

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



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(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 21, 2025 AT 10:00 AM
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC “Breathe on me Breath of God,” arr. Jason W Krug
BELLS OF FIRST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

PRELUDE “How Firm a Foundation” arr. Bill Ingham BELLS OF FIRST

CALL TO WORSHIP STEVE WARNAAR

Turn us, O God,
away from the world's temptations and distractions.
Return us, O God,
to the quiet calm of your presence.
Restore us, O God,
to the path you call us to follow.
Orient us, O God,
to the hope of all that is possible through you.

++ HYMN #828 [GTG] More Love to Thee, O Christ
*Perhaps because this prayer-poem by the wife of a leading 19th-century
Presbyterian minister grew out of her own physical and emotional suffering, it
has continued to speak to many people in similar distress. It is set here to the
tune created for its first printing in a hymnal.*

SERVICE OF RENEWAL
CALL TO CONFESSION STEVE WARNAAR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
**God, our refuge, you lift up the lowly and hold out hope to the
hopeless. Yet we who receive your grace so freely do not follow your
example. We are quick to judge, eager to criticize, slow to show
mercy. We gather and keep for ourselves what was meant to be
shared. We diminish and dehumanize those around us. God of us all,
hear this confession. Receive it. We ask for your forgiveness. Amen.**

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Isaiah 43:1)

STEVE WARNAAR

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

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

Kyrie eleison (four times)

++ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

STEVE WARNAAR

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

STEVE WARNAAR

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us, so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

STEVE WARNAAR

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “There Is A Balm in Gilead” arr William L. Dawson CHANCEL CHOIR

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to soothe the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my works in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say “He died for all.”

GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:1-13

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

SERMON

“Looking Out For Number One”

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

++HYMN #792 [GTG]

There Is A Balm in Gilead

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

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 "How Firm a Foundation" arr Alice Parker CHANCEL CHOIR
How firm a foundation, ye saints of the lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed! For I am Thy God and will still give thee aid.

I'll strengthen Thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee my deepest distress.
When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall by thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
The should that to Jesus hath fled for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul though all hell shall endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!*

++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
EDEMA

REV. DR. BARBARA

HYMN #707 [GTG] Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord
This hymn began with the tune, which the composer hummed to the author with a request for a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of young people. The text of the first three stanzas was written that day, and the fourth stanza later emerged at a youth conference.

BENEDICTION

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

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 TERI MCDOWELL OTT AND PROVIDED BY
THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK.

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INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	STEVE WARNAAR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	MEGAN HIGLE
ORGANIST:	SERGEI KVITKO
CHOIR:	CHANCEL CHOIR
BELL CHOIR:	BELLS OF FIRST
PASTOR:	REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA
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, September 21

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel

Monday, September 22

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 GIL Classes
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting – Library
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Traditional Yoga – Yoga Room
6:30 p.m. Bells of First Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 23

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 GIL Classes
6:30 p.m. – 9 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen – Chapel

Wednesday, September 24

8:30 a.m. Counters – Library
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 GIL Classes
10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 GIL Night Classes
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 Lansing Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Fit Yoga – Yoga Room
6:30 p.m. Wired Word Bible Study

Thursday, September 25

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

Friday, September 26

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 Jesus & Justice Conference
5:30 p.m.-6:30 Restorative Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, September 27

9:00 a.m. – 6:30 Jesus & Justice Conference
10:00 a.m. VIJ Music Rehearsal – Chapel

Sunday, September 28

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Combined with Jesus and Justice
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

WORSHIP

Sunday October 5th is WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY!

After our 10am Worship Service, Join us for a Potluck in Litten Hall. Due to the kitchen renovations, all hot dishes will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert that feeds 10-12 people. There will be carts at the main entrance to take your dish downstairs. Drinks and place settings will be provided. If you have any questions, please ask Pam Blair.

Name Tags

Would you like a name tag? Does your old one need to be replaced? Please email Pam Blair (blairkids3@yahoo.com) or call/text 517-281-9099. The deadline to get names for the printer is October 19, 2025.

Sanctuary Banners

We have finally completed our collection of banners showing our support for marginalized people and our concern for our planet. Hanging from the Sanctuary columns on the right side, we have the LGBTQ+ Rights banner, a banner representing Africa, a new banner representing South and Central America, and another new banner representing the Earth. On the left side, we have the Disability Rights banner, a banner representing indigenous peoples, one representing Asia, and lastly, a banner representing our need to care for our waters and oceans. The ecological banners also accompany the butterflies that have been gracing our sanctuary for a few years now. Please use these banners to help us remember the people and our planet who are in jeopardy, and to encourage us to work to create a world that is inclusive and full of the love and joy of the Kingdom of God. A more complete document about our banners is located at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Flower Donations

If you are interested in contributing flowers for the Communion Table, please contact Judy Whitman (517-290-2350) to make arrangements.

FELLOWSHIP

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Lexi Green, who lives with the Bottings, is now a student at GVSU and she needs some TLC from her church friends. If you would like to send her a note of encouragement and support, please send cards or notes to her at 4175 Westbrook Road, Ionia, Mi 48846 and Gwen and Jim will take those notes to her. If you would like to send thoughts to her by email, which is easier for her to access, her email address is lexigreen263@gmail.com.

Lansing First Pres would LOVE to support ALL of our students and young people as they embark on their journeys. If YOU have a young adult that would like to receive emails or mail, PLEASE contact Pam Blair (Membership) or Megan Hagle (Director of Christian Education) so we can give some Church Love to those who are not in the Lansing area.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE PUMPKIN TRAILER IS COMING!

Sunday, October 5 (after Worship)

Stop by and pick out your perfect pumpkin—lots of sizes and prices available!

 All proceeds support the Youth Ministry we share with Holt Presbyterian Church. Come ready to shop, support, and celebrate fall! 

Get Excited for Christian Education This Fall!

We're exploring 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!*)
 - *Sept 21 & Sept 28* "Joseph and His Brothers"
 - **Adult Forum** – Sundays at **11:30 a.m.**
 - *Sept 21: WIRED WORD with Pr. Bob Hagle*
- Join us to discuss current events through a Christian lens.
 - *Sept 28: JESUS + JUSTICE*
- How do Christians advocate change in our current time?

- **Lectionary Bible Study** – Wednesday mornings in person and via Zoom
 - 10:30 a.m.
- **Wired Word Bible Study** – Wednesday evenings in person and via Zoom
 - 6:30 p.m.

Questions or want to learn more?
Reach out to **Megan Higle**, Christian Education Director.

Lectionary Bible Study

Led by Bob Higle and Terri Froemel.
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., in the FPC Library or by Zoom.

The Wired Word

Looking to find ways to have meaningful conversation about current events through a Christian lens? Join the Wired Work on Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom! Contact Pr. Bob Higle (bob.higle@gmail.com) for more information.