

# The First Presbyterian Church

Ann Arbor, Michigan

December 7, 2008

Second Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday



WELCOME TO ALL, especially visitors and newcomers to Ann Arbor. Let us know of your presence by completing the pew card and introducing yourself at the Welcome Center (through the pulpit door and downstairs). Please know you are invited to share in all activities of the church. Brochures about programs at First Presbyterian Church are located at the Welcome Center and in the Narthex.

As we prepare for worship, please turn off all cell phones and beepers. Hearing assistive devices, large print bulletins, hymnals and Bibles are available from the ushers.

**Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.**

\* Those who are able, please stand.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

(9:30/11:00) VOLUNTARY Kyrie Eleison, from "Noel, Noel" J. Arcadelt  
Presbyterian Recorder Ensemble

## LIFE IN THE CHURCH

*Please sign the Friendship Book in each pew near the center aisle and pass it along your pew or to others sitting nearby. As it returns, note with whom you are worshipping so that you may greet each other after the service.*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

### AND LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

*At 8:00 a.m., the candles will be lit by Rudi and Tissy Ansbacher. At 9:30 a.m., the candles will be lit by the Norman, Hannah, Samuel, and Andrew Chen and Natalie Nordby-Chen. At 11:00 a.m., they will be lit by Bonita Goh.*

Leader: On this the second Sunday of Advent, we remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah spoken by John the Baptist:

**People: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."**

Leader: We also remember the words spoken by Zechariah to John the Baptist:

**People: "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

Leader: A sign of the season, we light the second candle as we remember how a way has been prepared for Jesus and the light You show us in him. Let us pray:

All: **God help us to prepare a way for Jesus' coming in our own lives this season, help us to make the rough places plain and the crooked places straight so that you can guide our feet in the way of peace. Amen.**

*Based on Luke 1:76-79 and Luke 3:4-6*

\*HYMN 3 Comfort, Comfort You My People

*Psalm 42*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,

you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, because we live casual lives and ignore your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

### SILENT CONFESSION

**Kyrie (#572 in the Hymnal) Lord, Have Mercy**

*Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Following the Assurance of Forgiveness, worshipers are invited to turn to their neighbors, offer the right hand of fellowship, and greet them with the words: "The peace of Christ be with you." Worshipers are invited to respond with the words, "And also with you."*

#### \*GLORIA (#579 in the Hymnal)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.*

(9:30) ANTHEM Prepare the Way of the Lord

*Michael Bedford  
(adapted)*

*Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord! Make a straight path, make a straight path. Prepare the way of the Lord.*

### PROCLAIMING

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11 (O.T., pp. 667-68)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(9:30 / 11:00) A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*The children may come to the chancel steps to meet one of the pastors.*

SERMON (9:30/11:00) Comfort, O Comfort My People, Says Your God

**RESPONDING**

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

(9:30/11:00) ANTHEM *Verbum Caro Factum Est* Hans Leo Hassler  
*Verbum caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis, et vidimus gloriam ejus, gloriam quasi unigeniti Patre, plenum gratiae et veritatis.*

(Tr.) The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten by the Father, full of grace and truth.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

**THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray . . .

. . . we lift our hearts in joyful praise, singing:

**People**

**Singing:** *Holy, holy, holy, God of power and majesty, heaven and earth are full of your glory, O God most high!*

Leader: We praise you, most holy God . . .

. . . now and forever. Amen.

