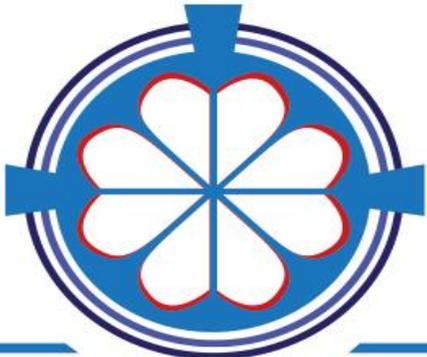


F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

July 16, 2017; 10:00 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.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

OPENING WORDS

We are a people of the water.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

We are watered by his word.

We grow by his love that has been poured out on us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*PRELUDE “Come Away to the Skies” arr. Dale Wood

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

In Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.

Christ is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.

**For all things in heaven and on earth are reconciled to God through Christ.
Alleluia! Amen!**

*HYMN ★336 “We Gather Together”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our salvation, in Jesus Christ you show us the fullness of grace, the boundlessness of beauty, and the simplicity of truth. Yet we are distracted by many things and forget the one thing needed. We neglect deepening our relationship with you. We skip over our quiet time. We rush our prayers. We are casual about church.

Forgive us for turning a deaf ear to the One who loved us into being. And pour out your Spirit upon us that we may see Christ more clearly and love him more dearly.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*SONG OF AFFIRMATION ★418 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

“Come home, come home! You who are weary come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling “O sinner, come home!”

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Psalm 119:105-112

OT p. 569

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 13:1-9

NT p. 13-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “The Sower”

HYMN ★175 "Seek Ye First"

OFFERING *Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry*

OFFERTORY “A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”

Herman Stuempfle

John Horman

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad; his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God. And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot. But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught. A Sower walked throughout the land and everywhere he trod, he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God. But then, a-top a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky, they threw God's Seed on stony ground and left it there to die. The

Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky, and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die. But then, in Joseph's garden fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days' silent sleep, awoke at God's command! O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed, implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold, until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

Ann Lux, Soloist

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, we give a portion only of what we have received. Sanctify these gifts and make holy and pure the hearts of each giver here so that your light in this city will shine brighter and your kingdom will draw nearer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, set us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

From A Brief Statement of Faith, The Book of Confessions

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 ★435 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ★ "Go Now in Peace"

Don Besig

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

POSTLUDE "When I Can Read My Title Clear"

arr. Dale Wood

TODAY

Sunday Fellowship in Boyd Chapel

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

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.

Prayer Team

Lois Barnes is heading up the Prayer Team. Please direct any prayer requests to her. You may text or call.

30-Minute Sermon Discussion/Bible Reflection after Worship

After worship from **11 to 11:30 a.m.**, Pastor Annemarie will offer a 30-minute sermon discussion in a corner of Boyd Chapel. Bring your sermon notes and questions. This time is meant for a closer look at the scripture readings and preaching text of the day and the practical applications to our life.

Sermons

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

Summer Music Camp

Get ready for a week of music and fun between Tuesday through Friday, **July 18-21, 2017** at 9:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. which is open to all children who are entering 1st through 7th grade for the 2017-2018 school year. Enrollment is free but contributions are welcome.

Thoughts and Prayers

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe extends our Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Barbara Jansen, who passed away June 24. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Program and Fellowship Coordinator

We are currently seeking a Program and Fellowship Coordinator here at the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe. Responsibilities include helping coordinate programs, recruiting and resourcing volunteers, and publicizing events. Candidate must have a mature Christian faith, be detail-oriented, and be available to attend worship on Sunday morning. Hours are 10-15 hrs/week. Please submit letter of interest and resume to akidder@monroefirst.org.

Updated Church Directory Available

Please pick up a copy of our updated church directory for your convenience. This helps us to stay connected with members and friends of our church. Any corrections please submit via email to Sara Jones at info@monroefirst.org.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	11:00	Fellowship
	11:15	Sermon Discussion
MONDAY	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	9:00	Oaks of Righteousness
	9:00	Music Camp
	11:00	Staff
WEDNESDAY	8:15	Chair Yoga
	9:00	Music Camp
THURSDAY	9:00	Music Camp
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	9:00	Music Camp
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	5:30	Socialites
SUNDAY	10:00	Worship
	11:00	Sermon Discussion
	11:15	Fellowship

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are from the Lectionary. We invite you to take time each day to read the Bible passages in preparation for Sunday morning.

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower and seed
Monday	Leviticus 26:3-20	A rich and poor harvest
Tuesday	Romans 8:1-11	Living by the Spirit
Wednesday	John 5:24-29	Hearing Jesus' words
Thursday	Hebrews 4:12-13	The word of God is active
Friday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's people will celebrate
Saturday	Psalms 65	God answers prayer
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds

Sermon Notes

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **Director of Music Ministry:** Susan Barker;
Financial Secretary: Sue Bondie; **Administrative Assistant:** Sara Jones;
Sexton: Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Sue Bondie, Amy Morgan;
Custodian: Jewelley Peters

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley
Worship Leadership Today: **Liturgist:** Tom Bajkiewicz; **Ushers:** Bill Barnes, Mark Eby, Jim Crammond, Helyn Schroeder