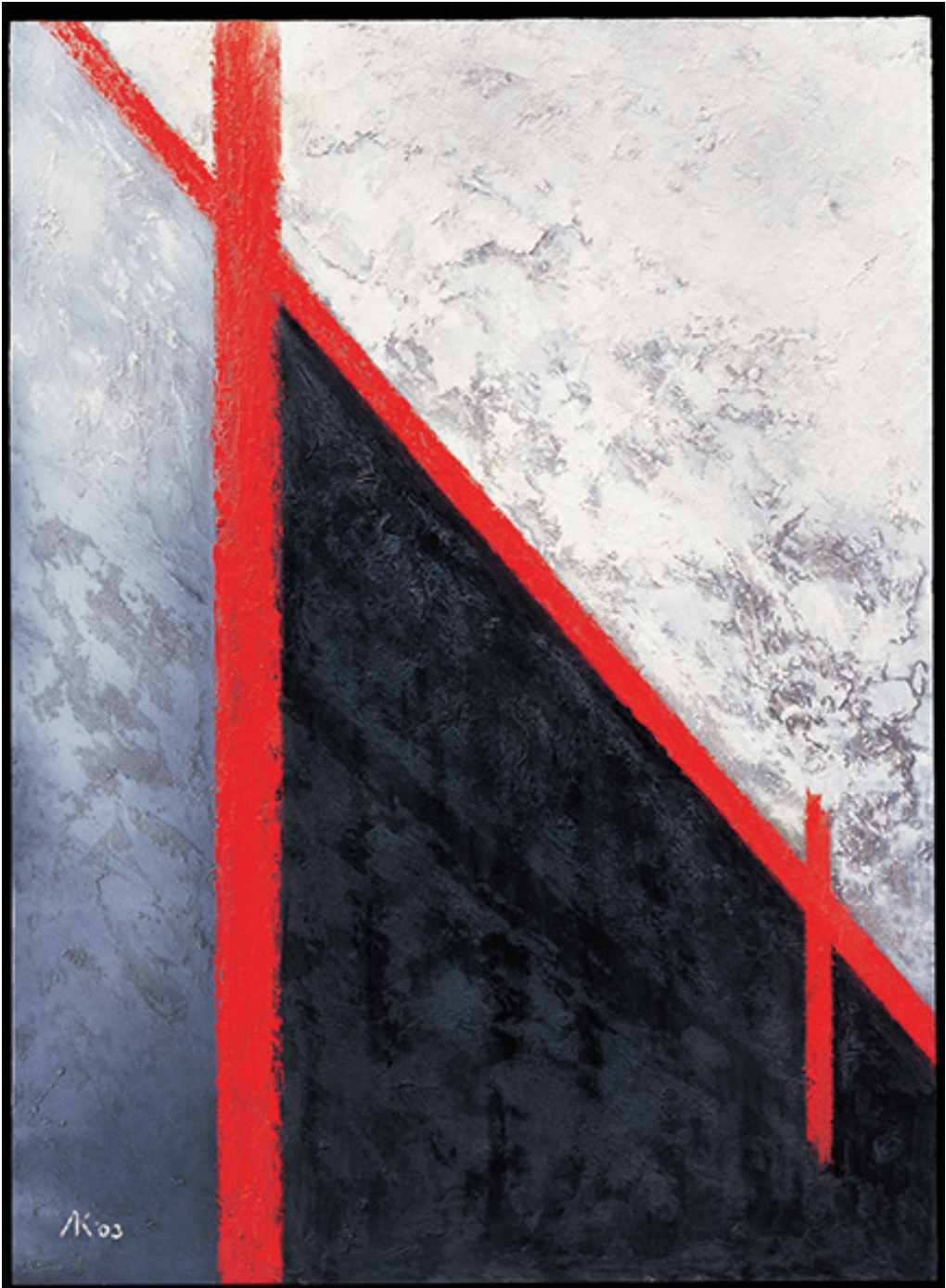


SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
February 28, 2021



Following Christ by Anneke Kaai



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
 summed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

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

The season of Lent is often marked by a journey: our traveling from the mountaintop of transfiguration back into the treacherous terrain leading to Holy Week and Easter. Turning to the cross leads us to reflect, remember, repent, and then reclaim our identity as children of God. We welcome you as you listen for God's invitation in your life.

