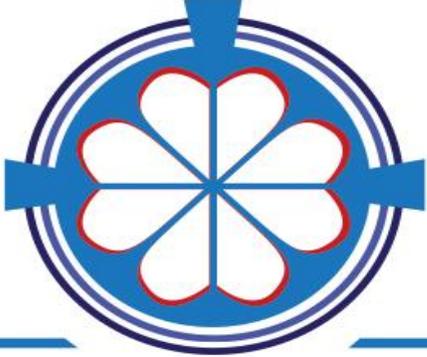


First 
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

April 23, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161

734.242.1545; info@monroefirst.org

www.monroefirst.org; www.facebook.com/FPCMonroe

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and to proclaim his salvation in worship, education, and outreach.

Second Sunday of Easter

**We invite all who are able to stand where there is an asterisk.*

OPENING WORDS

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from garden tomb through darkened city street

Unlocks the door of grief, despair and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

PRELUDE “Holy Spirit, Be with Us”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace be with you.

On the evening of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were gathered in fear. The risen Christ appeared in their midst and said,

Peace be with you.

We come today, some of us filled with joy, some of us filled with fear, and to each one of us, Christ says,

Peace be with you.

Let us lean into that peace as together we worship the risen Christ.

*HYMN ★238 “Thine Is the Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wondrous God, you have broken the power of sin and death, and by your great mercy you have given us new birth into living hope. This we proclaim. This we want to believe. This is our Christian faith. But seeds of doubt grow quickly in our hearts as soon as we leave here. Fear chokes off confidence and prevents us from receiving your Spirit. We multiply our sorrows by worshiping what we see and hear more than you. God, in your mercy, grant us the peace that passes our human understanding. Forgive us and draw us close to you, that we may breathe deeply of your presence and find in you the fullness of joy.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another with words and signs of the peace of Christ.

*SONG OF AFFIRMATION ★817 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” v. 1

*We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as one e'er spoke, “My peace be with you here.”*

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Psalm 16

OT p. 495

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — John 20:19-31

NT p. 114

SERMON “Hope In Christ”

HYMN ★286 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry

OFFERTORY “Peace Be with You”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Take what is yours, O Lord, take our mind, our will, our all. And return to us your peace that we may walk by faith and not by sight and love you all the more. Amen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN ★245 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ★246 “Christ Is Alive!” vs. 1-2

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.*

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

TODAY

Sunday Fellowship in Boyd Chapel

After worship, please come across the hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments.

Adult Education

Thank you to Dallas Dieckmann, who taught the adult education class this morning on John Knox, a Scottish minister, theologian, and writer who was a leader of the Reformation and is considered the founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe extends its Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Reed Hunter, who passed away April 14. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Welcome to FPC of Monroe! We are glad you are here today! We hope you find this a community of faith where you experience God in Jesus Christ. Childcare is always provided on Sunday mornings and the nursery is located near the parking lot entrance of the church. Hearing assistance is available.

Sermons

Printed copies of the weekly sermon are available in the church office in the mailbox labeled Sermons.

Public Luncheon

The public luncheon is this **Thursday, April 27** from **11a.m.-1p.m.!!** \$6/per person. Come and enjoy all your favorite salads and soups. See you there!

Adult Education

Next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Cairl Room, Ann Lux will be teaching on the Apostle Thomas, and his doubts and questions surrounding the resurrection of Jesus. What does the story of Thomas tell us about those who doubt?

Prayer Requests

Please contact Diane Adams with specific prayer requests. A few members of our Prayer Team will be available to pray with you on every first Sunday of the month (which generally is communion Sunday) after worship.

Pastor Annemarie Out of Office

Pastor Annemarie will be on study leave through May 1. Diane Adams will be available for pastoral care needs.

Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is here and the Building & Property Committee will be getting rid of items no longer used or items that have been stored at the church. If you have personal items stored at the church, please retrieve them and take them home. During the month of May the Building & Property Committee will place items to be disposed of on the stage for any member of the congregation to take at their choosing. This will include used computer equipment. At the end of May the remainder of the items will be disposed of. The Building & Property Committee thanks you for your assistance in this project.

Community of Needs Meal Donations

The kitchen needs your plastic grocery bags for the food we get from MCOP to pass out on Thursday nights.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY		
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	6:30	Bells
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study
	11:00	Public Luncheon
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY		
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Class with Ann Lux
	10:30	Choir
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship
	12:00	First Communion Party



APRIL 23, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Belief in the crucified and risen Lord leads to joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Genesis 32:22-32	Jacob wrestles with God
Tuesday	Judges 6:36-40	Gideon and the fleece
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	We live by faith, not by sight
Thursday	Hebrews 10:35-11:2	The nature of faith
Friday	1 Peter 1:1-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 16	Life centered on God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	On the road to Emmaus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You have never seen Jesus, and you don't see him now. But still you love him and have faith in him, and no words can tell how glad and happy you are to be saved. 1 Peter 1:8-9a (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, bless us with faith in you. Help us to move from doubts to joy in the power of your death and resurrection. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord God, as our bodies are fed with good gifts from you, please bless us with Easter peace, joy, hope, and faith. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Risen Lord Jesus replace your doubts with faith, your worries with peace, and your sadness with joy.

HYMN OF THE WEEK:

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you experienced great joy.
- What do you think it was like for Thomas to wait a week longer than the other disciples to see Jesus?
- John 20:31 states that the gospel was written so that “you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” How would you describe that life?

DEVOTIONS

The disciples did not rejoice at seeing Jesus until they saw his wounds. Thomas insisted on seeing and touching Jesus’ wounds. Jesus’ suffering and his resurrection belong together. The resurrected Christ still bears the scars of his crucifixion. Resurrection is not the undoing of Jesus’ crucifixion. It points out that the suffering and death of Jesus is the defining moment not only of history, but for our own lives of faith. The disciples had an encounter with the risen Lord by seeing him and his wounds. How do we have a relationship to the risen Lord today without seeing him? Conclude your time of reflection by praying the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

SERVICE

When Jesus first appeared to his disciples, Thomas was not with them. He must have felt like an “outsider,” not having the same experience as his friends. Is there a person who is a newcomer to your school, community, or congregation who may feel like an “outsider” at times? Invite them to your home to share a meal, at school to eat lunch with them, or to a congregational function with you. Introduce them to others and help them feel more at home.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

While his disciples were hiding in a locked room on the first Easter Sunday, the risen Lord Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” When you gather as a family this week, “pass the peace” to one another with handshakes, kisses, or hugs.

As you greet each other say, “The Lord’s peace be with you.”

Sermon Notes:

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **Director of Music Ministry:** Susan Barker;
Christian Education Director : Diane Adams; **Financial Secretary:** Sue Bondie;
Administrative Assistant: Kelly Vergowven; **Sexton:** Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Sue
Bondie, Amy Morgan; **Custodian:** Lori Lewis

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley

Worship Leadership Today:

Liturgist: Michael Staelgraeve; **Ushers:** Jim & Sue Heisler, Randy Stiffler, George
Kostoff