

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Communion Bread, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 482-0668 / www.lansingfirstpres.net
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

OCTOBER 5, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 103)

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,

Bless God's Holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and do not forget God's benefits,

who forgives all our iniquity,

who heals all our diseases.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

who redeems our life,

who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

who satisfies us with good as long as we live

so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Bless the Lord.

++ HYMN #15 [GTG] All Creatures of our God and King verses 1,2,3,6

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

Today on World Communion Sunday, we celebrate all the ways God has fed us, his people, in every corner of the world.

We have the tortilla, staple of the Americas,

bread of strength and daily life.

We have injera, bread of East Africa,

shared from one common loaf.

We have naan, bread of South Asia,

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

bread of family and fellowship.

We have pita, bread of the Middle East,

bread of welcome and peace.

We have the baguette, bread of Europe,

bread of daily nourishment.

We have challah, bread of Eastern Europe,

bread of truth, peace, and justice.

We have the rice cake, bread of East Asia,

bread of perseverance and joy.

We have cornbread, gift of the Indigenous peoples,

bread of resilience and hope.

Thanks be to God for the bread of life.

OPENING PRAYER (Based on Psalm 150)

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

Gracious God, with grateful hearts we gather to bring you praise.

May your praises fill the whole earth.

We are thankful for your mighty works,
and for the tender care you give us.

We praise you with our voices, our bodies, our instruments, ourselves.

We join all of creation to give you praise.

In the name of your Son, our Lord, **amen.**

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you fashion the world to which all things fit together. Bees spread the pollen of flowers. Birds scatter seeds of trees. Wolves keep deer from overgrazing habitat. We see your glory in the beauty and diversity of your creation. With our forebears we profess that our chief end is to glorify you and to enjoy you forever. Now we are learning that your glory and enjoyment is in the harmony of all nature. But too often we fail to glorify you, fail to be one in Christ, fail to see Jesus in the face of the stranger. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten the extinction of species after species. We have created monocultures which threaten the balance and wholeness of the diversity you created. Lord Jesus, you are the way of peace, reconciliation and healing. Come into the brokenness of our lives and our lands with your healing love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Luke 1)

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.
In the name of 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

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

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

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

Holy God,
as we read your word,
may your Spirit speak through it
that is may be for us the word of life. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-9

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

The Peaceful Kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

2 Timothy 1:1-17

REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA

Salutation

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise
of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

You are aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain; when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me

ANTHEM

“Praise the Lord” arr. Ralph M Johnson

CHANCEL CHOIR

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:5

REV. DR. JOHN BEST

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

SERMON

“A New Harmony: The Kinship of Heaven” REV. DR. JOHN BEST

++HYMN #378 [GTG]

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

The text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6-9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its “little child” with one born in Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer’s sister, his first piano teacher.

THE SACRAMENT OF OUR LORD’S SUPPER

REV. DR. JOHN BEST

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great 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.

Blessed are you, O God our Creator,
whose image dwells in every face of the human family.
In the faces of the matriarchs and patriarchs of Israel,
we see your desire to raise up a chosen people.
In the faces of judges and rulers,
we behold the sanctity of your law.
In the faces of your priests and prophets,
we witness your passion for justice and righteousness.
So now, joined with the global chorus
of our siblings in Christ around the world,
we glorify you and pray for the day when
the earth will be filled with the knowledge of you
as waters upon the face of the sea.

#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!

When the world could wait no longer,
you sent your Son into the world
to show us your many faces:
Unexpected child,
Unwelcomed refugee,
Unhoused wayfarer,
Teacher and rebel,
Healer and provocateur,
Lover of the unlovable,
Toucher of the untouchable,
Forgiver of the unforgiveable,
Loved by the least, feared by authority,
friend of the weak, foe of the strong.
In all of these faces,
we beheld love's true form
until the world could stand him no longer,
so we made him a cross.
When heaven could wait no longer, O God,
you the broke powers of death
and raised Christ to new life.

Come, Mighty Spirit, upon this bread and cup
that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
As once you set your face to Jerusalem
to relieve your people's suffering once and for all—
send now your Holy Spirit to
the people of Palestine,
starving and tired of being starved...
the people of Burundi,
impoverished and tired of being impoverished...
the people of Ukraine,
war-ravaged and tired of being war-ravaged...
the people of El Salvador,
corrupted and tired of being corrupted...
the people of North Korea,
silenced and tired of being silenced...
the people of the United States,
divided and tired of being divided.

