

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2020



Moses Receiving the Law from God

Lorenzo Ghiberti



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.

that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
 and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

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:
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

FAITH IN ACTION Peace Neighborhood Center Bonnie Billups

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven arr. Kevin McChesney

Sanctus Ringers

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The morning stars profess God's glory:

All: the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.

The sun warms us with God's hope,

One: the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

All: creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts,

reminding us of God's steadfast love.

One: Our wisdom is shattered by God's absurd love;

God's vulnerability strengthens our feeble faith:

All: God's words place joy in our hearts;

We follow them to peace and hope.

HYMN 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart."

Holy God, for when we have loved the things of this world—our belongings and our comforts—more than we have loved you, forgive us.

(Open your heart to God in silence.)

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul."

Holy God, for those times we have invested our spirit and our lives into petty things, misdirecting our passions into fleeting desires, forgive us.

(Bow lovingly to God in silence.)

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind."

Holy God, for when we have allowed our minds to become consumed with worry and fear, forgetting that we live in you and you are with us always, forgive us.

(Listen for God in silence.)

Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Holy God, for those times when we have not loved ourselves, and for those times when we have loved ourselves too much and ignored the needs of others, forgive us.

(Offer prayers in silence.)

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

This is Hymn 576, *Lord, Have Mercy* (SINGAPURA).

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

This is the Celtic Alleluia.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:34-40

The grass withers; the flower fades—

the word of our God endures forever.

SERMON

Commanded ... to love

RESPONDING

HYMN 63

The Lord Is God

AZMON



1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
3 At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part,
4 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise



to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
O chil - dren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.



LITANY OF DEDICATION OF NEW HANDBELLS

The gift of our new handbells was made possible by the bequest of Sue Leong.

Rejoice in the Lord, children of God.

Praise is fitting on this day!

Sing to God a new song.

We bring praise with instruments and sing for joy.

The earth is full of God's unfailing love.

I sing the almighty power of God that made the mountains rise,

That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at God's command and all the stars obey.

Creator of metal and music,

we thank you for allowing us to worship you in many ways.

May we always worship you in spirit and in truth.

As we bring you our songs, our stories, and our love,

enable us to participate with strength and imagination:

All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

Eternal God, whom the generations have worshipped through the gift of music, accept our praise to you, in the sound of these instruments, which we consecrate to your glory and your work this day. Grant that the music of these bells may be a blessing to all who worship here, as your glory surrounds us, and we are empowered for the service to which you call us in your world. **Amen.**

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Thy Perfect Love

John Rutter

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest, Thy perfect love close in my breast
That I thee love and never rest; and make me love thee of all things best,
And wounde my heart in thy love free, that I may reign in joy evermore with thee.

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

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.)



SENDING

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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Moses Receiving the Law from God by Lorenzo Ghiberti from "Art in the Christian Tradition," a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tennessee.

The closing voluntary

today is J. S. Bach's fughetto on the Lutheran chorale "Dies sind die heil'gen zehn Gebot." The text of the chorale is Martin Luther's versification of, and commentary on, the Ten Commandments, and was used for confession and instruction. The jig-like fugue subject reflects the joy to be found in following God's commandments.

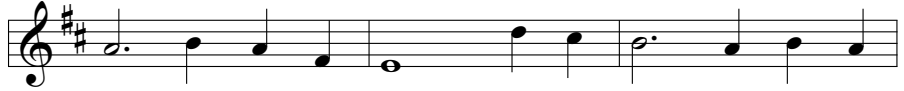
HYMN 44

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

AUSTIN



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, fed us free - ly from her
hand and been our guide, lift - ed us and healed our
trust in power and might, left be - hind our broth - ers,
neigh - bor's hand in love, tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**For the life that you have given,
for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor,
with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises;
heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you,
living what we pray and sing.**

This is Hymn 717, *For the Life That You Have Given* (PLEADING SAVIOR).

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *These Are the Holy Ten Commandments*

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Amy Ruhf; Liturgists – Andrew Frazier and Evans McGowan; Scripture Reader – Luke Panning; Children’s Message – Jay Sanderford and Andrew Frazier; Preacher – Mark Mares; Soloists – Lorna Hildebrant, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, Tyrese Byrd, David Magumba, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound Technician – Rol Kibler

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

This autumn 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.



