



First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

The First Epistle

Worship, Serve, Grow

July 2026

Upcoming Dates

Holy Communion

July 12th

Summer Safari

July 12th

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Church Office Contact

Hours

M-F 8:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Call

517-482-0668

Featured article: Earth Care at FPC



Homeland Solar from Ann Arbor completed installation of solar panels on the Molly Grove Chapel roof this spring. As a nonprofit, the church will receive substantial rebates now that the panels are operational! The panels will provide clean energy, and we anticipate that the heating costs will be reduced significantly in the winter months. Through SolarEdge, we can see real time usage data and how these panels save us electricity!

The Earth Care team is also coordinating with Building and Grounds to develop a native landscaping plan. Our goal is to replace grass with native ground cover. Similar designs can be found around the capitol, and Lansing Community College. Converting to native plants will reduce upkeep and support our local environment.

Elda Keaton, Earth Care Team

Operations

Finances in Brief - as of May 31, 2026

May notes: Finances remain strong as we approach midyear. Income, including pledges and rents, are on track, and expenses have been well under budget.

Significant financial savings continue because we do not yet have a permanent pastor. We note that if we had been paying a pastor's salary as budgeted, overall income and expenses would be very close to balanced.

Year to Date General Fund Activity

	<i>Cash Flow YTD</i>	<i>Budgeted YTD</i>	<i>Difference vs. Budget</i>
General Fund Income	\$225,111	\$190,177	\$34,934
General Fund Spending	\$162,990	\$198,658	-\$35,668
General Fund Net (Income minus Spending)	\$62,121		

Year to Date Balances

<i>Balances</i>	
General Fund Balance	\$74,117
Designated Funds Balance	\$209,317
Endowment Fund Balance	\$2,379,340

(As of 5/31/2026)

Campaign Progress

<i>Progress</i>		
General Fund Pledges Received	\$155,227	toward total pledges of \$305,772.
Capital Campaign Progress	\$52,108	toward goal of \$100,000.

In February 2026, the church fulfilled a pledge of \$100,000 to the Justice League of Greater Lansing to contribute voluntary reparations for the benefit of Lansing's African American community!

General fund income: includes annual pledges, weekly offerings, building use and rent income.

General fund spending: includes staff payroll, physical operations, repairs and utilities, mission giving, and other budgeted expenses.

Designated funds: include money that may only be used for specific purposes, like the Deacons Fund, the Food Pantry, special music programming, memorial funds, etc.

The Endowment Fund: is managed to maintain a capital amount of \$2.1M that is invested and cannot be spent. Endowment earnings over and above the capital contribute to both the General Fund and various Designated Funds.

The Capital Campaign: was established to fund specific improvements to the sanctuary, the chapel, and other building needs that are not funded by the general budget or grants.



Session and Deacons do not plan to meet in July.

2026 Nominating Committee Election Form

The Nominating Committee is in the process of identifying nominees for church leadership terms beginning in 2027:

- Session Elders (3-year term)
- The Board of Deacons (3-year term)
- The Nominating Committee (1-year term)
- The Audit Review Committee (1-year term)

If you have a suggestion, or you are interested in being considered for one of these elected positions yourself, please email the information below to Committee chair Bill Collins: bill@pipercollins.com with the subject "Nomination Suggestion."

Thank you for your input!

NOMINATION SUGGESTIONS: Please indicate if you are nominating *yourself*.

