

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 25, 2021



Potluck Mural
David Fichler



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

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.

During the five weeks from July 25 through August 22, our gospel readings are from the sixth chapter of the gospel of John, and all are directly related to bread. Beginning with the feeding of the 5000, we hear Jesus remind us of the manna, the bread from heaven that fed the ancient Hebrew people in the desert, and distinguish it from the bread of life, the spiritual bread that was Jesus. "I am the Bread of Life," "I am the Living Bread," "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever." "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." Like the bread in our scripture, the breads in our world can take many forms, just a few of which you will see on our communion table over the coming weeks.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Sonata II in C minor for Organ, Op. 65

Felix Mendelssohn

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Breaker of Bread:

All: Restore us!

One: Breaker of Bondage:

All: Free us!

One: Protector of Peace:

All: Save us!

One: Purveyor of Justice:

All: Strengthen us!

One: Father of Lights:

All: Awaken us!

One: Mother of All:

All: Nurture us!

One: Let us worship God:

All: In body, mind and spirit.

* HYMN 618

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

DEO GRACIAS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

It's too much.

Too much to do.

Too much to say.

Too much to handle.

We fail to withdraw from our duties.

We neglect those we most cherish.

We think only of our foolish selves.

**There is no one who does good,
without your sustaining spirit.**

You are enough for us.

Therefore:

Call us back to your light.

Ground us in your love.

Restore in us your faith.

**Bring us back together once more
to be one body in service to you...**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy on us.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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.

This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 475, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (NETTLETON).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING John 6:1–15
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 3:14–21
The grass withers, the flower fades; **the word of the Lord endures forever.**

SERMON *Grounded in Deep-Seeded Love*

RESPONDING

*HYMN 688 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l>

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *If with All Your Hearts* from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn
Nicholas Music, soloist

If with all your hearts ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever surely find me.
Thus, saith our God.
Oh! That I knew where I might find Him,
That I might even come before His presence.

* 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.**

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 498** *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* BEACH SPRING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Sonata II in C minor for Organ, Op. 65 Felix Mendelssohn
Allegro maestoso e vivace

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the closing voluntary. The ushers will dismiss the congregation from the back of the Sanctuary forward.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: click

[online at our First Pres website](#) ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... online at our First Pres website use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



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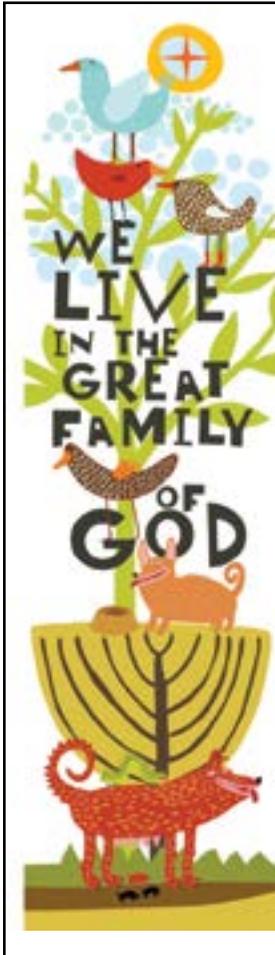
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Summer Festival of Worship

Stay Connected!



Life is busy in the Great Family of God!

We know that most members of our First Pres family have lots of obligations in the summer. Perhaps you have little time to think about your faith, and how it can grow. We hope you can find an hour or so weekly to join us for an alternative worship offering. Come, strengthen your faith in the company of old friends – and friends you've yet to meet!

Tuesdays @ First Pres

August 3 @ 7:00 p.m.

Taizé worship is livestreamed from the Sanctuary on YouTube and Facebook.

Wednesdays @ First Pres

August 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship around the fire on the First Pres lawn

Thursdays @ First Pres **THIS WEEK**

July 29 and August 26 @ 6:00 p.m.

Guided outdoor meditation at the Hilligs' labyrinth

Saturdays @ First Pres

August 14 @ 5:00 p.m.

