

The First Presbyterian Church  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
November 15, 2009  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Pledge Sunday

**WELCOME TO ALL**, especially visitors and newcomers to Ann Arbor. Let us know of your presence by completing the pew card. Please know you are invited to share in all activities of the church. A full description of church events may be found online at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org).

*Our mission is to grow spiritually as disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, mission, learning, and prayer. We commit ourselves, in all we say and do, to demonstrate God's grace and love.*



THOUGHTS FOR YOUR PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*What I kept, I lost  
What I spent, I had  
What I gave, I have*

*"Stewardship is what one does after saying "I believe." — W. H. Greever*

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

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

**GATHERING**

(9:30/11:00) VOLUNTARY

Aria

Flor Peeters

**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 worship so that you may greet each other after the service.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**based on Psalm 146**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

Leader: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

**People: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the Lord God,

**People: Whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**\*HYMN 455 All Creatures of Our God and King *Lasst Uns Erfreuen***  
*Verse 1, 2, 3 and 6. All sing verses 1 and 6. Men sing verse 2. Women sing verse 3.*

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, who has made a great investment in us: forgive us for our self-centeredness that keeps us from being generous. You have given us all we need, yet we yearn for more. Forgive us for not offering you the first fruits of our lives. Open now our hearts to you and our hands to those in need. Help us grow as disciples through grateful giving. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**KYRIE**

(8:00) #572 in the Hymnal Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us  
*Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

(9:30/11:00) #573 in the Hymnal Lord, Have Mercy  
*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

*You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as forgiven people. As we enter flu season, we encourage you to participate in "touch free" passing of the peace. As you greet one another, rather than shaking hands, place your hands together in an attitude of prayer.*

**One to another:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**Response:** And also with you.

**\*GLORIA**

(8:00)#579 in the Hymnal Glory Be to the Father  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

(9:30/11:00)#576 in the Hymnal Gloria, Gloria  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

**PROCLAIMING**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 12: 41-44 (N.T., p. 50)

**ANTHEM** Everywhere I Go

Natalie Sleeth

*Everywhere I go, the Lord is near me; if I call upon Him, He will hear me; never will I fear, for the Lord is near everywhere I go. In the dark of night should things alarm me, ever in His sight, no ill may harm me, I will be of cheer for the Lord is near, everywhere I go. He is with me day by day; He will be my strength and stay; from His path I will not stray but follow in His way. In the coming days of joy or sadness, I will praise His name with songs of gladness, for to me it's clear that the Lord is near everywhere I go.*

Hosanna Choir

**EPISTLE LESSON**

2 Corinthians 9: 1-15 (N.T., pp. 183-84)

**Leader:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*The children through grade five may be seated at the foot of the chancel steps to meet with one of the pastors.*

**SERMON** Growing As Disciples Through Grateful Giving

**RESPONDING**

**\*AN AFFIRMATION**

**In response to God’s many gifts, Christ calls us to live in the presence of God. Jesus lived with a constant sense of God’s presence. We believe Christ gives us so much and demands of us personal lives that are to be centered in God and open to God’s reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nations; and to offer joyously to God our money, ability and time. Amen.**

*adapted from A Declaration of Faith of the Presbyterian Church in the United States*

**GIVING OF OUR MORNING TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**Dedication of Pledges and Time and Talents for 2010**

*In recognition that this morning is Pledge Sunday, worshipers are invited to bring forward their pledges, time and talent folders and morning offerings. An usher will invite you to come down the center aisle and return to your seat by one of the side aisles.*

**ANTHEM** The Best of Rooms

*Randall Thompson*

*Christ, He requires still, whereso’er He comes, to feed, or lodge, to have the best of rooms; give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part of all the house: the best of all’s the heart.*

*Robert Herrick, “Christ’s Part,” 1647*

**SINGING OF HYMNS OF THE FAITH**

*During the Offering, after the anthem, the congregation is invited to sing hymns of the faith.*

**Hymn 422 God Whose Giving Knows No Ending** *Beach Spring*  
*Verses 1 and 2.*

**Hymn 418 God, Bless Your Church with Strength**  
*Verses 1 and 2.* *Ich Halte Treulich Still*

**Hymn 433 There’s a Spirit in the Air** *Lauds*  
*Verses 1 through 4.*

**Hymn 428 We Give Thee but Thine Own** *Schumann*  
*Verses 1 and 2.*

**\*DOXOLOGY (#592 in the Hymnal)**

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**(8:00) THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*See Communion Liturgy Card*

**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. 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 414 *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought Forest Green*

\*BENEDICTION

(9:30/11:00) CHORAL RESPONSE Benediction *John Warren Owen*  
*May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, and may the blessing of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit be amongst you, and remain with you always.*

(9:30/11:00) VOLUNTARY Now Thank We All Our God  
*Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

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

**THE PREACHER** at the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services is the Reverend Brewster H. Gere. The preacher at the 5:45 p.m. worship service is the Reverend Julie Marks.

