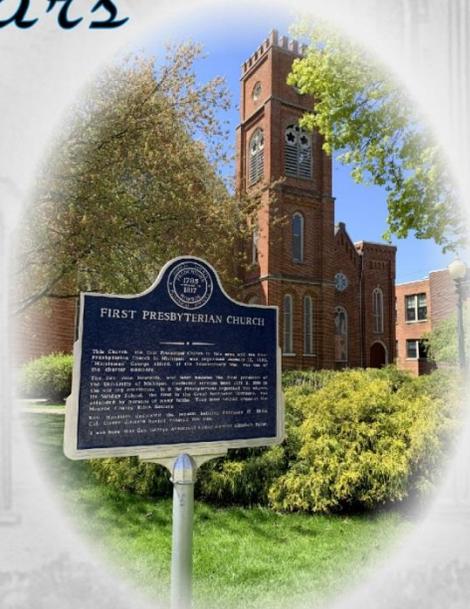




First
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating
200 Years
of Faith
&
Service



July 12, 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.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

OPENING WORDS

O God,
We gather together in Your presence with expectation,
hungry for an encounter with You,
eager to hear Your Word.

**Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.
May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning
fall on fertile soil.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our savior and our Lord.
Amen.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and hope upon us.
May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace.
Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.
Let us sing songs of joy to God.
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

OPENING HYMN #41 "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above" vss. 1,3,4

- 1 O worship the King, all glorious above! O gratefully sing God's power and God's love: our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
- 3 The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your power has founded of old; established it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- 4 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We long to be good soil on which God can spread the seeds of righteousness but, if we are honest, we too often turn our backs to God and become paths of stone as we put our desires before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, forgive us when we doubt your mercy and your love. We are so caught up in getting everything that we want; and we want it all right now. We have trouble waiting and remembering that it is in the waiting that we might hear your voice. It is difficult for us to believe that we can be fruitful, good soil for your words and work. We find excuses not to be attentive to you, but to focus instead on our own desires. Slow us down, Lord. Remind us again of your mercy and your love; for we offer this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God hears us and forgive us when we repent in truth. Because of God's grace, mercy and love, know that we are indeed forgiven through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and his resurrection. AMEN.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

If worshipping from home please call others after worship, if here in person, please just turn around where you are and nod to one another in peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's 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 FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, thank you for your word which is alive with the Holy Spirit. We pray that your word is revealed to us as it changes our hearts and minds to be more like Christ this morning. **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Isaiah 55:10-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — 1 Peter 1:22-25

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

“Good Soil”

Matthew 13:1-9

Jason Armstrong

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 #89

“Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness”

vss. 1,2,3

(Sing! A New Creation-Green hymnal)

- 1 Lord, we hear your word with gladness: you have spoken—we rejoice: words of love and life and freedom—help us make their truth our choice! Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you; spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.
- 2 May we hear with understanding, by your Spirit taught and led. May the springs of all our being by your living Word be fed. May our hearts accept with meekness all the grace your light makes known. May obedience mark our footsteps till we make each word our own.
- 3 You have spoken; yours the fullness, ours the wealth of this your Word. Debtors, then, as living letters we must make your gospel heard! By your Spirit’s power transform us; shed your saving light abroad till our lives by love in action show our world the truth of God!

CALL TO OFFERING

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

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are thankful, Lord, that we no longer live under condemnation.

We are thankful, Lord, that you have truly set us free, as each of us is a new creation, having been planted in good soil.

We are thankful, Lord, that You have given us joy as we pursue our purpose in life by glorifying you in all that we do.

We are thankful, Lord, that your mighty power is at work in us, transforming us as it renews our heart, soul, and minds.

To You, Lord, belong thanks eternal.

In Jesus' name, 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 #39

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

vss. 1,2,3

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

CHARGE AND BLESSING

God has placed the seed of love and forgiveness in your heart. Go into God's world with joy, telling of the good news of God's abundant, lavish love for all creation. Go to be a witness to all the miraculous possibilities for hope and peace. AMEN.

Ushers: Kim Hooper, Marilyn Marshall, George Kostoff

About our Guest Speaker

Jason Armstrong was the Youth Pastor at First Presbyterian Maumee for ten years before becoming the Assistant Pastor there in the spring of 2019. In his time at the church, he has earned a Master's Degree in Theology from Lourdes University and has become accredited to preach in the Maumee Valley Presbytery by completing their preaching course.

Jason and his wife, Marlo, a Toledo Public Schools special education teacher, live in the Maumee, Ohio area and have three children; Bruin (23), Aubrey (19) and Ian (14).