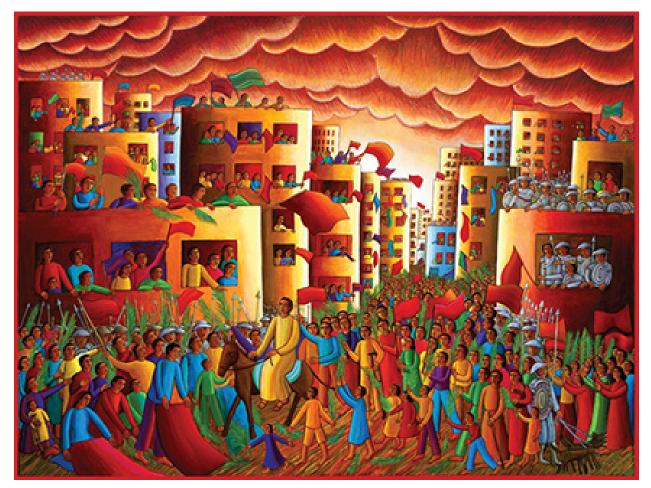
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY March 28, 2021



Entry into the City
John August Swanson





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**.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

The opening voluntary

this morning is by the French organist-composer Jeanne Demessieux (1921–1968.) The piece is based on the Gregorian antiphon for Palm Sunday, Hosanna filio David ("Hosanna to the son of David.") The theme is in the pedal and the four imitative upper parts are derived from the chant.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY Hosanna filio David

Jeanne Demessieux

CHORAL INTROIT

Hosanna

John D. Horman and Mary Nelson Keithahn Children's Choir, Kellie McInchak, Director

"Jesus is coming!" they shouted on high. "Hosanna! Hosanna! Save us!" was their cry. "Save us!" was their cry.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

All: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

All: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and integrity for all of us.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

* HYMN 196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN This hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin. For the protection of all present in the Sanctuary, worshippers are asked to not sing aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

you rode a donkey and came in peace,

humbled yourself and gave yourself for us.

We confess our lack of humility.

As you entered Jerusalem,

the crowds shouted, "Hosanna: Save us now!"

On Good Friday they shouted, "Crucify!"

We confess our praise is often empty.

We sing Hosanna but cry Crucify.

As the crowd laid their palms in front of you

you took the way of God: you took no glory for yourself.

We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way.

We do not stay true to your will.

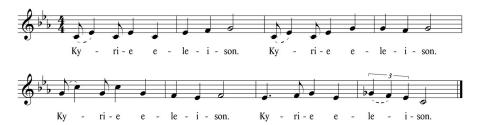
Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience.

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 Mercv."

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.

KYRIE



For the protection of all present in the Sanctuary, worshippers are asked to not sing aloud.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing, for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King. O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice, and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 197, Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (ellacombe).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 11:1–11

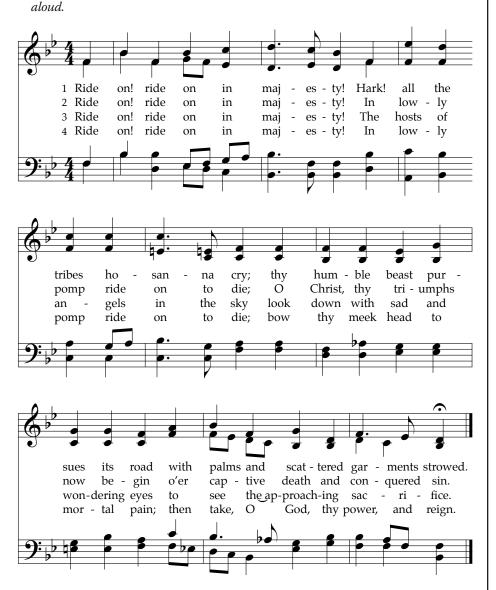
The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON A More Complicated Jesus

RESPONDING

* **HYMN 198** Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! St. drostane For the protection of all present in the Sanctuary, worshippers are asked to not sing



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Gates William Mathias

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

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.



* 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.

For the protection of all present in the Sanctuary, worshippers are asked to not sing aloud.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos

Focus your light within us - make it useful.

Create your reign of unity now

through our fiery hearts and willing hands

Help us love beyond our ideals

and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.

Animate the earth within us: we then

feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.

Untangle the knots within

so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.

Don't let surface things delude us,

But free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.

Out of you, the astonishing fire,

Returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

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. This week's adaptation is from the original Aramaic Translation by Neil Douglas Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos. (We'll return to our most familiar version on Easter.)