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 include Carol Fletcher (9:00). “God’s plan is not just to revolutionize your prayer life, but to make your life a prayer.” — John Crowder

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 or need help, please contact Rev. Rogers. Special guests today are college students, professors, and administrators. We invite all of you to join us, no matter whether you went to college or not (and yes, Ohio State grads are welcome here!), but come wearing your favorite college colors! **Today’s conversation prompt is** “What is one of your favorite memories from your college years?” Click here to enter Coffee Hour: <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>

Chancel flowers are given in appreciation of everyone who participated in the Six Sundays of Fun kickoff celebration.

A red rosebud celebrates the birth of Henry Keith Dickinson on October 8, 2020. His parents are Ben and Emily Dickinson. Grandparents are Jim Dickinson and Sharon Sheldon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alexis Allum will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Detroit next Sunday, October 25. The Rev. Angela Ryo, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation at the Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield Hills, and a former Resident Minister at First Pres, will be the preacher for this special worship service. Due to Covid restrictions, this service is not open to all. Lex has been under watchcare of the Session during her candidacy. She is a former Youth Peer Minister at First Pres and is now a Resident Minister at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

Our 2021 Stewardship season was kicked off on September 27. Our theme for this year’s campaign is “We Are the Church Together, Connected in Faith, Love and The Spirit.” This year we are focused on the work we do as a church through our local mission programs. Packets were mailed out the week of September 27. Please watch for them in the mail. You can also view Stewardship materials and pledge online at <https://firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate/stewardship-2021>. Our Stewardship campaign will end on Commitment Sunday, October 25, and we ask all members to submit their pledge forms, either physically or online, on or before that date. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Stephen Ministers are Available! So many of us are coping with tough emotions and heavy doubts these days. The pandemic continues, a long winter is coming, we are more aware than ever of racial disparity and injustice, and related protests, a hurting economy. The lack of in-person schooling is also taking a toll and we worry about our health. We have found outside gatherings to be an acceptable risk. Colder weather and flu season will further limit our social life and ability to worship together. Your pastoral staff is available to talk with you, as are our Stephen Ministers. As spiritual friends, they are fully trained to listen, to share, and to pray with and for you to help us through a period that, for some, will be very trying. Contact the Stephen Ministry program now. Several male and female Stephen Ministers are available — to you and to friends in our community who need a listening ear. Don't let yourself be alone, or isolated. The Stephen Ministers can help. Contact Rev. Rogers or member Kathy Wirstrom (kwirstrom@yahoo.com) for more information.

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

A Sunday Outdoor Worship Service at 4:00 p.m. at First Pres is now available for up to 50 people. All attendees must 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 masks, maintain social distance, and bring their own chairs or blankets 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 with further information each Wednesday. Contact Rev. Evans McGowan (emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org) with any questions.

Thank you to all the FPC members who provided fabrics from around the globe for World Communion Sunday! Please contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org) to arrange a time to pick up your fabrics.

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$50. Contact the Church Office (662-4466).

Our 2020 Advent Email Devotional is Coming! Based on our upcoming Advent theme, "Those Who Dream...", you are invited to write a 200-word or less devotional. Two or three scripture passages have been chosen for each day, and as the author, you choose from those on which to write your devotional. A poem and journaling prompt are also assigned to help guide your thoughts. Assignments will be made toward the end of October and you will have until November 20 to complete your piece. New authors welcome! Sign up to write by emailing Rev. Rogers (mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact Ginny (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

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.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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

All youth faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. When you log on, please make sure you update your Zoom name to reflect each youth present on the Zoom and what class they will be participating in (Middle/High/Confirmation).

Our confirmation class meets on Zoom the second and third Sunday of each month, and in-person for the fourth Sunday. If you are interested in joining, it isn't too late – just let Rev. Mark know.

Our High School students will meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events. We're really looking forward to thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith leads us in our everyday lives.

Join us for Youth Group (grades 6–12) at 2:00 p.m. Join us for a special in-person Middle School and High School Youth Group today, at the Anderson Home (2692 Byington Blvd., Ann Arbor) from 2:00–3:30 p.m. We'll play some games, split off into groups, and enjoy time together while practicing social distancing and wearing masks (masks are required!). All are welcome!

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.

Children's Choir News. The Children's Choir meets virtually on Sundays, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. today to discuss "Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools." Join the conversation at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>.

