



## *The First Epistle*

Worship, Serve, Grow  
October 2025



Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48933

Office phone: 517-482-0668

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Website: <http://lansingfirstpres.com>

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LansingFirstPresbyterian>

**COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED ON OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

Join us as we celebrate Holy Communion with communities around the world at our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.

Potluck in Litten Hall following Worship Service. **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 contact Pam Blair (Membership Committee).



### **ELEVATOR OUT OF SERVICE IN OCTOBER**



Please note that the church elevator will be unavailable for the month of October due to renovations (beginning Monday, October 6). These improvements will enhance safety and reliability. If your group relies on elevator access, please contact the office at [churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org](mailto:churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org) to adjust your plans, if needed.

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## JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST!

Your Communications Committee, along with the wonderful guidance of our Church Administrator, Annika, has started a Weekly E-Newsletter!

This includes links to bulletins/hymns, First Epistles, Announcements, Food Bank Needs, Weekly Prayer, Bible Studies, etc.

Make sure you are receiving this weekly email!

## Join Our Email List!

- Keep up to date with our Weekly E-Newsletter
- Receive prayer requests
- Connect with your church family throughout the week

Email: [churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org](mailto:churchadmin@lansingfirstpres.org)



## BOOMERS & BEYOND – Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Noon

Meet us in the Parlor Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> for lunch. Let us know if you need transportation and we will try to arrange it if possible. If any of our regular attendees can pick up anyone please reach out to others or let us know. We look forward to our next time together. Kathe Smith,

517-230-1814, and Bev Phillips, 517-927-8367.

## TLC – Thursday, October 16, 1:00 p.m.

In October, TLC will meet on Thursday, October 16th at 1:00 PM. We will be going to Harry's Place. It is located at 404 N. Verlinden Ave. in Lansing.

**TLC is a group for women in the church** who enjoy fellowship and good food. Please call Judy Hartgerink (517-484-5177) for reservations or information. We would love to have you join us!

## Session Notes

The Session met on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. The Rev. Ben Rumbaugh, Committee on Ministry, moderated the meeting.

1. October 12 will be the Congregational Meeting to elect church officers.

2. Elizabeth Edimo requested a transfer of membership to the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor.

**3. The Session approved a contract to hire Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema to be our Stated Supply Minister.** This relationship will begin on September 28, 2025, and end on January 10, 2026, with the possibility of extension with agreement by both parties and the Committee on Ministry. The time commitment is 75% of a full-time equivalent with on-site presence 3 days per week with Sunday worship as a general expectation.

### **Responsibilities:**

#### *Worship Leader*

The Stated Supply Pastor will lead worship on a consistent basis, preaching God's Word, administering the sacraments, and leading Sunday services with participation from congregants. This will include working with the Worship Committee to plan worship services as well as coordinating with the Director of Music. Preaching should help the congregation to apply Scripture to all aspects of our lives. An additional expectation is to perform weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other formal services as requested.

#### *Pastoral Care*

A particular emphasis for this position is pastoral care which includes shut-ins, the sick (especially those in the hospital), those with spiritual and emotional needs, and those on the periphery of the congregation. This will include both in person visitation and phone calls. Coordination with the many parts of the congregation committed to this ministry is important including the Pastoral Assistant, Deacons, LINK groups, and the Member Involvement Committee.

#### *Spiritual Growth and Christian Education*

Teach the congregation how to develop a deeper faith and, subsequently, more thoughtful and faithful lives. Encourage the visibility and involvement and children and youth in all aspects of the church's life in a support capacity to the Director of Christian Education.

#### *Administration*

It is intended that this position have minimal responsibilities for administration. Staff supervision, finance, building and grounds and other similar functions will be the responsibility of the session and coordinated by the committees. Staying informed about key financial and building issues is expected. Attendance at

session is expected and at deacon meetings if judged to be helpful by the stated supply pastor. This can be accomplished through Zoom as needed and helpful. Attendance at weekly staff meetings is expected to coordinate with staff and stay current with congregational developments.

#### *Transition Work*

This position is not responsible for performing transitional ministry and will refrain from offering guidance or advice about the congregation's future during this time of transition. The Session will be actively searching for an interim/transitional minister.

4. The Session is in the process of forming an Interim Pastoral Nominating Committee.
5. October will be a busy month in the church with the new elevator being installed starting October 6. Work on the kitchen will continue and the solar panels may be installed on the Molly Grove Chapel roof.

## **Worship Corner**

October is a month of rich tradition and celebration in the life of the church.

### **World Communion Sunday – October 5**

On this Sunday, we join Christians across the globe in remembering the universality of the Good News of Jesus Christ. To honor the worldwide church, we will display a collection of breads representing countries such as Lebanon, Cameroon, Ukraine, India, Mexico, China, and more. Some of these breads will be available for tasting at our potluck following worship, hosted by the Membership Committee.

As always, our communion table will feature commercially prepared gluten-free bread and alcohol-free grape juice. We extend our deep gratitude to Franco and Salima Nashef, who have faithfully prepared our communion elements for many years, through countless changes along the way.



