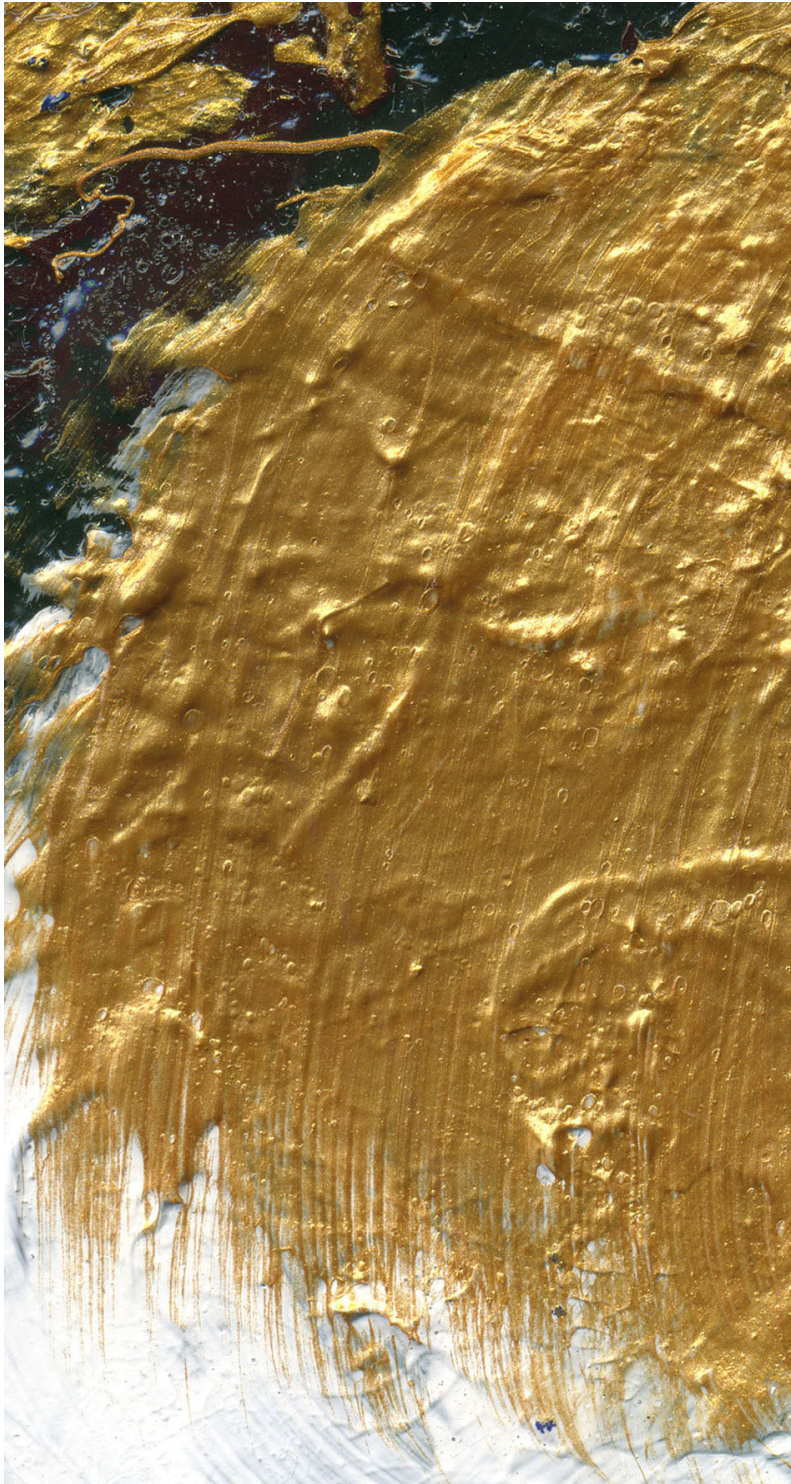


SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021



The Heavens Are Telling
Jan Richardson



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.

At First Pres, we strive to use inclusive language for God.

