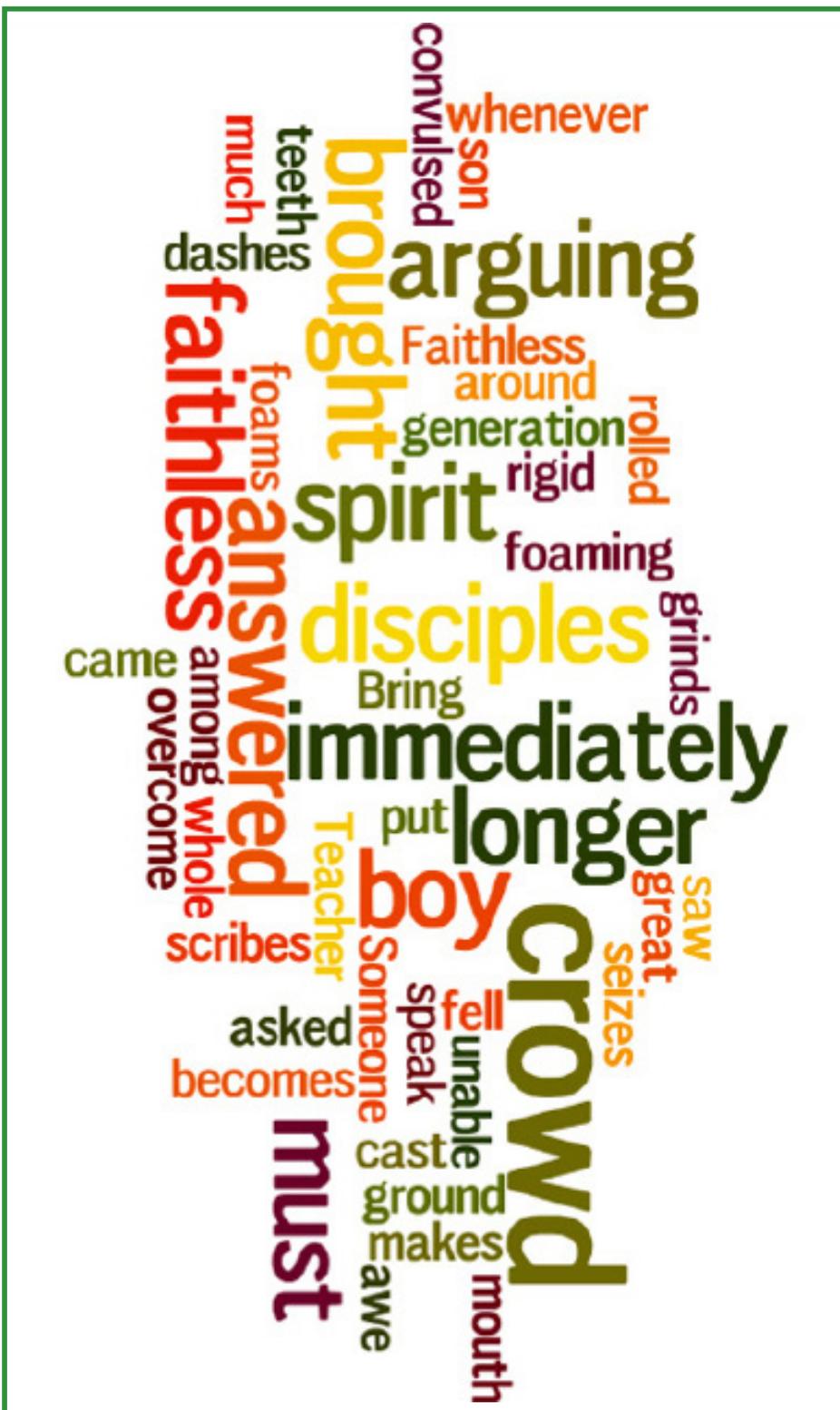


FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 30, 2022 • 9:30 a.m.



Please join in reading and singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

The Call to Worship is from *A Wee Worship Book*.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Allegro Cantabile, Symphonie V for Organ

Charles-Marie Widor

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began,

All: God was.

One: Here and now among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

All: God is.

One: In the future, when we have turned to dust,
and all we know has found its fulfillment,

All: God will be.

One: Not denying the world but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

All: God was, God is, God will be.

One: Amen. Let us worship.

* HYMN 662

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name...

SILENT PRAYER

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

* **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**

**O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!**

Sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*This is Stanza 6 of Hymn 15, *All Creatures of Our God and King* (LASST UNS ERFREUEN).*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 77:1–8

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9:14–20

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

SERMON

My Unbelief

RESPONDING

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Jesus, I believe,
help my unbelief.
Amen.**

* **HYMN 817**

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

This week's *Growing in God's Love Bible story*, "Jesus Heals with Words" is found on page 254.

