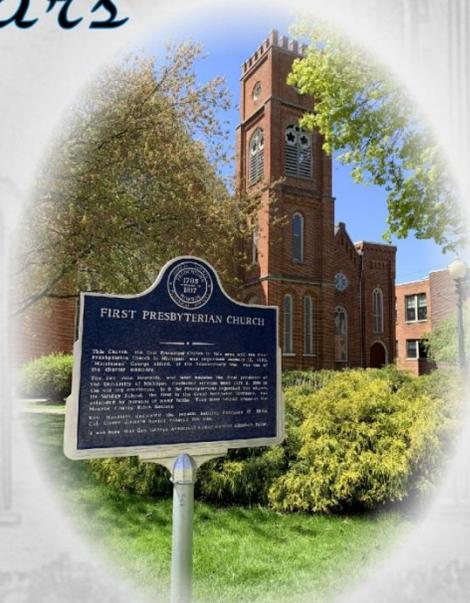




First
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating
200 Years
of Faith
&
Service



September 6, 2020

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www.monroefirst.org

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and to proclaim his salvation in worship, education, and outreach.

Communion Sunday and Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

OPENING WORDS

God of grace, you have given us the Holy Spirit to have minds which know you,
hearts which love you, and voices which sing your praise.

Through the Holy Spirit, may we may celebrate your glory and worship in spirit and
in truth today;

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us sing to the Lord!

And shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

Singing joyful songs of praise.

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

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial,

The Lord our God is with us.

With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer,

Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart,

Nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked

Humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

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

Gracious God,

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth.

Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

FIRST READING – Leviticus 19:15-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 18:12-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

“Seeking Those Who Stray”

Matthew 18:15-20

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 #509

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

vss. 1-3

- 1 All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion’s love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
- 3 All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread. Come loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

CALL TO OFFERING

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

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the love, the grace, we have received from you and, in return, from those who love you.

We give thanks for those who love and care for us the way you do, giving us a place of belonging, valuing us as people made in your image.

We give you thanks that we are part of this body of Christ through whom we are able to offer our own abilities and insight.

Show us new ways we can serve others, and the world, in your name.

For the opportunity to glorify you with our lives, this day and every day, we thank you.

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.)*

INVITATION

Behold, I stand at the door and knock

If those who hear my voice open the door,

I will come in to them and eat with them and they with me.

O taste and see that the Lord is good!

Happy are all who find refuge in God!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

It is truly right and greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. On the holy mountain the divine glory of the incarnate Word was revealed. From the heavens your voice proclaimed your beloved Son, who is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. We rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone forth even when confronted with the cross.

Therefore we praise you by joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful in every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. Revealing your love, Jesus taught those who would hear him, healed those who believe in him, received all who sought him, and lifted the burden of their sin. We glorify you for your great power and love at work in Christ.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts we take this bread and wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us to be the body of Christ in the world. By the fire of your spirit, O God, forge us into one church, many and different people, together in Christ's embrace. Set our hearts aflame with a love for the truth and the desire to do your will, that our witness to Christ may burn brightly in lives of joyful discipleship. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church now and forever. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

L. We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

L. In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN #839 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!” vss. 1-3

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Ushers: Carol Rabun; Gary and Jo-Ann Follbaum

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).