

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2020 • 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.



Reconciliation by Josefin de Vasconcellos (1904–2005), Coventry Cathedral, Coventry



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Hearing-assistance devices and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

Lectionary Texts:

Deuteronomy 30:15–20
Psalm 119:1–8
1 Corinthians 3:1–9
Matthew 5:38–48

The Prayer of Confession:

God promises always to love and forgive us—even when we don't follow God's way, or when we do things that hurt others. Everyone makes mistakes; that is why we confess our sin together. When we confess our sin, we say that we are sorry for these things, and we ask God to forgive us and help us live new lives. Because Jesus lived and died and rose again for us, we know that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. That is why when the leader says, "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven," we respond, "Thanks be to God."

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Partita on "Detroit"*

David Hurd

As the opening voluntary begins, let the time and the music help to center you for worship.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Sanderford (9:30)
Rev. McGowan (11:00)

FAITH IN ACTION

Alpha House

Gail Einhaus

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

All: and I will observe it to the end.

One: Give me understanding, that I may keep it with my whole heart.

All: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

One: See, I have longed for your precepts;

All: in your righteousness give me life.

One: Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord,

All: your salvation, according to your promise.

*** HYMN 32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, the path on which you have endeavored to teach us to walk is well marked across the generations.

Time and again you have called us to turn from the ways of narrow self-interest and hard-hearted indifference and to choose life, for the sake of generations to come.

Yet time and again we have strayed from the path you have shown us, ignored the signs of pride and greed, given ourselves a pass from doing what we know is right.

We come before you now to confess our need of your guidance; we long for your help with the burdens of our failures of will and courage, of compassion and love.

Forgive us, we pray –

and call us back again to the way toward the life which you have opened to us in Jesus . . .

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE

KYRIE ELEISON



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to greet one another with a sign of the peace God intends for us—saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.**

*This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 444, *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* (DETROIT).*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Margo Gill (9:30)
Mary Smith (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 30:15–20

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

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas
Chancel Choir

Maurice Duruflé

<i>Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.</i>	Where charity and love are, God is there.
<i>Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.</i>	Christ's love has gathered us into one.
<i>Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.</i>	Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
<i>Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.</i>	Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
<i>Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.</i>	And may we love each other
<i>Amen.</i>	with a sincere heart. Amen.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward. Beca Torres-Davenport

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 5:38–48

The grass withers; the flower fades—
the word of our God endures forever.

SERMON

Higher Ground

Rev. Dr. Spalding

RESPONDING

* HYMN 410

God Is Calling through the Whisper

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

WELCOME

Andrew Frazier (9:30)
Rev. Sanderford (11:00)

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir

During this flu season, instead of handshakes we recommend passing the peace with fist bumps, elbows or peace signs.

Today's Anthem, *Ubi caritas*, is an ancient hymn of the Western Church,

long used as one of the antiphons for the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday. The Gregorian melody was composed sometime between the fourth and tenth centuries, though some scholars believe the text dates from early Christian gatherings before the formalization of the Mass.

First Pres is collecting a Special Mission Appeal this month for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) after the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico. Rev.

McGowan is leading a team of 18 leaders and students to Puerto Rico in March to help in the ongoing hurricane recovery efforts. Please write "PDA - Puerto Rico" on your donations. Our goal is \$5,000. Thank you for your support!

During the offering, take a minute to sign the friendship pads found in each pew. If you are visiting with us, please leave your contact information so that we can reach out to you! Newcomers and regulars alike can see who is sitting around them and greet each other by name. By signing in, you help us build stronger community connections at First Presbyterian.

In celebration of Black History Month the organ selections this morning are by the African-American composer David Hurd. The Director of Music at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City, Dr. Hurd was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at the General Theological Seminary for 28 years.

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* **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, 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 815**

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

FESTAL SONG

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
Working, for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**
This is Hymn #765, May the God of Hope Go with Us (ARGENTINA).

* **CLOSING VOLUNTARY** *Fugue on "Detroit"*

David Hurd

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Please know that all, including visitors and newcomers, are invited to share in the life of the church. A full description of church events is online at www.firstpresbyterian.org. If you have questions, please visit the Welcome Center, just outside the Social Hall. Greeting you there today are Barbara Mueller and Lorna Prescott.

Musical leadership is provided by the Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir.

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Louise and Leon Ostrander by their family, and in loving memory of Laurin and Delia Hunter by Molly Dobson.

