

FIRST PRESS

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor

Vol. 69 | No. 11 - November 2021

Dear Friends,

For all the marvelous ways we celebrate worship each week, November is hands down my favorite month for gathering together on Sundays.

True, it doesn't contain Christmas Eve, that holiest of nights, the poetry of the prophets, or the glorious music of Advent. Nor does it enfold the pageantry of Palm Sunday, the pathos of Passion week or the triumphant Day of Resurrection.

November doesn't offer the fiery energy of Pentecost to commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the church.

But this month offers multiple Sundays when we ponder three experiences of life that are necessary to being fully human – remembering, celebrating, and waiting. These November Sundays honor the past as we remember, bring us more fully to the present as we give thanks for our blessings, and call us, through the story and promise of our faith – to hopeful anticipation for our ever uncertain future. November has it all!

All Saints' Sunday is Nov. 7, when we name and honor those we have loved who have died and now live eternally with Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven. Embracing the pain of loss, and enduring the knowledge that we, too, shall someday face the mystery of death, we name our beloved friends and family, and we call them to the Lord's Supper. Together in spirit there, we are given a glimpse of the Great Banquet where we shall someday all

gather in the Lord.

Though we long for our loved ones, we can know they are in a place of peace – and such knowledge is supremely comforting. Simple words of scripture and literature are used in the liturgy. Grateful for the eternal peace of those we loved, we labor on, still carrying our earthly burdens. The

pathos of the pandemic is not over yet, for still we suffer with loss, and still we battle with one another over the right way to conquer a virus that influences our personal and corporate choices. We ourselves aren't saints, not yet. We are all "saints-in-the-making."

Thinking of where we are, I draw particular strength from author Jane Kenyon's words in her poem, "Notes from the Other Side," where she writes, "I divested myself of despair and fear when I came here./Now there is no more catching one's own eye

in the mirror; there are no bad books, no plastic, no insurance premiums, and of course no illness./ Contrition does not exist, nor gnashing of teeth./ No one howls as the first clod of earth hits the casket./ The poor we no longer have with us. Our calm hearts strike only the hour, as God, as promised, proves to be mercy clothed in light." We, human and grieving, gather together around the promises of faith on Nov. 7. As the words of the hymn, "For All the Saints" puts it, "We feebly struggle – they in glory shine."

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We celebrate a fairly non-religious holiday on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Although it is not a high holy day sanctioned by the church, Thanksgiving has a sacred feel to it. Our families “gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing,” as the hymn goes. There is nothing more Christian than being grateful – for if we know the source of our blessings, we will seek to follow faithfully and do all that can to further God’s desire to bless the world through our work of pursuing justice, kindness and peace. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, we remember our gratitude. We will sing the wonderful hymns, “Now Thank We All Our God” and “We Gather Together to Ask the Lord’s Blessing.” Come now, friends – those are some of our favorites!

And then, finally – we arrive at the last Sunday of November, the First Sunday of Advent. We turn from gratitude to God’s presence with us as we experience it throughout our lives and even today – and turn towards the anticipation and waiting of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent jars us into a spirit of anticipation, not merely a remembrance of Christ’s first coming, but an unsettled eagerness for Christ’s second return – the culmination of all things.

My love of November might not be yours, but I hope you will be present in all of our worship services either in person, or on-line. Something incredible happens as we move through these experiences of remembering those who have so defined our own life’s journey, celebrating with gratitude the manifold blessings of an unconditionally loving and present God, and anticipating with wonder what else God yet has in store for all of us.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

P.S. And all of this happens because of your generosity towards First Pres. If you’ve not made an *annual commitment of time, talent and treasure* – please contact the Church Office today or complete the forms on our website.

WORSHIP

The last Worship Wisdom discussed the importance of the Proclamation of the Word, most often in the form of the sermon. This central part of our worship service is followed by our response to the hearing the Word proclaimed. This response may take many forms. Sometimes it is one of the



Sacraments (the Eucharist or Baptism), sometimes it is a commissioning, or the reception of new members, or some other pastoral rite of the church. These will all be discussed at a later date.

If there is no other element of worship scheduled, our typical response is the singing of a hymn. The hymn will have been carefully chosen to reinforce the text and message of the sermon, to help us apply what we have heard in our lives, or to lead us to the next part of worship, offering our lives to God, and returning a part of the gifts we have received to support the work of the church in the world.

The Offering serves as a bridge in the order of the Service for the Lord’s Day, leading us into the Sending portion of the order of worship. The bringing of offerings has a long history. In the early church, the people brought bread and wine from their own tables, part of which was to be used for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, and part of which was set aside to be distributed to the poor.

