



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 27, 2023  
9:30 A.M. WORSHIP



“Rock of Refuge”  
Jan Richardson

**Large-print bulletins** are available in the Narthex.

# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY *after* PENTECOST

August 27, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.

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

## GATHERING

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Arioso on AUSTRIA*

Thomas Kuras

### POURING OF THE WATER

### WELCOME *and* LIFE IN THE CHURCH

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Our choices for God, are always trumped by God's choice for us in Jesus Christ.

As believers, skeptics, heretics, and seekers,  
**We gather together with questions and convictions.**

Tussling and wrestling with the mysteries of faith,  
**The Spirit delights in our discernment of wisdom.**

God has given us agency, creativity, and imagination,  
**Let us seek the one who is always seeking us.**

#### \* HYMN 81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* AUSTRIAN HYMN

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mysterious One, you alone are the Lord of the conscience. We hope to hold with care the tensions of our traditions. Help us to honor the best of what we have inherited. And to release what conforms to harm and destruction. So few of us have felt the freedom to question what we are taught. So few of us have been encouraged to respect our own thoughts, intuition, or experiences. Bless our searching and our seeking that we may exercise our own muscles of faith.....**

### SILENCE

### KYRIE

LAND OF REST



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



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

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Today we welcome two new Resident Ministers, Nathaniel Fryer and Tommy Langejans, to the Resident Ministry Program. Through this program, First Presbyterian equips residents with practical skills for ministry and enriches their core vocational values so that they are ready to serve God's people with versatility and integrity.

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

*You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God’s people. Greet one another saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and respond, “And also with you.”*

\* 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

Exodus 3:1-15

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

CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Please join in singing as the children come forward.*

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**God, our friend who’s full of wonder,  
fill our hearts and bless our hands. Amen.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20

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

SERMON

RESPONDING

\* HYMN 353

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *The Meditations of My Heart* Elaine Hagenberg  
Chancel Choir

May the words of my mouth and the meditations  
of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord.  
O Lord my Rock, O Lord my strength,  
O Lord my God and Redeemer. O Lord.

Each year, we bless students, teachers, and educational support staff as they prepare for the new school year. As the academic year begins, join us in praying that all those who learn, teach, and grow together will know God’s deep love and care for them.

**Worship LAB** is a place where children explore the flow of worship through multi-sensory experiences. Children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to join in Worship Lab each week.

**Ways to give:  
Cash/Check**

Place in the offering  
plate or in the mail

**Text-to-Give**

Text the amount you  
would like to give to  
855-904-1523

**Online**

<https://bit.ly/FPCvanco>

**Vanco Mobile App**



\* 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 766 *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* MC KEE

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Henri Mulet

*Tu es Petrus et portae inferi non praevallebunt adversus te*  
"Thou art Peter, [the rock upon whom I will build my Church] and the  
gates of Hell shall not prevail against thee."



*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Jim Wheaton by his wife Julie on their 41st wedding anniversary.*

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# WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRES

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship. If you are looking for a church to grow in your faith, you are welcome here at First Pres! We look forward to personally meeting you. **Please let us know you were here** by signing the Friendship Pad in the pew, then passing it down to others.

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## PRAYER

If you would like someone to pray with you, stop by Hillegonds Chapel after the service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer. Today's prayer partners are Brad Taylor and Michelle Derr.

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## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to Worship LAB — a multi-sensory worship experience just for them held during 9:30 a.m. worship. Children are dismissed after the Conversation with Young Disciples and return to the Sanctuary before the worship service concludes. Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger on the First Level during the worship service. Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship.

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers

Rev. Mark Mares

Rev. Jay Sanderford

Nathaniel Fryer

Tommy Langejans

*Lector*

Mary McKeever

*Musicians*

Chancel Choir

*Organist*

David Hufford

*Minister of Music & Fine Arts*

David VanderMeer

*Ushers*

Joe Schmidt, Captain

Sandy Anderson

Omer Bellfi

Linda Lampman

Angela Yang

*Greeters*

Bonnie Hughes

Gail Grady

*Welcome Center*

Barbara Mueller

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## ICE CREAM SOCIAL TODAY!

Join us at 11:00 a.m. for the Ice Cream Social, sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee. We will be scooping up the three winning flavors: Mint Chocolate Chip, Moose Tracks, and Butter Pecan. There will be a limited amount of vanilla and chocolate and raspberry sorbet, and for the kids, Superman! There will be cups and cones, but no toppings. Celebrate the end of summer and greet our super-scooping Resident Ministers Tommy and Nathaniel!

## NEWS & EVENTS

### CAMPUS MINISTRY

**Welcome College Students!** If you are an undergrad or grad student, we'd love to welcome you more fully into the life of First Pres! Email Hannah Lundberg at [campus@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:campus@firstpresbyterian.org) to learn more about programming for college students and young adults this fall.

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

#### **Tailgate @ First**

Friday, September 8

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Hey Youth! Get ready to kick off the ultimate pre-game party at First Presbyterian on Friday, September 8! Join us for an electrifying tailgate extravaganza from 5 to 7 pm.

