

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING

“Remove the sandals

from your feet,

for the place on which

you are standing

is holy ground.”

Exodus 3:5, NRSV



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Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sept. 3, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to maintain our worship environment, please turn off your cell phones. Thank you.

PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Amundsen

God calls us each by name
as we gather on holy ground.

**We come to this place,
seeking to know the great I AM.**

Let us worship God.

++HYMN

#406 [GTG]

We Are Standing on Holy Ground (sing twice)

The phrase "holy ground" resonates with the experience of Moses at the burning bush, where he had an encounter with God (Exodus 3:5, also quoted in the martyr Stephen's sermon, Acts 7:33). The reference to angels may recall Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:12-17) or Hebrews 12:22.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Barbara Amundsen

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Sometimes it sounds too hard:
deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives?
Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us.
Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us.
We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take.
Have mercy on our weakness.
Be patient with our stumbling.
Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow,
and lead us in your ways of peace.**

++indicates to stand in body or spirit

Assurance of Pardon

Christ does not abandon us,
but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still.
This is the good news that prevails!

In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!

++Response to Forgiveness **584[GTG]** Gloria

Glory, Glory, Glory 584

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry be to God on high!
¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, en las al - tu - ras a Dios!

And on earth peace to all peo-ple in whom God is well pleased.
Y en la tie - rra, paz a la gen - te que a - ma el Se - ñor.

TEXT: Based on Luke 2:14; Pablo Sosa, 1989
MUSIC: Pablo Sosa, 1989
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CUEQUITA

++PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Barbara Amundsen

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

Barbara Amundsen

Faithful God, how blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit
so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

Barbara Amundsen

³Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Songs Without Words” by Edward German Tori Tyler, clarinet

SECOND LESSON Romans 12: 9 – 21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON “An Active God’s Interactive People” Rev. Charles Herrick

++HYMN **#833 [GTG]** O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland, St. Margaret.

THE CALL TO PRAYER FOR COMMUNION

Leader: We praise you for all who gather at your table.

People: For the doubtful, seeking proof, even while continuing to follow you.

Leader: For the timid, refusing the cost of discipleship, even while being called your friend.

People: For the distracted, carrying on with old desires, before fully following you.

Leader: For the impatient, seeking immediate results, without recognizing the slow, winning ways of love.

People: For all who gather here, answering your call, and for the ways we are known in our own hearts.

Unison: Give us a renewed sense of your presence as we eat and drink together.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Sanctus:

Holy, holy, holy, 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!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the sure presence of your crucified and risen Son. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

Barbara Amundsen

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Valse Triste" by Reinhold Glière

Tori Tyler, clarinet

Offering

++ Doxology #710[GTG] "We Lift Our Voices"

We Lift Our Voices

We Are an Offering

710

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of eight staves of music. The melody is characterized by a repetitive rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often grouped in threes. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering." The score includes various chords such as F, C, Dm7, G7, Em7, Asus A, Bb, and Am.

Prayer of Dedication

Barbara Amundsen

++HYMN #718 [GTG] Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

Written by a 19-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

BENEDICTION

BLEST BE THE TIE 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

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MORE LIGHT

PRESBYTERIANS



INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

Participants in this morning's service:

Liturgist	Barbara Amundsen
Director of Music	Megan Higle
Dir. Church Life/Comm. Outreach	Prince Solace
Organist	Sergei Kvitko
Preaching/Communion	Rev. Charles Herrick

Rev. Stan Jenkins is on sabbatical.

Concerns of the congregation:

In care facilities: Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)
Dianne Rector (Rosewood Adult Foster Care- DeWitt)

CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY are for Joyce and Gary Schaub in honor of their 21st Anniversary.

FLOWER CHART There are many dates available on the chart to celebrate special days in our church family. The new price is \$50. Simply sign up on the chart (in the office hall), indicate the occasion that you would like celebrated or honored (birthday, anniversary or memorial), write a check to the church and give it to Betsy, and we will order for you. If you would like to purchase or provide a silk arrangement for use when we don't have a fresh arrangement scheduled, please see Judy Whitman. Thank you! - Worship Committee.

"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.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4 Labor Day holiday

Tuesday, September 5

8:00 a.m.-10 Prep Mobile Farmers Market – kitchen
9:00 a.m.- 2 GIL classes
4:00 p.m. Adult Forum Committee – library/Zoom
5:30 p.m. Yoga – yoga room
6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Book Group - Zoom

Wednesday, September 6

9:00 a.m.- 2 GIL classes
10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study – library/Zoom
4:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir – chapel
6:00 p.m. Mid-Michigan Photo Club – Litten Hall
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Thursday, September 7

9:00 a.m.- 2 GIL classes
8:00 a.m. NWI Mobile Farmers Market Prep – kitchen
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study – Library

Friday, September 8

5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, September 9

Sunday, September 10

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Molly Grove Chapel
11:15 a.m. Congregation Tailgate– parking lot
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Join us for **midweek Bible study** on Wednesdays beginning at 10:30 AM in our library or by Zoom® as we explore the lessons from the Revised Common Lectionary for September 6: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=158>

We could explore three sets (of two) lessons / readings for each time we gather. Two of the sets originate from the Old Testament (also referred to as Hebrew Scriptures.) One set amplifies the Gospel lesson / reading (complementary) and the other set is semi-continuous as it tells the continuing story of the people of Israel. Each of these sets have a corresponding Psalm text. The third set comes from the New Testament and usually will contain a letter from Paul and a Gospel reading / lesson.

