

*The First Presbyterian Church
Ann Arbor, Michigan
September 6, 2009
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Family Worship and Communion*

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.

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.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

GATHERING

(9:30) 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 125

Leader: Those who trust in the Lord stand firm,
like Mount Zion which cannot be moved.

**People: As the hills surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord encircles the people of God.**

Leader: The wicked shall not long hold sway over a land
populated by the just.

**People: Those who are true to God
will not soon turn their hands to evil.**

Leader: Show your goodness, O Lord, to all who are true of heart.

**People: Lead away evil doers into exile, O God,
but may peace remain upon your people.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

***HYMN 461 God Is Here!**

Abbot's Leigh

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all the world and all our lives, hear us now as we come before you to confess our sins. They come in many forms. They rob our health and happiness. They separate us from you and one another. Forgive us for our lack of faith in you and your promises. Our lack of faith has either paralyzed us from doing your will or made us think everything depends on us. Refocus our lives. Rekindle our love. Renew our strength. In the name and for the sake of Jesus we pray.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE (#195 in the Hymnal)

The hymn will be sung by the soloist first, then by the congregation.



ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

Response: And also with you.

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

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.

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING FROM SCRIPTURE James 2: 1-10; 14-18 (N.T., pp. 229-30)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(9:30) BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

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

Children’s Litany

Leader: When it’s the night before going to school, and I’m picking out my clothes and making sure I have all my school supplies ...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: When I’m waking up and eating a healthy breakfast to start the day...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: When I’m getting on the school bus or being driven to school...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: When I meet my teachers and new friends in my class...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: When I’m playing with my friends at recess...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: When I’m finding the right school bus to ride home...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: When I’m telling my family about my day at school...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: When I’m praying at night and thanking God for my family, my friends and my school...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Leader: Let’s pray together:

All: Thank you, Jesus, for always being by my side. I know that if I get nervous or afraid, you will be there with me. When I see the cross on my backpack, I will remember that you are always with me. I know that I can talk with you any time – day or night – and for that I am so thankful. I pray this all in your name. Amen.

Congregational Litany

Leader: O Holy God, the time is come when school begins. As these your children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry the books and note books, markers and pens and pencils they will use to learn. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, all school administrators that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you – in our church school classes, our 2:42 program, all our classes for youth and students and adult learners. Grant that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: And bless, O God, these our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture at their baptism. Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer. .

Leader: Bless, O God, these backpacks and the children who carry them. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer. Amen.

SERMON

RESPONDING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

(9:30) SOLO At the River

arr. Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the the throne of God. Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease, soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God, that flows by the throne of God.

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:



Musical score for three voices. The first staff is marked 'Moderate (♩ = c. 100) f' and contains the lyrics 'Ha - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,'. The second staff is marked 'faster (♩ = c. 112)' and contains the lyrics 'God of power and maj - es - ty, heaven and earth are'. The third staff contains the lyrics 'full of your glo - ry, O God most high!'. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

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 (by Intinction)

All communion chalices for pew communion contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Worshipers are invited to come forward by the center aisle. Intinction stations are located in front of the chancel and half way down the center aisle. For intinction, take a wafer of bread and dip it in the chalice, then partake. Return to your seat by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward, an elder or deacon will serve you in your seat. Please signify to your server if you would like a gluten-free wafer.

(9:30) **COMMUNION MUSIC** Abide with Us, Dear Savior *Winston Cassler*
Abide with us, dear Savior, sustain us by thy word; that we with all thy people to life may be restored. Abide with us, dear Savior, Thou Light of endless light; increase to us thy blessings, and save us by thy might. To Father, Son, and Spirit, Eternal One in Three, as was, and is forever, all praise and glory be. Amen.

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 415 Come, Labor On**

Ora Labora

*BENEDICTION

(9:30) VOLUNTARY

Choral Song

Samuel Wesley

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. (the 5:45@11:00) worship services is the Reverend Brewster H. Gere.

PARTICIPATING in the worship services is the Reverend Jim Monnett at 8:00 a.m., the Reverends Lawrence W. Farris and Melissa Anne Rogers at 9:30 a.m., and the Reverends Lawrence W. Farris, Julie Marks, and Matthew Nickel at the 5:45@11:00 a.m.

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

THE ORGANIST is Susan Boggs.

THE SOLOIST is Dorian Hall, baritone

THE READERS are Rudi Ansbacher at 8:00 a.m. and Jennifer Griggs at 9:30 a.m.

THE GREETERS at 9:30 a.m. are Cathy, Steve, and Ian McKenny and Peggy Jensen.

THE PRAYER TEAM MEMBERS are Malcolm Powers and Rob Bauman.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Elizabeth Taylor Blair Calhoun by her family and friends.

THE ROSEBUD WELCOMES Linus Lindborg Austin, born August 28, 2009, son of Olga and Todd Austin.