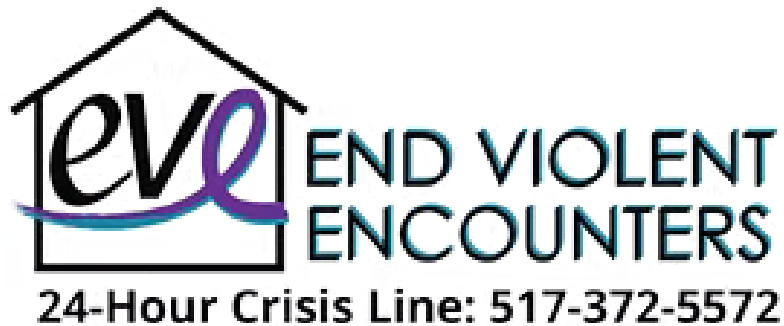
Session Elder(s): _____

Deacon(s): _____

Nominating Committee: _____

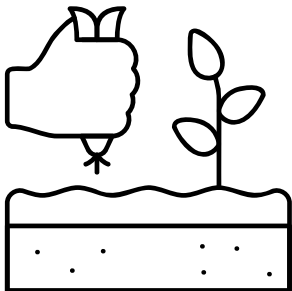
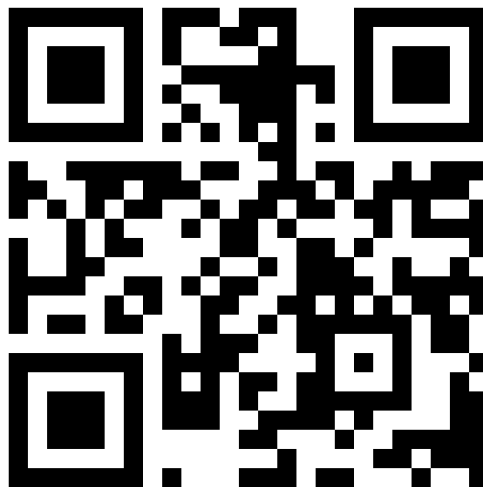
Audit Committee: _____

Deacons' Donations Report



EVE, Inc. delivery made!

Your donations of boxes of diapers, pull ups, and wipes, plus a Pack 'n' Play, were delivered to the EVE, Inc. administrative offices on June 3rd. They were appreciative! EVE, Inc. is a non-profit organization that supports survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and abuse later in life. Scan the QR code below to visit their website and learn more.



VOLUNTEER: Memorial Garden Work Day on July 1

We will be cleaning up the Memorial Garden on Wednesday, July 1 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Contact Jackie Blankenship (517-303-1886 or growgreenflowers@yahoo.com) if you are interested in helping out.

Worship & Music

Communion will be served on **July 12th**.

Date

Liturgists

Pulpit Supply

July 5

Sue Jenks

Rose Rodrigue

July 12

Sherri DeMarco

Rev. Annemarie Kidder

July 19

Joe Ross

Pam Blair

July 26

Willye Bryan

Rev. Jim Lunde

Summer Pulpit Supply

August 2

Rev. Jim Hegedus

August 9

Rev. Annemarie Kidder

August 16

Pastor Dani Veenstra

August 23

Rebecca Wilson

September 6

Rev. Charlie Herrick

September 27

Chip Hardwick

Join Summer Choir!

Be part of the Summer Choir this year at First Pres! Join us at 9:15 a.m. for a rehearsal to learn the selection that we will sing during our 10 am Worship Service.

Sunday, July 5 | Sunday, August 16

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!

Chancel Flower Donations

Please consider donating an artificial floral arrangement that can last for years to come. Pricing is \$80.00 to \$100.00. You can pick the season and dedication.

You may also order real flowers - write your order on the flower chart by the parlor and contact Judy Whitman. 517-290-2350 or whitmanjal@gmail.com



The cross in the Molly Grove Chapel.

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Music Notes with Megan

As I personally work through what it means to be patriotic during this month of July—and during the 250th anniversary year of the Declaration of Independence—I find myself reflecting on how easily outside events can color the love I have for my country, my relatives who have served in the armed forces, and the opportunities this nation has provided for people I love.

As we venture toward the Fourth of July, I find myself filled with guilt, sadness, pride, hope, and gratitude. I anticipate fireworks, laughter, and smiles. I also anticipate protests, strife, and avoidance.

Anyone else with me?

A few years ago, my sister-in-law Molly gave me a small stand and a stack of 3x3 cards, each featuring a watercolor image and a Bible verse. It sits on my desk in my home office, and I look at it every single day. Depending on what I need, I change the card to a verse that speaks to me in that moment.

Today's verse is:

"With God all things are possible." – Matthew 19:26

All. Things. Are. Possible. Let that sink in.

All things are possible.

NASA is accomplishing amazing—almost unbelievable—missions. More and more people are participating in the democratic process by voting. Neighbors are not just waving to one another, but stopping to talk. And, perhaps most miraculously of all, I am managing to keep plants alive in the children's community garden plot!

