



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

APRIL 29, 2018

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

🌿 Gathering 🌿

PRELUDE (9:30) *Be Thou My Vision* Douglas Wagner

PRELUDE (11:00) *Christ Is Alive!* Wilbur Held

LIFE IN THE CHURCH Rev. Parks-Piatt (8:00)
Rev. Buckley (9:30/11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to this place where God pours out love on us;
All: we join our voices in praise, as our fears are left behind.
One: We gather with these people, those who seek to follow Jesus,
and Philip and Martha and Mary Magdalene,
All: so we might walk the paths of service hand in hand.
One: We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,
All: so that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.

* HYMN 464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

A RESURRECTION LITANY

“We are a resurrection people,” we like to say.
And we say it often.
It is true. But resurrection doesn’t erase or replace
the real life that happens before, during and after.
The real life that we all know –
the places where we are broken,
where we are grieving,
where we are sad,
where we are angry,
where we are hurting,
where we are anxious,
where we are lonely.

For we are human – fully.

And we each carry around the experiences of trauma and loss and hurt that are a real part of life.

Those experiences live within us,
and they exist before, during and after resurrection.

Yes, we are a resurrection people. But we are also human – fully.

And that means that we know death just as surely as we know life.

Death is real; it is excruciating and painful and it is a part of life.

But God is not afraid of death. God is big enough to hold us in our hurt, in our brokenness, in those places of death where we cannot hold ourselves.

When we find ourselves in those places, when we cannot imagine ever feeling joy again, may we remember that although God will not erase the pain, God will hold us, God will stand with us.

*** 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**

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.

In the desert, all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

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 **Proclaiming** 

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Pflasterer (8:00)

Zach Monsma (9:30)

Rebecca Benedict (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 27:1-14

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

ANTHEM (9:30/11:00) *The Lord Is My Light* Frances Allitsen

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom, then, shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid; and though there 'rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him. For, in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle. Yes, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. Psalm 27:1-3, 5

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 8:26-40

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

SERMON

The Beautiful Questions

Rev. Sanderford

 Responding 

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Sarasota Statement*

We trust our Lord and Savior who calls disciples to love unconditionally, who confronts brutality by refusing to take arms, and who defies racism by forming a community out of every tribe, people, and nation. Jesus aligns with people who are poor, meek, persecuted, and reviled, and calls the church to do the same. To be a Christian is to be continuously undone and remade by a Savior who encounters us in ways we might not expect, through a collection of people we might otherwise reject, screen, or censor.

We trust that God is always at work in our world and in our lives, giving us joy and calling us to be faithful to Jesus' vision of the Kingdom. We commit to continuously rededicate ourselves to this work and strive, with hearty faith, to live this Kingdom on earth, proclaiming: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

* HYMN 302

I Danced in the Morning

SIMPLE GIFTS

WELCOME

Rev. Fair (9:30)

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others sitting nearby.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory (9:30)

Simple Gifts

Shaker melody
arr. Marsha Chusmir Shapiro

Offertory (11:00)

Simple Gifts

arr. Mark Hayes

* 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.**

* Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (8:00)

See Communion Card

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 108

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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This response is Hymn 594.

* POSTLUDE

The Day of Resurrection

Wilbur Held

* Please rise in body or spirit.

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

Welcome to all! Please know that all, including visitors and newcomers, are invited to share in the life of the church. A full description of church events may be found online at www.firstpresbyterian.org. If you have questions, please visit the **Welcome Center**, just outside the Social Hall. Greeting you there today are Karen Walter and Barb Carlisle. **The Church Office** is staffed by Sandy Talbott and Michele Madden. **Greeters** are Nelly Petrock and Carol Gottlieb (9:30) and Virginia Rezmierski and David and Carol Downton (11:00). **Sound system volunteers** are Dallas Dort (9:30) and Barry Leonard (11:00). **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Nancy Fox (8:00); Bill Austin (head), Dick Carlisle (captain), Len Rezmierski, Spaulding Clark, Carol Carter, Jim Cameron, Marty and Connie Swindle, Keith and Sheila Bilby, and Dean Gilchrist (9:30); and Bill Austin (head), Ralph Winter (captain), Jeannette Middleton, Jim Douglass, Sandy Herold, Linda Lampman, Cyndy Colton, and Paul and Georgia Goodman (11:00). **The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the Chancel in the Sanctuary, after the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Prayer team members are Nancy Fox and Carolyn Schultz (9:30) and Gail Grady and Pam Ehrhart (11:00). Following the 8:00 service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "Prayer requires more of the heart than the tongue." – Adam Clarke

Musical leadership:

This morning's orchestra at 9:30 is comprised of both youth and adults and arises from a suggestion in last year's Youth Ministry Study that the church intentionally develop opportunities for youth and adults to be together in meaningful ways.