The use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God's people in scripture. The rediscovery of the complementarity of female and male metaphors in the Bible and the literature of the early church forbids Christians to settle for literary poverty in the midst of literary riches.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

John Cook

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION Pastor Nominating Committee

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 19:1–4a, 14

The heavens proclaim the glory of God;
day and night declare the magnificence of God's works.
Even though there is no speech,
even though there are no words,
their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their praise to the end of the world.
**Let our words of praise be acceptable to you,
our rock and our redeemer!**

* **HYMN 32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, whose Word is sweeter than honey,
you pour out your grace upon us and call us good.
You teach us to bless others as we are blessed,
yet we persist in causing hurt and harm.
We tear others down and do not build them up.
We spread lies and do not seek the truth.
We curse and do not bless.**

**Forgive us, O God.
Make us tellers of truth,
bestowers of blessing,
and agents of your grace,
that we may proclaim your goodness
for all our days...**

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Lee Afdahl



ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ELLACOMBE

**You offer us your blessing, your covenant of grace.
How soon we break our promise and fail to seek your face.
So put your law within us, inscribe it on our hearts.
Reshape us by the wisdom your holy word imparts.**

This is from Breathing Spirit into Dust by David Gambrell.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 19:1–6, 14

The Heavens Are Telling

F. J. Haydn

Lorna Hildebrandt, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, soloists

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of God's work displays the firmament.
The day that is coming speaks to the day,
The night that is gone to following night.
In all the lands resound the word,
Never unperceived, ever understood.
The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of God's work displays the firmament.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING James 3:1–12

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

SERMON

RESPONDING

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Today we officially welcome into fellowship Bob and Dory Anderson, Ben and Jenny Bernstein, Ibbie Boehnke, Kurtis and Martha Boeve, Taoqu Chen, Alice Lyders-Peterson, Steve and Penny Papadopoulos, Nicholas and Brynn Stelter, and Trisha Trumble.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Worship LAB: A Hands-On Experience for our Youngest Disciples

is a hands-on experience; a place where children can ask questions and dig deeper into the various parts of Presbyterian Worship. Each child will learn what they have to offer to worship as they discover and understand their place in the Body of Christ on Sunday mornings. "It's like someone hits the pause button on worship so they can ask all the questions and touch all the things, then press play again! This LAB is Living And Breathing!"

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.



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:
The Heavens are Telling
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(janrichardson.com)

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshiping 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>

Offertory

God Be in My Head

John Rutter

Chancel Choir

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in mine heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and in my departing.

* **Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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 722**

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

CANONBURY

* **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

Everyone Dance!

Calvin Hampton

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 – Melissa Anne Rogers; Faith in Action – Charlotte Sawtell; Liturgists – Kimberly Bracken Long, Megan Berry, and Jay Sanderford; Scripture Reader – Jacqueline Vercler; Children's Message – Matthew Warfield; Preacher – Thomas G. Long; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Paul Smith (captain), Carol Smith, Tim Wendler, Ali Westfall, Ava Westfall, Angela Yang, Beth Gerwig, Holly Majorprice, Nicole Jolliet, and Olivier Jolliet

Join us for Coffee Hour today on the Front Lawn immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Please help us welcome our newest members!

A meeting of the congregation has been called by Session for next Sunday, September 19, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service, for the purpose of electing church officers – elders and deacons – for the Class of 2024.

A red rosebud celebrates the birth of Killian Benjamin Colligan, son of Dallas and Nick Colligan. Killian was born August 25, 2021. He is the grandson of Merrilynn and Kerry Colligan and the great-grandson of Diane and Bob Hockett.

