

F I R S T

Sunday in Lent



The Service for the Lord's Day
1st Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2018

Boldface type indicates a spoken response.
The asterisk (*) is an invitation to stand if able.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

From water to wilderness:
God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.

On stone and in hearts:
God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:
God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,
for where he is, we would be also.

John 12:26

*OPENING HYMN #22 *God of the Sparrow*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God's bow has been hung in the clouds—
a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin.
God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love,
even when we are unfaithful.
Without fear, then,
we confess our sins.

Gen. 9:13

**God of mercy,
we begin this Lenten season in confession.
We do not live according to your ways,
but according to our own.
We condone violence,
participate in systems of injustice,
and use power to our own advantage
at the expense of others.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we are tempted to follow paths
other than those you set before us.**

Ps. 25:4

**Teach us your commandments;
help us to turn from evil in its many guises,
and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near.
In covenantal love, remember us, we pray,
and be for us, once more and always,
an ark of safety and new life.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Mark 1:12

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

As Noah and his family were brought safely
through the flood onto dry ground,
so in baptismal waters
we are brought from death into new life in Christ.
Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God,
forgives us and reconciles us and all things
in heaven and on earth.
Thanks be to God for this good news!

1 Pet. 3:20–21

1 Pet. 3:22

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #740 *Lead Me, Guide Me* (Refrain only)**

***SHARING OUR GIFT OF PEACE FROM CHRIST**

HYMN # 775

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 9:8-17 [p. 7 OT]

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS Mark 1:9-15 [p. 34 NT]
1 Peter 3:13-22 [p. 234 NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE “In Defense of Hope” Pastor Jim Rausch

SHARING OUR PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #712 *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* (verse 3)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of steadfast love and faithfulness,
we are humbled as we try to do what is right
and to walk in your ways.**

Ps. 25:9

**Receive, we ask, these offerings,
and use them for your own good purposes
in the church and in all creation.**

We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN # 766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

*GOD’S BLESSING AS WE GO

*POSTLUDE

Question for Reflection

The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs fourteen times in the Gospel of Mark. Though Jesus is described at the Gospel’s opening as being “from Nazareth of Galilee” (Mark 1:9), at Jesus’ baptism it becomes clear whence he comes and to whom he belongs. Jesus is God’s beloved Son, and his baptism signals the only realm to which he owes allegiance. His baptism, then, not only is a religious act, but also is a political and economic one. In what ways does your baptism into Christ make claims on your political, social, and economic practices as well as your religious practices?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of ancient covenants,
your steadfast love and faithfulness
are still new every morning.
I thank you that I can begin this day
in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy.
Help me to treat others—
family, friends,
coworkers, classmates,
and even strangers—
with love and mercy in our encounters today.
When I disappoint or am discordant,
help me to show love to others.
Open my eyes to the places, people, and circumstances
in which your kingdom has come near.
I pray in the name of your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of peace,
as the day draws to a close
and the evening draws in around me,
I think of the creatures of the earth
that also seek rest in the hours of the night.
You love them even as you love me,
and your covenant faithfulness covers all of us. *Gen. 9:9*
So, with the birds of the air,
the beasts of the field,
and the tiny ones who burrow in the ground,
I offer you all thanks and praise:
for your unending goodness;
for the beauty of our home, the earth;
for your gift of life instead of a deserved destruction.
As your colorful bow now rests in the clouds, *Gen. 9:13*
so may we color the earth with the ways of peace
until all creation rests with you in completeness. *Gen. 2:2–3*
In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Kay Ostrom, Lay Liturgist; Bob Hartman, Leon Van Rees, Larry DeVoogd & Bob Friel, Ushers; Joan Barnes, Quinn & Linda Champion, Greeters; Mervin & Katherine Young, Offering Counters; Ron & Mary Rop, After Worship Hospitality

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome Guests! We're so glad you joined our church family in worship today. Please join us following the worship service in the chapel for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Church World Service Blanket Sunday. contribution envelopes are in the pews and contributions will be received throughout this month. \$10 purchases one blanket. Blankets of all sizes, including baby blankets, to be distributed to Every Woman's Place and the Household Pantry at Mission for Area People are being collected in the Wickham Hallway and will be received throughout the month of February.

