

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020



Sanctuary: Mishkan by Laurie Wohl



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

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 or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

The Call to Worship is a reminder to us that God is not distant or sleeping. God is not playing hard to get, and we are not on God's last nerve. The Divine Presence, the Creator, the Sovereign over all the earth, calls us to gather. In coming together, we meet the Triune God. The Lord promises to be there with us.

Hear those words not just as a welcome and a signal that the service is underway. Hear them as a reminder of the promise that God is near to God's people and always will be. The Three-in-One, the One-in-Three is in the room, whatever room we are in!

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY

The God of Abraham Praise

Isadore Freed

As the voluntary begins, let the time and the music help to center you for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When we asked who had heard our cries and understood our affliction,

All: God said, "I am who I am – I know your suffering, and I will lead you onward."

One: When we asked who could bear our griefs and carry our sorrows,

All: Jesus said, "The Son of Man will know death, but will rise to life again."

One: When we wondered how to pray from the midst of our struggles,

All: The Spirit interceded for us with sighs too deep for words.

One: O God – You have known us, heard us, healed us and set us free.

All: Now our journey beckons us onward.

Teach us who we are. Show us where we are going.

And put a song of praise on our lips while we are getting there.

HYMN 49

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

This hymn is found on the preceeding page of this bulletin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, though most of us have lived most of our lives
in safety and comfort,**

still we know the reality of bondage:

**we have allowed our desire for comfort to entrap us in materialism;
we have hedged our disagreements with anger that hints at violence;
we have caged our days with busyness that crowds out compassion.**

**Too seldom we have let our choices be honed by the cries
of those around us afflicted by discrimination, poverty, and despair.**

**Too often we have chosen to serve our own needs
over the needs of the common good.**

**Most of all, we have indentured ourselves to the certainty
that we cannot change these things about our world.**

As we confess our captivity to all that comes

between our choices and Your will,

**free us from the skepticism with which we view the prospect
of true freedom –**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 3:1–15

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16:13–20

The grass withers; the flower fades—

the word of our God endures forever.

SERMON

“Who Am I?”

RESPONDING AND SEALING

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Benjamin and Allison Tatum present their son, Griffin Russell Ryan Tatum, born November 3, 2019, for baptism.

Affirmation of Faith The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water and Baptism

The new paraments on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table were made by Alberta Irwin. Berta is a quilter from Atlanta, Georgia, and a friend of Dave VanderMeer.

The Prayer for Illumination turns our attention to God to ask that we hear God’s word in order to better know God’s will for our lives.

Today’s reader is Tara Shantz.

Griffin Russell Ryan Tatum was baptized on the Circle Terrace at First Presbyterian on Saturday, August 29, 2020, in the company of his close family, including three sets of grandparents. Virginia Rezmierski, Griffin's great-grandmother, served as the representative of the Session and the First Presbyterian congregation. Baptism is ordinarily conducted within a worship service, but a special ruling by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) permits the sacrament to be recorded in small gatherings that can then be included digitally in a worship service.

Hymn 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM

Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
 a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Moses

Ken Medema

Old Moses, 'way back there in the wilderness,
 saw some smoke, came to the bush, and the bush was burnin'.

God said, "Take off your shoes, Moses, you're on holy ground.

Moses, I've chosen you to be my man,

Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land.

Moses, I've chosen you to work for me,

Moses, I've chosen you to set my people free!"

"Not me, Lord!

Don't you know I can't talk so good;

I stutter all the time.

Do you know my brother, Aaron?

He can sing like an angel,

Talk like a preacher.

Not me, Lord!

I can't talk so good.

And another thing,

"How will they know that I've been here with you?

How will they know what you've sent me to do?

Don't you know that in Egypt, they want little Moses' head?

Don't you know that in Egypt, they want little Moses dead?

Don't you know they'll never hear a single word I'll say!

Maybe you'd get your dirty work done another way!

Not me, Lord!"

“What’s that in your hand, Moses?”

“It’s just a rod.”

“Throw it down, Moses.”

“Do you mean, like, on the ground?”

“Yes, I said, throw it down, Moses.”

“Lord, don’t take my rod away from me,
Don’t you know it’s my only security?
Don’t you know when you live here all alone,
A man’s gotta have something he can call his own;
Not me, Lord!”

“Throw it down, Moses.”

“But, Lord, I ...”

“Throw it down, Moses.”

“But ...”

“Throw it down, Moses.”

Moses throw the rod on the ground
And the rod became a hissing snake!

