

The Gun Violence Prevention subgroup of the First Pres Social Action Justice Action group invites you to participate in an advocacy day in Lansing on Wednesday, April 13. For more information, see the church website or contact Carol Fletcher (cefletch@umich.edu).

A memorial service for Charles Gehrke will be on April 23, at noon, at First Presbyterian Church, Tecumseh, Michigan. Visitation will be at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow the service. Mark and Carolyn Gehrke, Claire and Anna, are grateful for your prayers that support them at this time of loss.

Each year, the Congregational Nominating Committee seeks to bring new faces and new energy to our leadership. Jesus taught his disciples not to emulate the rulers of the Gentiles who exercised authority over them. Instead, Jesus taught that in order for us to be leaders, we must become servants first. At First Pres we have two groups of servant-leaders: Deacons and Elders. Deacons are the caregivers of the congregation. Serving as a Deacon at First Pres is an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. For more about Deacons, click here: [Being a Deacon | First Presbyterian of Ann Arbor](#). The Session is made up of Elders who have been elected and ordained into a leadership role. These faithful individuals reap the rewards of being involved in the life affirming work and decision-making for the benefit of their congregation. For more about Elders, click here: [Session \(Governing Body\) | First Presbyterian of Ann Arbor](#). Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these leadership roles and how you might be part of the next stage of church life at First Pres.

A Benefit Concert for Ukraine In response to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Europe, First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor invites you to a Benefit Concert for Ukraine on Sunday, April 10, 2:00–3:00 in the Sanctuary. 100% of the proceeds will be distributed to the Ukrainian American Crisis Committee and Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, which are working to aid refugees arriving to Michigan. This concert will feature students and faculty members of the University of Michigan School of Music Theater and Dance. We want to join together with our audience to raise funds to help the refugees and to unite our hearts with music in this special concert.

En la Mesa de Dios // At God's Table: A Stations of the Cross Experience

April 3–17 | Sundays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Mondays – Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Experience the Holy Week narrative by taking in the art of *En la mesa de Dios / At God's Table*, illustrated by Joel Schoon-Tanis. Both an audio track to help in the walk-through and a pamphlet will be available.

Peeps and Pizza EGG-stravaganza on Holy Saturday! Team up with family and friends on Saturday, April 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Social Hall and on the Front Lawn to create your own Bible story shoe box diorama. A pizza lunch and children's egg hunt will be offered on the front lawn at 11:30 a.m. Sign up for pizza:

<https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/peeps-and-pizza-eggstravaganza-2022/>.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 3, 2022 • 8:00 a.m.



Anointed
Lauren Wright Pittman



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.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *The Deer* arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION *Dare to See*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Six days before the Passover, Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet and then wiped his feet with her hair.

All: She filled the air with the fragrance of her worship.

One: The prayers of the saints are like rising incense before God.

All: The fragrance of their worship fills the air.

One: Today, let us raise a praise that touches the heart of God.

All: Let the fragrance of our worship fill the air.

One: God, may we offer our praise as a sweet fragrance that aspires to heaven.

All: May the fragrance of our worship fill the air!

(Adapted from *The Africana Worship Book for Year C* by Kwasi

Kena)

* HYMN 463 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you meet us when we feel alone in the wilderness, promising that no matter how bleak the moment seems, you are about to do a new thing. We confess that far too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity, closing our eyes to the expansive possibilities you call us toward. Forgive us when we fail to follow your ways, remind us of your expansive hope, and journey with us as we seek to share your love with others...

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the First Presbyterian Congregation for today, April 3, at the conclusion of the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. The purpose of this Special Congregational Meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect two people to the office of Ruling Elder to complete unexpired terms of office. Jim Schaafsma was previously nominated and elected in January; Nancy Fox and Penny Papadopolous have been nominated to serve First Pres as Ruling Elders. Those not present this morning in person may join us by Zoom at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84262596705>.

Easter flowers to honor or remember loved ones may be ordered through next Sunday, April 10. The cost is \$18 per plant. Sign up on our website or by contacting the Church Office.

Ukrainian Appeal: Our Presbyterian response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead. The needs for the response are great. God's people are called on to stand in the "**GAP**" – **Give | Act | Pray: Give:** Gifts may be made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance through First Pres. Checks marked "Ukraine" may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to First Pres. Give online here: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/campaign/C-115MR>.