Cover art is *Following Christ* by Anneke Kaai who explains: "The rising red line expresses love that follows the way of Christ, who asked his disciples to pick up their cross, to choose life and set their eyes on him alone. Christ's way has a light side but at times also leads through the dark; it always has an eternal perspective." The piece is used with permission of the artist.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION Alpha House

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Abide with Me* arr. Cathy Moglebust
Sanctus Ringers and Kelly McDermott, Flute

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When we needed to find You, but weren't sure where to look, or how,

**All: You came to us as compassion –
taught us to seek You in our neighbor's need.**

One: When we weren't sure who we were, or who You wanted us to be,

All: You came to us as justice – taught us to be the change we long for.

One: When we couldn't see the way from where we are to where
You're calling us,

**All: You came to us as love –
taught us to follow the Way, the Truth, the Light.**

One: You have called us your children, your flock, your branches;

All: We have called you our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer.

One: We seek You, we listen for You, we offer ourselves to You –

**All: Receive, O Lord, the truth of who we are and who we hope to be
in the gifts of praise and prayer we offer to You now in worship.**

HYMN 165 *The Glory of These Forty Days* ERHALT UNS, HERR
This hymn is found on the preceding pages of this bulletin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we know far more about what we need or want
than we yet understand about all You have given us.**

**We confess that we have found it easier
to assume that we can't live up to Your call
than to believe that the compassion of Jesus can live in us.**

**Here, in the midst of a flood of trials and temptations,
the promise of a new world, a new way, stretches our trust.**

**We search for a way out of the wilderness,
hoping to leave behind the uncertainty, the self-doubt, the fear.**

Free us, we pray, to take up the call You offer, to follow where You lead.

**Forgive us, we pray – and meet us on the threshold of a new time,
a new life that is just and true and joyful.**

**Open us, in these moments of prayer,
to be filled with Your renewing, empowering love in Jesus Christ –**

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

This is Hymn 577, Lord Have Mercy (KYRIE ELEISON - REINDORF).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, cleanse the depths with - in - our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease.

Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:27–38

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

The Kyrie we sing this morning was written by Dinah Reindorf after a World Council of Churches gathering in Geneva, Switzerland. As a part of their worship, participants in the gathering took a blindfolded “passion walk” as pilgrims meditating on Christ’s journey to the cross. The melody is intended to reflect a pilgrim’s slow walk through Lent. The Greek “Kyrie eleison” is translated as “Lord Have Mercy.”

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.

RESPONDING

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping 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/2Rliq2l>

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.



ANTHEM

Take Up Your Cross

Thomas Keesecker

"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
The Lord for you accepted death upon a cross on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.
Take up your cross and follow Christ.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Let Your Faith Be Stronger Than Your Fear

Tom Trenney

In the deserts of your life, I'll not desert you.
I will make a way beside a flowing stream.
Through the valley, do not fear, for I am with you;
my rod and staff to comfort and redeem.
In the darkness of your life, I will not leave you.
In the shadow, I'm your light, your lamp, your sun.
I will be the star that shines above to guide you,
A light unto your path to lead you on.

Do not be afraid, I go beside you.
Do not be afraid, I am by your side.
Be still and know that I am with you.
Let your faith be stronger than your fear.

When you're weary, when you're faint,
I will be with you.
I will raise you up to soar on eagle's wings.
I will be the joy that seeks you through your sorrow.
Unending hope my resurrection brings.
When the storms of life assail, I will uphold you.
I will strengthen you; I'll be the help you need.
Though the waters rage and foam, fear not, I'm with you.
I am the way, the truth, the life, indeed!

Do not be afraid, I go before you.
Do not be afraid, I am by your side.
Be still and know that I am with you.
Let your faith be stronger than your fear.