Ladies... you and your friends are invited to the "Around-the-Town Luncheon" at Se4sons Gastropub (inside Muskegon Country Club) on Friday, March 9th at noon. Sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by March 5th.

Mark your calendars! The monthly Men's Breakfast will be held at Cherokee Restaurant on Wednesday, February 28th – 8:00 a.m.

Bread for the World Lenten Prayer table tents are in the bulletin today. BFW is a Christian grass roots advocacy organization located in D. C. that seeks to influence legislation on behalf of poor and hungry persons in the United States and throughout the world.

Great Job with Souper Bowl of Caring Donations! \$550 was donated this year and \$3,591,700 donated nationally so far. Updates on national donations will be posted on the bulletin board and screen throughout this month.

YAC Time with Cammie & Bob after service today. Middle/High school-aged youth can grab some refreshments and join them in the youth room.

Lakey, Nelson and Camp Scholarships are available and posted on the bulletin by the nursery. Lakey and Nelson Scholarships deadline is March 25th. Contact Ellen Prowant or Arisha with questions.

Start thinking about VBS! We have great plans to decorate the church and help create a lasting experience for participants. The theme is "Babylon, Daniel's Courage in Captivity". If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, contact Arisha.

Lenten Reflections will begin this morning at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel following a time of fellowship. This year we are again blessed by the sharing of church members as they speak to the Lenten theme of *"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in harmony."* This morning's speaker will be Ron Rop. Additional speakers this season include Leon and Lisa Conklin, Arisha Coffee and Aitan Rustomova.

Sign up for the annual Lenten Breakfast to be held on Saturday, March 24th – 10 a.m. Our speaker will be Judy Konoff, a Hospice aide with Hospice of Michigan.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday, February 18

8:30 am	Joyful Ringers
9:15 am	Choir Warm-up
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Hospitality
11:00 am	YAC Time
11:15 am	Deacons Meeting
11:30 am	Lenten Reflections

Monday, February 19

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
6:30 pm	Theology Matters

Tuesday, February 20

9:30 am	Moms' Workout Group
6:00 pm	Choir Practice
7:15 pm	Gentle Yoga

Wednesday, February 21

1:00 pm	Bible Study
1:00 pm	Elizabeth Circle
6:30 pm	Session Meeting

Friday, February 23

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
---------	-------------

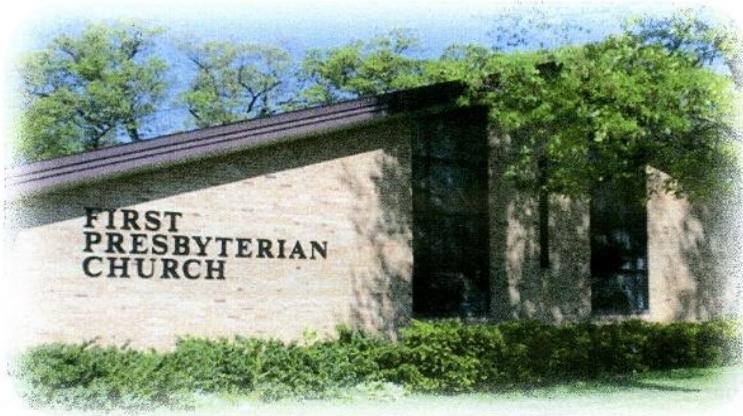
Saturday, February 24

10:00 am	Genealogy Class
----------	-----------------

Sunday, February 25

8:30 am	Joyful Ringers
9:15 am	Choir Warm-up
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Hospitality
11:00 am	Family Promise Discussion
11:30 am	Lenten Reflections

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2577 Wickham Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441-3182
Phone (231) 759-1275
www.fpcmuskegon.org



FPC Staff

Pastor:

Youth/Young Family Director:

Music Director:

Office Manager:

Financial Secretary:

Custodian:

Nursery Assistants:

Rev. James B. Rausch

Arisha Coffee

Brenda Jeisy

Joan Bengston

Kathy DeCormier

Richard Reubens

Melissa Boughton

LaToya Wright