

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 9, 2021



Spirit of the Community
Andrew Kay



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan


Making God's Love Visible

* HYMN 26



Earth and All Stars!

EARTH AND ALL STARS


As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.




1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

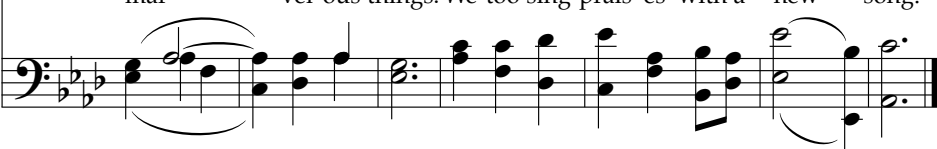
Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing




snow - storm!
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done
 work - ers!
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!



Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**. It is not yet safe to sing together as a congregation. (The choral ensemble sings with special singers' masks.) As you listen to the hymns and responses, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the texts.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION

Congregational Nominating Committee

Pat Liljestrand

OPENING VOLUNTARY

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (Clavierübung)

J. S. Bach

* CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

One: God has done marvelous things.

All: **Sing to the Lord a new song!**

One: The wonder of God has been seen to the ends of the earth.

All: **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!**

One: God will judge the world with righteousness and equity.

All: **Let all creation sing for joy at the presence of the Lord!**

* HYMN 26

Earth and All Stars!

EARTH AND ALL STARS

This hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin. As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up - on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us;

This is Hymn 575, Lord, Have Mercy upon Us (KYRIE ELEISON).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

At First Pres, we strive to use inclusive language for God.
The use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God's people in scripture. The rediscovery of the complementarity of female and male metaphors in the Bible and the literature of the early church forbids Christians to settle for literary poverty in the midst of literary riches.

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

As you listen to the response, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the
World with - out end, with - out end, A - men. World with - out
Son, whose grace has par - doned me, and to the
end, with - out end, A - men. World with - out
Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
end, with - out end, A - men. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now and ev - er shall be. A - men.
now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

This is Hymn 582, Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (GLORY TO GOD).

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hymn 288

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

This hymn is found on the following page of this bulletin. As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 5:1–6

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 15:9–17

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

SERMON I Chose You

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The first system of the hymn is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me."

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The second system of the hymn continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me."

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

The third system of the hymn continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me."

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The fourth system of the hymn concludes the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me."