The Call to Worship is adapted from Psalm 119:33-4.1

The Church Office is staffed by Robin Agnew. **Greeters** are Carol and Doug Gottlieb (9:30) and Marilyn Gibson and Pat Liljestrand (11:00). **Sound system volunteers** are Rol Kibler (9:30) and Roger Hsiao (11:00). **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Nancy Fox (8:00); Bill Austin (head), Len Rezmierski (captain), Marolin Bellefleur, Beth Sanderford, Dean Gilchrist, Dick and Elsa Stuber, Joe Schmidt, Keith Molin, Clem Gill, and Angela Yang (9:30); and Bill Austin (head), Carter Hodgson (captain), Peggy Hodgson, Barry and Jeanette Swartz, and Joe and Karen Cox (11:00). **The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 and 11:00 services. **Prayer team volunteers** are Barb Ladewski and Elsa Stuber (9:30) and Pam Rinker and Deborah Campbell (11:00). Following the 8:00 service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "It was liberating to me to understand that prayer involved a learning process. I was set free to question, to experiment, even to fail, for I knew I was learning." – Richard Foster

TODAY'S EVENTS

Worship is at 8:00 in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **Radio Worship is broadcast at 11:00 a.m.** on WAAM (1600 AM) and on the web (www.waamradio.com).

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are Lynn Millward and Jennifer Stahl. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children.

Adult Education Opportunities:

9:30 a.m. **The Bible @ 9:30** meets in the French Room/Library to study Galatians.

First Friends meets in Monteith Hall to discuss Chapter 2, *Lot's Wife, of Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara Essex.

11:00 a.m. **Exploring the Faith** meets in Monteith Hall for "Elder Law and the Challenges of Providing Good Care." Attorney Jane Bassett of Ann Arbor, an expert in the fields of elder law, probate, estate planning and LGBT law, will explore the effective practices for good care, elder law, government benefits and healthcare for older adults.

Children's Opportunities:

9:30 a.m. **Sunday School classes** for crib through fifth graders

10:30 a.m. **Children's Choir**

11:00 a.m. **Childcare** available for crib through Kindergarten

11:00 a.m. **Amazing Stuff: God's Gift for Growing Up**, a class for fourth and fifth graders, meets in Room LL-4. The corresponding class for parents whose children are enrolled in *Amazing Stuff* meets in the Lewis Room.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

9:15 a.m. **Munch & Mingle** in the Lower Level hallway

9:30 a.m. **Sunday School**

4:30 p.m. **Youth + Creative Arts**

5:30 p.m. **Youth Group (6th–12th grades)**

College Opportunities:

12:00 p.m. **College Lunch** (meet in the Welcome Center at noon)

The Legacy Giving team extends an open invitation to all to attend "Giving Is Inspired By Generosity," a one-hour presentation, at noon, in the Curtis and Founders Rooms. You will hear simple, profound and practical ideas about the art of financial guidance that blends faith, finances and generosity. Raeann Kusch and Rick Hart, Legacy Consultants for Thrivent Financial, will lead us in a very dynamic conversation around the spirit of generosity with a touch of fun as well.

T2A2—Twenties and Thirties of Ann Arbor—invites the participation of all young adults looking to build community. **Small Group** meets tonight, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Bring your questions and insights, wherever you are on your faith journey. Contact us at T2A2@firstpresbyterian.org for more information.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES

Welcome College Students! Our Campus Ministry, UKirk@UMich, welcomes you to College Lunch on Sundays following the 11:00 a.m. service, to coffee breaks during the week, and to other fellowship opportunities. Follow us on Instagram@UKirkUMich for future events and past photos. Contact our Campus Pastor, Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

Join the New Handbell Choir for inexperienced ringers. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women meet this Wednesday, February 19, beginning with Bible Study in the Lewis Room at 9:30 a.m. A brief welcome and business meeting at 10:45 a.m. in Monteith Hall, precede a presentation by Jordan Backstrom, a Clinical Psychologist, on "The Opioid Crisis and Chronic Pain Care." Lunch (\$7) is at noon in the Social Hall. Men are welcome to attend the program and lunch.

A Men's Study Group meets this Friday morning, February 21, 8:00–9:00 a.m., in the Lewis Room, for coffee, study, and conversation. The winter book is *Short Stories by Jesus*, written by Amy-Jill Levine. All are welcome! Books are available in the Church Office for \$15.00. Questions? Contact Rev. Sanderford.