We resume our fall worship schedule next Sunday, September 13, with services and Communion at 8:00 and 5:45 p.m. in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Today's Events

FAMILY WORSHIP AND COMMUNION: Worship at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. (the 5:45@ 11:00) is in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 a.m. is in the Sanctuary.

CHILDCARE is provided for crib through 4-year-olds at 9:30 a.m. Parents may be asked to present a picture I.D. when they pick up their children.

PLEASE ATTEND A WELCOME RECEPTION for the Reverend Lawrence W. Farris, our new Interim Pastor, and his wife Pat at coffee hour on the terrace (weather permitting), or in the Social Hall, after the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S NEXT HOST WEEK AT ALPHA HOUSE, Washtenaw County's family shelter located on Jackson Road, is September 14-20. Please save the date! The Alpha House committee needs volunteers to sign up for evening or weekend babysitting, meal making and overnight stays. Look for our sign-up poster in the Social Hall or Welcome Center, or contact Nancy Vander Kuyl (nanspan@gmail.com, 741-1814) or Lucie Audette (laudette125@hotmail.com, 998-0152).

FIRST SINGLES meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Curtis Room for conversation.

THE FALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FOOD DRIVE will be conducted August 30 through September 13, and food collection boxes will be located outside the Church Office and at the Welcome Center. Please donate items such as peanut butter and other protein items, less sugary cereals, and any extra non-perishable items (not outdated) you might have.

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

Announcements

FALL SEMESTER OF SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13. Crib through 5th grade church school will be held at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday school will begin with Munch & Mingle in Monteith Hall at 9:20 a.m. If you are uncertain what room your child's class is meeting in, please pick up a current list of Sunday school classroom assignments at the Welcome Center. **Parents:** If you have not yet registered your child for Sunday School, please pick up the new Sunday School Information Form in the church office or at the Welcome Center, fill it out and return it today.

YOUTH NEWS: Sixth through Eighth Graders - MIDS returns on Wednesday, September 16, at 5:00 p.m. Gather in the Youth Room for Bible Study, great games, and lots of fun. **Wednesday 2:42** returns September 30. **MIDS in the House**, three hours of fun, happens Friday, September 19. RSVP to Rev. Jim Monnett soon. Friends are welcome (a Consent Release is required).

High Schoolers - Keys vs Parents happens Sunday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. Come for a potluck and Pentathlon of Events. Bring a dish to share: those with last names beginning with A-G bring a main dish; H-O bring a dessert; and P-Z, bring a salad or side dish. Drinks and table service are provided. RSVP to Rev. Jim Monnett. **Keystones** meets weekly on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m., starting September 20. **The Pittsburgh Project** is filled. More slots may be added. Get your name on the wait list by contacting Rev. Jim Monnett at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org.

JOIN US FOR SATURDAY SUPPERS ON OCTOBER 3. Sign up at coffee hour from September 6 to September 27. Let us know how many are coming, if you would be interested in being a host home, and if you will have children with you. On October 3, you'll meet at a "host" house (the host provides the main dish). Each family, couple, or individual brings a side, dessert, or salad. For more information, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers (662-4466, ext. 12, or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) or Sara Vander Voort (saravoort@sbcglobal.net).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN EVENTS:

The Horizons Circle tour of the new addition to the U of M Art Museum has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

On Sunday, September 13, at 11:00 a.m., Dr. Mary Mikhael, president of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, will introduce study guide of the book of Joshua. Dr. Mikhael authored the study guide that will be used for the Horizons 2009-2010 Bible study.

Women's Reading Group will meet on Wednesday, September 9, at 1:00 p.m., at the home of Robyn Robeson, 5 Westbury Ct. The book chosen for this year is *Middle 19th Century Classic Collection on Prayer*, by E. M. Bounds.

Body and Soul, the exercise group led by Marie Moore and Nancy Heers, resumes meeting on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Curtis Room on September 14.

The September PW Gathering begins Wednesday, September 16, at 9:15 a.m. in the French Room/Library, with the Bible study of Joshua. At 10:45 a.m. the group will move to Monteith Hall for the program "Getting to Know You," with the new Lilly Residents Jenny McDevitt, Matthew Nickel, and

Sarah Wiles. Lunch will be served at noon in the Social Hall. Please make lunch reservations by calling 761-1460 by Sunday, September 13.

CALL FOR COOKIES TO WELCOME UM STUDENTS! On September 10, we will welcome new students to the university and invite them to get involved with Campus Ministry at UM's annual Festifall. We would like to bring a taste of home to these students by delivering cookies to their dorm rooms, and we need your help! Please make as many cookies (nut-free, please) as you like, and package them by placing them in small sandwich bags, three cookies per bag. Deliver them to the Founders Room kitchen on Wednesday, September 9. Questions? Contact Rev. Julie Marks at 662-4466, ext. 14, or jmarks@firstpresbyterian.org.

HILLTOPPERS SEPTEMBER KICK OFF EQUALS BIG LAUGHTER! On September 10, get ready to laugh! We welcome Paul Koniarz, certified world laughter specialist, who will lead us in "The Laughter Factor: Therapeutic Laughter." Learn and enjoy how laughter can benefit your mind, body and spirit. The program's motto is to "create better health, one laugh at a time." The program will begin at noon and lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. Sign up in the Church Office by September 8 at 10:00 a.m.

