



### **Pastoral & Program Staff**

Eric Banitt  
*Accompanist / Pianist*  
Rev. 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 J. Warfield  
*Resident Minister*

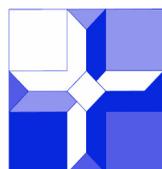
### **Administrative Staff**

Robin Agnew  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Nick Dibacco-Vaidya  
*Finance Assistant*  
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*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 26, 2021 • 9:30 a.m.



*Mary and Joseph look for Jesus.  
Luke 2:41-52*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan  
**Making God's Love Visible**

# GATHERING

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Berceuse*

Laura Netzel

## WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from the *Book of Common Worship*)

One: There is good news of great joy for all!

**All: Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.**

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;

**All: let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

One: Praise the Lord!

### \* HYMN 119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from *Connections: Worship Companion*)

**Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another.**

**You call us to clothe ourselves with compassion, but we surround ourselves with distraction, ignoring friends and neighbors in need. You call us to bear with one another patiently, but we fail to share our time and attention, straining the bonds of love and care. You call us to forgive as we have been forgiven, but we hold grudges and harbor complaints, allowing bitter anger to consume us. Pour out your mercy upon us, loving God, to wash us clean from sin and fill us with your peace. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, and let the grace of Christ fill us with gratitude...**

## 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."*

### Visit our art exhibit "Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic" by Christina Saj.

"Finding Sanctuary" is displayed in the Social Hall. This body of work takes shape from the circles on which they are painted. The Pandemic collection seeks solace in aesthetics, delivering hope and faith through image, form, and color. Its intention is for each painting to bloom in our collective gardens, offering glittering rays of sunshine, the echo of children's laughter, a burst of flowers to sustain us through these tragic times. Christina Saj is a contemporary artist whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern. To see more of her work please visit <http://www.saj.art>. The artwork is for sale for \$225 apiece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales.

**The next Stephen Ministry Continuing Education presentation** will be a Zoom presentation at 7:00 p.m., on January 10. Dr. Peg Talburtt will discuss the topic "Human Trafficking: what it is and what you can do about it." Dr. Talburtt recently retired as Executive Director of the Lovelight Foundation, a private women's foundation that has funded a number of projects in the field of human trafficking, particularly those having to do with child sex trafficking in the United States. This is an issue she has followed for decades since she worked with a group of teen girl grant makers who believed trafficked teens was a REAL issue. Peg is a current member of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, chairs the Resource Committee of the Michigan Attorney General's Michigan Human Trafficking Commission and is a community leader for MAP-Ann Arbor, an anti-trafficking volunteer organization. All are invited to participate in the presentation.

**Mature Ministries Lunch & Learn: Discover Detroit's Lost Black Neighborhood** on Thursday, January 13, at noon, via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5502657984>). Detroit's Black Bottom neighborhood, the area in Detroit where Blacks were legally restricted to live in during much of the city's history, was destroyed as the interstate highway system cut through the city and racial unrest destroyed or compromised much of what remained. Using archival photographs of the neighborhood as her starting point, architect Emily Kutil created an exhibition that recreated the neighborhood visually and drew former residents to visit, reconnect, and share stories of the vibrant life of this community. Ms. Kutil, Assistant Professor of Architecture at Lawrence Technological University, will be our featured speaker. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Faith Formation classes** do not meet today. Please join us next Sunday!

**The church building will be closed** Monday, December 27, and Monday, January 3.

**Mature Singles** meet on Friday nights and will gather for a New Year's Potluck on January 1, at 1:00. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

**Year-End Finance Information:** Please support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church with your year-end gifts. The IRS requires that books for 2021 be closed on December 31. Make sure your donation is postmarked by December 31 for your contribution to be applied to your 2021 financial statement. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year. A new authorization form, available on our website and in the Finance Office, must be filled out annually. **2022 Contribution Envelopes**, for those who requested them, are available outside the Finance Office December 17–26. Any envelopes not picked up will be mailed on December 27.

**First Sunday Activity: Star Words Return!** Join us in the Social Hall on Sunday, January 2, after the 9:30 a.m. worship service, to create your Star Word – a word written in a star to help guide you in the New Year. All ages are welcome!

**December Tornado Response.** Saturday afternoon, December 11, in the face of devastating loss after a tornado destroyed their historic building on the previous Friday evening, First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield, Kentucky, invoked Scripture:

“The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with smooth stones;  
The sycamores have been cut down, But we will replace with cedars.” (Isaiah 9:10)

The catastrophic destruction of Mayfield is one but one of the harrowing stories from Western Kentucky after a massive tornado ripped through six states in the mid-section of the U.S. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has deployed a team to the area, and expects both short and long-term relief efforts. Use this link to make a contribution directly to PDA:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>

### \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

This is the stanza 1 of Hymn 134, *Joy to the World* (ANTIOCH).

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Colossians 3:12–17

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:41–52

The grass withers, the flower fades;

**the word of the Lord endures forever.**

### SERMON

## RESPONDING

\* HYMN 145

*What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

**Offertory**

*Lullaby for the Infant Jesus* Marguerite Roesgen-Champion

\* 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

\* Prayer of Dedication

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 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

\* 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

*Minuet*

Edvard Grieg

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**Worship Leaders:** Welcome - Melissa Anne Rogers; Liturgists – Jay Sanderford and Melissa Anne Rogers; Scripture Reader – Sharon Sheldon; Conversation with Young Disciples – Megan Berry; Preacher – Megan Berry; Musicians – Marilyn Biery, organ; and Stephanie Shapiro, oboe; Ushers – Paul Smith (Captain), Beth Gerwig, Greta Krapohl, Carol Smith, Ken Westfall, and Angela Yang

**Chancel flowers** are given in loving memory of Hubert and Almira White by their daughter Jean White.

**A pink rosebud** celebrates the birth of Genevieve Grace Maier, daughter of Lauren and Michael Maier, and granddaughter of Julaine and John LeDuc. Genevieve was born on December 9, 2021.

**This week's *Growing in God's Love Bible story***, "Surprise Visitors," is found on page 192.

**Use the 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, neighborin need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity! Ways to give include online on our First Pres website, via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523), using our Vanco Mobile app, putting a check in the mail, or scanning the QR code on the right.



**Join us for Social Hour** in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Please continue to wear your mask. Pre-packaged donuts will be available for you to take and enjoy later.

**Join Rev. Rogers today from wherever you are for virtual fellowship after worship ends, at approximately 10:35 a.m. Today's conversation prompt:** What is a special gift you have received in 2021? Join us via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/329423603>.

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