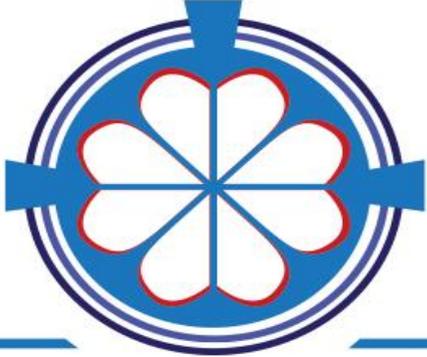


F i r s t 

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Presbyterian

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Church of Monroe

November 12, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161  
734.242.1545; [info@monroefirst.org](mailto:info@monroefirst.org)  
[www.monroefirst.org](http://www.monroefirst.org)

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

# Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

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

## OPENING WORDS

Quiet your mind, still your restlessness.

**Come before God.**

Like a bird that lights on a branch, let us come now and pause.

**Warm your heart, stir up your spirit.**

**Come now, come before God!**

## PRELUDE

"Sleepers, Wake! A Voice is Calling"

J.S. Bach

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word of God is near us.

**The Reign of God is at hand.**

Daily, daily it draws closer.

**So slow that we often lose sight of it.**

Can you wait?

**We will wait.**

Can you pray?

**We can pray.**

Then come and worship our Lord!

\*OPENING HYMN #348 "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, you bless us with all we need. And yet we are stingy. Time and time again, we hold back in our giving. We fear there will not be enough. We withhold our time. We withhold our money, saying, "Who knows what will happen?" Still, you keep on giving to us no matter what. Forgive our fears and refusals. Help us to forget ourselves more and to give our all now. Instill in us the skill to be grateful, and to live a grateful life in word and posture with all we have and with who we are.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN #579

“Lord, Have Mercy”

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord

is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven.

**The Lord has forgiven our sins  
and cleanses us of all unrighteousness.**

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### \*SONG OF AFFIRMATION #435 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

v. 1

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.*

*There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.*

*There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.*

### CHILDREN'S BLESSING

*Children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger are welcome to continue worship in the Wee  
Believers Room, #159.*

### BED MINISTRY MINUTE FOR MISSION

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING – Psalm 78:1-7

OT p. 537-538

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING – Matthew 25:1-13

NT p. 28

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

“Foolish or Wise”

HYMN #749 "Come! Live in the Light!"

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.**

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Keep your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" Andre' Thomas  
*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.*

\*DOXOLOGY ★606

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Take, Lord, what is yours. Receive our gifts of time, talent, and tithes. And fill our hearts with the joy of knowing that whatever we offer you is bearing fruit in your kingdom on earth. Now and forever. Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL— Winnie Findley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN #363 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #298 "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" v. 5  
*Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring,  
May we serve as you intend,  
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.*

**TODAY****Electronic Giving**

Enclosed in this morning's bulletin is an electronic giving insert which explains how to give your pledges to the church via online. Please prayerfully consider using this new feature for your stewardship pledges for this upcoming 2018 year.

**Our Choral Intern**

We welcome to the Sanctuary Choir our new Choral Intern, Logan Skidmore. Logan is a freshman at Monroe High School and is a tenor in the top choir at the school. Before coming on board as our choral intern, Logan was very committed to his own church, serving in many areas of the church's life. Now, he will be singing in our tenor section, helping the two men's sections learn notes, doing some conducting and singing solos. Please welcome Logan to our church and make him feel a part of our church family.

**Sunday Fellowship in Fellowship Hall**

After worship, please come to the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments due to the painting being done in Boyd Chapel.

**Cheese Ball Pick-Up/Fruit Cake Orders**

You may pick up your orders for Cheese Balls this morning. Please see Judy Chesman. Also, it's not too late to order fruit cakes. Please send in your order.

**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.

**Martha Mary Circle**

Martha Mary Circle will be meeting tomorrow, **November 13** in the Cairl Room at 1:00 p.m.

**Socialites**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, **November 18** at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

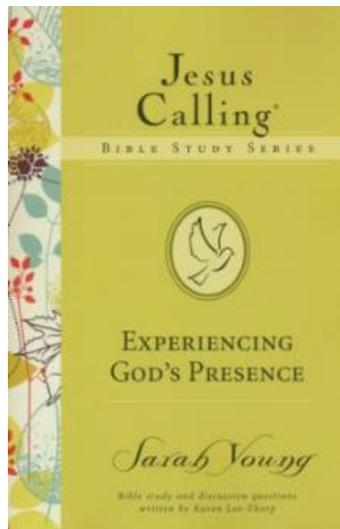
## **Stewardship 2017**

This week you will receive a stewardship letter from our session and the pledge/commitment card. Please prayerfully consider your financial and volunteer commitment for next year. **November 26 is Stewardship and Christ the King Sunday**, when we will offer up and dedicate our covenants to the Lord and start a new liturgical year.

## **Adult Education Classes**

Next Sunday, **November 19** Pastor Annemarie will speak to us about John Calvin, founder of the Reformed tradition. On **November 26**, there will be no adult education.

**NEW Bible Study Group:** We meet each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., studying "Experiencing God's Presence," which is part of the Jesus Calling series by Sarah Young. The group is being facilitated by Kate McCoppin. Come and join us!



## **Bible Study on Thursdays**

We meet each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. studying "Putting Jesus First" by Sarah Young with Elder Alice Kostoff as our teacher. We are growing in number as we are growing in Christ and will meet in the Cairl Room.

## **Thoughts and Prayers**

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe extends our Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Paul L. Vensel, who joined the Church Triumphant on November 2. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

## **HELP for Thanksgiving Baskets**

Time is running out for our Thanksgiving basket deliveries. Little food has come in to fill baskets. The 18th of November is not far off and this is our delivery date. Please check the chart in the lower lobby to see what is needed. We already have 21 families who are expecting baskets. We do not want to let them down. Also, Hi Lite has turkeys for 49 cents a pound, limit of one with \$30 purchase. Aldi's has turkeys for 99 cents a pound, no purchase required, limit 2. Mission and Outreach will be glad to reimburse for any turkeys. Just save your receipt. There is room for some in the storeroom freezer or bring them next Sunday and Ann Luxand Judy Chesman will take care of them. Thanks to all of you for caring for those in our community in need of help at this Thanksgiving time.



## **Hanging of the Greens~Moved to December 3**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, **December 3** for the hanging of the greens!! Many hands make light work, so come and participate in getting the church ready for the Advent season. A soup lunch will be provided after decorating. See you there!

## **Poinsettia Orders**

Poinsettias are available for order now! Orders must be received by **Sunday, December 3rd**. Fill out the order form in the bulletin or call Sara in the office at 734-242-1545 to order. Please submit checks together with your order form in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church. The flowers are being furnished by Deb's Flowers & Gifts. Please feel free to take your plant home **after** the worship service on December 24th.

## **Rhythmic Ringers**

Our youth handbell choir meets each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. under the direction of Charlotte Frary. New ringers are sought and encouraged to attend.

## **Community of Need Meal**

The item of the month for the pantry is sugar.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will hold their next meeting on **January 2, 2018** at 11:00 a.m. in the Manse. The meetings have been placed on hold due to the upcoming Advent season.

## **Prayer Team**

Lois Barnes is heading up the Prayer Team. Please direct any prayer requests to her. You may text or call Lois at 419-308-0262.

## **Sermons**

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

## **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.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 25:1-13</b>	<b>Parable of the wise and foolish girls</b>
Monday	Matthew 24:36-44	Keep watch
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 4:5-20	Watch yourselves carefully
Wednesday	Micah 7:1-9	Watching in hope for the Lord
Thursday	Luke 21:29-37	Be always on the watch
Friday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Saturday	Psalms 70	God is wonderful
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 25:14-30</b>	<b>Parable of the talents</b>

**Poinsettia Order Form**

Christmas is just around the corner! Please help to decorate our Sanctuary with a “wave” of red this Advent for the Sundays of December 10, December 17 and December 24.



**The following will be available:**

**A 6” potted poinsettia with a foil wrap and a bow for \$11.00.  
Please submit payment with your order.**

Orders must be received by **Sunday, December 3rd**. Fill out the order form in the bulletin or call Sara in the office at 734-242-1545 to order. Please submit checks together with your order form in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church. The flowers are being furnished by Deb’s Flowers & Gifts. Please feel free to take your plant home **after** the worship service on December 24th.

**My poinsettia is**

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_

**Staff:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **Director of Music Ministry:** Susan Barker;  
**Financial Secretary:** Suzanne Bondie; **Administrative Assistant:** Sara Jones;  
**Sexton:** Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Suzanne Bondie, Amy Morgan;  
**Pastors Emeriti:** Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley  
**Liturgist:** Alice Kostoff  
**Ushers:** Cory and Kathy Fogle; Rusty and Cathy Shorter

## THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	12:15	Cheese Ball/Fruit Cake Pick Up
MONDAY	1:00	Martha Mary Circle (Cairl Room)
	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff Meeting
	5:00	Rhythmic Ringers
	5:30	Congregational Life Committee
	6:00	Finance Committee
	7:00	Mission & Outreach Committee
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	1:00	Deacons Visit
	6:00	Bible Study (Library)
	6:30	Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study (Cairl Room)
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
	6:00	Personnel Committee
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	9:00	Packing Thanksgiving Baskets (Fellowship Hall)
	10:30	Deliver Thanksgiving Baskets to families
	5:30	Socialites (Fellowship Hall)
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education Class
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

## Sermon Notes