

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

September 10, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161
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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.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

OPENING WORDS

Let us wake up from our deep night of the soul.

For God is dawning on the world like morning light.

Let us turn to the east with joy on our lips.

For God's face shines upon us and gives us peace.

PRELUDE “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Michael Burkhardt

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We rejoice, O God, that you call us to this place.

We rejoice, O God, that we can sing your praise and offer our lives.

You strengthen us and call us to serve.

You appointed us to service in Christ.

To you, Immortal and Invisible One, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

*HYMN ★12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, in the week that is past we each have let go of the rope of our good intentions. We have averted our eyes from the sorrow or pain of someone else.

We have failed to renew our own physical, emotional, and spiritual resources.

We have made a decision without the guidance of prayer. And while we are generous in forgiving ourselves these sins, we are harsh when we see them in someone else.

Forgive us and make us newly self-aware. And plant a bothersome conscience in the middle of our lives.

SILENT CONFESSION

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 ★634 “To God Be the Glory”

To God be the glory; great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory; great things he has done.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Psalm 149

OT p. 583

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 18:15-20

NT p. 20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Where Two or Three”

HYMN ★462 “I Love to Tell the Story”

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

OFFERTORY "A Festive Gloria"

Jay Althouse

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Sing we now to the heavens. Sing we now with one voice. Alleluia now rejoice. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Sing a song of compassion. Sing it out to the sky. Alleluia, raise your voice on high. We sing this song with conviction; our gladsome voices we raise. Come join all nations with exultations and songs of jubilant praise. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Sing it out to the sky. Alleluia, raise your voice on high. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We have brought to you only what is already yours, dear God. We give because you have given first. Use this offering of our hands and anoint us, the givers, for the building up of your kingdom for your glory alone. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—

The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of all life, everywhere present, and is the source of all good thoughts, pure desires, and holy counsels in people. By him the prophets were moved to speak the Word of God, and all the writers of the Holy Scriptures inspired to record infallibly the mind and will of God. The dispensation of the gospel is especially committed to him. He prepares the way for it, accompanies it with his persuasive power, and urges its message upon the reason and conscience of people, so that they who reject its merciful offer are not only without excuse, but are also guilty of resisting the Holy Spirit.

--The Westminster Confession of Faith (1958), from 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 ★749 "Come! Live in the Light!"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ★ 547 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" v. 3

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

POSTLUDE "At the Name of Jesus"

Michael Burkhardt

TODAY

Worship Time Change, Rally Day and Noisy Offering

Today, **September 10**, is Rally Day, we will begin to worship again at 11:00 a.m. for the autumn and winter months. This morning we will take up the noisy offering, formerly the two cents-a-meal offering. Noisy offering invites our congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Proceeds will go to the Community of Need Meal.

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.

Martha Mary Circle

A circle meeting will take place tomorrow, Monday, **September 11** at 1:00 p.m. in the Cairl Room to discuss the upcoming Public Luncheon which will be held on September 28.

Sanctuary Chancel Choir and Bell Choir

It is time for all who love to make music to gather together at our church and bring our musical offerings to the Lord. So, on every Wednesday night, at 7:30 p.m. come to the Choir Room and become a member of the Choir. If you would like to ring

hand bells and we need more members, come to bell rehearsal this Wednesday, **September 13**, at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

We will meet again starting Thursday, **September 14** at 10:00 a.m. to begin a new six-week series on the Bible in the Library.

Adult Education Classes

Next Sunday, **September 17** at 9:30 a.m. there will be Bible Stories with Elder Alice Kostoff in the Cairl Room.

Presbytery Meeting

After Worship next Sunday, **September 17** at 12:00 p.m. there will be an organizational meeting in Boyd Chapel for the Presbytery Meeting which will take place on Tuesday, **September 19** starting at 3:00 p.m. The cost for a dinner is \$10 per person and reservations are due by this Friday, **September 15** at noon. A Worship Service will be at 7:00 p.m. and Pastor Annemarie will be the preacher with our Choir singing under the direction of Susan Barker.

Message from Property Committee

This past week, we have begun painting of the Hall of Memories, hallway to the handicap rest room, the Narthex/ Bell tower and the little kitchen. Please excuse the inconvenience. ~Property Committee

Chair Yoga

The starting time of Chair Yoga with Chantelle has returned to 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday. It is open to all women and men. The cost is \$5 per class.

Thoughts and Prayers

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe extends our Christian sympathies to the families and friends of Bill Thomas, who joined the Church Triumphant on September 1 and the Rev. Dr. William H. Findley who joined the Church Triumphant on September 4. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

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 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Matthew 5:21-26	Be reconciled to your brother/sister
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love fulfills the law
Wednesday	Luke 17:1-4	Repentance and forgiveness
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-15	Forgive as the Lord forgave you
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Forgive each other
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

Sermon Notes

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship
MONDAY	1:00	Martha Mary Circle (Cairl Room)
	5:30	Bed Ministry Board Meeting
	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff
	11:00	Prayer Shawl Meeting (Library)
	6:00	Finance Committee
	7:00	Mission & Outreach Committee
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	1:00	Deacons Visit
	5:00	Worship Committee
	6:30	Property Committee
	6:30	Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	10:00	Women's Bible Study
	6:00	Personnel Committee
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	5:30	Socialites
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education Class (Cairl Room)
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Presbytery Briefing Meeting (Boyd Chapel)

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;

Custodian: Jewelley Peters

Liturgist: Bob Douglas

Ushers: Cory & Kathy Fogle, Rusty & Cathy Shorter