What challenge are you facing right now that needs space for God to enter in and remind you that "with God all things are possible"?

As we journey through July, I pray that some of our hymns might help us continue our praise beyond the walls of the church:

"My Country, 'Tis of Thee" (#337)

"For the Healing of the Nations" (#346)

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee" (#835)

"Come Fill Our Hearts" (#466)

"You Shall Go Out with Joy" (#80)

"Be Thou My Vision" (#450)

Grace and peace,

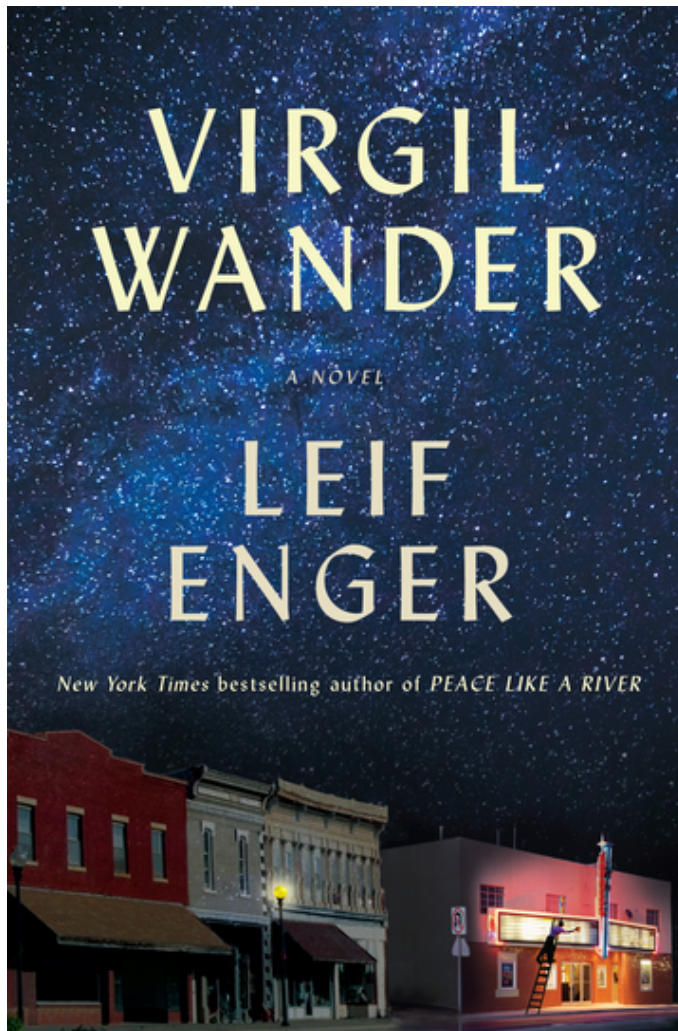
Megan

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Fellowship

See the schedule below to find an opportunity to connect with others at First Pres.