### **The Reformation – October 31**

At the end of the month, we also remember the Protestant Reformation, which began on October 31, 1517. On that day, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, calling out corruption in the church of his time.

While Luther did not intend to divide the church, his actions sparked a movement that led to the birth of Lutheranism and, eventually, many other Protestant traditions, including our own Presbyterian heritage.

## **VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED JOIN THE AV TEAM**

**The AV team would love** to add a couple of new volunteers to help run the Sunday livestream slide presentation. Are you able to watch a screen? Are you able to push one button at a time? Are you kind of fidgety during worship? We've got a job for you!



Contact Bill Collins at [bill@pipercollins.com](mailto:bill@pipercollins.com) or 517-230-2506 or call the church office at 517-482-0668 if interested. (Seriously...we make it look cool, but it's not hard.)

## **MUSIC NOTES with Megan**

I'm not sure if it was Pr. Stan's acceptance of a call in Pennsylvania or my need to organize at the last minute....(yes, friends, I *DO* HAVE ADHD) ...but the planning of the month of October not only took me by surprise but reminded me as how quickly time keeps moving forward. Words are not available to express how much I *need* (not just love) choral music. The time spent in planning, listening, deciding, changing and listening some more, is what gives me breath each morning – seriously. So. As I have worked to create a musical worship “experience” for the congregation on Sunday mornings, I am filling my “joy-bucket” with the music of the church that uplifts, sustains and encourages.

As we continue forward on this new and exciting adventure, please take these words with you:

*Grant us gentleness in power.*

*Grant us strength to face this hour, to forgive, to offer grace, and nurture peace in every place.*

*Grant us hope when all seems dire.*

*Grant us faith to spark a fire, to fiercely burn, to drown the night, and set the world ablaze with light.*

*And when we meet resistance and our call puts us in danger, grant us patience and persistence to stand up for friend and stranger.*

*Grant us courage to be kind.*

*Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear, so only love is spoken here.*

*And when our path of justice lead us to the dreadful fight, grant us vigor, and entrust us with the power to do what's right.*

*Grant us courage to be kind.*

*Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear, so only love is spoken here.*

- Karen Marrolli, 2022

<https://youtu.be/OZq7qLsRfrq?si=SJuCYcO2RwA2tLTX>

The music staff continues to pray that as we navigate change in our congregation, our worship is a place of renewal, support, growth and comfort.

Hymns for October will include:

817 We Walk by Faith and not by Sight

796 We Come to You for Healing, Lord

833 O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go

275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

6 I Bind unto Myself Today

Anthems for October to include:

"Celtic Communion" arr Mark Hayes

"Praise His Holy Name!" by Keith Hampton

"Great Day" arr by Brazeal Dennard

"Psalm 147" by Dan Forrest

"Lift Your Eyes" by Michael Moose Forrest

"Until Love Is Spoken" by Karen Marrolli

Musically yours,  
Megan



PS The Chancel Choir is STILL LOOKING FOR A BASS SECTION LEADER (see notice on page 22 of the First Epistle.



## WELCOME BACK TO OUR ALTO SECTION LEADER, ROSE RODRIGUE!



Over the summer, **Rose Rodrigue** completed the required coursework for her Master's in Choral Conducting at LSU (Louisiana State University). In addition to her academic work, she directed two performances. The first, with her chamber choir, Opus Vocal Ensemble, explored clandestine worship ritual, featuring William Byrd's *Mass for Three Voices* interspersed with vibrant works by queer composers: Pauline Oliveros' "Tuning Meditation," Riley Ferretti's *Vox* collection, hymns by Moira Smiley, and the possible first choral performance of Julius Eastman's "Our Father." She then conducted her graduate recital centered around Benjamin Britten's masterpiece, *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, surrounded by absolute bangers including works by Jennifer Lucy Cook and Pauline Oliveros, FPC favs by Bobby McFerrin and Rose/Hildegard, and the modern premiere of Isabella Leonarda's "Regina Cæli" with accordion! She's currently supposed to be studying for her comprehensive exams, so feel free to pop quiz her about choir for the next few weeks.

(photo submitted by Rose Rodrigue)

## Liturgists in October: Prayer Leaders in October:

Oct 5 – Kathy Banghart  
Oct 12 – Darla Jackson  
Oct 19 – Christopher Venetis  
Oct 26 – Debbie Warnaar

Oct 5 – HOLY COMMUNION  
Oct 12 – George Bennett  
Oct 19 – Gwen Botting  
Oct 26 – Christopher Venetis

# Book Group

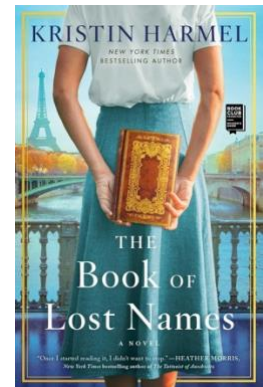


Book group will meet on Zoom until Spring. Please let Pat Eenigenburg know if you would like to be added to the book group. You can reach her at ([eenigenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:eenigenburg@hotmail.com)).

