

REFORMATION • DEDICATION SUNDAY

October 31, 2021 • 9:30 a.m.



Festival of Lights
John August Swanson



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.

Reformation Sunday

is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The Reformation describes the changes in Western Christendom between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries that diverged from Catholic doctrine and the authority of the Papacy. The emerging Reformed churches are those that were influenced by the theology of reformers such as Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Philipp Melancthon, John Calvin and John Knox. Our Presbyterian Church (USA) traces its roots to the early Reformed Protestants who emigrated from Europe and Scotland to form churches and representative assemblies such as presbyteries up and down the east coast and then spreading south and west. First Pres is a member of the Presbytery of Detroit and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Impromptu, Op. 5, No. 6*

Jean Sibelius/Shapiro/Biery

David Hufford, organ and Daniel Winnick, violin

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION Annual Giving

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God of Sarah and Hagar,

All: We praise you for protecting and guiding us.

One: God of Moses and Miriam,

All: We thank you for liberating your children from oppression.

One: God of Peter and Paul,

All: We bless you even in the midst of conflict.

One: God of Hildegard and Julian,

All: We glory in your tangible presence among us.

One: God of Luther and Calvin,

All: We rejoice in your Spirit's presence in all times and places.

One: Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End,

All: Holy God, we welcome you to this place today!

* **HYMN 363**

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

DARWALL'S 148TH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our fears and prejudices run deep. Sometimes we can only see our own point of view. We stick with those who are like us, rarely venturing outside our comfort zones. We do not hear those crying for justice and true peace. We blame those who are suffering and in need, instead of standing by them. We deny the power of your gospel to unite us with those who are different from us. We hoard our own resources, prefer our own values and ignore possibilities to be generous givers. Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Open us to new possibilities of life for all of your people, and use us to enact the new life given in Christ...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 716 (BEACH SPRING).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 58:6–9a

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4:4–9

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

SERMON

Practices of Peace

Rev. Sarah Wiles

RESPONDING

* HYMN 708

We Give Thee but Thine Own

SCHUMANN

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS AND DEDICATION OF OUR ANNUAL GIVING COMMITMENTS

Offertory

Shalom

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir and Daniel Winnick, violin

Peace. Shalom. Peace I leave with you, peace I give to you, Shalom.
Not as this world gives, I give to you,
Do not be afraid. Shalom, my peace I give to you,
Shalom, peace I leave with you.

* 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!

Thank you to the members of FPC who provided the red strips of fabric used to create the red paraments for today's worship service (peace by piece). Thank you to sewers Sophie Craig, Susan Froelich, Pat Gilbreath, Gail Grady, Alice Holderby, Linda Koos, and Linda Lampman.

This week's *Growing in God's Love Bible* story is "You Are Not Alone." It can be found on page 146.

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. Worship Lab immediately follows A Conversation with Young Disciples.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service.

Ways to give: click [online at our First Pres website](#) ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



Today is Commitment

Sunday! Dedicate your 2022 Commitment!

Please support 195 years of *Making God's Love Visible* at First Pres by completing a pledge and placing it in the plate during the offering this morning. Pledge cards are available in the pews, or you may complete your pledge online. Each pledge is a piece of a larger fabric of commitment that undergirds our devotion to unconditional welcome, passionate worship, wholehearted learning and generous service. Our 2022 stewardship goal is a 10% increase in pledges made and time & talent commitments. Every pledge, no matter its size, is important and appreciated as an act of faith.

The Prayer of

Dedication was adapted from material created by the Rev. Teri Peterson, Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, Crystal Lake, IL, and shared on LiturgyLink.

Children's Choir will rehearse today at 10:30. Please meet Ms. Powell at the pulpit door.

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Prayer of Dedication for our Offerings and Annual Giving Commitments for 2022

One: Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

**All: You have entrusted us with gifts—
time, talent, energy, money—
and asked us to use them to build your peaceable kingdom.
With thanks and praise we respond to your call.**

One: We bring these gifts you have given,
returning your generosity, paying it forward.

