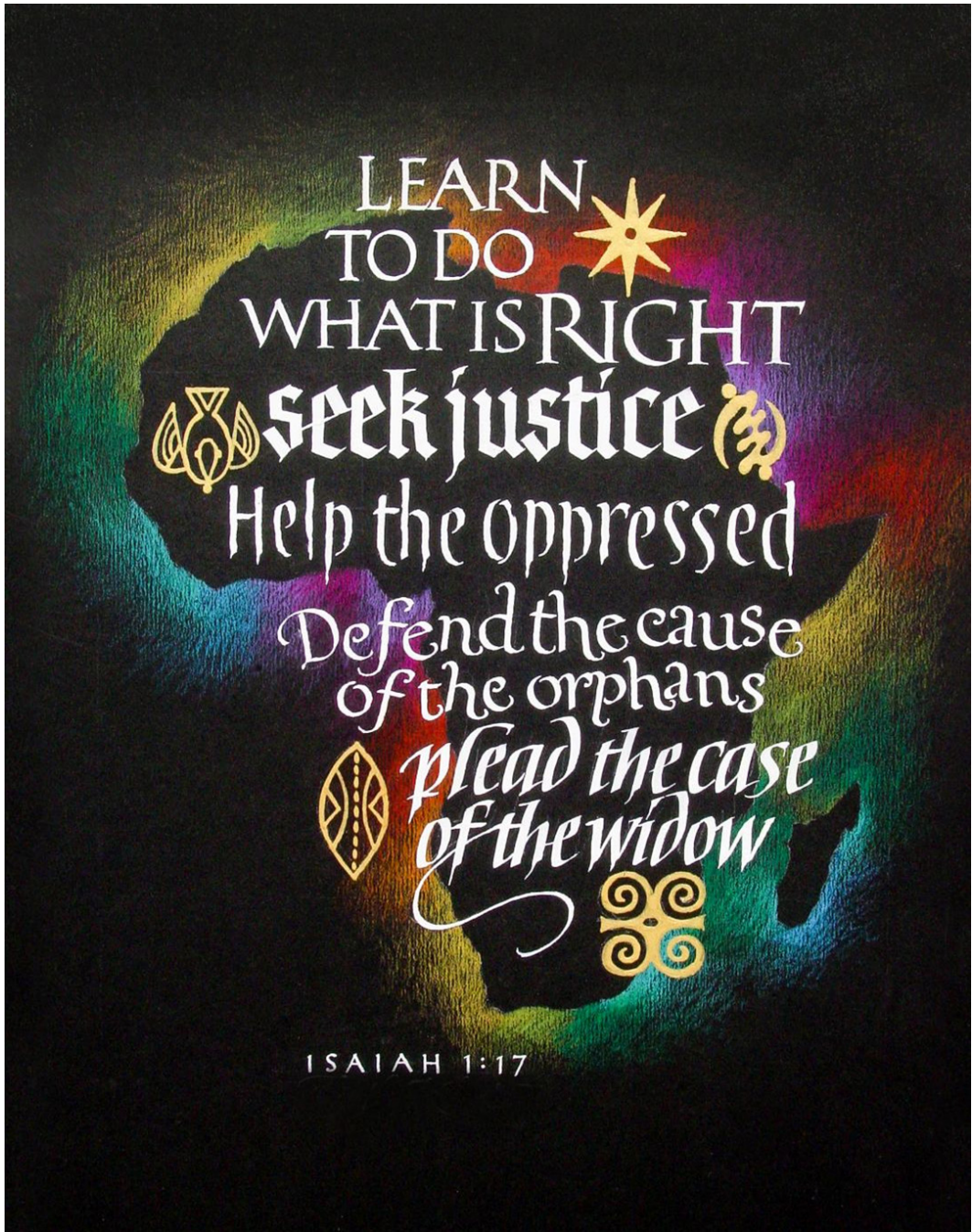


SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
UNIVERSITY SUNDAY
September 19, 2021 • 9:30 a.m.