**Leader and People:**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

*All communion chalices and cups for pew communion contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. (9:30) Worshipers may remain in the pews to be served by Elders and Deacons. (8:00/11:00) Communion will be served by intinction. Beginning with the front rows, worshipers are invited to come forward by the center aisle, receive a wafer of bread and dip it in the chalice, partake, and return to their seats by a side aisle. Those unable to come forward will be served where they are seated.*

(9:30/11:00) COMMUNION MUSIC O Magnum Mysterium

*William Hawley*

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepe. O beata Virgo, cujus ciscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia.*

(Tr.) O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals might see the birth of the Lord as he lay in the manger. O Blessed Virgin, Who wast worthy of bearing our Lord Jesus Christ, Alleluia.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
**People: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**  
Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
**People: and forget not all God's blessings.**

SENDING

\*HYMN 5 **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** *Picardy*

\*BENEDICTION

(9:30/11:00) CHORAL RESPONSE Rejoice! Rejoice! *Veni Emmanuel*  
*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

(9:30/11:00) VOLUNTARY *Come, Savior of the Nations* *J. S. Bach*

*If you have any questions concerning the life of First Presbyterian Church, one of the pastors will be at the Chancel steps following the worship service.*

*The Prayer Team is available for those desiring prayer, in the Hillemonds Chapel, through the door to the right of the piano, immediately following the 9:30 worship service.*

**THE PREACHER** at the 8:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. worship services is the Reverend Aaron Janklow. The preacher at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services is the Reverend Douglas J. Brouwer.

**PARTICIPATING** in the services are the Reverend Jana Reister at 8:00 a.m.; the Reverends Julie Marks and Melissa Anne Rogers at 9:30 a.m., the Reverends Brewster H. Gere and Deborah Knott at 11:00 a.m.; and the Reverend Julie Marks at 5:45 p.m.

**THE PIANIST** at the 8:00 a.m. service is Jon Ophoff.

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR** is Susan Boggs.

**THE ORGANISTS** are Carol Muehlig and Danny Forger, AAGO.

**THE ALLELUIA CHOIR CONDUCTORS** are Carol Muehlig and Grace Jones.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORDER ENSEMBLE** includes Ann Flowers, Kathy Wirstrom, Diane Knibbs, Marian West, Kendra Reid (clarinet), and Linda Speck (director).

**THE READERS** are Ruth Barnard at 8:00 a.m., Brady West at 9:30 a.m., and Paul Goodman at 11:00 a.m.

**THE GREETERS** at 9:30 a.m. are Mylinda, Lindsay, Bethany and Ian Balint and Susan Cares. The greeters at 11:00 a.m. are Don and Gale Redding and Chris Argersinger.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in loving memory of Wilder W. Woods, Sr. by his wife Esther Woods Holmes, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**THE ROSEBUD WELCOMES** Jacob Kenneth Gernant, born November 26, 2008, son of Kim and Tim, and brother of Joshua.

## *Today's Events*

**WORSHIP AND COMMUNION** is at 8:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** meets today at 9:30 a.m. for crib-12th grade and at 11:00 a.m. for crib-5th grade.

## **ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:**

**At 9:30 a.m. in the French Room/Library**, the Rev. Deborah Knott will continue reading through the Bible book by book. The class can be joined at any time and for as long as a member desires.

**At 11:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room**, Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries at First Pres, will present "Children's Books for Christmas," focusing on books that will enhance children's understanding of the Advent and Christmas season.

**FIRST COUPLES** meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Curtis Room. Today, Dr. Jay Sandweiss, an osteopathic doctor in Ann Arbor, extensively trained in the fields of osteopathy, applied kinesiology, applied nutrition and Chinese medicine, will discuss "Synergizing Western & Eastern Approaches to Medicine."

**FIRST SINGLES** meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Curtis Room. Today, First Presbyterian member Polly Pan continues the audio series "Great Figures of the New Testament." Today's subject: The Centurions.

**RADIO WORSHIP** service is at 11:00 a.m. on WAAM (1600 AM). and on WAAM's website, waamannarbor.com.

**ADOPT A LOCAL FAMILY IN NEED** from the Family-to-Family Christmas Program today in the Social Hall. Contributions may also be made by using the special pew envelopes. Volunteers are needed to help deliver gifts on the afternoon of Sunday, December 21. For more information on adopting or volunteering, contact Julie Morrison at 668-0420 or morrison@comcast.net.