**All: We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears,
our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your
world, to love and serve wherever you call.**

One: We ask your blessing on this, your church,
as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.

**All: Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future,
that they may multiply in faith, hope, peace and love. Amen.**

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

Peace by Piece

CWM RHONDDA

Please sing all 5 stanzas. This hymn is on your bulletin insert.

* 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 *Toccata from Suite Gothique* Léon Boëllmann

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the closing voluntary.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad you are here! Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshiping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l> to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website.

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Megan Berry; Faith in Action – Bruce Thomson; Liturgists – Hannah Lundberg, Matthew Warfield, and Evans McGowan; Scripture Reader – John Voorhorst; Children's Message – Mark Mares and Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Sarah Wiles; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Greeters – Diane Knibbs and Ginny Horan; Welcome Center Volunteer – Lorna Prescott; Ushers – Dick Carlisle (captain), Keith Bilby, Sheila Bilby, Spaulding Clark, Joe Schmidt, Connie Swindle, and Martin Swindle

Today we welcome Rev. Sarah Wiles as our preacher. Sarah is currently the pastor of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg, Virginia. A graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York, she previously served as pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington. Sarah, Jenny McDevitt, and Matt Nickel were Resident Ministers in Ann Arbor from 2009–2011. Along with her husband Joseph, Sarah enjoys parenting twins. In reflection, Sarah wrote: "The residency program was the single most formative thing in my journey to being a pastor, and I remain immensely grateful for it."

Chancel flowers are given in honor of First Pres members – past and present – who have contributed to the work of Cass Community Social Services in Detroit.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are David and Carol Downton. "Sometimes we have to pray for the answer, but sometimes we have to pray to be the answer." — Bill Johnson

Join us for in-person Halloween Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary. The Congregational Life Committee will have tables at all four corners for you to pick up something to take home — a glow stick, Rice Krispie treats, chocolate bars, and fruit snacks! Take the treats home and enjoy them. Children and parents are welcome to wear their non-gory, non-scary costumes to church and Coffee Hour. No costumes are necessary, of course!

Join Rev. Rogers today from wherever you are for virtual fellowship at approximately 10:35 a.m., after worship ends! (Virtual Coffee Hours are planned for the final Sunday of each month, beginning after the livestream worship service on YouTube.) **Today's conversation prompts:** What are you most drawn to about the 'Reformed Tradition'? or What was your favorite Halloween costume as a child? Join us via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/329423603>.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES TODAY @ 11:00

The Bible at 11 o'clock (Curtis Room)

Join us for our study of Isaiah either in person or via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117387186>).

Exploring the Faith (Lewis Room)

Rev. Sarah Wiles, Pastor of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Blacksburg, VA, and former Resident Minister, leads our discussion on "What's Missing?" The parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and prodigal son can be read from the perspective of the one who is lost, but what happens when we flip them and consider what we've lost and what we need to find?

First Friends

Class does not meet today. Join us next week.

T2A2 Small Group (Founders Room)

All in their twenties and thirties are welcome to come and build community with us as we share meaningful conversations and reflect on the Word together. For more information, email t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org.

FAITH FORMATION LATER TODAY

Youth Group meets for a Halloween Party from 5:00–7:00 p.m., at the Pakela Residence. Contact Rev. Mares for more information (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcoming Refugees. As we continue to look prayerfully toward the crisis in Afghanistan, we are assembling a team of people who may be interested in supporting refugees seeking resettlement and welcome in our area. More information will be forthcoming. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Resident Minister Hannah Lundberg, hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org.

Resident Minister Megan Berry will be ordained next Sunday, November 7. All are invited to attend the service as it is live-streamed from Megan's home church in Missouri at 4:00 p.m. EST. You may access the live-stream here: <https://fb.me/e/2qJy0jcb1>.

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!