These gifts of bread and wine were brought to a table near the entrance to the room, and the portion to be used for the celebration of the sacrament was brought forward after the reading and proclaiming of the Word. As time went on, alms for the poor were brought along with the bread and wine, and distributed to the needy. In the early years of the Reformation, there was a collection at the end of the worship service. A large chest was placed at the door to receive the contributions of the worshipers as they left the church. This served as a reminder that the gifts of God they had received at the table were to be carried out into the world.

In our Offering sequence we begin with words that remind us to return to God a portion of the gifts we have received. Ushers then receive the offering. Most often one of the choirs sings or rings an anthem during this time. Again, this anthem will have been chosen to reinforce the texts of the day, and to provide one more way for the congregation to reflect on the Proclamation of the Word. When the offering has been received, it is brought forward and we sing a doxology or other song of praise and thanksgiving.

Taizé Prayer Service

Tuesday, Nov. 2
7 p.m., in Monteith Hall (In-person)
A contemplative service of songs, prayers, scriptures, silence, and candles. This service is also available via YouTube and Facebook.
All are welcome!



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Amy Morrison Heinrich is guest preacher on Sunday, Nov. 14, at 8 & 9:30 a.m. worship services. Her sermon will be Sabbath Sensibility. Amy will teach at 11 a.m. for the Faith Formation hour, Julian of Norwich: A Mystic for Our Times.

Welcome Back Amy Morrison Heinrich on Nov. 14!

Amy currently serves as the Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville, Ill. She previously served at First Pres, Ann Arbor, as Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry – in partnership with the Ecumenical Center and International Residence. In 1998, she left the position, which was then filled by Rev. Mel Rogers.



Amy received her Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and served as Chaplain at Colorado College and Austin College, and as Campus Pastor at University of Wisconsin, Madison. Amy's husband, Rob, is in private practice in Clinical Psychology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Lake Forest. Rob and Amy have three young adult children: fraternal twin sons, Ian and Max, who live in New York and North Carolina; and a daughter, Emma, who attends Elon University.

Amy is current president and chair of the Harold M. and Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation. Based in Chicago, the principal mission of the Foundation is to work in partnership with others to advance economic and ecological health through environmental education programs, particularly for underserved communities. She likes to think of herself as an "eco-theologian" because of her passion for stewardship of creation and Celtic spirituality.



Fauré Requiem – All Saints' Concert

Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021 – 3 p.m.
The Chancel Choir, Chamber Orchestra, and Organ Sanctuary
Donations may be made to the Sacred Music & Fine Arts Fund

Join Up!

You already belong – why not make it official? Fast-track to membership! Join us at 11 a.m. on Nov. 14 in the Lead Pastor's Office at First Pres (or online - hybrid option available!) for a 20-minute new member joining session.

Two elders from Session, a Pastor, and a member of the Congregational Life Committee meet to welcome anyone who would wish to unite with our church family as a full member or an affiliate. Need more information? Contact Rev. Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



DIAA Team Working Hard!

The Diversity, Inclusivity, Accessibility and Accountability group has begun meeting and defining where and how to deepen the radical hospitality that the new Strategic Plan calls us to as a congregation. Interested in joining us? Contact Marti Wendler, Hannah Lundberg and Megan Berry using the following email: DIAA-Radicalhospitality@firstpresbyterian.org. Our next meeting is yet to be scheduled, and there is plenty of time to join us!

Welcome to our Newest Members!



Bill and Nikki Black

Bill and Nikki Black are transferring from the Fenton First Presbyterian Church in Fenton, Mich. They have both been active in a wide variety of church activities, but their main passion has been mission outreach. Previous to that, they had been active in the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, where their families became friends 42 years ago.

They were married 18 years ago, several years after their first spouses passed away. Bill has two adult married sons and Nikki has two adult married daughters. If you'd like to see photos of their six grandchildren, ages 8-16, they are happy to respond. They have recently moved to Ann Arbor and reside in the All-Seasons Senior Living Community near Dixboro and Geddes Roads.

Taoqu Chen (In her own words)

At Coffee Hour a few weeks ago, ever gently, Pastor Mel picked up a tiny golden spider off my shoulder, showed me, and let it go. I have never seen a spider like this one, a small round body, shiny, with long legs. I believe everything happens for a reason and has meaning. What does it mean when a spider lands on you? I googled it. "Golden Spider stands for innocence, warmth and new beginnings. You are looking for some excitement and joy... In the spirit realm, spiders are master timekeepers, tying energetic knots that weave together the past and future to help you manifest in the present moment."

