

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Christ healing the crippled woman who was bent over, 4th century,
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

AUGUST 24, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. DR. ANNEMARIE KIDDER

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 71)

JUSTINE ACHOUONJEI

In you, O God, we seek refuge;

In Your justice, deliver us.

Be a rock of refuge for us,

a strong fortress, because You are our rock and fortress.

For you, O Lord, are our hope and trust.

Our praise is continually of You.

++ HYMN #619 [GTG] Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

JUSTINE ACHOUONJEI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, we confess our feelings of exile and alienation, and we wonder where you are. We fear your absence when, in fact, you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus. Amen.

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

JUSTINE ACHOUONJEI

The God who hung the stars and the moon has come close to each and all with mercy and love. Hear the good news of the gospel, we are forgiven and empowered by God's Spirit to run and not be weary, to walk and not be faint. Thanks be to God.

++ RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #577 [GTG] KYRIE ELEISON
Kyrie eleison (four times)

++ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

JUSTINE ACHOUONJEI

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

JUSTINE ACHOUONJEI

O God, open our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit so that the words of Scripture that we hear this day may become your Word that empowers our lives in this time and place. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 13:1-6

JUSTINE ACHOUONJEI

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

GEOFF BLAIR, TENOR SAXOPHONE

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:10-17

REV. DR. ANNEMARIE KIDDER

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

SERMON

“Bending the Rules”

REV. DR. ANNEMARIE KIDDER

++HYMN #795 [GTG]

Healer of Our Every Ill

As soon becomes apparent, this sung prayer is not limited to personal physical healing. It deals with the larger and intangible gifts of peace and hope to vanquish fear and sorrow, and it is cast in the plural because it is concerned with the healing of a wounded community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GEORGE BENNETT

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.

(Prayers continue...)

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.**

Amen **#554 [GTG]** Amen

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

SERGEI KVITKO

++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
KIDDER

REV. DR. ANNEMARIE

HYMN #312 [GTG]

Take Us as We Are, O God

*This gentle hymn was created for a 1958 international convention of Christian
educators in Japan. The tune's use of the gagaku mode, originally from China but
later limited to use in the Japanese court, serves as a subtle but significant
affirmation of Christ's sovereignty.*

BENEDICTION

REV. DR. ANNEMARIE KIDDER

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 ROGER GENCH
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 LICENSE, LICENSE #A-731144. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

INFORMATION FOR THE DAY



GUEST PREACHER: THE REV. DR. ANNEMARIE S. KIDDER

The Rev. Dr. Annemarie S. Kidder is an ordained minister in the PC(USA). Originally from Germany, she came to the US on a Rotary scholarship. She has earned graduate degrees from the University of Berlin, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where she also earned a Ph.D. in systematic theology and New Testament literature. Pastor Annemarie was also an associate professor at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, and she is the author or editor of ten books in theology and biblical literature. Having retired last fall, she now serves part-time as a chaplain at Trinity Health Senior Community in Ann Arbor and as a parish associate at Kirk in the Hills. She lives in Ann Arbor with her cat, Willie.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:

JUSTINE ACHOUONJEI

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

MEGAN HIGLE

ORGANIST:

SERGEI KVITKO

SAXOPHONIST:

GEOFF BLAIR

PASTOR:

REV. DR. ANNEMARIE KIDDER

SOUND AND AV SYSTEM:

BILL COLLINS, ANDREW MACKOUL AND TRENTON MITCHELL

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, August 24

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

Monday, August 25

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 Abbreviated Office Hours
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Traditional Yoga – Yoga Room

Tuesday, August 26

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. – 9 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen – Chapel
7:15 p.m. – 9:15 GIL Night Classes

Wednesday, August 27

10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Boomers and Beyond Luncheon
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Fit Yoga – Yoga Room
6:00 p.m. Wired Word

Thursday, August 28

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

Friday, August 29

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

Saturday, August 30

10:00 a.m. Victory in Jesus Music Rehearsal – Chapel

Sunday, August 31

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is in the process of identifying nominees for church leadership terms beginning in 2026:

- 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)

Leaders will be elected at the October meeting of the congregation. If you have a suggestion, or if you are interested in being considered for one of these elected positions yourself, please contact committee chair Bill Collins (bill@pipercollins.com) or the church office.

SNOW CONE SUNDAY!

Join us after worship for fellowship and a snow cone during the summer months – September 7!

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.

 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.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, August 27th at 10:30 a.m.

In-person in the FPC Library or by Zoom. Contact Pr. Bob Higle for more information (robert.higle@gmail.com).

Looking to find ways to have meaningful conversation about current events through a Christian lens? Join the **WIRED WORD** Bible Study on Wednesdays from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. Contact Pr. Bob Higle for more information (robert.higle@gmail.com).

CHILDCARE FOR UNDER FIVES

Our childcare staff is available for children under five. We have snacks, Bible stories/book reading, Montessori-based projects, and outdoor play.

Our childcare staff will have vacations planned, too! If YOU can be in the childcare room on a Sunday during the summer, please let Megan Higle know!