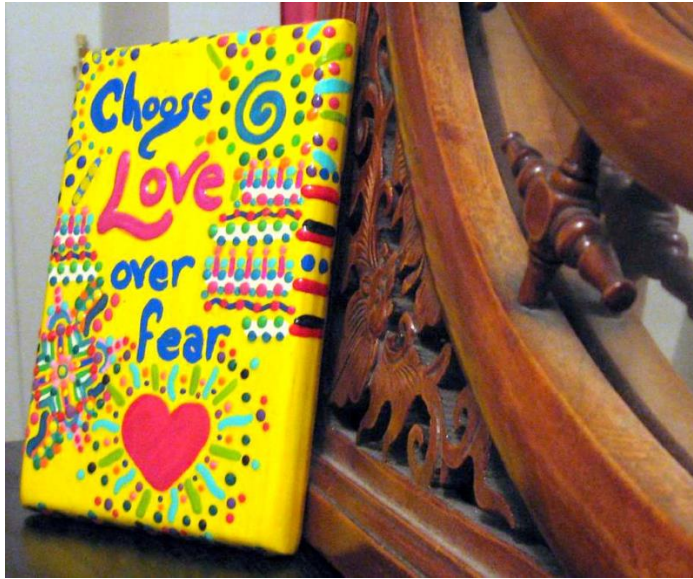


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Choose Love Over Fear, 2008, Divinity Library, Vanderbilt University.

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 482-0668 / www.lansingfirstpres.com
Facebook – Lansing First Presbyterian
Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We strive to INCLUDE ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN...
If you are black, brown, white...
If you are straight, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning...
If you are differently abled...
If you are married, single, divorced, widowed...
If you are a believer, a questioner...
We Are So Glad That YOU Are Here!

SERVICE FOR OUR LORD'S DAY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. CHARLES HERRICK

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 18)

KATIE SUNDEEN

Like clay on a wheel

God forms us: shaping us, molding us, creating us.

And like moldable clay,

God continues to shape us.

Let us worship God.

++ HYMN #432 [GTG] How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

KATIE SUNDEEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, you know us better than anyone else. You formed us in your own image. And yet, we sometimes stray from the gift you've given us. We keep people at a distance, letting systemic and personal barriers get in the way of relationships. Forgive us, Lord. Let us hear your call to change and do better. Empower us to ask for forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. Help us to think of you and those around us.

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

KATIE SUNDEEN

Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us. Our Creator is still forming and shaping us, forgiving us, and allowing us to grow. Hear the Good News of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

++ RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #577 [GTG] KYRIE ELEISON*Kyrie eleison (four times)***++ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

KATIE SUNDEEN

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*Be still and know that I am God (three times)***CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

MS. MEGAN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

KATIE SUNDEEN

Lord, allow our ears to be open to your Word, especially where there are questions or challenges. Allow us to be open to where you are speaking to us in our discomfort.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

KATIE SUNDEEN

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “You are Wonderfully Made” by Pepper Choplin CHANCEL CHOIR

PSALM READING Psalm 1 REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
 or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

GOSPEL READING Philemon 1:1-21 REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Salutation

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier
Archippus, and to the church in your house:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of
your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the
partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good
that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement
from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through
you, my brother.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

SERMON

“Love Between the Lines of the Law”

REV. CHARLES HERRICK

++HYMN #695 [GTG] Change My Heart, O God

The central image of the potter and the clay in this text comes from Isaiah 64:8 (and there is a similar reference in Jeremiah 18:1-6), while the petition for a changed heart is similar to Psalm 51:10. Such readiness to do God's will is a significant feature of the spiritual life.

THE SACRAMENT OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER (all bread served is gluten free)

REV. CHARLES HERRICK

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Sanctus (sung in unison)

#552 [GTG] Holy, Holy, Holy

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!***

Lord's Prayer (**unison**)

**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 debts, as we
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory, forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

REV. CHARLES HERRICK

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Unison Prayer after Communion

**Strengthen us, O God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring good
news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains
that bind and claim your blessing for all people. 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 Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“The Potter’s Hand” arr. Lloyd Larson

CHANCEL CHOIR

++Doxology #648 [GTG] Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Dedication

REV. CHARLES HERRICK

HYMN #296 [GTG]

Go in Grace and Make Disciples

This text based on Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) emphasizes that engaging in mission according to the model of Christ's life and ministry inspires service rather than conquest. The gospel message is a gift of life and hope made known in healing, justice, and peace.

BENEDICTION

REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Blest Be the Tie That Binds #306 [GTG]

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

POSTLUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

SOME OF THE LITURGIES WERE WRITTEN BY JULIA BURKLEY
AND PROVIDED BY THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK.

*PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE USE CAMERAS TO BROADCAST VIDEO OF OUR
CHURCH SERVICES. LICENSED MUSIC STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE
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INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	KATIE SUNDEEN
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	MEGAN HIGLE
ORGANIST:	SERGEI KVITKO
CHOIR:	CHANCEL CHOIR
PASTOR:	REV. CHARLES HERRICK
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:	CHURCH ELDERS AND DEACONS
SOUND AND AV SYSTEM:	BILL COLLINS, ANDREW MACKOUL AND TRENTON MITCHELL

FLOWER DONATIONS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE

“In Memory of Our Parents – Georges and Sophia Mackoul” – John Mackoul

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNS are available, please see an usher.

LISTENING DEVICES are available, please see an usher.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR MISSION! PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO GIVE SECURELY ONLINE. *Take a picture with your phone and it will take you to the website to make a donation.*



Per Capita Reminder: The annual per capita payment to the Lake Michigan Presbytery for 2025 is **\$42 per member**. This is for every member to consider. The check can go to the church noting “per capita.” Please consider paying a per capita for those who cannot afford to.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



This Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 7 Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Chapel
11:15 a.m. Tailgate Sunday
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

Monday, September 8

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting – Library
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Traditional Yoga – Yoga Room

Tuesday, September 9

2:30 p.m. Building & Grounds
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee
6:30 p.m. – 9 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen – Chapel

Wednesday, September 10

8:30 a.m. Counters – Library
10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Fit Yoga – Yoga Room
6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Club – Litten Hall
6:00 p.m. Wired Word Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting

Thursday, September 11

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library

Friday, September 12

5:30 p.m.-6:30 Restorative Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, September 13

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 Church Workday – Outside Chapel
10:00 a.m. Victory in Jesus Music Rehearsal – Chapel

Sunday, September 14 50-year Member Recognition, Blessing of the Backpacks

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – SANCTUARY
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

FELLOWSHIP

SNOW CONE SUNDAY TODAY!

Join us after worship for fellowship and a snow cone during the summer months – TODAY!

CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday, September 13th 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. outside the Chapel

This is an opportunity for fellowship and exercise as we clean up the church grounds. We'll share laughs and enjoy sunshine as we pull weeds and prune shrubbery in the Chapel and parking lot perimeter. Wear work clothes, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring water! Contact Jackie Blankenship with questions.

WOMEN OF FIRST PRES

Let's Take a Road Trip!

Join us on **Saturday, September 20th** for a fun and inspiring outing to the **Cracked Pot Studio Tour!** We'll be visiting **three local art studios**, including **Red Barn Pottery**, where our very own **Kathe Smith** will have her beautiful pottery on display.

Schedule:

- 10:00 a.m. Meet at the First Pres parking lot to carpool
- Visit Artistic Creations Plus, Red Cedar Studio, Red Barn Pottery
- Enjoy lunch together in Williamston
- Return to the church lot in the afternoon.

This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, local art appreciation, and celebrating one of our own! **Please RSVP to Megan Higle** if you plan to attend.

MUSIC

Music Ministry at LFPC

We are excited to begin a new season of music with our fabulous choirs!

Chancel Choir

 Begins Thursday, September 4

 7:00 p.m.

 Contact: *Megan Higle* – megan.higle@gmail.com

Bells of First

 Begins Monday, September 8

 6:30 p.m.

 Contact: *Darin Showalter* – darinjshowalter@gmail.com

No prior music experience is required—just a love and passion for making music to glorify God. Megan and Darin will help you find the right place to share your gifts with our congregation!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Get Excited for Christian Education This Fall!

We're gearing up for a new season of learning, growing, and connecting—and there's something for everyone!

Here's what's happening:

- **Kids Sunday School** – Sundays at **9:00 a.m.** (*NEW TIME!*)
 - **Adult Forum** – Sundays at **11:30 a.m.**
- **Lectionary Bible Study** – Wednesday mornings in person and via Zoom
- **Wired Word Bible Study** – Wednesday evenings via Zoom

We've got some exciting changes in store, and **YOU** are invited to be a part of it all!

Questions or want to learn more?

Reach out to **Megan Higle**, Christian Education Director.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpack, shoulder bag, or tote and join us for our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks!**

 **Sunday, September 14**

 During Worship (Children's Moment)

We invite **all students, teachers, substitutes, professors, faculty, administrators, and child care staff** to come forward and receive a blessing and a special backpack tag.

Your church family is praying for you to have a **safe, productive, and joy-filled school year!**



ILLUSTRATEDMINISTRY.COM

Lectionary Bible Study

Led by Bob Higle and Terri Froemel.

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., in the FPC Library or by Zoom.

This week, Lectionary Bible Study will focus on the following passages:

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

The Wired Word

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., Contact Pr. Bob Higle (bob.higle@gmail.com) for more information.

Looking to find ways to have meaningful conversation about current events through a Christian lens? Join the Wired Word this week as we discuss the rise of AI and the ethical issues it raises, and how we focus on virtuous living and becoming the people God has created us to be. Our second lesson uses the lens of changes in Antarctica to consider our responsibilities as people of faith and stewards of our planetary home.