Here is an overview to the lessons for September 6:

Semi-Continuous Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 Verse of the Day from Psalms: "Sing the LORD's praise in the assembly of the faithful." (Ps. 149:1)

Complementary Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40. Verse of the day from Psalms: "I desire the path of your commandments." (Ps. 119:35)

The Epistle Reading comes from Paul's letter to the church in Rome: Romans 13:8-14

The Good News comes from the Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20

You may use the bible you use for your own use, or you can peruse each of the lessons / readings from the link above. Bibles will be available as we gather in the parish library or by zoom. If you run into difficulties or have questions / comments please do not hesitate in contacting me on my mobile phone: 517-512-8018

Here is the Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070376096?pwd=QXBpbDIhd0p0RXQ5Vm9RY2lyNkFuZz09>

Have a wonderful Labor Day and hope to see you Wednesday, September 6 at 10:30 AM.

The Women's Gathering that was scheduled for Aug. 27 has been rescheduled for Sunday, Sept. 17 at the home of Megan Higle from 3 - 5 p.m. Theme is "Bare Feet" - be prepared to take your shoes off!

Are you handy with tools and willing to be called as a first line for church maintenance issues?

First Pres has always relied on capable members to help with things that need doing. With rising costs and budget issues, and because our new administrator isn't familiar with everyone who has helped in the past, we want to compile a list of people who are willing to be called first in case of minor building maintenance issues.

Many things come up that can't be readily addressed by our part-time custodian, but don't need to be handled by a licensed contractor (things like loose trimwork, door latches or closers that need adjustment, minor lights and mechanical issues, etc.)

More major issues will still be referred to licensed contractors as needed, but with contractors becoming more expensive and increasingly difficult to schedule, this is an opportunity for members who are handy to apply their talents in stewardship of our church. If you would like to be included on the list, please contact Betsy Calvert in the church office, or Bill Collins.

School Supplies Collection

Lansing Riddle Elementary School has a teacher who is in need of supplies for his classroom. Here is a wish list of supplies: **New or Used:** Pencils, pens, colored pencils, erasers, paper, journals, index card, folders **Sanitary Items** : Tissue, hand sanitizer, paper towel. Please place items in plastic tote box in the coat closet across from the church parlor.

Handbell choir will be starting rehearsals on Monday, September 11 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome! Contact Darin Showalter for more information.

Are you able to "fill your bucket" when having a conversation with a young person?

Do you like to share God's love with the "little people" around you?

Do you have 30 minutes on a Sunday morning to help you keep your church-wide baptismal vows?

The Christian Formation Committee is looking for a few people to round out our teacher roster for the 2023/2024 school year for our youngest brothers & sisters. We are only looking for a commitment of anywhere from once per month, to a couple times per year (classes are run from September – May).

Faith Formation happens after service, for approximately 30 minutes. We currently use a "school-house" model (all children between ages of 4 – 11 together).

An overview to a detailed lesson for each week is available. We use the “Growing In God’s Love Story Bible” each week, include a short discussion, a craft, a snack and story-time (we have over 20 books that the kids love to choose from each week!)

PLEASE talk to Megan Higle or Ann Harvey with any questions about how you can be involved! mhigle@lansingfirstpres.org cell phone 248-320-4578

ACT UGANDA’s 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! ACT is celebrating 20 years of working with our partners in Uganda, and your congregation has been a big part of this journey. Join us at one of our two fundraising dinners in Midland (Sept 8) or Traverse City (Sept 16) where you will enjoy a Ugandan-inspired dinner, gift basket raffle, video messages from our Ugandan partners, an overview of accomplishments, and an update on where we are headed. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased by contacting Sue Waechter at waechtersue@gmail.com. To learn more about ACT, visit actuganda.org. **Please join us to celebrate this exciting milestone!**

Session resumes meeting on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. in the GIL room.

ADULT FORUM

(11:15-12:15 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom)
(Childcare is available through this time.)

SEPTEMBER 10

Tailgate Sunday: Join the fun, food and fellowship with your church friends!
~~~ Adult Forum new program year begins ~~~

## SEPTEMBER 17

### WHAT SENSE CAN WE MAKE OF OUR POLITICS TODAY AND NEXT YEAR?

Even though we are a year and a couple of months out from the presidential election, many are scrambling to make sense of the current political scene. Everyone has a view, even if that is inattention, or confusion. What role will you play in the upcoming debate? How much will other Christians of various stripes help determine the outcome? Studies show, e.g., that the MAGA movement draws its strength from those who are less inclined to attend church or call themselves believers.

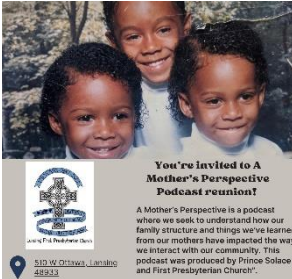
**Charlie Herrick** will lead a free-for-all discussion on how and why things are shaping up for both (or more than two?) parties in 2024. Come and add your voice!

## SEPTEMBER 24

### PODCAST REUNION – A MOTHER’S PERSPECTIVE

“**A Mother’s Perspective**” is a podcast where we seek to understand how our family structure and things we’ve learned from our mothers have impacted the way we interact with our community.

In this session we will hear from members of our congregation and local community as they reflect on the influences of motherhood.



## OCTOBER 1

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

It’s time for our traditional **potluck**. Plan to come and bring a dish from your heritage or a family favorite. (No Adult Forum)