**THE ANNUAL BOY SCOUT TROOP 7 WREATH SALE** is happening today during coffee hour in the Social Hall.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE DISPLAY, MUSIC AND TEA**, sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, will be held today, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Curtis Room. Enjoy music by the AAUW Recorder Ensemble, and Jane Warner's creche collection. ALL members of the church, newcomers, friends, family members, and visitors are welcome to attend.

**CAMPUS MEAL:** Students, join us in the Curtis Room after the 5:45 p.m. worship service for the Campus Meal, free for university students and college-aged individuals.

**THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM** will meet for a planning meeting at 6:00 p.m. tonight in the Youth Room, and at noon at Pizza House for a planning lunch on January 4.

**KEYSTONES**, our high school youth group, meets tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

## *Announcements*

*A full description of the events listed below can be found in our newsletter, First Press, available in the narthex, at the Welcome Center, outside the Church Office, or online at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org).*

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!** Shop at Ten Thousand Villages, 303 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, December 8 through 14, and 15 percent of the proceeds from your purchase will benefit the Mission Committee. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center or in the store, and present it with your purchase. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit fair trade organization that carries handcrafted items from 36 countries.

**JOIN CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**, Monday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hillegonds Chapel for support, understanding and advice as we care for loved ones in our homes, in assisted living facilities, or from a distance. Please contact Martine Blogin, Parish Nurse, 662-4466 ext. 26 or mblogin@firstpresbyterian.org for more information.

**FEELING ADVENTISH?** Hilltoppers will host a special program on December 11 at noon. Come for a \$5 hot lunch provided by our staff, and enjoy sharing Christmas memories, singing Advent carols, and thinking about Advent with the Rev. Eldon Beery. Sign up to attend in the church office by Tuesday, December 9 at noon. "Adopt" a table by bringing in your Christmas china, linens, glasses, and decorations (or any combination of those). If you would like to share your "goods," please email the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

**YOUTH NEWS:** Check the website [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org) under "Education & Ministries," then "Youth Ministry" for all the up-to-date happenings. **MIDS** meets Wednesday, December 10, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. **The MIDS and Confirmation class Christmas Party** will be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14 at the Brinkerhoff home, 1011 Lincoln. Bring a cool wrapped gift, spending exactly \$6.08. See if you can do it! Please RSVP to the Brinkerhoff's, 332-1131. Lunch will be provided. **The KEYS and all High Schoolers' Christmas Party** will be held Sunday, December 14, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the McKarn's home, 2241 Woodview Lane. Bring a dessert or side and a wrapped white elephant gift (a hideous or bizarre item you would like to re-gift) for a Bunco exchange. RSVP to Rev. Jim Monnett at the church, 662-4466, ext. 20. **The Costa Rica Mission Trip, June 21 - 30**, for high schoolers has openings. Call Rev. Jim Monnett at church, 662-4466, ext. 20, to get connected to this amazing work trip to San Jose.

**MOTHERS' MORNING** meets Tuesday, December 9, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. Check-in is from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Slow down during this busy season and enjoy fellowship, food, a holiday craft, and an optional holiday community project. Child care is provided. Question? Contact Sarah Glinka Endicott at 930-2887 or [snglinka@aol.com](mailto:snglinka@aol.com), or Carolyn Gehrke at [gehrkej@hotmail.com](mailto:gehrkej@hotmail.com) or 572-5832.

**IT'S TIME FOR PANCAKES!** The Annual Pancake Supper for college students is Tuesday, December 9, from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. We need volunteers to work on one of the crews for set-up, cooking, serving, or clean up, or to help sponsor (pay for) the event. Interested? Contact Ginny Rezmierski, 971-6221, or send email to [ver@umich.edu](mailto:ver@umich.edu)

**"A BOYCHOIR CHRISTMAS"** concert will be presented in our sanctuary on Saturday, December 13, at 3:00 p.m., by the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$5 for children ages 17 and under, \$10 for seniors and students, and \$15 for other adults. Family tickets are \$40 (two adults and all children who live in the same home). Tickets may be reserved at [www.aaboychoir.org/reserve\\_Christmas.html](http://www.aaboychoir.org/reserve_Christmas.html), or call 663-5377.