**PARTICIPATING** in the worship services are the Reverend Jim Monnett at 8:00 a.m., the Reverends Lawrence W. Farris, Matthew Nickel, Melissa Anne Rogers, and Sarah Wiles at 9:30 a.m., the Reverends Lawrence W. Farris, Matthew Nickel, Melissa Anne Rogers, and Resident Minister Jenny McDevitt at 11:00 a.m., and the Reverend Matthew Nickel at 5:45 p.m.

**THE ORGANISTS** are Carol Muehlig and Susan Boggs.

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

**THE HOSANNA CHOIR CONDUCTOR** is Susan Boggs.

**THE READERS** are Tom Brandt at 8:00 a.m.; Marti Wendler at 9:30 a.m.; and Darryl Albright at 11:00 a.m.

**THE GREETERS** at 9:30 a.m. are James and Lynn Hamilton and Helen Corey. The greeters at 11:00 a.m. are Robert and Diane Hockett and Peggy Fisher.

**THE PRAYER TEAM MEMBERS** are Nicole Jolliet and Mary Jones.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Molly Dobson in loving memory of her husband William, her daughter Hillary Ripmaster, and her son Peter.

**THE ROSEBUDS WELCOME** Ellen McQueen Argersinger, born September 11, 2009, daughter of Alana and Bill Argersinger, and granddaughter of Hank and Debbie McQueen and Chris and Wilbur Argersinger; and William Cassidy Wood, born November 3, 2009, son of Kathy and Bill Wood, brother of Jensen Wood, and grandson of Pam and William Wood.

## *Today's Events*

**WORSHIP** 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.

**OFFICER TRAINING FOR THE CLASS OF 2013:** The new Elders- and Deacons-elect meet every Sunday through November 22, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room, for officer training.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** meets today at 9:30 a.m., for crib-12th grade, and at 11:00 a.m., for crib-5th grade. Youth "Munch and Mingle" and Sunday school for sixth through twelfth graders meet at 9:20 a.m., in Monteith Hall. .

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:**

**At 9:30 a.m. in the French Room/Library,** Ed Koster continues his in-depth discussion of the Bible. The class is currently studying the book of Matthew. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**At 11:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room**, Waldemar Schmeichel, PhD, Professor of Religion at Kalamazoo College, concludes his presentation "The Formation and Translation of the Bible."

**FIRST COUPLES** meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Curtis Room to watch the DVD, *Books of the Bible: Early Christians and Their Literature*.

**FIRST SINGLES** meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Curtis Room for a potluck and planning meeting.

**A COMMUNION WORKSHOP** for children and their families, led by Deborah MacVey and Rev. Sarah Wiles, will be held today at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall. The workshop is designed to help parents and children understand the sacrament of Communion, how this meal is celebrated in worship, and the symbols used at the communion. It is recommended that all children of our congregation attend a Communion workshop with their families to learn about the Lord's Supper.

**CHURCH ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS** are held at 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Contact Gerry Leckrone, director, at 971-3103, or gerryleckrone@yahoo.com.

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

**PICK UP YOUR CINNAMON ROLLS TODAY:** The Pilgrims of Ibilin will have your cinnamon roll order ready for pick up today, anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Additional pans of rolls may also be available! Thank you for supporting the schools founded in the Galilee region of Israel by Archbishop Elias Chacour.

**THE 2009 ALL-CHURCH ADVENT STUDY** will use *Songs in Waiting*, by Paul-Gordon Chandler. All are invited and encouraged to join a small study group or read the book individually. **An additional group has been added at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings**, led by Kathy Wirstrom. Sign up on the boards in the narthex, 300 level foyer, or Welcome Center. **Book orders are due TODAY.** Turn in your payment of \$22 (cash or check payable to First Presbyterian Church) to the box in the church office or to Jenny McDevitt.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL:** Students, join us in the Curtis Room after the 5:45 p.m. worship service, for the Sunday evening meal.

## Announcements

**PURCHASE A POINSETTIA** in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias will be in worship and delivered by our deacons afterward to those who are sick, shut-in, and grieving. The cost is \$10, checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church with poinsettia on the memo line. Please sign up in the Church Office. **The deadline is December 8.**

**MATURE MINISTRIES** will hold its next meeting Monday, November 16 at noon, in the Vance Room. Remember your brown bag lunch! For more information on this new group, contact co-chairs Lois Jelneck or Victor Stoeffler, or Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, staff liaison, 662-4466.

