

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 27, 2019 • 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.



Pearl Rain by Jesús Rafael Soto



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.

Reformation Sunday commemorates the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany, on October 31, 1517, launching a movement to reform the church in Europe.

Cover Art:
Pearl Rain, a kinetic sculpture by the Venezuelan artist, Jesús Rafael Soto (1923–2005). “Soto has created penetrables, interactive sculptures which consist of square arrays of thin, dangling tubes through which observers can walk. It has been said of Soto’s art that it is inseparable from the viewer; it can only stand completed in the illusion perceived by the mind as a result of observing the piece.”

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Erhalt uns, Herr
Ein’ feste Burg* Dieterich Buxtehude
Dieterich Buxtehude

LIFE IN THE CHURCH Rev. Rogers (9:30)
Rev. McGowan (11:00)

FAITH IN ACTION Stewardship

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** adapted from Psalm 139 Rev. Rogers (9:30)
Rev. Ruhf (11:00)

One: O God, you have searched me and known me;
All: my words and my ways are ever before you.
One: There is nowhere I can be that is beyond reach of your spirit:
**All: even when darkness surrounds me,
your light wells up within me.**
One: For it was you who knit me together;
before I was in the world, you knew me.
All: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
One: Search me, and know my heart;
test me, and know my thoughts,
**All: Free me from all that constrains my soul,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

* **HYMN 275** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN’ FESTE BURG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
We are here, O God, because we know that you have seen us for who we are. We come because you understand, too, who we want to be. We search for you in the space between our failures and our goals, our struggles and our hopes. We long to let go of all that separates us from you and from each other; we hunger for release from habits, thoughts and memories that bind our true hearts. In the silence of these moments of shared honesty, whisper a word of grace to us, and transform our regret into reconciliation, with you and with each other, by the touch of the healing, forgiving love of Jesus Christ...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S 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

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

This is Hymn 444, Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (DETROIT).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gail Grady (9:30)
Haley Brown (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Joel 2:23–29

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 18:9–14

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

SERMON

What We Know about Ourselves

Rev. Dr. Spalding

RESPONDING

* HYMN 793

O Christ, the Healer

ERHALT UNS, HERR

WELCOME

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

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

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory Anthem

With a Voice of Singing
Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered God’s people. Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands.
O sing praises to the honor of God’s name,
Make God’s praise to be glorious.

***Make God’s Love
Visible—today!***

Today is Commitment
Sunday for the 2020
stewardship season.

**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.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

This is Hymn 609, Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow.

* 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

Charge and Benediction (Blessing):

To underscore this relation between worship and service, the concluding movement of the service, the act of Sending, includes both a Charge and a Benediction (Blessing). We go out to meet joys and obligations, pleasures and troubles, secure in the shelter of God's trustworthy Word, and strong in its power.

*** HYMN 741**

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

This is Hymn 643 Now Thank We All Our God (NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT).



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 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 Lorna Prescott and Michele Derr. **The Church Office** is staffed by Jane Bartman. **Greeters** are Elsa and Dick Stuber (9:30) and Gail Grady and Pat Gilbreath (11:00). **Sound system volunteers** are Rol Kibler (9:30) and Barry Leonard (11:00). **Ushers** are Bill Austin, Martin Reineman, and Jean Song (8:00); Bill Austin (head), Dick Carlisle (captain), Len Rezmierski, Spaulding Clark, Carol Carter, Jim Cameron, Marty and Connie Swindle, Keith and Sheila Bilby, Dean Gilchrist, and Joe Schmidt (9:30); and Bill Austin (head), Ralph Winter (captain), Linda Lampman, Jim Douglass, Jeannette Middleton, and Sandy Herold (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 Jeanette Kibler and Marolin Bellefleur (9:30) and Pam Rinker and Dianne Santinga (11:00). Following the 8:00 service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "The soul needs its silent spaces. It is in them we learn to pray." – Samuel Chadwick

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Ronald E. Taylor by Brad and Simone Taylor.

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).

Make God's Love Visible—Stewardship 2020—Commitment Sunday. Today is Commitment Sunday for the 2020 stewardship season, but our real work is just beginning. Over the last four Sundays we've heard how the people of First Pres *Make God's Love Visible* in our congregation, our community, and the world. The other message we've heard is that none of this can happen without all of us supporting our church financially and with our time and talent. Our financial pledges fund the 2020 budget, and our commitments of time and talent ensure that First Pres ministries will continue their positive impact. It's not too late to return your commitment forms to the Finance Office. You can view stewardship materials online and pledge securely at firstpresbyterian.org/contribute. In fact, your church home is counting on it. Thank you for all the ways you *Make God's Love Visible*!

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are Carol Carter, Nancy Oliver, Beth Caldwell, and Elsa Stuber. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children.

Adult Education Opportunities:

9:30 a.m. **The Bible @ 9:30** in the French Room

First Friends meets in Monteith Hall where Elsa Stuber shares her more than 32 years of experience teaching in the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan.