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING CHILDCARE:** Keystones will watch your child while you Christmas shop, go out to dinner, etc. Childcare will be offered Saturday, December 13, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, December 17, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted for youth mission. Two adults will oversee the care each day. RSVP to Rev. Jim Monnett at 662-4466 x 20 with the number and age of children.

**A YOUTH COOKIE EXPLOSION** (cookie sale) will happen Sunday, December 14 after each service in the Social Hall. Need a gift? Love cookies? Buy a plate or a basket of homemade Christmas cookies and support youth mission!

**PARISH NURSE'S NEW HEALTH MINISTRY PROGRAM** begins December 14. Martine Blogin, RN will be available in the parish nurse office (by the Curtis Room) on the second Sunday of every month from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. to check your blood pressure and offer heart health information. For more information, contact Martine Blogin, parish nurse, at 662-4466, ext. 26, or [mblogin@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mblogin@firstpresbyterian.org).

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COST OF CHANCEL FLOWERS** has increased from \$45 to \$50. If you are interested in giving flowers in

memory or in honor of someone in 2009, please contact Verna Thompson at (248) 437-0164.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PARENT INFORMATION MEETING** will be held at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, December 14, in Monteith Hall. At this meeting, you will learn more details about costumes and rehearsal schedules. The family Christmas Eve pageant and worship service will be presented by the children of the congregation at 3:00 p.m. on December 24. Pageant registration forms are available in your child's classroom, at the Welcome Center, and outside the church office.

**THE PHILIPPINES TASK FORCE** needs you! Please consider joining us; learn more about our mission work in the Philippines, get involved here in Ann Arbor with our mini-missions, or help with our upcoming Philippines dinner. Our next meeting is Sunday, December 14 following the 11:00 a.m. service in the French Room/Library.

**PROMISES**, our group for specially-abled adults, will meet on Sunday, December 14, at 5:30 p.m. to attend the 5:45 worship service, then enjoy a Christmas gathering and dinner offsite.

**GLACIER HILLS ADVENT WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION** will be held Monday, December 15, at 2:00 p.m. in the Hansen Room. Those who would like to help with transport, refreshments, or fellowship are welcome to volunteer. For more information, contact Rev. Jana Reister, 662-4466, ext. 55, or [jreister@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jreister@firstpresbyterian.org).

**THE POINSETTIAS THAT WILL DECORATE THE CHANCEL** on December 21 and on Christmas Eve may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one or family member. To recognize someone in this way, please sign up in the church office by December 15 so the person's name may be listed in the December 21 and Christmas Eve bulletins. The suggested donation is \$14. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "poinsettia" in the memo line. Following worship, the poinsettias will be delivered by the deacons to our shut-ins, those who are ill, and those who are grieving.

**SPECIAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE ON DECEMBER 21:** There are years we feel great pain during the Advent season and are unable to embrace the festivities as others seem to do. Join us for the Longest Night Service, on Sunday, December 21, at 5:45 p.m., in Monteith Hall. Come for prayers, scripture, music, communion, and candlelighting, as together we acknowledge that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. All are welcome.