Well, Moses started runnin’.

Well, maybe you’d run.

You’d run.

Well, maybe I’d run.

I’d run.

He was a-runnin’ from a hot rod!

Runnin’ from a hissing snake!

Runnin’ scared of what God’s gonna do!

Runnin’ scared He’ll get a hold of you!

And the Lord said,

“Stop, Pick it up, Moses, by the tail!”

“Lord, you have not lived here very long!

Lord, you’ve got the whole thing wrong!

Don’t you know that you never pick up a hissing snake by his ...”

“Pick it up, Moses!”

Oh, God, it’s a rod again, it’s a rod again, it’s a rod again!

“Do you know what it means, Moses?

Do you know what I’m trying to say, Moses?

The rod of Moses became the rod of God!

With the rod of God, strike the rock and the water will come;

With the rod of God, part the waters of the sea;

With the rod of God, you can strike old Pharaoh dead;

With the rod of God, you can set the people free.”

What do you hold in your hand today?

To what or to whom are you bound?

Are you willing to give it to God right now?

Give it up, Give it up, let it go, let it go,

Throw it down.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.

Though circumstances prevent us from passing an offering plate, they also require that we not take a pass on doing what we can to keep our ministries healthy during this crisis. 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. (Call Finance Manager Anna Miller if you need assistance.)



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.

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping 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/2Rliq2l>

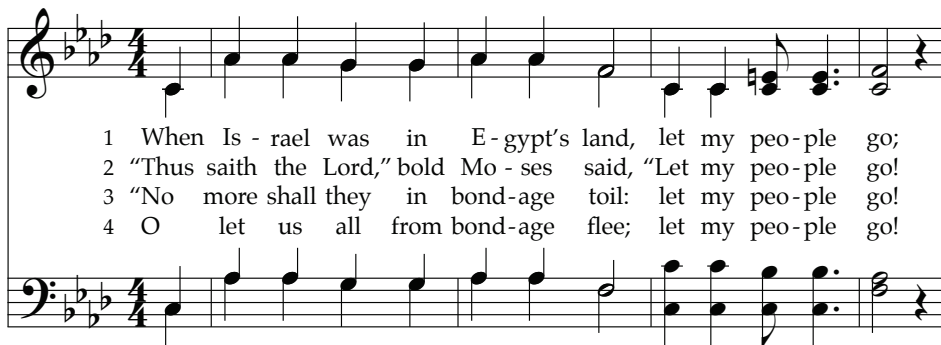
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SENDING

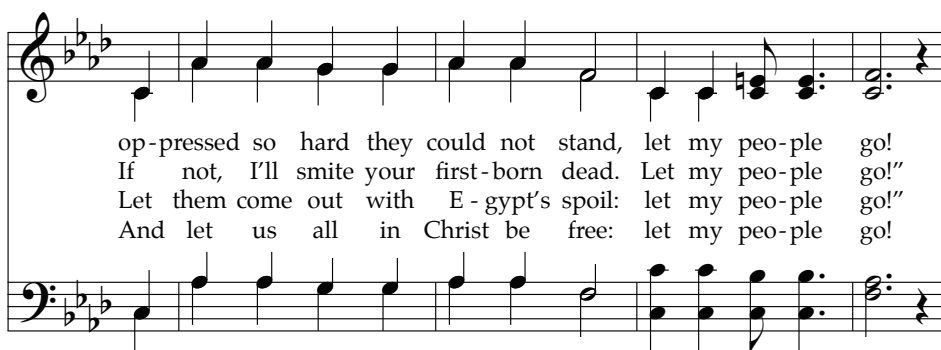
HYMN 52

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

GO DOWN MOSES

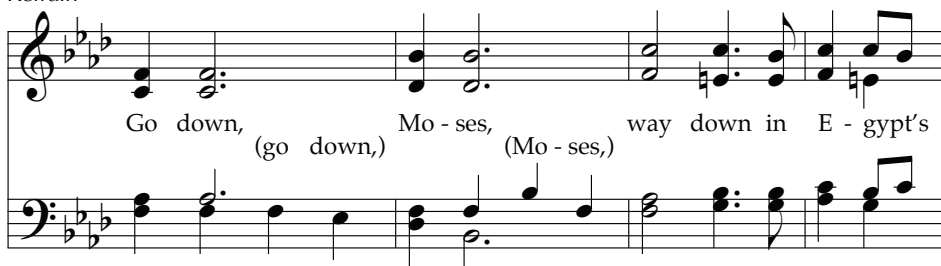


1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo - ple go;
2 "Thus saith the Lord," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo - ple go!
3 "No more shall they in bond - age toil: let my peo - ple go!
4 O let us all from bond - age flee; let my peo - ple go!