Making God's Love Visible, Peace by Piece. Thank you for your generous and faithful support of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor! To date, you have pledged \$806,705 and 129 Opportunity to Serve forms. Your pledge of financial support and volunteer time is the backbone of everything this church does to *Make God's Love Visible*. Pledge and opportunity to serve forms may be submitted in person, by mail, or online at firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate/stewardship-2022.

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. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information at jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340.

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) on the first and third Thursdays of the month through December from 11:30 to 1:00. The schedule is November 4, November 18, December 2, and December 16. We're studying the book of Acts and incorporating art and poetry to tease out fresh modern perspectives about the authority and power of the Holy Spirit. For more details contact Resident Minister and facilitator, Matthew Warfield, at mwarfield@firstpresbyterian.org or Coordinator, Beth Gerwig at bgerwig@comcast.net.

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women. There are several monthly Bible studies that all women of the church are welcome to attend.

Join in one of two Horizons Bible Studies on Thursday, November 1. Meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Curtis Room (or on Zoom) and afterward join Mature Ministries expanded Lunch & Learn program. Are evenings better for you? Join Jenna Mares at 7:00 p.m. in the Founders Room (or on Zoom). Both studies use the book *What My Grandmothers Taught Me - Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. Need a book? Contact Peggy Hodgson at peggyhodgson@comcast.net.

Meg Brown is hosting the ever popular William Barclay Commentary Bible Study in her home every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. This group is studying Paul's "Letters to the Ephesians & Galatians." Contact Meg Brown (lmegbrown@gmail.com) for address details and a schedule of this year's inspiring study.

Women: Stay Connected! PW sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact Meg Brown (lmegbrown@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

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.

Visit the Virtual Art Exhibit, "The Peace of the Earth" by local Ann Arbor Artist, Joan Cohen Jones. The exhibit is found at www.fpca2art.org.

All Saints' Sunday is next Sunday, November 7. On this day we will remember those who have died in the last twelve months and now rest eternal with the Lord. We will read the names of our loved ones during the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

First Sundays: All Saints' Community Celebration is next Sunday, November 7. Join us immediately following the Closing Voluntary of the 9:30 worship service for an extended Social Hour where we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday with two community events. We invite congregation members to add a name to our wall of Saints, and light a candle in remembrance and prayer.

Next Sunday is Communion Sunday. As we come to the Lord's Table to be fed and nurtured in our faith, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of November will be overseen by Campus Ministry. Monetary donations will be sent to Washtenaw Community College Student Emergency Fund which provides food cards to needy students. Donated foodstuffs will be given to Community Action Network (C.A.N.).

Campus Ministries. Each Sunday, students have a special small group meeting during our 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>.

We have an opportunity for ministry at Alpha House! During the week of November 8–14, First Pres will support guests at Alpha House, a shelter for children and their families experiencing homelessness. Sign up is available online and a sign-up board is available during Coffee Hour. Direct questions to Ruth Jensen (ruthannjensen@gmail.com), Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com), or Anne Gere (argere@umich.edu).

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. 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.

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

All are invited to our next monthly Taizé Prayer Service on Tuesday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. This service is live-streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

A Hope Clinic and First Pres Thanksgiving. This year for Thanksgiving we are donating bags of food to Hope Clinic. Please visit the Social Hall to get a list of the food that goes into the bags. Your bag is due back to the Social Hall by 3:00 p.m. on November 19. If you want to learn more about the event, check out this page on Hope Clinic's webpage: <https://thehopeclinic.org/thanksgiving-2021>.

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.
- purchase a bag of Fair Trade coffee (\$12) for use at home to support the PC(USA) Coffee Project.
- 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.

The last chance to purchase books by Joel Schoon Tanis, our recent artist-in-residence, is this Wednesday, November 3. Contact the Church Office if you are interested in making a purchase.



Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist

Megan Berry
Resident Minister

Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse

David Hufford
Organist

Rev. 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 Prudeanu
Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson
Office Manager

Alyssa Walker
Finance Assistant