**Tuesday October 7 7:00 p.m. ON ZOOM**

## ***The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel**

Eva Traube Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, is shelving books when her eyes lock on a photograph in the *New York Times*. She freezes; it's an image of a book she hasn't seen in more than sixty years—a book she recognizes as *The Book of Lost Names*. As a graduate student in 1942, Eva was forced to flee Paris and find refuge in a small mountain town in the Free Zone, where she began forging identity documents for Jewish children fleeing to neutral Switzerland. But erasing people comes with a price, and along with a mysterious, handsome forger named Rémy, Eva decides she must find a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they really are. The records they keep in *The Book of Lost Names* will become even more vital when the resistance cell they work for is betrayed and Rémy disappears. *The Book of Lost Names* is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of bravery and love in the face of evil.

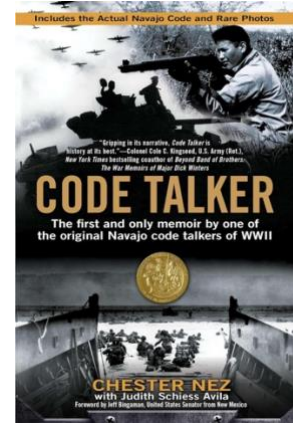


*Discussion led by Pat Eenigenburg.*

**Tuesday November 4 7:00 p.m. ON ZOOM**

***Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII* by Chester Nez**

His name wasn't Chester Nez. That was the English name he was assigned in kindergarten. And in boarding school at Fort Defiance, he was punished for speaking his native language, as the teachers sought to rid him of his culture and traditions. But discrimination didn't stop Chester from answering the call to defend his country after Pearl Harbor, for the Navajo have always been warriors, and his upbringing on a New Mexico reservation gave him the strength—both physical and mental—to excel as a marine. During World War II, the Japanese had managed to crack every code the United States used. But when the Marines turned to its Navajo recruits to develop and implement a secret military language, they created the only unbroken code in modern warfare—and helped assure victory for the United States over Japan in the South Pacific.

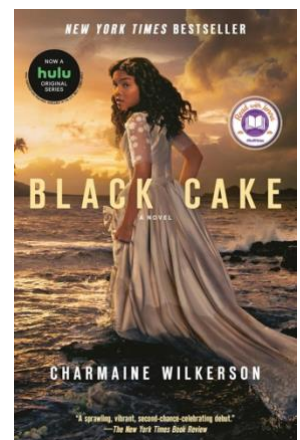


*Discussion led by Trudy Frick.*

**Tuesday December 2 7:00 p.m. ON ZOOM**

***Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson**

In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a heartbreaking story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor's true history, and fulfill her final request to "share the black cake when the time is right"? Charmaine Wilkerson's debut novel is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.



*Discussion led by Jackie Blankenship.*

## DEACONS' NOTES

In our efforts to shine the light of God's Love and be good neighbors to all in our community, October has amazing opportunities for YOU to be involved:

### ***HOLIDAY BASKETS ARE COMING!***

**Packing dates: Thanksgiving Basket Packing –  
Sunday, Nov. 9**

**After Worship Service**



Your Deacons are shopping SOON to have all the ingredients ready for the assembly of baskets that 75 of our Food Pantry clients will be receiving.

Families receive their holiday basket when they pick up their November pantry order, so the baskets must be all ready to go by the beginning of those months! (We no longer have a special basket pick-up day).

Our church family very much enjoys our process of filling the food boxes together after worship – plan on being present on November 9 (for the Thanksgiving baskets).

**NOTE: We are hoping to make each basket large enough to serve a family of 4. At press time we had not yet determined the per basket cost, but we are aiming to make them a bit bigger this year.**

**Your financial contributions are needed to assist our efforts, for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. You can contribute any amount to the HOLIDAY BASKETS FUND, checks payable to the church (memo line Holiday Baskets). Thank you for your generosity!**

### **HELP OUR CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN OUR FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY!**

Our Sunday School children have a special Food Box at the front of the sanctuary, and at the end of the Moment for Children every Sunday, they *all* put food items into the box. Your help is needed in providing these Food Box items each week!

***Please bring any of the items listed below to the Food Box before worship on Sunday, (place them around the Food Box, not in it (that's the children's job! ☺)).*** Items can also be brought for the Food Box throughout the week – bring them to the church office, labeled "Sanctuary Food Box."

**The Food Pantry** is always in need of basic food items and monetary donations, year-round (be sure to mark your gift "Food Pantry). Contact Jim Donaldson for more details: [jimdonsn01@comcast.net](mailto:jimdonsn01@comcast.net).

Basic items the pantry can always use include:

- Cans of baked beans
- Any type of cereal
- Bar soap
- Canned green beans, corn and peas
- Elbow macaroni
- Store bought cookies
- All varieties of canned soup
- Toilet paper
- Pasta sauce

## **ADVENT HOUSE MEAL**

A delicious meal was provided at Advent House on September 14 (Thank You, Christopher and Team!). Our next meal prep and service will be October 12. Anyone can help! Contact Rich Blankenship, [gogreen3426@yahoo.com](mailto:gogreen3426@yahoo.com), to volunteer!