The words of the offertory anthem are from an inscription found in a Cologne cellar where Jews hid during WWII.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service.

Ways to give: click

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>

... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



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OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Credo

Jane Marshall

Chancel Choir

I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.
I believe in love, even when not feeling it.
Lord, I believe, Help thou my unbelief, I believe.
I believe in God, even when God is silent.

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* 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 691

Lord, When I Came into This Life

LAND OF REST

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

In the name of Jesus —
Let us Love...**with Open Hearts!**
Let us Learn...**with Open Minds!**
Let us Serve...**with Open Arms!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Wir glauben all' an einen Gott, BWV 680

J. S. Bach

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad you are here! Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, please sign the pad on our website to let us know you are here or you may click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2OFFlvBmiZ1jQUGxeXcsAIDITp2WEYepSmnjQYMXbHHndA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>.

The 9:30 worship service is broadcast on WAAM 1600 at 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Mark Mares; Liturgists – Jay Sanderford and Hannah Lundberg; Scripture Reader – Mary McKeever; Children's Message – Megan Berry; Preacher – Scott Black Johnston; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Len Rezmierski (captain), Marolin Bellefleur, Clem Gill, Keith Molin, Karla Olson-Belfi, Beth Sanderford, Joe Schmidt, and Angela Yang

We welcome today The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, Senior Pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in the city of New York. Scott has an M.Div. from Yale, and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. More about Scott in his own words: "I am a husband, a dad, a friend, a Presbyterian pastor, a comic book reader, and a fan of almost any sport that involves a ball. I am a New Yorker with a soft spot in my heart for the rhythms and people of Atlanta, Georgia; Austin, Texas; and Duluth, Minnesota. I like red wine and dark beer, and am constantly in search of the world's best pizza. I read a lot. My laugh is too loud. I am an author. I write about reformed theology, preaching, psalms and prayers. I love to talk about the challenges, absurdities and joys of an urban faith. I am always on the lookout for God and good conversation."

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of their parents by Omer and Karla Bellfi.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are Ginny Rezmierski and Gale Redding. "Prayer brings to us blessings which we need, and which only God can give, and which prayer can alone convey to us." – Gerhard Tersteegen

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Social Hour today immediately following the Closing Voluntary. **Our conversation prompt:** What comes to mind when you think of "Presbyterian Beliefs"? What things are particularly meaningful for you among the Reformed Tradition's Essential Tenets? Enter Social Hour today by clicking <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8225711636>. **There is no in-person Social Hour this Sunday.**

FAITH FORMATION TODAY

The Bible at 11 o'clock (Zoom only) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117387186>
All are welcome to join our study of Isaiah led by Rev. Ed Koster.

First Friends and Exploring the Faith (Zoom only at <https://emich.zoom.us/j/89149132347>) at 11:00 a.m.
Video and discussion.

In-person classes for Children and Youth are on pause due to Covid concerns. This includes Children's Choir and "Amazing Stuff: God's Gift for Growing Up" which is postponed until February. For information about other opportunities to connect for children, youth and families, contact Rev. Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), Minister of Youth & Families, or Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children & Family Ministry (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

Youth Formation: All youth and their families are invited to use the "Faith Formation @ Home" resources in our weekly youth email. Confirmation classes (confirmands & parent/adult classes) will still meet at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. If you would like to subscribe to the youth email, or have any further questions, please contact Pastor Mark (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org).

Ice-skating @ Yost Arena today! All youth are invited to join us today, Sunday, January 30, from 1:45 – 3:00 p.m. at the Yost Ice Hockey Arena. We'll meet in the parking lot on the south side of the arena. Bring a mask, maybe a friend, and be ready to have lots of fun!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is called by Session for today, Sunday, January 30, at 4:00 p.m., for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report of the church, voting on changes to the installed pastors' terms of call, and acting on any other business that may properly come before the meeting. This virtual meeting may be accessed by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>.

"Grief Conversations" takes place online each month. You are invited to join the conversation, led by Rev. Rogers. Mutually supporting one another, we learn about grief and share more about our experiences and struggles. The meeting is the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m., for one hour. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87990641051>. Contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

T2A2 Small Group meets off-site at 7:00 p.m. to study the book of Romans. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, a working professional or a grad student, we invite all in their twenties and thirties to come and build community with us as we share meaningful conversations and reflect on the Word together. For more information, please email t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org.

