



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

JULY 30, 2017

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP
9:30 a.m.

🌿 Gathering 🌿

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Fair

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: If God is for us, who can be against us?

All: Nothing can separate us from God's love.

One: Come, let us worship God.

* HYMN

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

**God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.**

**We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.**

**As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.**

**God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.**

Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the fertile fields, you love us so much that you sent Christ to make us one. Yet we forget what's really important. We are poor stewards of your kingdom, we ignore your bounteous hand, and we are so scattered we forget what's really important. Forgive us, we pray. We call on you to help us conquer our sins. May we conquer hate, conquer insecurities, conquer apathy, and conquer injustice. May we conquer them through the love Jesus has shown us through his life, death, and resurrection. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Please share the peace we experience as forgiven people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

 **Proclaiming** 

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Annette Fraser

FIRST READING Romans 8:26-39

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Children through grade five are invited forward.

SECOND READING Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

SERMON

*Words of Leaving
Words of Sending*

Rev. Ryo
Rev. Sanderford
Paul and Carol Smith

 **Responding** 

* **HYMN**

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

WELCOME

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others sitting nearby.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

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; and 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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

WALK WITH ME

**I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

* Please rise in body or spirit.

Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in **bold type**. Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers.

Welcome to all! Please know that all, including visitors and newcomers, are invited to share in the life of the church. A full description of church events may be found online at www.firstpresbyterian.org. If you have questions, please visit the **Welcome Center**, just outside the Social Hall. Greeting you there today are Jim Dickinson and Judy Slade. **The Church Office** is staffed by Robin Agnew. **Greeters** are Georgia and Paul Goodman and Carolyn Schultz at 9:30 a.m.; and Carole and George Hendrickson and David and Carol Downton at 11:00 a.m. **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Diane Knibbs at 8:00 a.m.; Bill Austin (head), Carter Hodgson (captain), Peggy Hodgson, Cindy Andress, Jessica Matczak, and Duane Locke at 9:30 a.m.; and Bill Austin (head) and Ralph Winter at 11:00 a.m.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in the Vance Room after the 9:30 a.m. service. Following the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services a minister or prayer team member is available for prayer at the Communion Table. **Prayer team members** are Carol Gottliebson and Tom Brandt (9:30) and Pat Gilbreath and Deborah Campbell (11:00). "Go where your best prayers take you."

— Frederick Buechner

The flowers are given by Susan Plesscher Chandler in loving memory of her father and brother, William H. Plesscher, M.D. and William H. Plesscher, Jr.

Musical leadership is provided by Rachel Barg and Doris Granum, soloists, and Laura Stahl, violin (11:00).

TODAY'S EVENTS

Worship is at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall and at 9:30 a.m. outside on the Front Lawn (weather permitting). **Radio Worship is broadcast at 11:00 a.m.**, on WAAM (1600 AM) and on the web (www.waamradio.com).

Join us for Coffee Hour outside (weather permitting) on the Circle Terrace immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are Carol German, Beth Caldwell, Linda Lampman, and Sheryl Powell. **Fresh fruit** is provided by Judy Landau and Carole Hendrickson. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children.

During Coffee Hour today we celebrate Rev. Angela Ryo. Rev. Ryo has accepted a call as Assistant Pastor for Christian Formation at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Children's Ministry Opportunities:

Childcare is available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. **A combined Sunday School class** is offered for children, grades K-5, at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Ministry Opportunities:

ConnectEd Conversations are at 10:45 a.m. in the Curtis and Founders Rooms. Along with the day's scripture readings, our summer reads around justice, mercy, and humility will be the foundation for this time of casual conversation and reflection. All are welcome!

T2A2 Small Group meets at 7:00 p.m. at Chris Wahl's house. Wherever you are in your faith, we invite all in their twenties and thirties to come and build community with us. Contact Chris Wahl (cgwahl@umich.edu) for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Finance Office will be closed until Monday, August 7.

Communion Food Collection is next Sunday. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Please bring food donations or financial contributions for the Hunger Ministries Program of the Presbytery of Detroit.

Opportunities to serve abound! Would you be willing to serve as an usher for worship at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m.? Or as a substitute usher? Ushers typically serve on a team that serves three months out of the year. Training is provided. Contact Rev. Rogers if you would consider serving.

Are you interested in walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain in October of 2018 or the Via Francigena in Italy in May of 2018 (women only)? It is possible that pilgrimages to these ancient routes will take place if enough interest is generated. The last 100 kilometers of each walk is the goal for our pilgrims. Contact Rev. Rogers to express interest and get more details.

Mature Singles (single men and women over age 60) meet this Friday, August 4, 5:30 p.m., at Olive Garden, 445 East Eisenhower Parkway. All are welcome.

We invite you to take part in the “Adventures of Flat Jesus” this summer. Complete instructions are available on our website.

Join a Small Group this summer on Sunday nights in August.

More information is available in the Church Office and online. Let's journey together this summer toward mercy, justice, and walking humbly with God!

Our “First Pres Summer Reads” series includes three remarkable books, available for purchase in the Church Office, which reflect the themes of mercy, justice, and humility. Our August book is *Reaching Out* by Henri Nouwen (\$10).

Keeping in step with our summer theme of “Walking With Jesus,” we invite you to pick one of four historic walks and organize with others to pool your miles. Learn the reasons behind a selected walk, and ponder where you might find Jesus along the road. If you have completed a walk, please stop by the table at Coffee Hour for your prize.

You are invited to be a participant in a Silent Retreat, led by Rev. Annette Fraser, September 22–23. The retreat, sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee, will last twenty-four hours. Held at the St. Augustine House in Oxford, Michigan, this retreat is limited to six individuals (no couples). Cost for lodging and food is \$45 per person. The retreat center, a monastery of 6 Lutheran monks, includes sixteen acres of woods and trails. Embracing total silence, there will be no phones, tapes, or books. There will be you, silence, a Bible, a notebook, and God! All meals, a guide, and clear expectations will be provided. Contact Annette (nnttfraser@gmail.com or 358-9163), or Rev. Rogers for more information. There will be a second retreat in May.

Please contact the Church Office for the following:

- order a First Pres name tag (\$8 for either a magnetic or clip style)
- request to have your child baptized
- inform us of any changes to your basic contact information
- let us know if you are hospitalized
- purchase a bag of Fair Trade coffee (\$12) for use at home

First Pres Kids Read!

Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey

Written by Margaret Ruurs. Translated by Falah Raheem.



Summary: Rama heard the rooster crow and awakened to a world of abundant breakfast, happy play, and time for shared stories. But then war came and people began to leave. When the bombs came too close, Rama and her family left also. They said good-bye to the place that they called home. They joined a river of people and walked and walked, then crossed the water and walked some more. Rama and her family were welcomed by people who shared what they had, and new dreams of peace seemed possible.

Questions for parents and kids:

1. Rama's family left their home. Imagine leaving home with only what you can carry. What would you take? What would you have to leave?
2. Rama's family is welcomed to a new home. Have you ever welcomed a new person or a new family?
3. How does the Bible tell us to welcome those who are new?
4. This story is illustrated with the artwork of Nizar Ali Badr. Are stones a good way to tell the story of Rama and her family? Why or why not?

Please contact Debbie MacVey if you would like to see a copy of this book.

"Be fair, be kind and walk with God" is our children's summer reading theme.

– from Micah 6:8

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

Carol Muehlig, Organist and Handbell Director

Resident Ministers:

Reverend Daniel Ervin

Reverend Angela Ryo

Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse

Youth Interns:

David Endicott, Claudia Morville,

Sean Tichenor, and Abby Wilson



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