

# ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 8, 2021



*Bread from Heaven*  
Solomon Raj



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

**Making God's Love Visible**

# GATHERING

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.

## Gifts of Finest Wheat:

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.

## WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654*

J. S. Bach

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus says, I am the bread of life,

**All: And we gather to receive this bread.**

One: This bread opens compassion for the hurting.

**All: This bread offers mercy for the brokenhearted.**

One: This bread brings together those who are divided.

**All: This bread is refuge for the disregarded.**

One: This bread prevails over violence, hate, and empire.

**All: This bread nourishes joy for all who long to taste and see.**

One: Let us gather in Christ to know that the Lord is good.

### \* HYMN 509

*All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

HOLY MANNA

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of concern, Lord of mercy,**

**From ripening tomatoes to gatherings of family and friends,**

**You made the world for goodness.**

**From repairing social wounds to restoring relationships,**

**You made the world for reconciling.**

**Forgive us when we squander what you made so good.**

**Forgive us when we let fear dominate our thinking without reason.**

**Forgive us when we see scarcity where you see possibility.**

**Forgive us when we choose disconnection over common good.**

**Forgive us so that we know how to forgive one another...**

### SILENT PRAYER

### KYRIE



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

**Preaching today is the Rev. Matthew Nickel who was a Resident Minister at First Pres from 2009 to 2011.**

He served churches in Metro-Detroit and Louisville before accepting a call as Pastor/ Head of Staff to Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Matt and his wife, Rev. Emma Nickel (who is Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak) have two daughters Naomi and Phoebe. He enjoys cycling, Wendell Berry books, going to the lake and being among trees. Welcome back, Matt!

**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) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
eternal truth attends thy word:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 327, From All That Dwell Below the Skies.*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** John 6:35, 41–51

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

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 4:25–5:2

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

### SERMON

*Rising to Life*

## RESPONDING

**\* HYMN 316**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

TWENTY-FOURTH

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

#### Prayer of Dedication

#### Offertory

*O Bread of Life from Heaven*  
Abby Peterson and Alan Williams

David Ashley White

O bread of life from heaven, to saints and angels given;  
O manna from above!  
The soul that hunger, feed thou, the hearts that seek thee, lead thou,  
With thy sweet, tender love.

**\* 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.**

**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/2Rliq2l>

**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 312

*Take Us As We Are, O God*

ENDLESS FEAST

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Toccata*

Georgi Mushel

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

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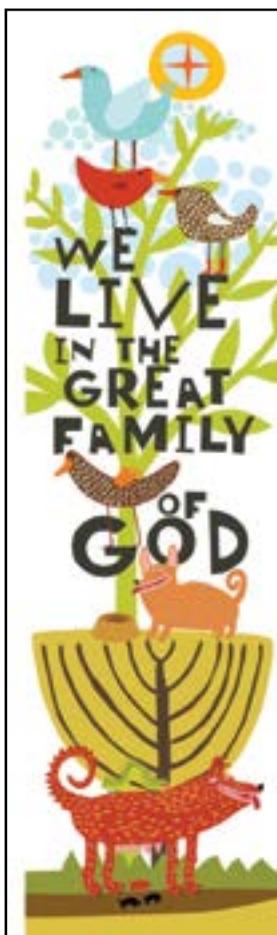
**Today's cover art:**

*Bread from Heaven*  
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Eyekons

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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!

#### Wednesdays @ First Pres

August 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship around the fire on the First Pres lawn

#### Thursdays @ First Pres

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

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**Our 195<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Starts Early — on August 14!** Sign up now for the 195<sup>th</sup> BBQ dinner following Jazz Vespers on August 14. Bring your own chair or picnic blanket. Signup and payment are due by August 9. Sign up online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w1iut2f-h1loxpv/>

**Meditation and Labyrinth Walking.** As a part of our Summer Festival of Worship, on 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 ([mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mr Rogers@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](mailto: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](mailto:mmares@firstpresbyterian.org)), Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time.

**Tubing down the River!** Join Rev. Mark & Rev. Evans for some fun tubing down the river as we enjoy the last days of summer on the afternoon of August 15. Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet to join us for a fun day on pizza tubes!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We invite your participation in ministry at Alpha House, a shelter for children and their families experiencing homelessness, during the week of August 30 – September 5.** Sign up online or during Coffee Hour. Questions may be directed to Ruth Jensen ([ruthannjensen@gmail.com](mailto:ruthannjensen@gmail.com)) Gail Einhaus ([gail.einhaus@gmail.com](mailto:gail.einhaus@gmail.com)), Paula Doering ([paulahdoering@gmail.com](mailto:paulahdoering@gmail.com)), or Anne Gere ([argere@umich.edu](mailto:argere@umich.edu)).