Daytime Handbell Choir begins February 17! Have you ever wanted to ring handbells? Now is your chance. No experience needed. We will rehearse on Thursday afternoons, 2:00 – 2:45 p.m., in the Handbell Room. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music Fine Arts at dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org

March First Sundays – lunch sack packing happens March 6 (postponed from February 6)! Help the Faith Formation and Local Missions teams achieve their goal to pack 75 lunches for community members in need! Consider dropping off donations to First Pres on or before February 27 and then join in the packing fun on March 6. This easy 3-step process will help our community in need. Check out the First Pres website for a list of suggested items to purchase: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/event/first-sunday-event-now-march-6>

Our January donations and financial contributions support Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County. Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Personal care items are of particular need since they cannot be purchased with Bridge Cards. Donations will be coordinated by the First Pres Local Missions team.

Our Local Mission Grant Program is gearing up for 2022. Every year First Pres supports our neighbors in need through grants to local community agencies. In 2021 we distributed \$73,000 through 12 grants, each worth between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Some grants go to long-time partners while others go to new applicants. Visit our web page <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/mission/local-missions/local-mission-grant-program> for more information. During January we are reviewing our funding priorities and updating the application process. Contact Martha Kershaw (mdkershaw@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to participate.

Visit our current art exhibit "Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic" by Christina Saj, a contemporary artist whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern. "Finding Sanctuary" is displayed in the Social Hall and may also be visited virtually at the small gallery view (<https://matterport.com/discover/space/NXWVFvIMnFvq>) or the main lobby view (<https://matterport.com/discover/space/f5TDiZsGqjZ>). The Pandemic collection seeks solace in aesthetics, delivering hope and faith through image, form, and color. The artwork is for sale for \$225 apiece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales.

The monthly Taizé Prayer Service is this Tuesday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. All are invited to attend either in person or virtually on YouTube or Facebook. A Service of Wholeness and Healing will be included.

Mature Singles meet on Friday nights. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

The Men's Study Group meets on the first and third Friday mornings, 8:30–9:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room for coffee, study, and conversation. This winter we are reading *As Kingfishers Catch Fire: A Conversation on the Ways of God Formed by the Words of God* by Eugene Peterson. This collection of sermons is packed with insights and wisdom from a thoughtful pastor and preacher. All meetings are hybrid with both in-person gatherings as well as via Zoom. All men are welcome! Books are available in the Church Office for \$18.00. Questions? Contact Rev. Jay Sanderford, jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340.

Journeys Bible Study is a women's group that meets via Zoom on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We're studying Acts, incorporating art, poetry and music. This Fall, we reflected on the drama of Jesus' ascension story. We continue with the quick-moving spread from Jerusalem to the entire Roman Empire, the impassioned disciples' preaching about the gift of the Holy Spirit to ordinary people and God's authority holding power above the governing elite. A Resident Minister facilitates the discussion on a rotating basis. Contact Coordinator, Beth Gerwig, at bgerwig@comcast.net for more information. The Zoom link is <https://02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>.

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women. There are several monthly Bible studies that all women of the church are welcome to attend. Contact Meg Brown (lmegbrown@gmail.com) for more information. PW sends out timely information in email blasts so that all women of the church may stay connected. Let Meg know if you would like to be added to the email list.

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. Would you like prayer for yourself or others? Use this form by Sunday evening: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/prayer-request/>. If you would like to join this group, email Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for information and the link. For those in worship today, to share a prayer today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.

Contact the Church Office if you would like to donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$75.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) to grab a cup of coffee or for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. We meet weekly and can be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>.

UM Women's Basketball Game v. Iowa — Join Your Church Family! Sign up for free tickets for you and your family for the Big 10 game v. Iowa on Sunday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m. Once you sign up, you will be contacted about how to get your ticket. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-first1>

Fast-Track to Membership on Sunday, February 13! Interested in joining? We make it easy! On February 13, around 11:00 a.m., after worship and Social Hour, join us in the Lead Pastor's office (any usher can direct you) to meet with a pastor, and 2 Elders. It takes about 20 minutes, and we'll provide all the support you need afterwards. A new member class follows, offered multiple times per year, for those who feel moved to join. You can join as a full member (with the right of voice and vote in congregational meetings) or as an affiliate member (meaning your membership is lodged elsewhere). For more information, contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org or 734-5662-4466 ext. 390).

Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist

Rev. Megan Berry
Resident Minister

Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse

David Hufford
Organist

Rev. Hannah Lundberg
Resident Minister

Rev. Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families

Rev. Evans McGowan
Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries

Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse

Shayla Powell
Children's Choir Director

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor

Rev. Jay Sanderford
Associate Pastor

Beca Torres-Davenport
Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer
Minister of Music & Fine Arts



Rev. Matthew J. Warfield
Resident Minister (In Memoriam)

Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant

Nick Dibacco-Vaidya
Finance Assistant

Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator

Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist

Kathy Houser
Technology Coordinator

Diane Knibbs
Administrative Assistant

Anna Miller
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Allie Milot
Communications Coordinator

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Linda Robinson
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First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
1826-2021

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