 pledging units. This compares with \$1,166,002 from 464 pledging units in 2008 at this time. We have 1086 pledging units, and the response from those who have not yet pledged is very important to our budgeting for next year. For those who have not pledged yet, please prayerfully consider your “grateful giving” for doing the work God has called us to do.

**PURCHASE A POINSETTIA** in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias will be in worship on December 13, 20, and 24, and delivered by our deacons afterward to those who are sick, shut-in, and grieving. The cost is \$10, checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church with “poinsettia” on the memo line. Please sign up in the Church Office. **The deadline is December 8.**

**YOUTH NEWS: MIDS Christmas Party** is Wednesday, December 9, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Retzer home, 2765 Hawks Avenue. Bring a wrapped gift, spending exactly \$5.55. RSVP to Debby Retzer at 971-4103. Weekly MIDS will return January 6. **High School Christmas Party** is Monday, December 21, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., at the King home, 3151 Honeysuckle Drive. Bring a wrapped DVD or CD in its original jewel box for the gift exchange, and a dessert to pass. RSVP to Cindy King at 995-1346. **Keystones** meets tonight and December 13.

**HILLTOPPERS** meets on Thursday, December 10, for carol singing, lunch, and a presentation on “Celebrating Christmas in an Interfaith World.” Sign up in the Church Office, 662-4466, by **Tuesday, December 8.**

**THE “COOKIE EXPLOSION”** happens December 13 between services in the Social Hall. This is a huge Christmas cookie bake sale with professionally decorated cookies. Forget baking! Buy cookies, save time, and support youth mission!

**THE NEXT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN GATHERING** will be Wednesday, December 16. The morning begins with Bible study at 9:15 a.m. in the Lewis Room (note the change). At 10:45 a.m. in Monteith Hall, Michael Kapetan, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design, U-M, will present “Science, Art and Spirituality,” followed by luncheon (\$7) in the Social Hall. Please make reservations with your circle leader, or sign up in the Church Office by Sunday, December 12.

**THE STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM**, a discussion of the book *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*, by Kenneth Haugk, continues Monday, December 7, from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m., in the Youth Room. Refreshments will be served. The congregation is invited to attend.

**MOTHERS' MORNING**, our monthly group for mothers of young children, meets next on Tuesday, December 8, in the Youth Room. The featured program, “Keeping Your Sanity During the Holidays,” is at 9:30 a.m.

**ANN ARBOR BOYCHOIR RETURNS ON DECEMBER 12** to present their annual Christmas concert in the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. Tickets may be reserved by visiting the Boychoir website, [http://www.aaboychoir.org/reserve\\_christmas.html](http://www.aaboychoir.org/reserve_christmas.html). Tickets are \$5 for children 17 and under, \$10 for seniors and students, and \$15 for adults. Family tickets are also available for \$40.

**THE SIXTH ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER FOR STUDENTS** will happen from 10:00 p.m. to midnight on Monday, December 14, the last day of classes of the fall term. Volunteers are needed! Help pass out invitations to the neighborhood from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13. Set up tables and decorate the Social Hall from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14. Help out the team that cooks, one that serves, one that greets, one that takes pictures, one that distributes study snacks / desserts in the dining room, or the team of “nightowls” that cleans up. If you are unable to work but want to be a donor for the milk, the eggs, or the biscuits, for example, that’s possible and appreciated too. To donate or volunteer, call Ginny Rezmierski, 971-6221, or send email to ver@umich.edu.

**CHANCEL CHOIR AND DELONIS CENTER CONCERT:** On Sunday, December 13, at 4:00 p.m., our Chancel Choir will be joined by tenor John Pierce and orchestra to present Benjamin Britten’s *Saint Nicolas*, a small cantata about the true story of Nicolas, Bishop of Myra, born in third century Turkey. We also welcome singers from the Delonis Center who will join us for a carol medley at the end of our concert. All proceeds from the freewill offering that will be taken at the concert will go to the Delonis Center, which provides temporary shelter and support services for the homeless. A reception will follow in the Social Hall.

**THE ROTATING SHELTER, OUR NEW LOCAL MISSION:** In the last year, homelessness in Ann Arbor has increased by 30 percent. In response, the city has asked the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to expand their Rotating Shelter program to help the overflow of homeless that cannot fit in the current shelter system in the Delonis Center. First Presbyterian has been asked to participate in this program, and the Mission Committee and Session immediately agreed that this is a local mission that needs our help.

From January 6 through 20, a set group of 25 homeless men, identified by the Shelter Association as good candidates for the program, will sleep on mats in our Social Hall. They will arrive at 8:00 p.m. each evening, after having dinner, showers, and a breathalyzer test at the Delonis Center, and leave at 7:00 a.m. the next morning for the St. Andrews Church breakfast program.

Our church will provide two to three volunteers per night for conversation with the men before bedtime and for safety (volunteers take turns staying awake so that everyone gets some sleep). We will also provide transportation from the Delonis Center to First Pres, evening snacks, hot water, cocoa, coffee, and transportation to St. Andrews in the morning. A room in the church will be used to store the men’s bags during the day. Please help by signing up to stay at church for one night during this time period, providing an evening snack one evening, or volunteering your passenger van for us to use some days. Questions? Contact Sue Chandler (suechandler@comcast.net, 996-2673), Jane Hayes (hayesdf@comcast.net, 827-0146), or Brian Williams (bwms@umich.edu, 669-0045), Rotating Shelter co-chairs, or the Reverends Matthew Nickel or Jenny McDevitt.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY MID-WEEK WORSHIP** is held Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m., at the Michigan Union in the Anderson Room. Questions? Contact Rev. Julie Marks at 662-4466, ext. 14.

