

F i r s t 

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Presbyterian

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Church of Monroe

September 24, 2017; 11:00 AM

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[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.

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

## OPENING WORDS

The way of the Lord is not easy.

**We must not cling to our own old habits, but prepare for the moment of God's transformation.**

The way of the Lord is not easy.

**We must bear light to those in darkness, and guide their words and feet unto peace.**

The way of the Lord is not easy.

**We must not act so that others may notice, but act for God's good pleasure alone.**

Let us worship the Lord, not in name but in truth.

**Let us worship the Lord, not in vain, but by faith and childlike trust!**

## PRELUDE

"Arioso"

J. S. Bach

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,

Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty will say to the Lord:

**“My refuge and my fortress,  
my God in whom I trust.”**

Under God's wings, we find our refuge.

**For God is our armor and our shield.**

\*HYMN 32 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God ”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Great Protector and Provider, we have sought to increase treasure and have built our own nest of security. We have created safe heavens and piles of belonging for ourselves. At the same time, we have neglected justice and godliness and love. We measure people and ourselves along the lines of money and influence. We forget the dangers of seeking after power and prestige. In mercy, forgive our selfish greed. Set aside your anger for our neglecting to seek you first and see your qualities grow in us.**

**Quicken our hearts by your Spirit, so that we may care more for those who are least than for treasure that quickly fades. Grant us the courage to live by your cross and put to death our selfish ambition.**

## 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 835 “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee; let it be, dear Lord, let it be.  
I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain*

### CHILDREN'S BLESSING

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

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

OT p. 556-557

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING — Matthew 20:1-16

NT p. 21-22

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Wage Gap”

HYMN 432 “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

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

OFFERTORY "Lord of All Hopefulness" Healey Willan  
*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy, Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts at the break of the day. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be there at our labors and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts at the noon of the day. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray your love in our hearts at the eve of the day. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts at the end of the day.*

\*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—

**By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit all believers being vitally united to Christ, who is the Head, are thus united one to another in the Church, which is his body. He calls and anoints ministers for their holy office, qualifies all other officers in the Church for their special work, and imparts various gifts and graces to its members. He gives efficacy to the Word and to the ordinances of the gospel. By him the Church will be preserved, increased, purified, and at last made perfectly holy in the presence of God.**

--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 343 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" vs. 1-4

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ★ 745 "Go with Us, Lord"

*Now go in joy to spread the Word till all people have heard: God embraces all! Follow, then, the disciples' call: tend your neighbors with loving care in daily work and prayer. God's own grace empower your spirit. Amen!*

POSTLUDE "Trumpet Fanfare" Jean Joseph Mouret

**TODAY**

**Bed Race and No Adult Education**

This Sunday, **September 24** the Bed Race will start at 1:00 p.m. There will be no Adult Education this morning.

**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.

## **Adult Education Classes**

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

## **Public Luncheon**

The Public Luncheon on **September 28** will be cancelled.

## **Congregational Meeting**

A Congregational Meeting will be held next 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.

## **Congregational Retreat**

Congregational Life is sponsoring a retreat for the entire congregation on **Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9:30-12:30 p.m.** We welcome as our guest speaker the Rev. Paul Simpson Duke, Ph.D., who will lead us through a study on the Gospel of John in how to be friends in Christ. He will also be our guest preacher during Adult Education and in Worship on Sunday, October 8. The retreat is free and open to the public, so bring a friend.

## **Dedication of Shawls and Blankets on October 8**

The women of Martha Mary Circle have been busy sewing, knitting, and crocheting blankets, hats, prayer shawls, pocket prayer shawls, security dolls and lap robes to be used in several locales which will be blessed in Worship on Sunday, **October 8**. They will go to Knit 4 Peace to be sent around the world, to local charities to help our neighbors, and to members of our church family to remind them that God loves them and so do we.

## **International Potluck**

Congregational Life is sponsoring an International Potluck on Sunday, **October 8**. Bring a generous dish of your favorites.

## **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.

## **Martha Mary Circle**

Our group will be going to the Tecumseh Tea House on Monday, **October 16.**

## **Toledo Zoo**

A trip to the Toledo Zoo is planned on Tuesday, **October 24** which is a free day for Seniors during September and October. We will carpool from the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. and stay until 2:00 p.m. Wheelchairs and scooter rentals are available. Judy Chesman will be leading the group.

## **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. 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 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 "Putting Jesus First" based on Sarah Young's Jesus Calling series in the Library.

## **Message from Property Committee**

This week 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 family and friends of longtime member, Mary F. Schuster who joined the Church Triumphant on September 10. 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.

|               |                         |  |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Matthew 20:1-16</b>  | <b>Parable of the vineyard workers</b> |
| Monday        | Jonah 3:10-4:11         | The Lord explains God's compassion     |
| Tuesday       | 1 Timothy 6:17-19       | God provides richly                    |
| Wednesday     | Ephesians 1:3-14        | The riches of God's grace              |
| Thursday      | Titus 3:3-7             | The generosity of God                  |
| Friday        | John 1:14-18            | One blessing after another             |
| Saturday      | Psalms 145              | The Lord is kind and merciful          |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Matthew 21:23-32</b> | <b>Parable of the two sons</b>         |

## THIS WEEK

|           |       |  |
|-----------|-------|--|
| SUNDAY    | 12:15 | Fellowship                               |
|           | 1:00  | Bed Race                                 |
| MONDAY    | 7:00  | AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)             |
| TUESDAY   | 11:00 | Staff                                    |
|           | 11:00 | Prayer Shawl Meeting (Library)           |
|           | 7:00  | Session                                  |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:30  | Chair Yoga                               |
|           | 1:00  | Deacons Visit                            |
|           | 6:30  | Bell Choir                               |
|           | 7:30  | Choir                                    |
| THURSDAY  | 10:00 | Women's Bible Study                      |
|           | 11:00 | No Salad Luncheon                        |
|           | 6:00  | Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall) |
|           | 6:00  | TOPS                                     |
| FRIDAY    | 9:00  | TOPS                                     |
|           | 8:00  | Heroin Anonymous                         |
| SUNDAY    | 9:30  | Adult Education Class                    |
|           | 11:00 | Worship                                  |
|           | 12:00 | Fellowship                               |
|           | 12:15 | Congregational Meeting                   |

## **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:** Laurie Hoffman

**Ushers:** Jim & Sue Heisler, Randy Stiffler, George Kostoff