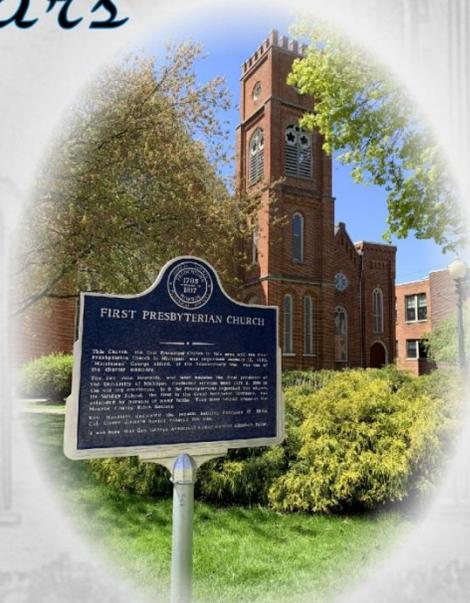




First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating  
200 Years  
of Faith  
&  
Service



**July 26, 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.

# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

## OPENING WORDS

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

**Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

No!

**In all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loved us.**

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## PRELUDE

“I Love You, Lord”

## CALL TO WORSHIP

based on selected verses from Psalm 105

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name,  
make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

**Sing praises to God! Tell of all God’s wonderful works.**

**Glory in God’s holy name;**

**let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

Seek the Lord’s strength; seek God’s presence continually.

**Remember the wonderful works God has done,**

**God’s miracles, and the judgments God has uttered,**

O offspring of God’s servant John Calvin, children of Monroe, God’s chosen ones,

God is mindful of God’s promises and covenant forever,

of the word that God commanded, for a thousand generations.

**Let us worship God with joy and singing! Praise the Lord!**

## OPENING 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 CONFESSION

Romans 8:26-27

As we approach the Throne of Grace, we are not alone, but come with the help of the Holy Spirit for the Apostle Paul reminds us, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

based on I Kings 3:11 and Psalm 119:136

**God, you offer us love and we focus on wealth.**

**You offer us forgiveness and we focus on revenge.**

**You offer us community and we focus on stuff.**

**We turn away from your wisdom.**

**We forget to ask for your point of view...**

**Our eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:1-2, 31-39

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

God who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave Christ up for all of us, will God not with Christ also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

**Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

**No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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.*

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.***

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

based on Psalm 119:130 & 135

God of Wisdom, the unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. Make your face shine upon your servants in Monroe, and teach us your statutes. Amen.

A READING FROM THE GOOD NEWS OF MATTHEW 13:31-33; 44-51

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Nests of Wisdom”

Rev. Pamela Short

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 #450

“Be Thou My Vision”

vss. 1,2,4

- 1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
- 4 High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

OFFERTORY

“The Gift of Love”

## DOXOLOGY

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of Generosity, in the abundance of your grace you have supplied our needs. You see the gifts we have brought back to you: some from plenty and some from scarcity; some from joy and some from habit. May these gifts be to you like the fragrance of a rose and may they bring nests of safety to those in need of your healing love. 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 #69

“Here I am, Lord”

vss. 1,2,3

- 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Who shall I send?

*Refrain*

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

- 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

- 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

# CHARGE AND BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

“Ancient of Days”

Guest Musician: Susan Downing

Ushers: Jim and Sue Heisler, Randy Stiffler

### **About our Guest Minister**

Rev. Pamela Short comes from a farm community in Fulton County. She was surrounded by generations of people who lived in love and gratitude to Jesus, as well as neighbors who understood the value of fellowship, kindness, and laughter. She has had a diverse vocational history, with the privilege of practicing nursing, teaching world religions, and serving three churches in pastoral ministry. Pamela recently retired after ministering with the people of the Tontogany Presbyterian Church for 8 ½ years. “I grew up as an Anabaptist and was baptized at the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio at the age of 12. Because of the Christian education I received there, as well excellent teaching from the committed professors of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, I am without excuse should my preaching stray from the Good News of God’s love.” Pamela lives in Bowling Green with her husband, Peter. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Samuel and Isaac live in Perrysburg and Jaden is in Glory with Christ Jesus.