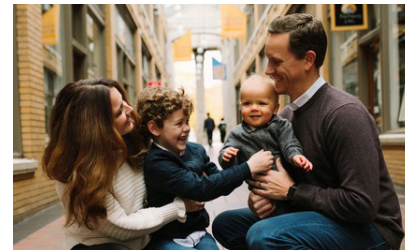


On Sept. 12, I transferred my Presbyterian membership from Kirk in the Hills of Bloomfield Hills to First Pres, Ann Arbor. I moved to Ann Arbor during the pandemic, but the church doors were closed and all the services were on Youtube. Finally, the church doors opened again and I planned to visit the churches near me. The first day First Pres reopened, I went. The moment I walked into the door, I bumped into Pastor Mel who I remembered from four years ago when she delivered the sermon at Pastor Angela Ryo's installation service at Kirk in the Hills.

I was pretty sure she didn't know me, yet her expression was not who are you, why are you here, but more like, where have you been? What a welcoming smile! With social distancing in mind, I picked a seat with no neighbors, except two ladies to my left. During the Passing of the Peace, a lady warmly welcomed me. It was Jean White, who sings in the choir. I soon received an invitation from David VanderMeer to join the choir. No audition required? Wow. I wish I was a better singer, but I love to sing, so I showed up at the first choir rehearsal of the season a little scared. Soon I was singing with the choir on Sunday with so many accomplished singers. I felt like I landed among the stars.

I fast-tracked to membership. Hospitality is something we graciously accept. Yes, I said "Yes." Now I am one of the 1,400 members to love, learn, and serve together. That golden spider is a witness. The golden spider landed on me! Why? I had to google more. We tend to fear what we don't know or don't understand.

The benefit of knowing more about spiders is that I feel at ease with spiders now. The next time I see one, I will be like Pastor Melissa and will not flinch. The Golden Spider stands for innocence, warmth and new beginnings. Indeed, a new beginning with my new church home. Let us Love... with Open Hearts! Let us Learn... with Open Minds! Let us Serve... with Open Arms!



Lindsey and Peter Gudritz

We welcome Lindsey and Peter Gudritz to our church! Lindsay grew up in Ann Arbor and Pasadena, and Peter grew up in Florida and East Grand Rapids. They met in Midland (after both going to University of Michigan!) They recently moved to Ann Arbor from Austin, Texas. Prior to that they were in Midland, members at Memorial Presbyterian Church where Lindsey served as a Deacon. Lindsey is a screenwriter, whose work can be found here: <https://lindseygudritz.com/>.

Peter works for Dow in communications and advocacy. They are parents of Byron, a first-grader, and Arthur, who just turned two. Lindsey enjoys music (singing!), exercise and reading. Peter enjoys golf, tennis, playing guitar and spending time with their boys! Both enjoy Ted Lasso!

Bob and Dory Anderson

Transferring to us from MacPherson Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, N.C., Bob and Dory have been married for 49 years - high school sweethearts! They recently moved to Canton, Mich., after spending their lives in Fayetteville. Their daughter lives here and they are now closer to her and their grandkids! Bob was born in West Virginia and



raised in North Carolina. He worked as an industrial engineer in textiles for 20 years, then management engineer for a hospital for 25 years. Dory retired after teaching elementary school for 25 years. They were members of the church there for 40 years, and enjoyed being youth advisors, playing on the softball team, serving as elders and deacons, and making trips to Russia on the church's Russia Mission Team. Dory sang in the choir and served as Clerk of Session. Bob enjoys family activities, casual bike riding, jigsaw puzzles, and retirement. Dory is creative and crafty, and said, "Every day I thank God for blessing my life in so many ways!"

Madelyn Gatchel

Madelyn Gatchel recently moved to Ann Arbor to begin her PhD in Computer Science from the University of Michigan. A recent graduate of Davidson College, she's excited to join our diverse community of faith and become part of many of the opportunities in our church family! During her time at Davidson, she took a trip to Taize, France.

In her spare time, Madelyn likes to work out, play board and card games, walk around new places, and watch college basketball. She grew up as a member of First Presbyterian in New Bern, N.C. She looks forward to getting involved with our T2A2 group and making new friends!



FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN

For further information about our programs and ministries for children and families, contact Beca Torres-Davenport, btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org.

MILESTONE MINISTRY - Exploring the Word of God

Congratulations to our 3rd grade bible recipients on behalf of the Children and Family Ministry work group and congregation of First Presbyterian Church. We are excited to watch you grow in your faith! This year's class includes: Logan Blackburn, Kylie Mae Campbell, Adeline Carlisle, Ethan Crawford, Josiah Gerety, Jack Groves, Audie Lampman, Cora Meade, Nicholas Mitchell, Greyson Peters, Henry Peters, Jacqueline Vercler and Benjamin Zink.