**YOUTH NEWS: MIDS** will meet Wednesday, November 18, at 5:00 p.m., in the Youth Room. There will be no MIDS on November 25, Thanksgiving week. **High Schoolers** – We will meet at Zap Zone at 5:00 p.m. tonight. Come play two games of laser tag, then have dinner at California Pizza Kitchen. Pick up will be at the Kitchen. The cost is \$20 in cash. Keystones will not meet on Nov. 22, but will meet on November 29 (Thanksgiving weekend).

**WATCH YOUR PURSES!** There have been some recent thefts of purses and other valuables here at church. Please be sure to keep your purses, laptops, and other valuables with you or put safely away at all times.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN VISIT FRIENDS IN DEED**, a local resource for free or low cost food and household items, and a medical loan closet, on Wednesday, November 18. Those interested in attending will meet at First Pres at 8:45 a.m., to carpool to the facility at 1196 Ecorse Road. The morning will begin with Bible study at 9:15 a.m., and the program and tour at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will follow at the City Club at noon. **Reservations are required. To register, please sign up on the clipboard in the Church Office today.**

**WEDNESDAY 2:42**, our midweek program, based on Acts 2:42, concludes the fall semester Wednesday, November 18. At dinner this week, we will look at Isaiah 9:2-7 and 11:1-9, "The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light."

After dinner, join us for a Thanksgiving Service of Gratitude, at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. The service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion, a Bread Exchange (bring a gift of homemade bread, rolls, or whatever you can find). Two lay speakers, Pat Liljestrand and Evonne Plantinga, will give meditations on gratitude. Join us for this time to worship God of the harvest, and to realize the gift of God's generosity in all our lives.

**LET THE RAKING BEGIN!** The annual fall leaf raking and clean-up party will be held on Saturday, November 21, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Cider, coffee, and doughnuts will be served, and a good time will be had by all. Bring friends, fellow congregants and your own rakes. Get pumped up for the Michigan vs. Ohio State game by raking leaves!

**THE ANNUAL BOY SCOUT TROOP 7 WREATH SALE** will be held November 22 and 29, and December 6 between worship services in the Social Hall. Wreaths are 25 inches in diameter and are \$25 each. Stop by and get your greenery!

**LIVE IN THE 48104 ZIPCODE AREA?** Then you are invited to the Annual Quad B Potluck Brunch in the Social Hall Sunday, November 22, following the 11:00 a.m. service. The deacons will provide main dish casseroles. Please bring fruit, a vegetable dish, salad, bread, or dessert to share. Come and meet others who live in your Quadrant!

**BUY GIFT CARDS TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP** to rehab homes in Norfolk, Virginia, this summer. The gift cards are from Lands End (\$25 or \$100), Main Street Ventures which includes Gratz, Palio, etc., (\$25), and Borders (\$25). They will be available for purchase during coffee hour on November 22 and December 6. Cards can also be purchased from Rev. Jim Monnett and Craig Blogin, Chair of the Youth Education and Mission Committee. Questions? Contact Rev. Jim Monnett at 662-4466, ext. 20, or [jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org).

**THE PHILIPPINES TASK FORCE IS COLLECTING FABRIC** (light-weight) including curtains, spreads, and new fabric remnants, for a livelihood project in the Philippines. A marked donation box will be in the hallway by the Church Office through the end of November.

The Task Force purchased sewing machines for the Community Center in Dumaguete, where sewing instruction is provided and a small rental fee is charged for time on the machine. Residents make products that are sold at the marketplace. Questions? Contact Chris Larson at 769-9587.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY:** If this is a season of grief for you, we invite you to consider Stephen Ministry as a resource for Christian companionship through a difficult time. Please speak to Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers or contact Stephen Ministry at [sministry@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:sministry@firstpresbyterian.org), or 662-4466 ext. 31.

**THE FAMILY-TO-FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** begins Sunday, November 29. Friends and members of our congregation once again will have the opportunity to “adopt” a local family or individual in need by providing them with Christmas gifts, or may make a contribution by using the special pew envelopes starting November 29. Sign-up to adopt families will be in the Social Hall on November 29, December 6 and December 13. Volunteers are needed to help deliver gifts on December 20 and to help with sign-up and other activities. For information on adopting or volunteering, please contact Julie Morrison at 668-0420, or [morrison@comcast.net](mailto:morrison@comcast.net). Look for more details in your bulletin on Sunday, November 29, and in the *First Press*.

