

F i r s t 

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Presbyterian

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Church of Monroe

September 23, 2018; 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.

# **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Bed Race Sunday**

*\*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

“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”

arr. David Cherwein

## \*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.**

## \*OPENING 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

HYMN #579

“Lord, Have Mercy”

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is the gift of God, not result of works, so that no one can boast about them. In the name of Jesus Christ, and through his gracious self-surrender unto death, we are forgiven.  
**Amen!**

## \*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 — James 3:13-4:3

NT p. 230

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“First Place”

HYMN #432

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Though I May Speak”

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

\*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*

PASTORAL PRAYER 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

POSTLUDE

“Grand Choeur in G”

Theodore Salome

## **TODAY**

### **About our Guest Musician**

We welcome Sarah Albright, our organist this morning, to our service. Sarah Albright lives in Ann Arbor where she has taught piano and been music director in local churches for over 30 years. She is now retired from church music duties and enjoys substitute work in area churches.

### **Bed Race Sunday**

Please stay after worship for the Bed Race sponsored by the Monroe County Bed Race to Aid Children which starts at 1:00 p.m.

### **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, wheel chairs, and walkers are also available.

### **Congregational Meeting**

Next **Sunday, September 30**, after worship we will have a congregational meeting moderated by a member of the Committee on Ministry to vote on Pastor Annemarie Kidder as the installed Pastor. As mentioned before, the Session has nominated Pastor Annemarie Kidder as their candidate for the office of installed pastor.

### **Public Luncheon this Thursday!**

The Martha Mary Circle will be sponsoring a Public Luncheon this Thursday, **September 27** from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Carry Out is Available and the cost is \$7.00. Please invite your friends and co-workers. Setup for the luncheon will be this Wednesday, **September 26** at 10:00 a.m.

### **“Your Church” Newsletter Deadline**

The October deadline for the newsletter is this Thursday, **September 27**.

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

On Thursdays, at 10:00 a.m. Cindy Morgan and Alice Kostoff are co-facilitating a study on the Gospel of Mark based on N.T. Wright's Bible study series in the Cairl Room. This is open to everyone. Each week we are growing in the word of Christ. Please join us! There will be no Bible Study on Thursday, **September 27** due to the Public Luncheon.

### **Ecumenical Youth Group**

The Rev. Kevin Eccles has launched an ecumenical Bible Study for Youth. Youth from any of our area churches are invited to meet at the Monroe Free Methodist Church at 3928 E. Dunbar Road, Monroe. The group meets on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. Youth may join at any time. The focus of the study is the Book of Jonah and the Gospel of Luke. To make reservations, please call the church at (734) 863-4321 or let Pastor Annemarie know.

### **Adult Education**

Next Sunday, **September 30** and throughout the month of October at 9:30 a.m. Dallas Dieckmann will continue a study on 1 Corinthians in the Cairl Room. Nursery will be provided by Suzanne Bondie and Amy Morgan. Please join us and bring a friend!

### **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!

### **New Children's Message Series**

We have kicked off a new children's message series called "Treasure Box." Children will bring up a "treasure box" that contains one item and bring it forward. The pastor will then have to come up with a story or biblical message that's related to this item.

### **The Gospel of John Retreat Seminar at IHM North Spirituality Center**

On Saturday, **September 29**, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pastor Annemarie Kidder will lead a retreat on the Gospel of John at the IHM North Spirituality Center in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. This session will explore some of the women in the Gospel of John and the distinct ways in which Jesus interacts with them. They are Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery, the sisters Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene. The suggested offering is \$25.00.

## **Aeolian Chorale Concert**

The Aeolian Chorale under the direction of Marshall Dix will be in concert with us again next Sunday, **September 30** at 3:00 p.m. They will present a selection of songs reflecting on and inspired by our lovely state entitled, "From Michigan, With Love." Please join us for this special concert and bring a friend!

## **World Communion Sunday and International Potluck**

On Sunday, **October 7** during worship we will observe World Communion Sunday and following worship there will be an International Potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to pass!

## **Sermons**

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

### **Staff:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **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:** Greg Hunter

**Ushers:** Jim and Sue Heisler; Randy Stiffler; George Kostoff

## **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>Mark 9:30-37</b>	<b>The servant of all is greatest</b>
Monday	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Plot to kill Jeremiah
Tuesday	James 3:13-4:8a	Wisdom from above
Wednesday	2 Kings 5:1-14	A girl saves her master
Thursday	Luke 14:7-14	Humility and hospitality
Friday	Isaiah 42:1-9	A servant song
Saturday	Psalm 54	A cry to God for help
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:38-50</b>	<b>Avoiding sin</b>

## THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	No Fellowship
	1:00	Bed Race
MONDAY	7:00	AA (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	10:00	Chair Yoga
	11:00	Staff Meeting
	7:00	Session
WEDNESDAY	10:00	Set-Up for Public Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
	1:00	Sparklers
	1:00	Deacons Visit
	6:00	Ecumenical Youth Group (Monroe Free Methodist)
THURSDAY		Newsletter Deadline today
	10:00	No Bible Study
	11:00	Public Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education (Cairl Room)
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Congregational Meeting
	12:15	Fellowship
	3:00	Aeolian Chorale Concert