

S E C O N D

Sunday in Lent



*The Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2018*

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ died for our trespasses but was raised
for our justification.

Rom. 4:25

Thanks be to God.

*OPENING HYMN #49 *The God of Abraham Praise*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trusting in God's promise of salvation,
let us confess our sin and repent.

Rom. 4:21

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not been
sincere Christians.**

Mark 8:34–37

**We claim to follow Jesus
but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.**

**We profess to be disciples,
but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.**

**We affirm the virtue of self-denial,
but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Free us for sincere repentance
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news:

Rom. 4:24

God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus
has been raised from the dead for our salvation.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

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

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Family Promise* Marian McDermed

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH Roxanne Deibel

HYMN #39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 [p. 13 OT]

GOSPEL READING Mark 8:31–38 [p. 44 NT]

EPISTLE READING Romans 4:13–25 [p. 155NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE *“As Good as Dead”* Pastor Jim Rausch

SHARING OUR PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *He Lifted Me* Chancel Choir

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #822 *When We Are Living* (verse 2)**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant
you established with Abraham and Sarah,
which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives,
that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love
and a testament to your enduring promise.
In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor
and glory are yours,
Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMNS** # 838 *Standing on the Promises*
 #742 *We Will Walk with God*

***GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO**

***POSTLUDE**

Questions for Reflection

Abram and Sarai were not "Spring Chickens," to put it humorously. Paul doubles down on the humor by saying that Abram was "as good as dead" when God promised that he would father many nations. How old is "too old" to believe and be faithful? How old is "too old" to trust and serve God as God calls? How is God urging you to live, love and serve in surprising and revitalizing ways? Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. How do you practice self-denial for the sake of the gospel? Is every instance of self-denial an act of obedience to Jesus? Can some forms of self-denial foster oppression?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus,
help me walk with you this day.
If you lead me where I fear to go,
give me courage and keep me true,
that I may bear my cross without shame
and live in the promise of life eternal. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, if I stray,
show me my fault,
forgive my sin,
and set me rightly on your path.
Keep me on the way of the cross,
and lead me to the eternal joy of Easter. Amen.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Travis Piper, Lay Liturgist; Mary Seieroe, Bob Hartman, Vic & Ellen Prowant, Ushers; Ezekiel Kinney, Lowell & Roxanne Kinney, Greeters; Bob & Cheryl Hartman, Offering Counters; Quinn & Linda Champion, 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.

Marian McDermed, Executive Director, of Family Promise will share information during worship this morning about Family Promise. Family Promise is a safe haven and program for families experiencing homelessness. Marion will be in the library following our service to give you more in-depth information and to answer your questions. Please get your coffee and join us.

Church World Service Blanket Sunday will be extended through Sunday, March 11th. CWS envelopes are in the pews and \$10.00 purchases one CWS 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 will be collected in the Wickham Hallway through Sunday, March 11th.

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.

Great Job with Souper Bowl of Caring Donations! \$550 was donated this year and \$ 7,545.00 donated nationally so far. Updates on national donations will be posted on the bulletin board and screen throughout this month.

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

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.

Lahey, Nelson and Camp Scholarships are available and posted on the bulletin by the nursery. Lahey 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. Register now at: <https://vbspro.events/p/fpcmuskgeon-vbs>.

Lenten Reflections will be held 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 speakers will be Leon & Lisa Conklin. Next Sunday will be Arisha Coffee.

Make a spring flower arrangement under the direction of a Wasserman's designer! Materials will be provided at a cost of \$35. Join your friends at Wasserman's on Lakeshore Drive, Thursday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by FPC. Sign up in the hallway.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

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

Monday, February 26

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
1:00 pm	Web Development Mtg.
6:30 pm	Theology Matters

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
1:00 pm	Bible Study

Thursday, March 1

3:45 pm	Supper House
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Friday, March 2

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
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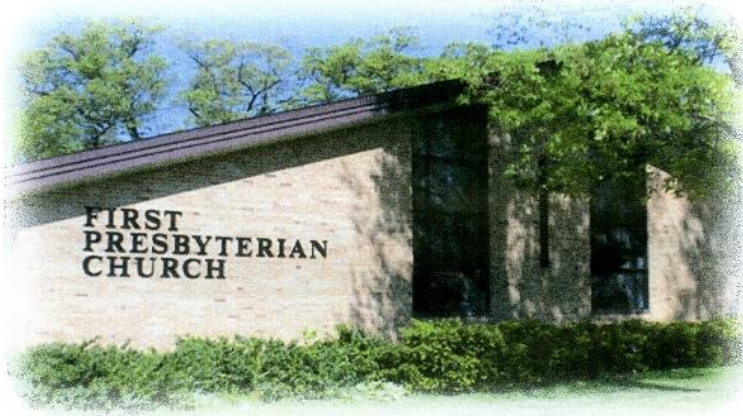
Saturday, March 3

10:00 am	Girl Scouts
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Sunday, March 4 - Gifts of Women Sunday

10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Blood Pressure Clinic
11:00 am	Hospitality/BFW Bake Sale
11:30 am	Lenten Reflections
5:30 pm	Marriage Fellowship
5:30 pm	Youth Chit Chat w/FPC Holland

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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