

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Holy Spirit and Fire with Baptismal Font, 20th century, Mexico.
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 17, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

PRELUDE

KATIE BURK

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Stir up your might and come to save us!

You brough a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the river.

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

++ HYMN #846 [GTG] Fight the Good Fight

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy: 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning “struggle” or “grapple” or “wrestle.”

The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

CHRSTOPHER VENETIS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-loving God, we confess that we are not always ready to trust your love. You call us to step forward in radical faith, but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable and non-controversial. You are eternally at work in the world, but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times. Forgive us, O God. By your grace, give us courage to stand for what is right and good and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular. Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

Friends, look around! We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We are the body of Christ, the family of faith, all of us both saints and sinners. The grace we receive in baptism washes away our shame and brokenness and unites us with one another in bonds of love and kinship. Proclaim the good news with me:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

++ RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #577 [GTG] KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison (four times)

++ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

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

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

Lord Jesus, who brought the fire of the Holy Spirit, may that fire burn within our hearts as we read the Scriptures today. Teach us to choose your Way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 82:1-8

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
"How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I say, "You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like any prince."

Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

This Is My Song, Arr. Sally DeFord
DARIN SHOWALTER, VOICE AND KATIE BURK, PIANO

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:49-56

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze!
I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under
until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?
No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be
divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the
south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You
hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but
why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

SERMON

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

++HYMN #29 [GTG]

O God, You Search Me

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

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

Just As I am, arr. Brenda Portman

DARIN SHOWALTER, VOICE AND KATIE BURK, PIANO

++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. STANLEY JENKINS

HYMN #69 [GTG]

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voices of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call.

BENEDICTION

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

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

KATIE BURK

SOME OF THE LITURGIES WERE WRITTEN BY GINNA BAIRBY
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

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	CHRISTOPHER VENETIS
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	MEGAN HIGLE
ORGANIST:	KATIE BURK
SOLOIST:	DARIN SHOWALTER
PASTOR:	REV. STANLEY JENKINS
SOUND AND AV SYSTEM:	BILL COLLINS, ANDREW MACKOUL AND TRENTON MITCHELL

FLOWER DONATIONS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE

Flowers for Stan donated by the Congregation and the Worship Committee to thank him for his dedication and guidance. With Love, the Congregation.

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 17

10:00 a.m.	Morning Worship – Chapel
11:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
12:30 p.m.	Victory in Jesus Ministries
3:00 p.m.	Stan's Farewell Reception

Monday, August 18

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

Tuesday, August 19

6:30 p.m. – 9	Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m.	Capital City Chordsmen – Chapel
7:00 p.m.	Book Group – Parlor
7:15 p.m. – 9:15	GIL Night Classes

Wednesday, August 20

10:30 a.m.	Lectionary Bible Study – Library & Zoom
4:00 p.m. – 8:00	GIL Night Classes
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

Thursday, August 21

6:00 p.m.	Great Lakes Quilt Guild
7:00 p.m.	Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library

Friday, August 22

5:30 p.m.-6:30	Restorative Yoga – Yoga Room
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Saturday, August 23

10:00 a.m.	Victory in Jesus Music Rehearsal – Chapel
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Sunday, August 24

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 Hagle** 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.

THE WIRED WORD

Wednesday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m. 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? This Wednesday we will look at humanity from the perspective of space, grace under pressure, and trusting God to show us the path forward. As an option, our second lesson will explore how and why people connect with communities of faith.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, August 20th at 10:30 a.m.

In-person in the FPC Library or by Zoom

Lectionary Bible Study resumes this week, led by Bob Higle and Terri Froemel, and will cover the following:

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, Hebrews 12:18-29, and Luke 13:10-17.

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!

SERVICE OF FAREWELL AND GOODWILL FOR PASTOR STAN

Leader:

Today we celebrate the gifts that you, Stan,
have brought to us as our pastor.
As Paul said to the Ephesians:
Each of us was given grace
according to the measure of Christ's gift:
for building up the body of Christ,
And to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4:7-13

People:

**As minister of Word and Sacrament,
you opened the Scripture and helped us
understand the world around us in God's eyes.
You proclaimed the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
that our gospel applies to ALL humans and the earth we have been gifted with,
not just those people and actions we are comfortable with.
You helped us expand our boundaries and our love for all of God's children.**

Leader:

We have been through a lot together – the end of Mary's life,
and the near end to your own
The beginning of understanding the racial divide in our country and community
The sharing of our building with other worthy ministries
The birth of the Justice League
We witness your joy in marriage to Leslie
And were the beneficiaries of your trips abroad to sacred places.

People:

We received the Word of truth and felt the presence of the Lord when you spoke

We felt the genuineness of the pastoral care you provided

**We encouraged you and prayed for you,
worked with you, and cared for you.**

As Paul reminded the Ephesians:

**You have lead a life worthy of your calling,
with humility and gentleness,**

with patience, bearing with us in love,

maintaining the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit,

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all,

who is above and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Pastor:

I thank you all, sisters and brothers,

for the love, kindness, and support shown me

I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together.

With joy I recall what we accomplished with God's help,

and have hope for those dreams still not fulfilled.

I have not been perfect, but I have done my best

to lead you as God has led me.

People:

We celebrate all that God has accomplished among us through you.

We are grateful for your ministry, our shared faith

and for your influence on our lives.

With gratitude we offer our blessings on you as you minister elsewhere to

God's glory.

Pastor:

I receive your gratitude and blessings,

I offer my blessings to you to continue the good work

We have begun together.

Leader:

Let us pray:

O God, you have bound us together for a time
as pastor and people to work for your church in this place.

We give you thanks for the ministry we have shared.

We thank you

for those who have been joined to Christ's family

through baptism and membership in our fellowship

And we remember those who have joined the Church Triumphant

during these years as we served together

Grant that all of us may always be close to each other in the communion of saints.

All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, let us send Stan off with the laying on of hands.

All are welcome to join as you are able.

Let us recite together this blessing:

All:

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you

and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you

and give you peace,

both this day and forever. Amen.