Exploring the Faith meets via Zoom at 12:15 p.m. to continue the series "Faith and Race." Today's discussion focuses on how multi-culturalism is changing America for the better as a sign of hope. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>

Bible Study @ 5:00 meets via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>

"Crossroads – Conversations on Race & Racism" meets every Friday through November 13, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., via Zoom. Two books will be read and discussed: Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy* and Austin Channing Brown's *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. Books are available for purchase in the Church Office. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81766886164>

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) 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).

CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Explore our Virtual Art Exhibit by Robyn Sand Anderson at www.robysandanderson.weebly.com. Sand Anderson specializes in transparent watercolor and acrylic. She believes that combining the arts, music, visual art, drama and dance enhances and strengthens the experience of the viewer. More of her musical interpretations along with the musical excerpts are found at www.RobynSandAnderson.com.



The Gospel Freed

FastTrack to Membership — Join the Church After Church! Today, October 18, at noon, meet with two elders and a pastor to join First Pres as a full member or affiliate. Spend 20 minutes with us! Contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. Join us via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84143125355>.

Welcoming New Members. Are you interested in helping make First Pres a more warm and welcoming church home to new members? The Congregational Life Committee is looking for some friendly “Shepherds” to help new members find their niche and feel more at home and welcome after joining. The time commitment involved isn’t huge, six or seven hours over the course of a year with some well-documented instructions and recommendations on how you can connect. Rev. Rogers will try and match Shepherds with new members who she thinks share some commonalities and interests. Interested? Please let Rev. Rogers know and she will be happy to discuss things in more depth and put you on our list of potential Shepherds. Expressing interest isn’t a commitment, just the potential to serve at some point in the future.

All Saints’ Sunday is November 1. We hope you will worship with us. Names of members and family and friends of members who have died in the last year will be read during worship. Submit names online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/all-saints-sunday-submit-a-name/> or by contacting the Church Office by Thursday, October 22. Also on that Sunday, our Sanctuary will be filled with flowers as we recognize those loved ones in whose memory or honor Easter Lilies were donated. As we were not able to be together for Easter, this recognition was postponed. While we won’t have Easter Lilies, we will have mums. Following the service, as is our practice, these flowers will be distributed by our Deacons to those among us who are experiencing illness, loss, or other difficulties at this time.

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.

Join us the first Tuesday of each month for “Grief Conversations.” The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, at 11:00 a.m., online. 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. There is no closure, but there is companionship. Contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for the link (and more information) to join our conversation as we compassionately care for one another.

Deacons will deliver home communion kits in November. If you would like a kit for Sunday, November 1, please indicate on the friendship pad or contact your Deacon.

Noon Conversations – Strengthening Ourselves & Strengthening Others. Join facilitators Jane Dutton and Beth Steward via Zoom this Wednesday, October 21, Noon – 1:00 p.m., for “Strengthening Through Connection.” Sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/virtual-noon-conversations/>

Enjoy an Outdoor Labyrinth Walk on 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>

Engage your Body, Mind, and Spirit! Join Rob Meyer-Kukan, a Licensed Sound Therapist 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. These sessions will take place this 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).

Our November Taizé Prayer Service will be on Tuesday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Imagine. . . whirled peace! In recognition of the International Day of Peace, and in support of our Local Mission work, we are invited to put our faith into action by participating in **Pinwheels for Peace 2020**. Our goal as a church community is to commit 2,020 hours of service and other actions such as prayer, to promote peace throughout our church, our community, our country, and the world.



Here's what you do:

- pick up a pinwheel kit from the church (Monday through Thursday, 9:00 – 3:00); the kit includes an instruction sheet
- decide what you can do between now and the end of the year to promote peace
- use the marker provided to write a word of action on each of the “petals” describing your commitment
- bring your pinwheel back to church (Monday through Thursday, 9:00 – 3:00); staff will “plant” your pinwheel in our pinwheel garden
- put your plan into action and keep track of your hours
- information will be shared about when and how to send your hours to the church so we can tabulate our total
- Questions? Contact the Church Office (662-4466)

First Pres members have an opportunity to minister to children and their families at Alpha House, a shelter for those experiencing homelessness, the week of November 9–15. You can sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha5>. If you have questions about this ministry contact Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com), Anne Gere (argere@umil.edu), Paula Doering (paulahdoering@gmail.com), or Ruth Jensen (ruthannjensen@gmail.com).

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