

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

November 25, 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.

Christ the King Sunday and Stewardship Sunday

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

OPENING WORDS

The morning sun is a gift of God creating patterns of shadow and light

Touching and blessing all the patterns with grace and beauty

The morning sun sets loose a chorus of praise,

For all patterns and praises are holy.

PRELUDE

“Prelude”

Harris

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.

So thank our God

For joy in living

And patience in trouble;

For wisdom to walk the right path

And peace to calm anxious worry;

For all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,

So let our song arise and give thanks for all of God’s love.

*OPENING HYMN #697

“Take My Life”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts. We confess that we have not been good stewards of the life and strength you have given us. You have provided us with sound minds, but we have been careless about what we put into them. We have abused the health and strength of our bodies. We have starved our spirits of daily nourishment from your Word. Although you have equipped each of us with talents and abilities meant for the building of your kingdom, we have not used them. Many of our strengths go unused and misused: intellectual, physical, financial, creative or leadership abilities.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“What Is Truth?”

HYMN #710

“We Lift Our Voices”

CALL TO OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry.

OFFERTORY

“Adagio”

17th Century (Anon.)

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving in the way you meet our needs each day, and in the peace you give which passes understanding. Having received so much, we offer all we have, our time, talents, and money for your kingdom. Bless these gifts for the work of your church. Amen.

*A STEWARDSHIP LITANY

John Chesman

Let us pray for the wisdom and courage to make stewardship a way of life with God.

Because of our faith in You, O Lord,

we acknowledge You as the source of all that we have and all that we are.

Help us to place You, our loving Creator, first in our lives...

by becoming more prayerful and more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things.

Help us, Lord to find the true source of happiness and fulfillment that we all seek,

and that You, alone, can provide.

Help us to hear Your call to be good stewards of all Your gifts,

by sharing them for Your purposes.

Help us make Your priorities
our priorities.

Help us challenge each other, as disciples of Jesus Christ
to put our faith into action.

As we plan the things in our lives that are most important to us...

Lord, help us plan our sharing of time with those in need.

Help us plan...

how to “give back” the talents with which we have been blessed.

Help us plan...

how to share our treasure to do Your work.

May our planning and sharing...

demonstrate the great importance that You and the truth of the Gospel have in our lives.

Help us plan...

to serve our church, our community, and our world with Your gifts.

Help us, Lord

return a portion of all You have given us.

We do this, O Lord, as a sign of our love,

and in thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received. AMEN.

OFFERING OF PLEDGES

Come forward via the center aisle to offer your pledges for 2019.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Chesman

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving, these cards represent our sweat, our lives, and our dreams. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us. They are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, and for all we are challenged to become in this place. May they be the first fruits and not leftovers, so that we may live by your example of generosity. AMEN.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life...In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

--The Brief Statement of Faith

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Winnie Findley

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

Ann Lux

*HYMN #700

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Toccatà in F"

Bach

TODAY

Christ the King Sunday—An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 151).

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time.

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

Stewardship Sunday

This morning we will bring forward to the Lord our Pledge forms for the upcoming year of 2019.

About our Guest Speaker

Diane Adams is a graduate of Adrian College, Eastern Michigan University, and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is a retired educator, a former hospital chaplain, and one who has served as an interim associate in York, PA, and as a Christian education director in Monroe, MI. Diane was confirmed and married at First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, MI.

Usher's Report

The ushers will be passing out bulletins as you enter the Sanctuary. You are welcome then to seat yourself. The offering will be taken in the same manner as communion is served. They will come from the front and move down the center aisle, and return by the side aisles starting at the back.

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.

Christian Sympathies

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe extends its Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Barbara Pillarelli, who joined the Church Triumphant on **November 14, 2018**. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Adult Education

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.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

For Advent: We will be using the book, "Celebrating Advent" by Ann Hibbard. It is a book of family devotions and activities for the Christmas Season. Please join us in celebrating Advent during Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:00 in the Cairl Room!

Hanging of the Greens

Please join us after worship on **December 2** to help in the "Hanging of the Greens". We will need many helping hands to help us decorate for the Christmas season. Congregational Life will be providing a light lunch. Please dress casual for Worship. If you are unable to decorate, please come for the fellowship. You can cheer us on from the sidelines.



Fruit Cake Orders

Please remember that the last date to order Fruit Cakes is Tuesday, **December 4**. Order forms are available in the Welcome Center, C.E. Lobby, and the Church Office. For questions see Charlotte Frary. Please place your Order forms in the box outside of the Church Office. Orders will be delivered on Sunday, December 9.

Tom Treece Concert

On Saturday, **December 8** at 7:00 p.m. Tom Treece will be with us in concert. Please join us as we worship our Risen Savior through Christmas Carols of Joy. The Worship Committee will provide a light supper at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tom Treece will be selling his CD's and books at the concert.

Christmas Program

On Sunday, **December 9** we will have a Christmas Program during Worship. After worship we will have a special tea. We will be setting up the costumes on Wednesday, **December 5** at 10:00 a.m. and a practice with the cast will be on Saturday, **December 8** at 9:30 a.m. Please make sure that you are in attendance at the practice if you are involved in the program.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

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

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting after worship on **December 9** for the purpose of electing new Deacons and Elders for 2019 and for the approval of the 2019 budget.

Martha Mary Circle Christmas Luncheon

The Martha Mary Circle will be going to the Monroe Golf & Country Club for a Christmas Luncheon on Monday, **December 10** at 12:30 p.m. This is open to all ladies of the church. Please join us as we fellowship with one another before Christmas.

Dish Pick Up from the Public Luncheon

There are dishes that have been placed into the Resource Room from the spring and fall Public Luncheons. Please take a look you may be able to help someone in locating their dish. A gentle reminder from someone will help.

Pastoral Care Needs

Please direct any Pastoral Care needs to the Church Office. Information shared is confidential!

Staff:

Director of Music Ministries: Robert Edwards;

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: Ann Lux

Ushers: Jim and Sue Heisler; Randy Stiffler

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 18:33-37	Jesus, the King of truth
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Judgment before the Ancient One
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
Wednesday	Mark 15:1-15	Pilate questions Jesus
Thursday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 93	The majesty of God's rule
Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship
MONDAY	9:30	Worship Planning
	6:00	Chair Yoga
	7:00	Session
	7:00	AA (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	10:00	No Chair Yoga
	11:15	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY	6:00	Ecumenical Youth Group (Monroe Free Methodist)
	6:30	Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir practice
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
FRIDAY	6:00	TOPS
	9:00	TOPS
	9:30	Worship Planning Meeting
SUNDAY	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
	9:30	Adult Education (Cairl Room)
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Hanging of the Greens

Sermon Notes