Our April donations and financial contributions support Community Action Network (CAN) of Washtenaw County. CAN envisions the closing of socio-economic gaps by providing educational and enrichment programs for children and teens, supportive services for families who are under-resourced, and challenging systems rooted in racism and inequality. 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. Donations will be coordinated by the Local Missions Team.

No-Sew Care Blankets for UM Cardiovascular Center Patients. Do you have extra fleece? Consider donating it to our First Sunday event for May. We will host a service opportunity for everyone to help make no-sew blankets in the Social Hall that will go to palliative care patients at the UM Cardiovascular Center. If you have fleece to donate, please bring it to the church by April 10, and then come back on May 1 to tie some blankets!

Help us continue to support dear friends abroad. We are collecting fabric again for our friends in the Philippines – men and women in the Dumaguete Habitat villages who are learning to sew. Light-weight fabrics of cotton and linen are preferred, a minimum of one yard in length. Collection boxes are in the Welcome Center until May 15. Send love by donating any unused fabric that you have stored or any new fabric that you might choose to purchase to donate. Questions? Call Harriet Brouwer: (734) 426-6908.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Wilderness | Welcome is our theme for Lenten worship. Each Sunday we will wrestle with Scripture passages that deal with questions of hospitality, loneliness, discovery, loss, and hope in the midst of wilderness moments. Many of us have been living in the wilderness for far too long. This Lent, we enter our third year of pandemic life with losses and hard realities all around us. Often, as we navigate these places of uncertainty and pain, our first instinct is to turn inward and to clench our fists until we can make it to the other side. Our faith invites us to a different response: one where fear leads us to turn toward one another, to rely on God's presence, to build love and support for all, and to trust that we do not journey on difficult roads alone. God calls us to welcome the wilderness and to turn wilderness into welcome.

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.

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

Worship Leaders: Liturgists – Mark Mares; Scripture Reader – Jeanette Kibler; Preacher – Hannah Lundberg; Musicians – Chancel Choir Section Leaders; Eric Bannitt, piano; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer

Join us for Coffee Hour today in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary.

First Sunday Faith Formation Hour begins at 11:00 a.m. All are invited to participate during and following Coffee Hour for several fun “Stations of the Cross” table exercises developed by Callie Feyen and Beca Torres-Davenport. These exercises relate to the current art exhibits in the Social Hall and *En La Mesa de Dios* on the third level. On First Sundays, regular Faith Formation classes for children and youth do not meet so that all may participate in these special activities.

The Bible @ 11:00 meets in the Curtis Room and via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117387186>) All are welcome to join our study of Isaiah led by Rev. Ed Koster.

Service of Wholeness and Healing. Join Rev. Rogers and the Stephen Ministers in the Sanctuary tonight at 7:00 p.m., for a special time of prayer, anointing, music, and a message from Olivier Jolliet of his own healing experience.

Ways to give: via “Text-to-Give” (855-904-1523), use the Vanco Mobile app, put a check in the mail, or scan the QR code to the right.

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SILENT PRAYER

Have mer - cy. Have mer - cy Lord. Have mer - cy.

Have mer - cy Lord. Have mer - cy.

This is *Psalm 123: Have Mercy* by Greg Scheer.

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

**All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

This is Stanza 1 of Hymn 509, *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (HOLY MANNA).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:16–21

God is the one who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
God is the one who defeated the mighty armies.
They fell together, and they will never rise again.
They were destroyed as a flame is put out.

**God is about to do a new thing,
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

God is the one who declares:
Do not remember the past things,
or focus on the things of old.

**I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people I created myself
so that they might declare my praise.

**God is about to do a new thing,
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 12:1–8

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

SERMON

RESPONDING AND SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory *Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks* Herbert Howells

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is a thirst for God yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
While they daily say unto me where is now thy God?
Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come before the presence of God?

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please refer to the Communion Card.

Communion Music *Holy Manna* arr. Paul A. Tate

SENDING

* **HYMN** *A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar*

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

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 *Praise God's Greatness* arr. Mark Hayes

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary.