

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

September 30, 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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

OPENING WORDS

The Lord sees the end from the beginning.

Wisdom begins with reverence for the Lord.

The Lord judges the immediate by the ultimate.

Wisdom begins with reverence for the Lord.

The Lord weighs the deed by the motive.

Wisdom begins with reverence for the Lord.

As we have entered this holy place to hear your word,

We pray, O Lord, that you will show us the path to a wisdom that the world can neither give nor take away.

PRELUDE

“Concerto in D Minor, Largo”

J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are gathered here to celebrate life's great gifts--

To worship the Lord who is the source of them all.

That the ears of us deaf may be opened--

To hear the words of truth and beauty;

That the tongue of us mute may be loosed--

to speak the words of love and duty.

The Lord seeks us.

Come and let us seek the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN #267

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess anxiety about the world in which we live. We lack the resources to see the present with clarity or the future with hope. We have grown numb to the loss of life, and we are eager to retaliate.

Forgive us.

We have been quick to cast blame on others and less inclined to consider the anger that is within our own hearts.

Have mercy on us.

Grant us a soft heart for all who suffer, compassion for all who grieve, and patience toward all who seek to serve the common good. Cleanse our hearts and minds of what causes fear in us and fill us with your peace.

SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN #579 “Lord, Have Mercy”
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters in Christ: The kingdom of God has drawn near. Turn around and believe that Peace has come to you. In Christ's name alone, you 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 3rd grade and younger are welcome to continue worship in the Wee Believers Room, #159.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — James 5:13-20
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

NT p. 231-232

SECOND READING — Mark 9:38-50
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

NT p. 45

SERMON

“Stumbling Blocks”

HYMN #840

“When Peace Like a River”

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry.

OFFERTORY

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

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—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.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*HYMN #826

“Lift High the Cross”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Postlude”

Alexandre Guilmant

TODAY

About our Guest Musician

We welcome again Sarah Albright, as 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.

Congregational Meeting this Morning

This morning, 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. We welcome Elder Joel Youkers, a member of the Committee on Ministry, who will moderate this meeting today.

Aeolian Chorale Concert

The Aeolian Chorale under the direction of Marshall Dix will be in concert with us again this afternoon, 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!

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.

Adult Education

Next Sunday, **October 7** and throughout the month 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!

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!

Martha Mary Circle

The Martha Mary Circle will be meeting on Monday, **October 8** at 1:00 p.m. in the Cairl Room. All ladies are invited to attend. Please join us and bring a friend!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will take place at the Fifth Wheel Restaurant on Saturday, **October 13** at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up in the CE Lobby.

Dish Pick Up from the Public Luncheon

Please remember to pick up your dishes that you brought to the Public Luncheon. They are in the Resource Room next to the Cairl Room. Some dishes have been left from the spring luncheons.

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!

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!

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.

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.

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: Rusty Shorter

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	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin
Monday	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	Moses and the seventy elders
Tuesday	James 5:13-20	The power of prayer
Wednesday	Luke 24:36-49	Repentance and forgiveness
Thursday	Micah 7:18-20	God's steadfast love
Friday	Acts 3:17-26	Repent for times of refreshment
Saturday	Psalm 19:7-14	The wonders of God
Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship
	3:00	Aeolian Chorale Concert
MONDAY	6:00	Chair Yoga
	7:00	200 th Anniversary Celebration History Meeting
	7:00	AA (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	10:00	Chair Yoga
	11:00	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY	1:00	Deacons Visit
	6:00	Ecumenical Youth Group (Monroe Free Methodist)
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study
	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	Fellowship