

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15, 2021



Wisdom Has Built Her House
Unidentified Artist



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth:
one holy people gathered in love beyond our own,
by grace we were invited; by grace we make you known.**

This is Stanza 2 of Hymn 361, O Christ, the Great Foundation (AURELIA).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING John 6:51–58

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 2:10–12, 3:3–14

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

Imperfect Love

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.



RESPONDING

*** HYMN 459**

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

With a Voice of Singing
Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this,

and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered God's people, Alleluia.

The Lord hath delivered God's people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,

O sing praises to the honor of God's name,

make God's praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing declare ye this,

and let it be heard, Alleluia. Alleluia.

Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

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>

*** Doxology**

**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.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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 366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Processional

Martin Shaw

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

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.

The Call to Worship, based on Psalm 34, was written by Joanna Harader.

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Evans McGowan; Faith in Action – Gail Einhaus; Liturgists – Jay Sanderford and Evans McGowan; Scripture Reader – Kathy Wirstrom; Children's Message – Melissa Anne Rogers; Preacher – Mark Mares; Musicians – Sanctus Ringers and Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Keith and Sheila Bilby, Jim Cameron, Keith Molin, and Joe Schmidt

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Susan Rose Reynolds by her family who will always miss and cherish her; and by Kathy and Kurt Hillig in honor of our new resident ministers as they begin their ministry with us.

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

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Today's cover art:

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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.

Tube down the river today! Join Rev. Mark & Rev. Evans for some fun tubing down the river as we enjoy the last days of summer on this afternoon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fast Track to Membership today! 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>.

Tell Me More About This Church! Are you a prospective member, regular attender, frequent guest, or someone new who really wants to know more? Join us on September 12, at 4:30 p.m., at the Session Room (3685 Jackson Road) for a cool beverage, snacks, and good conversation on the patio. We'll answer any question you have and surely hear a few we didn't expect! It's a lively hour together for all ages. Contact Rev. Rogers so we know to look for you! (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org; 734-355-2351)

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) Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com), Paula Doering (paulahdoering@gmail.com), or Anne Gere (argere@umich.edu).

Savoring the Snickerdoodles! Home-baked cookies have returned for Coffee Hour! 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. Sign up here if you want to help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-cookie2>.

New Member Class coming soon! A New Member Class is next Sunday, 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 (mrogers@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) 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.

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).

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.

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 this 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 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.

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>

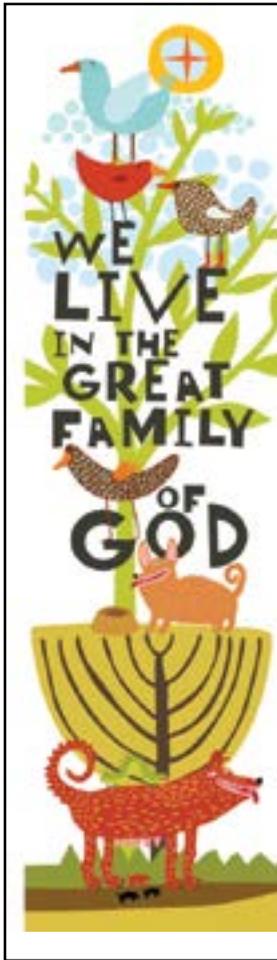
Chancel Choir Begins Anew! You are invited to sing with the Chancel Choir (high school and adults) as they begin their new choir season for 2021–2022. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Monteith Hall. A choir retreat will follow later in August on Friday and Saturday, August 27 and 28. For more information, please contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts at dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org.

Michigan Football is just around the corner, and that means our Food Rescue program returns! Several members of our church started this program years ago. Volunteers take cooked/processed food to the freezer at the end of football games (you can get in during the 4th quarter even if you aren't attending the game), and then return on Monday morning to load up the truck and drive to Detroit. You can sign up for any or all of three slots: food gathering after the game, food loading Monday morning, and food delivery Monday during the day. Sign up on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/FoodRescue2021>.

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

The Men's Study Group will meet Friday, September 3, and continue until May, meeting on the first and third Friday mornings from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room, for coffee, study, and conversation. This fall, we will read *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings* by Amy Jill Levine. It's an important book and a timely look at some of the most interesting and challenging words uttered by Jesus. All men are welcome! Books are available in the Church Office for \$15.00. Questions? Contact Rev. Jay Sanderford (jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340).



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.

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 this is tick season so please wear closed-toe shoes and long pants.

Pastoral & Program Staff

Megan Beery
Resident Minister

Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse

David Hufford
Organist

Hannah Lundberg
Resident Minister

Rev. Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families

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

Kellie McInchak
Children's Choir Director

Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse

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 Warfield
Resident Minister

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