**ALPHA HOUSE LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY:** Save the date! The week of November 30 through December 6 marks First Presbyterian’s third host week of the year at Alpha House, a shelter for Washtenaw County families, located on Ann Arbor’s West Side on Jackson Road. The Alpha House Task Force is seeking volunteers to sign up for evening or weekend babysitting, meal making and overnight stays. Look for the sign-up poster in the Social Hall or Welcome Center, or contact Nancy Vander Kuyl ([nanspan@gmail.com](mailto:nanspan@gmail.com), 741-1814), Barb Ladewski ([bladewski@gmail.com](mailto:bladewski@gmail.com), 994-9189), or talk with other task force members listed here: Lucie Audette, Anne Gere, Amanda Hughes, Catherine Kendall, Wendy Rampson-Gage. We welcome new task force members, so please contact us if you are interested in joining this local mission group.

The new volunteer coordinator at Alpha House indicated that they are in **urgent need of new pillows and new twin size blankets (20-30 sets)** because the families are given the items when they leave the shelter. Donations can be left at the office through December 15.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY MID-WEEK WORSHIP** is held Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m., at the Michigan Union in the Anderson Room. Questions? Contact Rev. Julie Marks at 662-4466, ext. 14.

**PRAYING THE PSALMS** prayer group meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. Pew cards with prayer requests may be completed and put in the offering plate. Members and visitors are welcome to join at any time.

## *Calendar for November 16 - 21*

### **MONDAY:**

Body and Soul, 9:30 a.m., Curtis Room  
Liturgical Dance Rehearsal, noon, Monteith Hall  
Mature Ministries Steering Committee, noon, Vance Room  
Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room  
Stephen Ministry Leaders, 7:00 p.m., Room 101  
Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall  
Sanctus Ringers, 7:30 p.m., Room 403  
Campus Worship Team Practice, 8:00 p.m., French Room/Library

### **TUESDAY:**

Prayer Group, 7:30 a.m., Founders Room  
Bible Support Group, 10:00 a.m., Vance Room  
ESL, 1:00 p.m., Rooms 101, 102, 104, Youth Room  
Worship Committee, 6:00 p.m., Founders Room  
Peru Task Force, 7:00 p.m., Founders Room

Congregational Self-study Group, 7:00 p.m., French Room / Library  
Campus Ministry Mid-week Worship, 9:00 p.m., Anderson Room,  
Michigan Union

**WEDNESDAY:**

Presbyterian Women Field Trip to Friends In Deed, 8:45 a.m.,  
church parking lot  
Wednesday Night Meal, 3:00-7:15 p.m. (volunteers),  
5:30 (meal), Delonis Center  
Delonis Greeting Card Program, 5:00 p.m., Delonis Center  
5:00 p.m. - MIDS, Praying the Psalms, Hosanna Choir,  
Alleluia Choir  
5:45 p.m. - Gathering in the Social Hall  
6:00 p.m. - Dinner in the Social Hall  
7:00 p.m. - Preschool Childcare, Kindergarten - 5th Grade  
Class, Youth Choir, TnT, Session, Deacons,  
Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer

**THURSDAY:**

Adapted Exercise, 3:00 p.m., Curtis/Founders Room  
OSHER Class: Photography, 1:00 p.m., Lewis Room  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Russel Room  
Bible Study, 4:00 p.m., Founders Room  
Campus Core Group (Carol Gottliebsen), 7:30 p.m., Founders Room  
Adult Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., French Room / Library

**FRIDAY:**

When I Was Little, 8:30 a.m., French Room / Library  
Prayer / Study Group, 9:00 a.m., away  
Men's Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Founders Room

**SATURDAY:**

All-Church Leaf Raking, 8:00 a.m., Church Grounds,  
U of M vs. Ohio State Home Game, Visit Booth 38!



*A Stephen Ministry  
Congregation*

*The Staff of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor can be reached by calling the Church Office at (734) 662-4466.*

**Pastoral and Program Staff:**

*Reverend Lawrence W. Farris, Interim Pastor  
Reverend Brewster H. Gere, Exec. Associate Pastor  
and Coord. of the Lilly Residency Program  
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Dir. of Pastoral Care  
Lilly Resident Ministers  
Jenny McDevitt  
Reverend Sarah Wiles  
Reverend Matthew Nickel  
Susan Boggs, Music Director  
Carol Muehlig, Assoc. Music Director/Organist  
Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's  
Education and Family Ministries  
Reverend Jim Monnett, Director of Youth Ministry  
Reverend Julie Marks, Director of Campus Ministry  
Campus Ministry Interns  
Scott Ellis  
Erin Wilson  
Martine Blogin, Parish Nurse*

**Administrative Staff:**

*Jennifer Sansbury, Exec. Administrative  
Assistant  
Michael Wright, Maintenance/Repair  
Manager  
Debbie Evett, Church Office Manager  
Berether Hill, Church Office Associate  
John Sampsel, Finance Administrator  
Lois Nissly, Finance Assistant  
Jill Crabtree, Communications Manager  
Mary Jones, Children's Education and  
Communications Assistant  
Patti Hockstad, Wedding Assistant*