

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 5, 2021



*The Rag Collectors*  
Eugene Laermans



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.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

**FAITH IN ACTION**      Stephen Ministry

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Meditation on "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"*

Gerre Hancock

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here, in this place, we will not be afraid to sing the good news.

**All: We will praise our God, now and always.**

One: Here, with these people, we will not fear in living the good news.

**All: We will walk with Jesus, as he comes with justice in his hands.**

One: Here, in these moments, we will not be scared to tell the good news.

**All: We will be open to all the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst.**

\* **HYMN 757**    *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples of the Lord*    KINGSFOLD

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We say that we are good listeners, God of holy ways, but we turn stopped up ears to the vulnerable around us. We say that we live as your people, but too often, we put ourselves ahead of the people we love. We say that we are people of faith, but then we try to overwhelm people with words, rather than acts of service.**

**We say so much, God of compassion, that we cannot hear you calling us to faithful living. Have mercy on us and send us out to offer kindness to the lonely. Have mercy on us and send us to be generous with the love you offer. Have mercy on us, so we might be open to all the chances we will have to follow, and to serve alongside our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...**

## SILENT PRAYER

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## \* PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



*This is the Celtic Alleluia.*

# PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Proverbs 22: 1–2, 8–9, 22–23

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

## A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** James 2:1–17

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

## SERMON

# RESPONDING AND SEALING

\* **HYMN 773** *Heaven Shall Not Wait* HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

## OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

### Prayer of Dedication

**Offertory** *Give Almes of Thy Goods* Christopher Tye  
Chancel Choir

Give almes of thy goods, and turn never thy face from any poor one,  
And then the face of the Lord shall not be turned away from thee.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

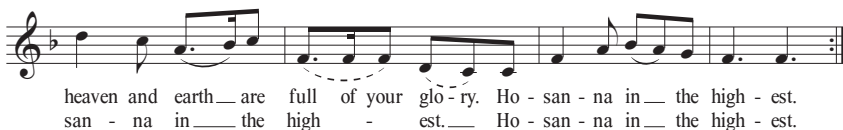
**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



In the **Prayer for Illumination** we ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand the scripture reading. "Illumination" is the act of shining light on something. We pray God will give us new understandings of the reading, or shine the light for us to see and understand what we hear.

**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.



**During his ministry, Jesus shared meals as a sign of community and acceptance.** As we gather for communion, know that you are welcome in this community and accepted at Christ's table.

"As this broken bread scattered on the mountains was gathered and became one, so too, may your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom." – *The Didache*, one of the earliest Christian texts.

**Applause** is a normal affirmative response. We are grateful for your affirmation. However, please consider that the worship leaders' approach is that this is not a performance, but a contribution to Christ. If a spirited anthem, inspirational sermon, or rousing solo moves you to express gratitude, you might say "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!"

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**Today's cover art:**

*Rag Collectors*, by Eugene Laermans, is used with permission from "Art in the Christian Tradition," a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**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>

**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.**

**Words of Institution**

**Communion of the People**

**Communion Music** *Cantilena* Joseph Rheinberger

**Prayer after Communion**

**SENDING**

\* **HYMN 529** *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* UNION SEMINARY  
*The Congregation will sing Stanzas 1 and 3. The Chancel Choir will sing Stanza 2.*

\* **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** *March in F* Alexandre Guilmant

*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!**

**Worship Leaders:** Welcome – Jay Sanderford; Faith in Action – Chris Queen; Liturgists – Mark Mares, Evans McGowan, and Matthew Warfield; Scripture Reader – Anne Andrus; Children's Message – Mark Mares and Hannah Lundberg; Preacher – Melissa Anne Rogers; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Paul Smith (captain), Carol Smith, Angela Yang, Beth Gerwig, Aidan Majorprice, Chloe Majorprice, Nicole Jolliet, and Olivier Jolliet

**Chancel flowers** are given in loving memory of Margaret Rasmussen by her sister, Carole Hendrickson.

**Join us for our annual Ice-Cream Social today** on the Front Lawn immediately following the Closing Voluntary.

**Fair Trade Coffee** is for sale during Coffee Hour. Buying Fair Trade ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it. Your purchase supports a living wage for coffee farmers and subsidizes First Pres' commitment to serving Fair Trade Coffee at all church events.