By your Spirit unite all peoples in Christ
until we feast with him and all the saints in light.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught,
saying,

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. DR. JOHN BEST

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

REV. DR. JOHN BEST

CHORAL COMMUNION HYMN #829 [GTG] My Faith Looks Up To Thee

Originally a poem of private reflection, this text was offered to the composer when he asked the author if he had written anything that could be set to music for a new hymn and tune collection. This was the first tune written for these words and has proved the most enduring.

Closing Prayer

**Nourishing God,
thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome,
and for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing.
As you have filled our lives with love and hope,
may we be a source of your love and hope
for those who hunger for your good news. Amen.**

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Celtic Communion” arr. Mark Hayes

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. DR. JOHN

BEST

HYMN #539 [GTG]

We Will Go Out with Joy

Drawing on the phrasing of Isaiah 55:12, this joyful sending hymn was created by a musical Canadian father and daughter, beginning with the tune that emerged from a four-hand piano improvisation. The completed hymn later served as the recessional music for her wedding.

BENEDICTION

REV. DR. JOHN BEST

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 THE REV. DR. CHARLES A. WILEY, III AND PROVIDED BY PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERINGS. PROCESSION OF THE BREADS WAS WRITTEN BY REV. ROBERT HIGLE AND THE SERVICE OF RENEWAL WAS PROVIDED BY REV. JOHN BEST.

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INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

GUEST PREACHER: THE REV. DR. JOHN BEST

The Rev. Dr. John Best is an honorably retired Presbyterian minister. He served as missionary to Brazil (1977-80), pastorates in Pennsylvania and New York for 23 years before serving the Presbytery of Lake Michigan as General Presbyter (2008-2018). Since then, he served as temporary pastor of Pine Island Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Niles. He volunteers at Hope Garden, which harvests fresh produce for the regional food bank. He also serves on the Board of Directors of AACORN Community, which provides life enrichment opportunities for adults with developmental differences in a supportive farm setting. He and his wife, Eileen, live in Oshtemo Township west of Kalamazoo.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	MEGAN HIGLE
ORGANIST:	SERGEI KVITKO
CHOIR:	CHANCEL CHOIR
PASTOR:	REV. DR. JOHN BEST
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:	CHURCH ELDERS AND DEACONS
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, October 5 (World Communion/Potluck)

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

Monday, October 6

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
7:00 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 7

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

Wednesday, October 8

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
7:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting

Thursday, October 9

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 GIL Classes
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 GIL Night Classes

Friday, October 10

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

Saturday, October 11

10:00 a.m. VIJ Music Rehearsal – Chapel

Sunday, October 12

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Lansing Symphony Piano Trio – Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

WORSHIP

October 5 is the PC(USA) Annual Peace & Global Witness Special Offering.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering brings us together to pursue peace in our own communities and around the world.

25% stays within our own congregation to support our community.

25% goes to our mid-council to join other congregations in peacemaking work.

50% supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Ways to Give:

Pick up an envelope where you pick up your bulletin OR
Donate by credit card online at www.pcusa.org/peace-global

**PURSUE
WHAT
MAKES
FOR
PEACE.**

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.

Congregational Meeting – October 12th after Worship

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.

Flower Donations

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

SESSION

New Elder Nominees

Summer Foster has served as elder and treasurer at the now closed Mt Hope Presbyterian Church, as well as a member of Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. She is a certified personal trainer and professional cake baker (visit her at Bath's Farmers' Market). She lives in Bath with her husband Matt and their son and three grandchildren.

Sherri DeMarco has been a member of Lansing First Presbyterian since December of 1977. Before retiring from state government as a business analyst, she represented the State of Michigan as a delegate and board member of the International Association of Corporate Administrators. Locally, she has been a volunteer mediator for Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan for about thirty years.

FELLOWSHIP

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

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 Higle (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!*)
- *Oct 12 & Oct 19 “Joseph Helps His Brothers” (Ms. Pam)*
 - *Oct 26 – MORNING MOVIE in the Library!*

Adult Forum – Sundays at **11:30 a.m.**

- *Oct 12 WHAT DO DEACONS & ELDERS DO?*

Join Ceci Anderson, Christine DeYonke, and Carol Wallace as we look at the roles of Deacons / Member Care / Pastoral Care / Elders within the framework of our own congregation. Be amazed at the wonderful work that happens within our congregation!

- *Oct 19 ADVOCACY WITHIN OUR CHURCH*

Hear from Darla Jackson and Bessie Roper as they share their time spent at the Gun Violence Symposium.

- *Oct 26 STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE, & ENDOWMENT*

What do these terms *mean* within a church setting? Learn more about how your funds contribute to the ministry and growth of Lansing First Pres.

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

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