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Taylor Elizabeth-Blair Calhoun by her family and friends; in loving memory of Dr. Thomas M. Ford by his wife Heidi; and in honor of all our new members who have joined since March 2020:

Bob Anderson	Jazminn Eddins	Alice Lyders-Petersen	Molly Schneidewind
Dory Anderson	Barbara Eichmuller	Chloe Majorprice	Olive Scott
Jim Anderson	Larry Engelhardt	Brianna McLaughlin	Andrew Shepherd
Linda Atkins	Mary Evans	Karen Miller	Tracy Short
Andrea Bare	Barbara Ewels	Madeline Montgomery	Stephanie Simpson
Aubrey Baumhover	Joseph Fairman	Maverick Musser	Owen Smith
Ben Bernstein	Hadley Feyen	Maurine Nelson	Sidonie Smith
Jenny Bernstein	Anna Gehrke	Mark Newton	Brynn Stelter
Ibbie Boehnke	Claire Gehrke	Elizabeth Nissen	Nicholas Stelter
Kurtis Boeve	Heather Gerety	Molly Ominsky	Carson Strauss
Martha Boeve	Peregrine Gerety	Rebecca Pagels	Steven Syverud
Meghan Bugosh	Joshua Gernant	Penny Papadopoulos	Trisha Trumble
Zachary Bugosh	Elizabeth Gerwig	Stephen Papadopoulos	Elsie Van Wieren
Mary Jane Chase	John Hollingsworth	Harold Pray	Chase Willmer
Taoqu Chen	Macy Jermyn	JenniferRejim	Jensen Wood
Graham Corey	Will Jermyn	Evan Richert	Rob Zink
Laura Corral	Thomas Kaercher	Tim Rigotti	Susan Zink
Owen Day	Cynthia Leet	Anna Schneider	



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
Sunday 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 <i>Exploring the Faith, First Friends, and The Bible @ 11</i> Campus Ministry Group followed by College Lunch Childcare available by reservation The 9:30 Service is broadcast on WAAM 1600 at 11:00.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES TODAY @ 11:00

First Friends and **Exploring the Faith** (Chancel area of Sanctuary)

Rev. Tom Long leads a workshop on Christian Hospitality. All adult groups are encouraged to participate. Tom taught preaching for many years at both Princeton Theological Seminary and Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. The class will also host the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, retired as Professor of Worship and teaching at Columbia Theological Seminary. Tom is guest preacher and Kim will serve as a liturgist at the 9:30 service. This duet will bring joy to the opening of our new season together.

Bible Study at 11 (Curtis Room)

This year the class will read Isaiah. Isaiah has 66 chapters that cover nearly 300 years of history under three empires, not in historical order. There will be 30 classes that must be read in a different way with a different set of goals than previous years. This class is facilitated by Ed Koster.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 **today**, 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; 734-355-2351)

Our September Communion 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. 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 personal care items are diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors.

Tomorrow, 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.

Twenties and Thirties of Ann Arbor (T2A2) Small Group meets off-site Sundays at 7:00 p.m. Today we begin our fall study of the book of Romans. 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. Also join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. for a hangout. 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. 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!

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) for information and the link.

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

Mature Singles meet on Friday nights. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

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, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts at dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org.

For information on opportunities to connect and resources for children and families, contact Beca Torres-Davenport (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), Minister of Youth & Families.

Habitat for Humanity needs four to six volunteers daily on September 17 and 25. Contact Don Redding (734-276-8426; 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.

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 this 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 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).

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>.

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. Many Sundays this fall are available.
- apply for a security device (fob). Cost is \$10.

Presbyterians Respond to Twin Disasters. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is mobilized and delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida in locations as diverse as Louisiana and New Jersey. The initial assessment of the damage is staggering. The needs of those impacted is changing daily because of lack of access to power, refrigeration, water and housing. This will be a long-term commitment to the people devastated by this catastrophic storm. PDA will continue to work with local agencies and Presbyterian leadership to respond to Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery efforts during the hurricane season of 2021, during which several named storms are expected to impact the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs. **Please give.** Gifts can be made through First Pres, with checks or contributions marked "Hurricane Ida Relief," or online pma.pcusa.org/donate.

Haitian Earthquake: 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. This catastrophe comes on top of Haiti's ongoing struggles with endemic hunger and poverty, Covid-19 and continuing civil unrest. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is continues to provide emergency relief and recovery through our established local partners. **Please give.** Gifts can be made through First Pres, with checks or contributions marked at "Haiti Earthquake Relief," or online at pma.pcusa.org/donate.

Please pray. As disasters continue 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.

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
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1826-2021
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