"Good Reads," a monthly book discussion group, meets this Friday, February 21, in the French Room/Library, at 10:30 a.m., to discuss *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. The book is available for purchase in the Church Office for \$15.00.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, February 21, at Carlyle Bar & Grill, 3660 Jackson Road, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to the Ash Wednesday Dinner on February 26 at 6:30 p.m. Have dinner after the Family Friendly 5:30 p.m. service or before the 7:30 p.m. Ecumenical Taizé Worship. Cost is \$10 per person for adults; \$5 for children 5–12; and free for children under five. Reservations may be made online or by contacting the Church Office by Monday, February 24.

Upcoming Opportunities to Join First Pres! We hope that you feel moved to become a member of our church family. Everyone belongs! Attend a class on March 15 (with joining on March 22) or on May 3 (with joining on May 17). Contact Rev. Rogers (355-2351 or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

Interested in helping children and parents who are experiencing homelessness? Sign up either online or at Coffee Hour for the March 23–28 ministry at Alpha House. Questions may be directed to: Paula Doering, paulahdoering@gmail.com or 669-0555; Gail Einhaus, gail@einhaus.us or 646-6093; and Ruth Jensen, ruth.baulch@optum.com or 332-0323.

Please contact the Church Office to:

- order a First Pres name tag. Cost is \$9 for either clip or magnet style
- request a baptism
- let us know if you are hospitalized
- support our Fair Trade mission project by purchasing a bag of Fair Trade coffee for use at home.
- sign up to sponsor Chancel Flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. Cost is \$50.
- apply for a security device (fob). Cost is \$10.
- purchase books for groups and classes
- inform us of any changes to your basic contact information. You may also update your contact information online (<https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/update-contact-information>) where you will find a new, easy-to-use form.

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, February 26 — Ash Wednesday

- 12:15 p.m. Imposition of Ashes
Come for self-guided meditative experience and receive ashes.
Spend as much time or as little as you desire.
- 5:30 p.m. Family Friendly Worship Service
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Ecumenical Taizé Service

Saturday, February 29 — Family Lent Event: “It’s a Beautiful Day to Follow Jesus”

With the help of Mr. Rogers, we will walk together through Lent, following Jesus and exploring what it means to be a neighbor. Join us for a Mr. Rogers movie and snacks on Saturday, February 29, at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to stay for pizza dinner after, we will be accepting donations. Contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Rev. Mares, or the Church Office to let us know you are coming.

Tuesday, March 3 — Monthly Taizé Prayer Service

This month’s worship focus is on wholeness and healing and includes anointing with oil. Come at 6:00 p.m. for a simple dinner of soup and bread in the Social Hall. Worship follows at 7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. There is no charge for the meal although donations are appreciated.

March Sundays — “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

All are invited to join us for intergenerational sessions based on Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood the first four Sundays in March at 11:00 a.m., in the Curtis Room. Not available for every session? No problem! Come when you’re able.

March — Annual Suds ‘n Sheets Campaign for Cass Community Social Services

Paper towels and laundry detergent will be collected.

March–April — Lenten Small Group Study— *Lent in Plain Sight*

The Kingdom of God is here among us; in the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. God’s presence is made known not only in the extraordinary: a burning bush, a talking donkey, a pillar of fire, but also through ordinary things: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, and oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones where we encounter the God who created all. In her book *Lent in Plain Sight*, Jill Duffield takes these ten, ordinary objects—objects that Jesus encountered along his way to the cross, and helps us to reflect on where we see the Kingdom of God at work in the ordinary. Sign up online or contact Rev. Ruhf.

Lent in Plain Sight is available for purchase in the Church Office for \$14. More information about group study opportunities will be available soon.

Saturday, March 7 — Women of Faith Brunch

Our speaker is the Rev. Grace Lindvall, Associate Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Grace grew up here at First Pres!

Saturday, March 7–8 — Youth Lock-In

Thursday, March 12— Mature Ministries Lunch & Learn

Lunch is at noon in the Social Hall. A presentation, “The Inside Story on Elizabeth Parke Firestone’s Clothing Collection at The Henry Ford,” follows lunch. All ages 60 and up are welcome.

Friday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. — Harvard Glee Club Concert

Saturday, March 21 — Peeps & Pizza Fun

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. — 2020 Men of Faith Breakfast

Our speaker is the Rev. Matthew Nickel, Pastor of Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit and former First Pres Resident Minister.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Liz Call-Boyce, Finance Assistant

Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister

Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator

Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator

Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant

Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator

Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families

Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor

Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator & Parish Nurse

Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts



1432 Washtenaw Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734 • 662 • 4466
www.firstpresbyterian.org