Advent Happening: New date this year! Saturday, Nov. 20

Candles, cookies and crafts... oh my! Bring the family and join the fun as we prepare for Christ's arrival. This year, to allow for physical distancing, we will be *spread throughout the whole building*. An activity location map will be provided when you arrive. We'll have crafts, paper lace banner cutting, cookie decorating (allergy-friendly available), candle making and more on Saturday, Nov. 20, anytime from 10 a.m. until noon!



Advent Happening is a free multi-generational event with projects for all – ages 0 to 102. Friends and neighbors are always welcome and encouraged! Child care will be provided to children aged three and younger upon request. Make a reservation for childcare by contacting Beca Torres-Davenport at 662-3366, ext. 342 or btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org.

First Sundays: All Saints' Community Celebration - Nov. 7

Immediately following the Closing Voluntary, please join us for an extended Social Hour where we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday with two community events! We invite congregation members to add a name to our wall of Saints, and light a candle in remembrance and prayer. Looking for an extra name to lift up? Choose from the list printed in your Nov. 7 All-Saints' bulletin.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. - Hebrews 1:1-2a

Thinking ahead... Nativity Service: New date this year! Sunday, Dec. 19 – 11:15 a.m.

All children are invited to participate in our "come one, come all" Christmas Nativity Service for children ages three and older. Children who are comfortable reading are encouraged to sign up as scripture readers. There are also non-speaking parts for a multitude of children: Star Bearers, Angels, Shepherds and Magi.



The parent information meeting is Sunday, Dec. 5, at 10:45 a.m. in Monteith Hall. Saturday rehearsals will be Dec. 11 (9 a.m.-12 p.m. in half hour increments) and Dec. 18 (from 9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.) for dress rehearsal. Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator for Children & Family Ministry for any questions. If your family is going to be here on Dec. 19 and you would like your child/children or grandchildren to participate, please sign-up on-line or complete the paper form found in Monteith Hall at the beginning of Faith Formation hour on Sundays.

Online sign-up link: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/nativity-worship-pageant-registration/>

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

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| Nov. 7 | 9:30 a.m. | Communion/All-Saints' Sunday |
| Nov. 20 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Advent Happening |
| Nov. 28 | 9:30 a.m. | First Sunday of Advent |
| Dec. 5 | 9:30 a.m. | Communion Sunday |
| | 11 a.m. | Nativity Service Parent meeting |
| Dec. 11 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m. | Nativity Rehearsal |
| Dec. 18 | 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | Nativity Rehearsal with Speakers and Costumes |
| Dec. 19 | 11:15 a.m. | Nativity Service |
| Dec. 26 | 9:30 a.m. only | Holiday Sunday |



Confirmation Backyard Retreat

On Oct. 2 we had the wonderful opportunity to have our Confirmation Class backyard retreat at the Parkers' barn. It was a fun morning of getting to know one another with some games, fellowship time, the all important donuts, and spending time in the Bible with our favorite scriptures. I'm still thinking about some of what we learned, how the Bible was formed, how we get multiple versions of some of our favorite stories like the Creation story in Genesis 1-2 and similar stories of Jesus in the Gospels. I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with you all and learning more about our beliefs and each other in the process! - Pastor Mark

The Amazing Race: First Pres Youth Edition

In the spirit of the popular television show, on Nov. 21, join First Pres youth as several teams race around the Ann Arbor/Ypsi area completing several legs, interacting with members, performing physical and mental challenges to see who will win the Amazing Race! To participate, click the sign up link here or contact Pastor Mark at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.



Thanksgiving Service Opportunity

Mark your calendars for a special service opportunity on Saturday, Nov. 13 with the non-profit, Growing Hope of Ypsilanti! Contact Rev. Mark Mares at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org to sign up!



Minecraft Office Hours

Do you enjoy playing Minecraft? Have you always wanted to try? Join Pastor Mark on the First Pres Minecraft Realm this year for virtual "office hours" as we try to recreate the First Pres grounds in the world of Minecraft for the 195th anniversary. For more information, contact Rev. Mark Mares at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

CAMPUS

UKirk@UMich Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry Update:

In October, UKirk@UMich joined students from UKirk MSU for our 2021 Fall Retreat: Reset & Refresh. From small group discussion to campstyle dining, from volleyball to canoeing, the weekend was a great time to make new friends and reconnect with old ones. Held at the Faholo Retreat Center just a half hour outside Ann Arbor, some students stayed overnight and others came up for the day. Either way, all were able to reset and refresh as they approached midterms.