Isaiah 1:17
Timothy R. Botts



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.

Soaring overhead in our sanctuary is a brilliantly hued representation of the prayers of the people.

Each flash of color is an origami crane. And inside each bird is written the name of a church member who was prayed for as the bird was folded. Yet the focus of this artwork is larger than any individual or congregation. The work – made up of over 3500 cranes – also marks International Day of Peace, September 21. On this date, people around the globe are encouraged to participate in acts of peace. And in addition, these peace cranes support our annual giving campaign, *Peace by Piece*. Watch for the story of the peace cranes in next week's bulletin.

Today's Prayer of Confession is adapted from "After the Storm" by Mumford & Sons.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

The Peace May Be Exchanged (from Rubrics)

Dan Locklair

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 1 and James 3:18)

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked.

All: Our delight is in the law of the Lord.

One: God's law is love.

All: We meditate on God's love day and night.

One: May God's law and love ground us.

All: We are like trees planted by streams of water.

One: Nourished by God's grace,

All: May we yield abundant fruit and our leaves never wither.

One: May our labors of love not be lost

**All: May they be a harvest of righteousness,
sowing peace throughout the land.**

One: Let us Worship God.

* **HYMN 373**

O Day of Peace

JERUSALEM

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, we long for rest after the storm,
yet still we run as the rains come.**

Falling to our knees, out of luck, we look up.

We confess to you we are afraid —

**of being alone, of sickness and of death —
for death is so full and we are so small.**

We long to go home, only you know where.

**On this journey of life, we are scared of what's behind ...
and what's before.**

Help us to trust you once more, as a child trusts a loving parent:

There will come a time with no more tears,

When love will not break our hearts but dismiss our fears.

Help us get over our hill and see what we find there,

with grace in our hearts and your Spirit in the air...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Lee Afdahl



ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Glo - ry to God, _____ whose good - ness shines on me, and to the
World with - out end, _____ with - out end, A - men. World with - out



Son, _____ whose grace has par - doned me, and to the
end, _____ with - out end, A - men. World with - out



Spir - it, _____ whose love has set me free. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
end, _____ with - out end, A - men. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is



now and ev - er shall be. A - men.
now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9:30–37

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING James 3:13–18

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

A Harvest of Righteousness

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.

This week's Growing in God's Love Bible story is *God Gives the Ten Commandments*. It can be found on page 166 of the *Children's Story Bible* found in your pew.

Worship LAB, a hands-on experience for our youngest disciples, is a place where children can ask questions and dig deeper into the various parts of Presbyterian Worship. Children 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!"

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/2Rllig2l>

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.



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Today's cover art:
Isaiah 1:17 © 2016
Timothy R. Botts | EyeKons

RESPONDING

* HYMN 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

MERLE'S TUNE

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

The Lamb
Chancel Choir

John Tavener

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
by the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
making all the vales rejoice?

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Little lamb, I'll tell thee,
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild,
He became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little lamb, God bless thee.

* 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 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

Please sing stanzas 1, 3, and 5.

CALL TO ORDER FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ADJOURN THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Evans McGowan; Liturgists – Matthew Warfield and Mark Mares; Scripture Reader – Madelyn Gatchel; Children's Message – Hannah Lundberg; Worship Lab Leaders – Megan Berry and Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Evans McGowan; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Len Rezmierski (captain), Tim Wendler, Ali Westfall, Ava Westfall, Ken Westfall, Angela Yang, Nicole Jolliet, and Olivier Jolliet

This month we welcome our first and second graders into worship! Each year, our first graders are given a Milestone to mark this new part of their Christian faith journey, a red tote bag with a personal notebook to bring to church each week, and a "church passport" with eight different activities to do during the year as they explore "Worshiping Together." This year is special, as we welcome both this year's and last year's First Graders this year. Welcome First & Second Graders! We are so glad you are a part of our church family! If you see one of these children, please welcome them into our worshipping body of Christ.