Book Group

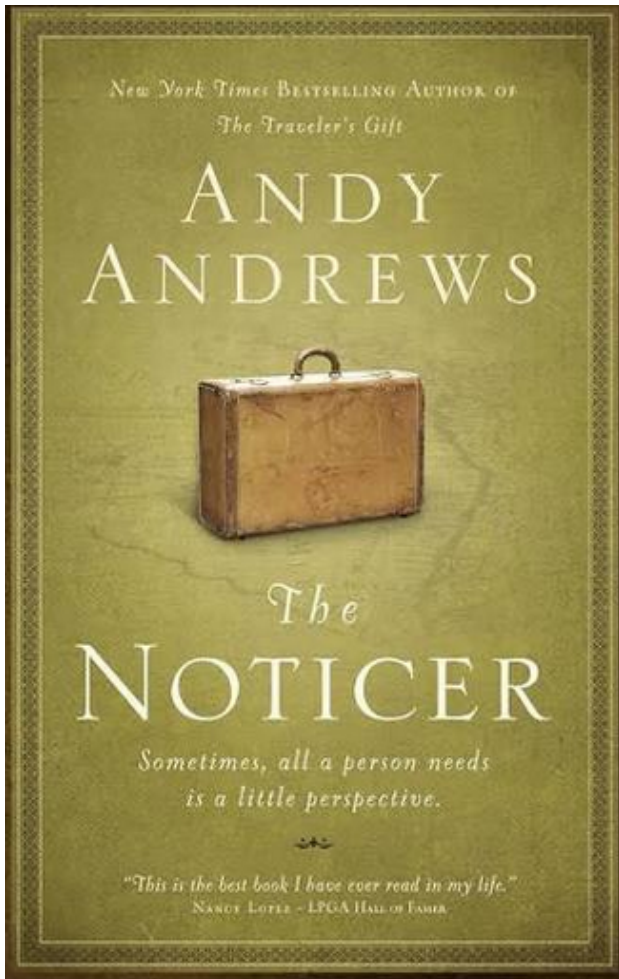


Virgil Wander by Leif Enger

Tuesday, July 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor

Midwestern movie house owner Virgil Wander is “cruising along at medium altitude” when his car flies off the road into icy Lake Superior. Virgil survives but his language and memory are altered, and he emerges into a world no longer familiar to him. Awakening in this new life, Virgil begins to piece together his personal history and the lore of his broken town, with the help of a cast of affable and curious locals – from Rune, a twinkling, pipe-smoking, kite-flying stranger investigating the mystery of his disappeared son; to Nadine, the reserved, enchanting wife of the vanished man, and various members of the Pea family who must confront tragedies of their own. Into this community returns a shimmering prodigal son who may hold the key to reviving their town. With captivating whimsy,

Leif Enger conjures a remarkable portrait of a region and its residents, who, for reasons of choice and circumstance, never made it out of their defunct industrial district. *Virgil Wander* is a swift, full journey into the heart and heartache of an often overlooked American Upper Midwest. Discussion by Elda Keaton.



The Noticer: Sometimes All a Person Needs is a Little Perspective

by Andy Andrews

Tuesday, August 4th, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Orange Beach, AL, is a simple town filled with simple people. But like all humans on the planet, the good folks of Orange Beach have their share of problems – marriages teetering on the brink of divorce, young adults giving up on life, businesspeople on the verge of bankruptcy, as well as the many other obstacles that life seems to dish out to the masses. These situations can seem like dead ends, but to an old drifter named Jones with a gift for seeing what others miss, there is no such thing as a dead end. It only takes a little “perspective,” he says, to recognize the miracles in our moments, the seeds of greatness tucked into our struggles. Appearing when things look darkest, the mysterious,

elderly man with white hair carrying a battered old suitcase shows up when he’s needed most. “Your time on this earth is a gift to me used wisely,” he says. “Don’t squander your words or your thoughts. Consider even the simplest action you take, for your lives matter beyond measure... and they matter forever.” Discussion led by Doris Drake.

Boomers & Beyond will not meet in July.

TLC

Thursday, **July 23rd** at 1:00 p.m.

TLC will meet on Thursday, July 23rd at 1:00 p.m. We will go to LongHorn Steakhouse, located in the Lansing Mall parking lot at 5796 W. Saginaw Highway.

TLC is a group for women in the church who enjoy fellowship and good food. Please call Judy Hartgerink (517-484-5177) for reservations or information. We would love for you to join us!

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Education

First Pres offers education opportunities for all ages during the Fall and Winter. This summer, we'll come together for all-ages outings after worship on a "Summer Safari!"

Join us for lunch for a \$5 donation, or bring your own, and head out for time in nature! Contact Megan Higle (megan.higle@gmail.com) for more information.