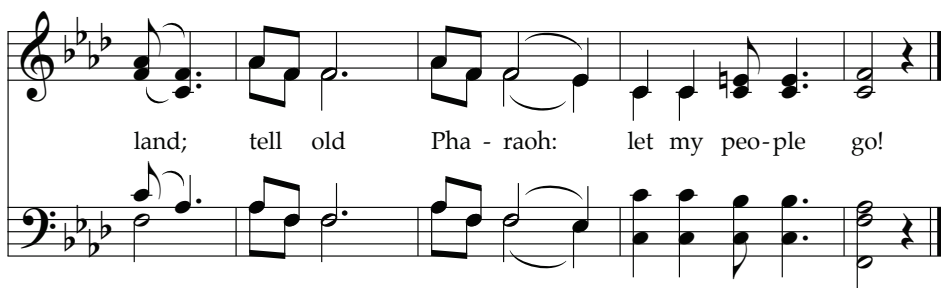


op-pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo - ple go!
If not, I'll smite your first-born dead. Let my peo - ple go!"
Let them come out with E - gypt's spoil: let my peo - ple go!"
And let us all in Christ be free: let my peo - ple go!

Refrain



Go down, (go down,) Mo - ses, (Mo - ses,) way down in E - gypt's



land; tell old Pha - raoh: let my peo - ple go!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE



For all the writ-ings that sur-vived, for lead-ers, long a - go, who
sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know, give
thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom - ise, strength, and call, the
mod - el of e - merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 50, *Deep in the Shadows of the Past* (KINGFOLD).

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata on "Leonie"

Seth Bingham

A meeting of the congregation has been called by Session for Sunday, September 20, at 11:00 a.m., for the purpose of electing church officers – elders and deacons – for the Class of 2023 and for electing the 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. To join the meeting, use the button found on the home page of our website (www.firstpresbyterian.org).

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Melissa Anne Rogers; Liturgists – Khayla Johnson and Evans McGowan; Baptism Liturgist – Jay Sanderford; Children’s Message – Mark Mares; Preacher – Rick Spalding; Soloists – Ken Medema, Lorna Hildebrandt, Heidi Hess-Willis, David Magumba, and Benton DeGroot; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler



A word about our fall theme, “Getting There Together” —

This fall begins a new season of our life together. In our church we’re on our way to meet a new leader, to begin a new chapter of ministry, to discover new ways of rising to the challenges of a protracted pandemic. In our society we’re on our way through a season of polarization in politics and policy, vulnerability in public health, soul-searching and accountability for our values of justice, equity, liberty. During these coming weeks we’ll turn for guidance to the book of Exodus — the story of the long journey of the people Israel as God responds to their anguish, leads them out of bondage, and accompanies them through crises of identity and faith and communal life to a new threshold. And we’ll be leaning on the company of Jesus, particularly in the latter chapters of the gospel of Matthew. Like us, the exodus people are on their way toward life in a promising future; but the process of getting there will help them, and us, learn how to live when they get where they hope they’re going.

Today’s cover art, *Sanctuary: Mishkan*, is from Jewish fiber artist Laurie Wohl of New York City.

Laurie is internationally known for her unique Unweavings©, liturgical projects, and interfaith message.

The message across the top of this piece is from the Talmud:

Know before whom you stand
Da Lifnay mi atah omayd

The message around and within the circle is from Psalm 19:15:

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, Adonai,
my rock and my redeemer
Yihyu lerasown ‘imre fi vhiyiyon libbi lifanecha Adonai suri v’goali

The message across the bottom is from Exodus 25:8:

Let them build me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them
V’asu li miqdash v’sacanti btokam

The circle signifies wholeness and the royal colors are suggested by verses in Exodus.

Special music today is written and performed by Ken Medema, a renowned singer-songwriter

from Grand Rapids. For four decades, Ken has inspired people through storytelling and music. Though almost blind from birth, he sees and hears with heart and mind. While his eyesight is limited to sensing dark from light and outlines of large objects, Ken’s ability to capture spirit in word and song is unparalleled. “As a kid I was not widely accepted,” he says, “and I spent a lot of time by myself. Because I have lived with some degree of being different all my life, I have some sympathy for people who have been disenfranchised, whether they have been disabled or politically oppressed or whatever.”