11:00 a.m. **Exploring the Faith** meets in Monteith Hall for a special presentation by Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts. This concludes the series "Presbyterian Liturgy and Sacraments – How We Worship."

Children's Ministry 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

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 Choir**
- 5:30 p.m. **Youth Dinner**
- 6:00 p.m. **Youth Groups**

Make First Pres your church home! A new member class meets today, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., in the Curtis Room. We would love to welcome you to formal membership.

Tell Me More About This Church! Join Revs. Rick Spalding, Jay Sanderford, and Melissa Anne Rogers for an hour conversation and lunch at 12:15 in the Vance Room to learn more about First Pres. What questions do you have about our church, the PC(USA) and our staff? We are here to help. This runs at the same time as the New Member Class. Lunch will be provided for both groups in the Founders' Room at 12:15 p.m.

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 the Gospel of Luke. Bring your questions and insights, wherever you are on your faith journey. Contact Haley Brown (habrown989@gmail.com), Chris Wahl (cgwahl@umich.edu), or Rev. Ruhf for more information about this and other T2A2 opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for a special celebration of All Saints' Day this Friday, November 1, at 5:30 p.m., in the Youth Room. Families at First explores honoring and celebrating All Saints' Day through the cross-cultural lens of Día de Los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). We invite you to bring a photo of a beloved saint your family remembers that can be added to our church ofrenda for the evening. **This event will be an opportunity for families to spend time with our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Rick Spalding.** Together, we will enjoy a potluck-style dinner at 5:30 p.m., and watch a popular, family-friendly movie at 6:00 p.m. in wonderful fellowship! The event will wrap up around 8:00 p.m.

All Saints' Sunday is next Sunday, November 3. At the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services *Requiem* by Bob Chilcott will be offered as the Proclamation of the Word by the Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra. **Holy Communion** will be celebrated and the names of those who have died in the past year will be read at all services. **Communion Food Collection** is during all three services. 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 the Washtenaw Community College Food Bank.



Welcome College Students! Our Campus Ministry, UKirk@UMich, welcomes you to College Lunch on Sundays following the 11:00 a.m. service, coffee breaks during the week, and 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.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, November 1, at Applebee's Restaurant, 2310 Green Road, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Support First Pres as we participate in the American Red Cross, MICHIGAN vs OSU 2019 Blood Battle, this Tuesday, October 29, 1:00–7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. Sign up to donate online at www.redcrossblood.org. Questions? Contact Barb Brewster (646-5571; dexter4brews@aol.com).

The 2019 Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar is Sunday, November 17. This annual event is an opportunity to learn more about many of the mission programs in which First Pres participates, and to support those programs through the purchase of meaningful holiday gifts for family and friends.

Join a Bible Study or Reading Group this fall!

Men's Study Group

A Men's Study Group meets the first and third Friday mornings, 8:00–9:00 a.m., in the Lewis Room for coffee, study, and conversation. The fall book is *Simply Jesus* by N. T. Wright. Books are available in the Church Office (\$15). Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information.

Women's Bible Study and Reading Groups

Horizons Bible Study, the third Wednesday, at 9:30 a.m.

Journeys Book/Bible Study, the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 11:30 a.m.

William Barclay Commentary Bible Study, Fridays, 10:30 a.m.–noon

Women's Bible Study, Tuesdays, at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Reading Group, the fourth Wednesday, at 1:00 p.m.

Evening Horizons Bible Study, the third Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.

Tell Your Story! StorySlam and Strolling Reception is coming December 8

Our Advent Event is once again a StorySlam with reception following throughout our church on Sunday, December 8, 4:00–7:00 p.m. We need storytellers! This year, we will have more stories in the hour-long presentation in the Sanctuary. While there will be music and other components, the emphasis will be on the stories and those who tell them. Advent and Christmas stories preferred! We are looking for people who would like to participate in this "Moth"-like special holiday presentation. Interested? Got a story to tell or need support in writing one that's been on your heart? Reach out to Rev. Rogers as soon as you can!

Alpha House Week of Caring is November 11–17.

The bounty of fall harvests and anticipation of Thanksgiving combine to make November a delightful month. It is also a month when First Pres members have an opportunity to ***Make God's Love Visible*** by extending hospitality to some of those who are experiencing homelessness, those who have known lack of food security, lack of a warm place to live, and lack of safety for their children.

We have the privilege of joining the Alpha House team in ministering to the parents and children at Alpha House by providing meals, childcare, and overnight support. If you are able to help, please sign up at Coffee Hour or online. Anne Gere (argere@umich.edu), Paula Doering (pauladoering@gmail.com), and Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com; 646-6093) will be happy to answer your questions about this vital ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Liz Call-Boyce, Finance Assistant
Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
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 & Children's Education Assistant
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families
Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Merry Muilenberg, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator
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

