



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Hirsch, Stefan, 1899-1964. Justice as Protector, 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.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

OCTOBER 19, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR BARB

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 121 and 2 Timothy 4)

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

We lift up our eyes to the hills – from where will our help come?

Our help comes not from the hills, but from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message: be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable;

The Lord will keep you going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

++ HYMN #490 [GTG] Wash, O God Your Sons and Daughters

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in The Book of Common Worship, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PASTOR BARB

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the covenant, you promise to write your law in our hearts, that we might be faithful people who know you and your will for us. Still we stray from your ways, we fail to tell the truth, we mirror the world around us more than the good news of the gospel, and we fail to acknowledge that you are our God. Forgive us, and by your Spirit renew us. Engrave your covenant upon us once more. Grant us courage and faith that we might begin again to live what it is we say we believe.

++Indicates Congregation standing as able.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Jeremiah 31:34)

PASTOR BARB

No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Hear and believe this good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

Kyrie eleison (four times)

++ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PASTOR BARB

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 (2 Timothy 4:3)

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

Amid a world where sound teaching is hard to find, our ears are easily tickled by words that suit our own desires. Open us to hear your word, O Lord, that we might know you and your will for us today.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Psalm 147” from *Hallelu Yah: Three Psalms of Praise* by Dan Forrest
CHANCEL CHOIR

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how good it is, how good it is, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him, to sing praises to our God, how good it is. The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who hope in His unfailing love, who hope in His unfailing love.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:1-8

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

SERMON

“Faithful Hearts”

PASTOR BARB

++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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

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

“Lift Your Eyes” by Michael Moose

CHANCEL CHOIR

Weary pilgrim on this journey, heavy footsteps on the way; doubt thunders through the plain, fear pours in like rain, and threatens to conceal the shining day.

Raise your head, a beautiful mountain, soaring high above it all, beckons to your soul: awaken now your hope, listen now and hear Yahweh’s call:

“Lift your eyes! Lift your eyes! On this mountain find Me glorified! Gather strength and love, ...

++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

PASTOR

BARB

HYMN #45 [GTG] I to the Hills, Will Lift My Eyes

Although the first stanza of this paraphrase of Psalm 121 draws heaving on 17th-century Scottish psalters, most of this version dates from the early 20th century. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned for use with a specific psalm (DUNDEE).

BENEDICTION

PASTOR BARB

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 MATTHEW A. RICH AND PROVIDED BY THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK.

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INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	CHRISTOPHER VENETIS
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	MEGAN HIGLE
ORGANIST:	SERGEI KVITKO
CHOIR:	CHANCEL CHOIR
STATED SUPPLY PASTOR:	REV. DR. BARBARA EDEMA
AV PRODUCERS:	BILL COLLINS, RACHEL LUTES, ANDREW MACKOUL AND TRENTON MITCHELL

FLOWER DONATIONS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor and celebration of Jackie and Richard's 50th wedding anniversary – October 18th, 1975 at the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing. With much love, Susan Walker.

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 19

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, October 20 *NO ELEVATOR

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, October 21 *NO ELEVATOR

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, October 22 *NO ELEVATOR

8:30 a.m. Counters – Library
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 GIL Classes
10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Boomers and Beyond Luncheon
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, October 23 *NO ELEVATOR

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 GIL Classes
1:00 p.m. Bridge in the Parlor
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study – Library

Friday, October 24 *NO ELEVATOR

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

Saturday, October 25 *NO ELEVATOR

10:00 a.m. VIJ Music Rehearsal – Chapel
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 Jackie & Rich 50th Anniversary – Litten Hall

Sunday, October 26 *NO ELEVATOR

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

COMMUNICATIONS

Articles and information for the November First Epistle should be sent to Victoria Fitton by Wednesday, October 22!

For any bulletin, weekly e-newsletter, or monitor announcements, please send them to the church office (churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org) by the end of Wednesday. If you want assistance composing an announcement or creating a visual slide for our screens, please reach out to Megan Higle (Communications Staff Resource) at megan.higle@gmail.com.

DEACONS

Deacons are providing holiday baskets to families in need again this year.

Recipients will be food pantry clients who sign up for their choice of a Thanksgiving or Christmas basket. This year, we plan to give 75 baskets for each holiday. These are fewer baskets than we have given than in the past because we always have some "no shows" among those who sign up, and also because we anticipate that the baskets will cost more this year. Each year, the congregation give generously to help fund this project. We anticipate and appreciate your support. Checks should be addressed to "First Presbyterian Church of Lansing" with "holiday baskets" on the memo line.

WORSHIP

All Saints' Day Remembrance

As we prepare to observe **All Saints' Day** on **Sunday, November 2**, the congregation will remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have entered the Church Triumphant during the past year.

If you have a family member who has passed within this time, please submit their name and their relationship to you to churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org.

Share Your Prayer Requests

For the next few months, **Rev. Barb Edema** invites you to share your prayer requests *in writing* for inclusion in our Sunday Worship Service.

Prayer request slips will be available each week in the pews and alongside the bulletins in the narthex. You may hand your completed slip to an usher, or give it directly to **Pr. Barb** before worship begins or during the **Passing of the Peace**.

As always, if you have a prayer concern you would like shared with the congregation, you may also:

- **Call the church office:** 517-482-0068
- **Email:** churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org
- **Speak with Christine DeYonke**, Pastoral Care Lead Volunteer, to include your request in our weekly prayer emails.

Flower Donations

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

FELLOWSHIP

COFFEE HOUR

Fellowship time after worship will take place in the parlor.

WOMEN OF FIRST PRES

Mark your calendars! Our next gathering will be on Saturday, November 15.

More information is coming soon – we are planning on a Paint & Sip.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND

This month, the Boomers and Beyond luncheon will be **October 22nd at 12:00 in the parlor.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

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

- 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.

Midweek Bible Studies

- **PCUSA Lectionary Bible Study** – Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Library)

Readings: Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65:1-13, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, Luke 19:9-14

Link to the readings: <https://pcusa.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2025/10/26>

- **Wired Word Bible Study** – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Library/Zoom)
Are Religious People Happier Than Non-Religious People?
'Peanuts' Children at 75 Never Grow Old

See the e-newsletter for more details.

Questions? Reach out to Megan Higle (megan.higle@gmail.com).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

GLEN ERIN PIPE BAND – ROBERT BURNS CELEBRATION

Tickets are on sale now for the Glen Erin Pipe Band's Robert Burns Celebration on January 24, 2026 at the MSU Kellogg Center. This event with dinner, concerts, and dancing is a highlight of the Scottish cultural calendar and well attended by members of First Pres. Tickets are \$60. Please contact Bill Collins (bill@pipercollins.com) for more information to reserve a seat with the First Pres group.