Callum Cameron
Connor Cameron
Owen Campbell
Georgia Carlisle
Eloise DeLand
Louise Evans
Daniel Forger
Evie Gerety

Meris Hoskins
Micah Johnson
Allison Martin
Claire McInchak
Felicity Millward
J. P. Montas
Pippa Musser
Griffin Nale

Jeremiah Patton
Eloise Peters
Andrew Pinkerton
Mira Tayter
Clare Tharp
Ali Vercler
Vaughn Voigtman
Charlie Wood
Sammy Zink

A meeting of the congregation has been called by Session for 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. This meeting of the First Pres Congregation will be held simultaneously in the Sanctuary and online, with members able to join online via Zoom and participate.

Our Nominating Committee has prepared and sent to the congregation short biographies and photos of nominees for elders and deacons to prepare for this meeting. For members worshipping in person in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 19, please remain seated after the final hymn. For those members worshipping online, please go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87203457435> to join the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Voting in the Sanctuary for members will be a voice vote with raised hands; voting online will be held by a Zoom poll function.

We are grateful to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Detroit, Rev. Marianne Grano, in assisting us in developing this meeting format that follows best practices in this era of Covid-19 governance.

Join us for Coffee Hour on the Front Lawn immediately following the Congregational Meeting.

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Don Faber by his wife Jeannette; in loving memory of Francis Fox by his wife Nancy; and in loving memory of Dave and Pat Clyde on their anniversary by their family.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES TODAY @ 11:00

Bible Study at 11 o'clock (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.

Exploring the Faith (Chancel area of Sanctuary)

In honor of University Sunday, Rev. Evans McGowan will facilitate discussion on the role of Social Media in today's world of conflict. He will draw from examples in his work with university students.

First Friends (Lewis Room)

Today's discussion is based on a DVD presentation by Adam Hamilton: "Why?: Making Sense of God's Will."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Justice Kickoff Meeting next Sunday, September 26, at 12:15 p.m. Are you interested in what our Social Justice Action Group has been up to lately? Do you have a special interest in any of the priority areas our congregation has identified? If yes – or if you just want to hear what's going on – we hope you'll come to the Social Justice Kick-off Meeting next Sunday, September 26, at 12:15 p.m., under the canopy on the Hill Street Lawn. Contact Diane Hockett (hockett@umich.edu) for more information or to register for the luncheon.

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. – 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.

T2A2 Small Group meets after the service in the Founders Room. Everyone in their twenties and thirties is welcome to come and build community with us as we share meaningful conversations and reflect on the Word together. We'll begin a study of the book of Romans around 11:00 a.m. A light lunch (eaten outside) will be provided.

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. For those in worship today, to share a prayer today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.

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.

Making God's Love Visible, Peace by Piece. Have you received your 2022 Annual Giving packet in the mail? It's coming with a big surprise!! We have created a one-of-a-kind calendar celebrating the many ways we are making God's Love Visible here at First Pres. As you use the calendar, view the peace crane as a symbol of hope, faith and renewal for the next leg of our journey with Jesus Christ – and a symbol of how important your pledge is to the Church. Your pledges are the foundation that makes all this possible. Please fill out and return the pledge and opportunity to serve forms by mail or online. Thank you.

Chancel Choir invites all high school and college students as well as adults to sing. 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 on September 25. Contact Don Redding (734-276-8426; dredding58@yahoo.com) for more information and to volunteer.

Michigan Football has begun its season, and our Food Rescue program has returned! Volunteers take food to the freezer at the end of 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 at <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.

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. 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. Each Sunday, students will have a special small group during our new 11:00 a.m. Faith Formation hour before breaking for lunch. 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 or service event, 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 delivering aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida in locations as diverse as Louisiana and New Jersey. PDA response to the continuing disaster facing Haiti after the August earthquake continues.

Please give. Gifts can be made through First Pres, with checks or contributions marked "Hurricane Ida Relief," or "Haiti Earthquake Relief." Gifts may also be made online 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

Eric Banitt
Accompanist

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

195th
ANNIVERSARY

First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
1826-2021

1432 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104