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For all that we do in your love,

and all that your love brings to birth,

and the fullness of love that will be

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Adapted by Richard McCall

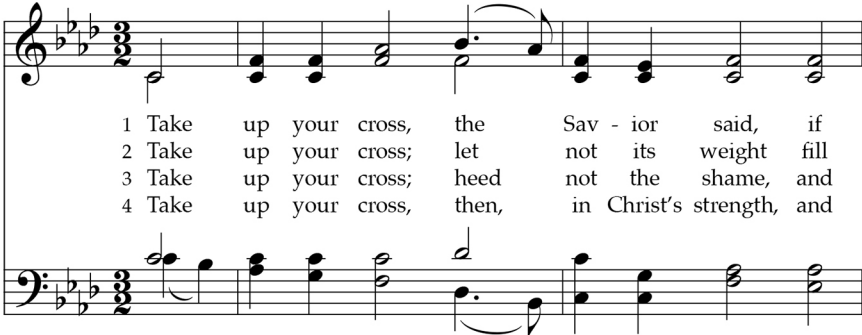
The Lord's Prayer is the form of Christian practice that, for many, connects Jesus most directly to his followers. It's included in 3 of the 4 gospels – but with slight differences. It's been translated into countless languages and adapted into the devotions of many cultures. To honor the diversity of the Christian family through time and across cultures (and to remind ourselves that the English words we know so well are not what came out of Jesus's mouth!), we'll be using different versions of the Lord's Prayer each week during Lent. (We'll return to our most familiar version on Easter.)

SENDING

HYMN 718

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

BOURBON



1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and



you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -
calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -



will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

LENT '21 – GIVEN BACK

Lent is the name we give to our Christian journey through the dark, cold days of winter and the long, long wait for spring. It's a season that can try one's patience and stir one's restlessness. So maybe it's not surprising that the spiritual practices we associate with the season are renunciation and repentance. The mood of austerity seems well-tuned particularly to this year when we've had so much taken from us: it seems like we've already given up a lot as we embark on the pilgrimage of Lent this year.

But...

The journey itself is powered, isn't it, by our being drawn toward a God who fills us – who welcomes us – who believes in us! It's because we long to be closer to God, closer to each other, closer to our best self, that we follow where Jesus leads. Day by day we're being given love, given life, offered a vision of right relationship by the one who says, "Come unto me" – the one who says, "Love one another as I have loved you" – the one who says, "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly."

The Christian journey is not so much about taking stock of what we need to give up – it's about what has been given back! And about what we, in turn, give back.

So Lent at First Pres this year will give us opportunities to consider what we've been given back by the God who calls us forward, onward in spite of the dark and cold and uncertainty and, even, the struggle of our time. And, having been given back a sense of invitation into God's embrace, we'll find that we're motivated, in turn, to give back: to live with compassion, to advocate for justice, to share hope and joy.

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Jay Sanderford; Liturgists – Mark Mares and Khayla Johnson; Scripture Reader – Chris Dahl; Children's Message – Melissa Anne Rogers and Evans McGowan; Preacher – Rick Spalding; Vocalists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, David Magumba, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary.
Today's conversation prompt:

Enter Coffee Hour by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>.

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Nancy Avery Webster by her brother Earl Avery.

LENT '21 –
GIVEN
BACK

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Flowers to Beautify our Easter Worship

Flowers are \$18 each and may be ordered in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor or recognition of someone still living. All donated flowers will be delivered by our deacons to selected church members who are experiencing health issues, other struggles, or the recent loss of a loved one. Orders may be made online or by contacting the Church Office (662-4466). **All orders must be placed by Thursday, March 25.** The names of those being remembered or honored will appear in the Easter bulletin.

Lenten Study Series: Giving Back Compassion (Sunday, February 21 – Sunday, March 28)

Lent is a season traditionally marked by sacrifice, but after a year that has forced us to sacrifice so much, what if instead we viewed Lent as a season marked by compassion and fullness through personal devotion and study? Drawing from Scripture and Henri Nouwen's *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*, we will take a critical look at ourselves and explore the various ways Jesus is calling us to lives of compassion.

