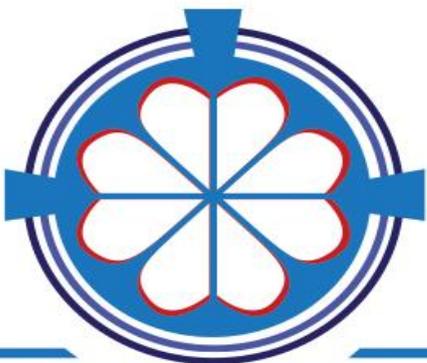


First 
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

May 21, 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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

arr. Sandra Eithun

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus”

“Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”

Sanctuary Hand Bell Choir

OPENING WORDS

Word and wisdom, root and vine,

shepherd, savior, servant, lamb

Well and water, bread and wine,

Way who leads us to I am.

May in worship we recall

that no single holy name but the truth behind them all

is the God whom we proclaim.

PRELUDE *“Christians, We Have Met to Worship”*

arr. Kevin McChesney

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God holds out to us the promise of a new life in Christ.

Life in Christ is unpredictable, unrehearsed, explosive.

God calls us to a life of creativity, joy, and courage.

In our worship we begin to accept this gift of new life.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN ★689 “When the Morning Stars Together”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Father of lights, Mother of all: you created the heavens and the earth, making everything good—even glorious. Jesus Christ, Light of the world, our Savior: you have made us your brothers and sisters and commissioned us to bear your name out into the world. Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide: you enlighten us with wisdom to know what is right and the humility to make this confession: that we have been poor stewards of the earth, clumsy and spiritless disciples, unjust in our dealings with others, divided in our witness and love to you.

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.

*GLORIA PATRI ★581

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Acts 17:22-31

NT p. 137

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

SECOND READING — John 14:15-21

NT p. 109

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “The Gift”

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry

OFFERTORY “I Need Thee Every Hour”

arr. Gilbert Martin

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like thine can peace afford. I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee! I need thee every hour, stay thou nearby; temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee. I need thee every hour, most Holy One; O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son, I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Take from our hands what is yours, O Lord, to build up your church in worship and mission and love. And return to us your peace that we may be a walking witness of you in the world. 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION – Ann Lux

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN ★641 “When in Our Music, God is Glorified”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE “Prelude in C”

Dr. Jeremy Chesman

J. S. Bach

TODAY

On this very musical Sunday we welcome two special musicians to our leadership. Dr. Jeremy Chesman is the Carillonner at Missouri State University where he also teaches organ and harp; he is also the temporary Dean of the Performing Arts and Drama Department there. Additionally, Jeremy is the Organist-Choirmaster at St James Episcopal Church in Springfield, Missouri. This morning he will play the postlude in our service. We also welcome Sgt Jonathan Chesman who plays French Horn in the United States Army Band in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Jonathan will join our Handbell Choir. Both are here this weekend to participate in their sister's (Jennifer Larkins) wedding, which took place yesterday in our sanctuary.

Our wonderful Sanctus Handbell Choir closes their year by playing four hymn arrangements this morning. They have met almost every Wednesday night for nine months preparing music for worship. We thank them for their dedication and generosity in sharing their music with us and glorifying it to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Adult Education on Sundays in May, 9:30-10:20 a.m., Cairl Room

World Religions and Other Faiths

What do we really know about other religions, even about other Christian denominations? This four-week adult ed series will try to help answer some of the more common questions regarding Islam, Judaism, and various Christian denominations and sects.

May 21--Christianity I

The Western world is divided evenly into Protestants and Catholics. What are the similarities and differences between these two faith traditions. Where did they originate? And how did later Protestant traditions emerge? The world has nearly 35,000 different Protestant traditions--why and what makes them different?

May 28--Christianity II

The United States was considered an experiment in how to organize around one's religious beliefs. This experiment spawned numerous Christian fringe groups, sects, and cults, especially during the nineteenth century. We will discuss Shakers, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

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.

Public Luncheon

The public luncheon is this **Thursday, May 25** from **11a.m.-1p.m.!!** \$6/per person. Come and enjoy all your favorite salads and soups. See you there!

Worship Time Change June 11

Please note that our worship time will change to **10:00 a.m.** starting **Sunday, June 11, 2017.**

Sermons

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

THIS WEEK

MONDAY	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff
	2:30	Charlotte Handbell Choir
	7:00	Session
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	7:30	Choir – IHM Motherhouse
THURSDAY	11:00	Public Luncheon
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	9:00	Joint Officers Retreat (Makeup)
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Class with Pastor Annemarie
	10:30	Choir
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship



MAY 21, 2017
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Holy Spirit is our helper.

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 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul preaches in Athens
Tuesday	John 16:5-16	The work of the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	1 John 4:13-21	God has given us the Spirit
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Luke 24:44-53	Christ present in all times and places
Saturday	Psalms 66	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true.” **John 14:16-17 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us each day. May the Spirit walk with us so that we may believe in you and do the work that you would have us do. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

We thank you God, three-in-one, for these gifts from earth and sun. May praise and honor be said and sung, to the Father, Spirit, and Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit live in you and give you eyes of faith to see and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF THE WEEK:

Holy Spirit, Come to Us

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who has been helpful to you? In what ways have you been of help to others?
- In John 14 Jesus promises the Holy Spirit who is called the Helper or Counselor, one who would walk with Jesus' followers. How does the Spirit walk with you so that you may believe in Jesus?
- How would you like the Holy Spirit to help you today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 17:22-31.

Paul is in Athens speaking to people who do not know Jesus. Paul addresses them by connecting with the Greek culture he sees around him. He commends them for their search for God. He quotes Greek poetry to connect his message with their longings for God. The Christian faith has always been a world religion that seeks to connect with local languages and cultures to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. From its beginnings, the message of the gospel has been translated from the language of the Old Testament (Hebrew) and the language of Jesus (Aramaic). It is a humbling and demanding challenge to communicate the gospel into contemporary languages and cultures. Reflect on how you share your faith in today's world. Pray for the work of the church to speak and work faithfully with the many cultures of the world.

SERVICE

Jesus told his disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18). Think about those around you, whether at school, work, neighborhood, or home, who may feel alone. Reach out to them with love and care.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Thursday (May 25) is Ascension Day. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday. This day marks the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection. In Acts 1:9 it states that Jesus ascended into a cloud. Clouds represent a biblical image for the presence of God. Go outside to see if there are any clouds. If so, notice what shapes you can find. There is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God. Say these words,

"Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

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: Laurie Hoffman; **Ushers:** Bill Barnes, Mark Eby, Jim Crammond, Helyn Schroeder