In November, First Pres will host a service project with other campus ministry groups in order to put our faith into action. Please contact Rev. Evans McGowan to volunteer: campus@firstpresbyterian.org.

ADULT FORMATION

Exploring the Faith

Highlights for the month include

Nov. 7 – No Class

Nov. 14 – **Amy Morrison Heinrich** will lead a session called “Julian of Norwich: A Mystic for Our Times.”

Nov. 21 – Resident Minister Rev. Matt Warfield

Come join Resident Minister Rev. Matt Warfield for a conversation following his sermon at the 9:30 worship service. This is an opportunity to get to know Matt and to share conversation with him on a topic related to his sermon.

The Bible at 11 O’Clock will continue with the study of Isaiah. There is no class on Nov. 7 or Nov. 28. Participation in person and by Zoom.

First Friends

Nov. 7 – Article by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Nov. 14 – Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield. “Is God calling us to be Prophetic in our particular places.”

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/is-god-calling-us-to-be-prophetic-in-our-particular-places/>

Nov. 21 – DVD and discussion. Amy-Jill Levine.

Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving. NO CLASS.

T2A2 will hold their discussion group at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14 and at 11 a.m. on Nov. 21. There will be no class on Nov. 28. Please check the church calendar for upcoming dates and times.

Confirmation for Adults - Adult/Parent Confirmation Class

This class will meet during the 11 a.m. Faith Formation Hour on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. It will be led by Resident Minister Megan Berry and Rev. Jay Sanderford.

This Confirmation class is a time where we come together to deeply explore our faith and the traditions that we believe in. It is a time where our youth can profess their faith and the faith of the church and then become active members of the church. For our parent/adult class, it will be a time of remembering and exploring some more how your faith life may have changed and what you want to continue to explore in your faith life and the life of the church.

Come and join us. We are trying something new this year and offering a parent/adult confirmation class that will follow the main themes the youth are learning in their confirmation class. Whether you have been here your whole life and remember everything from your confirmation class or you were confirmed in another church or you simply want a reminder of what you learned and what our youth are learning, please come to this class!

MATURE MINISTRIES

Please join Mature Ministries on Thursday, Nov. 11, for an exciting presentation on the history of gardens/gardening in Detroit, given by award-winning young author, Joseph Cialdella.

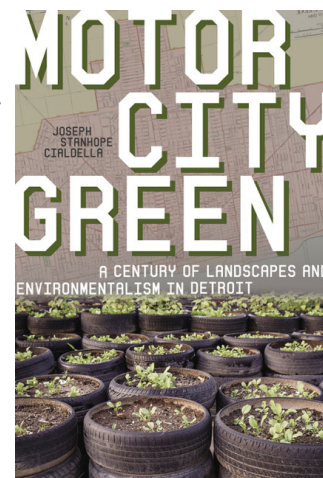
We will gather in the Social Hall at Noon. We will be learning about “Detroit’s Green Roots: Three Moments in the Garden.” Detroit is a surprisingly green place. Over the past 15-20 years, longtime residents of Detroit have grown a vibrant urban gardening and agriculture movement. Yet the story of Detroit’s gardens goes back even farther.



In this talk, author Joe Cialdella will draw on research from his award-winning book, *Motor City Green: A Century of Landscapes and Environmentalism in Detroit*, to share three moments in the city's century-long history of urban gardening and environmental action. From Pingree's Potato Patches in the 19th century to African American yards during the 20th century, Detroit's gardens and green spaces have helped residents meet subsistence needs, resist oppression, imagine a better city and work toward justice.



This talk is offered as a preview of a 2022 Mature Ministries tour of historic Detroit gardens. Come rediscover a bit of Detroit's rich history.



PASTORAL CARE

Stephen Ministry



The Stephen Ministry Continuing Education series resumes Monday Nov. 8. Dr. Sheila Marcus will present a talk entitled "Children, Caregivers and Mental Health: Through COVID and Beyond". This presentation will be via the zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89733372207>.

stephen
MINISTRY®

Dr. Marcus is a Clinical Professor at the University of Michigan, Section Chief for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Co-Director of the Infant and Early Childhood Clinic (IECC). She is a true Wolverine – her medical training has been done entirely here at the University of Michigan.

A New Way to Wish Our Faith Family a Happy Birthday!

Are you a non-singer? Do you feel self-conscious about your singing voice?