## **MEMBER CARE**

Deacon "buddies" continue to visit and/ or contact our homebound members regularly, representing our entire church, and showing the constant love of our Christian family of faith.

## **ANGEL TEAM MINISTRY**

The Angel Team offers rides, meals, and other support for church members in both joyous and difficult times. If you are interested in assisting your friends and church members, or have need of such support, please contact Deb Donaldson: [iampib@yahoo.com](mailto:iampib@yahoo.com).

## **BINGO MINISTRY AT CAPITAL CITY APARTMENTS**

Join the Bingo Team to provide this entertaining outreach and fellowship to the residents at 3200 S. Washington Blvd. The fun happens on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

You can participate by volunteering onsite, or you can help by donating prizes! Prize items that are always appreciated include:

- Personal care items (hand soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues)

- Cleaning supplies (dish & laundry soap)
- Granola bars and other snack foods
- Small appliances (crock pots, toasters, small food processors)
- \$25 gift cards from Meijer/Kroger (grand prize)

Bring your donations to the church office, marked “Bingo prizes.” Contact Linda Snyder at [lksnyder3@comcast.net](mailto:lksnyder3@comcast.net) with your questions or to volunteer! *Thank you!*

## PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACONS

The ministry of your Board of Deacons is not part of the church budget but is funded by congregational extra-mile giving that is earmarked “Deacons Fund.” To support Member Care, Bingo Outreach, Advent House meals, and Angel Team ministries, direct your gift to “Deacons General Fund.” To support our “Holiday Basket” ministry, please indicate that on your gift. Thank you for your generosity!

(NOTE: Donations to the Deacons without a specific designation go into the Deacons General Fund.) Thank you for your support!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the supply preachers we were blessed to hear so far this fall:

Rev. Dr. Annmarie Kidder  
 Elder Sallie Campbell  
 Rev. Charles Herrick  
 Pr. Robert Higle  
 Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema  
 Rev. Jimmie Hawkins  
 Rev. John Best

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped make the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jesus + Justice Young Adult Advocacy Conference a great success! FPC hosted the annual conference, put on by The Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. It was wonderful to be a part of equipping young adults with tools and enthusiasm. Heartfelt thanks to Rev. Jimmie Hawkins for his leadership, preaching and encouragement.

Check out Website [HERE](#)



## Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church

Formal Christian Education on Sunday mornings for children and adults continues!

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS!

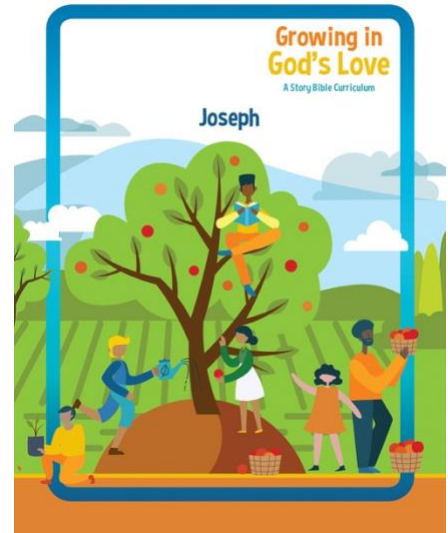
#### **4 years – 12 years Age Children!**

Sunday Morning Faith Formation!

#### **\*\*NEW TIME\*\***

**9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m**

Utilizing the “Growing in God’s Love” A Story Bible Curriculum, we will begin a session on the story of Joseph!



Oct 5 – “Joseph Helps Out in Egypt”

Oct 12 – “Joseph Helps His Brothers”

Oct 19 – “Joseph Helps His Brothers”

Oct 26 – MOVIE/LIBRARY DAY

There are always Children’s Bulletins (from Illustrated Ministries) available each Sunday that includes Scripture, drawing, coloring and a variety of “word games” that are geared toward elementary age children.

Also, check out the freshened up “Pray-Ground” for our younger friends who may need space to wiggle during Worship Services!

#### **Youth (Middle and Senior High)!**

Our Middle and Senior High Faith Formation continues our fellowship with Holt & Okemos Presbyterian churches this fall.

These groups come together every Sunday evening (September – May), we are so glad that our young people have ways to share their faith with others in our larger community!

**If you have a student in grades 6 – 12**, see Megan Higle or Pam Blair to find out what opportunities exist. ☺

IF Youth Group is not “your thing”, please see Megan Higle, Pam Blair or Alyse Collins for a schedule of youth Bible Study and opportunities for service within our congregation.