Our closing hymn, *Christ Is Alive!*, was first sung 50 years ago this month for an Easter service in response to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Carl P. Daw, Jr. writes in *Glory to God: A Companion*:

“People in the United States are generally unaware of the immense influence Martin Luther King, Jr. had in other parts of the world. When he was assassinated in 1968 on the Friday before Good Friday, the loss of his prophetic voice was keenly felt around the globe. One congregation particularly affected by that event was the church Brian Wren served in Hockley, Essex, United Kingdom. As he tried to prepare for Easter services, he felt that none of the existing Easter hymns seemed to speak to the needs of that group of people. So he wrote this LM [Long Meter] text to try to express an Easter hope in the midst of such a terrible event.

“As his thinking about theological matters – and especially about the language used to express them – developed in succeeding decades, Wren often returned to this text in order to bring its wording into agreement with those developments. Although much else has changed, the opening of the hymn has remained constant: ‘Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.’ In short, we need to sing because singing is an essential means of expressing Christian faith, and as long as we have faith, we will have something to sing about.”

Worship Notes:

The Resurrection Litany was developed for worship at the 2017 NEXT Church Conference in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Sarasota Statement was developed in 2017 by a diverse group of Presbyterians to address the current state of the church and the turmoil of the world. It is a turn to the biblical and theological roots of our Christian faith as a way to remember our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ and say anew what Presbyterians believe. <https://nextchurch.net/the-sarasota-statement/>. Excerpts from the Sarasota Statement, 2017, NEXT Church, are used in today's Affirmation of Faith.

Chancel flowers are given by Triangle Preschool as a thank you for sharing our space with them and in appreciation of our continued partnership.

The red rosebud celebrates the birth of Vincent James Clark, April 19, 2018, son of Will and Christina Clark. Grandparents are Jim and Nancy Janz Clark.

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 Betsy DiMaggio, Lynn Millward, and Susan Morville.

Children’s Ministry Opportunities:

Childcare and Sunday School classes are held for crib through fifth graders at 9:30 a.m. **Childcare** is available for preschoolers at 11:00 a.m. Worship activity totes and Busy Hands activity baskets are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary for children attending worship at 11:00 a.m.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

All-Youth Munch & Mingle is in the Youth Room at 9:20 a.m.
Sunday School and Confirmation classes begin at 9:30 a.m.
All-Youth Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. **Keys and Mids youth groups** meet after dinner.

Adult Education Opportunities:

The Bible @ 9:30 is engaged in a study of the book of Acts in the French Room/Library. Rev. Ed Koster is the facilitator. All are welcome.

First Friends meet in Monteith Hall at 9:30 a.m. to view and discuss the DVD *Acts: The Acts of the Apostles*. First Friends is a self-directed adult group providing a safe place for people to share concerns and receive Christian support.

Exploring the Faith meets at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall for “Celebrating Our Differences: Social Class in the Book of Acts.” Rev. Annette Fraser leads the discussion.

Mission and Vision Task Force Listening Sessions

You are encouraged to attend a one-hour listening session so that we might gain clarity on the mission and vision of who God is calling us to be at First Pres as we enter the third decade of the 21st Century. Your participation is important. We will provide a brief overview of the visioning effort and then listen to your ideas on the future direction of our church. Contact the Church Office if you are in need of childcare.

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| Today, Sunday, April 29, 11:00 a.m. | Curtis & Founders Rooms |
| Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m. | Curtis & Founders Rooms |
| Sunday, May 6, 11:00 a.m. (Families at First) | Lewis Room |
| Thursday, May 10, 11:00 a.m. | Monteith Hall |
| Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. | Curtis & Founders Rooms |

For additional information or to submit comments, please visit the church website or contact Lucie Audette (laudette125@hotmail.com; 717-8062).