Do you wish you could represent our church in wishing birthday members a happy birthday? YOU CAN! YOU can be a Birthday Greeter! No singing needed! Just read a birthday poem to the birthday person.

Here's how it works: Email Rev. Rogers and let her know that you want to be a birthday greeter. I will schedule you, with your approval, a couple of days when you will read a birthday poem to those members who have birthdays on those days. I will email you your dates. I will also email you about eight different birthday poems. You can choose the poem that you wish to read to the birthday person. Don't worry if you get an answering machine. Just proceed by announcing yourself and read them the poem. When they listen to their answering machine, they will have a wonderful surprise.

If you have any questions about this joyful mission, please email either Rev. Rogers or me. My email is downtoncats@comcast.net.

God's Blessings! Carol Downton

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Presents First Pres with Paraments for Monteith Hall

In honor of Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of service, Presbyterian Women presented our Church with hand woven paraments for Monteith Hall. The paraments, woven by textile artist Lois Bryant were presented at the 8 and 9:30 a.m. services on Oct. 17. Due to Covid restrictions, special wrapped cookies with the PW logo were distributed during the Oct. 17 Social Hour.



Special Recognition Letter from Rev. Khayla Johnson

"To the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor: Congratulations on this major milestone! 175 years is an amazing accomplishment and this is a well-deserved moment of celebration! You all are a living example that great things happen to those who work hard to keep their communities connected. Presbyterian Women continues to grow because of communities of women like you who have continued to do great work within their congregations and surrounding areas.

I am honored to be able to share in this joyous occasion. Your commitment and hard work has brought you all to this moment. You all are a source of inspiration to all as we strive to keep our traditions alive. The women before you and around you smile on days like this knowing you have continued their work while preparing the way for the next generation.

I know you must feel great satisfaction in knowing that you are celebrating this important event. You are wonderful examples of faith and dedication and we are all celebrating with you on this great day! Once again, congratulations to you on this very big occasion. It has been a wonderful journey together. Let's hope for the best in the coming years!"

Khayla Johnson. Presbyterian Women, Board of Directors, Co-chair of Racial Equity Committee

Nurture Your Faith with PW

Horizons Bible Study - Thursday, Nov. 11, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Curtis Room

What My Grandmothers Taught Me – Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. Nancy Fox leads the discussion on Lesson Three, "Rahab." After the meeting, join the Mature Ministries expanded Lunch & Learn program in the Social Hall. Sign up in the Church Office. Program begins at noon. Not comfortable meeting in person? Join the meeting on Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81113291748>. Need a book? Contact Peggy Hodgson at peggyhodgson@comcast.net or Meg Brown at lmegbrown@gmail.com.

Evening Horizons Bible Study – Thursday, Nov. 11, 7 - 8 p.m., Founders Room or on Zoom

Join Jenna Mares for an evening study of *What My Grandmothers Taught Me – Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. Contact Jenna at 712-299-1971 or jenna.arms66@gmail.com for more information.

William Barclay Commentary Bible Study – Meets Nov. 3, 10, 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Meg Brown's home. This group is studying Paul's "Letters to the Ephesians & Galatians." Contact Meg Brown, lmegbrown@gmail.com for address details and schedule of this year's inspiring study.

2021 PW Ingathering

As COVID continues to impact our communities regarding distribution of goods and agencies ever-changing needs, we will again, as last year, hold a virtual Ingathering as organized by PW Detroit Presbytery. We have selected three agencies to assist this year: **First Step**, Plymouth, Mich., has provided comprehensive services in Wayne County for



survivors of domestic and sexual violence since 1978. Their Wish List highest need is for monetary donations to provide children with experiences and activities while parents seek services and support. "Hope is Real" as they provide peaceful and safe surroundings as the first step in changing lives. <https://www.firststep-mi.org/programs-and-services/>

Fort Street Presbyterian Church's Open-Door program has been caring for those most in need in their downtown Detroit neighborhood for more than 52 years. They feed nearly 1,000 people each month, provide hot showers, fresh clothing, social service referrals, medical and dental screenings, flu shots, eye glasses, food boxes and health care information. Most of all, they provide a sense of belonging and community in a church building. They recommend a cash donation. <https://www.fortstreet.org/opendoor>

Genesis House II in Detroit has provided transitional housing for women and children since 1992, a branch of the Detroit Rescue Mission who have been "Providing Hope to The Hopeless, Abused and Disadvantaged of Our Community" for over 100 years. During the Depression years, the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian church was the location for feeding many families. Read about the growth of this Mission agency <https://drmm.org/about-us/history/> and its services <https://drmm.org/services/>

Second Mile Center of Detroit is requesting new hardcover children and beginner Bibles. Any Ingathering designated funds will purchase these to be delivered directly to them's. <http://www.secondmilecenter.org/about>

We welcome any amount of donation which will be divided among these agencies. If you wish to specify one agency for your donation, please mark that on the memo line. Checks should be made out to "First Presbyterian Women" and note for Ingathering 2021. Mail or drop at the church office to: Bonnie Hughes, PW Treasurer, 3520 Paisley Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Credit Card donations can be made online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/donate-to-presbyterian-women/>. Please select "Fall Ingathering" and a specific agency in the "Comments" section.