### **Adults!**

Faith Formation (Adult Forum) will be deepening our knowledge of our community....we hope you are able to attend these informative, historical and relevant sessions during the month of September:

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Litten Hall**

**Oct 5 – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY POTLUCK!**

**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 Lansing First Pres Church - Hear from Darla Jackson & Bessie Roeper as they share their time spent at the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gun Violence Symposium. (Held at the end of September at the Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center.) Read about the conference here: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/5/29/peace-fellowships-atwood-institute-fosters-joy-acting-together-save-lives>

**Oct 26 STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE, and ENDOWMENT** – what do these terms *actually* mean within a church setting. Learn more about how your funds contribute to the continued ministry and growth of Lansing First Pres.

### **WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

Lectionary **Wednesday at 10:30 am.** Bible Study (in person and on Zoom) with Pr. Bob each week. *In-person meeting in the library.*

Current Event Bible Study **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m** – WIRED WORD – (in person and on Zoom) with Pr. Bob each week. *In-person meeting in the library.*

IF you would like more information, zoom links, materials for upcoming studies and/or events, please contact Megan!

Megan Higle

[megan.higle@gmail.com](mailto:megan.higle@gmail.com)

cell phone: 248.320.4578

## Dive Deeper: Understanding Our Bible Study Path



As we embark on our weekly Bible study, have you ever wondered about the selection of Scriptures we use? They aren't random! Our readings are drawn from the **Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)**, a carefully structured three-year cycle of biblical texts used by many denominations, including the PCUSA.

Understanding the RCL is key to enriching our study. Specifically, we follow the **semi-continuous track**, and here's what that means and why it's so valuable.

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### The Two Paths: Semi-Continuous vs. Complementary

The RCL offers two distinct paths, or "tracks," for selecting the Old Testament and Psalm readings, particularly during the time after Pentecost (also known as Ordinary Time).

#### 1. The Semi-Continuous Track (Our Choice! ✓)

- **Focus:** This track offers a systematic, **continuous** journey through an Old Testament book or a long portion of one, linking the Scripture to the one read the week before.
- **Goal:** The primary aim is to allow us to delve into the **narrative flow** and **context** of a specific book (like Genesis, Exodus, or 1 Samuel) over several weeks. It provides a more sustained exploration of one biblical story.
- **Connection:** The Gospel reading is selected independently, but the Old Testament reading has its own sustained focus.
- **Why We Use It:** By following this track, our Bible study sessions can move progressively through a book. This helps us see the bigger picture, understand the historical setting, and appreciate the development of themes within that particular book of the Bible. **We are using this track.**

#### 2. The Complementary Track

- **Focus:** This alternative track chooses an Old Testament passage that directly **complements** or is thematically related to the Gospel reading of the week.
- **Goal:** The aim is to illuminate the Gospel text by showing its fulfillment or thematic parallel in the Hebrew Scriptures.



- **Connection:** The Old Testament reading is specifically chosen to create a strong, sometimes dramatic, contrast or parallel with the New Testament lesson.
- **Difference:** While valuable for highlighting specific connections, this track often means jumping between different Old Testament books from week to week, breaking the continuous narrative.

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## Why the Semi-Continuous Track Enriches Our Study

By choosing the **semi-continuous track**, our Bible study is structured to promote a deeper and more contextual understanding of the Old Testament. Instead of a "greatest hits" approach, we are reading the Scriptures as a developing narrative.

This week, for example, our study is built upon the text from last week, allowing us to:

1. **See the Big Picture:** We won't lose the forest for the trees! We can trace the development of themes like covenant, discipleship, or justice across multiple chapters.
2. **Appreciate Context:** Understanding what happened *before* and *after* a passage is crucial. The semi-continuous reading aids this context tremendously.
3. **Ground Our Faith:** This continuous flow helps us see how God's story unfolds through history, grounding the New Testament lessons in the rich tradition of the Old Testament.

We encourage you to read ahead a few chapters in the book we're currently studying. It will profoundly enrich your personal reflection and our group discussions!

**See you at Bible Study at 10:30 am on Wednesdays in person (in the Library) or by Zoom**

- Pr. Bob Higle & Your Christian Education Team

# 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! 🍂

## Mission and Social Justice Update

October 5th is World Communion Sunday, the opportunity to join in a service of Christian unity to lift the global Church and to remember that by virtue of our baptism, we are connected to a worldwide community. While it is my favorite service of the year (who can resist the music, pageantry, and relative unpredictable-ness of it?), to think about some of the barriers that exist that prevent some of our siblings in Christ from being able to celebrate communion, it brings a certain solemnity.

Annually our church has the Peace and Global Witness offering on World Communion Sunday, which promotes the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. It has helped fund projects that provide backpacks of food to students and personal needs to households who receive food stamps. It helped create the Guns to Gardens Program, which creates tools from surrendered firearms. It helps advance peace and justice close to home, abroad, and the places in between.

Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us ...

and God in Christ is with us through the Sacrament of Communion, celebrated on World Communion Sunday. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.