First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor  
1826-2021

**First Presbyterian Church — Ann Arbor**  
**CELEBRATING 195 YEARS OF MAKING GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE**

***Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Arms***  
**Fall 2021 Schedule Beginning September 12**

- 8:00 a.m.           Worship with Communion in Monteith Hall  
Coffee Hour follows on the Monteith Hall Terrace or in the Welcome Center
- 9:30 a.m.           Worship in the Sanctuary with the Chancel Choir  
Service livestreamed on our YouTube page and Facebook  
Worship Lab for Children in Room 300 (at 9:55 a.m.)  
Childcare available by reservation for infant through Pre-K
- 10:30 a.m.           Coffee Hour on the Front Lawn  
(Moves to Social Hall for inclement weather)
- 10:30–10:55 a.m.   Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00–11:50 a.m.   Faith Formation for All Ages  
Classes for Children, Youth, Confirmands, and Adults, including  
*Exploring the Faith, First Friends, and The Bible @ 11*  
Campus Ministry Group followed by College Lunch  
Childcare available by reservation  
The 9:30 Service is broadcast on WAAM 1600 at 11:00.

Orchestra rehearses Sunday afternoon at 1:30. Youth Groups meet on Sunday afternoon at 6:00.  
Prayer Team meets Monday morning at 9:00. Bell Choir rehearses on Monday evening at 7:00.  
Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evening at 7:00.

We are welcoming several guest preachers starting with Dr. Tom Long who joins us September 12. Rev. Lal Rodawla, former Resident Minister, returns to First Pres on October 3. Dr. Margaret Aymer preaches on October 17. Rev. Sarah Wiles, former Resident Minister, returns on October 31. Former Campus Pastor Rev. Amy Morrison Heinrich returns on November 14. Rev. Scott Black Johnson visits on January 30. Our 8:00 a.m. preaching rotation will regularly include our new Resident Ministers.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our September Communion Sunday Food Collection supports Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County.** The Covid-19 pandemic continues to create a “perfect storm” of increased demand for food and declines in donated food. As we are fed at the Lord’s Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to our neighbors in need. Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays 9:00 a.m. –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. The most needed food items include low sodium soups, canned meats and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, nut butters, jelly, baby food and formula, and Ensure or other nutritional supplement drinks. The most needed personal care items are diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors.

**Mature Singles** meet for their annual Labor Day Picnic tomorrow, September 6, at 1:00 p.m. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

**The Twenties and Thirties of Ann Arbor (T2A2) Welcome Picnic is tomorrow, September 6, at noon in Chris Wahl's backyard at 2388 Nixon Road.** Returning T2A2 folk, please bring a dessert or side dish. Newcomers, please come as you are! Significant others, friends and families are welcome! Lawn games will be available in the afternoon. RSVPs are encouraged, but not required, by emailing [t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org). Also note if you need a ride. Join us later in the week for a hangout on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and the fall kickoff to Bible study next Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

**The Taizé Prayer Service** returns to Monteith Hall and in person this Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m. The service is available on YouTube and Facebook.

**Tell Me More About This Church!** Are you a prospective member, regular attendee, frequent guest, or someone new who really wants to know more? Join us next Sunday, 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](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org); 734-355-2351)

**Greetings, College Students!** We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. 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!

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Opportunity in Haiti.** A continuing disaster faces Haiti after the August 14 earthquake left almost 2,200 people dead, thousands more injured, and an unknown number still missing. At least 13,000 homes were destroyed and roads, bridges and communication systems have been severely damaged. Every church building in the city of Les Cayes was damaged, leaving few viable community institutions standing. This catastrophe comes on top of Haiti’s ongoing struggles with endemic hunger and poverty, Covid-19 and continuing civil unrest. On top of it all, Tropical Storm Grace inflicted more misery on the region with flooding rain and wind. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through our established local partners. The PC(USA), through PDA, will remain active throughout the entire recovery process. The Haiti Nursing School, located in nearby Leogane, was not damaged in the quake and continues its mission. **Please give.** Gifts can be made through First Pres, with checks or contributions marked: Haiti Earthquake Relief, or online [pma.pcusa.org/donate](https://pma.pcusa.org/donate). **Please pray.** As this earthquake continues to cause destruction and loss of life, please pray with us that the communities affected by this event and those offering assistance will be strengthened, have their needs met and be reminded of the hope found in God.