Join us in two different settings: in small groups throughout the week where participants will gather by Zoom and explore compassion in our lives and on Sunday mornings where participants, led by church pastors, will explore the meaning of compassion in our lives and engage in spiritual practices together. For more information and to sign up for a small group, check our website or contact the Church Office.

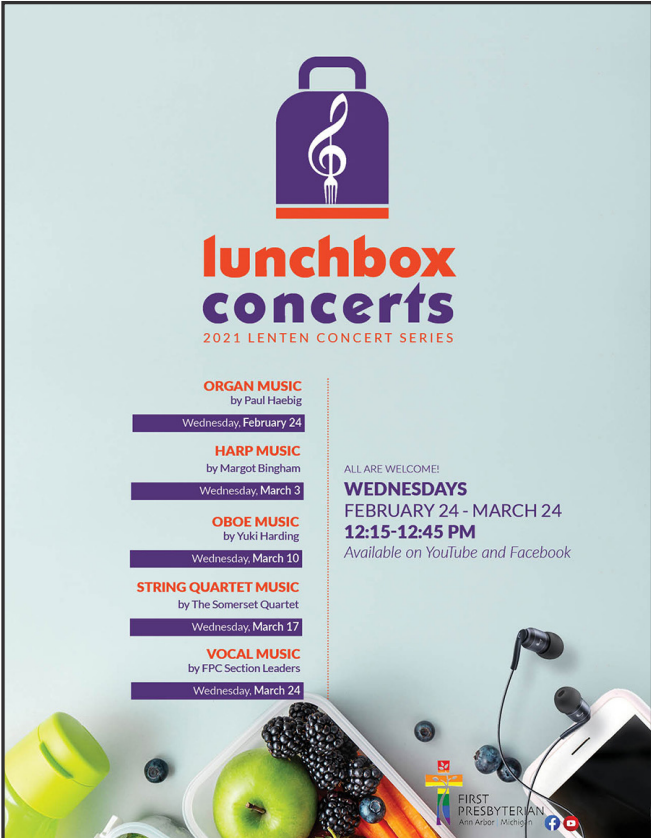
Lenten Devotionals

We hope you are receiving the daily Lenten email devotional written by our members. If you are not, please sign up online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

A virtual Peeps & Pizza party is March 20. More information is available on our website or by contacting Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry.

More Information Is Coming Soon About These Opportunities:

- **Holy Week Services**
- **Easter Sunday Sanctuary Stroll**



The poster features a purple bag icon with a white treble clef and a purple fork. Below it, the text reads "lunchbox concerts" in orange and purple, followed by "2021 LENTEN CONCERT SERIES" in orange. A list of events is shown on the left, each with a purple bar indicating the date: ORGAN MUSIC by Paul Haebig (Wednesday, February 24), HARP MUSIC by Margot Bingham (Wednesday, March 3), OBOE MUSIC by Yuki Harding (Wednesday, March 10), STRING QUARTET MUSIC by The Somerset Quartet (Wednesday, March 17), and VOCAL MUSIC by FPC Section Leaders (Wednesday, March 24). On the right, it says "ALL ARE WELCOME! WEDNESDAYS FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 24 12:15-12:45 PM Available on YouTube and Facebook". The bottom of the poster shows a top-down view of a lunchbox with a green apple, blueberries, and carrots, next to a microphone and a smartphone.

ORGAN MUSIC
by Paul Haebig
Wednesday, February 24

HARP MUSIC
by Margot Bingham
Wednesday, March 3

OBOE MUSIC
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ALL ARE WELCOME!
WEDNESDAYS
FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 24
12:15-12:45 PM
Available on YouTube and Facebook

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
John Arner • Matthew

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All-Church Escape Room

Sunday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

TODAY

on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81070116523>).