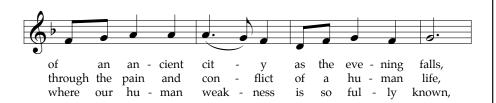
SENDING

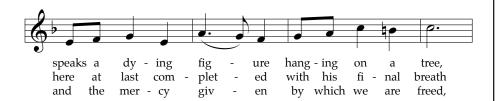
* **HYMN 217** On a Barren Hilltop

KING'S WESTON

For the protection of all present in the Sanctuary, worshippers are asked to not sing aloud.









* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE O Sacred Head, Now Wounded PASSION CHORALE Anna Gehrke and Liam Phillips, soloists

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down; now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

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/2Rlig2I

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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 selves, 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing 2021. Throughout the Lenten season Christian congregations connect by participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. We go through our lives every day dimly aware of the amount of need in our world. We fear that if we were to look directly at it, it would overwhelm us. What One Great Hour of Sharing does is offer a chance to look, together, beyond congregation and beyond denomination, and to take action. Our gifts work to empower, and provide water, and supply food and give relief from natural disasters. They support thoughtful interventions that build strong community. This IS church and these gifts ARE at work. Like God's love, what brings hope is knowing that we are part of something big trying to help with the biggest needs in our world. We are truly all in this together. You may give by text, check or cash, or give online.

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Andrew Frazier; Liturgists – Khayla Johnson and Melissa Anne Rogers; Scripture Readers – Pat Liljestrand and Renee Mulcrone; Children's Message – Beca Torres-Davenport and Mark Mares; Preacher – Jay Sanderford; Soloists – Anna Gehrke and Liam Phillips; Vocalists – Leslie Smith, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, Joseph Sevig, David Magumba, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler; Ushers – Ken, Ali, and Ava Westfall; Angela Yang; and Carol and Paul Smith

Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for the ministry of Dr. Paul Haebig as Interim Organist by the Chancel Choir; and in loving memory of of Joe Savarino on his 90th birthday April 2, 1931, by his wife Maya.

Red rosebuds celebrate the births of Hank Thomas Stelter and Wade Robert Stelter on May 22, 2020. Hank and Wade are the sons of Brynn and Nicholas Stelter.

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour today immediately following the Closing Voluntary. **Special guest** is Paul Haebig whose work with us concludes next Sunday, April 4. Come join to hear our guest speakers and then share your own appreciation and words of gratitude with Paul. Enter Coffee Hour today by clicking https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8225711636.

Holy Week Services and Other Offerings



Mid-day Prayer Time, Monday - Wednesday, March 29-31

Prayer Time premieres at 12:15 p.m., on Facebook and Instagram where they will be available for 24 hours.

Maundy Thursday Worship, April 1

Worship Service with Communion is livestreamed at 7:00 p.m., on both Facebook and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi4UFJ0Spvowsk7EnVXs6CQ).

Good Friday Worship, April 2

Stations of the Cross Family Service premieres at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89584086945).

Seven Last Words of Christ Service is livestreamed at 7:00 p.m., on both Facebook and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi4UFJ0Spvowsk7EnVXs6CQ).

Easter Sunday Services, April 4

Sunrise Service is at 7:15 a.m., outdoors, beginning in the Memorial Garden. Participants must be masked and maintain social distancing.

Worship with Communion is livestreamed at 9:30 a.m., on Facebook and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi4UFJ0Spvowsk7EnVXs6CQ). Radio broadcast is at 11:00 a.m. at 1600 AM and online at https://www.waamradio.com.

Good News! A Virtual Easter Pageant is on Facebook and YouTube at 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Sanctuary and Grounds Stroll, April 4

Sign up online (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-easter1) to join us as we welcome you home for this event. Covid-19 safety protocols require all participants to be masked and socially distanced.

Highlights include:

- creation of a flower cross (bring a flower to add)
- a prayerful stroll through our Sanctuary filled with the beauty of Easter flowers and live music
- a hands-on Prayers of Gratitude station
- an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one
- Easter treats to take home to enjoy later
- a photo opportunity; have your photo taken by a flowering cross; we'll mail the photo to you
- an opportunity to bring donations for One Great Hour of Sharing (financial donations),
 Cass Community Social Services (paper towels and laundry detergent), and Community Action
 Network (canned food and financial donations)
- a Blessing station where you will receive a final blessing from Rev. Spalding

We are able to offer limited seating for services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. In order to allow as many people to attend Holy Week Worship as possible, you are asked to sign up for only one of these offerings. Sign up online using this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/firstpresholyweek.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175) for a discussion on healing through nature and indigenous people's ways.