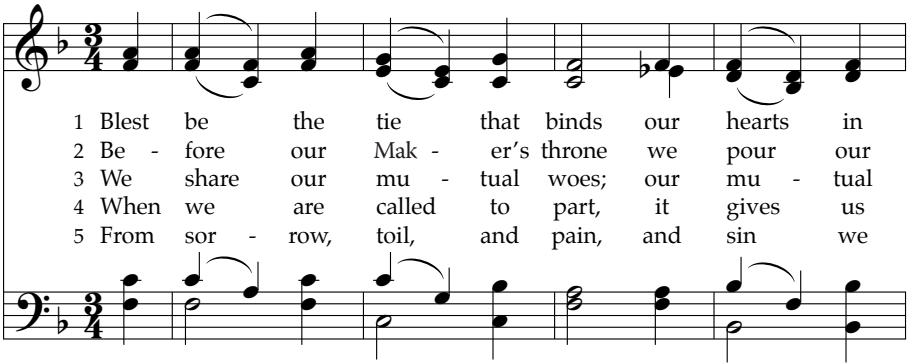
RESPONDING

* HYMN 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

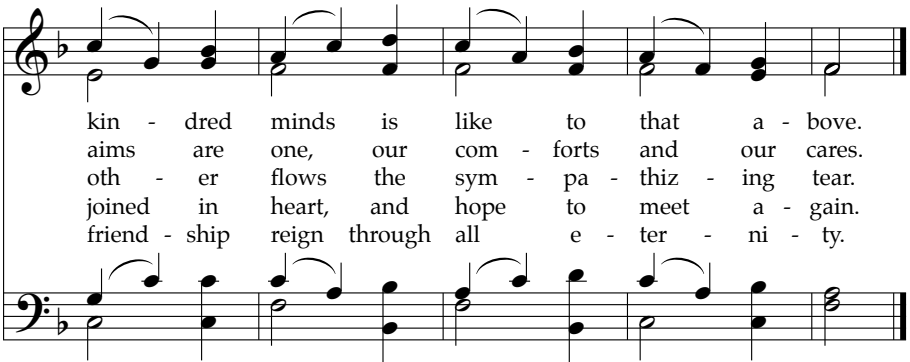
As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
2 Be - fore our Mak - er's throne we pour our
3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
4 When we are called to part, it gives us
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
in - ward pain; but we shall still be
shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: online on the First Pres homepage ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

If Ye Love Me

Phillip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter.
That He may abide with you forever.
E'en the Spirit of truth.
And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you,
And shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless.
I will come to you.

*** Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

As you listen to the response, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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 252**

Day of Arising

RAABE

This hymn is found on the following page of this bulletin. As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

Kenneth Leighton



Please remain seated until the conclusion of the closing voluntary. The ushers will dismiss the congregation from the back of the sanctuary forward.

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshiping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l>

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Today's cover art,

Spirit of the Community by Andrew Kay, is used with permission from "Art in the Christian Tradition," a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way, un - known com -
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing, blind - ed by
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken. This is Christ's
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com -



pan - ion walks with his own. When they in - vite him,
sad - ness, slow - ness of heart, yet Christ walks with us,
prom - ise, this is Christ's sign: when the church gath - ers,
pas - sion, o - pen our eyes. Grant us your vi - sion,



as fades the first day, and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
ev - er a - wait - ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
when bread is bro - ken, there Christ is with us, in bread and wine.
set all hearts burn - ing that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Eastertide at First Pres – Held by Baptism

Jesus himself was baptized by John in the Jordan River – but his only mention of baptism was in his final appearance in the Gospel of Matthew (28:19–20): "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Maybe one sign of the holiness of what we've come to call a sacrament is that its assurance of God's company in our lives touches us on a level deeper than words. "And remember," Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the end of time."

For us, baptism is foundational to the family of God: a mark of grace upon each life touched by the waters, a sign of welcome into beloved community. At First Pres this spring, the season of Eastertide will be bracketed by celebrations of this most joyful sacrament: with the Glanda family on April 11, and the Stelter family on May 23. These weeks will help us, each and all, to feel held by grace in the Spirited company of the One who is with us always and forever as we consider how to be faithful to our mission to "make God's love visible" in our community and in the world.



Baptism by Fulvia Prundeanu

A note from the artist: "I am a traveler through the world of art. Each of my pieces is a snapshot of my young journey, a colorful celebration of life's many blessings. May *Baptism* bring you all peace and joy."

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Evans McGowan; Liturgists – Melissa Anne Rogers and Khayla Johnson; Scripture Reader – Daniel Forger IV; Children's Message – Evans McGowan and Deborah Forger; Preacher – Andrew Frazier; Vocalists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, David Magumba, Nick Music, Benton DeGroot, Brent Ivey, and Alan Williams; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Video Production – Bill Hall; Sound Production – Rol Kibler; Ushers – Len Rezmierski (captain), Karla Bellfi, Omer Bellfi, Clem Gill, Keith Molin, and Joe Schmidt

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of the birthday of Betty VanderVort Tobey, the dear grandmother of Cyndy and Jeff Colton. Flowers are also given in gratitude for First Pres members Luke and Katherine Panning, who are moving this month to Holland, Michigan. Our prayers are with them, and we send them with our love and appreciation for their beautiful place in our family of faith.

A red rosebud celebrates the birth of Landon Gerard Duffy, son of Caitlin and Christopher Duffy, born April 10, 2021. Grandparents are Bernie and Cathy Berrigan.

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary. **Our conversation prompt:** What is the greatest act of love you have witnessed or experienced in your life thus far? Enter Coffee Hour by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>.