In addition Presbyterian Women have recently donated \$500 to the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. In August, \$1,200 was sent to Haiti for Disaster Relief.

PC(USA) Prayer Partners – We continue to pray for Jeff and Christie Boyd, PC(USA) Prayer Partners based in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Jeff serves as Regional Liaison and Christi as Regional Facilitator for Women's and Children's Interests.

PW 2021 Thank Offering

"Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors."
– Proverbs 8:34 NRSV

Every dollar and dime dropped in a basket, envelope or jar--or given online-- matters to Presbyterian Women's many ministries. Over the past 33 years, the annual PW Thank Offering collected in November, has allowed PW/PCUSA to award grants of nearly \$27 million to more than 1,600 different projects at home and around the world. The Thank Offering gives each of us a tangible way to express our gratitude for the special blessings in our lives. Two of the 18 of 2021's grant recipients are Zambia, Church of Central Africa, \$45,000 for female hostel construction (ccapzambia.org) and Hagar's Community Church of Tacoma, Wash., \$50,000 for programs to support incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women through Bible study, worship, pastoral care and prayer groups. hagarscommunitychurch.com

Make your Thank Offering donation online through the church website at: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/donate-to-presbyterian-women/> or mail your check made out to Presbyterian Women to: Bonnie Hughes, 3520 Paisley Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Please note "Thank Offering" in the memo.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Haven't Pledged? There's Still Time!

Commitment Sunday, the conclusion of our 2022 Stewardship Campaign, was on October 31, but if you haven't submitted your pledge yet, it's not too late to do so!

As today's members of First Pres, we're the stewards of our church in the pursuit of its mission to Make God's Love Visible Peace by Piece. It's an honor and responsibility passed to us by our predecessors dating back almost 200 years. To be successful stewards requires the talent, time, and financial support of each of us.



Please lend your financial support by making a pledge to First Pres. Financial support makes all our worship and activities possible, and by making a pledge we inform Session of how much financial support to expect. That information lets Session determine whether we're able to maintain or even expand what we do. By committing our talent, time, & financial support to First Pres, together we can Make God's Love Visible Peace by Piece.

September Financial Update

The Session and the Finance Committee are committed to providing regular financial updates to our members and friends. The following financial information is for the month of September and year to date for the 2021 fiscal year.

For the month of September

Total income received: \$140,826 vs. budget of \$189,905

Total expenses: \$186,816 vs. budget of \$178,130

Surplus/(Shortage): \$ (45,991) vs. budget of \$ 11,775

Year-to-Date through September

Total income received: \$ 1,410,579 vs. budget of \$1,495,820

Total expenses: \$1,450,758 vs. budget of \$1,659,627

Surplus/(shortage): \$(40,179) vs. budget of \$(163,807)

The favorable variances year to date are primarily due to: pledge and contribution income better than budget, personnel expenses less than budget due to staff vacancies earlier this year, and no surprises/emergencies in property. Please see the related article about the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to all who have pledged to date, and to those who will pledge their financial support! This is especially important as we are working on the 2022 budget for First Pres. Our combined financial support allows First Pres to Make God's Love Visible Peace by Piece (since 1826!) in our community and around the world. Our faith community and exceptional staff are doing amazing work, and the future looks bright!

FAITH IN ACTION

Alpha House

With Halloween just behind us and Thanksgiving up ahead, many of us are enjoying and thinking about children in our neighborhoods and children in our families. The children at Alpha House, a shelter for families experiencing homelessness, share few of the experiences and opportunities that children in our families and neighborhoods can take for granted.

While we cannot effect immediate change in the lives of the children and their families at Alpha House, we can help brighten their days with a delicious meal or an hour of playtime. We at First Pres have an opportunity to minister at Alpha House the week of Nov. 8 - 14. You can take part in this ministry by signing up online using

this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha5> or at coffee hour. For more information, contact Gail Einhaus gail.einhaus@gmail.com, Anne Gere argere@umich.edu or Ruth Jensen ruthannjensen@gmail.com.

