

First Presbyterian Church

New Member's Classes

Materials included:

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Who are you?

We like to start with the broad questions! Who are you?

In some ways, the answer to this question is straightforward. Practically, we can frame our identity in terms of our name, our home, our social status, our age, the activities that fill our day. Theologically, however, we can frame our identity as children of God. As people created by our loving God, claiming *this* identity emphasizes our common and constant place in creation. Everything else about us may change; this will not. At the very core of our being, we are children of God, created in the image of God. It is a skin we cannot shed no matter how hard we might try.

Understanding what that means, individually and communally, can take time. First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who are willing to wrestle with that question. To do so is at the heart of a life of faith. To do so is to step forward and say, “Here I am,” and open yourself to what God might do next.

On the subject of faith, Frederick Beuchner said, “Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you’re going, but going anyway. A journey without maps.” For reasons such as these, you may hear people at First Presbyterian refer to “faith journeys.” Your faith journey is less about what state you lived in or what church you attended there and more about what God was doing in your life during that time. Your faith journey may be filled with landmarks and road-side attractions, or wide open spaces. Your faith journey may feel full speed ahead, or paused a rest stop, or even broken down on the side of the road. It’s all part of the process. And we get through it together, by the grace of God. Wherever you are on this journey, you are welcome to travel with us.

Companions on a faith journey are essential. We are designed to be in community with one another. About this, the Bible is clear. “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name” Jesus said, “I am there among them.” We can’t do it alone because life is hard. Together, we are infinitely more than the sum total of our individual parts. Together, we can hold each other up when one of us falters. Thankfully, we can draw on the strength we find from one another. Each of us has particular strengths, skills, and gifts that are uniquely our own and that contribute to our life together.

First Corinthians reminds us, *“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; there are varieties of services, but one Lord; and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (12:4-7).*

At First Presbyterian, we are committed to helping people identify and develop their spiritual gifts. Some of these gifts are in the forefront of our life together: preaching and teaching, for example, or leading groups of people. Some gifts are quieter in nature, such as listening and prayer. Some share their gifts of nurture and hospitality by baking cookies for Sunday morning or preparing meals for members struggling with illness. Some are encouragers, providing a supportive word where it is needed most; some are helpers who travel to other countries to provide aid; some are singers who lead the community in song; some are laughers who help us find joy. Others organize, study, create, envision, or heal. All are equally important, God-given abilities. All are needed, here and in the world around us. And all are welcome here. At the beginning of your first class, share a bit with those in your class about the faith experiences and questions that have led you to First Pres.

Who are we?

First Presbyterian Church is not (just) a building.

First Presbyterian Church is a community of people.

1700 members - all ages, families couples, and singles

8 pastors, program staff, administrative staff

24 Elders, 55 Deacons, 23 Stephen Ministers, 7 Session Committees

We have a rich history - we signed our charter 187 years ago on August 21.

The groundbreaking for our current sanctuary was June 8, 1936. It still requires upkeep!

We support 4 worship services each Sunday (September - June); 3 in the summer months.

Our annual budget for 2012 is \$1.8 million. (Over \$200,000 to mission)

We are almost done raising \$5 million to fund the Resident Minister program through a capital campaign.

First Pres is not made up of perfect people. (Surprise!)

First Pres is made up of people committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

How? Worship, prayer, bible study, acts of mission and caring, nurture of people at all stages of their faith - children, youth, college students, empty nesters, mature adults, etc.)

First Presbyterian Church does not expect everyone to think or believe the same things.

First Pres values and appreciates people who are at different places in their faith journey. We are diverse! Some are very sure, some are not so sure. Some are seekers, some are confident believers, some are bible scholars, some are new explorers of God's Word. All have a voice. All can come to the Table.

First Presbyterian Church does not have complicated membership requirements.

Baptism is **required** to join. If you've been baptized and are a member of another church, our church office will ask for your letter to be transferred. If you have not joined another church or it been a very long time, you simply profess your faith by asking simple questions as a part of the new member liturgy.

First Pres encourages people to deepen their experience of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, mission, learning, and prayer.

We ask all who are joining to first attend these classes.

Those presenting a child for baptism are asked to attend the baptism class (after membership of at least one parent.)

We offer education for people of all ages about our theology and our practice of faith.

First Pres is not an exclusive club.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who wish to worship the Triune God.

There are no dress requirements! No tests to pass! All backgrounds and races are welcome.

Some give a great deal in time and talent and treasure, some give just what they can. Some

have lives that revolve around church, others find their heart centered in Sunday worship.

Different seasons bring different levels of participation in the vital congregational life we share - but all are welcome! We want you to belong.