- Darla Jackson, Mission Committee



## **Presbyterians for Earth Care Creation Care Tips**

### **Eco-friendly Celebrations and Traditions**

#### **in a Season of Giving**

We are a consumer-driven society and oftentimes, in our attempts to celebrate with decorations, parties, and gifts, we damage, even desecrate, creation. As we conscientiously work to conserve natural resources by using eco-friendly products, sustainable and local foods, we use less water, impose less on our land, and use fewer minerals. Remember the three Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle that contribute to treading more gently? The first of these is reduce, which is to make less, so we want to make less our impact on creation in all that we do, less in our consuming, especially throughout our upcoming holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

How can we start? Use natural products for decorations, such as hay bales, pumpkins, and sheaves of corn, to decorate your home. Decorate the table with a cornucopia with fruits and veggies that you can use later in the kitchen. Ditch the plastic and beware of greenwashing, a deceptive marketing practice where companies misleadingly present their products, services, or overall operations as more environmentally friendly or sustainable than they actually are.

When it comes to gift giving, here are some alternatives to big box stores and online shopping. Give gifts of experience or gifts of time. Consider the [Presbyterian Giving Catalog](#) for unique ideas that help others around the world. Share plants, consumables, or give something you've made yourself. Consider giving alternative gifts, contributing to a charity, or supporting [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#). There are a couple of companies that are good at supporting small businesses and treading gently, [Uncommon Goods](#) and [Ten Thousand Villages](#). Consider alternatives to Amazon ordering. Pick and choose

carefully from among those gifts that say they are green. Explore what can be done with [seed paper](#), or make your own [seed bombs](#).

Create a beautiful table with dishes, silverware, cloth napkins, and glassware. Buy local ingredients, consider plant-based opportunities for meals.

These pillars of creation care begin with making less, making less stuff, imposing fewer demands on the earth, spending less time buying things, while creating thoughtful, welcoming hospitality for friends and family.

## **GREATER LANSING CROP WALK**

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/lansingmi>

**Sunday, October 12, 2025**  
**Starting at Grace United Methodist Church**  
**1900 Boston Blvd.**  
**Lansing, MI 48910**

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.



Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

### **NAME TAGS**

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

## WOMEN OF FIRST PRES



What a great Saturday! On September 20, the Women of First Pres hit the road for the Cracked Pot Studio Tour. We explored three studios in Williamston, ending with a visit to our very own potter, Kathe Smith—so fun to see her and her wares!

Of course, no outing is complete without good food, and lunch at *That New Place* downtown did not disappoint (we all give it two thumbs up!).

We're already excited for our next adventure—hope you'll come along! Connect with Megan Higle or Christine DeYonke to get involved. *(photo by Megan Higle)*

## GROUND'S CLEAN UP GROUP

### FPC Clean-Up Day Success!

Wow—what a day! On Saturday, September 13, many hands made light work as FPC gathered for our Clean-Up Day. Together we tackled window wells, pulled weeds, trimmed hedges, raked flower beds, organized garden supplies, cleared overgrowth, and even dissembled the old picnic table (making room for the new one waiting in the garage!).

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came ready to work, filled dumpsters, hauled bags home, and helped us get the job done. Because of you, our church grounds are looking fresh and ready to welcome fall—and our community!

*(pictured is Dick Poland and the dissembled picnic table)*



*(photo by Christine DeYonke)*

## Silver Bells is Coming!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, November 21, 2025**—our church will again serve as a **Warming Station!**

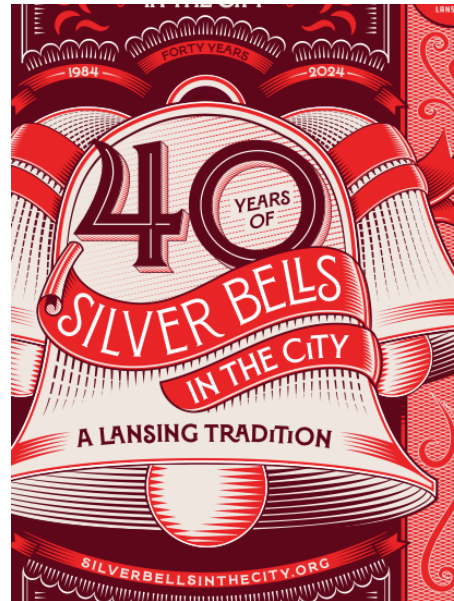
We'll be welcoming the community with **hot chocolate and open restrooms**, and we need plenty of **greeters** to pour cocoa and guide guests. We are expecting around **800 people**, so your help (and your smiles!) will make a huge difference.

 **When:** 4:00–8:00 pm

 **How you can help:**

- Volunteer as a greeter/host
- Loan a **5-gallon thermos** for hot water

If you're able to help, please contact **Pam Blair** at  
 [blairkids3@yahoo.com](mailto:blairkids3@yahoo.com) |  517-281-9099



Let's show our community a warm welcome on this special night!

## Fourth Annual Justice League Fall Celebration and Fundraiser - Tickets Now Available!

Friday, November 14th, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
MSUFCU Headquarters Bldg 2, Community Room  
3899 Coolidge Rd, East Lansing

Join us as Nakia Parker, Ph.D., addresses "Unfinished Freedom: Black Struggles for Belonging and Justice." Sophia Saliby, with WKAR Public Media, will also moderate a conversation with Willye Bryan and Prince Solace about the Justice League's journey. There will be a dinner buffet by Gregory's Soul Food and music by the talented pianist Jackson Allen.