Local Mission Grant Supports Psychiatric Services at Hope Clinic

Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti provides free medical, dental and behavioral health services to people without insurance. Most medical care is provided by volunteer doctors, nurses and pharmacists. However, in 2016, when we were not able to find volunteer mental health professionals, we partnered with First Presbyterian Church and Washtenaw County Community Mental Health to hire a Psychiatrist for one half day per month.



Dr. Washington diagnoses and treats patients with complex mental health needs so we can care for the whole patient. With this year's Local Mission grant of \$5,000 First Pres continues our partnership with Hope Clinic in providing critical psychiatric services to patients who do not otherwise have access to those.

Sometimes severe mental illness changes a person's personality so much that their loved ones feel as if they have lost them. The father of one patient who Dr. Washington has been treating burst into tears the last time they visited. "I got my daughter back!" he exclaimed. "I didn't know if I would ever have her back again." The help and healing this patient experienced has given her entire family hope.

Your gift and prayers have helped to change lives and we thank God for your partnership! For more information, contact: M. Douglas Campbell, Executive Director, Hope Clinic.

A Hope Clinic and First Pres Thanksgiving

Hope Clinic needs 500 bags of donated Thanksgiving fixings, side dishes and staple groceries in order to serve the community this Thanksgiving season. Below is the list of what goes into each bag. Hope Clinic will be purchasing turkeys to give out with each of these bags. Please bring your donation of one or more bags to the church social hall for delivery to Hope Clinic. Your donation must be at the church by 3 p.m. on Nov. 19 so all of the bags may be loaded and taken to Hope Clinic by 5:30 p.m. First Pres is signed up to donate 25 bags.

Below is what items should be in each bag:

- 1 can of gravy (or packet dry mix)
- 1 box instant mashed potatoes
- 1 box stuffing mix
- 1 can cranberry sauce
- 2 cans green beans
- 1 can French-fried onions
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can pumpkin/pie filling
- 1 crust/bake mix
- 2 cans other vegetable (carrots, corn, yam, peas, etc.)



All items must be shelf-stable (no refrigeration needed) and please avoid glass containers.

Write "Happy Thanksgiving" on your paper bags, and decorate with pictures or encouraging messages. Then pack each bag with the contents listed above. Please make sure each bag has all of the items listed, and no extras. For further information call church office or Maurine Nelson at 734-433-0641 or Gail Grady at 734-417-6582. Or visit <https://thehopeclinic.org/thanksgiving-2021>.

Thanks for making sure everyone in our community has a Thanksgiving Dinner!!

TRANSITIONS

We celebrate the lives and grieve the death of:

Evelyn Pickard, Sept. 15, Chelsea
Gene Nissen, Sept. 27, Ann Arbor
Lucienne Osborn, Oct. 3, Saginaw

We pray for those who have moved away from our community or will soon be moving:

Ann Andrews to Alhambra, Calif.
John and Val Yodhes to Holland, Mich.
Carolyn and Josh Swenson and family to Salt Lake City, Utah
Amanda Ross to Austin, Texas

Sally Churchill to Harbor Springs, Mich.
Jim and Renee Mulcrone to Kalamazoo
Arden Wykes to Grand Haven, Mich.
Debbie and Jim Campbell to Jacksonville, Fla.
Paul and Susan Firehammer to West Olive, Mich.

RESIDENT MINISTRY

What a whirlwind start it has been for us Residents! We are each finding our ways in our work here.

Hannah has started working on refugee resettlement work with Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, and is active with the Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Accountability (DIAA), and Social Justice Action Group (SJAG) committees. She also works closely with our Twenties and Thirties of Ann Arbor (T2A2) group.



Matthew is working with the Journeys small group, is active teaching our high school faith formation class and helps out with youth group on Sunday nights.

Megan is also active with our DIAA committee and is helping co-teach the youth confirmation class with Rev. Mark Mares and the adult/parent confirmation class with Rev. Jay Sanderford.



Along with this work each of us has been actively getting to know all of you wonderful people who make up this fantastic church! Thank you for the warm welcome you have given us, we deeply feel the love and care First Pres has for the Residents but most importantly for each other.

Finally, your Residents will soon all be ordained pastors! Matthew was ordained in June at his home church in Holland, Mich. Hannah celebrated her ordination here at First Pres on Oct. 30. What a beautiful day it was! Megan will celebrate her ordination at her home church, Trinity Presbyterian in Independence, MO on Sunday, Nov. 7.

We're all so excited and thankful for this congregation's support as we each step into this next phase of our ministry journeys.