

SECOND SUNDAY *in* LENT  
February 25, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

*The Season of Lent*  
THIRSTING  
*for* JUSTICE

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

1432 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
[firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)

Each week during  
Lent a new piece  
of fabric will hang  
from the beam to  
mark the Sundays  
during the season.  
The fabrics range  
from a dark purple  
to almost white.  
Thank you to the  
Liturgical/Visual  
Arts Workgroup for  
creating these fabric  
pieces.

SECOND SUNDAY *in* LENT

February 25, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

In the season of Lent, we journey together with contemplation and somber reflection toward the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Our 2024 Lent theme is Thirsting for Justice, based on the text of the Kyrie that we will sing together, written by Mary Louise Bringle with music by Sally Ann Morris. In this season, we will reflect on the many places in our world where justice is needed, trusting in God's presence and committing to do our part to be agents of justice, love, and peace in the world.

\* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,  
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Prelude on WAREHAM*

Healey Willan

POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Get behind us, death-dealers, and hate-mongers!  
**Get behind us, patterns that lead to self-loathing  
and soul-crushing!**

Get behind us, ambivalence and numbing out!  
**Get behind us, excuses, and rigid thinking!**

Guide the way, community, and wise teachers!  
**Guide the way, simplicity, and generosity!**

Guide the way, devotion, and mindfulness!  
**Guide the way, courage, and expansive dreams!**

We gather, rejecting what shrivels our souls,  
**and guided by liberating love. Let us worship God.**

\* HYMN 49

*The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit  
their soul? Living Christ, guide us away from the ways of the  
world rooted in violence and indifference. Accompany us in  
soulful living—deeply invested in each other's thriving and  
courageously practicing hope—that we might be the embodiment  
of your Compassionate Kin-dom....**

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE



Have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. Have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Where are those who thirst for justice?  
Where are those who yearn for peace?  
Why must fear and hatred bind us?  
When will captives find release?  
Make us ones who thirst for justice.  
Make us ones who work for peace.  
Help untie the fears that bind us.  
Grant our captive hearts release.

Nick Music, Cantor  
Stacie Barrett, Liturgical Dancer

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

DETROIT



Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sentment cease.



Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

PROCLAIMING *the* WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 22:23-31

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Please join in singing as the children come forward.*

**We are marching in the light of God;  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God;  
we are marching in the light of God.**

Throughout the month of February, worship will include liturgy, and music from Black artists and theologians in honor of Black History Month. We encourage you to learn something new this month, and check out resources from the anti-racism library collection in the French Room.

Elementary-age children may attend Faith Formation classes on the Third Level following the Conversations with Young Disciples. Children are dismissed from their classrooms at the end of worship.

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

SERMON

RESPONDING

ANTHEM *Take Up Your Cross* Thomas Keesecker  
 Chancel Choir

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said,  
 “if you would my disciple be; take up your cross with willing heart,  
 And humble follow after me.”

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
 Christ’s strength shall bear your spirit up,  
 And brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame,  
 And let your foolish pride be still;  
 The Lord for you accepted death upon a cross on Calvary’s hill.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,  
 Nor think till death to lay it down;  
 For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious  
 crown.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Be Still, My Soul* FINLANDIA  
 Sanctus Ringers arr. Alex Guebert

\* DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

\* 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.**

**Ways to give:**  
**Cash/Check**  
 Place in the offering  
 plate or in the mail  
**Text-to-Give**  
 Text the amount  
 you would like to  
 give to  
 855-904-1523  
**Online**  
[firstpresbyterian/  
 contribute](http://firstpresbyterian/contribute)  
**Vanco Mobile App**



SCAN ME

SENDING

\* HYMN 320            *The Church of Christ in Every Age*            WAREHAM

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY  
                  *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*            Calvin Taylor  
                  Tommy Langejans, Alto Saxophone



*The chancel flowers are given by Tom Layher to the glory of God and  
in loving memory of Mary Layher.*

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# WELCOME

## We Are Glad You Are Here!

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us.

While you are with us today, we would love for you to do two things:

- 1. **Sign the Friendship Pad.** The pads are located at the end of each pew. Sign it then pass it down to others.
- 2. **Join us following worship for Social Hour.** There will be cookies and coffee and lots of friendly faces.

## Prospective Member?

Join us on March 3 at 4 p.m. for "Tell Me More about This Church" at Wolverine Brewery in Ann Arbor. Come learn more about who we are and share with us more about who you are! All questions welcome. For more information, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at 734-904-0049.

## Children in Worship

Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship. Elementary-age children may attend Faith Formation classes on the Third Level following the Conversations with Young Disciples. Children 2nd grade and older will be independently dismissed from their classrooms at the conclusion of worship. Children in 1st grade or younger will remain in their classrooms and must be picked up by an adult.

## Parking

Additional parking is located at the Forest Avenue parking structure located on South Forest Avenue between South University and Willard. The structure is only a three minute walk from the church, and parking is free on Sundays. To get to the church from the structure, cross Forest Avenue and walk down Forest Court to the end of the block.