Our Campus Ministry, UKirk@UMich, celebrates all of our graduating seniors! All students are invited for one last lunch for the semester immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service today. Please let Revs. McGowan or Buckley know if you are going to be in Ann Arbor this summer. We would love to stay in touch!

T2A2 Small Group meets at Chris Wahl’s house at 7:00 p.m. to study the book of James. For more information about all opportunities for twenties and thirties, contact Rev. Parks-Piatt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion Food Collection is next Sunday. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Please bring food donations and/or financial contributions for Washtenaw Community College Food Bank.

Make it official! The last new-member class before fall will be held May 20, 11:00 a.m. – 2 :00 p.m. (note change in date) in the Curtis Room (lunch and childcare provided) with joining to take place on Sunday, June 3, at the 9:30 a.m. service. We want all our guests and regular attenders to join First Pres and unite with this wonderful church family. Contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) to make your reservation, or call the Church Office.

The Women's Chamber Chorus of Ann Arbor presents a free concert this Friday, May 4, 7:30 p.m., here in the Sanctuary. The Sanctus Ringers and Joshua Marzan, piano, will be guest performers.

Hilltoppers, a lunch and learn opportunity for those 60 and up, is Thursday, May 10, at noon in the Social Hall. Lunch (\$5) is following by "Life on Purpose," a presentation by Vic Strecher, Professor and Director for Innovation, UM School of Public Health. Sign up in the Church Office.

"Lunches with Love," the 5th Grader-led mission, is collecting donations to make grab-and-go lunches for Food Gatherers. Drop off donations during the month of April in baskets at the Welcome Center, Narthex or the Lounge outside the Sanctuary. The donation item list and information about making monetary donations are online. Questions? Contact Jean Song (jean.chung@stanfordalumni.org).

Spring is here and that means it's time for "Plant Some Gardens at Cass" workday Saturday, May 12. This is a fun way to show Cass and its residents that we care. The vegetable gardens impact the quality of over one million meals served by Cass each year. The flower gardens provide evidence to people served by Cass that we support renewal and growth in nature and in people. Come be a part of our group. Sign up online.

On Sunday, May 27, the First Pres veterans group will host Coffee Hour in memory of veterans who have died. A slide show honoring veterans who are former members of our church, friends or relatives of church members will be shown. If you wish someone to be honored in the slide show, please send two photographs of the veteran, one more current and one in military uniform, as well as a description of military involvement to Gary Stahl (stahl.gary@sbcglobal.net). All are invited to a remembrance ceremony led by Rev. Eldon Beery in the Memorial Garden at 12:15 p.m. Contact Ralph Winter (429-3743) if you have any questions or need photographs scanned for the slide show. All originals will be returned.

A four-week study on the letter of Paul to the Philippians, sponsored by Presbyterian Women and open to all women, meets the first four Thursdays of May at the home of Meg Brown, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Contact Meg (Imegbrown@gmail.com) for more information and to confirm your attendance.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, May 4, at Applebee's Restaurant, 2310 Green Road, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Volunteer at Alpha House Saturday, May 19, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. First Presbyterian will have the opportunity to serve the families at Alpha House by providing a spring clean-up of the children's playground and the front garden. In the playground we will add new mulch and repair railroad ties used in landscaping. The front garden needs dead branches removed, general clean-up, and new plantings. Sign up online. Contact Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com) for more information.

The Russia Mission Team and St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church invite all to attend their annual evening of Russian desserts and musical entertainment at St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church, 9900 Jackson Road, on Friday, May 18. The event is free but donations for the camp in Davydovo, Russia, which both our churches support, are welcome. Questions? Contact Linda Speck (aa3013@wayne.edu or 730-4525).

High School graduates will be recognized in worship on Sunday, June 10, at 9:30 a.m. Please submit the graduate's name, parents' names, high school, and future plans to the Church Office or online by Thursday, May 10. **College graduates will be recognized in the June edition of First Press.** Submit the graduate's name, degree, and institution to the Church Office or online by Thursday, May 10.

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries
Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries
Reverend Blair Buckley, Resident Minister
Reverend Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister
Reverend Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Resident Minister
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator
Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator
Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse



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