A prayer team is available to those who would like prayer either before or after this service.

On Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and at noon you may enter the prayer room by clicking on this link —

<https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/prayer-team>. Prayer team volunteers are Katie Parker and Michele Derr (9:00) and Cyndy Colton (noon). “Prayer admits and voices dependence upon the only One who is the ultimate source of help and strength.” — Stephen Olford

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary. For the first 20–30 minutes, we have group conversation, and then we split into small groups. Around 11:15, Coffee Hour conversations end. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Rogers. **Special guests today at Coffee Hour are some of our Deacons and Stephen Ministers. Today’s conversation prompt:** A new theme for worship this fall begins today: *Getting There Together*. Where do you think we’re going, as a church? Click here to enter Coffee Hour: <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. Julian Hoff by his wife Diane and their family; in loving memory of Taylor Elizabeth-Blair Calhoun by her family and friends; and in honor of Helen Emmons on her 100th birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Our Future Together! An essential part of calling a new Lead Pastor is seeking input from the congregation. A survey has been sent to members and friends of FPC. This represents the biggest opportunity you will have for input to the report of the Self Study Group that will, in turn, shape the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee – so your responses are very important in helping to determine the future of our church. The survey will close on September 28.



TODAY

Join us for the second of six Sunday-Fundays today!

We miss seeing you! While our Fall Kickoff at First Pres is different from that of other years, it is still fun and informative. Please join us for this safe, socially distanced Sunday Celebration!

September 13 Drive-through Kickoff Celebration

Drop by between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and stay safely in your car as you drive through the First Pres campus, stopping at various stations where you will be greeted by staff and members of the Congregational Life and Christian Formation Committees. There will be free First Pres t-shirts for the first 200 people and informational brochures about Christian Formation classes for all ages. You won't want to miss the "Peeps Live" station where you will have the opportunity to get out of your car briefly for a special photograph. You'll do a slow drive to enjoy special live music (the group *Nessa*, led by Kelly McDermott and Rob Frazier) before receiving a blessing from the pastoral staff. Final stop? "Coffee Hour," of course! You'll be offered an individually wrapped Washtenaw Dairy donut to enjoy on your ride home.

Our congregation wishes Helen Emmons a happy 100th birthday on September 16. Cards may be sent to her at 2840 S Main St, Apt 1302, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-5843. Helen is a long-time member who joined in 1978, and was always at our 8:00 a.m. service of worship before the pandemic. Happy birthday, Helen!

Have you missed your Fair Trade coffee? Pre-orders will be taken online and by phone (662-4466) through today, September 13, for bags of either whole bean or ground coffee in our three best-selling varieties: Love Buzz, Breakfast Blend, and Mind, Body and Soul. Each bag is \$12. Payment must be received before we place our order tomorrow, September 14. Coffee may be picked up during our Drive-through Stewardship & Mission Kickoff Celebration on Sunday, September 27, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and beginning Monday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at church.

Welcome Back College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday @ 12:15 p.m. there are in-person, socially-distant college lunches outside on the Circle Terrace. Each Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m. there are small group opportunities, both in-person and virtually. Please contact Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Origami Peace Cranes are to be returned to the church by October 15.

Presbyterian Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact Ginny (virginibell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Outdoor Worship is Here! After an initial pilot phase, a Sunday Outdoor Worship Service at First Pres is now available for up to 50 people. Each attendee will need to sign-up ahead of time, agree they are not having COVID-19 symptoms or were not exposed to anyone testing positive for COVID-19, wear a mask, maintain social distance, and bring their own chair or blanket for seating. It is safer to continue to worship with us online; however, we welcome those willing to take this calculated risk. Look for the online sign-up each week with further information. Contact Rev. Evans McGowan (emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org) with any questions.

Everything about our response to Covid 19 can be found on our website and Facebook page. If you are not on our weekly email list and want to receive updates, subscribe at our website.

If you are struggling or concerned and would like pastoral care, please call the Church Office, email Rev. Rogers, or submit your prayer request online. The Prayer Chain is actively praying for all prayer requests, lifting up joys as well as concerns.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time. Mark can be reached at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

Youth Group Zoom Kickoff today @ 7:00 p.m.!

TODAY

Our first gathering of the 2020–2021 year begins online via Zoom. Join us for some games, laughter, and hear about our plans for the Fall semester. Contact Rev. Mark at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry, is on family leave following the birth of her daughter. Please contact Diane Hockett (hockett@umich.edu), Chair of the Christian Formation Committee, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families.

