

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

April 15, 2018; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161
734.242.1545; info@monroefirst.org
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.

Third Sunday of Easter

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

OPENING WORDS

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from garden tomb through darkened city street

Unlocks the door of grief, despair and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

PRELUDE “He Rose!” African American Spiritual/arr. Charles Callahan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Look! God is coming with the clouds; every eye will see.

Even those who pierced him; and on this account all the tribes of the earth shall wail.

So it is to be. I am the Alpha and the Omega,

who is, who was and who is to come, the Lord God the Almighty!

*OPENING HYMN #305 “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we acknowledge that we belong to you, and that you hold the keys of death and life. Yet we have sought to preserve old ways of living, rather than embracing the new life you have given us. We have disbelieved your good news, even when its signs are all around us.

Forgive our refusal to trust you. Set us free by your Spirit from the fear that binds us in unbelief. Fill us with new life in Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN #579 “Lord, Have Mercy”

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*SONG OF AFFIRMATION #817 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” v. 1

*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.”*

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING – Acts 3:12-19

OT p. 120-121

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – Luke 24:36b-48

NT p. 91

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Witnesses”

HYMN #260 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

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

OFFERTORY “Witness”

Dick Bolks

Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord. There was a man of the Pharisees; his name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe. The same came to Christ by night, wanted to be taught out of human sight. Nicodemus was a man who desired to know how a man can be born when he's old. Christ told Nicodemus as a friend, "Man, you must be born again. Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe and be baptized." Then you'll be a witness for my Lord. You read about Samson, from his birth he was the strongest man that ever lived on earth. Way back yonder in ancient times he killed ten thousand of the Philistines.

Then old Samson went a-wandering about, Samson's strength was never found out. Til his wife sat upon his knee, she said, "Tell me where your strength lies, if you please!" Well, old Samson's wife, she talk so fair, Samson said, "Cut off-a my hair! Shave my head just as clean as your hand and my strength will 'come like a natural man." Samson was a witness for my Lord. Soul is a witness for my Lord. There's another witness for my Lord! My soul is a witness for my Lord!

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, full of compassion, I commit and offer myself to you, in whom I am and live and think. Be the goal of my pilgrimage and a rest stop by the wayside. My soul takes refuge in you. And my heart sings your praises with what I give to you. 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.

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 #246

“Christ Is Alive!”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Janet Spence, pianist

TODAY

Fellowship in Boyd Chapel

Please join us for fellowship in Boyd Chapel after worship today.

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 in the Cairl Room

Mission Emphasis in April

During the month of April, all adult education programs during the 9:30 a.m. hour will focus on mission and mission agencies. Here then are the programs:

April 22: MCOP with Executive Director Stephanie Kasprzak. The agency offers programs intended to reduce poverty and homelessness, along with providing support to senior citizens.

April 29: Oaks of Righteousness/Victory Village with Pastor Heather Boone. The church runs a homeless shelter and provides additional services to reduce homelessness.

Church 200th Anniversary Celebration Organizational Meeting

Come to our gathering on Monday, **April 16** at 7:00 p.m. in the Cairl Room. Bring your ideas, things you have seen in other churches or would like to see in our church. Everyone is welcome to attend and help plan for our bicentennial.

How to Pray With Others

Do you know how to pray out loud? Other than saying grace at table or the Lord's Prayer, are you comfortable to offer a prayer for someone who is asking you to, who stands in need of prayer, who is burdened? Most of us aren't. Praying out loud feels scary. We are afraid to stumble over our words and to make a fool of ourselves. Such fear is unwarranted. Because there are simple steps to follow. On Sunday, **April 22** at 12:30 p.m. in the Cairl Room, we will go over some of these simple steps. And we will even have a chance to practice praying out loud. This session is sponsored by our Board of Deacons. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Bible Studies

On Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Dallas and Donna Dieckmann will lead the Jesus Calling book study of Experiencing God's Presence. On Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Alice Kostoff will lead the Jesus Calling book study on Putting Jesus First. The study groups will continue during May and June.

New Youth Group and Confirmation Class

We have kicked off our new youth group. The next meeting is on Wednesday, **April 25** from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the youth room. It includes a time of prayer, bible study, fun, and fellowship. We meet every other week in the Teen Room. Feel free to bring a friend!

Mission/Oaks of Righteousness

The BLUE BIN is back. It is located in the office lobby. This month Mission Committee is collecting Ranch Dressing for Oaks for the meals at the Homeless Shelter. Thanks for helping out.

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. Information shared is confidential!

Sermons

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

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **Director of Music Ministry:** Susan Barker;
Administrative Assistant: Sara Jones; **Financial Secretary:** Suzanne Bondie;
Sexton: Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Suzanne Bondie, Amy Morgan;
Custodian: Sean Farris
Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley
Liturgist: Rusty Shorter
Ushers: Bill Barnes; Jim Crammond; David Nielson; Helyn Schroeder

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	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
Wednesday	Acts 1:1-11	You will be my witnesses
Thursday	Acts 10:34-43	The witness of the apostles
Friday	Isaiah 35:3-9	God changes everything
Saturday	Psalms 4	An evening prayer
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd

Congregation Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, May 6th

Everyone, please join us!



Sponsored by Deacons and Congregational Life Committee

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship (Boyd Chapel)
MONDAY	5:30	AA Potluck (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00	Bicentennial Organizational Meeting
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff Meeting
	1:00	Deacon Visit
	2:00	Rhythmic Ringers
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
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	5:30	Socialites
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education Class
	9:30	Bell Choir at St. Paul United Methodist
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship
	12:30	Praying with Others (Cairl Room)

Sermon Notes