Exploring the Faith does not meet today.

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

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 (<u>mmares@firstpresbyterian.org</u>.), 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 (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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like a communion kit for Easter Sunday, please order one by going to the following link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4baaaa23a2f58-easter. The deadline for ordering is noon on Maundy Thursday, April 1. Kits will need to be picked up by you (or someone in your family or friend circle) on Holy Saturday, April 3, 9–11:00 a.m., at First Pres, by driving up to the Memorial Garden. If you cannot pick up a kit yourself, we will try to arrange another church member to deliver. May you know the grace and growth that Lent provides as we move closer to Holy Week and relive the trauma of our Lord's death and the wonder and glory of his resurrection to new life.

First Presbyterian Church will be closed on Monday, April 5. Easter Monday is an annual holiday for staff.

Celebrating Rev. Rick Spalding! Having served as our Interim Pastor and guide for much of our interim period, Rev. Rick Spalding will conclude his meaningful ministry with us on April 11. Rick has served here for nearly 21 months. He will be returning to full-time retired life in Ipswhich, Massachusetts, with his partner Peter Bubriski. We will celebrate Rick (and also thank Peter) on April 11 at the online Coffee Hour. Please be sure to join us around 10:30 on April 11 at the Zoom link in this bulletin. We will be giving Rick several gifts, including a financial offering. To make a donation to the gift fund, send your checks to the Finance Office, or contact Anna Miller (amiller@firstpresbyterian.org) with questions. Personal notes and cards may be dropped off at church Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or brought to church on Easter Sunday during the Sanctuary Stroll.

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.

Reopening Update: We are pleased to announce In-Person Worship is here! We will continue to follow all recommended social distancing guidelines. Our easy-to-view Reopening Grid continues to be updated. We are still in Phase II: Small Groups and visits to church should be pre-arranged with staff. As the Covid-19 vaccines become more readily available, the RRWG recommends consulting with your healthcare professional about getting vaccinated as soon as possible. Stay tuned for further updates here and on our website. Please contact Rev. McGowan if you have any questions.

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!

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.

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!

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.

A Virtual Hymn-Sing by the Sanctus Ringers, Chancel Choir, and FPC Section Leaders is available on YouTube and Facebook. (https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-hymn-sing)

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of March will be overseen by Presbyterian Woman. Financial donations and donations of food will benefit Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. If you are donating by check, please make it payble to First Presbyterian Church, noting the recipient of your contribution on the memo line. Checks and food may be dropped off at church Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Checks may be mailed to the church to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller.

Suds and Sheets for Cass. In March, join with our First Pres community to give something back to the Cass residents by providing laundry detergent and paper towels. Donations of detergent and paper goods are especially helpful and compassionate gifts to families living in shelter space at Cass or in other transitional housing on the Cass campus. Bins for paper goods and laundry detergent collection are provided outside the First Pres church entrance at the Memorial Garden Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please make checks payable to First Pres, marked Suds and Sheets for Cass.

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

The First Pres ministry to the residents at Alpha House, a shelter for children and parents who are experiencing homelessness, continues through March 31. For more information, you may contact 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). Sign up online (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha5). Are you able to help restock the pantry at Alpha House? If so, sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha14.

Mature Ministries in April. Join us via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5502657984) on Thursday, April 8, for our monthly Lunch & Learn. Shannon Schmoll, PhD, Director of Michigan State University's Abrams Planetarium will present "Spring Skies over Ann Arbor."

Mamas' Group, a new opportunity, meets virtually on Friday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. Parenting is hard but you're not alone. Find your place of support, encouragement, listening ears and open hearts as we share our struggles and successes! Mamas of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are invited to join us as we begin this new journey together. Come when you can, step away if you need to – we're here for you! For more information, contact Sarah Glinka Endicott (sngendicott@gmail.com), Charlotte Sawtell (anderson.cee@gmail.com), or Beca Torres-Davenport (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

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

Share your talent at the All-Church Variety Show on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Your act must be three minutes or less. If your performance is more than three minutes, you may be asked to shorten it or, if that is not possible, to choose something else. 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? Maybe it's singing, playing an instrument, dancing, reciting poetry, sharing a piece of visual art you have created, performing comedy, juggling, performing gymnastics – you name it. Variety makes the show...well, a Variety Show! Please contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

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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