**PERGOLESI'S MAGNIFICAT WILL BE PRESENTED** on December 21 at the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services, by the Chancel Choir, soloists, a small string ensemble, and organ. The text of the Magnificat is Mary's faithful response to the Angel Gabriel upon learning that she will bear the Messiah.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDCARE:** We offer childcare **by reservation only** on Christmas Eve for the 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. services. There is no childcare at the 11:00 p.m. service. We are always in need of volunteers to be childcare providers. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and entire families with teenage children have helped in the past. If you would like to volunteer, or make a childcare reservation, please contact Deborah MacVey at 662-4466, ext. 15, or [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:** The Christmas Eve Family Service and Children's Pageant will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Candlelight Communion Service will be held at 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**PRAYING THE PSALMS**, our weekly prayer group, meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. Pew cards with prayer requests may be completed and dropped in the offering plate. For information, contact Rev.

Melissa Anne Rogers at 662-4466, ext. 12, or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY MID-WEEK WORSHIP** is on hiatus until Tuesday, January 13 due to final exams and winter break. Questions? Contact Rev. Julie Marks at jmarks@firstpresbyterian.org, or 662-4466, ext. 14.

## *Calendar for December 8 - 13*

### **MONDAY:**

Body and Soul, 9:00 a.m., Curtis Room  
Advent Study, noon, Vance Room  
Mission Funding Subcommittee, 2:00 p.m., French Room/Library  
Advent Study, 6:00 p.m., Founders Room  
Pilgrims of Ibillin, 5:30 p.m., French Room/Library  
Property Committee, 7:00 p.m., French Room/Library  
CEFMC, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room  
Caregivers Support Group, 7:00 p.m., Hillegonds Chapel  
Loss Support Group, 7:00 p.m., Lewis Room  
Stephen Ministry Supervision, 7:00 p.m., Youth Room  
Residency Committee, 7:00 p.m., Founders Room  
Campus Core Group, 7:30 p.m., French Room/Library  
Boy Scout Troop 7, 7:30 p.m., Monteith Hall  
Sanctus and Gloria Ringers, 7:30 p.m., Room 403

### **TUESDAY:**

Prayer Group, 7:30 a.m., Founders Room  
Mothers' Morning, 9:00 a.m., Youth Room  
Advent Study, 10:30 a.m., Glacier Hills  
PW Horizons Circle, 1:00 p.m., away  
ESL, 4:00 p.m., 100 Level Classrooms  
Ann Arbor Boychoir Rehearsal, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
Campus Core Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Hillegonds Chapel  
Personnel Committee, 6:30 p.m., Doug Brouwer's office  
Campus Pancake Supper, 10:00 p.m., Social Hall

### **WEDNESDAY:**

Advent Study, 1:00 p.m., Vance Room  
PW Reading Group, 1:00 p.m., away  
Wednesday Night Meal, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (volunteers), 5:30 p.m. (meal),  
Delonis Center  
Praying the Psalms, 5:00 p.m., Lewis Room  
Hosanna Choir, 5:00 p.m., Russell Room  
Alleluia Choir, 5:00 p.m., Room 404  
MIDS, 5:00 p.m., Youth Room  
Youth Choir, 6:00 p.m., Russell Room  
Advent Study, 6:30 p.m., Youth Room  
Baptism Class, 7:00 p.m., Monteith Hall  
Taiwanese/First Pres Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., Room 101  
TnT, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room

### **THURSDAY:**

Advent Study, noon, Vance Room  
Hilltoppers, noon, Social Hall  
Chancel Choir, 7:00 p.m., Russell Room  
Executive Deacons, 7:00 p.m., away

### **FRIDAY:**

Advent Study, 6:30 a.m., Doug Brouwer's Office  
Prayer/Study Group, 9:00 a.m., Founders Room  
Moms' Bible Study, 9:30 p.m., French Room/Library  
When I Was Little, noon, French Room/Library  
Triangle Fitness Field Trip, 2:00 p.m., Social Hall  
Knit Night, 7:30 p.m., Curtis Room

### **SATURDAY:**

Youth Christmas Childcare, 8:30 a.m., Youth Room  
Youth Cookie Drop-Off, 11:00 a.m., Kitchen  
Ann Arbor Boychoir Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
Ann Arbor Boychoir Concert, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary