

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

September 17, 2017; 11:00 AM

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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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

OPENING WORDS

There is no God like you.

In heaven above or on the earth beneath.

You keep covenant with those who walk in your ways.

And you seek covenant with all, so that every creature on earth might bring glory to your name.

PRELUDE “We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit”

Dietrich Buxtehude

*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

O God, forgive us when we fill up every minute with something to do, complain or boast about how busy we are, waste other people's time by making them wait for us. God, forgive us when we forget how sacred every minute is, when we waste our own time in unimportant details, or when we watch the clock when someone needs our help. Hear us in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, who always had time for work and rest and called his disciples to be attentive and present to others.

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 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

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Psalm 114

OT p. 563

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 18:21-35

NT p. 20

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Forgiving”

HYMN 649 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

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

OFFERTORY "A Hymn of Supplication" Don McAfee
O Lord, have mercy now, we pray, and save us by thy steadfast love, for we have wandered from thy way. Forgive us, forgive us from above. Against thee only do we sin, and we are helpless in thy sight; without thee all is dark within. Lord, lead us by Thy light. Create within us cleaner hearts, and fashion spirits fresh and new. Restore the joy thy love imparts and keep us, Lord, strong and true. Amen.
(Psalm 51)

*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, whom the Father is ever willing to give to all who ask him, is the only efficient agent in the application of redemption. He regenerates people by his grace, convicts them of sin, moves them to repentance, and persuades and enables them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith. He unites all believers in Christ, dwells in them as their Comforter and Sanctifier, gives to them the spirit of Adoption and Prayer, and performs all those gracious offices by which they are sanctified and sealed unto the day of redemption.

--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 365 "God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!"

*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 "Rigaudon"

Louis Campra

TODAY

Presbytery Meeting

After Worship this morning, **September 17** at 12:00 p.m. there will be an organizational meeting in Boyd Chapel for the Presbytery Meeting which will take place this Tuesday, **September 19** starting at 3:00 p.m. 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.

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.

Presbytery Meeting

The Presbytery Meeting will take place on Tuesday, **September 19** starting at 3:00 p.m. here at the church. 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. All are invited for Worship.

Adult Education Classes

Next Sunday, **September 24** there will be no Adult Education due to the Bed Race. On Sunday, **October 1** at 9:30 a.m. Elder Alice Kostoff will continue to teach Bible Stories in the Cairl Room.

Bed Race

Next Sunday, **September 24** the Bed Race will take place starting at 1:00 p.m. All volunteers may contact a bed ministry board member for a time to be here for the race.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, **October 1** after worship for the purpose of reducing the number of deacons from 15 to 12 to better correspond with the size of our congregation.

New Member Class to Start on Sunday, Oct. 15 after worship

Are you considering church membership or would like to learn more about who we are as a church that is Presbyterian and Reformed? We are offering a class that meets after worship at 12:15 p.m. on three consecutive Sundays in the pastor's office. After that participants may choose church membership and may be received on Sunday, Nov. 5. Please let Pastor Annemarie know if you are interested.

Sanctuary Chancel Choir and Bell Choir

It is time for all who love to make music to gather and bring our musical offerings to the Lord. So, each 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 every Wednesday night, at 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study on Thursdays

We meet each Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. for a new six-week series on the Bible in the Library.

Message from Property Committee

After the Presbytery meeting we will begin the painting of Boyd Chapel.

Also, **please do not post any signs on the glass or wooden doors or walls!** Please use the bulletin boards located next to the main office. ~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 \$7 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 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 18:20-33	Abraham pleads for Sodom
Tuesday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Wednesday	Romans 14:1-12	Don't judge others
Thursday	1 Samuel 26:5-25	David spares Saul's life
Friday	Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60	Stephen prays for his killers
Saturday	Psalms 103	The Lord's wonderful love
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:00	Presbytery Briefing Meeting (Boyd Chapel)
	12:15	Fellowship
MONDAY	5:30	Bed Ministry Board Meeting
	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff
	11:00	Prayer Shawl Meeting (Library)
	3:00	Presbytery Meeting
	5:30	Dinner
	7:00	Presbytery Worship Service
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	1:00	Deacons Visit
	6:30	Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	10:00	Women's Bible Study
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SUNDAY	9:30	No Adult Education Class
	11:00	Worship
	1:00	Bed Race

Sermon Notes

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
Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley
Liturgist: Cheryl Eder
Ushers: Bill Barnes, Mark Eby, Jim Crammond, and Helyn Schroeder