Please consider making your annual reparations payment, contribution, or pledge at the event. The event cost is covered by ticket sales, \$35 each. Please go to our website to purchase tickets: [www.justiceleagueglm.org](http://www.justiceleagueglm.org).

# NOW HIRING *BASS SECTION LEADER*



## POSITION DETAILS:

- **Role:** Bass Section Leader (paid position)
- **Duties:** Lead the bass section in rehearsals and worship services - provide vocal support and leadership.
- **Assist** in building tone, blend and confidence
- **Commitment:** Thursday evening rehearsals (7-9 p.m) Sunday morning services (9:15 am call, 10:00 am worship)
- **Compensation:** Competitive per-call rate

## IDEAL CANDIDATE:

- Choral experience
- Ability to read music confidently
- Supportive, encouraging presence for volunteer singers
- Dependable and commitment to life of the choir

## How to Apply:

Please send email to:

Megan.Higle@gmail.com with a brief note of interest.

Or call 517.482.0668

church office to leave a message



[www.lansingfirstpres.org](http://www.lansingfirstpres.org)

510 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933

# First Pres Finances in Brief

## As of August 31, 2025

We want the First Pres family to understand our resources, our priorities, and our progress over time.

**August notes:** While a substantial deficit remains, giving and income was up for the month. We count our blessings. There is still a big gap to close, but we are moving in the right direction.

Our July note about redirecting certain designated funds to general fund expenses caused some confusion. To clarify, those designated funds still may only be used for expenses aligned with the donors' wishes. By *redirecting* them, we meant taking those funds from their holding accounts and applying them to *appropriate* lines in the budget. Designated funds, even for things like building maintenance, are not budgeted at the start of the year.

### First Pres Finance Committee

Bill Collins (chair); Bev Bockes (treasurer); Jim Donaldson; Jim LeTourneau

### Year to Date General Fund Activity

|                                          | Cash Flow YTD | Budgeted YTD | Difference vs. Budget |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund Income                      | \$304,083     | \$288,883    | \$15,200              |
| General Fund Spending                    | \$357,961     | \$353,925    | \$4,036               |
| General Fund Net (Income minus Spending) | -\$53,879     |              |                       |

For 2025 the church operates with a deficit budget (budgeted spending is larger than budgeted income). Annual pledges have decreased while annual expenses have increased. We rely on gifts and income beyond pledges to help close the gap.

The Session continues to look for ways to reduce future expenses while maintaining our church and mission.

### Year to Date Balances

|                          | Balances    |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund Balance     | -\$71,402   |
| Designated Funds Balance | \$181,653   |
| Endowment Fund Balance   | \$2,168,898 |

Short-term negative General Fund balances are covered by Designated Funds held in the same bank account, much like a savings account may back up a personal checking account.

(7/21/25) The Endowment Fund balance is reported quarterly.

### Year to Date Campaign Progress

|                               | Progress  |                                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| General Fund Pledges Received | \$212,166 | toward total pledges of \$290,332. |
| Capital Campaign Progress     | \$37,498  | toward goal of \$100,000.          |
| JLGLM Pledge Progress         | \$95,422  | toward pledge of \$100,000.        |

**General Fund Income:** includes things like annual pledges, weekly offerings, building use and rent income.

**General Fund Spending:** includes staff payroll, physical operations, repairs and utilities, mission giving, and other budgeted expenses.

**Designated Funds:** include money that may only be used for specific purposes, like the Deacons Fund, the Food Pantry, special music programming, memorial funds, etc.

**The Endowment Fund:** is managed to maintain a capital amount of \$2.1M that is invested and cannot be spent. Endowment earnings over and above the capital contribute to both the General Fund and various Designated Funds.

**The Capital Campaign:** was established to fund specific improvements to the sanctuary, the chapel, and other building needs that are not funded by the general budget or grants.

**The JLGLM Pledge:** was made by the church to the Justice League of Greater Lansing MI to contribute voluntary reparations for the benefit of Lansing's African American community.

## CHURCH FAMILY

### CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION:

In care facilities:

**Jean Dietrich** (Story Point of Grand Ledge)

**Dianne Rector** (Rosewood Manor in DeWitt)



## CELEBRATE!



**Helen and Roger Toebe** celebrated their **75th wedding anniversary** on September 12! Congratulations!

## IN MEMORIAM

**Verina Thornton** passed on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral service was held at Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel in downtown Lansing. The Rev. Charles Herrick officiated Verina's service.

**David Angus** passed on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a private service for family and friends at Estes-Leadley on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. The Rev. Charles Herrick presided. A memorial service for David will be held at a later time.

**Queen Darlene Rhodes**, mother to Prince Solace, passed on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Queen endeared herself to many at FPC with her visits and passionate presentations.