**Savoring the Snickerdoodles!** We are bringing back home-baked cookies to Coffee Hour in August! If you can help by baking 4 dozen cookies of any kind, and dropping them off on Sunday morning as you go to worship, it will be so appreciated. Please mark them if they have nuts, or are gluten-free. Our hospitality has missed homemade deliciousness and the inclusive joy of sharing some treats together after worship. Sign up here if you want to help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-cookie2>.

**Fast Track to Membership on August 15!** Join us at 11:00 a.m., in the Curtis Room, to join First Pres! You can join as a full member or an affiliate member (a category of membership for those whose primary membership remains with another church but who want to express commitment to First Pres). If you prefer, you can join online by Zoom, using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84143125355>.

**New Member Class coming soon!** A New Member Class is on August 22, at 11:00 a.m. Join us if you have fast-tracked, to learn more, or if you are considering joining in September or October. Contact Rev. Rogers for more information ([mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org)).

**Our annual Ice-Cream Social** will be Sunday, September 5, on the Circle Terrace, at 10:30 a.m. Join us!

**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](mailto: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](mailto:virginiabell2013@gmail.com)) to be added to the email list.

**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. ([mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org)).

**Circles helps end poverty. Join us to find out how!** Circles, a relationship-based program designed to break the cycle of poverty permanently, is looking for volunteers. This program, a ministry of Friends in Deed, matches low-income people with two middle-income partners. These new friends (Allies) help broaden their social network, giving access to people and resources they might never have if they only relate to their neighbors in poverty. Learn more and find out how YOU can best use your time and talents in the Circles program by attending a virtual New Volunteer Orientation on Wednesday, August 11, 5:30–6:30 p.m. For more information and for the Zoom link for the meeting, contact Suzanne ([suzanne@friendsindeedmi.org](mailto:suzanne@friendsindeedmi.org); 734-340-9042).

**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](mailto:t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org).

**Mature Singles** are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

**Rev. Rogers will host a Virtual Coffee Hour the final Sunday of the month**, beginning after the live-stream worship service on YouTube. Join Rev. Rogers from wherever you are for virtual fellowship with lively conversation!

**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 August 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](mailto: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.

**The Pilgrimage on the Northumberland Way in England for May 17–27, 2022, has one opening for a female participant to share a double room.** If you are interested, contact Rev. Rogers. Alongside sandy beaches, over rocky headlands, past dramatic castles and through attractive coastal villages, the Northumberland Coast Path offers a constantly changing landscape which is a pleasure to explore for our next spiritual pilgrimage.

**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](mailto:pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org). Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>

**Chancel Choir Begins Anew!** You are invited to sing with the Chancel Choir as they begin their new choir season for 2021–2022. The choir is open to High School students through Adults. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Monteith Hall. The first rehearsal will be on Thursday, August 12. A choir retreat will follow later in August on Friday and Saturday, August 27 and 28. For more information, please contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts at [dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org).

**Help us prepare for Dedication/Reformation Sunday.** Red fabric strips are needed to help create red paraments for Dedication/Reformation Sunday, October 31, to support our Annual Giving Campaign theme: "Peace by Piece." Please drop materials off at the Welcome Center by Sunday, October 10.

**Are you interested in serving on the Liturgical/Visual Arts Team?** This team of individuals plans liturgical/visual arts for our worship spaces and rotating art exhibits in our Social Hall. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts: [dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org)

# 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. 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 – Jay Sanderford; Liturgists – Mark Mares and Melissa Anne Rogers; Scripture Reader – Mary Smith; Children's Message – Evans McGowan; Preacher – Matthew Nickel; Vocalists – Abby Peterson and Alan Williams; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Joe Schmidt and Angela Yang

**Chancel flowers** are given in honor of the members of the Congregational Nominating Committee and the Pastoral Nominating Committee, and in loving memory of Jack Caldwell.

**Join us for Coffee Hour** on the Front Lawn immediately following the Closing Voluntary.

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## Pastoral & Program Staff

Barbara DeLancey  
*Parish Nurse*  
David Hufford  
*Organist*  
Mark Mares  
*Minister of Youth & Families*  
Evans McGowan,  
*Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries*  
Kellie McInchak  
*Children's Choir Director*  
Stacey Pakela  
*Parish Nurse*  
Melissa Anne Rogers  
*Associate Pastor*  
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*