Fast Track to Membership TODAY. You already belong, of course — for all are welcome at First Pres, and membership is not required to participate in our ministries. However, by becoming a member formally, you have a voice and vote in congregational meetings, and express to us your commitment to First Pres to be an active part. Your joining allows us to support you more fully and help you stay engaged and grow in faith. The first step toward membership is to attend today's Fast Track meeting where you will get to know a few of our elders and staff. May the Spirit move you there! Join us today at noon via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84143125355>).

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) for a discussion informed by the UMMA virtual exhibition "Unsettling Histories: Legacies of Slavery and Colonialism" and by "Can Art Mend History?," a TED Talk by Titus Kaphar.

Exploring the Faith meets today at 12:15 p.m. via Zoom. In May, Exploring the Faith will join with Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, and our former Resident Minister Angela Ryo, for four virtual sessions with prominent seminary professors to discuss current cultural and social realities and the church. Today's presentation by Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, is "Going Forward: A Focus on the Lost Practice of Lament." The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89898696667?pwd=RmltejNQWTJmZWZQSGYrYjM4V3BYUT09>.

Bible Study @ 5 meets today via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>) at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport (btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org), Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families.

The Children's Choir meets virtually today, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate.

All children's faith formation classes meet today at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. The Story Bible and curriculum materials are available from the church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time.

All youth faith formation classes meet today at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. When you log on, please make sure Zoom names are updated to reflect each youth present and what class you will be participating in.

High School students meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events as we take time thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith forms us in our everyday lives.

Middle School & High School Youth Group meets in-person from 2:00–3:15 p.m. on Sundays in May (except May 9 and May 29). In case of bad weather, we plan to meet on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Email Rev. Mares at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org for the link.

Save the date! Join us for a day of service on Saturday, May 22, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Alpha House. We have lots of projects planned for some spring cleaning!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resident Minister Rev. Khayla Johnson has accepted a call in Tennessee and will end her time as one of our pastors on May 18. Khayla leaves First Pres to be an Associate Pastor, where she anticipates focusing on Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Our Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 16, will be a time to celebrate Rev. Johnson and to thank her for her faithful contributions to First Pres. Contributions toward a special gift for her may be sent to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller or may be dropped off at the church Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of May will be overseen by our Local Missions Team. Financial contributions and food donations will be directed to Food Gatherers.

Mature Ministries in May: Join us via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5502657984>) for two outstanding Lunch & Learn offerings:

This Thursday, May 13, 12:00 noon, "Mackinac Island: From Furs to Fudge"

Thursday, May 20, 12:00 noon, "Assisted Living: What to Know"

PW Horizon's Bible Study meets this Thursday, May 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m., via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81113291748>) to discuss Lesson Nine: "The End of Lament and Finding Hope." Contact Meg Brown for more information (lmegbrown@gmail.com).

Greetings, College Students! We hope you'll find a home away from home here at First Pres. We'll gather virtually and in person at various points over the summer. Rev. McGowan would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise! Contact him at campus@firstpresbyterian.org to grab a cup of coffee or for more information.

A Virtual Art Exhibit by Benjamin Winans is available at www.benjaminwinans.weebly.com.

First Pres women are pilgrimaging in 2022! If you are interested in walking the Northumberland Way in England, and having a spiritual experience as a group of women while walking the beautiful, ancient route, contact Rev. Rogers for more information. Dates are TBD, but approximately May 15–28. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-pilgrimage>. Deposits are fully refundable for now.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. We meet weekly and can be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>

Share your talent at the All-Church Variety Show on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Your act must be three minutes or less. You may record your act or talent from home or schedule a time to record yourself in the Sanctuary. Is there an act you could perform with members of your family? Contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. **Videos must be submitted by this Wednesday, May 12.**



First Pres strives to be as diverse as God's kingdom, and as wide and hospitable as the Spirit's embrace. Here, we don't all look, act, or pray alike. God knows we do not all think alike. We Presbyterians do not read the Bible the same way. Our questions are different, our burdens are diverse, and our aspirations are distinct. But every Sunday, we worship as one, unified by the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We worship a living God who calls us to love and support one another. Together we can do marvelous things – and grow closer to God and one another along the way. Come visit us – everyone is welcome! If you are new to us, we invite you to visit and explore our many programs and service opportunities.