**Joan Heil** passed on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> in Florida. There will be a memorial service at a later date at FPC.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

|        |                     |        |                    |
|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 2-Oct  | Hamilton Showalter  | 19-Oct | Julia Toomey       |
| 7-Oct  | Joseph Ross         | 19-Oct | Sherri DeMarco     |
| 9-Oct  | Mary Ann Mackoul    | 19-Oct | Collin Wisner      |
| 10-Oct | Audrey Pollok       | 20-Oct | Linda Keller       |
| 10-Oct | Nelly Aste          | 20-Oct | Madison Hendy      |
| 10-Oct | Jim Botting         | 21-Oct | Dan DeYonke        |
| 11-Oct | Judy Whitman        | 24-Oct | Denice Dickinson   |
| 11-Oct | Nancy Anderson      | 26-Oct | Jackie Blankenship |
| 13-Oct | Christopher Venetis | 26-Oct | Marie Mackoul      |
| 14-Oct | John Fellows        | 29-Oct | Bev Phillips       |
| 16-Oct | Elaine Scovill      | 29-Oct | Helen Herrick      |
| 16-Oct | Michael Snyder      | 30-Oct | Joyce Schaub       |
| 17-Oct | Paul Eenigenburg    | 31-Oct | Dick Poland        |

Prepare for the NOVEMBER newsletter.  
The deadline for articles is OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Please send articles to Victoria: [vafitton@gmail.com](mailto:vafitton@gmail.com)

# OCTOBER CHURCH CALENDAR

## Wednesday, October 1

8:30 a.m. Counters – Library  
 9:00 a.m.-2:00 GIL Classes  
 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study  
 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir  
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Fit Yoga – Yoga Room  
 6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Club – Litten Hall  
 6:30 p.m. Wired Word Bible Study – Zoom

## Thursday, October 2

9:00 a.m.-2:00 GIL Classes  
 3:30 p.m. NWI Resource Fair  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

## Friday, October 3

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

## Saturday, October 4

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

## Sunday, October 5 (World Communion/Potluck)

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

## Monday, October 6 (NO ELEVATOR)

9:00 a.m.-2:00 GIL Classes  
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
 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 (NO ELEVATOR)

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

## Wednesday, October 8 (NO ELEVATOR)

8:30 a.m. Counters – library  
 9:00 a.m.-2:00 GIL Classes  
 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study  
 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir  
 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 (NO ELEVATOR)

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

## Friday, October 10 (NO ELEVATOR)

5:30 p.m.-6:30 Restorative Yoga – Yoga Room  
 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 Halloween Costume Collection – Lower Level

## Saturday, October 11 (NO ELEVATOR)

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 Halloween Costume Distribution – Lower Level  
 10:00 a.m. VIJ Music Rehearsal – Chapel

## Sunday, October 12 (NO ELEVATOR)

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School  
 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 11:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting  
 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum  
 11:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting  
 12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Sanctuary  
 3:00 p.m. Lansing Symphony Piano Trio – Chapel

## Monday, October 13 (NO ELEVATOR)

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

## Tuesday, October 14 (NO ELEVATOR)

5:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting  
 6:00 p.m. Mid MI Photo Officers – Library  
 6:30 pm-9:00 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Capitol City Chordsmen – Chapel

## Wednesday, October 15 (NO ELEVATOR)

8:30 a.m. Counters – Library  
 9:00 a.m.-2:00 GIL Classes  
 10:30 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study  
 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir  
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Fit Yoga – Yoga Room  
 6:30 p.m. Wired Word Bible Study – Zoom  
 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

## Thursday, October 16 (NO ELEVATOR)

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

**Friday, October 17 (NO ELEVATOR)**

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

**Saturday, October 18 (NO ELEVATOR)**

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

**Sunday, October 19 (NO ELEVATOR)**

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School  
 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 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

**Tuesday, October 21 (NO ELEVATOR)**

9:00 a.m.-2:00 GIL Classes  
 6:30 pm-9:00 Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Capitol 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. Boomer's Luncheon  
 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir  
 5:30 p.m.-6:30 Fit Yoga – Yoga Room  
 6:30 p.m. Wired Word Bible Study - Zoom

**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

**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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Litten Hall

**Sunday, October 26 (NO ELEVATOR)**

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

**Monday, October 27 (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 28 (NO ELEVATOR)**

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

**Wednesday, October 29 (NO ELEVATOR)**

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

**Thursday, October 30 (NO ELEVATOR)**

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries

**Friday, October 31 (NO ELEVATOR)**

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

## FIRST CHURCH STAFF

**Supply Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema

**Part-time Custodian:** Kliff Nhengu

**Pastoral Care Assistant:** Christine DeYonke

**Church Administrator:** Annika Hauser-Brydon

**Bell Choir Director:** Darin Showalter

**Director of Christian Education &**

**Youth Ministry:** Megan Higle

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Charles Herrick

**Director of Music:** Megan Higle

**Organist:** Sergei Kvitko

**Childcare Staff:** Makenna Davis & Skylar Wichman

**Video Producers:** Bill Collins,  
 Andrew Mackoul & Trenton Mitchell