God's Garden of Love Care Sign Up — Tuesday & Friday mornings We encourage families to sign up for one or two days of garden care (while practicing safe social distancing) throughout the summer. This will include watering, pulling weeds, and checking plants and produce as they grow. Not sure what to do? Help is available. Beca Torres-Davenport and a garden team will provide support as needed. Produce from the garden is being donated to local food shelters, pantries, and food-insecure community members. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaf2daa8-first3>

Children's Choir News. The Children's Choir is open to all children in kindergarten through sixth grade. They will meet virtually on Sundays,

TODAY

10:30–10:55 a.m., to sing, move, create, play instruments, and act. The choir will sing one hymn per month to help young singers have a greater knowledge and understanding of our rich hymnody. Additionally, the choir will explore ways to safely contribute music to our church services. Director Kellie McInchak looks forward to "seeing" you today, September 13, as we kick off Children's Choir virtually for the 2020–2021 school year. Zoom information is available by contacting Kellie (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org).

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Explore *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. Join the final class, led by the Rev. Ed Koster, via Zoom this Tuesday, September 15, at 11:00 a.m. Information about class registration is found on our website. Join the class via this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848544695>

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom this fall on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Rev. Frazier (afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org).

Exploring the Faith kicks off the fall season next Sunday, September 20, at 12:15 p.m., via Zoom. Join us September 20 and 27 for "Racism & White Privilege: A Theological Introduction to Racism."

CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Tea with the Residents! Join us every Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. via Facebook Live for a cup of tea and conversation. This time together includes prayer, a brief check-in, and a bit of conversation.

Deacons will deliver home communion kits in October. If you would like a kit for World Communion Sunday, October 4, please indicate on the friendship pad or contact your Deacon. Call the Church Office to learn your Deacon's name if you are unsure.

Sanctus Ringers (College-age & adults who are experienced ringers) rehearsals will begin in-person tomorrow, Monday, September 14, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Face masks must be worn and socially-distanced tables for each ringer will be provided. We will also be ringing on our new five-octave set of handbells! For more information, please contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org).

TOMORROW

Our Stephen Ministers invite you to deepen our culture of compassion at First Pres by learning about grief and loss along with us. These presentations are online, using Zoom, and last one hour. Please contact Rev. Rogers for the Zoom link (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.)

September 14, 7:00 p.m. — "Thoughts on Approaching Spiritual Care Support for Terminally Ill Patients, Their Families, and Others During this Time of COVID-19." This presentation by Rev. Diane Smith, MDiv, BCC, will focus on grief as it is impacted by COVID-19.

TOMORROW

October 12, 7:00 p.m. — Kathryn Cospers, author of *The Defense Rests*, will speak about loss and grief and thoughts on caregiving. If you are interested in reading her book ahead of time you may order it via Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Defense-Rests-Lessons-Learned-Through/dp/1732995869>) or your local bookstore. The church office will not be ordering the books.

Enjoy an Outdoor Labyrinth Walk on Sunday, September 27 and Sunday, November 1. You are invited to participate in this spiritual practice in the field behind the home of Kurt and Kathy Hillig, off Ellsworth Road. Ten people may sign up per hour between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. This is a socially distanced, safe opportunity to enjoy the presence of God and one another. Sign up to participate at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-walk>

Join us online the first Tuesday of each month for "Grief Conversations." The next meeting is October 6, at 11:00 a.m. We are all in grief over something — the loss of a loved one, the loss of expectations, the loss of life as we knew it to be, the loss of our relationships and close connections, the loss of our physical strength and "invincibility" that we once seemingly enjoyed. Once a month, for an hour, we gather to share a bit more about our individual losses, and ponder what we can learn of loss, life, love, and the language of letting go and moving forward in life. Contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for the link (and more information) to join our conversation as we compassionately care for one another.

Strengthening Ourselves & Strengthening Others — Virtual Conversations

Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/virtual-noon-conversations/> to participate in the final conversation of this series this Wednesday, September 16, noon to 1:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to gather and discuss ways to strengthen and grow in faith and beyond. Leaders Beth Steward, Jane Dutton, and Diane Hockett will focus on personally connecting people who attend the discussion and encouraging each person's voice to be heard.