First Pres is not a civic organization with a Board of Directors.

First Presbyterian Church has Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church, and we are a family seeking to follow the one Lord faithfully.

Why join a church?

Belonging? Commitment? Modeling? Duty? Obligation? Tradition? Openness? Calling?

In Jesus Christ, God calls people to faith and to membership in the Church, the body of Christ. Baptism is the visible sign of that call and claim on a human life and of entrance into the membership of the church. The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The baptism of those who enter the covenant of membership upon their own profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior witnesses to the truth that God's gift of grace calls forth a response of faithfulness. **(from the Book of Order, G-1-304)**

Expectations of Membership: (from the Book of Order, G-1.0304)

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege.

It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission.

A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

Such involvement includes:

*proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
living responsibly in personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships,
working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,
reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership,*

-- How can you be engaged in these?

What we promise:

The congregation will support you. Your new member sponsor will engage with you and encourage you for the first year. Your deacon will follow up on pastoral care needs and invitations to fellowship.

Our mission:

Our mission is to grow spiritually as disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, mission, learning, and prayer.

Questions of membership:

Who is your Lord and Savior? Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. Do you trust him?

Do you intend to be his disciple, to obey his Word, and to show his love?

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be?

How are we governed?

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is governed by a **constitution**. It has two parts.

- *The Book of Confessions* - This book includes statements from different times and contexts that express what the church believes. New statements of our faith can be added to the Book of Confessions over time. Some well-known confessions and creeds found there include - *The Apostle's Creed, the Westminster Catechism, and the Barmen Declaration*.
- *The Book of Order* - This book includes the rules which we use to order our life together. These rules can be amended every two years. We have a new section to the Book of Order, a new Form of Government, that just took effect recently.

The Book of Order describes how Presbyterians relate to each other and make decisions. Presbyterians are essentially representative, trusting in elected groups of ministers and elders to make decisions for the full body. A helpful analogy can be the structures of the US government:

A local church is governed by its **session**. The session is a group of elders elected by the congregation to oversee the church. The session is responsible for most of the decisions made in a local congregation.

All of the churches in a geographical region gather together in a **presbytery**. The **presbytery** meets regularly, often monthly, and has responsibility for overseeing property, ordaining and overseeing ministers, and assisting congregations in their ministry.

Several presbyteries in a state or region make up a **synod**. Synods may meet a few times in a year. Presbyteries send representatives to **General Assembly**. **General Assembly** meets every two years and is the church's highest governing body.

Church	USA
Session	City
Presbytery	County
Synod	State
General Assembly	National

A Brief History of the Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church was founded on the ideals of the Protestant Reformation. The Reformation's official beginning was signaled by Martin Luther tacking 95 Theses on a church door in Germany in 1517. These statements attacked alleged false doctrine and practice by the Roman Catholic Church. Sentiment for reform then spread rapidly throughout Northern and Central Europe. Those who led this Reformation were called Reformers, and the churches that grew out of the movement today comprise churches of the Reformed tradition.

The father of Presbyterianism was John Calvin. Calvin, who studied theology, languages and law in France, fled to Switzerland when he experienced opposition to his religious views. There he wrote his theological masterpiece, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which became a guidebook for Protestants and established Calvin as the leader of Reformed thought, a influence that lasts to today. Among Calvin's beliefs are the sovereignty of God, the priesthood of all believers, that God alone is Lord of the conscience and the centrality of Scripture.

During the 1500's Presbyterianism spread from Switzerland, particularly Geneva, to France, the Netherlands and the British Isles, especially Scotland, where John Knox was the early church's leader. From Scotland Presbyterianism was taken to Northern Ireland, from where many settlers in the American colonies emigrated in succeeding centuries.

The history of the Presbyterian Church in American began in the 1600's on the eastern seaboard. During those years Presbyterian churches were concentrated from New York to Georgia. The father of American Presbyterianism was Rev. Francis Makemie, who came from Ireland to the Middle Atlantic States. The 18th Century was a time of growth for the Presbyterian Church with many churches chartered and the first presbytery, synod and General Assembly organizing and meeting.

In the 1800's, as the newly formed United States of America began its Westward Expansion, the Presbyterian Church did the same. As fledgling states like Michigan were settled, grew and joined the union, churches like the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor were organized (1826). Thanks to early missionary activity during the 19th century, even today Presbyterian churches are quite evenly distributed throughout the continental United States and Alaska.