LOVE TO KNIT? WANT TO LEARN? JOIN US FOR KNIT NIGHT on Friday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Curtis Room. All knitters, regardless of experience, are welcome. The group knits prayer shawls and baby blankets. Questions? Contact Georgia Goodman, 995-5294.

RAISING OR MINISTERING TO TEENS OR COLLEGE STUDENTS? On Friday, September 11, Campus Ministry and the Youth Education and Ministries Committee will sponsor a seminar entitled "HURT: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers," presented by Chap Clark, Ph.D., at First Presbyterian Church in Monteith Hall, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$10. Pre-registration is required. Call the Church Office at 662-4466, to make your reservation.

ADULT EDUCATION FALL SEMESTER BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13:

At 9:30 a.m. in the French Room/Library, Ed Koster continues his in-depth discussion of the Bible. The class provides the opportunity to raise questions and discuss everything including history, theology, politics, the church, faith, doubt, and more. Everyone is welcome to attend!

At 11:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room, the Adult Education Committee will preview the Fall 2009 semester offerings.

COME TO THE ABIDE ACTIVITY FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 13! Tables will be set up outside (weather permitting) or in the Social Hall (weather not permitting) and manned by representatives from church committees, groups, and programs. Stroll through the exhibits, ask questions, meet people, and sign up for volunteer opportunities!

THE FIRST PRES CHURCH ORCHESTRA BEGINS REHEARSALS on Sunday, September 13, at 4:00 p.m., in the Youth Room. Players of varying skill levels and ages are welcome! Interested in finding out more? Contact Gerry Leckrone, director, at 971-3103, or gerryleckrone@yahoo.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES RESUMES on Monday, September 14. The congregation is invited to attend the presentation, "Anger Management: A Follow-up," by Lisa Pasbjerg, LMSW, DCSW, CMC, from 7:05 to 7:45 p.m., in the Youth Room.

MOTHERS' MORNING DATE CORRECTION: Mothers' Morning will meet Tuesday, September 15, in the Youth Room. (The group generally meets the second Tuesday of each month, but we are moving to the third Tuesday in September in consideration of the first day of school.) Child check-in begins at 9:00 a.m., and our "Getting to Know You" program will start at 9:30 a.m. New members are welcome! Cost for the semester is just \$10, or \$3 per individual meeting. Questions? Contact Carolyn Gehrke at 572-5832, gehrkecj@hotmail.com, or Nancy Meyers at 677-7763, nmeyers@comcast.net.

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 September 7 - 12

MONDAY:

Labor Day - Building is closed.

TUESDAY:

Prayer Group, 7:30 a.m., Founders Room
Endowment Committee, 4:30 p.m., Vance Room
Congregational Self-study Group, 7:00 p.m., Founders Room
Campus Ministry Mid-week Worship, 9:00 p.m., away

WEDNESDAY:

PW Reading Group, 1:00 p.m., away
Wednesday Night Meal, 3:00-7:15 p.m. (volunteers),
5:30 (meal), Delonis Center
Praying the Psalms, 5:00 p.m., Lewis Room
4-year-olds Worship Center Orientation, 6:00 p.m., Rooms 202 & 400

THURSDAY:

U - M Festifall, 10:00 a.m., UM Diag
Hilltoppers, noon, Social Hall
Adapted Exercise, 3:00 p.m., Curtis/Founders Room
4-year-olds Worship Center Orientation, 6:00 p.m., Rooms 202 & 400
Executive Deacons, 7:00 p.m., Founders Room
Executive Session, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Russel Room
Adult Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., French Room/Library

FRIDAY:

Moms' Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Founders Room
Prayer/Study Group, 9:00 a.m., away
Triangle Clean Up, 6:00 p.m., Rooms 200 & 201
HURT Seminar, 7:00 p.m., Monteith Hall/Sanctuary
Knit Night, 7:30 p.m., away

SATURDAY:

UM vs Notre Dame, Home Game, Visit Booth 38!
Triangle Clean Up, 9:00 a.m., Rooms 200 & 201
4-year-olds Worship Center Orientation, 9:30 p.m., Rooms 202 & 400



*A Stephen Ministry
Congregation*

The staff members at First Presbyterian Church are the Reverend Lawrence W. Farris, Interim Pastor; the Reverend Dr. Budge Gere, Executive Associate Pastor, Coordinator of the Lilly Residency Program; the Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Director of Pastoral Care; Lilly Resident Ministers Jenny McDevitt, Sarah Wiles, and the Reverend Matthew Nickel; Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries; the Reverend Jim Monnett, Director of Youth Ministry; the Reverend Julie Marks, Director of Campus Ministry; Susan Boggs, Music Director; Carol Muehlig, Associate Music Director/Organist; and Martine Blogin, Parish Nurse.