## Worship Leaders

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers  
Nathaniel Fryer  
Rev. Tommy Langejans  
Rev. Hannah Lundberg  
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

### Musicians

Chancel Choir  
Sanctus Ringers  
David Hufford, Organist

*Minister of Music & Fine Arts*  
David VanderMeer

*Prayer Partners*  
Beth Gerwig  
Jeanette Swartz

*Lay Reader*  
Ankie Schuitema  
*Welcome Center*  
Sandy Herold

*Ushers*  
Clem Gill  
Karla Olson-Belfi  
Ginny Rezmierski  
Len Rezmierski  
Joe Schmidt  
Pat Tamblyn

## SUNDAY OFFERINGS

8:30 AM	<b>Contemplative Communion Service</b> Monteith Hall
9:30 AM	<b>Worship</b> Sanctuary & Livestream
9:30 AM	<b>Children &amp; Youth Faith Formation</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Social Hour</b> Social Hall
10:45 AM	<b>Lemon Chapel Singers</b> Lemon Chapel
11:00 AM	<b>Adult Faith Formation</b> Classrooms
11:15 AM	<b>Worship</b> Monteith Hall
6:00 PM	<b>Youth Group</b> Youth Room

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FAITH FORMATION

### Adults

#### EXPLORING THE FAITH

##### **The Cost of Inheritance**

Lewis Room

Speaker: Dr. Earl Lewis, the Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies, and Public Policy; Director, Center for Social Solutions

*The Cost of Inheritance: an America ReFramed Special*, is an hour-long documentary that explores the complex issue of reparations in the United States using a thoughtful approach to history, historical injustices, systemic inequities, and the critical dialogue on racial conciliation. Through personal narratives, community inquiries, and scholarly insights, it aims to inspire understanding of the scope and rationale of the reparations debate.

We'll watch the documentary followed by a lunch at noon and a Q&A with Dr. Lewis.

#### BIBLE AT 11 O'CLOCK

##### **New Testament: Epistles of Peter**

French Room & Zoom

Host: Ed Koster

#### FIRST FRIENDS

##### **13th**

Curtis Room & Zoom

Host: Carole Pawloski

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans. The film won an Emmy award for best documentary.

##### **Book Discussion**

February 29

12 and 8 pm | Zoom

Join us on February 29 at either 12 pm or 8 pm for a Zoom conversation on the book, *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown.

### Children

#### **Bible Presentation**

March 3

9:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Next Sunday we will present our third grade young disciples with Bibles from the congregation. The biblical story is central to our faith and journey through life. We give the Bibles to our children to recognize that this is their story too.

We will also present any 4th and 5th graders who have not previously received a Bible from a congregation. Please let Heather Polikoff (hpolikoff@firstpresbyterian.org) know if you have a young disciple who should be included next weekend.

### Young Adults

#### **College Group**

The college group will not meet this week due to UM Break. Instead, join us next Sunday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m. for ice skating at Buhr Park. Rides are available. Contact Hannah Lundberg (hlundberg@fpca2.org) to RSVP or to get connected.

## MISSION

### **Food Collection in March**

We invite you to bring items next Sunday and throughout the month of March to stock the food pantry of SOS Community Services of Washtenaw County. SOS Community Services work with homeless families, children, and youth, providing comprehensive services that move them from homelessness to self-sufficiency and permanent, stable housing.

## MUSIC & FINE ARTS

### **Summer Camp**

Hey, kids! Join us for a week of non-stop fun this summer. The cost is \$75 per camper, and the camp will run from July 29 to August 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a performance on Sunday, August 4. Register online at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).

# *The Season of Lent*

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## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Sundays, February 18 - March 24  
8:30 a.m. | Monteith Hall  
9:30 a.m. | Sanctuary & Livestream  
11:15 a.m. | Monteith Hall

Join us throughout Lent for a time of prayer and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter.

## **LENTEN HOME WORSHIP**

Tuesdays, February 20 - March 19  
6:00 p.m.

Please join us for a time of fellowship, a simple meal and a brief worship service in members' homes. Limited to 25 people per gathering. Sign up online at [firstpresbyterian.org](https://firstpresbyterian.org)

## **LENTEN EMAIL DEVOTIONAL**

Begin each day with a Lenten devotion written by church members and staff. To receive the email devotion, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

## **LENTEN WEEKLY WALKS**

As part of our communal Lenten journey, we will take weekly walks along the scenic trails in our community. All ages and stages of life are welcome. A pastoral liaison will guide the group. The day, location, and time are posted on our website. Sign up at [firstpresbyterian.org](https://firstpresbyterian.org).

## **ALPHA HOUSE WEEK OF CARING**

March 18-24

During the week of March 18, volunteer to support guests of Alpha House, a shelter for children and parents. To volunteer, visit [firstpresbyterian.org](https://firstpresbyterian.org).

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

Sundays, March 24 & 31

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. To give, visit [firstpresbyterian.org](https://firstpresbyterian.org).