

First 
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

May 7, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

OPENING WORDS

The death of Jesus is for us nothing if we have not died with him.

The resurrection of our Lord is for us nothing if we have not been raised with him.

Christ is risen. Hallelujah!

And we have been raised with him. Hallelujah! Amen!

PRELUDE “Cantilena”

Joseph Rheinberger

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bless God, all people, and let the sound of God's praise be heard.

God has kept us among the living and has prevented our feet to slip.

Even though we have been tested by fire and been led through dangerous waters,

God has brought us unto a spacious place.

Let us praise God!

Let us praise God indeed!

*HYMN ★234 “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that there are many hours when we are not mindful of your presence. We give up the comfort and avoid the challenge that comes from your Word and Spirit. Forgive us and restore the joy of knowing you. May Christ be known among us in the breaking of bread.

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 & 2

*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.”
We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”*

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Acts 2:42-47

NT p. 120

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — John 10:1-10

NT p. 103

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “I Am the Door”

HYMN ★522 “I Am the Bread of Life”

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry

OFFERTORY “Give Me Jesus”

arr. Craig Courtney

*In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. And when I am alone, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus. Dark midnight was cry,
give me Jesus. And when I come to die, give me Jesus.*

*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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles' Creed (traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*HYMN ★552 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who profess Christ as their Lord and Savior are welcome to partake of the meal he has prepared for us.

COMMUNION PRAYER

God, you make all things new.

In this meal you have renewed us.

We have taken into our bodies the body and blood of Christ.

And he gives us courage and compassion and strength.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN ★366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

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.

POSTLUDE “Choral Song”

Samuel S. Wesley

TODAY

Today is Communion Sunday with our Prayer Team

Today, members of the Prayer Team are available to pray with and for you after worship. Please feel free to stay in the sanctuary after worship and meet near the pulpit with a member of our Prayer Team in a quiet corner. All information shared will remain confidential.

Congregational Appreciation Luncheon

Please join the Deacons and Congregational Life Committee after worship today in Fellowship Hall for an appreciation luncheon. Thank you for all you do!

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.

Dish Pick Up

Please be sure to pick up your dishes from the Public Luncheon, they are located in the Resource Room. Thank you!

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.

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 7--Islam

Most of what we hear in the news regarding Muslims and Islam is a stereotype based on Islamic extremist views. In this presentation we will explore the basic beliefs of Islam, the writings of the Koran, the Prophet Mohammed, and the importance of Mecca to Muslims today.

May 14--Judaism

Our own Christian faith has as its foundation Judaism. Our Lord was a Jew, as were the first Christians who carried the new faith abroad. This presentation will examine some of the images of the Jewish faith, such as temple worship, the prophets, the Law, and covenant and creation. Martin Luther said that we should study Judaism and the Old Testament first before we can have any reasonable grasp of who Jesus is and what he has done. So, this is a little try.

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.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY	1:00	Martha Mary Circle
	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff
	2:30	Charlotte Handbell Choir
	5:30	Congregational Life
	6:30	Finance
	7:00	Mission & Outreach
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	5:00	Worship Committee
	6:30	Building & Property
	6:30	Bells
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study
	6:00	Personnel & Policy
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	8:30	Men's Prayer Breakfast
SUNDAY	8:30	Deacon Meeting
	9:30	Adult Class with Pastor Annemarie
	10:30	Choir
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship



MAY 7, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

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 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-8	God will gather the flock
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34:1-16	God will rescue the sheep
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:20-31	God's promise of a shepherd
Thursday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among the believers
Friday	John 10:11-18	The good shepherd dies for his sheep
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Good Shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, help us to recognize your voice each day and follow you.
Amen. (**John 10:4**)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, help us to recognize your voice each day and follow you.
Amen. (**John 10:4**)

Mealtime Prayer:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, through this day your hand has led us, and we thank you for your care. You have warmed us, clothed and fed us, listen to our grateful prayer. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be your Good Shepherd. May God lead you without fear and restore your soul. May God's goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life.

HYMN OF THE WEEK:

Shepherd Me, O God

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who do you trust and listen to? Why?
- Jesus said his sheep listen to his voice and follow him (John 10:3-4). How do you hear Jesus speaking to you today?
- In what ways do you experience Jesus as your Good Shepherd?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 23.

This is a psalm of trust that serves people especially when going through those deep, dark valley moments in life. Confidence in the Good Shepherd during difficult times expresses the “audacity of hope” that is part of the Christian faith. When have you gone through dark days and leaned on the Good Shepherd? Conclude your reflections with a time of prayer for the presence of the Good Shepherd in your life and the lives of others, and pray Psalm 23.

SERVICE

Acts 2:43-47 gives a picture of the early church that did “many wonders and signs” through sacrificial service to others. It is easy to be critical of the humanity of the church without knowing how that same church has served others selflessly and without fanfare. Think about how the church over the centuries has been a serving, loving, and healing community by providing hospitals, orphanages, housing, food, relief work, emotional care and other services for people. Consider making a contribution to one of your favorite service agencies.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christian hymn singing is a wonderful tradition of the church. Before the advent of Sunday school and the mass production of books, singing hymns was a foundational way to learn about and teach the faith. There are many beautiful sung paraphrases of Psalm 23. Sing, pray, and/or listen to the following hymns available on YouTube: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*; *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*; *The Lord Is My Shepherd*; and *Shepherd Me, O God*.

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: Diane Adams; **Ushers:** Carol Rabun, Kim Hooper, Gary & Jo-Ann Follbaum