Just as the nation split over the Civil War, so too did Presbyterians. Today there are a variety of branches of churches who call themselves Presbyterians. First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by far the largest branch of Presbyterian churches. The denomination claims about 2.5 million members. First Presbyterian, with a membership of almost 1800, is a member of the Presbytery of Detroit and the Synod of the Covenant (comprised of Michigan and Ohio Presbyterian churches).

Presbyterian, a word coming for the Greek word for elder, refers to choosing leaders from among the wisest members of the Church. The church is led by the Session, comprised of elders who serve three year terms. Members of the church's Board of Deacons lives out their ministry through pastoral care and service within the congregation.

The Presbyterian Church, as a denomination and within the context of a local congregation, is at its best when it embraces and lives out a two-legged gospel of individual spirituality and community involvement. Its members are called to worship, learn, share fellowship, pray, share the Good News and be involved in mission locally and globally, always embracing the love and justice of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church.

How we worship

First Presbyterian members seek to serve the Lord, worship with our whole hearts, and become more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in thought, word, and deed. God longs to work through us, with us, and in us, that we might live in praise of God, in service to our Lord, empowered by the Holy Spirit. There are many programs and opportunities that include people of all ages, but we also are blessed with specific programs focused on the spiritual needs of people at particular stages of life. For further information on any of these programs, call the church or visit www.firstpresbyterian.org.

Worship is central to our life together! From September - June, join us at 8 for a traditional, weekly communion service in Monteith Hall, or at 9:30 or 11:00 in the Nave. We have a Sunday evening service, as well, at 7:07 p.m through a Sunday in May.

Summer Sundays start in June and are at 8, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. The 8 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. service is in Monteith Hall. In the past, some of our summer worship services have been held outside, and we plan to do that again in 2012 for the entire month of July (and maybe more!). Watch for us on the front walkway!

All-Church Mid-week Program

- 8 weeks, Fall and Winter/Spring Semesters
- Intergenerational
- Based on Acts 2:42, “The disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
- Affordable family-style dinner, 6 p.m., Social Hall
- Children's choirs at 5 p.m.; special events for youth.
- Classes at 7 p.m.
- Warm intergenerational fellowship and really good food.

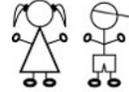
[For new members of the church, the fee is waived your first semester of participation!](#)

Watch First Press for registration information or speak with the church office.

The Ministry of First Pres to people of all ages!

Children's Ministry

First Presbyterian is committed to providing a strong church school program in which children can learn the fundamentals of Reformed faith and begin a lifelong spiritual journey based on biblical literacy. We provide curriculum, training, and support to our teachers, who are the members and friends of First Presbyterian willing to explore and share their faith. Parents and many others are needed to assist in this all-volunteer effort to communicate Christian values to our children. We also offer families regular opportunities for fellowship, to celebrate children and strengthen ties within our faith community.



Sunday Programs and More

Sunday mornings, **infant and toddler childcare** is provided by consistent and paid child care providers and church volunteers at both 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services from September through May, and at 9:30 services during July and August. Those picking up children may be asked to produce photo identification.

3-year-olds through 5th graders: Classes available at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. First through fifth graders worship in the sanctuary with their families for 15 minutes before going to classes after the children's sermon. We use the 'Worship Centers' model for Sunday School classes.

Family Worship -- Approximately once a month, we have a "Family Worship," when children are encouraged to worship with their families in the Sanctuary, to participate in Communion, and to celebrate special seasons in the church year. On those Sundays, child care is available at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. for ages crib-Kindergarten.

Vacation Bible School -- Held in June, staffed by members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. A wonderful three day event!

Camp Westminster -- All incoming 3rd – 9th graders are invited to come the traditional summer camp of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake where they will have the best week of the summer together. Usually the first or second week of August. More information is available on the website.

Family Celebrations - We also offer families regular opportunities to celebrate children and strengthen ties within our faith community. Many of these occasions are annual traditions, such as:

- All-church picnic and family potlucks
- Craft-making festivals during the Advent and Lenten seasons
- Family fun activities
- A Christmas Pageant

Sunday School teachers needed. First Presbyterian has adopted a Child and Youth Safety Policy.

Debbie Macvey, Director of Children's
Education and [Ministries](#)

dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org



Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is led by Dr. Jim Monnett (known as RJ to the youth), Director of Youth Ministry, plus teams of Christian adults who care for teenagers. To learn more, contact RJ at 734-662-4466, jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org to get involved or to get your youth connected.

Sunday Mornings

Munch & Mingle, 9:20-9:30 a.m. - 1st floor hallway

Youth, 6th-12th, gather for donuts in the 1st floor hallway to connect, hear announcements, and prepare for Sunday School.

Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

* **6th & 7th Graders** (plus 8th graders not in Confirmation)

* **8th graders** - Confirmation is a new member class designed for students in which the essential questions of faith are explored by lessons and small group time with Christian mentors. These mentors seek to demonstrate the Christian faith as lived in the real world by people seeking an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ as demonstrated by active worship, ministry, and mission.

* **High Schoolers** meet in the Youth Room each week for Sunday School.

Youth Groups

(Events planned by *student leadership team*. Any high schooler who professes faith in Jesus Christ and is active in *Keystones* or *Sunday School* is welcome to join the *planning team*.)

MIDS (6th - 8th grades) – Sundays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. They meet each week during the school year to student the Bible, play great games, and enjoy being together.

Keystones (High School Youth Group), Sunday evenings, Youth Room Keystones (or Keys)

Meets weekly seeking to make friends across high schools and other possible divisions like race, ethnicity, and depth of faith. We seek to discover Jesus Christ, God's love, and the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in this world God has given us to enjoy. Friends are welcome with a signed Consent Release. Dinner is often enjoyed before Keystones.

Mission Trips & Events for Youth

Local Mission Projects – our high schoolers are active in the community serving meals at St. Andrew's, working at Cass Community Center in Detroit, and more!

The Pittsburgh Project – Often in November, the Keystones travels there to rehab homes

Winter Mission Trip – usually the week after Christmas to rehab homes in Florida

Summer Mission Trip – Each summer, all high schoolers have the chance to do a major national (even years) and international (odd years) mission trip.

Montreat Youth Conference - held in July or August, it is for rising 9th - 12th graders. A week of fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth for 1200 teens per week in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina.

Campus Ministry

Director of Campus Ministry - Rev. Renee Roederer (rroederer@firstpresbyterian.org)

The vision: As a relational, student-led, intergenerational ministry, we meet university students wherever they are in their faith journey with Jesus Christ and encourage them to discover what God is up to in their lives and in the world.

How we do it?

- “Tuesday Nights” – on-campus worship service for college students, hosted by First Pres and Young Life College; meets weekly during the school year, 9:00 pm in the Anderson Room at the Michigan Union.
- Core Groups – small group Bible studies of 4-6 undergrad/graduate students led by an adult for study, sharing, prayer and fellowship; meet weekly at various times and locations
- Student Leadership – students committed to growing as disciples of Christ and using their gifts to serve their peers through Campus Ministry
- T2A2 - a selection of meetings for folks graduate and post-grad
- Fall and Spring Retreats, Spring Break Mission Trips, Local Service Projects, Fellowship Activities, e.g. 80s Bowling Night, Pumpkin Carving, Pancake Supper
- One-on-one discipleship/mentoring

How can you participate?

- Serve as a Core Group Leader
- Participate in a mission trip or local service project
- Attend Tuesday nights
- Volunteer for one-time events, e.g. the Pancake Supper
- Serve on the Campus Ministry Committee (provides leadership for Campus Ministry) or the Ann Arbor Campus Ministry Foundation (raises awareness and operating budget)

Twenties/Thirties (T2A2)

T2A2: Twenties and Thirties in Ann Arbor (meets at various times)

Contact: Rev. Renee Roederer, rroederer@firstpresbyterian.org

Faith on Tap

On the 1st Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m., T2A2 meets in a local haunt in Ann Arbor to catch up, laugh, and enjoy food together. Our most frequent haunt-of-choice is the [Jolly Pumpkin](#) of Ann Arbor.

Meals Together

We meet frequently in the homes of First Pres members for shared meals and conversations.

T2A2 Kid friendly Fun

We also plan events that are kid friendly and fun for all ages. Throw the kiddos in the car and come join the chaos!\

Adult Education

Sundays:

9:30 a.m. - "The Bible with Rev. Ed Koster"

11:00 a.m. - Diverse programs and classes

Wednesday evenings at 2:42 -- especially two sections of Bible 101

Bible study "cohort" groups (Mom's, Presbyterian Women, etc.), fellowship groups, and Kerygma

There are many ways to grow here! Have in-depth conversations about Scripture, theology, spirituality, church history, and issues of church and culture. See the website and bulletin for more information on adult education. SEE BOOKMARK in your packet for Fall 2013 Programs. For more info, see Rev. Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor, jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org.

Mature Adult Programs

Though we are all seeking to become spiritually mature in Jesus Christ, First Pres has an active group of nearly retired and retired members. Between the ages of 55 - 100 (or more!), our members and friends find more than communal worship and Christian nurture - they find opportunities to use their particular gifts, talent, and increased time, to share their wisdom with those who are coming after them in the faith, and express particular needs that can be met by the gift of belonging to a church family. SEE BROCHURE for up to date info.