Engage your Body, Mind, and Spirit! Join Rob Meyer-Kukan, a Licensed Sound Therapist, this Tuesday, September 15, for a dedicated time to center, relax, and restore. Our time together may include guided meditation, breath work, mindful movement, and sound therapy. Come and explore a new way of connecting your spirituality to your everyday life. Themes for each experience will support the themes being explored in worship, from the book of Exodus, as well as themes appropriate for the season. Consider this experience a mini-retreat to center yourself through gentle activities, focused meditation on poetry and scripture, and the soothing tones of singing bowls, gongs, and other therapeutic instruments. There will be additional sessions will take on Tuesday, October 20, and Tuesday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. The sessions may be accessed by way of the First Presbyterian Church Facebook Page and YouTube channel. These events are co-sponsored by FPC Adult Education and Worship Committees. All are welcome! For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org).

TUESDAY

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Gimme Shelter 2020



Alpha House, one of our mission partners, supports homeless families by providing temporary shelter, food, and support services in a caring atmosphere of dignity and safety. **Gimme Shelter**, their one annual fundraising event is more important than ever! As the chaos of 2020 continues, every dollar is especially precious. Individual donors have continued to be generous during the pandemic, but Alpha House has seen a noticeable decline from their usual corporate donors. At this point, there is considerable uncertainty around any funding source for the coming year.

How can you help? Mark your calendar for Friday, September 25, and purchase a \$35 dinner ticket! This year the event will be hosted outdoors on the grounds of Alpha House, 4290 Jackson Road, 4:00–7:00 p.m. A \$35 ticket includes dinner from 1 of 3 food trucks — “Mr. Pit Master BBQ”; “Nachos Average Tostado”; “WOOD Fired Up Pizza” — plus dessert from “Hello Ice Cream.” Donors will have the option of driving up for their meal or having their meal delivered if they live in 48103 or 48104 zip codes. More information about the event and how to order a meal may be found at <https://www.alphahouse-ihn.org/2018gimmeshelter>. To volunteer to work at this event, contact Mark Heffner, Volunteer Coordinator (mheffner@alphahouse-ihn.org; (734) 249-9227).

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of September are received to support Food Gatherers. Food Gatherers’ mission is to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in our community. They distribute 6.6 million pounds of food annually through 170 partners and programs serving Washtenaw County. Most needed food items include low sodium soups, canned meats, canned vegetables, canned or packaged pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, nut butters and jelly in plastic jars, baby food and formula in plastic containers, and Ensure® and other nutritional supplement drinks. Most needed personal items include diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors. Food and personal care items will be accepted throughout the month of September. Collection bins are provided outside at the Memorial Garden entrance to the church Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 to 3:00.

Donations will also be received during today’s Sunday Funday drive-through, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Financial donations may be mailed to the church or made online (www.firstpresbyterian.org/donate). Please note the purpose of your check on the memo line.



SAVE THE DATE!

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.

Our October Taizé Prayer Service will be on Tuesday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m.

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Join us for these Sunday-Fundays *in September and October!*

September 20 Outdoor Worship

Finally! A brief service of worship will be offered on our front lawn at 4:00 p.m. This service will be socially distanced and will follow all governmental and health protocols. Attendance will be limited to a small number of people; sign up online via the church's home page or call the Church Office. (Note that the 9:30 morning service will also be offered as usual, via virtual platforms.) Please note that there will be only limited access to the building. Rain date will be September 27.

September 27 Drive-through Stewardship & Mission Kick-off

Drop by between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and stay safely in your car as you drive through the First Pres campus, stopping at various stations where you will be greeted by staff and members of the Stewardship and Mission Committees. There will be handouts including the 2021 stewardship tabloid and information about ongoing local mission projects. Take home kits will be offered for some hands-on mission activities. Fair Trade coffee will be available for pick-up by those who have pre-ordered.

October 4 Drive-through Family Sunday Kick-off

Celebrate World Communion Sunday with us. Families with children ages birth through high school are invited to drop by between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Stay safely in your car as you drive through the First Pres campus, stopping at various stations where you will be greeted by members of the Christian Formation team. Families will pick up curriculum packets. There will be snacks and a creative photo opportunity.

October 11 Drive-in Worship: Blessing of the Animals Service 4:00 p.m.

Welcome to the First Pres Drive-in! Stay safely in your car in the First Pres parking lot for a Blessing of the Animals service. Bring a pet with you, if you would like, or perhaps a photo of a pet. There will be treats for our animal AND our human friends, as well as another fun photo opportunity. Watch for sign-up information.

*Check our website or call the Church Office (662-4466)
for more information about these events.*

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator
Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister
Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator
Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor
Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator & Parish Nurse
Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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