Did you know? There are two unisex bathrooms available in our building. One is on the second floor, near the kitchenette and one is on the Lower Level, just inside the maintenance wing.

A Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Accountability (DIAA) Task Force is forming! As a part of the new Strategic Plan, a DIAA (also called "Radical Hospitality") task force is coming together. This will be a group that works with all our Session committees and staff to develop principals and values, to promote conversations, and to evaluate our ministries and programs concerning our need for growth in these areas. Do you have experience with these topics? We will meet monthly and for the foreseeable future. Folks with a passion, and with experience, are most needed. Contact Marti Wendler (wendlerme@gmail.com) or Rev. Rogers (mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org, 734-355-2351) for more information.

May Workday at Alpha House is Saturday, May 22, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Alpha House provides shelter, food for children and families from Washtenaw County who are experiencing homelessness, and supports their transition into a stable home environment. This spring, to keep Alpha House welcoming and safe for residents and guests, our work crew of First Pres youth, families and adult volunteers will clean the grounds and improve the landscaping and play area.

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact Ginny (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Attention Graduates! Anyone receiving a degree greater than a high school diploma is invited to share their achievement using the following form found at the link below. Family members are also welcome to submit a graduate's name. Names will be printed in the bulletin on May 23 and in the June newsletter. <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/celebrating-our-college-graduates/>

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) on the second and fourth Thursdays monthly at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Frazier (afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

2022 Nominations for Church Leadership

The 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee is tasked with, and has begun to discern, through recommendations and the power of the Holy Spirit, whom God calls to serve First Pres as Elders, Deacons and Congregational Nominating Committee members, with terms beginning in January of 2022. We humbly seek insight and help from congregation members to identify potential church leaders. We seek to represent the diversity of our congregation in ages, stages of faith development, ethnicity/race, gender and sexual orientation.

For those who may be interested and want more information to assist in their decision to suggest members for consideration, Elder and Deacon job descriptions are found at www.firstpresbyterian.org. Those who are selected will receive training at times TBD, beginning in September, whether virtually or in person, and based upon the status of Covid-19 at that time.

According to the *Book of Order*, those called to these ministries should be persons of faith, discipleship, and love of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Those suggested should be members of at least two years, and have given of their time, talent, and if possible, their financial means in some way, at least in the few years prior to election. The Congregational Meeting for election is in September of 2021. The terms begin in January of 2022 and are:

- Three years for Elders and Deacons
- Two years for members of the Congregational Nominating Committee

Please submit suggestions for these important positions by this Thursday, May 13, in care of the Congregational Nominating Committee by mail (1432 Washtenaw Ave., A2 48104); by email (CNC@firstpresbyterian.org), or by dropoff in person to the church in the CNC box in the Welcome Center, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Suggested members should have agreed to have their name submitted. Please indicate your name, their name, and the position, and why you are submitting the name of this person, and the qualities that you believe make this member a good candidate.

If you have further questions, please contact Chairperson, Katie Parker, Elder (734-218-0033; mgobluebarn47@yahoo.com), or any of the CNC members noted below. We are all happy to speak with you about your questions.

Members of the CNC are:

Becky Gaffney, Deacon (734-474-1472; bandbgaffney@gmail.com)
Downs Herold, former Deacon and Elder (734-665-2588; jdherold@comcast.net)
John LeDuc, Deacon (734-846-2910; john@jleduc.com)
Pat Liljestrand, former Deacon and Elder (734-455-3441; lilypat2@gmail.com)
Bill McPherson, Elder (734-604-2504; wbmcperson@comcast.net)
Cassee Stem, T2A2 (269-921-9218 (evenings); cassee.stem@gmail.com)
Jeff Teucke, Elder (201-709-2772; jteucke1@gmail.com)
Elisabeth VanVliet, T2A2& Cong Life (614-565-7146 (evenings); evanvliet88@gmail.com)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Barbara DeLancey, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator
J. P. DiMaggio, Interim Bridge Administrator
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Coordinator
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
David Hufford, Organist
Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families
Reverend Evans McGowan, Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Stacey Pakela, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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