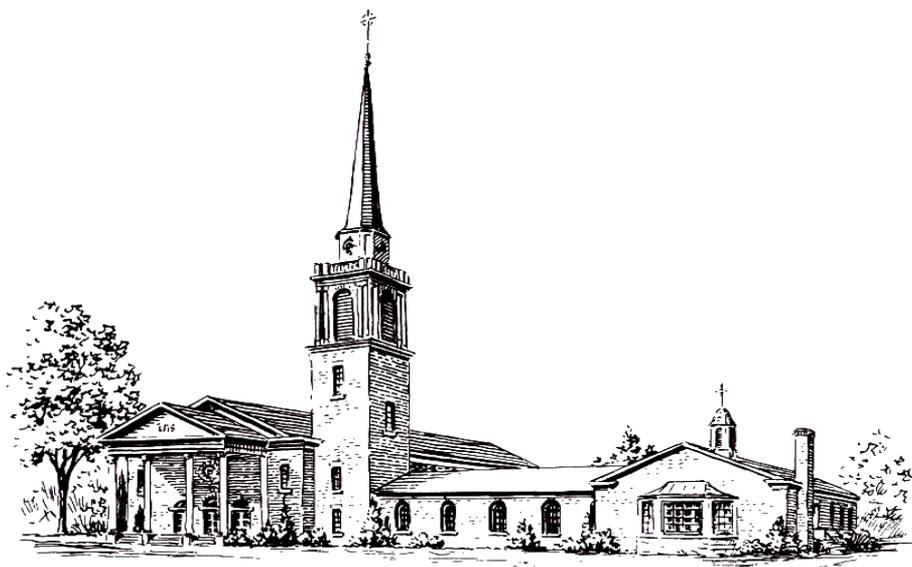


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mt. Pleasant, MI



1250 Watson Rd

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Phone: 989-773-9609

Website: www.fpcmp.org

E-Mail: churchoffice@fpcmp.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/FPCMP/

September 12, 2020

10:30 a.m.

*Worship on the Front Lawn
Rally Day*

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

“Joy!”
Mary Jo Cox, keyboard

Garret Parker

WORDS OF GREETING

WELCOME

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we have fallen short, for patience when we have stubbornly turned away from you. Why are we slow to show the same mercy to others? We keep track of wrongs and cling to old hurts, rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves. We strive to be more faithful, Lord; we want to be more loving. So we kneel before you once again to ask for patience and grace. Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows forth from us through acts of love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Pass the peace if able by posting a comment on the church's Facebook Page. If you are joining us for in-person worship please remain seated and share signs of God's peace with those around you with prayer hands or a simple nod of the head.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 18: 21-35

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24

When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart." The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Forgiveness is...”

Andrew Miller

Question of the Day: When have you struggled with forgiveness?

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Meditation from “Thais”

Jules Massenet

Mark Cox, tuba

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, VIRTUAL SCHOOL AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BIBLE PRESENTATION

Miles Black

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The purpose of the Called Congregational Meeting is to hear a report from the Nominating Team and to approve changes in the church's By-Laws and Manual of Operations to allow the congregation to meet electronically if unable to meet in person, such as with the current pandemic. There will be a two-week notification prior to the meeting and the quorum (10% of the members) will remain the same for in-person and electronic meetings. When we are unable to meet in-person, Session, Deacons, and Teams will be allowed electronically.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Every Day I Will Bless You” Richard Blake

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox, Mark Cox, and Andrew Miller

Please take your bulletin with you and recycle it at home.
Thank you!

Connect Via:

Church Website fpcmp.org (once we go live the video will appear on our website)

FaceBook: Like the Churches Page-

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchMtPleasantMI/>

To call in and listen: dial 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted enter Meeting ID 264 753 6594.

Offering:

If you would like to give your pledge, per capita payment, or offering please mail it to the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant, 48858. If you would like to give an offering this morning please go to the church's website, www@fpcmp.org and hit the “Give Now” button or use the QR Code,



Today we will have a Called Congregational Meeting at the end of worship to elect the Ruling Elders and Deacons of the Class of 2023 and approving the amended Church By-laws.

Phone calls to the church office are being transferred to Andrew Miller's cellphone.

Ways to stay connected: phone calls, Facebook, Facetime, Skype, Zoom, send a card or note, pray with and for one another, join a Outreach Cluster, and etc.

At this time, the church will not be collecting plastic grocery bags or plastic containers. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Outreach Clusters

Outreach Clusters (OC) are being created as a ministry of First Presbyterian Church to allow members and friends a small group opportunity to check in with one another, support one another, and to pray with and for one another as we continue to live through these days of pandemic. OCs, made up of 4-6 people will decide as a group to either meet by Zoom or in person, socially distanced and masked. Each OC will also decide as a group on meeting times and length. Each OC may also participate in various ways of reaching out to others in the community or in the congregation. A few examples of outreach opportunities are praying for others; supporting the teachers, staff, and administration of Vowles Elementary or the ICDC; picking up extra food from the Soup Kitchen to take to the CCN Food Pantry; reading a social justice-related book together for discussion; debriefing the Sunday Reflection; or meeting and walking for exercise. If you are interested in being a part of an OC please email Andrew Miller at AndrewMiller@fpcmp.org or call the church office 773-9609. When

signing up, please let Andrew know if you are interested in a particular outreach opportunity.

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Mike Mitchell & JT Schmitt (Barb Lindley's son-in-laws), Erin and Matt Riley (daughter of Kim and Judy DeWitt), Dick O'Ferrall, Jim Bidwell, Marlene Wheeler, Linda Rose, The Belanger family (friends of Judy and Kim DeWitt), Dick Hubbard (Martha Miller's father), Ben Sellers, Ragun Karari, Linnet Stevens, Jerry Coscarelly, Barbara Shivers (Candy Baker's mother), Dottie Graham (friend of Jim and Marilyn Bidwell), Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Peter Russell, Sally Weisenburger, Nicole Patton, David Neyer, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Colleen Long, Lavona Osborne, Richard Shugert. Mission Co-Workers Michael and Rachel Ludwig, Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, First Presbyterian Church, Yale, MI, Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.