July 12th **MSU Horticulture Gardens**

1066 Bogue Street,
East Lansing MI 48824



July 26th **Woldumar Nature Center**

5739 Old Lansing Rd,
Lansing, MI 48917



August 16th **Fenner Nature Center**

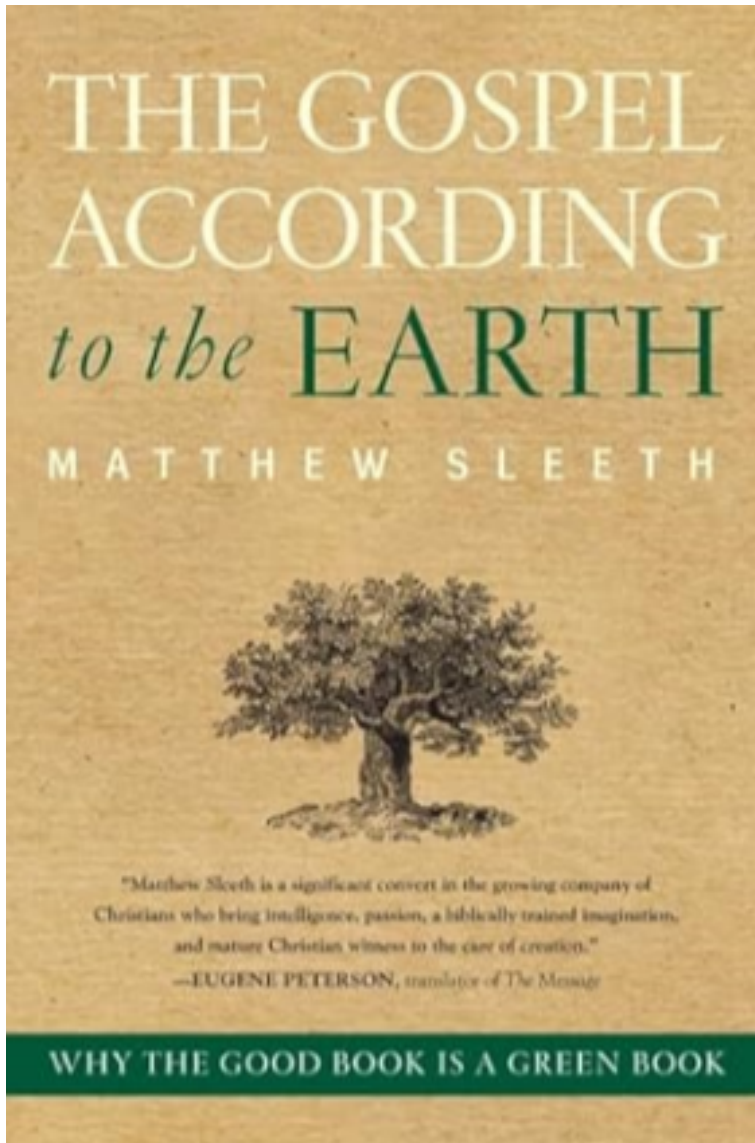
2020 E Mt Hope Ave,
Lansing, MI 48910



The Summer Safari stopped by Potter Park Zoo in June!



Summer All-Church Book Read



Scan for Kindle Purchase

Join us this summer as we read “The Gospel According to the Earth” by Matthew Sleeth.

The Library Committee has purchased 6 copies of “The Gospel According to the Earth” that can be checked out from our library. These are on display on the mantle. You can also purchase your own copy - these are listed at an affordable price on Amazon Kindle. Scan the QR code above to purchase.

There will be three discussion opportunities during Fall Adult Forum:

- 1) September: Good Samaritan and Transportation Choices
- 2) October: Daniel and Dietary Habits
- 3) November: Noah and Caring for the Earth

Summer Camps

See the exciting opportunities for faith and art-based summer camps below!



Camp Greenwood registration is open!

A new year means a new summer season at Camp Greenwood! Registration is open for summer sessions and spring events for all ages. To register, apply for a Camp Greenwood scholarship, or other information, visit the Camp Greenwood website, campgreenwood.org, and click on the Summer Camp icon.



M.A.D.D. Camp Volunteers and Donations are needed!

July 27th-31st

Please consider donating the following:

- Fruit snacks
- Individually bagged cookies, chips, crackers, and popcorn
- Water cups
- Napkins
- Plates
- Snack-sized bags

During the week of camp, we'll also need bags of ice, grapes, clementines, carrot sticks or baby carrots, and watermelon.

Please reach out to Megan Higle or Ben English for more information.

July Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

July 5	Austin Barcy	July 24	Heather Dunbar
July 8	Salima Nashef Trenton Mitchell		Barb Amundsen
July 12	Cragen Davies	July 28	Brian Jackson
July 13	Ryan Schor	July 29	Andrew Mackoul
July 14	James Knight		Marilyn Snyder
July 15	Harvey II Whitman	July 30	Jennifer Jones
July 16	Pat Eenigenburg	July 31	Natasha Williams
July 17	Abigail Hendy Nicole Namy		
July 18	Bill Collins Walid Mackoul		
July 21	Debbie Donaldson		
July 22	Jim Hengstebeck Erik Grill Elias Mackoul		



In Memoriam

Jack Toomey

March 15, 1931 - May 26, 2026

Jack Leon Toomey, 95, of Lansing, Michigan, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2026. He lived a long and meaningful life defined by devotion to his family, a curious mind, unique humor, and kindness. Jack was a member of First Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years.

Carolyn Teremi

August 20, 1942 - June 4, 2026

Carolyn Teremi died on June 4, 2026 at age 83. Carolyn was a former member and our financial secretary and office administrator for many years, retiring in 2010.

Roger Wilkinson

July 21, 1934 - June 17, 2026

On June 17, 2026, Roger Wilkinson entered into eternal life, and was reunited with Laura, his wife of over sixty-five years. Roger and Laura were long-time active members of our church family and were pillars of the community, MSU community, and the church.

July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			8:30 a.m. Counters 9:00 - 2:00 GIL Classes 5:30 p.m. Fit Yoga 6:00 p.m. Mid Michigan Photo Club	7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study	CHURCH CLOSED in recognition of Independence Day.	INDEPENDENCE DAY
			1	2	3	4
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Chapel Faith Presbyterian Church - Downstairs 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Worship - Chapel	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 3:30 p.m. Mission & Social Justice 7:00 p.m. Membership Committee	9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capitol City Chordsmen 7:00 p.m. Book Group - Parlor	8:30 a.m. Counters 9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 5:30 p.m. Fit Yoga	7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study	5:30 p.m. Restorative Yoga	10:00 a.m. VIJ Music Rehearsal
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
COMMUNION 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Chapel Faith Presbyterian Church - Downstairs 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Worship - Chapel	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 2:00 p.m. Worship Committee 5:30 p.m. Traditional Yoga 7:00 p.m. Moms Demand Action	9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 1:00 p.m. Building & Grounds 6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capitol City Chordsmen	8:30 a.m. Counters 9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 12:00 p.m. Boomers Luncheon 5:30 p.m. Fit Yoga	10:30 a.m. Library Committee 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study	5:30 p.m. Restorative Yoga	10:00 a.m. VIJ Music Rehearsal
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Chapel Faith Presbyterian Church - Downstairs 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Worship - Chapel	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Traditional Yoga	9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capitol City Chordsmen 7:00 p.m. Deacons' BINGO!	8:30 a.m. Counters 9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 5:30 p.m. Fit Yoga	1:00 p.m. Bridge in the Parlor 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study	5:30 p.m. Restorative Yoga	10:00 a.m. VIJ Music Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. VIJ Birthday Party for Pastor Beverly
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Chapel Faith Presbyterian Church - Downstairs 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Worship - Chapel	8:00 a.m. MADD Camp 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Traditional Yoga	8:00 a.m. MADD Camp 9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band 7:00 p.m. Capitol City Chordsmen	8:00 a.m. MADD Camp 9:00 a.m. GIL Classes 5:30 p.m. Fit Yoga	8:00 a.m. MADD Camp 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study	8:00 a.m. MADD Camp 5:30 p.m. Restorative Yoga	
26	27	28	29	30	31	



First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

510 W. Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48933

517-482-0668
churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org
lansingfirstpres.net

Parish Associate

Rev. Charles Herrick

Pastoral Care Assistant

Christine DeYonke

Church Administrator

Annika Hauser-Brydon

Custodian

Kliff Nhengu

Director of Christian Education/Music

Megan Higle

Bell Choir Director

Darin Showalter

Organist

Sergei Kvitko

Audio/Visual Producers

Bill Collins, Andrew Mackoul, Trenton Mitchel, and Rachel Lutes

Childcare Staff

Makenna Davis and Skylar Wichman