Jazz vespers service on the First Pres lawn

Meditation and Labyrinth Walking. As a part of our Summer Festival of Worship, on July 29 and August 26, you are invited to the home of Kurt and Kathy Hillig (7654 W Ellsworth Rd., Ann Arbor) to walk the labyrinth they have made on their property. Come anytime between 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. It takes about 20–30 minutes to go from your car to the labyrinth and back. Signs will guide you from the parking area to the labyrinth. There is a guided meditation podcast available to use while walking, or consider using that another time for a meditative moment. Being outside in silence in nature is very meditative. Note that tick season is in full gear so please wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers, (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org). The guided meditation (put together by Rev. Mares) can be found at <https://www.faithbeats.com>.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org), Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

195th Anniversary Celebration Starts Early — on August 14! Sign up now for the 195th BBQ dinner following Jazz Vespers on August 14. Bring your chair. Signup and payment due by August 9.

<https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w1iut2fh1loxpv/>

T2A2 Small Group meets off-site on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, a working professional or a grad student, we invite everyone 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.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. We will gather virtually and in person at various times over the summer. 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!

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact Ginny (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Mature Singles enjoy gathering for dinner in restaurants on Friday evenings. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. We have over 20 people who come together online to start the week and pray for the needs shared in worship, on the virtual friendship pad, and using the prayer request form. 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, you can come to our meeting and pray for others or share your request directly. Email Rev. Rogers for information and the link. (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

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>

We're at it again—sorting and packing school supplies and books for the Philippines. The need persists and the Filipino children and teachers wait eagerly for the boxes to arrive. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us in this mini-mission for part or all of Friday, August 20 and Saturday, August 21, 9:00 – 5:00 at 3102 Fairhaven Ct., Ann Arbor. There are jobs for all. *Salamat.*

Habitat for Humanity needs four to six volunteers daily on July 31, August 7 and 13, and September 11, 17, and 25. The house is located at 1217 Davis Street, Ypsilanti. Contact Don Redding (734-276-8426; dredding58@yahoo.com) with questions and to volunteer. Volunteer registration will close the Tuesday evening before each of our build days so Habitat can prepare the work tasks.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



STAYING CONNECTED, our theme for this summer, invites us all to be linked together in a broad community of people, joined by the energy of a holy curiosity and an indefatigable courage. As the coronavirus lessens its grip, and we emerge into a new hybrid existence, it is vital that we re-connect, stay connected, or connect afresh. It takes curiosity and courage to remain connected to each other. Curiosity to see how we can creatively connect to one another, and courage to do it safely amidst a changing viral situation. This summer, we will explore ways we stay connected to the things that matter most. For some, it will be getting out for some fresh air and a brisk walk. For many, it will mean staying in touch virtually via livestream, Zoom, or even phone conversations. For others, it will mean traveling and reconnecting with family and friends whom we haven't seen in the flesh in a long time. All the while, First Pres will be an active community, vibrant and alive, connecting all to the power and grace of the God of all creation.

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Mark Mares; Liturgists – Jay Sanderford and Melissa Anne Rogers; Scripture Reader – Gregg Pakela; Children's Message – Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Evans McGowan; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Video Production – Bill Hall; Sound Production – Rol Kibler; Ushers – Omer Bellfi, Keith Molin, Joe Schmidt, and Angela Yang

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Brock Wolf, son of Pat Gilbreath, by Pat's First Presbyterian sisters, the Cisterns.

A red rosebud celebrates the birth of Ram Krishna Williamson on July 13, 2021. Ram is the son of Craig Williamson and Renu Tipirneni.

Join us for Coffee Hour on the Circle Terrace immediately following the Closing Voluntary.

Pastoral & Program Staff

Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse
David Hufford
Organist
Reverend Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families
Reverend Evans McGowan
Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Kellie McInchak
Children's Choir Director
Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor
Reverend Jay Sanderford
Associate Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport
Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer
Minister of Music & Fine Arts

Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant
J. P. DiMaggio
Interim Bridge Administrator
Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator
Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist
Diane Knibbs
Assistant Welcome Center Coordinator
Anna Miller
Finance Manager
Allie Milot
Communications Coordinator
Adrian Prundeanu
Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson
Office Manager
Alyssa Walker
Finance Assistant



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