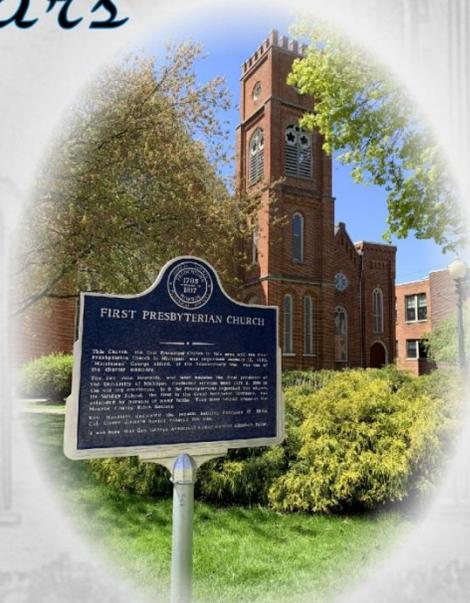




First
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating
200 Years
of Faith
&
Service



June 21, 2020

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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.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

OPENING WORDS

Friends, join me as we gather.

We gather in God's presence.

We open our hearts and our minds.

We gather in God's presence.

We lay down our sadness, our burdens, and rejoice.

We rejoice in God's love and grace for us.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! God is here! Rejoice!

We come to hear and understand God's word for us, for our church, and for the world in these times.

Notice and feel the presence of the Spirit of God in and among us.

We feel the presence of the Spirit surrounding us and calling us to open our eyes and our ears to hear anew God's message of reconciliation.

Let us worship and celebrate our Lord.

OPENING HYMN #37 "For the Music of Creation" vss. 1,3

(Sing! A New Creation-Green hymnal)

- 1 For the music of creation, for the song your Spirit sings, for your sound's divine expression, burst of joy in living things: God, our God, the world's composer, hear us, echoes of your voice. Music is your art, your glory; let the human heart rejoice!
- 3 All the voices of the ages in transcendent chorus meet, worship lifting up the senses, hands that praise, and dancing feet; over discord and division music speaks your joy and peace, harmony of earth and heaven, song of God that cannot cease!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our loving Creator God knows us and loves us as we are and continues to reach out to us as God's beloved people. Rest in God's love. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace and Truth, we are overwhelmed by your bountiful love for us, so evident in the many gifts you have bestowed upon us. Yet in the midst of the challenges of our lives, we become so focused on ourselves and our needs and wants that we often lose sight of caring for your creation in all its forms. We hear others speak in ways that anger us, we see resources abused and hoarded, we see people held back for their differences, and we become afraid. We shrink into ourselves and move to protect what we see as ours, mindless that all is your gift.

Forgive us, God, for the fear that often drives us to forget your love. Help us to think, speak, and act in ways that show your love for all your creation. Bless us anew to the path demonstrated to us by Jesus, and give us courage and grace to walk in His Way. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the Good News! God hears our voices crying out and offers the peace we seek. Let us proclaim the good news! In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven. Celebrate and know that God's heart, the Spirit, dwells in each of us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SONG OF AFFIRMATION #581 “Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Creator God, open our hearts and minds to hear your word for our lives. May it light anew the spark of the Holy Spirit within us. **Amen.**

FIRST READING — Genesis 21:8-21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 10:24-39

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “The fear that drives us, the faith that sustains us, Part 1”

Debra Davies

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostles’ Creed

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.

HYMN #307

“God of Grace and God of Glory

vss. 1,2,4

- 1 God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

CALL TO OFFERING

Please reflect on the blessings God has given you and how you might reach out.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we experience your bountiful love in so many ways. We pledge these tokens of our love and gratitude to your service and ask that they be multiplied in your ministry throughout the world to bring justice and peace. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Pray for those who are ill and all health care workers and those in essential jobs serving us. Pray for our congregation now separated. Pray for our country's leaders as they make tough decisions. Pray for our world.*)

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.

HYMN #300

"We Are One in the Spirit"

vss. 1,2,4

1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

Refrain

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

Refrain

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

God's love and peace washes over us. Let us share with it with all. Let us stand with all God's children in justice and love. The blessing of God, the Creator, and grace of Jesus, the Redeemer, and the comfort and love of the Spirit, the Sustainer go with you as you leave this place. **Amen.**

Ushers: Jim Crammond and Helyn Schroeder

About Our Guest Speaker

Debra Davies, M.Div., is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary (1998). She is a Ruling Elder of 40 years, having served four different congregations in that role as well as Clerk of Session in two congregations. She has long been involved in ecumenical activities, visited churches on three continents, and values the diversity of people of faith across Christian and non-Christian denominations and traditions. Committed to life-long learning, she teaches adult education classes focused on exploring questions of life and faith.