

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



God the Sovereign, Charles de Bouelles, Sixteenth Century.

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 31, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELDER SALLIE CAMPBELL

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRYDERICK ACHUONJEI

Gathered to worship God,

we are all right where we belong.

Called to this celebration of worship by God's Spirit,

we approach God with joy in our hearts.

Nourished by the love of Jesus, God's Son,

we gladly feast at this banquet of grace.

++ HYMN #56 [GTG]

Sing Out with Joy to God Our Strength

A key word running through this paraphrase of Psalm 81 is "promise." The first stanza recalls how God fulfilled the promise of deliverance from Egypt and protection in the wilderness. The final two stanzas admit that God's promises were ignored, but they continue to be offered.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRYDERICK ACHUONJEI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble, gracious spirits. Amen.

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRYDERICK ACHUONJEI

God alone has the authority to judge, and by the grace of Jesus Christ,
God has declared that we are forgiven of all our sin.

Thanks be to God!

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

Kyrie eleison (four times)

++ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRYDERICK ACHUONJEI

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

PRYDERICK ACHUONJEI

Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Holy Spirit's power, that as
scripture is read and the Gospel announced, we might receive with open
hearts whatever you speak to us this day. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 112

PRYDERICK ACHUONJEI

Praise the Lord! Those who honor the Lord,
who adore God's commandments, are truly happy!
Their descendants will be strong throughout the land.
The offspring of those who do right will be blessed;
wealth and riches will be in their houses.
Their righteousness stands forever.
They shine in the dark for others who do right.
They are merciful, compassionate, and righteous.
Those who lend generously are good people—
As are those who conduct their affairs with justice.
Yes, these sorts of people will never be shaken;
the righteous will be remembered forever!
They won't be frightened at bad news.
Their hearts are steady, trusting in the Lord.
Their hearts are firm; they aren't afraid.
In the end, they will witness their enemies' defeat.
They give freely to those in need.

Their righteousness stands forever.
Their strength increases gloriously.
The wicked see all this and fume;
they grind their teeth, but disappear to nothing.
What the wicked want to see happen comes to nothing!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Traumerei” by R. Schumann GWEN BOTTING, FRENCH HORN

GOSPEL READING

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

ELDER SALLIE CAMPBELL

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely. When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don't take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, "Give your seat to this other person." Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. Then, when your host approaches you, he will say, "Friend, move up here to a better seat" and you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up. Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, "When you host a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame and blind. And you will be blessed because they can't repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected."

SERMON

“Who's On Your Guest List?”

ELDER SALLIE CAMPBELL

++HYMN #755 [GTG]

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

Psalms 111 and 112 are appropriately brought together in this paraphrase. Both form acrostics: each poetic line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order. In addition, both psalms begin with "hallelujah," and they share much more vocabulary as well as a theme of praise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GWEN BOTTING

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 "The Swan" from *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saëns

GWEN BOTTING, FRENCH HORN

++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
CAMPBELL

ELDER SALLIE

HYMN #611 [GTG]

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J.C.F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's Ninth Symphony. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

BENEDICTION

ELDER SALLIE CAMPBELL

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

"Fantasia on Hymn Tune Precious Lord" by Igor

Iachimciuc

SERGEI KVITKO, PIANO

SOME OF THE LITURGIES WERE WRITTEN BY ROGER OWENS
AND PROVIDED BY THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK.

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INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	PRYDERICK ACHUONJEI
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	MEGAN HIGLE
ORGANIST:	SERGEI KVITKO
FRENCH HORN:	GWEN BOTTING
PREACHING ELDER:	ELDER SALLIE CAMPBELL
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 31

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

Monday, September 1 LABOR DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

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

Tuesday, September 2

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
7:00 p.m. Book Group – Parlor

Wednesday, September 3

8:30 a.m. Counters – Library
10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
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, September 4

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

Friday, September 5

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

Saturday, September 6

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 Lansing Matinee Musical Emerging Artist Awards – Chapel

Sunday, September 7

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Chapel
11:30 a.m. TAILGATE SUNDAY
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

SESSION

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.

FELLOWSHIP

SNOW CONE SUNDAY!

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

CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday, September 13th 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. outside the Chapel

This is an opportunity for fellowship and exercise as we clean up the church grounds. We'll share laughs and enjoy sunshine as we pull weeds and prune shrubbery in the Chapel and parking lot perimeter. Wear work clothes, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring water! Contact Jackie Blankenship with questions.

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.

MUSIC

Music Ministry at LFPC

We are excited to begin a new season of music with our fabulous choirs!

Chancel Choir

 Begins Thursday, September 4

 7:00 p.m.

 Contact: *Megan Higle* – megan.higle@gmail.com

Bells of First

 Begins Monday, September 8

 6:30 p.m.

 Contact: *Darin Showalter* – darinjshowalter@gmail.com

No prior music experience is required—just a love and passion for making music to glorify God. Megan and Darin will help you find the right place to share your gifts with our congregation!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpack, shoulder bag, or tote and join us for our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks!**

Sunday, September 14

 During Worship (Children's Moment)

We invite **all students, teachers, substitutes, professors, faculty, administrators, and child care staff** to come forward and receive a blessing and a special backpack tag.

Your church family is praying for you to have a **safe, productive, and joy-filled school year!**



ILLUSTRATEDMINISTRY.COM

Lectionary Bible Study

Led by Bob Higle and Terri Froemel.

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., in the FPC Library or by Zoom.

This week, Lectionary Bible Study will focus on the following passages:

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

The Wired Word

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., Contact Pr. Bob Higle (bob.higle@gmail.com) for more information.

Looking to find ways to have meaningful conversation about current events through a Christian lens? Join the Wired Word this week as we discuss the rise of AI and the ethical issues it raises, and how we focus on virtuous living and becoming the people God has created us to be. Our second lesson uses the lens of changes in Antarctica to consider our responsibilities as people of faith and stewards of our planetary home.