Have you ever heard of an escape room? This is a popular game where you are locked in a room with a group of people, and must work through clues to figure out how to escape! Our escape room was especially designed by our youth here at FPC! Join us for a night of fun and laughter as we try to “escape from FPC” in our first ever FPC Virtual Escape Room night. All are welcome to participate.

Care Givers Support Group.

Are you currently providing caregiving support for someone you love? Would you be interested in finding a place to join others walking this same road? The First Pres Caregivers Support Group meets every first Monday of the month. Our next virtual gathering will be tomorrow, Monday, March 1, 7:00–8:00 p.m. Please email Stacey Pakela, Parish Nurse, (spakela@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information on this wonderful group!

The next Taizé Prayer Service is this Tuesday, March 2. Join us at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

Reopening Update: View our Reopening Grid on our website. As the COVID-19 vaccines become more readily available, the RRWG recommends consulting with your healthcare professional about getting vaccinated as soon as possible. We are encouraged by the progress being made toward livestreaming our Sunday services, and we are hopeful for a possible indoor service with limited capacity in the near future. Stay tuned for further updates here and on our website. Please contact Rev. McGowan if you have any questions.

The prayer team meets Monday mornings via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357>) from 9:00–9:30 a.m. with Rev. Rogers. Join us to offer prayer for others or bring the needs of you and your loved ones for prayer. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m., via Zoom, there are virtual college lunches. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are many available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

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.

Visit our Virtual Art Exhibit “For the Beauty of the Earth” by clicking www.fboe.weebly.com. The photography is by Judy Kisla of Atlanta, Georgia.

Ministry of Music: If you would like to participate in the Chancel Choir’s virtual anthems, contact Dave VanderMeer for more information: dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org. All are welcome to participate!

“Tell Me More” is a monthly opportunity for our guests and visitors to learn more as we “tell you more about First Pres.” The Zoom link is available online or you may indicate on the friendship pad that you’d like to have it sent directly to you. Rev. Rogers leads this brief time of conversation and questions where you can ask anything! Find out about our church, our programs, our vision, our time of transition, our theology, history, and more on the fourth Sunday of each month at noon!

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.

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings, but planning only one or two weeks at a time. Please call Marcy (995–2519) if you would like more information.

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of February will be overseen by Youth Ministry. Financial donations will be sent to the Washtenaw Community College Student Emergency Fund. Food donations will be taken to Community Action Network (C.A.N.). If you are donating by check, please make it payable to First Presbyterian Church, noting the recipient of your contribution on the memo line. Checks may be dropped off at church Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or mailed to the church to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller. Bins for food collection are provided outside the church entrance at the Memorial Garden Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The First Pres ministry to the residents at Alpha House, a shelter for children and parents who are experiencing homelessness, continues March 22–31. You can sign up online or by contacting Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com or 734-646-6093); Anne Gere (argere@umich.edu or 734-668-8352); Ruth Jensen (ruthannjensen@gmail.com or 734-332-0323); or Paula Doering (paulahdoering@gmail.com or 734-904-8068).

Mature Ministries in March. Join us on Thursday, March 11, at Noon, for our monthly Lunch & Learn. First Pres member Ginny Rezmierski will speak to us about bullying in its various forms including sexual harassment, developmental stages where power is the focus and how children, youth and adults can get stuck focused on power over others. Contact Rev. Rogers for the Zoom link!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) to discuss dealing with anxiety and mental health during a pandemic.

Exploring the Faith meets today at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>) for a discussion on "Compassionate God." Each week during Lent a pastor will explore the meaning of compassion in our lives as part of our Lenten studies.

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 on Sundays, 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 this Sunday 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 this Sunday 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 (Middle/High/Confirmation). **Our Confirmation Class** meets on Zoom the second and third Sunday of each month, and in person for the fourth Sunday.

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 and High School Youth Group gatherings alternate between in-person (first and third Sundays) and virtual (second and fourth Sundays) of each month. We gather together for games and fellowship as a large group and break out into Middle School and High School groups for conversations. Contact Pastor Mark for more information. All are welcome!

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
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
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
Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim 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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