**PRAYING THE PSALMS** prayer group meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. Pew cards with prayer requests may be completed and put in the offering plate. Members and visitors are welcome to join at any time.

## *Calendar for December 7 - 12*

### **MONDAY:**

Body and Soul, 9:30 a.m., Curtis Room  
Advent Study, noon, Founders Room  
Mature Ministries Steering Committee, noon, Vance Room  
Liturgical Dance Rehearsal, noon, Monteith Hall  
Rotating Shelter Expansion Committee, 4:00 p.m., Founders Room  
Glacier Deacons, 5:30 p.m., Vance Room  
Mission Committee, 6:00 p.m., Founders Room  
WEBS, 7:00 p.m. Curtis Room  
Property Committee, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room  
Stephen Ministry Supervision, 7:00 p.m., Youth Room  
Stewardship Committee, 7:00 p.m., French Room/Library  
Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall  
Sanctus Ringers, 7:30 p.m., Room 403

### **TUESDAY:**

Prayer Group, 7:30 a.m., Founders Room  
Advent Study, 7:45 a.m., Vance Room  
Mothers' Morning, 9:15 a.m., Youth Room  
Advent Study, 10:00 a.m., Glacier Hills  
PW Horizons Circle, 1:00 p.m., Millard home, 1205 Glen Leven Rd.  
ESL, 1:00 p.m., Rooms 101, 102, 104, Youth Room  
Endowment Committee, 4:30 p.m., Vance Room  
Boychoir Rehearsal and Dinner, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary/Social Hall  
Campus Ministry Committee, 5:15 p.m., Vance Room  
Haiti Medical Mission Task Force, 6:00 p.m., Curtis Room  
Congregational Self-study Group, 7:00 p.m., French Room/Library  
Campus Ministry Mid-week Worship, 9:00 p.m., Anderson Room, Michigan Union

### **WEDNESDAY:**

Wednesday 2:42 Planning, noon, Curtis Room  
PW Reading Group, 1:00 p.m.,  
Wednesday Night Meal, 3:00-7:15 p.m. (volunteers), 5:30 (meal), Delonis Center  
Delonis Greeting Card Program, 5:00 p.m., Delonis Center  
MIDS Christmas Party, 5:00 p.m., Retzer home, 2765 Hawks Ave.  
Praying the Psalms, 5:00 p.m., Lewis Room  
Hosanna Choir, 5:00 p.m., Russel Room  
Alleluia Choir, 5:00 p.m., Room 404  
Youth Choir, 7:00 p.m., Russel Room  
TnT, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room  
Advent Study, 7:00 p.m., French Room/Library

### **THURSDAY:**

OSHER Class, Photography, 1:00 p.m., Lewis Room  
Hilltoppers, noon, Social Hall  
Adapted Exercise, 3:00 p.m., Curtis/Founders Room  
Choir Concert Potluck Dinner/Rehearsal, 5:00 p.m., Social Hall/Sanctuary  
Advent Study, 6:00 p.m., Monteith Hall

Executive Deacons, 7:00 p.m., Founders Room  
Executive Session, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room  
Adult Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., French Room/Library  
Campus Core Group (Carol Gottliebsen), 7:30 p.m., Founders Room

**FRIDAY:**

Prayer/Study Group, 9:00 a.m., away  
Knit Night, 7:30 p.m., Curtis Room

**SATURDAY:**

Pek Jo Memorial Service, 11:00 a.m., Monteith Hall  
Ann Arbor Boychoir Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
Ann Arbor Boychoir Concert, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

*The Staff of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor can be reached by calling the Church Office at (734) 662-4466.*

***Pastoral and Program Staff:***

*Reverend Lawrence W. Farris, Interim Pastor*  
*Reverend Brewster H. Gere, Exec. Associate Pastor*  
*and Coord. of the Lilly Residency Program*  
*Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Dir. of Pastoral Care*  
*Lilly Resident Ministers*  
*Jenny McDevitt*  
*Sarah Wiles*  
*Reverend Matthew Nickel*  
*Susan Boggs, Music Director*  
*Carol Muehlig, Assoc. Music Director/Organist*  
*Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's*  
*Education and Family Ministries*  
*Reverend Jim Monnett, Director of Youth Ministry*  
*Reverend Julie Marks, Director of Campus Ministry*  
*Campus Ministry Interns*  
*Scott Ellis*  
*Erin Wilson*  
*Martine Blogin, Parish Nurse*

***Administrative Staff:***

*Jennifer Sansbury, Exec. Administrative*  
*Assistant*  
*Michael Wright, Maintenance/Repair*  
*Manager*  
*Debbie Evett, Church Office Manager*  
*Berether Hill, Church Office Associate*  
*John Sampselle, Finance Administrator*  
*Lois Nissly, Finance Assistant*  
*Jill Crabtree, Communications Manager*  
*Mary Jones, Children's Education and*  
*Communications Assistant*  
*Patti Hockstad, Wedding Assistant*



*A Stephen Ministry  
Congregation*