**On Monday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m., Stephen Ministry will host a continuing education presentation featuring one of our new resident ministers, Hannah Lundberg.** Hannah will speak on the topic of processing despair and hope in the context of the stories we tell about our futures, rooted in her experiences with hospital chaplaincy and supporting college students who have experienced sexual violence. Her presentation will last about 20 minutes followed by a 40-minute question and answer session. The congregation is invited to attend.

**Presbyterian Women Fall Kick Off is this Thursday, September 9.** Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room as we begin the first lesson of the Horizons Bible study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. After the study, we will celebrate the recipients of the 2021–22 Honorary Life Membership and learn about upcoming program and mission activities. Afterwards, we will join Mature Ministries in the Social Hall and enjoy the Lunch & Learn program. Sign up to attend by contacting the Church Office. Not comfortable attending in person? Join us on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81113291748>. If you are a woman at First Pres, then YOU are a Presbyterian Woman! Want to expand your faith, participate in local and global mission, work for peace and social justice, and support ministries at First Pres? Come to a meeting, join a Bible study or contact Meg Brown ([imegbrown@gmail.com](mailto:imegbrown@gmail.com)) to learn more. **Women: Stay Connected!** PW Membership Chair 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.

**Mature Ministries Lunch & Learn Kick Off is this Thursday, September 9, at 11:00 a.m., in the Social Hall.** Join us for a presentation by Scott Ellsworth, noted award-winning author and Tulsa native, who will talk about his new book on the Tulsa race massacre. At 12:00 Noon, we will have lunch together by Chef Christine (\$10) – hopefully eaten outside if the weather permits. We will gather at 1:30 p.m., at the Michigan Theater, to listen to our own David Hufford play the Barton Pipe Organ there and talk to us about its history. Transportation to the Theater is to be determined. A reservation is required for this gathering, please use this form: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/wtof7h404vwssj/>

**The Prayer Team** meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. We have 15 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 to join this group, email Rev. Rogers ([mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org)) for information and the link.

**Chancel Choir Begins Anew!** You are invited to sing with the Chancel Choir (high school, college, 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. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts at [dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org).

**For information on opportunities to connect and resources for children and families,** contact Beca Torres-Davenport ([btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org)), Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry.

**For information about the numerous opportunities to connect for youth and families,** contact Rev. Mares ([mmares@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mmares@firstpresbyterian.org)), Minister of Youth & Families.

**Habitat for Humanity** needs four to six volunteers daily on September 11, 17, and 25. Contact Don Redding (734-276-8426; [dredding58@yahoo.com](mailto:dredding58@yahoo.com)) for more information and to volunteer.

**Michigan Football has begun its season, and that means our Food Rescue program returns!** 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." Drop fabric off at the Welcome Center by Sunday, October 10.

**Would you like to serve on the liturgical/visual arts team?** We plan 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).

**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. **Join us for our next meeting on Friday, September 17.** This fall, we will read *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings* by Amy Jill Levine. Books are available in the Church Office for \$15. Contact Rev. Sanderford ([jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org) or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340) for more information.

**Campus Ministries Update.** Students have returned to campus, Michigan Football has returned, and some sense of normalcy is welcomed back to Ann Arbor. Each Sunday, students will have a special small group study time during our new 11:00 a.m. Faith Formation hour before breaking for lunch. Each of our Resident Ministers will play a key role in reaching out and building relationships with students. If you are interested in helping plan ministry events as part of our Campus Ministry Work Group, or would like to be directly involved in supporting a small group, service event, or University Sunday on September 19, please contact Rev. McGowan ([campus@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:campus@firstpresbyterian.org)).

**Our Grief Conversations Group** meets online this Tuesday, September 7, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. Contact Rev. Rogers for more information.

**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>.

**Please contact the Church Office to:**

- order a First Pres name tag. Cost is \$9 for either clip or magnet style.
- request a baptism.
- inform us of any changes to your basic contact information.
- let us know if you are hospitalized.
- support our Fair Trade mission project by purchasing a bag of Fair Trade coffee (\$12) for use at home.
- sign up to sponsor Chancel Flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. Cost is \$75.
- apply for a security device (fob). Cost is \$10.

**Pastoral & Program Staff**

Megan Berry  
*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*  
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 Warfield  
*Resident Minister*



**Administrative Staff**

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



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