

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

April 29, 2018; 11:00 AM

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

OPENING WORDS

Jesus has come from God to triumph over death.

Jesus Christ has come as one of us so that death can be conquered.

He has laid the foundation for a completely new life.

In him we can become completely different women and men.

Let us make a new beginning with him.

Let us begin anew in Him, who was and is and is to come!

PRELUDE “Preludio” (Violin Partita No. 3) J.S. Bach/trans. Rachmaninov

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name.

God protects the vulnerable and shelters the weak.

God gives a home to the homeless and leads the captives into freedom.

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name.

Hallelujah, Amen!

*OPENING HYMN #369 “Blessing and Honor”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, father and mother to orphans, protector to outcasts, provider for the needy, savior of all: We confess that we have neglected the work you entrusted to us. We have been half-hearted in our prayers, in our care for those who suffer, in our witness to your love for us and all people of the earth. God of mercy, restore us and make us whole again. Support us. Strengthen and ground us that we may do your will on earth, until you come again.

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” vs. 1-2

*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.”
We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”*

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 8:26-40

NT p. 127

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — 1 John 4:7-21

NT p. 241

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Just What is Love?”

Winnie Findley

HYMN #366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry.

OFFERTORY

“Shall We Gather at the River”

arr. John Carter

Logan Skidmore, conductor

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod; with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God. Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river. Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God. Deep river, my home is over Jordan, deep river, I want to cross over into campground. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river. Gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Take from our hands what is yours, O Lord, to build up your church in mission and love. And return to us your peace that we may be a vibrant witness of you in the world. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. (. . .) In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

From A Brief Statement of Faith, 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 #263 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE “Gavotte” (Violin Partita No. 3) J.S. Bach/trans. Rachmaninov

TODAY

Guest Musicians

We welcome Joshua Marzan to our music leadership this morning. Joshua is a DMA candidate at the University of Michigan in Collaborative Piano. He also is the pianist for the 8:00 am service at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. Conducting our choir today is our Choral Intern Logan Skidmore, who is a student at Monroe High School. Logan also conducts Momentum, the select choir at the high school, who will be joining us in May. We thank both musicians for joining us while Susan is out of town.

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.

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, **May 9** 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!

Adult Education Classes in the Cairl Room Coming in May for Adult Education Classes

Exodus: From Bondage to Freedom

The second book of the Bible is Exodus, which chronicles the story of the Israelites' deliverance by God from Egyptian bondage unto freedom. But once they escape, the people are left to wander about in the wilderness for forty years. It is during this time that their leader, Moses, receives the Ten Commandments, that we hear the grumblings of the people, and that we find the ten plagues, including the passing over of the angel of death. Exodus is a foreshadowing of our own history of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Passover lamb. This class will meet on **May 6** and **May 13**. The facilitator will be Dallas Dieckmann.

Pentecost: The Power from Above

The feast of Pentecost is typically viewed as the birthday of the church. But what did really happen on that day? What is the meaning of the Jewish feast of Pentecost. And how do we experience our own Pentecost and "Pentecostal" power in our life? This class will meet on **May 20**. Our facilitator will be Pastor Annemarie Kidder.

Congregation Appreciation Dinner

The Congregational Life Committee and the Deacons will be sponsoring the Congregation Appreciation Dinner on **May 6** after worship. Please join us!

Martha Mary Circle Mother's Day Luncheon

All ladies of the church are invited to attend a Mother's Day Luncheon at the Monroe Golf & Country Club on Monday, **May 7** at 12:30 p.m. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, **May 12**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the CE Lobby.

Study Leave

While Pastor Annemarie is away until **May 8**, please contact the Moderator of Deacons Ann Lux for any pastoral care needs.

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: Helyn Schroeder

Ushers: Kay and John Gawle, Liz Cunningham, Marilyn Marshall

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	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Philip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 10:12-19	What the Lord wants
Thursday	Mark 12:28-34	The first commandment
Friday	Galatians 3:23-29	Purpose of the law
Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship (Boyd Chapel)
MONDAY	7:00	AA (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	No Staff Meeting
	2:00	Rhythmic Ringers
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	1:00	No Deacons Visit
	1:00	Sparklers
	5:00	Worship Committee
	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
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education Class
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Congregation Appreciation Dinner