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

#### **Engagement Fair**

Sunday, September 10

10:30 a.m. | Social Hall

Mark your calendars for a celebration of our ministries. On September 10, we will host an Engagement Fair during Social Hour. Come find ways to use your gifts and talents to volunteer at First. Representatives from each ministry area will be present in the Social Hall to answer questions.

#### **Smartphone 101**

September 11 - October 9

10:30 a.m. - Noon | Curtis Room

Are you frustrated by your smartphone? Would you like to learn how to get the most out of it? Sign up for Smartphone 101, a five-week course for iPhone and Android users offered Mondays, September 11 – October 9, 10:30 a.m. – Noon in the Curtis Room. James Giordani from Clear Computing leads the class, covering key phone components, concepts, and techniques in a friendly, easy-to-follow format. Experienced instructors and friendly helpers will be on hand to provide personalized assistance, so you'll never feel left behind. This class is open to all. Cost is \$40. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church, with "Smartphone 101 class" on the memo line.

### MISSION



 SIGN UP

#### **Food Rescue Program**

U of M football game food rescue program starts on September 2. We need 5-6 volunteers per game to collect and store the food in the stadium's freezer. This task takes approximately 2 hours. The collected food is donated to local food ministry partners. Sign up at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org) or contact Don Redding at [dredding58@yahoo.com](mailto:dredding58@yahoo.com) for more information.



 DONATE

#### **Support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Response to Deadly Fires on Maui**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbytery of the Pacific following the fires that killed at least 106 people in Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui and also burned portions of south Maui and the island's Upcountry region. Your gifts through First Pres to PDA will support important rebuilding projects well into the future. You may give electronically or by check.



 SIGN UP

## Alpha House Week of Service

August 28 - September 3

Our ministry with local mission partner Alpha House is an opportunity to support children and their parents who are experiencing homelessness. If you are interested in taking part during our next week of service, Monday, August 28 - Sunday, September 3, you may sign up either online to help provide a meal or assist with child care.

## MUSIC & FINE ARTS

### Chancel Choir

We welcome back to worship today the Chancel Choir after their summer recess. The Chancel Choir held their Annual Choir Retreat this weekend on Friday night and yesterday. If you would like to join the Chancel Choir (High-school – Adults), rehearsal is Thursday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer at [dvandermeer@fpca2.org](mailto:dvandermeer@fpca2.org)

## RESIDENT MINISTRY

This week, we have the joy of welcoming our twelfth cohort of Resident Ministers: Tommy Langejans and Nathaniel Fryer, who will be with us for the next two years. There are several opportunities to meet Nathaniel and Tommy in a smaller group setting and get to know them more during the month of September. Sign up for one of these gatherings at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).




### NATHANIEL FRYER

Nathaniel is a lifelong Michigander and grew up in the city of Wyoming. Trained as a historian, a Christian educator, choral singer, conservationist, and theologian, Nathaniel is grateful for the opportunity to incorporate these various skills in ministry. Nathaniel is passionate about bringing his love of creation, education, and service to First Pres. He's a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and Master of Christian Education and Formation degrees. In his free time, Nathaniel enjoys going on walks, running, hanging out with friends, and traveling. A fun fact about Nathaniel is that on family vacations, he 'pesters' his family members to visit old historic buildings and churches with him wherever they are traveling.



### TOMMY LANGEJANS

Tommy was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and grew up attending Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. He studied ministry and music at Valparaiso University before earning his Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary. During school, Tommy served as an intern and a 5th/6th grade youth minister at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven. He also served on worship planning teams in college and seminary, and as a Hebrew teaching assistant. Tommy especially loves planning and leading worship services (traditional or unique), preaching, performing music, facilitating group discussions, and being a listening ear for others. Long-term, Tommy is feeling called to pastoral ministry and looks forward to jumping into it with a good support system here at First Pres. For fun, Tommy loves board games, good (and bad) movies, tv, cooking new recipes, singing, and playing saxophone.



Join us for the beginning of a  
new program year

# FALL KICKOFF 2023

**September 10, 2023**

**8:30 a.m. Contemplative Communion Service**

A short communion service with simple morning prayer liturgy and no music.

**9:30 a.m. Worship**

Worship in the Sanctuary that includes scripture, sermon, prayer, and choral and instrumental music. This service is live-streamed.

**9:30 a.m. Children and Youth Faith Formation**

Children move to classrooms with their teachers after the Conversation with Young Disciples during worship. Youth classes begin at 9:30 a.m.

**10:30 a.m. Engagement Fair**

Find ways to use your gifts and talents to volunteer. Representatives from each ministry area will be present in the Social Hall to answer questions.

**10:45 a.m. Children's Choir**

Children's Choir is open to students ages 5 through 5th grade and meets in Lemon Chapel from 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.

**11:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation**

Adult formation classes meet from 11 to noon. Children and youth classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

**11:15 a.m. Worship**

Distinctly different from the 9:30 service, this 12-week season of worship will be experimental, creative, and participatory.

*Childcare is available from 9:20 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*