"The mission of Mature Ministries, complementing the overall mission of First Presbyterian Church, is to address the spiritual and social needs of the mature members of the FPC congregation and of the community. Mature Ministries provides inter-related services and programs for pastoral support and care, education and learning, fellowship and social activities, and facilitates service, mentoring, an mission outlets."

For a full listing of programs, see our website, or contact a member of the Mature Ministries Steering Committee, Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, or Parish Nurse Sandy Talbott.

- Book and Movie groups
- Second Thursday: Hilltoppers (Lunch and Learn, noon - 1:45 p.m.)
- Mini-missions
- Summer day trips and field trips
- Mature Singles (Sundays
- First Couples (Sundays, 9:30 am. and social times)
- Osher at the UM: (lifelong learning) - some courses held at First Pres (www.olliumich.org)
- Health and wellness classes and clinics
- Caregiver support group
- Grief Recovery Groups (Winter/Spring)

We regularly send out group emails with upcoming opportunities that require your registration - see Melissa Anne or Sandy Talbott (Parish Nurse) to get on the email list!

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org

Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse, stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org

Music Ministry at First Pres

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries (tgranum@firstpresbyterian.org)

Carol Muehlig, Assistant Director of Music/Bell Choir Director/Organist

(cmuehlig@firstpresbyterian.org)

Doris Granum, Children's Choirs Director

Gerry Leckrone, Director of Orchestra (gerryleckrone@yahoo.com)

The Ministry of Music at First Presbyterian is an integral part of the worship life of the congregation. It seeks to glorify God and express our love for God and God's love for us. It endeavors to enhance the worship experience through inspiring and artistic expressions of praise.

Ours is a rich tradition of musical excellence at Ann Arbor First Presbyterian. Many great works for choirs and orchestra have been performed in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoons which draw in our community. Recognizing the interdependence of spiritual and musical growth, our Music Ministry endeavors to offer learning opportunities for participants of all ages and abilities, both choral and instrumental. In doing so, we strive to enrich the lives we touch, both musicians and listeners, and to gather into the congregation those who believe in and work to advance the message of God's redeeming love.

There is a place for anyone in the First Presbyterian Music Ministry who wishes to learn, grow, serve, and praise God through music. Please join us in making a joyful noise to the Lord!



Mission At First Pres

Rev. Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor (jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org)

For First Presbyterian Church and its members, mission and outreach activities are a form of worship and an expression of our Christian commitment. As members of First Presbyterian, we believe that we are beginning to appreciate fully that it is in the nature of the church to be sent out rather than to expect the world to come to us. We believe that the church is not a building or an institution, but rather a group of people sent into the world.

We are committed to following Jesus' charge as expressed in John 20:21, "As God has sent me, so I send you." The mission programs at First Presbyterian are just one way in which we at First Presbyterian express our efforts to fulfill that charge. These are some of the ways to participate - many more can be found at the Welcome Center. Read about events and fundraisers in First Press!

Local Mission: coordinated by the new Local Mission Task Force of the Mission Committee

Habitat for Humanity House of Faith

Cass Community Services in Detroit

The Delonis Center (Shelter Association of Washtenaw County) - Wed night meals

Rotating Shelter Program (Each January in our Social Hall)

Interfaith Hospitality Network (Alpha House for homeless families 2 - 4 times per year)

English as a Second Language (Offered at First Pres)

Family to Family Christmas Program

Food rescue from the Big House after football games; and after basketball at Crisler Arena

Support of Local programs and groups

International Mission: coordinated by Task Forces

Philippines Task Force

Pilgrims of Ibillin (Israel and Palestine)

Haiti Medical Mission Task Force

Latin American Mission Task Force

Russia Task Force

Key Website information:

www.firstpresbyterian.org - you will find First Press, bulletins, sermons, up-to-date information, links to registrations materials.

(Need LARGE PRINT bulletin or First Press mailed to you? Let Rev. Rogers know)

Commitment to Serve cards come with Stewardship material. Turn into class leaders.

Nametags are \$8 and we can provide it with your order and payment.

Discovering Your Place as a Disciple of Christ in the Church **Get to know: Part 2**

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Questions to Consider:

What are you most passionate about?

When have you felt closest to God?

What types of faith activities do you enjoy?

What do you see as your gifts?

In what areas would you like to grow?

How have you served in the past (both in and outside the church)?

How did you get connected in your previous church?

Can we help you discover how to use your passions/gifts/talents at First Pres?

